



domestic
violence
intervention
project

increasing the
safety of women,
children and young
people affected by
domestic abuse for

21 years

1992-2013...and looking to the future...

visit: www.dvip.org

DVIP has been at the forefront of developing and delivering innovative services to increase the safety of women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse since 1992.

Our services reach 1,000 adults, children and young people in London every year and contribute to their recovery from the trauma they have experienced.

DVIP's team of expert practitioners delivers services to empower families to develop more positive and safe relationships.



CEO's message

For 21 years DVIP has blazed a trail tackling domestic abuse, intervening effectively with perpetrators and pioneering a range of services to protect women and children from future abuse.

We now provide these services in more than 30 London Boroughs and our work has attracted national and international recognition.

In the UK alone we've repeatedly been held up by the government as a model of good practice and we've won two awards from the Mayor of London.

One of the first programmes in the UK to achieve RESPECT accreditation – the benchmark quality standard for work in this field – we remain the largest provider of community perpetrator programmes in the UK.

So this 21st birthday celebration provides us with an opportunity to look back on what we have achieved.

More importantly however, we want to share with you how DVIP is shaping new services, responding to emerging needs and reflecting the challenges of the current environment – a growing demand for the services we provide against the backdrop of shrinking resources.

The price of domestic abuse is vast – one study estimates the cost to the economy at £23 billion annually.

Staggering sums but the effect and impact of domestic abuse extends far beyond the financial.

The price paid by women and children negotiating their lives under such pressure is unquantifiable.

At DVIP we believe that tackling domestic abuse effectively means getting to the root of the problem – effective work with perpetrators is therefore key.

But our experience shows us too that we can't stand still. DVIP continues to strive, to learn, evolve and adapt our services to new demands.

Currently we are piloting new models of working with children's services with DVIP violence prevention workers placed in children and families social work teams.

We believe we can not only improve referral pathways but also help ensure more coordinated and effective risk assessment and safeguarding work.

We are also working to tackle the links between substance misuse and domestic abuse by working with Cranstoun drug services to develop an intervention that places perpetrator treatment alongside a drug intervention.

We hope you enjoy this insight into our work. We would like to thank all of those who have supported DVIP's work in the last 21 years and we look forward to continuing to work together to keep women and children safe from harm.





DVIP Services

Addressing risk

Our expert risk assessment team undertakes specialist assessments for use by the Family Courts.

These assessments evaluate a perpetrator's risk to a current or ex-partner and the impact of this on their children or it might be in relation to the vulnerability of a victim and the extent to which their parenting may have been affected as a result of the violence and abuse they have experienced.

We use the most up-to-date information and tools to conduct extensive interviews and gather relevant evidence.

We provide detailed reports to referrers which specify key areas of risk and vulnerability, including recommendations for treatment and future management of a case.

All of our risk assessors are experienced in giving evidence to the court. As the case progresses we can offer further assessments, analysing any changes in risk or vulnerability.

Perpetrators

A risk assessment includes an analysis of the perpetrator's history of domestic abuse, other violence, any alcohol and drug use, their attitudes to their abuse and levels of denial. We consider the impact of any exposure to violence on their partner and upon the children. The assessments inform how risk is managed as the case progresses.

Victims/Survivors

A vulnerability assessment includes an analysis of the specific factors which contribute to a victim's vulnerability to further abuse and the ability to respond to and manage future risks including to their children. Feedback from referrers indicates that this pioneering work often helps to move cases forward and offers a child-centred risk based approach for dealing with domestic abuse.

"The report was well written and detailed, referring to current research in the area of domestic abuse. The report was very useful in regards to having a domestic abuse assessment on the father and the risks that he poses in the long term. The report was central to the decision making process of the local authority on considering the long term care plan for the child".

Islington social worker

"Domestic violence and abuse is a major issue in family courts, in both public and private law. The services offered by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project are absolutely fundamental for the families we seek to serve, and ultimately for the safety of their children. So often I wish that there were more such services available."

**Nick Crichton
District Judge**



Working with women

Male perpetrators referred to DVIP are required to supply details of their most recent partner as well as relevant former partners. The Women's Support Service initially sends an information pack, then pro-actively calls the woman following a man's assessment. We offer a range of support options according to each woman's needs and wishes, including one-to-one sessions, structured groupwork and telephone support. Some level of support is offered even when a man does not commence the programme.

The Women's Support Service has five key aims:

- Increasing women and children's safety – creating safety plans with women, sharing information regarding risk with other agencies;
- Improving women's mental and emotional health and well-being – instrumental to increasing safety. Women who cannot function because of the psychological effects of abuse are much more likely to remain in a violent situation, return to a violent relationship or place themselves in harm's way;
- Giving clear messages that responsibility for the violence and abuse lies with the perpetrator. This is done through individual and structured group work sessions and by helping women to put personal experiences into a different context;
- Offering realistic expectations to women whose partners are attending the perpetrator programme about what may or may not change as a result of his attendance;
- Promoting women's empowerment and longer term change.

Making the individual's needs paramount is at the heart of what we do in our work with women – we want to ensure she feels valued, respected and empowered to make decisions based on her own experience and understanding of the risks and not through the perpetrator's depiction of the programme.



All women to whom we have delivered ongoing group or individual support sessions, have recognised a range of behaviours used towards them by their partners to maintain power and control over them.

An element of women's support work that has increased in recent years is the assessment of women's vulnerability because of their experience of domestic abuse. We look at how their capacity to parent their children has been affected and to what extent they can be supported in this area.

Vulnerability Assessments are commissioned by Local Authorities in Care Proceedings cases, and may or may not be accompanied by a Risk Assessment of the relevant perpetrator of domestic abuse. The process comprises a specialist assessment by DVIP's Risk Assessment Team (or outside assessor), then if recommended, the woman will undertake 10 structured group and 10 individual sessions with a DVIP women's support worker.

DVIP is unique within London in providing such an extensive and tailored programme of work for women being assessed within Care proceedings.

Case study: In one case Pete's hostility and levels of denial were such that DVIP assessors concluded he was unable at that point to address his behaviour. But the resulting DVIP report made a significant contribution to a Social Services application to deny Pete direct contact with his children which also protected the victim. The woman was able to engage with the women's support services which benefited her and other participants thanks to her contribution.

Working with men

DVIP perpetrator programmes are based on the power and control model of domestic violence and abuse, pioneered by the Duluth DAIP Programme in Minnesota.

This model was developed in consultation with victims, and proposes that intimate partner violence is not a one off 'explosion' of anger, or a release of psychological tension and frustration that has built up in a relationship.

Rather, violence is used to create an atmosphere of threat, fear, punishment and humiliation, and is rooted in power and control.

DVIP's perpetrator programmes are designed to help men take responsibility for violence and abuse, increase their understanding of the impact of this on their partners and children, explore and practice different behaviours and develop more respectful attitudes towards women.

Our Violence Prevention Programme is not an anger management or counselling group.

It is specifically designed to address intimate partner violence. It draws upon a wide range of approaches including cognitive-behavioural, social learning theory, psychodrama, psychotherapeutic and relationship skills teaching.

It works to create a challenging environment whilst offering support for personal change. It addresses issues of masculinity, sexual respect, the instrumental and systematic nature of intimate partner violence, and intimacy.

DVIP has, in addition, built a specific and detailed set of modules around the impact of domestic abuse on children, considering post violence parenting, fear and shame based parenting, attachment, post separation abuse and letting go.

The programme involves 65 hours of structured intervention delivered weekly across 26 sessions, usually in a group setting.

Some of the groups run on a rolling programme with regular intakes of new men. Others deliver through two phases – the initial 12 week phase focusing on developing an understanding of violence and how to reduce immediate harm to women and children, followed by a 14 session second phase which explores a wider range of abusive behaviours, parenting work and space to practice new skills. Sessions last two-and-a-half hours.

For men who cannot access the group, usually due to the need for a language interpreter, 24 individual sessions are delivered, covering the same material as the group programme, but the sessions can be tailored to an individual's particular learning needs or identified risk issues.

Will presented as very high risk at assessment with a history of severe violence. He had been victimised by his stepfather as a child and found it intolerable to hear anger without becoming defensive and aggressive. During the programme we observed significant improvements, particularly during the module on Women's Anger where trained group-workers analysed and processed his physical and emotional responses and took him through ways to use self-talk and focusing to calm himself down in the face of anger. Will completed the programme and six months later there was no evidence of further violence either from the victim herself or from statutory agencies.

Is this
a good
time to
change?





Working with children

Stephen's Place

It's hard to overestimate the destructive effect of domestic abuse on young children – whether they are witnesses to attacks on a parent or their siblings or whether they are in the line of fire themselves. And even after the violence ceases the imprint remains, leaving young people damaged and traumatised and perhaps emotionally ill equipped to deal with what has happened.

Where parents are separating, Stephen's Place offers support through a range of services which are tailored to each case. A team of psychologists provides therapy for children aged 3-17, to help them deal with the trauma they have experienced. We provide supervised contact in a safe, neutral place, where children and young people can meet with parents and family members with whom they no longer live. Skilled staff provide support and guidance for parents who are struggling to cope with the fallout of an abusive relationship.



Stephen's Place Children's Centre helps those affected by domestic abuse – it's a safe place to come to, it offers a pleasant environment and, by winning the confidence of young children, we are able to help them rebuild their lives with a range of support services including therapy.

How we work is probably best told through the example of a young boy who we'll call Kyle. Aged 10, he has a long history of seeing domestic abuse and being on the receiving end himself. Kyle, his Mum and his older brother fled from abroad seeking safety in the UK but on their arrival their situation was very far from resolved and social services were already involved when fears for their safety brought Stephen's Place into their lives.

At the start of therapy Kyle was an extremely fearful boy. Information from his mother told us that he was terrified his father would come to their house – if he saw someone in the street who resembled him, Kyle would physically shake. On several occasions he was sent home from school because of vomiting – something his GP attributed to his anxiety around his father and concern he would have to have contact with him.

Trust between Kyle and his therapist developed over time and then he began to tell his story. It became apparent that he had regularly been beaten by his father who on two occasions had locked the family in the house and attempted to set fire to it. This trauma was perhaps only compounded by the occasion he'd seen his mother lying at the bottom of the stairs after an incidence of domestic abuse and thought she was dead. Sessions at Stephen's Place allowed Kyle to explore and process past and present fears – specifically the terror he felt at the possibility of further encounters with his father.

The team at Stephen's Place also worked with this family on communications issues they were having and in supporting them in attaining legal advice relating to international laws aimed at protecting the children. This was because during therapy there was an ongoing case – the children were being court ordered to return to their country origin and resume contact with their dad.

The end of Kyle's therapy is now in sight. His night terrors have stopped, and he feels able to discuss the fears he has relating to the ongoing court case. While helping him we also helped his mother, finding her personal therapy, a support group for women affected by domestic abuse and also family therapy – to help them rebuild their lives after an extremely traumatic history.





Working with young people

Yuva

Yuva was set up to help change the use of aggressive and violent behaviour in young people's close relationships – towards family members and intimate partners.

We help the young person to change their behaviour, develop improved awareness of healthy communication and relationships. We also support and increase the safety of the people affected by their violence.

As in all of our programmes we aim to increase awareness of domestic violence and abuse perpetrated by young people – we do this by training professionals on youth domestic abuse and on how to foster appropriate responses. We also deliver workshops to young people to increase awareness of what abuse is and how to respond should they themselves be affected by it or want to help friends.

A typical young perpetrator programme involves an initial assessment and 10 behaviour change sessions both on a one-to-one basis and through group work.

We also help them access additional services to support long term changes in close relationships; this might include education and leisure activities.

For victims we provide support services which vary according to whether they're addressing violence against a family member – a mother, for example – or against intimate partners.



Harry, 14, his brother, 11, and his sister, 3, all witnessed the abuse their mother, Sandra, was subjected to by their dad. He had problems with alcohol and gambling.

Harry used to be very protective towards Sandra learning to be something of a diplomat in his dealings with his dad when asked about her whereabouts. Sandra said it was Harry who tried to keep the peace in the family. But two years ago Harry's dad left the family home, moved abroad and since then he has made no contact with the children. Sandra, who has great empathy for the loss her children have suffered, said: "Harry used to love his dad so much and he now feels completely abandoned by him and has fallen to pieces." The family hierarchy, according to Sandra, was Harry's dad, then Harry, then her. Harry has moved up to fill the gap left by his dad becoming violent towards his mum and siblings. His aggression also included swearing, smashing up furniture and demanding money. His fighting at school took him to the brink of exclusion and he was referred to Yuva by pastoral care following another violent incident. Following an initial meeting with two of our practitioners Harry began to see a Yuva worker in a weekly one-to-one session. His mum, meanwhile, met with the parent support worker in separate sessions. This approach continued in 12 sessions over three months.

Initially Harry found it hard to come along to sessions and frequently failed to show up without notifying his worker. But as he began to form a relationship with the worker his attendance and his engagement improved. He began to open up and talk about things that were difficult. Harry's youth practitioner liaised with Harry's school about the problems he was facing and a plan was drawn up to enable him to remain at the school.

Sandra meanwhile continued her meetings with the parenting support worker – both one-to-one and in structured group sessions. The relationship with Harry began to rebalance with arguments becoming more manageable. Over time Harry and Sandra's relationship began to change – Harry said they got on better and that he was no longer smashing things up at home, despite getting angry and frustrated at times. His situation at school has also improved and he feels he knows better how to stay out of trouble. Their future, says Sandra, is looking much brighter.



Al Aman

Al-Aman works to support victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse in London's Arabic-speaking communities.

Much of Al-Aman's work takes place in the boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and the City of Westminster, home to some of the largest Arab populations in London. But it also offers services to community members resident in other London boroughs and outside the capital.

Al-Aman aims to:

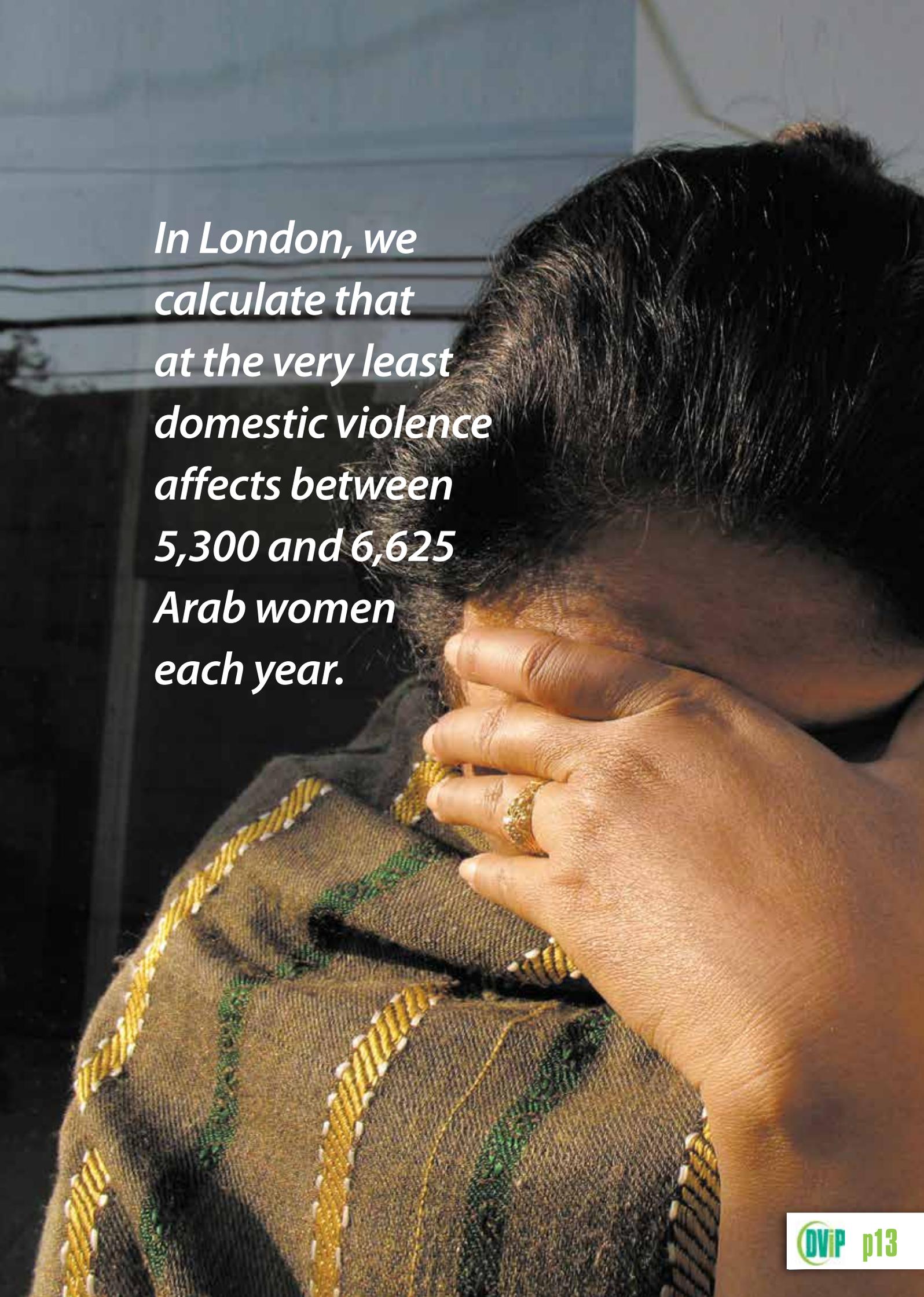
- support Arabic-speaking women and children who experience domestic abuse;
- work with Arabic men who are perpetrators of domestic abuse, in a way which prioritises the safety of women and children;
- raise awareness of domestic abuse within Arabic communities;
- raise awareness within mainstream services of the needs and issues facing Arabic communities in relation to domestic abuse;
- work with local community organisations and mainstream organisations to improve professional responses to domestic abuse in Arabic communities.

Al-Aman's activities are delivered in three strands – the women's support programme, including one-to-one casework and group support; the violence prevention programme which works with male perpetrators; outreach and engagement with cultural centres, religious institutions, community groups, and statutory and voluntary service providers.

While a range of other mainstream and specialist support services exist, a large proportion of Al-Aman's target service users face significant barriers to accessing any other service.

Al-Aman offers the only language and culture-specific domestic violence support service available to all Arabic-speakers in the capital, and the only Arabic-language perpetrator programme in the UK.

A Big Lottery funded evaluation of Al-Aman in 2012 highlighted evidence of significant impact in increasing safety, reducing perpetration of abuse, and improving awareness, practice and policy at cultural centres and mosques.



*In London, we
calculate that
at the very least
domestic violence
affects between
5,300 and 6,625
Arab women
each year.*



DVIP's Timeline

1990

Three men and a woman gather at a kitchen table in Hammersmith to discuss action about domestically abusive men – two then go to Duluth in Minnesota to learn about intervention work

1992

DVIP registered as a charity – one of first UK organisations to offer domestic abuse intervention services

1992-4

Trained volunteers begin to deliver integrated services to mixed groups of mandated men on criminal Justice Orders to attend the 32 week programme and 'voluntary' self referring men

1996

DVIP's services externally evaluated – findings show intervention programmes with linked women's support work offer significant safety and well being improvements for women including a reduction in violent incidents

1998

DVIP are steering group members on the UK's first specialist DV court and founder members of the umbrella group multi agency partnership initiative Standing Together

1999

Named as a 'best practice' organisation by the Home office In 'Living Without Fear'

2000

Lottery Grant doubles the staff team and organisational turnover

Founding member of the Safe Contact Project – a multi agency initiative to improve safety of children experiencing DV in Family Court Proceedings. Our involvement includes setting up of the children's centre and supervised contact services

Three-year grant from City Bridge Trust for a post to develop the National Practitioners Network into an umbrella organisation

2001

DVIP receives funding to develop London's first community perpetrator intervention service for Arabic speaking communities, Al-Aman is born

2003

Al-Aman wins the Mayor's Award

DVIP selected for The Guardian and Observer Christmas Charity Appeal

2004

DVIP is one of 6 organisations nationally to receive a significant grant to open Children's Centres and establish supervised contact services. Stephen's Place Children's Centre is set up.

2005

New HQ in Waterloo becomes first DVIP branch outside West London





A 3 year grant to develop specialist therapeutic service for children – the specialist service is a milestone in the development of service provision to support all individuals affected by DV

2005

DVIP's third branch the East London project-funded in a 'unique' formation of tri-borough commissioning

2007

One of eight national providers delivering DVPPs and PIPs with Cafcass and DFES

2008

DVIP East London wins the Mayor's award

Cited as an exemplar in the national VAWG strategy

Co-develops and delivers the UK's first synthesised parenting and dv intervention programme for fathers and linked support and parenting service for mothers in partnership with Nia, a ground breaking organisation fighting gender violence. The service receives a positive evaluation by CWASU.

2009

Improving women and children's safety published – evaluation of the East London project's first 18 months. Report highlights reduction in repeat victimisation of nearly 90%

DVIP becomes accredited by Respect - one of the first agencies in the country to achieve this stamp of quality assurance

Successfully secures three-year grant to develop a service aimed at young people using violence at home and/or in intimate relationships – Yuva is born

2010



DVIP and Cranstoun develop and co-deliver a pilot DV and Substance Misuse intervention which is building block for UK's first integrated perpetrator and SM programme

2011

Joins a coalition of specialist and women's rights organisations campaigning against changes to the legal aid system

Challenging year when austerity sees 'meaner, leaner' charity sector. DVIP attracts a higher number of contracts to deliver public sector services than previously imagined possible

2012

DVIP selected as one of three beneficiaries for a ground-breaking performance of 'A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer', a powerful collection of monologues edited by Vagina Monologues creator Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle to raise awareness of the V-Day



DVIP turns 21

2013

Impact of our services the evidence base

Our goal is to protect the children exposed to substantial harm and to provide the professionals charged with protecting children with an expert view of future risks.

DVIP continually evaluates its intervention programme, supporting women and challenging men week in and week out. At any-one time we have upwards of 80 to 100 men attending a programme and we are in contact with almost all of the partners and ex-partners of the men attending. So of course we see and hear these changes on an on-going basis.

But practice experience, and our belief that programmes to challenge men are a vital part of co-ordinated community response to domestic abuse, is not enough. We need evidence of our successes.

DVIP has been part of a number of long term evaluations. These demonstrate clearly:

70% cessation of violence for men completing significant amounts of the programme

78% reduction or cessation of other forms of controlling behaviour

These evaluations were based on reports of the (ex) partners of the men completing programmes.

A 2007 evaluation (Price- Rajagopalan) was also able to triangulate some of the outcomes with external (Social Services records) information on police call outs; the woman's words were really clear:

70% of respondents reported no further violence since their partner's involvement with DVIP

78% said that abusive behaviour was reduced or eliminated

65% said they felt safer or much safer

69% said their children's safety was safer or much safer since being involved in DVIP

93% of respondents assessed their quality of life as much improved or improved since involvement with DVIP

Perpetrator programme impact

DVIP's programmes are not the quick and easy solution. They are a set of in-depth interventions, delivered from within an evidence base and research led framework and with the long term promotion of safety and freedom from violence at the heart of its work.

Perpetrator programmes need to be delivered over a long period of time and each programme place brings with it at least two service users – often more.

In recent years we have conducted two major pieces of 'business case' analysis for two funding boroughs alongside our on-going attempts to evaluate the impact of DVIP's reporting into external child protection services.

Across two London Boroughs we were able to show substantial savings based on two completed programmes with high risk perpetrators.

Savings to each Local Authority of an estimated £73,500 per one individual case.

This figure was arrived at balancing the programme costs against the costs of local authority care for the children (who were about to be removed when the intervention was funded). It did not include the local authority costs of repeat victimisation or police involvement.

Equally, feedback from referring agencies is consistently clear. In a focused evaluation children's services reported very clearly:

89% found assessment 'very useful'

89% found assessment 'very useful in assisting care planning process'

94% found report 'very useful in terms of understanding use / severity / frequency of domestic abuse'

94% found that the existence of DVIP has helped the agency in responding to domestic abuse

72% of respondents recorded that the existence of DVIP has positively influenced the agencies perception of domestic abuse

88% of respondents assessed her level of safety as much safer or safer following engaging with DVIP

Repeat victimisation

DVIP has focused its analysis of the savings to boroughs on costs relating to child protection agencies. But there are other cost savings that should be taken into account. For example the cost to police and other agencies because of repeat victimisation of women are substantial – and that’s before we start thinking about children’s services.

Of course, it is important to note that the ‘repeat victimisation’ framework has been criticised for being ‘incident specific’ – failing to account for the systematic nature of domestic abuse – but it remains a substantial issue for Local Authorities and the Crime Reduction Partnerships charged with tackling crime across boroughs.

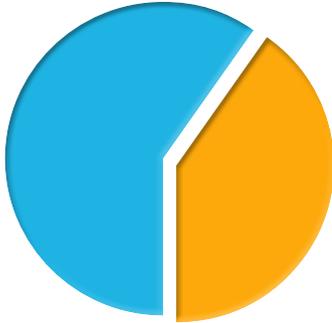
Again, in a focused evaluation, DVIP was able to compare the level of Police involvement pre & post programme intervention and were able to demonstrate **percentage reduction of over 80%** across three boroughs. This calculation was based on the standard method used by MARAC boards and was also able to triangulate input from both the victims themselves and statutory records.

DVIP in recent times

In 2011/12 we delivered the following services:

- A community based violence prevention programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse with a linked support service for their partners or ex partners. In 2011/12 we ran 6 groupwork programmes a week; completed assessment with over 300 men and successfully engaged with 87% of their partners.
- Al-Aman, a perpetrator intervention programme and support service for Arabic speaking communities. In 2011/12 Al-Aman worked with 42 men, 219 women and delivered a range of training and workshops for Imams and community leaders.
- Expert risk assessments provided to the Family Court in both Private and Public Law proceedings. In 2011/12 we produced 111 expert reports.
- Supervised contact between children and non resident parents and contact related services including a parenting information programme. In 2011/12 we supervised contact with 65 children from 61 different families.
- Therapeutic work with children who have been exposed to domestic abuse, both group and individual.
- We began to deliver a male victim service in the boroughs of Southwark and Barnet.
- We promoted integrated working by placing violence prevention workers alongside social care staff in 3 different London boroughs.
- The Yuva service offers targeted intervention services to help reduce relationship difficulties amongst adolescents who are being abusive in close relationships. The service also offers an integrated safety service for victims. The Yuva team delivered services to 33 young people and 33 victims to help improve their close relationships in 2011/12.

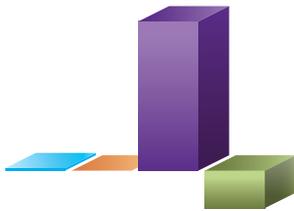
Income £1,418,597



Voluntary	£0.85m
Trading to raise funds	£0.57m
Investment	£0.00m
Charitable activities	£0.00m
Other	£0.00m
Total	£1.42m

Investment gains £0

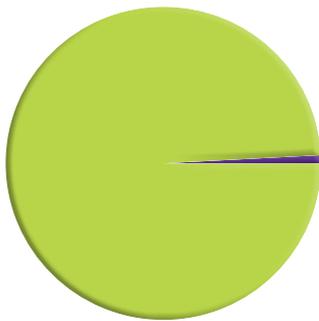
Assets, liabilities & people



Own use assets	£9.0k
Long term investments	£0.0k
Other assets	£560.7k
Total liabilities	£-141.2k

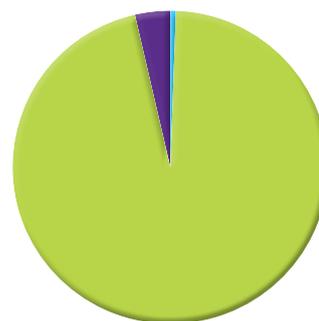
Employees 28

Spending £1,372,060



Generating Voluntary	£0.00m
Trading to raise funds	£0.00m
Investment management	£0.00m
Charitable activities	£1.36m
Governance	£0.01m
Other	£0.00m
Total	£1.37m

Charitable spending



Income generation and governance	£0.01m
Charitable spending	£1.36m
Retained for future use	£0.05m



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To find out more please contact us.

Phone: 020 7928 4620

Email: info@dvip.org

www.dvip.org

DViP

Devonshire House
164-168 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7RW

Al-Aman (Arabic speaking service)

172, Kings Street
Hammersmith
London W6 0QU
Tel: 020 8563 2250

Stephen's Place Children's Centre

1a Ravenscourt Road
Hammersmith
London W6 0UH
Tel: 020 8741 8020

Yuva

172 Kings Street
Hammersmith
London W6 0QU
Tel: 020 8222 8281

