

## Timescales

An appointment will be offered to the client for a suitability assessment within 4 to 6 weeks\* of receipt of the full court bundle (providing the case is provisionally considered suitable following the screening process). A short suitability assessment report is then filed with the Court and the instructing solicitors to confirm whether the Father is suitable to attend the programme.

Once the suitability assessment has been completed the client will be offered a group start date within 6 weeks.

\*Please note that this is an estimated time frame and subject to change when experiencing a high volume of referrals

## The DVIP Violence Prevention Programme

The DVIP Violence Prevention Programme involves 32 structured sessions designed to help men to understand why they have used abusive behaviour, how they can change this, and how they can work towards constructing respectful relationships with women. Men are challenged to take responsibility for their actions and to critically assess their gender-based expectations of themselves and their partners. The DVIP programme is not a traditional anger management or counselling group, rather it is specifically designed to address domestic violence. It draws on a wide range of approaches including cognitive, behavioural, social learning theory, psychodrama, psychotherapeutic and relationship skills teaching. This enables us to create a challenging environment while offering support for personal change.

About a third of the total sessions focus on ending physical and sexual violence. The larger part of the programme focuses on ending other forms of abuse, parenting and developing relationship skills. The groups run on a rolling programme with a new intake of men approximately every six weeks. Group sessions last two and a half hours and are held weekly in the evenings, (Monday-Thursday).

## Midway and Completion Reports.

Once a Father successfully attends 12 sessions of the programme, DVIP provides a Midway report to the Court and/or CAFCASS to identify sessions attended and missed, areas of particular concern and engagement with the programme.

After completion of the programme, DVIP file a Completion report to the Court and/or CAFASS to clarify sessions attended and missed, identify areas of concern; and comment on engagement with the programme.

There are no fees incurred to the client for the above reports as they are funded by the Department of Education. However, they do not comment on risk or provide recommendations in relation to contact arrangements.

## Fees

### Violence Prevention Programme sessions

The recent judicial guidelines around contact activity state that funding for approved perpetrator programmes can be sought from the Department for Education. Providing an order is made for a Contact Activity instructing the client to attend DVIP's Violence Prevention Programme, the client will not incur any programme costs.

### Work with Non English Speaking Clients

DVIP can undertake one to one work with clients whose first language is not English. However, the costs of the interpreter sessions would need to be additionally funded by CAFCASS as the Department of Education will not fund this resource. Please note this is subject to resources and capacity at the time of referral and will be considered on a case by case basis.



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Email: [riskassessment@dvip.org](mailto:riskassessment@dvip.org)  
Web: [www.dvip.org](http://www.dvip.org)

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3rd Floor Devonshire House  
164-168 Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7RW

Registered Charity No. 1083549

# Domestic Violence Programme



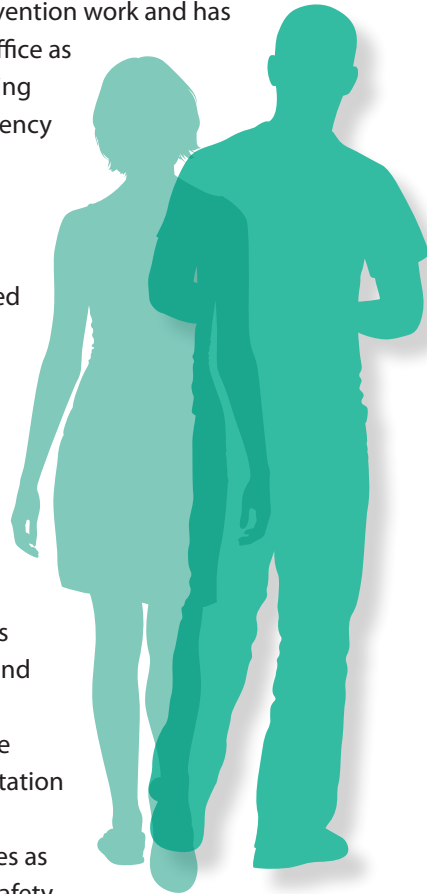
As a Contact Activity  
Direction or Condition

## Introduction

DViP is a groundbreaking voluntary sector project and registered charity which was set up in 1991. Our main aim is to increase the safety of women and children who experience domestic violence; and to do so by providing a range of diverse services including assessing and challenging men, supporting women, working in partnership, influencing policy, and campaigning for change.

DViP is considered a centre of excellence in the field of domestic violence intervention work and has been cited by the Home Office as a best practice project (Living Without Fear 1999, Interagency Guidelines 2000).

In October 2009 DViP became one of the first organisations to be awarded accreditation by RESPECT. This accreditation is a national standard of excellence for organisations that provide a prevention programme for male perpetrators and integrated support services for their women partners and ex-partners. It is endorsed by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice. Accreditation standard organisations are those that RESPECT assesses as providing a "high quality, safety focused service".



[www.respect.uk.net/pages/accreditation-project.html](http://www.respect.uk.net/pages/accreditation-project.html)

## The DViP Violence Prevention Programme as a Contact Activity Direction or Condition

In cases where the applicant father accepts that violence and/or abuse has occurred in the relationship with the respondent mother, CAFCASS can recommend to the Court that a referral is made for the father to attend a Violence Prevention Programme. Such a recommendation should be made in cases where the successful completion of a programme would be the main basis on which a Court might be willing to consider future contact between a child and their father.

### When to refer for a Contact Activity Direction or Condition

Where a CAFCASS officer is confident that they have an adequate picture of the risks posed to the child and resident parent in relation to domestic violence; and also that a full risk assessment is not necessary, they may wish to consider a referral for a contact activity.

The Respect guidance regarding contact activity recommendations suggests that the following criteria should be met before referring for such an activity/direction:

- 1) Both parents' versions of events are similar, thus the Father cannot be in total denial of his abusive behaviour;
- 2) Perpetrator is making some admissions in respect of his abusive behaviour;
- 3) Perpetrator is motivated to engage with the programme;
- 4) The child(ren) wants contact;

- 5) The perpetrator does not have any complicating factors, such as significant mental health problems and/or substance misuse;
- 6) The risk of further violence or abuse is low to medium;
- 7) Perpetrator has not used lethal violence e.g. strangulation, weapons, threats to kill, violence during pregnancy, etc.

If the above criteria are not met, DViP recommends that a referral is made for a full risk assessment (for further information please email: [riskassessment@dvip.org](mailto:riskassessment@dvip.org) to request a copy of our Private Law risk assessment leaflet).

### Referral process

When a contact activity has been ordered by the court, the Court Order should include the release of relevant documentation to DViP. The CAFCASS officer should make a referral to DViP and the instructing party's solicitor should forward the full court bundle.

Once a completed referral, including **all relevant paperwork**, has been received, DViP will screen the paperwork to ensure that the case complies with the recommended criteria for a contact activity direction or condition. Following this an appointment for a suitability assessment will be offered to the client.

Please note that DViP require all relevant paperwork before the client can be offered an appointment for an assessment:

**Referral Form** - This can be obtained by emailing [riskassessment@dvip.org](mailto:riskassessment@dvip.org)

**Court Order** - This should be **correctly worded**, stating "It is directed pursuant to s.11a Children's Act 1989 that the applicant Father shall undertake a contact activity namely a 32 week Perpetrator Treatment Programme with the DViP, 3rd Floor, Devonshire House, 164-168 Westminster Bridge Road".

**Evidence of Domestic Violence** – this may be in the form of police reports, statements from the victim, admissions from the perpetrator, criminal convictions or a transcript from a finding of fact hearing.

Please return all the above documents to:  
**DViP, 3rd Floor, Devonshire House, 164-168 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7RW**

