

Hackney's Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme (DAPP) Referral Guidance

Domestic abuse constitutes a variety of criminal offences. Professional systems need to work together to support the reporting, investigation, disruption and sanctioning of perpetrators of abuse as a priority.

Where criminal justice pathways are not being followed - or have been exhausted - the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP) works with people aged 16+ who have used violence or abuse against intimate partners, including ex-partners. We are part of Hackney Council's in-house Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS).

Our work with perpetrators sits alongside the Safe and Together model which supports intervening directly with those using violence and abuse in order to reduce the harm their behaviour causes their ex/partner and child/ren. Please see [here](#) for more information about [Safe and Together](#).

What is a DAPP?

Behaviour change group programme:

- Works with heterosexual men using violence and abuse within intimate relationships
- Need to attend 26 sessions
- Programme takes approx. 5-7 months to complete

Individual behaviour change work:

- Women using violence and abuse intimate relationships
- LGBT+ people using violence and abuse in intimate relationships
- Intrafamilial violence
- Any people who have barriers to group work (e.g. language, etc.)

Principles of programme:

- Violence and abuse is unacceptable
- The perpetrator is 100% responsible for his violence and abuse
- Domestic violence is intentional – it's about trying to make her do something she doesn't want to do (or stop doing something she does want to do)
- Domestic violence is a learned behaviour

Integrated partner support

Support is provided to all ex/partners of perpetrators with whom we are working. This is to ensure that the intervention that we provide to perpetrators does not increase the risk to them. If you are in a position to so it is important to ensure that referrers have informed ex/partner that they are referring the perpetrator and that the victim's views or concerns have been obtained. If you are not able to inform their ex/partner then the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service will do so. Victims need to be assured that DAIS will share any information with them relevant to risk, outcome of referral, non/attendance and non/completion. **DAIS will not share any of their information with the perpetrator.**

[Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme leaflet for partners](#)

Referral criteria

- They have used behaviour that constitutes domestic abuse
- They have made meaningful acknowledgement of their use of abusive behaviours to their (ex)partner, even if they struggle to label it as 'abuse'
- They say they want to work on changing their behaviour
- There is a reasonable likelihood that their attendance in the programme will be regular and sustained over the length of the intervention (6-7 months)
- They reside in the City of London or Hackney or have children or a partner/ex-partner who resides in City or Hackney
- They are aged 16+ (16/17 year olds will receive individual rather than group work)

DAIS will **not** work with cases where there is:

- Ongoing or pending criminal investigation relating to the domestic abuse
- Current private law proceedings in relation to child contact arrangements
- If the case is in public law proceedings (including PLO) and no expert domestic violence risk assessment has been undertaken.

Please note that the intervention's primary focus is on intimate partner abuse i.e. abuse of a wife/girlfriend/partner. Whilst our work does address violence towards children, it is not suitable for people who have not used any abuse against intimate partners. The perpetrator's domestic abuse behaviour is a parenting choice that needs to be challenged on that basis by professionals allocated to children as per the [Safe and Together](#) approach.

Things to consider before making a referral

- Establish the behaviours and perpetrator pattern. To do this consider;
 - [Mapping Perpetrator Patterns](#)
 - [Domestic Violence Investigation Relationship Interview Protocol](#)
- Ensure that you have discussed the behaviours with the perpetrator and made clear these are why you are referring them to the service/programme. Identify the behaviour

with him, acknowledge the behaviours are abusive/harmful to his ex/partner and child/ren.

- Ensure he consents/agrees to referral
- Be prepared to arrange a joint meeting with DAIS to introduce the service/programme

How to describe the programme to the person you want to refer

We can support you to make the changes you need to be the best parent and partner you can be and to be able to manage conflict with your partner and children without hurting or scaring them. We want to help you to become the kind of parent they will be proud of.

The programme will support you to:

- Develop respect for yourself
- Become a better parent
- Recognise abusive behaviours and the warning signs
- Practice ways to choose alternatives to violence and abuse
- Recognise the effects of your violence on family members
- Develop ways to show your love and respect for (ex) partners and children
- Understand how you developed the need to control others

[Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme: leaflet for those harming others](#)

To make a referral

Complete a [DAIS referral form](#) and send it to dais@hackney.gov.uk.

Along with your referral, please share any copies of S&T perpetrator mapping tool/investigation relationship interview any copies of police Merlins and/or case chronologies which include details about reported incidents between the perpetrator and survivor.

Please include contact details of known survivors, as we will need to be able to contact them.