

DVIP's Services

For nearly 20 years, we've been helping to make women and children safer. With services across London, we work to stop domestic violence and to reduce the harm it causes to women, children and families.



Domestic Violence
Intervention Project

Violence Prevention Programme (VPP)

This is our 32 session programme for male perpetrators of violence and abuse against women in intimate relationships. The initial sessions focus on stopping the use of violent and abusive behaviours, and latter ones focus on developing empathy for their (ex) partners and children; understanding the underpinning beliefs and attitudes that have enabled them to expect power and control within relationships; positive parenting; and alternative, non-abusive ways of coping with conflict within intimate relationships. The programme can be delivered on a 1-2-1 basis when language or other reasons are a factor, but the benefits of shared learning and peer support with other men in a respectful group work setting are significant.

In addition to assessing a man's suitability for the programme, VPP facilitators can also provide Risk Identification Reports and Programme Suitability Assessments for Children's Services. These reports and subsequent feedback on a man's progress on the VPP can be useful within Child Protection or Child in Need processes.

Women's Support Service (WSS)

All partners and ex-partners of men referred to the VPP are offered a linked Women's Support Service. Women are pro-actively contacted by female specialist support workers and are offered a range of services including telephone support, face-to-face sessions and a place on the Women's Group. It is a woman's choice whether or not to engage with any of these services, but if she has declined support, a WSS worker will still contact her to advise of any significant issues that arise from the man's attendance on the VPP (e.g. if he discloses new violence towards her, if he is suspended, etc). In the public law arena, women may be ordered by the court or the Local Authority to attend the WSS programme following a vulnerability assessment. In such cases, it is recommended that a final report in respect of her progress is also ordered.

The Women's Group comprises 10 group and 10 individual sessions, covering a range of issues including: awareness of violent and abusive behaviours within relationships; moving away from self-blame around the violence and abuse they have experienced; building self-esteem; positive parenting; and increasing their sense of control over future choices.

Risk Assessment Team

This team undertakes specialist assessments for use by Family Courts in both Public and Private Law proceedings. The assessments may be in relation to a father's risk of harm to a current or ex-partner and the impact of this on their children; or may be in relation to the vulnerability of a mother and the extent to which her parenting may have been affected as a result of the violence and abuse she has experienced. The assessments include recommendations as to how to best manage the identified risks. The team can now also undertake Risk Assessments on young people who are perpetrating violence or abuse, and are expanding their services to include parenting and mother-child assessments in cases where the father is not party to the proceedings.

Experts who prepare risk assessments for DVIP come from a range of different professional backgrounds. All assessors are educated to at least graduate level from fields such as Psychology and Criminology. All assessors have completed domestic violence risk assessment training and have a minimum of six years experience of delivering treatment and assessing risk in this field, as well as experience of giving evidence in court as an expert witness.

Al-Aman



This team comprises Arabic-speaking Domestic Violence Specialists who undertake VPP and WSS work as described above, but for men and women within Arabic-speaking communities. Additional services are offered for women within this service, including culturally specific group work. Women can also self-refer to this service without their partner or ex-partner needing to be referred to the VPP.

A significant amount of outreach and training is delivered by Al-Aman staff in local boroughs, to develop understanding and trust with faith groups and other agencies that may be involved with Arabic-speaking families.

Yuva



The Yuva Project works with young people aged 11-18 who have used or are using violence in intimate relationships or within their families. Through structured 1-2-1 direct interventions and group work, this project helps young people to address and challenge their use of violence and abuse, and to adopt alternative, non-violent and non-abusive, ways of coping with conflict.

A linked support service for victims of the young person's behaviour is also a key part of Yuva. This includes work with parents and/or partners of the referred adolescent who may be struggling to establish and maintain appropriate and safe boundaries within the relationship.

Stephen's Place Children's Centre



Stephen's Place is DVIP's children's centre, a safe and child friendly environment. The centre offers a range of services to children and their family members including: supervised contact; parenting assessments; contact assessments; Separated Parents Information Programme (PIP) and therapeutic services for children who have been affected by domestic violence.

We offer supervised contact between parents and their non-resident children where domestic violence is a factor. We have developed innovative ways of working with complex, high risk cases, which utilises our expertise in the field of domestic abuse. As a result we are able to provide safe contact for children and analytical observation reports which help professionals work towards better outcomes for children.

The centre is bright, warm and child-oriented with themed rooms offering a wide variety of play equipment chosen to support the contact parent/s interacting easily with their child(ren). We offer considerable support to contact parents – both before and after sessions – to enable them to develop their relationship with the child.

Stephen's Place has created handover services

which clients are able to fund themselves. This service allows clients to have unsupervised contact without the pressure of children being placed in volatile situations as they interact with ex partners. Security can be provided upon request.

Our specialist therapeutic services are for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. Therapy is semi long-term, which means that a child or young person can be seen on a weekly basis for up to five months. The therapy is tailored to the needs and the age of the child. For younger children, play therapy is used to explore the child's feelings. For older children/young people, a range of exploratory therapeutic techniques are utilised, including the creative arts. We are able to offer this free therapeutic service to children and young people aged between 3 and 17 years who live in the boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, and Ealing. Children can access either individual or group therapy according to individual need.

"Our Time Group" provides children with the opportunity to process and understand the violence and abuse that they have experienced. These groups are for children aged between 5 and 13 years and run once a week for 10 weeks. There are usually between 6 and 8 children in each group and it is overseen by a Chartered Psychologist.

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