

## **Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Panel - Terms of Reference**

### **Overview**

The Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Panel reviews risks and needs of both those perpetrating abuse towards family members and victim/survivor family member/s. The Panel meets to ensure a lead professional is in place to coordinate service provision to address the perpetrators abusive behaviour in order to reduce risk to victims/survivors. The Panel facilitates effective information sharing between professionals to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase safety.

The Panel safeguards adults and children at risk through focusing on those perpetrating abuse towards family members by overseeing engagement and behaviour change or through coordinating disruption and sanctioning to make it harder for them to continue their abusive behaviour.

The Panel operates under [Hackney's Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Protocol](#) and is a component of [Hackney Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Assessments and Interventions](#)

The Panel will:

- Share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of adult and child victims of intergenerational domestic abuse, considering the perpetrator's circumstances, the victims' needs and developing understanding of the perpetrator patterns of behaviour
- Provide clear professional advice for involved agencies
- Review cases to ensure that all possible strategies for managing the risk the perpetrator poses, including engagement, disruption and imposing sanctions to deter repeat offending are fully explored and implemented in a coordinated way.
- Ensure that agreed actions are carried out in a timely manner
- Contribute to the development of best practice around risk management and prevention of harm in intergenerational domestic abuse cases

### **Referral criteria**

To be referred to the Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Panel, the following elements should be present:

- The abuse is perpetrated by one family member against another / others
- The abuse should be 'high risk' (having been referred to a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and/or 'high harm' (harming more than one person and/or causing harm over a significant period of time)
- The person perpetrating abuse has intersecting concerns (mental health, substance use, homelessness etc) which creates barriers to addressing their behaviour
- There is a need for enhanced multi agency response overseen by managers within agencies in order to manage the risk

## **Composition**

The Panel is chaired by the Service Manager or Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Specialist Practitioner from Hackney Council's Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (DAIS) which sits within the Children and Families Service. DAIS will minute and record actions for all cases.

The Panel consists only of professionals.

Member agencies are required to:

- Check their agency's records in advance of the Panel on all cases
- Attend every Panel and stay for discussion on all cases if possible
- Provide an update on their agency's involvement on all cases
- Send a deputy from their agency when not able to attend
- Agree actions on behalf of their agency
- Follow up on actions within and on behalf of their agency
- Update the Panel regarding completion of actions
- Ensure client files - victims, perpetrators and children - with record of Panel minutes and agreed actions

Members of the Panel include:

- Hackney Council - Domestic Abuse Intervention Service
- Metropolitan Police Service Community Safety Unit (CSU)
- The Probation Service
- East London NHS Foundation Trust (mental health services)
- Turning Point
- Hackney Council - Adult Social Care / Adult Safeguarding
- Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Adult Safeguarding)
- Clinical Commissioning Group MARAC Liaison Nurse
- Hackney Council - Housing Needs and Benefits
- Hackney Council - Hackney Housing Anti Social Behaviour Team

To attend when working with a family:

- Any domestic abuse / VAWG agency
- Hackney Council - Children and Families Service (where children are affected)
- Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Children Safeguarding)

Other agencies are invited to attend Panel as needed e.g. when working with a perpetrator, victim or child being discussed

## **Frequency of Panel meetings**

Panel meetings are held every four weeks on a Thursday afternoon 2:00 - 4:00. (ensuring that these do not fall on the same Thursday as MARAC)

## Panel Referral process

Referrals of victims and perpetrators of abuse - for a service or for the Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Panel - are via the DAIS Referral Form. Please see **Appendix B** for information that should be addressed in the referral along with actions that can be taken by referring agencies to address risk. To access the DAIS referral form please see <https://hackney.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-support> . Referrals to the Panel can also come via action from MARAC or from cases already known to DAIS; no separate referral is needed.

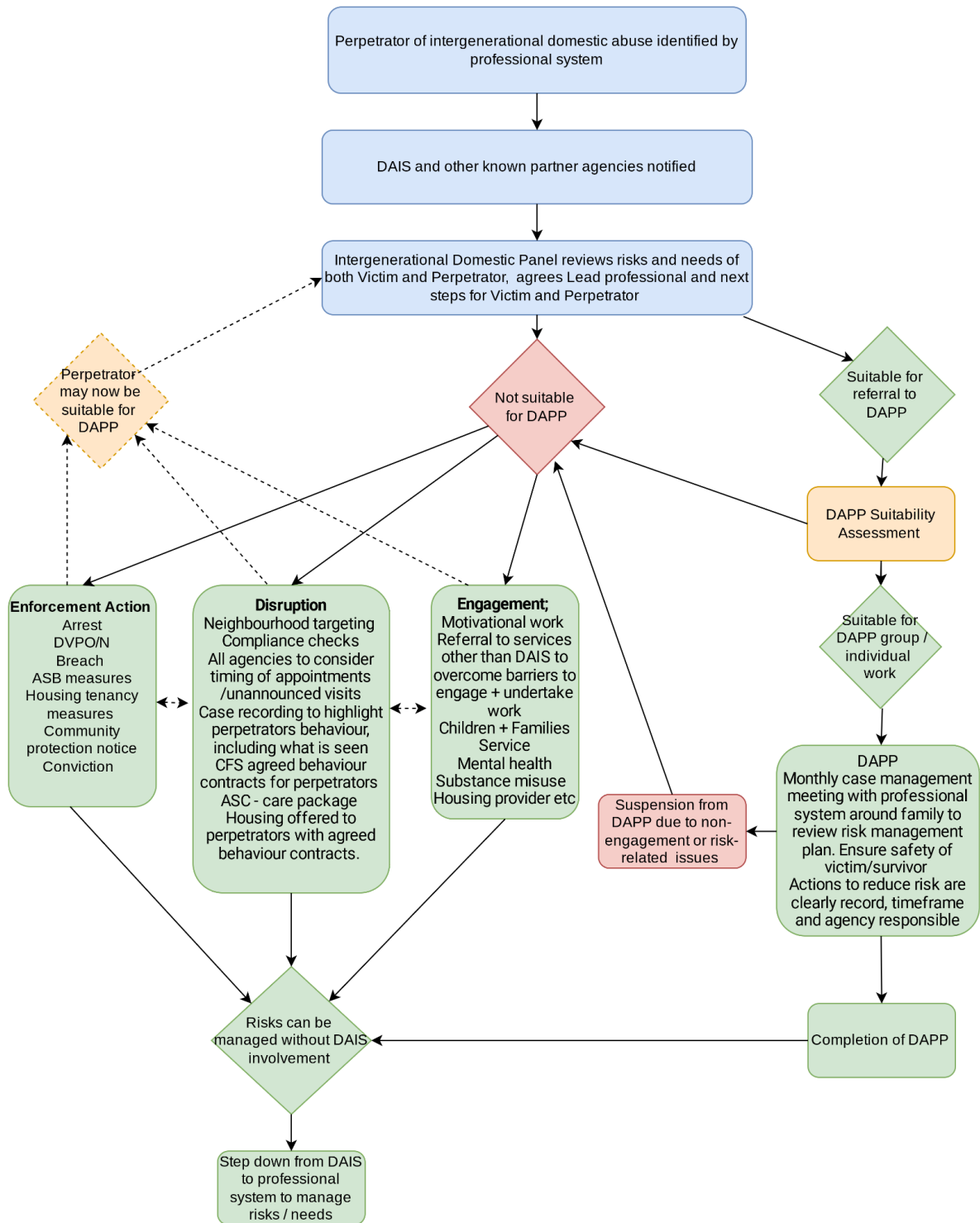
Referrals are sent to [DAIS@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:DAIS@hackney.gov.uk) or [DAIS@hackney.gov.uk.cjsm.net](mailto:DAIS@hackney.gov.uk.cjsm.net)

The referral deadline is **1 p.m.** on the Thursday a week before the Panel.

The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Specialist Practitioner will review the referral, explore with the referrer any discrepancies or gaps in the referral. If not able to accept the referral e.g. if it relates to a perpetrator who lives outside Hackney without family in Hackney the referrer will be advised of this and what steps to take. Cases will be added to the Panel case list with details of the referrer, victim, perpetrator, any children plus brief notes on the case.

The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Specialist Practitioner /DAIS Manager will allocate the victim/survivor to a Domestic Abuse Intervention Officer if they are not receiving support from domestic abuse agencies.

## Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Flowchart



\* *DAPP = Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme*

## **Before the Panel meeting**

A Domestic Abuse Intervention Officer will make contact with the victim, provide advice and support, work with partner agencies inline with the intergenerational domestic abuse protocol to reduce the risk of harm. The Intervention Officer will ascertain the victim/survivors view on any engagement with the perpetrator and any concerns that they may have in regards to any action taken.

A member of the DAIS team will circulate the Panel agenda to member representatives and their deputies on the Thursday before the Panel meeting is due to take place.

Members will check their agencies' records regarding the referred perpetrators, victims and children. The agency will then act as needed (e.g. sharing of information, meeting to discuss an action plan, disruption of perpetrators) to reduce risk to any victims and children identified by the agency in advance of the Panel.

Panel referrals received after the deadline will be heard at the next Panel. If it's identified as High risk and has not already been the case will be referred to the MARAC. It may be that the case requires an urgent professionals' meeting in which case the referrer will be advised of this and asked to convene with the allocated Intervention Officer.

## **During the Panel meeting**

The Panel meeting is held virtually via Google Calendar, administered by the DAIS via the [DAIS@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:DAIS@hackney.gov.uk) email address

The Panel has a confidentiality agreement (**Appendix A**) embedded within the Google Calendar invite which people agree to as a condition of entry into the meeting and to which the Chair refers attendees at the outset of the meeting.

Any outstanding follow-up actions from the previous Panel will be highlighted and new deadlines / actions agreed as required.

The Chair will go through the running order, enabling visiting professionals with no involvement in other cases to present before any cases presented by Members.

Cases will be presented by the referrer or the domestic abuse professional working with the victim.

Cases will be presented verbally and in a standardised way, focusing on relevant facts, areas where there are gaps in knowledge, setting out the perpetrator pattern/ risk of harm and action already taken to protect the victim, engage and sanction/disrupt the perpetrator. See **Appendix B** for information that needs to be explored in the Panel and with potential examples of actions agencies can take

The victim's experience and view along with an assessment of risk will be shared by the Intervention Officer.

All Core member agencies will share information held by them on the perpetrator, victim, and any children discussed in each case. They will make clear any involvement from MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) or other relevant panels (e.g. the Gangs Panel or the Extra Familial Risk Panel)

The Chair will invite the referrer and member agencies to provide representation of the views or concerns of interested and appropriate non-collusive parties e.g. other family members / affected children and any valuable information they hold which can inform the assessment of risk.

In all cases the Chair will invite / suggest analysis and actions from agencies to formulate a plan to reduce the risk. The Chair will agree specific, timed actions and whether the case will be reviewed and heard at the next Panel meeting or step down for the professional network to manage risk.

The Chair will ensure that in all cases there is a clear action on how the outcome of the Panel meeting is communicated to the victim, to other protective and interested parties as appropriate such as other family members.

DAIS will be responsible for taking minutes during the meeting and recording actions on the [action tracking list](#) that will be shared with all professional network involved with both the perpetrator and victim. Noting in particular any feedback to be given to chairs of Hackney's MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) or MASE (Multi Agency Sexual Exploitation) meetings or agencies' representatives at these meetings.

### **After the Panel meeting**

The notes of Panel case discussions will be sent to Members within two working days of the Panel.

Referrers and Secondary Members who have confirmed their involvement with perpetrator, victims, and children discussed at the Panel will be sent minutes on those specific cases.

Panel representatives are responsible for following up on any further risk management / safeguarding actions identified for their agency and for ensuring that their agency records Panel outcomes on clients' files.

Agencies receiving Panel minutes will record each of the minutes in full or summarised form on the relevant persons case files making clear the date of the Panel meeting and the actions arising.

Agencies taking actions from the Panel meeting will email [DAIS@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:DAIS@hackney.gov.uk) informing them when the action has been completed or - if not able to be completed - what alternative action has been taken

DAIS will receive updates from and liaise with the agencies who agreed to take actions from the Panel. They will complete the [action tracking list](#) detailing actions and whether / when they have been completed.

### **Perpetrators, victims and children**

Consent should be sought from both perpetrator and victims but lack of consent should not be a barrier to referring them to the panel. Referrers should where possible explain to the perpetrator their concerns about their behaviour and why a referral is being made, what this involves and tell them the outcome. However safety of the victim should always be the priority, the views of the victim should always be sort. Discussing with the perpetrators should not take place where there are concerns this will increase the risk to the victim.

Referrers should seek to ascertain if there are children in the family, live or work with children or have partners who have children so the Panel can take a view about any safeguarding measures required. Children living in a home where abuse is occurring should be recognised as victims in their own right and referral to the Children and Families Service in the Local Authority where they live should be considered. If living in Hackney, children should be referred to Hackney's [Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub](#) (020 8356 5500)

### **Information Sharing**

The Panel discusses people who are perpetrating domestic abuse towards their family members and as such information has to be shared between agencies to help make victims / survivors safe.

Government guidance puts preserving life and promoting safety as the key consideration when seeking to balance confidentiality against disclosure.

Information sharing can be based on the legal authority of:

Data Protection Act Section 29

Prevention / detection of crime and/or apprehension or prosecution of offenders

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/section/29>

Common Law

Overriding public interest <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/gmgr-annexe-c8>

Compliance with a Court Order

Human Rights Act 1998 Article 8

<http://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/sharing-information/what-does-the-law-say.asp>

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Page 5 of statutory guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

Care Act 2014

Section 14.157 page 271 of statutory guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-statutory-guidance-for-implementation>

The need to share information in accordance with the above guidance applies to Members of the Panel but also to all agencies.

## **Confidentiality**

The Panel is not a public forum and attendance shall be limited to those agencies who are able to provide a contribution with regard to listed cases. See **Appendix A** for Confidentiality Agreement.

All cases discussed at the Panel are strictly confidential and the minutes should not be passed on to any individual or agency without the agreement of the Chairs; with the following exception:

Under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (CPIA), if/when an individual is charged with an offence the police are required to disclose the existence of all material created as part of the investigation. As a result the existence of the Panel referral and risk assessment will be disclosed to the defence. However this will be listed as 'sensitive information' and will only be fully disclosed if a Judge deems it absolutely necessary in the interests of justice. Even on the rare occasion when this may happen the defence will be issued with the following instructions:

'This material is disclosed to you in accordance with the provisions of the CPIA 1986, and you must not use or disclose it, or any information recorded in it, for any purpose other than in connection with these criminal proceedings. If you do so without the permission of the court, you may commit an offence.'

Panel members can convey summaries of Panel discussions and outcomes as needed with other partner agencies to promote victim safety and/or the apprehension of perpetrators.

It is the duty of referring agencies and Panel members to store and communicate information pertaining to the Panel safely.

## **Role of Panel Representatives**

In addition to representing their Member agency at the Panel, Representatives will promote good practice within their agencies through informing colleagues about Intergenerational Domestic Abuse protocol and Intervention, addressing any issues about the quality of their agency's referrals and supporting colleagues through the Panel process.



## **Appendix A   Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Panel Confidentiality Agreement**

**The chair of the meeting reminds all concerned of the principles of information sharing:**

Information discussed by the agency representatives, within the ambit of this meeting, is strictly confidential and must not be disclosed to third parties who have not signed up to the Intergenerational Domestic Abuse Protocol without the agreement of the partners of the meeting. It should focus on domestic abuse including child protection concerns and a clear distinction should be made between fact and professional opinion.

All agencies should ensure that all minutes and related documentation are retained in a confidential and appropriately restricted manner. These minutes will aim to reflect that all individuals who are discussed at these meetings should be treated fairly, with respect and without improper discrimination. All work undertaken at the meetings will be informed by a commitment to equal opportunities and effective practice issues in relation to sex, age, disability, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- To share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims and their children;
- To determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community;
- To construct and implement jointly a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm;
- To reduce repeat victimisation;
- To hold perpetrators to account and ensure they face sanctions;
- To improve agency accountability;
- To improve support for staff involved in intergenerational domestic abuse cases.
- The responsibility to take appropriate actions rests with individual agencies; it is not transferred to the Panel. The role of the Panel is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety.
- By joining this meeting I agree to abide by these principles.

## **Appendix B                      Intergenerational Domestic Abuse - Risk Considerations and Partnership Agency Actions**

**When making a referral and when cases are discussed at Panel, agencies should consider:**

- **Any known recent incident of abuse;**
- **Perpetrator pattern/risk concerns;**
- **Actions already taken**
- **Relevant details about perpetrators current circumstances/history**

History of domestically abusive behaviour

All known relationships and children they have contact with

Violent offending / Risk to professionals

Homeless or at risk of homelessness

Self-harming or threatening suicide

Problematic drugs or alcohol

Mental health concerns or demonstrating behaviours which suggest they may be suffering from a mental illness, and these which may be exacerbating the risk of continued abuse of the victim/s

History of ignoring or breaching bail conditions or court orders or offending whilst released under investigation

Warning markers or use of weapons including household objects to harm victim

### **Possible identified actions;**

#### **Enforcement;**

Arresting and charging the perpetrator for a criminal offence (both relating to victim or not)

Proactive evidence gathering in current investigations or in future investigations to ensure reliance is not put on obtaining victim statement for successful prosecution

Proportionate use of bail conditions and ensure following up on breaches

Use of Domestic Violence Protection orders/notices

Application for stalking prevention orders.

Consideration for an anti-social behaviour order or other order to manage, restrict & monitor behaviour e.g. Community protection notice

Housing consider eviction/not evicting as part of safety management

#### **Disruption;**

A disruption plan managed by a single point of contact within the police or probation services using; surveillance, overt targeting, ANPR systems, flagging, uniform patrols, neighbourhood targeting, compliance checks etc.

All agencies to consider timing of appointments /unannounced visits

Case recording to highlight perpetrators behaviour, including what is seen by professionals/agencies

CFS agreed behaviour contracts for perpetrators

ASC - use of care package to reduce reliance on care role by either victim or perpetrator

Housing offered to perpetrators with agreed behaviour contracts.

Inform Perpetrator's GP of relevant & proportionate information that will provide a clear picture of risks posed by perpetrator  
Ensuring links are made with Child Protection work / intimate partner abuse concerns

**Engagement;**

Engagement with DAIS DAPP

All agencies to consider how they can motivate perpetrator to engage with support

Referral to mental health service /community mental health assessment/proactive engagement from mental health support

Referral for drug and alcohol support/proactive contact from a previously accessed service

Perpetrator informed of network concerns and provided with details of DAIS, Respect, Samaritans or other support network.

Adult Social Care undertake carers assessment where perpetrator is providing care to victim, with view to lessening the care responsibility

**This is not an exhaustive list of actions, it is the role of each agency to be proactive and creative in putting forward possible actions, to enable the multi agency partnership to keep one step ahead of the perpetrator and make continuing abusive behaviour difficult, if not impossible.**