

Definition of domestic violence - Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality, including so called 'honour based violence', female genital mutilation and forced marriages.

Prevalence - 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence over their lifetimes and between 6-10% of women suffer domestic violence in a given year. The majority of cases affect women however we also know that domestic violence can affect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and male victims. It has more repeat victims than any other crime.

Cost to Cumbria - The cost to Cumbria of domestic violence is £48 million in direct costs and in addition the human and emotional cost is £151 million (for example loss of productivity).

Calls for service - There is one call a minute to the police in the UK and over 500 calls per month to the police in Cumbria, less than 40% of domestic violence incidents are reported.

As a trained domestic violence champion my aim will be:

- To be a point of contact for information relating to domestic violence.
- To raise awareness of domestic violence /abuse.
- To ensure up to date and accessible information is available in relation to referral processes and services for victims.
- To ensure leaflets and posters are displayed and available.

Champions

A Champions network has been set up in Cumbria to improve community and organisational responses to domestic violence.



Contact your Champion for information or advice on:

www.cumbria.gov.uk/communitysafety/domesticviolence



Agency/manager responsibilities

- To select committed individual(s) for this role and encourage and support them in their role as Domestic Violence Champion throughout the agency.
- Ensure the Champion has adequate time away from their normal role for training/network meetings: 1 day domestic violence training and half a day MARAC/risk assessment training plus a minimum of two other training/network meetings a year.
- To support the Champion to be a point of contact in their organisation.
- Be committed to enhancing the overall level of knowledge and awareness within their organisation in relation to domestic violence.
- To work with the Champion to implement and develop domestic violence policies and procedures within their agency.
- Where appropriate to work towards enabling front line staff to support the lower and medium risk cases not picked up by Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) or specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) services.



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Champion responsibilities

- To act as a conduit for information between the agency and the domestic violence champions network as necessary.
- To attend 1 day domestic violence training and half a day MARAC/risk assessment and a minimum of two other training/network events per year.
- To be a point of contact for their agency for information relating to domestic violence.
- To raise awareness and enhance the overall level of knowledge of domestic violence within their agency.
- To ensure up to date and accessible information is available in relation to referral processes and available services for victims at all levels of risk.
- To ensure leaflets and posters are displayed and available within the agency.
- To contribute to the continued development and effectiveness of the DV Champions Network.
- Provide feedback to the network in relation to training and development.

Champions Agreement (to be signed and returned to the network coordinators)

Name of Domestic Violence Champion

Agency

Telephone number

E mail

Signature of Domestic Violence Champion

Signature of manager on behalf of agency

Print name

Print name