



**Isle of Man
Government**

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Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Working Protocol

DEPARTMENT OF
HOME AFFAIRS
RHEYNN COOISHYNN STHIE



Department of Health and Social Care

Rheynn Slaynt as Kiarail y Theay

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Introduction

Our aim is to reduce the number of victims impacted by domestic abuse and ensure that when it does occur all those affected get a needs led response, quickly.

With the publication of the Domestic Abuse Implementation Plan in March 2022 and the Domestic Abuse Act 2020 coming in to operation on 04 January 2023, we are now at the point where we can together look ahead at what we want to achieve in our co-ordinated efforts to address and respond to domestic abuse in the Isle of Man.

A Domestic Abuse Strategy is being considered and developed with relevant agencies but will require consultation which will take place in the coming year. Therefore, in preparation for the implementation of the Act this working protocol has been developed.

This protocol sets out the principles of our approach to tackle domestic abuse in the Isle of Man. It will describe how key agencies will work together to; gather a better understanding of the prevalence of domestic abuse on the Island, prevent domestic abuse from happening, provide high quality, joined-up support for victims where domestic abuse does occur, ensure that perpetrators are held to account, obtain the best outcome for victims, children and their families.

This protocol does not intend to duplicate work being led by others. It aims to bring together work across all sectors on the issue of domestic abuse into one cohesive, co-ordinated statement.

Where we are now

The Domestic Abuse Act 2020 ("the Act") came into force on 4th January 2023. Four of the five parts of the act came into force from that date.

The Act has given the police and courts the legal powers to remove a perpetrator from an abusive environment by using Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs), should the relevant criteria as outlined within the Act be met.

DAPNs can be issued on the spot by the Police if there is an immediate welfare concern, or a DAPO can be granted by the courts to protect victims and survivors of abuse on a longer term basis.

The effective use of DAPNs and DAPOs demands proactive multi-agency working at all stages. All agencies are expected to keep partner agencies involved in, and informed of any updates to active DAPN and DAPO cases, and to work closely with established multi-agency forums where appropriate.

The giving of a DAPN and DAPO will be the trigger for a Multi-Agency Referral Form (MARF). In cases where a DAPN or DAPO has been given and there are children in the family unit, and MARF will be submitted to Safeguarding Children & Adults – Children’s Social Care.

In cases where there is no child involvement, a MARF will be submitted to the Adult Safeguarding Team.

What we want to achieve and how we will do it

This protocol describes how we will work together to respond to victim/survivors of domestic abuse and deliver the strategic aims of:

1. Prevention & Protection;
2. Provision;
3. Pursuing; and
4. Partnership.

By doing so we hope to achieve a culture of zero tolerance, professional curiosity, victim/survivor centred practice and a focus on disrupting those that may pose a risk to members of our community.

Prevention & Protection

We will aim to prevent domestic abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviour which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.

Actions:

- Establish a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which will bring key professionals together to facilitate early, better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making. Staff from across health, social care, the police, education, probation will be co-located in the MASH.
- People presenting to frontline staff with indicators of possible domestic violence or abuse are asked about their experiences in a private discussion.
- Staff are trained to respond to disclosure and how to ask about domestic abuse. This is essential for safe enquiry about experiences of domestic abuse and a consistent and appropriate response is required.
- Consider the actions emerging from the first phase of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on “Starting well and developing well” which will address Adverse Childhood experiences.
- Develop a Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme as a part of a “high risk” response, and bring forward suitable regulations to give the scheme a statutory basis.

- Continue a sustained multimedia local Public Awareness campaign on domestic abuse as services are developed and Domestic Abuse legislation is enacted.
- Deliver training to all Isle of Man Government employees and all relevant agency and third sector organisations.

Provision

We will look to provide high quality, joined-up support for victims/survivors where domestic abuse does occur.

Actions:

- Perpetrators will be held to account for their actions and where possible housing disruption will be theirs.
- Training requirements will be systematically identified, delivered, monitored and updated by each agency.
- Training levels will be commensurate to role and reflect the NICE Quality Statements.
- All organisations with direct contact with the public, such as health (including maternity, health visitors, primary care, A&E, genito-urinary medicine and Family Planning), mental health, DAT, CAMHS, Safeguarding Children & Adults, Schools, Police, Probation, Courts, Housing, Social Security, Immigration.
- Continue to consider ways in which commissioning of Third Sector services can be improved with the aim of promoting a shared purpose, a quality service and value for money.
- Work with the Housing and Communities Board to establish a pathway to 'emergency accommodation' where required.

Pursuing

We will reduce the harm to victims of abuse by ensuring that perpetrators are held to account and provided with opportunities for change in a way that maximises safety.

Actions:

- Use Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPN) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPO) to provide protection to a victim/survivor of domestic abuse.
- Finalise work to make "tagging" a component of a DAPO.
- Review and amend Statutory Guidance issued by the Department so that front line professionals can effectively work with the law.
- Address the gap in the absence of provision to prohibit cross-examination of the complainant by the suspect/perpetrator in the civil or criminal forum.

Partnership

We will work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims, children and their families.

Actions:

- Continue to work within our agency, with other agencies and Third Sector organisations to understand the prevalence, impact and better understand provision required as the Domestic Abuse Act is implemented.
- Develop best practice guidance that provides; clear information on what domestic abuse is and how to identify it, guidance and support to frontline professionals, and other organisations, including signposting to further resources, and sets standards and promotes best practice for agency and multi-agency responses.
- Establish a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) that provides strategic direction and leadership on strategic issues including Domestic Abuse, Manx Public Protection Arrangements (M-PPA), and the objectives of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Our Strategic Outcomes

Prevention & Protection

Indicators:

- Victim/survivors, perpetrators, professionals and communities recognise that domestic abuse is unacceptable and are empowered to safely challenge this behaviour.
- Children and young people are provided with appropriate and consistent education on the issue of domestic abuse and healthy relationships.
- Frontline professionals are better able to identify and respond to domestic abuse at an early stage.
- More employers are able to recognise and respond appropriately to victim/survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse

Provision

Indicators:

- Victim/survivors and their children are supported to manage the impact of domestic abuse, including access to trauma informed support and long-term sustainable safety.
- All Island residents are aware of the specialist services available to them.
- Everyone works effectively within their own agency, and with all other agencies, to ensure that victim/survivors and their children can access help wherever they disclose abuse and get the right response the very first time.

- High quality, joined-up support services are commissioned which meet the needs of victim/survivors, children and perpetrators, and prioritises the safety and wellbeing of victim/survivors and their families.
- Safe spaces are provided to report incidents of Domestic Abuse

Pursuing

Indicators:

- Victim/survivors are enabled and supported to feel confident in accessing the criminal and civil justice and family court systems.
- The experience and outcomes for victim/survivors who choose to access the criminal and civil justice and family court systems are significantly improved
- Multiple incidents of abuse are reduced.
- Perpetrators have increased access to support and interventions for behaviour change.
- Provision to prohibit cross-examination of the complainant by the suspect/perpetrator in the civil or criminal forum.

Partnership

- The Isle of Man has a coordinated response across all services and partnerships to deliver the Domestic Abuse Strategy; informed by consistent and aligned policies, shared systems leadership, and allocation of resources.