

Bexley Domestic Abuse Champions Network

Research tells us that domestic abuse victims can go to as many as *five agencies* before they find appropriate help, advice and support.

By having Domestic Abuse (DA) Champions in many agencies, we aim to dramatically reduce the above number and provide a more joined up approach. In order to work effectively with victims and to ensure their safety, professionals need to have a common understanding of the issues and have the ability to coordinate their efforts and work more efficiently. We need to disseminate a good understanding of domestic abuse among professionals in all agencies in a way that ensures that the information is of a good quality and up to date.

What is a domestic abuse champion?

A champion is seen as the lead for domestic abuse issues within their agency and acts as the contact in and out of that agency. They will be able to advise their colleagues on cases and ensure that they are aware of, and have access to, local resources and support. Champions will understand how other champions can assist in supporting, helping and advising a victim of domestic abuse and their dependants, and have access to a database of other champions' details so that they can contact them directly.

Champions' responsibilities

- ◆ Ensure you are fully aware of the likely effects of the role and its responsibilities on your current job
- ◆ act as an access point into and out of their organisation – but not necessarily to take on domestic abuse cases
- ◆ ensure they keep up to date and access information on referral sources and support
- ◆ ensure your colleagues are aware of the champions network, your role in it and how to contact you
- ◆ cascade signposting and training in relation to domestic abuse
- ◆ ensure information i.e. leaflets and posters are displayed in all areas
- ◆ attend networking and updating sessions
- ◆ be open to the idea of being trained to train your colleagues (please be aware that not all champions will be trained to this level).

What is the aim of the network?

The overarching aim of the network is to reduce the number of agencies a victim comes into contact with before accessing suitable advice and appropriate support. The network does this by:

- ◇ Sharing a common and comprehensive understanding of DA amongst professionals, increasing their ability to support and engage with victims;
- ◇ applying common standards of service across agencies and geographical areas;
- ◇ supporting an integrated multi-agency approach, a “virtual one-stop shop”, especially valuable in our rural areas.

The Domestic Abuse Champions network will be regarded as:

- ◇ Collaborative and supportive, raising the awareness of domestic abuse with professionals and the community
- ◇ providing information and support to colleagues
- ◇ encourage reporting by victims
- ◇ offering multi agency domestic abuse training
- ◇ offering safety planning and signposting
- ◇ improving the wellbeing of victims and their children
- ◇ Having DA Champion links within other agencies
- ◇ be a vital link in the profile of domestic abuse; and
- ◇ be a source of knowledge regarding domestic abuse.

Still want to become a champion?

Now that you have registered your interest you should attend the domestic abuse dynamics, risk identification and assessment (DASH) level 3 training. This is a comprehensive 1 day training (split over 2 mornings) that covers the different types of abuse, stalking & harassment, routine enquiry, Johnsons Typology, DASH risk assessment, MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) and safety planning. To book onto the training follow this link [Booking a Training Event | Bexley Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Once you have completed your training you will receive your DA Champions welcome pack. You

will also have access to additional free training twice a year.

Please visit our partnership website where you will find lots of useful information and resources along with our latest training prospectus. www.bexleydomesticabuseservices.org.uk

If you require any further information please contact:

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