

Domestic Homicide Review: ‘David’ – Action Plan

This Action Plan accompanies the Domestic Homicide Review into David that was commissioned by Safer Sunderland Partnership – and should be read in conjunction with the Final Overview Report. Copies of the Final Overview Report are published on line at <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/domestic-violence> once they have been approved by the Home Office (as per the guidelines outlined within the national DHR guidance published in December 2016).

The overarching recommendation is to create systems-change in Sunderland’s response to domestic abuse by adopting a strengths-based, needs-led, trauma-informed approach that intervenes earlier with survivors, perpetrators and children. This will be achieved by delivering on the following supporting recommendations and actions.

Recommendation	Scope	Action(s)	Lead Agency	Key Milestones	Target Date	Outcome	Progress
(1) Implement the needs-led and trauma-informed approach when responding to ‘intractable’ repeat MARAC cases in order to: (i) achieve more meaningful engagement with survivors; (ii) increase survivors space for action; (iii) decrease perpetrator’s space for abuse; (iv) create safety and feelings of safety; and (v) decrease offending.	Local	1.1 Conduct research to identify the cohort of repeat and ‘intractable’ MARAC cases that are not achieving good outcomes	WWiN	Research scoping document produced	March 2020	A stronger focus on priority perpetrators in ‘intractable cases’ will help create space for actions for survivors to engage with help and support	Research proposal was produced. MARAC Pilot work to start 1 st April
		1.2. Create a pathway to flag and escalate such cases that MARAC does not have the capacity or the tools to deal with these effectively	WWiN and Police	Pathway in place	March 2020	Professionals will recognise the context and impact of the pattern of abuse that survivors and children are living with, and use this to inform their responses to facilitate engagement with support, increase the chances of meaningful change and hold perpetrators to account	Meetings completed by WWiN with Police
		1.3 Increase the capacity of the specialist domestic abuse service to work with these cases in a long-term trauma-informed way (alongside partners) that takes account of strengths and needs (moving away from a one-size-fits-all); and that sees couples in the context of their own relationship, culture and intersectional needs.	Council	Caseloads of IDVAs and outreach staff reduced	March 2020	Strengths of survivors and children will be identified and recognised within the context of the abuse they are living with	Completed: Funding from the Council and CCG has allowed WWiN caseloads to reduce from 100+ to a max of 40 cases (FTE) as the capacity in the Outreach Team has been doubled. The increased budget to support outreach is now part of the council base budget for core DA services (refuge and outreach). In addition, funding for 2 complex needs outreach workers has been

						<p>All of the needs of survivors, perpetrators and their children will be identified and better met through improved joined-up working.</p> <p>Earlier intervention will reduce the risk of cases becoming seen as 'intractable'</p>	<p>secured for 2020-21 to provide increased capacity to do more intensive engagement work with those with the most complex needs. However, this provision is not within the scope of the council base budget allocation.</p>
		<p>1.4 Move beyond just the use of the RIC in order to take a stronger approach to tackling the perpetrators of 'intractable cases' so that it improves our understanding of levels of dangerousness, who is causing the most harm, and who is most at risk of harm. This will include piloting use of the Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool (PPIT), designed to help frontline practitioners identify a subset of perpetrators considered the most dangerous and thus priorities for multi-agency monitoring and management (e.g. via MATAC).</p>	<p>WWiN</p>	<p>PPIT tool included in level 3 DAPS training</p>	<p>March 2020</p>		<p>The Respect toolkit on identifying male victims and primary perpetrators was chosen to be embedded into the DAPS level 3 training, now complete.</p> <p>PPIT to be included and tested as a tool in the MARAC Pilot – using this alongside the RIC to explore usefulness and value.</p> <p>Levels of dangerousness have been built into the refreshed DAPS Level 2 training through inclusion of the 8 stages of homicide timeline</p>
		<p>1.5 Promote relationship-based referrals (with consent) and practice that 'does no harm' in order to facilitate honest and meaningful engagement with services at the outset</p>	<p>Council and WWiN</p>	<p>Embed the 'do no harm' approach into Trusted Professionals training</p>	<p>March 2020</p>		<p>Referrals to accredited group work must be 'voluntary' (not coerced)</p> <p>'Do no harm' is a key feature of the newly developed DAPS Level 3 training.</p>

<p>(2) Support professionals to develop knowledge and skills to: (i) better identify coercive control; (ii) understand the dynamics, patterns, intent and impact of abuse; (iii) hold perpetrators to account; (iv) engage more successfully with survivors; and (v) look beyond risk in order better meet their needs</p>	<p>Local</p>	<p>2.1 Implement learning from this DHR into the new domestic abuse training that is being developed to cover: A wider range of tools (e.g. Respect Toolkit and the PPIT) that identify who is causing the most harm to whom and the level of dangerousness so that the primary perpetrator can be identified and held to account, and so that victims are not mistakenly identified as perpetrators. Awareness of the opportunities presented to step up the support offered to survivors when perpetrators receive custodial sentences, as opposed to thinking risk is removed The importance of professional curiosity and to be aware of the potential for unconscious bias and prejudice which may inadvertently shape their attitude to 'less than perfect' victims and limit their belief in possibility of change in complex and enduring cases A clear focus on the dynamics, harm and the intention of the perpetrator in order to support the identification of coercive control, stalking and other harassment behaviours designed to instil fear and compliance in the victim The Space for Action tool that encourages professional curiosity to examine access to money, resources, health and well-being, sense of self, community and family, long term plans and aspirations in order to help professionals understand needs,</p>	<p>Council, Women's Aid and OPCC</p>	<p>Level 3 trusted professionals (DAPS) training development completed and accredited</p>	<p>By March 2020</p>	<p>Survivors and children will be more resilient as service responses will be trauma-informed, person-centred and flexible enough to make an immediate positive impact whilst contributing to lasting sustainable outcomes around safety and recovery</p> <p>Responses to domestic abuse will make perpetrators visible. This will create accountability to survivors and enhance their safety.</p> <p>Professionals will recognise the context and impact of the pattern of abuse that survivors and children are living with, and use this to inform their responses to facilitate engagement with support, increase the chances of meaningful change and hold perpetrators to account</p> <p>Responses to survivors and children will 'do no harm' and there will be more open and honest engagement with support services</p> <p>Strengths of survivors and children will be identified and recognised within the</p>	<p>Completed: Training on use of the Respect toolkit is now embedded into DAPS Level 3 delivered. This will help better identify male victims but also where perpetrators present as victims and will inform the correct pathways to help and support. The training also includes how to better engage victims and looking for windows of opportunity to engage when space for action has been created. There is a strong focus in the training on professional curiosity; perpetrators' patterns of behaviour and the impact on victims. It also highlights separation as a particularly high risk time when support should be increased with involvement of specialist services.</p>
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		and identify and protect motivating factors				context of the abuse they are living with	
		2.2 Train a cohort of staff (e.g. early help, substance misuse and mental health) to become Trusted Professionals in responding to domestic abuse in a trauma-informed and needs-led way so that open, honest and trusted relationships can be developed between services and survivors. This will include the impact of 'system induced risk' and the need to adopt a 'do no harm' approach	Women's Aid and TfC (Early Help)	All early help staff trained to become the first cohort of trusted professionals in domestic abuse	By March 2020	All of the needs of survivors, perpetrators and their children will be identified and better met through improved joined-up working. Earlier intervention will reduce the risk of cases becoming seen as 'intractable' The needs and safety of survivors and children will be at the heart of interventions with perpetrators	Completed. All early help staff were trained as 'trusted professionals' between Oct 2019 – March 2020. The next cohort will be substance misuse (SM) staff in 2020-21. The new SM service (CGL) has committed to ensuring all its staff receive mandatory training Level 1-3 (accredited Domestic Abuse Practitioner Standard).
		2.3 Support Together for Children in the implementation of the 'Safe and Together' (TfC) model which will involve training the social care workforce to become domestic abuse competent and proficient.	TfC with support from the Domestic Abuse Strategic Projects Group	S&T training included in TfC's workforce development plan S&T domestic abuse case file audit completed Staff groups identified for S&T training S&T training begins	March 2019 <u>By Dec 2019</u> By March 2020 TBC TBC	Professional conversations around domestic abuse will be more supportive and constructive (not victim blaming and destructive), which will hold perpetrators to account and promote opportunities for early intervention to increase chances of meaningful change Survivors will be helped to meaningfully engage with support at an earlier stage as the service offers will be flexible to meet their needs	Domestic abuse case file audit documents have been produced with advice from Safe and Together Institute TfC staff plus multi-agency case file audit readers have been identified and audit will be carried out on 10 x DA cases before 17/3/20 Case file audit day held 17/3/2020 after which a baseline report will then be produced by end March 2020 in advance of the S&T training. Next steps will then involve identifying the staff cohorts to be

							<p>trained in a mix of intensive 4 day CORE training and those who require e-learning.</p> <p>TfC to attend the European Safe and Together Conference in March 2020.</p>
		2.4 Update multi-agency strategic and operational policies and procedures around domestic abuse so that they promote the strengths-based and trauma-informed model and language of the Change That Lasts (CTL) approach	CTL Implementation group	Safeguarding policies and procedures and thresholds of need document embed strength-based and CTL language			Ongoing work in progress by Jane Hill (Women's Aid).
		<p>2.5 Re-write the multi-agency domestic abuse staff guidance and pathways document so that it includes clear guidance and tools on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to create safe Space for Action and intervene early to meet all needs; • how to create needs-led safety and support plans that identify practical support as early as possible and that take account of emotional needs • how to recognise patterns of abuse, coercive control and the intent and impact of the abuse; • the importance of supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour rather than focusing on enforced actions required by the victim 	CTL Implementation group	Multi-agency domestic abuse staff guidance and pathways document produced that is aligned to the CTL delivery model			Ongoing work in progress by Jane Hill (Women's Aid).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the impact of the destructive use of victim blaming language with a guide on how to use more constructive language. 					
<p>(3) Develop earlier intervention responses and more collaborative working with perpetrators in order to: (i) offer supportive challenge to facilitate change; and (ii) challenge and disrupt perpetrators patterns of abuse where there are multiple and enduring needs around substance misuse and mental ill health.</p>	Local	3.1 Create clear pathways into perpetrator behaviour change programmes from health, substance misuse services and early help services	CCG, SM services and early help services	Pathway in place	By March 2020	<p>Perpetrators will be worked with at a much earlier stage to not only address their offending but their other multiple and enduring needs, before behaviour becomes entrenched</p> <p>Responses to domestic abuse will make perpetrators visible. This will create accountability to survivors and enhance their safety.</p> <p>Professionals will recognise the context and impact of the pattern of abuse that survivors and children are living with, and use this to inform their responses to facilitate engagement with support, increase the chances of meaningful change and hold perpetrators to account</p> <p>Earlier intervention will reduce the risk of cases becoming seen as 'intractable'</p> <p>The needs and safety of survivors and children will be at the heart of</p>	<p>Completed: The CCG has piloted a DA Advocate in Primary Care Pilot across a number of GP Practices to increase awareness of DA across the staff teams. CCG has also circulated information and referral details for the DA Perpetrator (BIG) programme to all GP Practices via its quarterly Safeguarding Newsletter.</p> <p>The new substance misuse provider (CGL) has committed to work with the BIG Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme to explore shared approaches to working with perpetrators, recognising the established link between substance misuse/domestic abuse. It will also attend MATAAC and MARAC meetings.</p> <p>A referral pathway has been developed between early help and the BIG programme</p>

						interventions with perpetrators	
		3.2 Increase the capacity of perpetrator programmes to take early help and self-referrals	Council and TfC	Additional staff recruited to deliver perp. programme	By Oct. 2020	There will be closer and more joined-up working across domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health services	Completed: The BIG programme has been funded by the Council (via TfC) to increase its capacity to take early help and self-referrals. This started in late 2019 and funding (via public health budget) will continue in 2020-21
		3.3 Build into the Level 3 domestic abuse training the need to keep perpetrators at the forefront of responses. This includes creating better risk management through consideration of a perpetrator's history of domestic abuse, other relevant behaviour, life history, current circumstances, mental state, and attitudes about the violence and abuse	Women's Aid and OPCC	Level 3 DAPS training includes a module on perpetrators	By March 2020		Completed: A specific module on perpetrators has been developed for DAPS Level 3 trusted professionals training. This includes a strong focus on keeping perpetrators patterns of behaviour at the forefront when responding to DA. In addition, Level 2 DAPS, has been updated to include the recent research on the homicide timeline which identified clusters of factors can be better predictors of homicide that number of risks on the DASH RIC.
		3.4 Work with Respect and Women's Aid to become a pilot delivery site for the 'make a change' early response to the perpetration of domestic abuse. This would include a campaign element to help shift values and attitudes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with professionals 	Council, Respect and Women's Aid	Expression of interest bid submitted	By Sept 2019		Completed: Sunderland agreed to be a named delivery area in an expression of interest bid by Respect and WAFE to pilot an early intervention response to perpetrators. This progressed to a full bid

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in communities; and • with friends and families of survivors and of those using abuse 					<p>submission by Respect in January 2020. Outcome awaited. If bid is unsuccessful, consideration will need to be given to next steps.</p>
	<p>3.5 Build into future service specifications the need for closer partnership working on interdependencies with domestic abuse such as substance misuse and mental health (e.g. via training, secondments, co-working, in-reach, staff shadowing/ exchange to upskill staff) and the importance of screening for each other's issues</p>	Council	Domestic abuse provider consulted on service specification	By Sept. 2020		<p>Completed for substance misuse as improving joint working around domestic abuse was explicitly included in the re-commissioning of the service and CGL have committed to a number of improvements (e.g. training, in-reach, enquiry about DA during triage etc.) within their method statement. Compliance during 2020-21 will be monitored via monthly contact review and performance meetings as well as at the Substance Misuse Partnership once this is established.</p> <p>Improving closer working around mental health will need to be progressed via the ATB Programme 2 Board during 2020-21.</p>
	<p>3.6 Where perpetrators in treatment are still causing significant harm to their partner, ensure services liaise more closely</p>	Council, WWiN and Substanc	Co-locations, training and/or secondments in place	By March 2020		<p>CGL have committed to provide in-reach support to domestic abuse support services such</p>

		with domestic abuse services to explore what is happening domestically	e Misuse Treatment Provider				<p>as Sunderland Women's Centre and WWIN. This will allow closer working between SM and DA specialists and will allow for a fuller picture of any on-going abuse.</p> <p>During triage assessment, CGL staff will ask about specific needs which include domestic abuse.</p> <p>The impact will be monitored via contract monitoring and via the Substance Misuse Partnership, once established.</p>
		3.7 Explore Blue Light as a training tool for how to work with domestic abuse cases where there are change resistant drinkers	Council Public Health	Impact of Blue Light Training in other areas researched	By March 2020		<p>The new substance misuse provider (CGL) has committed to use 'Blue Light. This includes following the guidance to inform assertive engagement approach; responding to intelligence from partners regarding hotspots and known individuals; and identifying frequent flyers at A&E / work with night-time economy. CGL will use alcohol awareness (AUDIT)/Brief Interventions, utilising 'Blue Light Project' techniques to engage those disengaged from</p>

							treatment, offering initial treatment interventions designed to keep people safe. The new service will be operational from June 2020.
(4) Address the gap in provision for children living with domestic abuse by recognising that children are victims in their own right who need support to cope and recover	Local	4.1 Develop and deliver menu of flexible and accredited group work options for children and mothers as part of an early intervention response to help them cope and recover – which includes re-building relationships between the child and non-abusing parent	Council, TfC and WWiN	Accredited group work for children, mothers and survivors in place DA presence in early help	By July 2019 By July 2019	Children will be seen as victims in their own right and become more resilient through having an early help service offer that meets their needs Child and adult survivors will be helped to meaningfully engage with support at an earlier stage as the service offers will be flexible to meet their needs Survivors and children will be more resilient as service responses will be trauma-informed, person-centred and flexible enough to make an immediate positive impact whilst contributing to lasting sustainable outcomes around safety and recovery Strengths of survivors and children will be identified and recognised within the context of the abuse they are living with	Completed: WWiN is commissioned for 'consultation' on domestic abuse cases and to support families open to Early Help. This includes an IDVA available 1 day per week in each of the Early Help Hubs and a range of Women's Aid accredited groupwork programmes including: - You & Me Mum: An educational programme for women that aims to empower and support in furthering their understanding of their role as mothers and in addressing the needs of children and young people who have lived with domestic abuse. - Helping Hands: A support Programme for children aged 7-15 years helping them to understand their experiences and keep themselves emotionally and physically safe.

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DART – license has been gained and delivery is being piloted first in one of the refuges before consideration of wider delivery in 2020. - Power to Change: An educational programme for women exploring their experiences and explaining patterns of abuse and the impact on women and children <p>Referral pathways, info sheets of the programmes and referral forms have been developed by WWiN and shared with Early Help.</p> <p>Contract monitoring is being overseen by TfC commissioning team. Referral pathways have been agreed with all 3 providers of interventions to children, victims and perpetrators (WWiN, IFS and CNE).</p> <p>Joint meetings with the providers will be re-established to monitor referral pathways alongside volumes of referrals/demand and</p>
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							review how each organisation refers to each other and to maintain oversight of that.
		4.2. Develop and deliver trauma-informed counselling and therapeutic support for children living with domestic abuse	Council and TfC	Procurement completed Referral pathway in place Service in place and being delivered	By Aug 2019 By Oct 2019 By Nov 2019		Completed: Council funding secured in 2019. The service has been commissioned by TfC who are doing the contract monitoring. This will determine if the levels of need / demand for the service are being met. The provider is Children North East (CNE). Referral pathways have been developed.
(5) Embed the Change That Lasts (CTL) model into the specialist domestic abuse service so that survivors are able to draw on their own strengths and skills as they move forward with their lives	Local	5.1 Train staff in trauma-informed strength-based and needs-led working as part of the 'voices' element of the CTL model	WWiN and Women's Aid	All staff trained in trauma-informed and needs-led practice	By March 2020	Survivors and children will be more resilient as service responses will be trauma-informed, person-centred and flexible enough to make an immediate positive impact whilst contributing to lasting sustainable outcomes around safety and recovery Responses to survivors and children will 'do no harm' and there will be more open and honest engagement with support services Strengths of survivors and children will be identified and recognised within the	Completed: All WWiN staff trained in the model and WWiN facilitated multi-agency trauma training for Housing, Gentoo and Wear Recovery Staff in Dec 2019. Further dates pending.
		5.2 Offer a menu of flexible, outcome-based, person-centred support options that meet the needs of survivors	WWiN and Council	Wider and more flexible support offer funded and in place	By March 2020		Completed: WWiN implemented Counselling and Children's work and a range of groupwork programmes from September 2019. Also see 4.1 and 5.5 for details.
		5.3 Advise referring agencies around how to better engage with survivors so that referrals they are	WWiN	Delivery of DAPS training programme to	By March 2020		Completed: DAPS Training will continue to be delivered in the long-term. It is

		making have the consent of the survivor and 'do no harm'		multi-agency staff		context of the abuse they are living with Earlier intervention will reduce the risk of cases becoming seen as 'intractable' Survivors will be helped to meaningfully engage with support at an earlier stage as the service offers will be flexible to meet their needs	delivered by WWiN alongside a co-trainer from a partner agency. The 'do-no-harm' ethos and engagement are key features embedded throughout all 3 levels of the training. 144 and 140 multi-agency staff have been trained in Level 1 and Level 2 respectively.
		5.4 Empower communities to respond to domestic abuse and assist in help-seeking through training to become 'ask me' ambassadors. This should be used to help raise awareness of drugs and alcohol in controlling situations; and promote a greater understanding of what families and communities can offer	WWiN and Women's Aid	Over 100 ask me ambassadors trained	By March 2020		Completed: 150 Ask Me Ambassadors have been trained with additional monthly dates booked for 2020-21 and good take up.
		5.5 Develop and deliver trauma-informed therapeutic support for survivors of domestic abuse	WWiN and CCG	Accredited service in place	By Dec 2019		Completed: CCG repeated its Grant funding to WWiN in 2019-20 to support delivery DA Services. It includes trauma informed therapeutic support services. During 2020 the CCG awarded a further £70,000 Grant to support the development of a service for women with complex needs. A key focus of this work will include a needs led trauma informed approach. This means

							Sunderland has a BACP Accredited trauma-informed DA counselling and therapeutic service in place since August 2019 in both Refuges and expanding from April 2020 to its Sunderland Centre
		5.6 Ensure information on local service offers is held on Sunderland Information Point (SIP) and available to key access points across the city	Council and service providers	Sunderland Information Point (SIP) includes details of specialist VAWG services	By March 2020		All relevant local, regional and national VAWG help and support agencies are now on SIP. Some additional work is needed to ensure the search functions pulls through all agencies.
(6) Write to the Minister of State for the Department of Work and Pensions to request they review the safety of single household payments under Universal Credit where there are concerns about domestic abuse.	National	6.1 Safer Sunderland Partnership Chair to write to the Minister of State for the Department of Work and Pensions to request they review the safety of single household payments under Universal Credit where there are concerns about domestic abuse.	Council on behalf of the CSP	Letter submitted to DWP	Within one month of the review being published	Survivors will be at less risk of economic and financial control from their perpetrator and have better access to independent financial resources	Changes to Universal Credit to help fight domestic abuse were announced by Government in 2019 that will see payments directed to the bank account of the main carer of a household registering for the benefit, usually a woman. The move is intended to “reduce the risk of women being trapped in economically abusive relationships and not having their own money”.