



BIRMINGHAM
**Safeguarding
Children**
PARTNERSHIP

Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly

Safeguarding Children From Domestic Abuse

Thursday 25th April

The MAC, Birmingham

Independent Chair's Welcome & Update



Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership – Spring 2024

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

We have been made aware that when we originally shared this newsletter, a few of the articles were showing as missing – we hope you're now able to enjoy the complete edition!

We have been very busy over the past few months at the partnership, and we are excited to share our latest updates with you. This edition of the newsletter will focus on the vital role DSLs play in education, the recent publication of a Serious Case Review, the upcoming BSCP Neglect Practice Week, and the March West Midlands MASA Regional Development Day.

Additionally, our Practitioner Spotlight interview features Denise Mills, Education Safeguarding Officer, who takes us through her role, responsibilities, and what safeguarding means to her.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you have any content suggestions for future editions, please don't hesitate to [contact Katherine Adams \(BSCP Communications Officer\)](#).



- Working as Partners to Safeguard Children from Domestic Abuse – BSCP Conference 16.11.2023
- Working Together to Safeguard Children published December 2023
- BSCP Executive Board – Development Session -March 2024
- BSCP Practitioners Forum – 20.03.2024
- BSCP Spring Newsletter – 22.04.2024
- Practice Fortnight – Neglect themed events led by BSCP – 4nd April till 3rd May 2024
- Independent Chairs' Accountability Report 2023-24 – To be published May 2024

Implementing National Guidance



- Brief overview of the new guidance highlighting key changes - national perspective
- Focus on the pivotal role of leadership and 'Relevant Agencies'
- Timetable for change in Birmingham
- Strengthening 'Relevant Agencies' involvement in the safeguarding arrangements – Next steps

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children

December 2023

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 – Key Changes

Chapter 1 - A Shared Responsibility:

introduces principles for working with parents and carers, sets expectations for multi-agency working that apply to all individuals, agencies and organisations

Chapter 2 - Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements:

- strengthens how safeguarding partners work together and with relevant agencies
- clarifies roles and responsibilities of safeguarding partners and introduces the partnership chair role
- emphasises the role of education, and engaging VCSE orgs and sports clubs in local arrangements
- strengthening accountability around information sharing, independent scrutiny, funding, and reporting

Chapter 3 - Providing help, support and protection:

- strengthens the role of education and childcare settings in supporting children and keeping them safe
- improves family network engagement in decision making and supporting children
- clarifies a broader range of practitioners working with children and families under section 17
- clarifies support for disabled children and their families, children in mother and baby units (in prisons) and children at risk from people in prison and people supervised by the probation service
- introduces new national multi-agency child protection standards
- clarifies the multi-agency response to all forms of abuse and exploitation from outside the home

Chapter 4 - Organisational responsibilities:

factual changes to align with legislation and guidance; Prison and Probation sections highlights the mutual benefits of exchanging information with children's social care

Chapter 5 - Learning from serious child safeguarding incidents:

clarifying the expectation for local authorities to keep in touch with care leavers over the age of 21, and the non-mandatory reporting of care leaver deaths up to age 25.

Chapter 6 - Child Death Reviews:

factual changes to align with legislation, statutory and operational guidance published since 2018.

Timetable for change in Birmingham



BIRMINGHAM Safeguarding Children PARTNERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT SESSION - IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKING TOGETHER TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN 2023
Wednesday 20th March 2024

Room G2, Police Headquarters, West Midlands Police, Lloyd House, Colmore Circus Birmingham B4 6NQ

PROGRAMME

9:00 – Welcome and Introduction: Penny Thompson CBE

- Welcome /Introductions/Apologies
- Outline and Purpose of the day
- Summary of key national changes
- Group Work – Teams, Leads & Instructions
- Focus and aim of the six workshops

9:15 – Group Work - Workshops 1 & 2:

- **Workshop 1 - Independent Scrutiny – exploring new approaches:** Di Rhoden, BSOL ICB
- **Workshop 2 - Strengthening our Safeguarding in Education arrangements:** Razia Butt, BCC

9:35 – Plenary – Workshops 1 & 2: Penny Thompson CBE

- Group Feedback and Wider discussion
- Key Decisions and Further Action

9:50 – Group Work - Workshops 3 & 4

- **Workshop 3 - Developing and agreeing our new partnership Chairing arrangements:** James Thomas, BCT
- **Workshop 4 - Enhancing our work with voluntary, charity, social enterprise, and Sports clubs:** Razia Butt, BCC

10:10 - Plenary – Workshops 3 & 4: Penny Thompson CBE

- Group Feedback and Wider discussion
- Key Decisions and Further Action

10:25 - Comfort Break – 15 Mins

10:40 - Group Work - Workshops 5 & 6

- **Workshop 5 - Embedding the new Lead & Delegated Safeguarding Partners roles & functions - Developing the right model for Birmingham:** Ed Foster, West Midlands Police
- **Workshop 6 - Acting on the voice/lived experience of children and families – How do we move towards Co-production in the design and delivery of our services for children:** David Stringfellow, BCT

11:00 - Plenary – Workshops 5 & 6: Penny Thompson CBE

- Group Feedback and Wider discussion
- Key Decisions and Further Action

11:15 - Development Session De-Brief and Close: Penny Thompson CBE

- Development Session De-Brief and Close
- Summary – Key decisions
- Identifications for further work
- Next steps -timetable for change
- Regional Development Day - 26th March 2024

11:45 - End of Development Session

Our Priorities

Priority 1: Ensuring effective implementation of 'Working Together to Build Strong Family Foundations' (Childhood Neglect Strategy 2022-2026)

Priority 2: Assuring a coordinated and consistent inter-agency response to children impacted by domestic abuse and violence in families

Priority 3: Developing a joint approach to understanding and responding to children who are, and who become, 'invisible to services'

Priority 4: Enhancing anti-discriminatory practice, by improving partnership focus on the work we do, in the context of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion

- Working Together published December 2023
- Yearly Report to be published by September 2024
- New Governance arrangements to be published by December 2024
- Strategic Leaders Development Session – 20th March 2024 – Workshop on Key role of Relevant Agencies
- New Lead Safeguarding Partners and Delegated Safeguarding Partners Roles
- Independent Scrutineer role and Co-Chairing arrangements – Autumn 2024

The pivotal role of Safeguarding Leaders



As Leaders of **'Relevant Agencies'** there is a requirement to;

- ✓ have a clear understanding of its responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children locally, and how it will discharge them
- ✓ co-operate with safeguarding partners to improve, implement, and monitor effectiveness of the local safeguarding arrangements
- ✓ share information and data about safeguarding issues and concerns affecting the children involved in their organisation to contribute to local priorities
- ✓ ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood, and rigorously applied within their organisation

BSCP Business Improvement Plan 2023-25



Priority 1: Ensuring effective implementation of 'Working together to Build Strong Family Foundations' (Childhood Neglect Strategy 2022-2026)

Priority 2: Assuring a coordinated and coherent inter-agency response to children impacted by domestic abuse and violence in families

Priority 3: Developing a joint approach to understanding and responding to children who are, and who become, invisible to services

Priority 4: Enhancing anti-discriminatory practice, by improving partnership focus on the work we do, in the context of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion



This Morning's Agenda



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE
Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly
Thursday 25th April 2024
The Midlands Art Centre, Birmingham

PROGRAMME

09:00 - Arrival, Registration, Networking and Refreshments

09:15 - Introduction & Welcome
Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair

- Welcome, Apologies and Focus of the morning session
- Priority 2 of the **Business Improvement Plan** - 'To assure a coordinated and coherent inter-agency response to children impacted by domestic abuse and violence in families'
- Urgent - Any Other Business
- Independent Chair's Safeguarding Update

09:30 - Opening Remarks on behalf of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategic Partnership Board
Councillor Nicky Brennan

- Role of the DA Strategic Partnership Board
- Progress on development of the DA Prevention Strategy
- Key challenges, overcoming the financial constraints facing the city, absence of holistic perpetrator programmes

09:35 - Introduction to the Session
Graham Tilby, Assistant Director, Birmingham Children's Trust

- Outline of the morning and desired outcomes
- Whole System and Values & Principles of the Strategy

09:45 - Setting the scene nationally
Jessica Privilege, Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office

- DA Act 2021 - children as victims of DA
- DA Victims Code of Practice
- DA services for children - national mapping exercise

10:00 - Timekeeper - Video Presentation

- A powerful U.K. fact-based dramatization of a child drawn into a father's pattern of abuse despite his attempts to protect his mother

10:25 - Comfort Break & Networking

10:35 - The Local Context - Outline of draft Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy
Graham Tilby, Assistant Director, Birmingham Children's Trust

- Key Priorities with focus on Children as Victims
- Management of Risk - DA Triage, MARAC and Operation Willowbay - **Laura Rogers, MARAC Lead, West Midlands Police**
- Operation Encompass - **Nikki Plummer, Head of Service Domestic Abuse & Interpersonal Violence, Birmingham Children's Trust**

11:10 - Group Discussion

- How do we embed the Values & Principles within our organisations and as partnership/whole system?
- How do we as system leaders work better together to support victims of DA in the context of reducing resources?

11:40 - Plenary/Feedback
Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair

11:55 - Any Other Business
Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair

12:00 - Close

Our Priorities

Priority 1: Ensuring effective implementation of 'Working together to Build Strong Family Foundations' (Childhood Neglect Strategy 2022-2026)

Priority 2: Assuring a coordinated and coherent inter-agency response to children impacted by domestic abuse and violence in families

Priority 3: Developing a joint approach to understanding and responding to children who are, and who become, invisible to services

Priority 4: Enhancing anti-discriminatory practice, by improving partnership focus on the work we do, in the context of equity, equality, diversity and inclusion

- 9:00** Arrival, Registration, Networking and Refreshments
- 9:15** Introduction & Welcome - Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair
- 9:30** Opening Remarks on behalf of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategic Partnership Board - Councillor Nicky Brennan
- 9:35** Introduction to the Session - Graham Tilby, Assistant Director, Birmingham Children's Trust
- 9:45** Setting the scene nationally - Jessica Privilege, Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office
- 10:00** Timekeeper – Video Presentation
- 10:25** Comfort Break & Networking
- 10:35** The Local Context – Outline of draft Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy - Graham Tilby, Assistant Director, Birmingham Children's Trust
 - **Management of Risk – DA Triage, MARAC and Operation Willowbay** – Laura Rogers, MARAC Lead, West Midlands Police
 - **Operation Encompass** - Nikki Plummer, Head of Service Domestic Abuse & Interpersonal Violence, Birmingham Children's Trust
- 11:10** Group Discussion
- 11:40** Plenary/Feedback - Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair
- 11:55** Any Other Business - Penny Thompson CBE, Independent Chair

**Opening Remarks on behalf of the
Domestic Abuse (DA)
Strategic Partnership Board**

Councillor Nicky Brennan

Role of the DA Local Strategic Partnership Board

The Partnership is responsible for supporting Birmingham City Council in meeting its duty under Part Four of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

It oversees and provides the strategic direction of DA in the city and providing governance in delivery and review of the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy for the city. There are specific subgroups which focus on different shared priorities and report back to the Board regularly on progress.

Partnership working across the system is key to ensuring we support survivors to reach safety, recover and rebuild their lives, and that we provide the right support earlier to prevent survivors from reaching crisis.

Progress on development of the DA Prevention Strategy

Members of the Partnership Board have come together as a Working Group to redraft the citywide strategy and update our shared aims. This includes six key priorities:

- Working together as a whole system,
- Changing attitudes and behaviours,
- Early identification and help,
- Protecting children and young people,
- Safety, support and recovery, and
- Holding perpetrators accountable.

We will be soon be undertaking a 10-week consultation in line with our Part 4 duty. Please do share the consultation with your colleagues, clients, friends and family and let us know what you think. It is aimed that following a review of responses, and internal governance, the strategy will be launched in the Autum.

Key challenges - financial constraints

The Council has, as currently estimated, a budget gap of £300m for 2024/25 and 2025/26, this means that most service areas are impacted in some way. However, the Council recognises that DA is a key priority.

The Council receives a Part 4 grant under the DA Act 2021 to fund only support within safe accommodation.

We also have an Adult Social Care budget to support our work on Early Intervention and Prevention, which will continue to fund services such as our DA Hub and community-based support. Early intervention is vital to reduce the Council's spending on costly crisis services, to reduce the impact and trauma for survivors, and, ultimately to save lives.

As a superdiverse city, it is also crucial that our support is culturally-sensitive and multilingual. We embed equalities within all our services and work with a range of providers, who offer different specific cultural competencies and work with survivors to break down barriers to support.

Key challenges – perpetrator programmes

The Birmingham Children's Trust commission support for families, including programmes that work with perpetrators. However, there is a lack of holistic perpetrator programmes, which makes it harder across the system to prevent abuse from escalating and to prevent perpetrators from re-offending.

Our Partnership Strategy is focused on what we can achieve with the resources that we have.

This includes recognising the range of ways in which we can hold perpetrators to account across our system, without relying solely on perpetrator programmes, making clear that the perpetrator is solely responsible for the abuse and addressing their behaviour while keeping victims safe.

Introduction to the Session

Graham Tilby
Birmingham Children's Trust

Domestic Abuse: The national picture

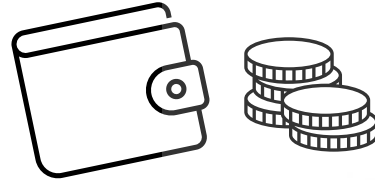
1 in 5

People 16 and over have experienced domestic abuse since turning 16.



Safelives estimates LGBTQ+ men and women are often under-represented in statistics and highlights that currently **2.5%** of people accessing domestic abuse services are identified as LGBTQ+ survivors.

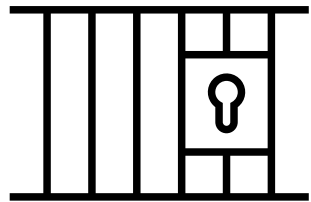
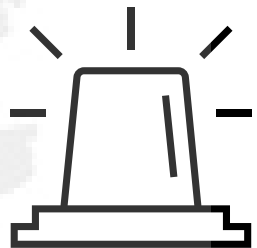
Disabled women are **twice as likely** to experience domestic abuse as non-disabled women.



Domestic abuse cost **£78 billion** in England in 2022.

Women's Aid state that for every pound invested in domestic abuse support services we will see a saving to the public purse of at least £9.

In the year ending March 2023, **889,918** domestic abuse-related crimes were recorded by the Police.

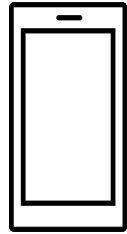


On average, victims/survivors live with abuse for **3 years** before getting help.

Domestic Abuse: The local picture

992

Homeless presentations in 2022/23 were primarily due to domestic abuse.



Domestic abuse is now the second highest reason for contacting **Birmingham Children's Trust**. In 2023, the Trust received **8,829** contacts from other agencies, in which domestic abuse was the primary need.

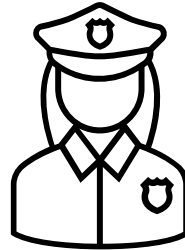
On average in 2023, the Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid **helpline** received

2,016

calls per month.

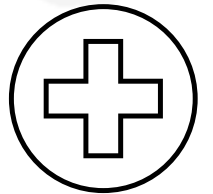


During the University of Birmingham 2022-23 academic year, one of the main reasons for providing students **emergency accommodation** was domestic abuse.



West Midlands Police attended **86,344** domestic incidents in 2023 (and increase of 7.4% from the previous year) and recorded **44,047** domestic abuse crimes (Jan 2023 – Jan 2024)

By December the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital had **142** disclosures of domestic abuse from patients in 2023, an increase of **426%** since 2020.



Values & Principles

- **Survivor-centred and survivor-led** - tailored, trauma-informed support to survivors (including children), recognising safety as paramount, going at her pace throughout.
- **Strength-based** - recognise all the survivor has done to keep herself and her children safe, that she is the expert and is in no way to blame for perpetrator's behaviour.
- **Early Intervention and Prevention** - prevent abuse from happening in the first place and prevent the escalation of risk.
- **Accountability** - recognise all actions the perpetrator takes to abuse, including using children to control and post-separation abuse, and hold them accountable.
- **Intersectionality** - remove barriers to support for marginalised communities, actively adopt anti-racist practice and consider intersecting needs like mental health or substance addiction.
- **Robust partnership response** - whole systems response to domestic abuse with strong and simple pathways to quality assured support services, ensuring the right support at the right time from all professionals.

Children as Victims of Domestic Abuse



Jessica Privilege
Geographic Lead
Practice and Partnerships Team



domestic
abuse
commissioner

“Who you are and where you live decides the support you will get. This postcode lottery is deeply unjust and puts lives at risk, ”

*The Domestic Abuse Commissioner,
Nicole Jacobs*



Let's mend the **#PatchworkOfProvision**

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

*'The term 'victim' is used in the 2021 Act to denote someone who has experienced domestic abuse. This includes **children who have seen, heard, or experienced the effects of domestic abuse**, and are related to either the victim of the abusive behaviour, or the perpetrator.'*

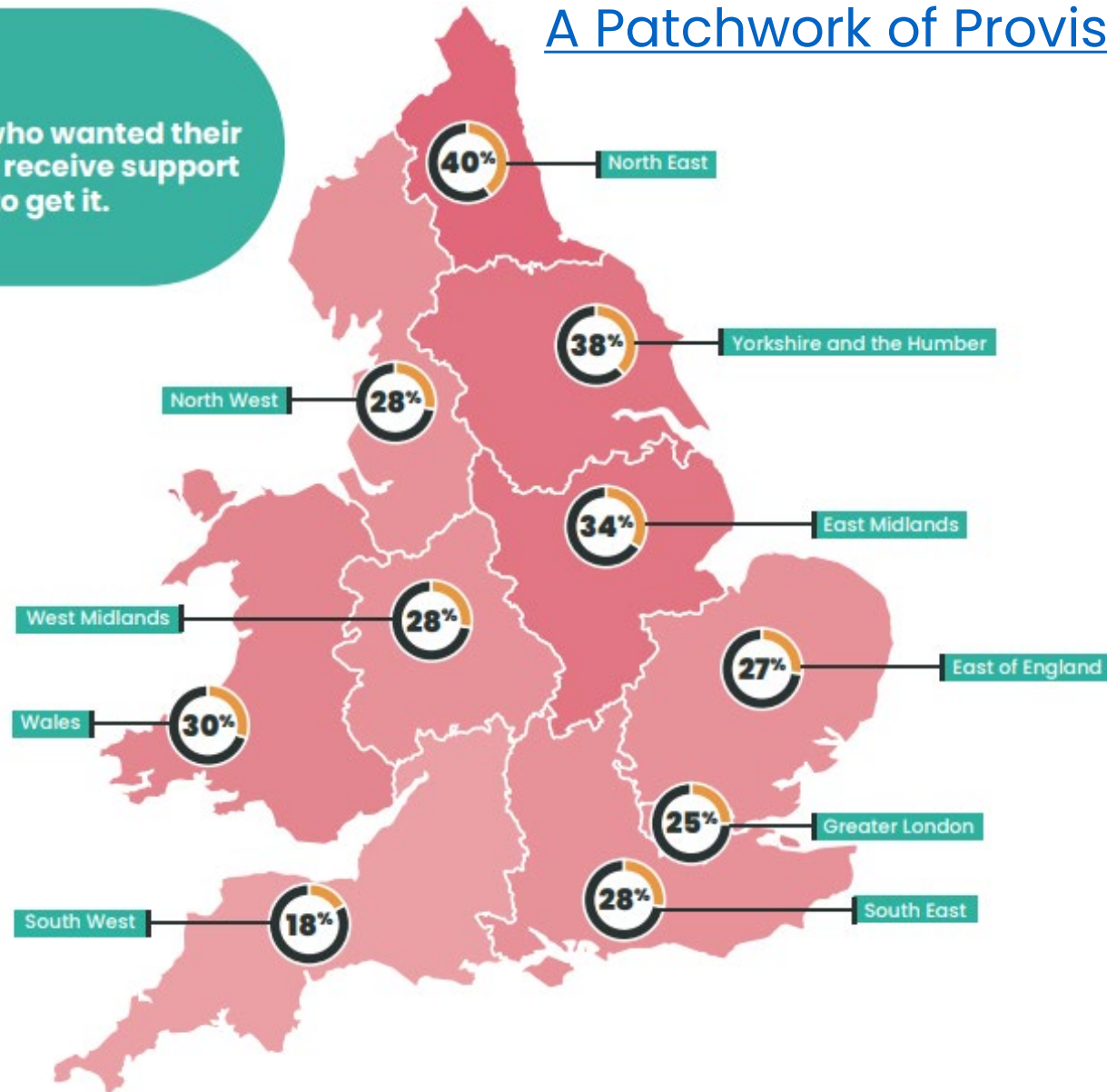
(Section 3, Domestic Abuse Act 2021)

However, whilst the Act names children as victims in their own right, **the government did not provide any guidance, duty or funding to provide community-based services** for them.

Mapping & Response

29%
of people who wanted their
children to receive support
were able to get it.

A Patchwork of Provision



Children Act 2004

Victims Code

MARAC

Children's
Commissioner's
Office - Access to
Advocacy Report

The Challenges

Practitioners' Feedback

- Funding for specialist services
- Waiting lists
- Capacity within services
- Evidence base and evaluation
- High levels of variation of provision and approach

Statutory Services

- Local authority finances
- Statutory services are overwhelmed
- Professionals' confidence in recognising Domestic Abuse and access to training
- Victims and Survivors Correspondence – lack of trust

- Failure of services to seriously consider the **voice and experiences of the child**
- Crucial to **intervene after trauma** (such as domestic abuse) to support children and young people to reduce the chance of unresolved trauma impacting future outcomes.
- **Supporting care leavers** so that their care experiences mitigate adverse childhood experiences is central to them developing a positive sense of self and understanding what a healthy relationship looks like.
- Need for **specific interventions for adolescent boys** at risk of perpetrating DVA
- DVA specialist agencies need to have **publicity, campaign materials and resources** which are easily accessible and age appropriate to younger victims and children experiencing DVA.



Policy Report

Babies, Children and Young People as Victims of Domestic Abuse

- Survey – Local Authority Commissioners and OPCC's
- Survey – Specialist Services, National Organisations
 - Roundtables – Children Social Workers
 - Roundtables – Teachers and Education leads
- Research, evidence, date best practice – UK and Worldwide
 - Lived experience – via 'Tell Nicole'



Next steps

'Tell Nicole'

Victims and Prisoners Bill

- Duty to Collaborate and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments
- Duty to Fund
- Ringfenced 'By and For' pot
- Firewall between Policing and Immigration Enforcement

Family Courts and voice of the child



Contact

Email:

Jessica.privilege@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

Commissioner@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

Our reports and briefings are published on the our website:

www.domesticabusecommissioner.uk

X (Twitter): [@CommissionerDA](https://twitter.com/CommissionerDA)



'Timekeeper'



Comfort Break & Networking



Back in 15 minutes!

The Local Context – Outline of draft Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy

Graham Tilby
Birmingham Children's Trust

Values & Principles

- **Survivor-centred and survivor-led** - tailored, trauma-informed support to survivors (including children), recognising safety as paramount, going at her pace throughout.
- **Strength-based** - recognise all the survivor has done to keep herself and her children safe, that she is the expert and is in no way to blame for perpetrator's behaviour.
- **Early Intervention and Prevention** - prevent abuse from happening in the first place and prevent the escalation of risk.
- **Accountability** - recognise all actions the perpetrator takes to abuse, including using children to control and post-separation abuse, and hold them accountable.
- **Intersectionality** - remove barriers to support for marginalised communities, actively adopt anti-racist practice and consider intersecting needs like mental health or substance addiction.
- **Robust partnership response** - whole systems response to domestic abuse with strong and simple pathways to quality assured support services, ensuring the right support at the right time from all professionals.

Desired Outcomes

The strategy aims to achieve the following outcomes:	What this will mean to survivors	What this will mean for professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers and front-line staff are equipped to recognise and respond to domestic abuse. • Services are better prepared to support children and young people who are victims/survivors. • Information about the support available for survivors is clear, consistent, and accessible. • Our city community is educated as to what domestic abuse is, and what services are available in Birmingham. • Birmingham citizens feel confident and able to report incidents of domestic abuse. • Abuse is reported earlier as people are confident in raising the issue, therefore reducing opportunities for harm. • Consistent processes and systems are in place to respond appropriately to domestic abuse. • Survivors and their children are offered person centred support to address their specific needs. • More children have good emotional health and wellbeing, resilience and understanding of healthy relationships. • More survivors get support to navigate the system and move into suitable accommodation when they need to leave their home, so they are safer sooner. • Perpetrators are dealt with appropriately. • Repeat incidents of domestic abuse are reduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survivor-centred approach - This puts the rights of each survivor at the forefront of all actions and ensure that each survivor is treated with dignity and respect. This approach promotes their recovery, reduces the risk of further harm and reinforces their agency and self-determination. • Being able to trust - Importance of confidentiality promotes safety, trust, dignity, and empowerment. • Feeling safe - The concept of safety includes physical safety and security as well as psychological and emotional safety. • Feeling heard and respected- Every survivor has the right to be treated with respect and dignity and to make choices about what happens. • Feeling empowered - Self-determination means respecting the dignity, wishes and choices of survivors, and allowing them to be in control of the helping process by deciding who to tell and what action to take. • Not feeling discriminated against - All people have an equal right to the best possible assistance without unfair discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, race, ethnicity or tribe, colour, language, religious or political beliefs, status or social class, etc. • No Wrong Door - Right support at the right time and not being passed to a number of agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse. • Greater confidence in giving information and advice. • Improved knowledge of the domestic abuse offer. • Providing the right support at the right time for the survivor and children. • Better understanding of pathways resulting in timely access to support. • Able to navigate around the virtual offer. • Improved understanding of the early intervention and prevention offer. • A confident and capable workforce.

Vision – “Birmingham is a place where domestic abuse is not tolerated; where everyone can expect equality and respect in their relationships, and live free from domestic abuse. “

Values

Survivor-centred and survivor-led
Strengths-based approach
Perpetrator accountability

Early intervention and prevention
Intersectionality
Robust partnership response



Priority 1

Whole Systems Approach

Making DA everybody's business.

All partners working collectively and collaboratively as a network, to respond to and prevent DA. Recognising DA complexity and intersectionality, and integral role each partner plays in the system.

Priority 2

Prevention- Changing Attitudes and behaviours

Culture change, through awareness raising with the aim: - Challenging attitudes that foster DA.

Understanding that DA is solely the fault of the perpetrator.

Understanding that DA is solely the fault of the perpetrator.

Ensuring needs of marginalised survivors are highlighted in this.

Priority 3

Prevention - Early identification and help

Focus on early identification of the signs of abuse.

Strengthening confidence and first responses from all professionals to prevent escalation of risk and harm and provide tailored support to survivors.

Embedding an early help offer of DA in the universal space e.g., family hubs, GPs.

Priority 4

Children and young people are protected

Raising awareness and understanding of healthy relationships.

Identify and support children and young people affected by domestic abuse, including supporting young people in abusive relationships, as well as abuse from family.

Priority 5

Safety Support and Recovery

Keeping survivors and their children safe is paramount concern.

Commissioning quality assured support to survivors in safe accommodation as per Part 4 DA Act duty.

Developing a longer term and holistic offer to aid recovery.

Priority 6

Hold perpetrators to account

Develop an intervention pathway that sets out a range of actions that holds perpetrators to account, at every opportunity across the system, whilst ensuring that survivors are protected from harm.

Children and young people are protected from the effects of domestic abuse

- Raise awareness of the appropriate and accessible support options available for children and young people, both as victims and perpetrators of abusive behaviour.
- Develop and promote the use of direct work toolkits to all partners who work with children and young people, including schools, colleges, universities, and out of school settings, to support survivors of domestic abuse.
- Ensure that the toolkits meet the needs of children and young people from marginalised backgrounds. This includes pupils facing increased vulnerabilities such as those in Pupil Referral Units, children, and young people with additional needs, and those in care.
- Promote the importance of all services being supportive of non-abusive parents and recognise all of the actions they take to keep their children safe, whilst recognising that an abusive partner cannot be a good parent and embed this in reporting for all agencies.
- Increase awareness and understanding across the system of young people perpetrating abuse in relationships and in the family home, and effective interventions to this behaviour.

Updated Strategy Timeline

By 3 rd May	8 th May	9 th May	June	11 th July	16 th July
Board approval of draft; Preparation for consultation	10-week consultation starts	Board meeting (update on promotion of consultation and action planning)	Council internal governance processes start; Action planning continues	Board meeting (update on consultation outcomes, design and action planning)	10-week consultation ends; Strategy Working Group Meeting
17 th – 31 st July	August	Aug/Sept (date TBD)	September (date TBD)	11 th September	October
Final strategy edits	Final Board approval by email	Publication of Cabinet report	Cabinet approval	Board meeting	Launch of strategy



MARAC and Operation Willowbay West Midlands Police Response to High Risk Domestic Abuse

with DCI Lucy Wilson and Regional MARAC Lead, Laura Rogers

West Midlands
POLICE



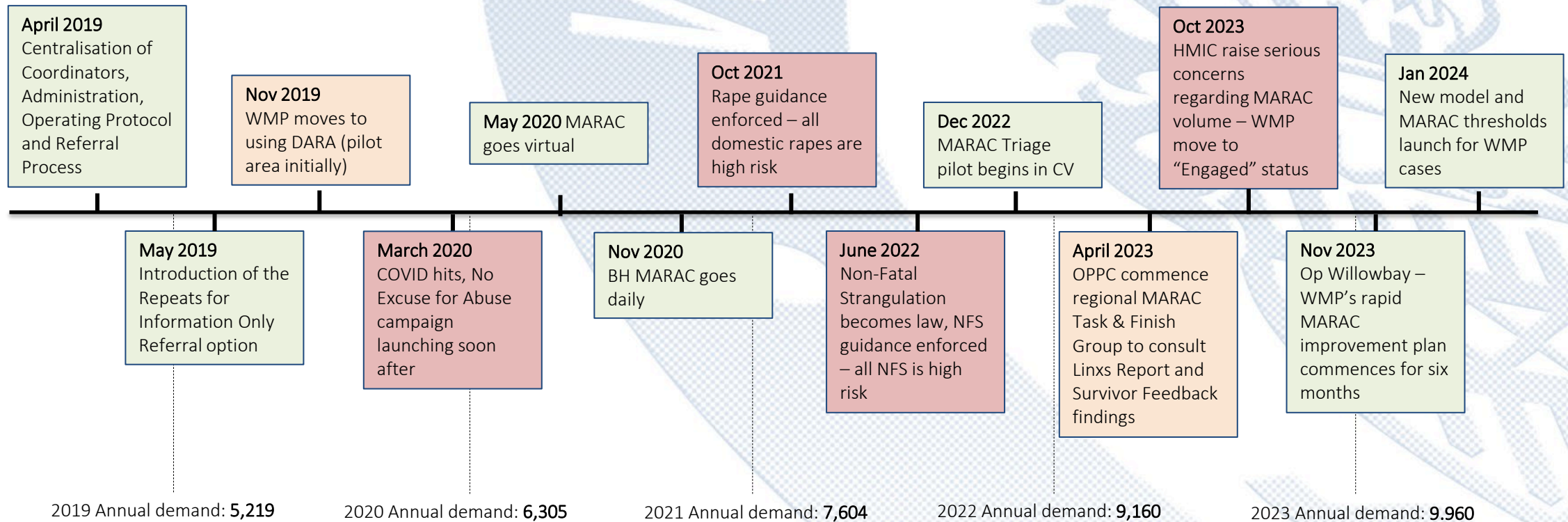


Summary

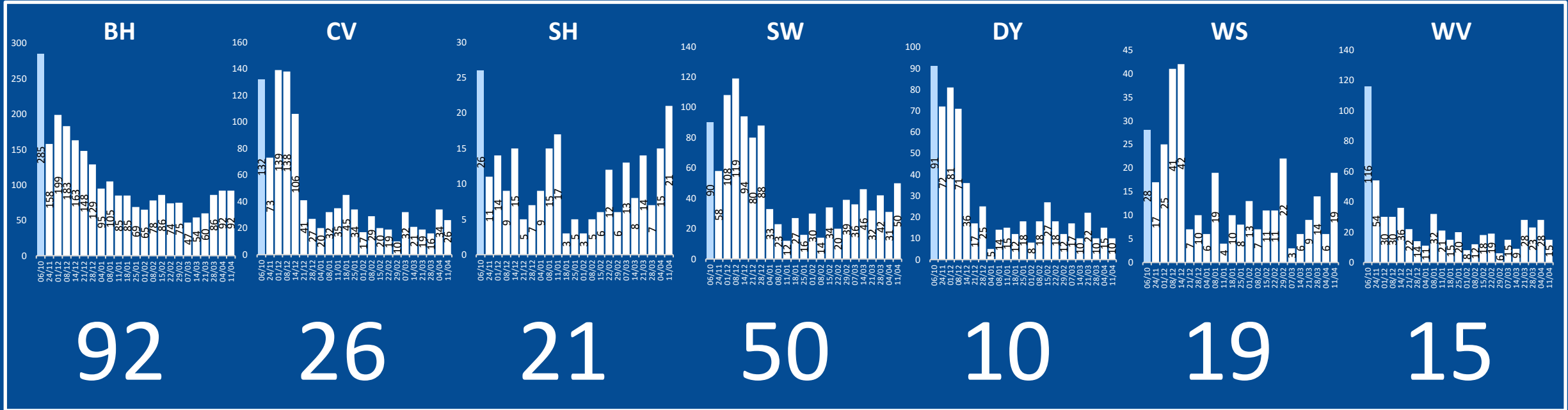
- West Midlands MARAC covers seven Local Authorities, with Birmingham carrying around 50% of our MARAC demand alone
- Around 80% of all MARAC cases feature children and MARAC is prioritised accordingly across the multiagency space
- It is *not*, however, statutory
- In April 2019, the Coordination and Administration of all seven MARAC areas was centralised and moved into WMP
- The function itself is OPCC funded, with funding top sliced from Community Safety Budgets across the region
- WMP do not “own” MARAC, however, having been both responsible for the central MARAC team and responsible for 75-90% of the demand (variably) for the past five years, WMP were held to account within recent HMIC inspection findings regarding MARAC
- MARAC in the West Midlands has become a victim of its own success and significant changes have had to be implemented since late 2023 in order to drastically improve risk assessment, wait times for victims and overall governance of the MARAC structure

2019 - 2024

Summary of key developments impacting MARAC demand and performance



Cases awaiting MARAC



Time from New Referral to Hearing in Calendar Days

Target 14 days
Safe Parameter 28 days

13

Calendar days

14

Calendar days

12

Calendar days

19

Calendar days

15

Calendar days

20

Calendar days

13

Calendar days

Operation Encompass

Nikki Plummer

**Head of Service Domestic Abuse & Interpersonal
Violence, Birmingham Children's Trust**



Operation Encompass is a police and school early intervention safeguarding information sharing partnership which supports children² experiencing³ domestic violence and abuse.

Operation Encompass is based upon the national requirements to not only identify children in need of support but to also ensure that this support is put in place immediately:

'Nothing is more important than children's welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified.'⁴

Police are a 'local safeguarding partner' required to 'make arrangements to work together' (with the other partners) 'to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs'

Working Together to Safeguard Children and all its requirements apply to **all schools**.

- 1 State funded schools, including state-maintained nurseries, independent schools, schools with 6th forms, academies, free schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision providers registered with the Government
- 2 Children refers to 0-18 years of age
- 3 Operation Encompass uses the word 'experience' rather than 'witness' or 'exposed' as we feel that this better reflects the impact upon a child
- 4 Working Together to Safeguard Children

OPERATION
ENCOMPASS



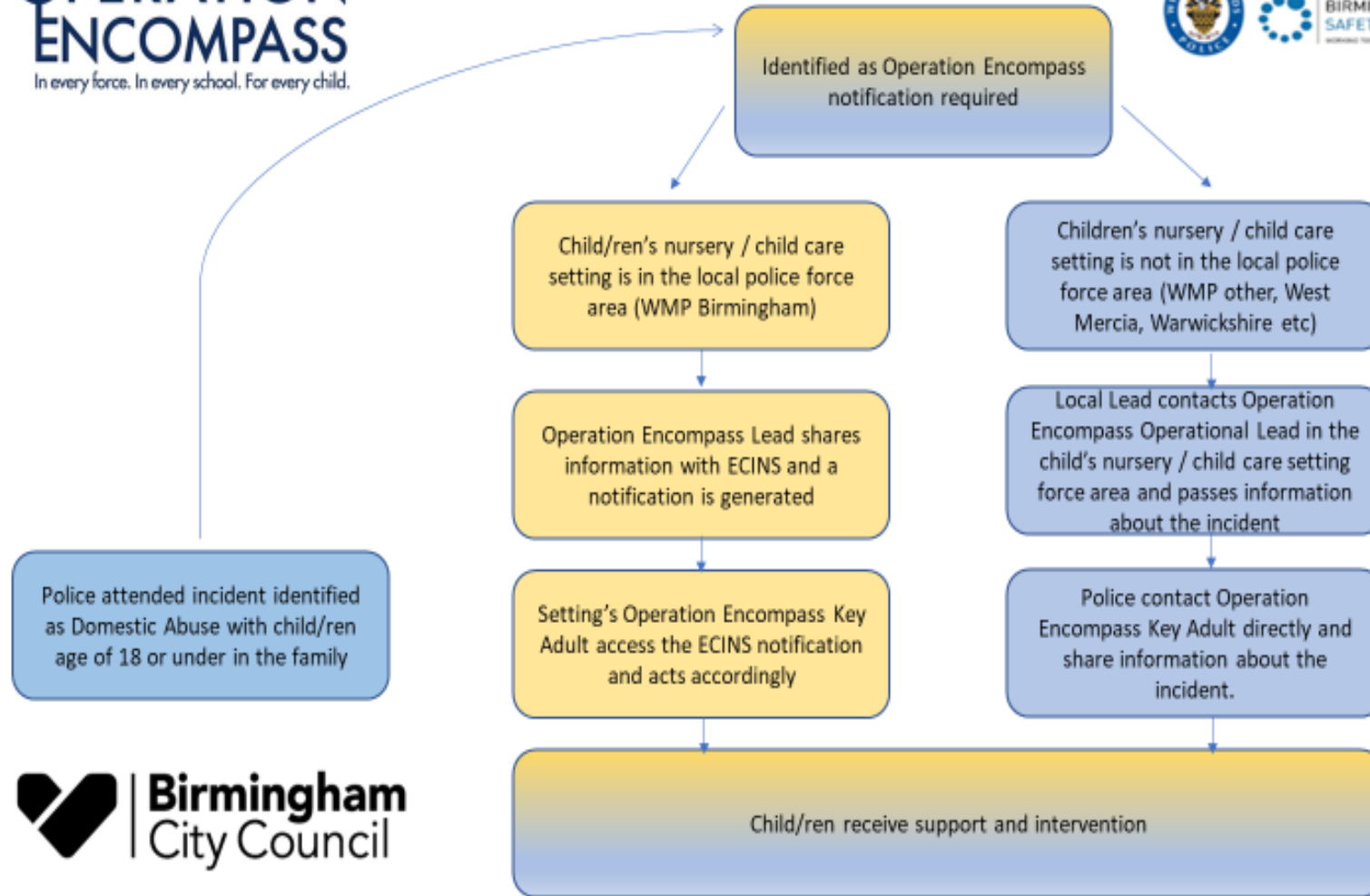
BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST

Birmingham Statistics

- Domestic Abuse reported to West Midlands Police and Birmingham.

YEAR	FORCE	BIRMINGHAM
April 2020 – March 2021	57878	24826
April 2021 – March 2022	67768	28359
TOTAL	125,646	53,185





Operation Encompass Update

- From 1st April Birmingham Children's Trust leading in partnership with Education Safeguarding (Birmingham City Council) and West Midlands Police.
- Domestic Abuse Education Lead role.
- Transition period for handover.
- Administration retained by BCC/WMP.



BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST

Plans to develop Op Encompass

- Survey to schools
- Education reps on Steering Group
- Focus on 100% sign up
- Develop a training offer to Education Settings
- Develop a toolkit for Education Settings
- Triangulate and focussed on out of sight children – known to MARAC, Temporary Accommodation, EHE
- Drop-in clinics for staff support
- Proactive targeted support for high-risk DA



Anticipated outcomes and impact

- Children experiencing DA are well supported and can recover from DA
- Children out of sight are known and supported
- Education settings are upskilled to respond to DA including risk assessment, safety planning and engagement with MARAC
- Stronger multi agency working
- Model is replicable – consistency across West Midlands



For further information please contact:

- Nikki Plummer – Strategic / Operational Lead for Operation Encompass
 - Nikki.plummer@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk
- Shameelah Hussain – Domestic Abuse Education Lead
 - Shameelah.hussain@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk



**BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST**



**BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST**

OFFICIAL



Facilitated Group Discussion
Graham Tilby
Birmingham Children's Trust

Group Discussion

- How do we embed the Values & Principles within our organisations and as partnership/whole system?
- How do we as system leaders work better together to support victims of DA in the context of reducing resources?

Plenary/Feedback

**Penny Thompson CBE,
Independent Chair**

Final Thoughts...



Save the date!

**Next Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly:
Thursday 3rd October 2024**