

DAWSA Event Information Pack

In 2019 Northumbria Police and the OPCC submitted a successful bid to the Home Office to implement a whole system approach to working with perpetrators. The overall aim of the whole system approach is to *“improve the lives of those experiencing domestic abuse but crucially also to prevent domestic abuse from happening by targeting those harmful, serial and repeat domestic abuse perpetrators.”* This funding totalling £7.9m was used to facilitate the four main outcomes:

* Prevention and Education
* Early Intervention
* Effective engagement with victims
* Meaningful consequences for perpetrators

The perpetrator management plan examined three Home Office funded domestic abuse perpetrator management approaches. This includes: Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC), DRIVE (Safe Lives, Respect and Social Finance) and Make a Change (Respect and Women’s Aid). This resource is a highlight of these three processes as well as information regarding Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) which is a community based provider of integrated relationship support in Greater Manchester.

The DAWSA vision is broken down into three main themes:

*Theme 1: Effective Working within the Criminal Justice System:*

* Coercive Control Training Programme for professionals which is available to download on the DAWSA website [www.dawsa.org.uk](http://www.dawsa.org.uk)
* DVSA (domestic violence and assistance response) is a special service where an IDVA accompanies a police officer to attend domestic abuse incidents to offer support and specialist advice to victims at the time of police response.
* Domestic abuse and criminal justice system (DACJS) workers. This is an IDVA who is based in Police custody to offer specialist support and advice to police offers dealing with domestic abuse incidents and investigations. They also have IDVAs based in their force control rooms (FCR).
* Independent domestic abuse scrutiny panel which consists of partner agencies and survivors who QA police responses to domestic abuse from the time of the incident right through to the disposal outcome.
* Best practice standards for domestic abuse case work.

*Theme 2: Partnership work with civil and family courts:*

* Family court proceedings – to improve the experience of victims in the family courts specifically in relation to the development of regional corporate police disclosure requests and process. They provide an online resource for victims to better understand the application for domestic abuse disclosures in family court.
* Family court proceedings and domestic abuse self-help materials and online resources.
* Domestic abuse, civil and family court training for key police personnel e.g. in relation to non-molestation orders, restraining orders and prohibited step orders.
* Specialist Child and Family Court Liaison (CFCL) workers.

*Theme 3: Multi-Agency victim support and offender management:*

* Development of multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH).
* Multi-Agency taking and coordination for the most harmful domestic abuse perpetrators (MATAC).
* Commissioning of RESPECT accredited voluntary domestic abuse prevention programmes.

Talk Listen Change (TLC)



TLC is based in Greater Manchester and they take a whole family approach to relationships following the ethos of “Safe, healthy, happy”. They provide a variety of services but predominantly offer counselling services for single adults, couples and entire families experiencing relationship issues. In addition they offer a mediation service to support couples and families going through separation. In addition, they offer five specialist domestic abuse services in conjunction with Greater Manchester Police (GMP).

* Strive: When a 999 call is received by GMP they respond and at the scene they offer a referral to TLC. Following this referral TLC DA practitioners go to the home and link the individuals concerned in the incident into domestic abuse services. This intervention supports local community relationships and ensures people who would potentially not receive any support, have access to the help they need.
* Strive into Change: This is an early intervention for emerging abusive behaviours. This is a 6-week programme for perpetrators and their partners to raise awareness of unhealthy behaviours. This programme encourages motivation to address this behaviour and prepares individuals for long-term behaviour change work.
* Bridging to Change: A long-term programme for men who are abusive to their female partners. This programme encourages men to take responsibility for their abusive behaviour and change their approach to their relationships with their partners and any children in their life. This is a rolling programme who holds perpetrators responsible for their actions through the addition of peer support.
* Relapse prevention programme: This is a lifelong support offer to perpetrators who have completed other domestic abuse perpetrator programmes who may require additional support in terms of relapse.
* Women who use violence: A programme for women who are abusive towards their male or female partners. This programme helps women to address their behaviour and make positive changes, encouraging safer and healthier relationships.

Alongside these perpetrator services, TLC also offer victim and survivor support services with integrated one-to-one support for the partners and ex-partners of perpetrators who are engaging in the above perpetrator programmes. In addition they offer a children and young person’s support service which is an integrated counselling and youth work for the children of perpetrators engaging in the above perpetrator programmes.

To find out more about TLC or to make a referral please click [HERE](https://talklistenchange.org.uk/)

DRIVE



The Drive project works with high risk perpetrators to reduce abuse and increase victim Safety. Drive is a 1:1 tailored perpetrator intervention offered to high risk offenders identified in MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference). Drive was initially piloted in three areas (Essex included) and then was replicated in a further four areas.

Since the start of the pilot in 2016, Drive has worked with 1489 perpetrators and impacted upon the lives of 1643 victims/survivors and 2337 children and young people.

The University of Bristol have completed an independent three year evaluation of the findings based on the analysis of 500 cases. The findings indicate that the intervention significantly reduced the use of abuse. The number of perpetrators using high levels of abuse reduced as follows:

* Physical abuse reduced by 82%
* Sexual abuse reduced by 88%
* Harassment and stalking behaviours reduced by 75%
* Jealous and controlling behaviours reduced by 73%

For the duration of the programme, IDVAs reported that the risk of harm to the victim reduced by 82% of cases. In addition, Police data indicates a 30% reduction in domestic abuse reoffending for Drive participants in comparison to no reduction in reoffending for control group perpetrators.

The full Drive evaluation report can be downloaded [HERE](http://driveproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/DriveYear3_UoBEvaluationReport_Final.pdf)

Northumbria Police Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC)



MATAC is aimed to encourage offender behaviour change and disrupt abusers activity. It aims to identify serial perpetrators of domestic abuse and working with partners. It delivers a combination of support, prevention, diversion, disruption and enforcement through the criminal justice system and non-statutory organisations. It aims to prevent further harm to victims/survivors and children and young people. MATAC is supported by a toolkit which outlines the strategies available to manage perpetrators. MATAC has two key pathways; the therapeutic pathway (support options for perpetrators) and the enforcement pathway (methods of disruption, diversion, prevention etc). These pathways can be used interchangeably or in succession.

MATAC meetings are held similarly to MARAC and are held for specific areas within one region on a set day hearing between 10-12 cases per area. These meetings occur on a monthly basis but can be adapted to suit specific force needs and demand. Perpetrators remain being heard on a monthly basis at MATAC until they are discharged by the MATAC manager. On average cases are held for 3-5 months but some can remain under supervision for up to 12 depending on the severity of their offending.

MATAC has a set criteria for perpetrators:

* Perpetrator must be aged 16 or over
* Has perpetrated 2 or more domestic abuse incidents
* Has 2 or more victims (this can be an intimate partner or family member)

Prior to the meeting the perpetrator is issued with a MATAC Notice. This is a formal notice either given to them at their home address, or if unsafe to do so is issued at point of entry at custody. This notice informs the perpetrator that they will be entered into the MATAC process and also outlines the reasons for this. It highlights to them that they have been identified through intelligence and police analysis (not victim reports) that they are a serial perpetrator. This notice is given to perpetrators by a Domestic Abuse Prevention Practitioner (DAPP) rather than police officers.

MATAC entry points are either through the RFGV model or through external agency (non-police) referrals into the MATAC manager. The RFGV model is an analysis tool that determines the overall score for a perpetrators offending. It is designed to identify serial perpetrators who have not previously been highlighted through risk or harm assessment processes. Northumbria police identified hundreds of serial perpetrators who commit offences assessed at standard or medium risk against multiple victims. It is based on two years of police data and determines the score using the perpetrator’s information, the victim’s information, the information regarding the domestic abuse incidents and all the other crimes linked to the domestic abuse incidents.

* RECENCY: the number of DA incidents in the last 24 months
* FREQUENCY: the time lapsed in days between these incidents in the last 24 months
* GRAVITY: the severity of the incidents (based upon the home office offence codes)
* VICTIMS: the number of victims linked to this perpetrator in the last 24 months

This test is run every month and gives a list of all of the perpetrators meeting this criteria giving them an overall score in terms of severity. This information is checked against partner referrals into MATAC and then around 60-70 offenders are selected on a monthly basis based on this score. Perpetrator profiles or subject profiles are then created incorporating information from partner agencies. These profiles are taken to the MATAC meeting to manage perpetrators and partnership actions.

Results from the full DAWSA evaluation indicate that those perpetrators engaged with MATAC have had a 65% reduction in domestic abuse reoffending since November 2014. This has also impacted other offending, with a 61% reduction in other repeat offending. There is also a performance management framework in place which evaluated the RFGV score of perpetrators 6 months post discharge from MATAC. Results indicate that 70% of these perpetrators still have a lower RFGV score 6 months post MATAC.

The full MATAC guidance and evaluation can be accessed by registering for the knowledge hub [HERE](https://knowledgehub.group/)

The Knowledge Hub has been created for UK policing and its public and private sector partners, to help you share information, discuss ideas and opportunities and encourage greater collaboration.

If you work in or with local or national policing, signing up to the Knowledge Hub will help you make the right connections. Registration is free but membership requests will be subject to approval.

Make a Change



Make a Change is a service based in Lincolnshire and Sussex and offers support to people who are worried about their relationship or their behaviour and also offer support to family, friends and professionals who identify someone they believe is demonstrating abusive behaviours. Make a Change is a community-focused response to the perpetration of domestic abuse which includes work at community, professional and specialist service levels. They intervene at an early stage with those perpetrating abusive behaviours within their relationships, increasing the safety of (ex-) partners. They work with perpetrators on both a one to one and group basis, with groups using an outreach approach, influencing attitudinal and behavioural change. Make a Change works in partnership with Respect and Women’s Aid.

To learn more about Make a Change or to make a referral please click [HERE](https://www.makeachange.uk.net/)