



Contact information

Phone: 020 8748 8298
Fax: 020 8741 8029
Email: therapy@dvip.org
Website: www.dvip.org

Opening hours

Office Hours: 10am to 5pm Mon-Fri

Our location

The service operates from Stephen's Place Children's Centre our centre in Hammersmith, with additional outreach sites based in Brent, Ealing, Hounslow and Wandsworth.

Stephen's Place Children's Therapy Centre

Stephen's Place is a branch of the
Domestic Violence Intervention Project

COST

Individual therapy is free to children and young people who reside in London Boroughs with whom we have a contract with. Please contact us for full details.

Referrals

This service is open to children/young people aged 3 to 17 years who have been affected by domestic abuse. Referrals are accepted from all sources including professionals, parents and self-referrals.

Referral criteria:

- Children must currently be living in a safe and stable environment.
- The perpetrator of the abuse must not be residing with the child.
- Any contact with the perpetrator must be deemed to be safe or supervised.

Referrals from social services must include an up-to-date chronology and any other reports or assessments which have been carried out.

Should you wish to discuss a referral or make a request for a referral form, please contact the service by telephone or email. Referral forms can also be downloaded from the DVIP website. Completed referral forms can be emailed (secure site), faxed or posted to the service.

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Stephen's Place Children's Centre,
65 Aspenlea Road Hammersmith
London
W6 8LH

Directions

Stephen's Place Children's Centre is a 12 minute walk or a 4 minute bus ride from Hammersmith Underground. Aspenlea Road is the first left turn after the hospital

Transport

Buses: 190, 211, 220, 295

Tube: Hammersmith on the Hammersmith & City Line, District Line or Piccadilly Line.

Specialist therapeutic service for children and young people affected by domestic abuse

Information for professionals



**Domestic Violence
Intervention Project**

Stephen's Place

Stephen's Place Children's Therapy Service is part of the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) and provides therapeutic interventions for children and families. The venue is bright, welcoming and child orientated. The therapy rooms offer a wide variety of play equipment, games and creative materials.

Therapy

The therapeutic service specializes in working with children and young people who have lived with domestic abuse. Therapy is child centered and tailored to meet the needs and age of the young person. For younger children a play therapy model is offered. Older children and young people are provided with an opportunity to explore and process their experiences using a range of materials and approaches including creative arts. The typical duration of therapeutic interventions is approximately five months. This time frame of therapy provides the young person with an opportunity to process and express emotions in relation to their past and current experiences.

The therapy service acknowledges that the emotional impact of domestic abuse is unique to the individual. As a result, children/young people are encouraged to find the best medium in which to process past traumas and experiences. This helps to ensure that the pace of therapy is determined by the young person. All therapeutic work is facilitated by therapists with specialist knowledge in relation to supporting young people whose lives have been impacted by domestic abuse.

For further information please contact

020 8748 8298

Rationale for early intervention

The importance of early therapeutic intervention with young people should not be underestimated. Research suggests that most children are acutely aware of incidents of domestic abuse within the home. This is supported by the findings of Women's Aid (2009) who reported that 75-90% of children were in the same or next room when the abuse was occurring. The emotional impact of domestic abuse has been classified as similar to that of children who have been directly abused. Research literature in this area indicates that children who have lived with domestic abuse can be at increased risk of suffering ongoing emotional trauma, mental health difficulties and behavioural problems (Women's Aid, 2009). The resolution of early childhood trauma reduces the likelihood of mental health issues in later life and provides young people with the best opportunity to thrive in later life and fulfil their potential.

Therapy at Stephen's Place provides a crucial service by enabling young people to address the emotional impact of domestic abuse. By offering a safe, consistent and confidential space, individuals are able to process what are often difficult and confusing experiences. Therapy can also act as an ongoing source of support for children who are subjected to life changes as a result of their experiences.

How it works

Sessions are forty-five minutes in duration and take place on a weekly basis for a period of approximately five months. These occur on weekdays between 10am and 5pm.

Once a referral has been made, all documents will be reviewed in order to determine whether the service is suitable to meet the needs of the child/young person at this time. An initial assessment with the parent/carer and social worker (where appropriate) is carried out prior to a child being offered any therapeutic intervention. The assessment provides the parent/carer with an opportunity to find out more about the therapeutic services offered whilst enabling the service to gather more information in relation to the child's experiences and current situation.

Confidentiality

The therapy service aims to provide children with a level of confidentiality which is appropriate to ensuring physical and emotional well-being. The parameters of confidentiality are negotiated at the point of commencing therapy and are reviewed on an ongoing basis. During the initial meeting, parents/carers will have an opportunity to discuss the issue of confidentiality in order to ensure a full understanding of the policy prior to consenting to a therapeutic intervention.

Staff

The specialist therapeutic service is delivered by a team of psychologists and play therapists. All of our therapists:

- Have insight into, and are trained in, the impact of domestic abuse, and are sensitive to the emotional needs of children/young people.
- Receive regular specialist clinical supervision.
- Are fully CRB checked.
- Abide by the ethical guidelines as set out by their professional governing body such as British Psychological Society (BPS) / Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)/ British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)/ Play Therapy UK (PTUK) and Professionals Standards Authority (PSA).

