



Domestic Abuse Bill Partnership Action Plan

I. Context

The 2020 Act aims to:

- Protect and support victims – to enhance the safety of victims and the support they receive;
- Transform the justice process – to provide support to victims throughout the justice process and an effective response to perpetrators to end the cycle of abuse;
- Improve performance – to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse; and
- Promote awareness – put domestic abuse at the top of everybody’s agenda.

“Domestic abuse is an abhorrent crime perpetrated on victims and their families by those who should love and care for them. This landmark Bill will help transform the response to domestic abuse, helping to prevent offending, protect victims and ensure they have the support they need.” Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Safeguarding

Draft Statutory Guidance has been in place since July 2020 and will be embedded in the partnership action plan

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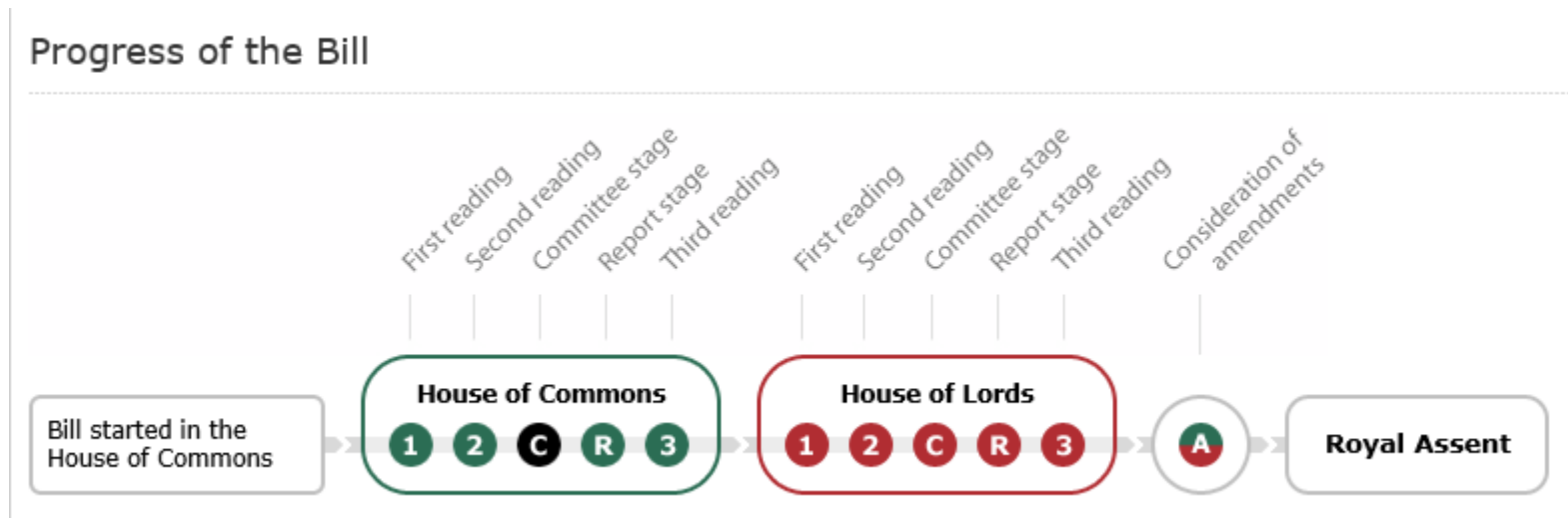
Safer Plymouth is committed to being a trauma informed community safety partnership. We will use the trauma lens when considering all aspects of this action plan. This includes embedding the voice of lived experience in our approach.

It may also be helpful to consider the Home Office 'National Statement of Expectations' on Violence Against Women and Girls (2016) which states an expectation that local strategies and services will:

1. Put the victim at the centre of service delivery;
2. Have a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep victims safe;
3. Take a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG;
4. Are locally-led and safeguard individuals at every point;
5. Raise local awareness of the issues and involve, engage and empower communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG.

2. Timeline

- The Bill was announced in the Queens speech on 19th December 2019
- Introduction in the House of Commons 3rd March 2020
- Second Reading 28th April 2020
- Went through report stage of the House of Commons June 2020
- First reading House of Lords held 7th July
- Second reading House of Lords TBA



Discussions with Home Office representatives through the Community Safety Advisors Network lead us to anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Bill will gain Royal Assent by April 2021. Further guidance will be needed on which aspects of the legislation will come into effect immediately and which might come after a set period following piloting of new approaches (detailed in plan).

3. Purpose of the plan

The plan has been designed to ensure that we can consider all elements of the Domestic Abuse Bill in one document, bring together the right partners with the required expertise to support each aspect of the plan and understand the actions being developed and undertaken within the partnership by responsible authorities. It is very much a 'living document' that will be updated as more detailed information becomes available from the Home Office. At this stage, as the bill is still in progress, it represents our expected direction of travel and is subject to change.

Once the bill receives assent there will need to be detailed implementation plans for responsible authorities based on departmental guidance. Sarah Daniels-Day is working on a spreadsheet which will detail actions required by individual partner agencies, using guidance provided by the Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework.

4. Roles and responsibilities

The Safer Plymouth Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group will take responsibility for monitoring progress of the bill at their monthly meetings, developing partnership approaches to the legislation and providing advice and updates as the bill progresses. A task and finish group will be set up within the DASV partnership to progress every aspect of the plan (chaired by Sarah Daniels-Day from D&C Police Specialist Problem Solvers).

The Safer Plymouth Executive Group will be responsible for sign off of the plan and ensuring that recommendations within it are appropriately resourced and implemented at organisational level.

5. Next steps

- Draft plan to be taken to DASV partnership meeting on 21st September for partnership input. The plan will be worked on by the partnership so that an agreed draft can be presented for sign off by the Safer Plymouth Executive Group on 20th October
- Task and finish group to be set up on Microsoft Teams
- 8th October Home Office Community Safety Advisors network, update Anna Moss attending
- 15th October MHCLG workshop on implementation of bill, Anna Moss attending

Section A – Statutory Requirements Action Plan

Areas of legislative changes	Actions to be taken Sept 2020-April 2021	Who is guidance aimed at?	DASV Leads	Resource Required
<p>Creating a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909878/Statutory_Definition_of_Domestic_Abuse-AUG_2020_.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop domestic abuse communication strategy to ensure statutory definitions understood. NB: stated aim is to ‘put DA at the top of everyone’s agenda’ • Audit locally delivered training provision to ensure definitions are current • Audit partnership domestic abuse policies to ensure definitions are current • Ensure effective join-up with communication approaches of key partners and Peninsula colleagues 	<p>Statutory and non-statutory partners</p>	<p>Anna Moss</p> <p>Caroline Wilson</p>	<p>PCC comms resource?</p> <p>See also Safer Plymouth Comms Plan 2020</p> <p>Integration of the existing DA systems leadership work / Lived Experience Voice essential to comms approach</p> <p>Some DASV partners have offered specialist comms support</p>

<p>Establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909881/Domestic_Abuse_Commissioner-AUG_2020_.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish appropriate links with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and regional representatives • Develop protocols on duty to cooperate • Report on emerging requirements for Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards 	Public bodies, VCS	Hannah Shead Lyn Gooding Laura Griffiths	
<p>Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909883/Domestic_Abuse_Protection_Order-AUG_2020.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DASV group will arrange for updates from the D&C police vulnerabilities lawyer <p>NB: This section of the bill we be phased following area based pilots of the new orders</p>	Criminal Justice	DASV police reps	
<p>Placing a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909939/Support_for_Victims_of_Domestic_Abuse_and_their_Children-AUG_2020_.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DASV task and finish group housing specialists to keep a watching brief on emerging guidance on needs assessment requirements e.g. by attending SW domestic abuse housing forum • DA commissioner to continue work on Peninsula Housing Pathways as part of EOS project • DA commissioner and Technical Lead Community Safety to attend Peninsula DA meetings (EOS, OPCC) to support Peninsula approaches, reporting into DASV 	Local Authorities	Sarah French, Katy Fisher, CC rep Laura Griffiths/ Anna Moss	<p>Confirm Community Connections Rep for DASV</p> <p>New burdens assessment being carried out to assess costs to LA-guidance notes there will be additional funding</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical lead to attend relevant CSAN and Home Office briefings and report back to DASV 			<p>Safer Plymouth DA needs assessment (Jan 2020-SafeLives) gives us some degree of confidence in sufficiency</p>
<p>Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909892/Cross-examination_in_family_proceedings-AUG_2020_.pdf</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909928/Prohibition_of_Cross-Examination_In_Person_in_Civil_Proceedings-AUG_2020.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness through communication strategy 	Criminal Justice	Sarah Daniels-Day/ Anna Moss	
<p>Create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909903/Special_Measures_in_the_Criminal_Courts-AUG_2020_.pdf</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness through communication strategy 	Criminal Justice	Sarah Daniels-Day/ Anna Moss	

<p>9933/Special_Measures_in_Civil_Proceedings-AUG.pdf https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909927/Special_Measures_in_Family_Proceedings-AUG_2020_.pdf</p>				
<p>Clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909931/Consent_to_serious_harm_for_sexual_gratification_not_a_defence-AUG_2020.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness through communication strategy 	Criminal Justice	Sarah Daniels-Day/ Anna Moss	
<p>Extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909885/Extraterritorial_Jurisdiction-AUG_2020_.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above, include Istanbul Convention in comms and WFD 			
<p>Enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909897/Mandatory_Polygraph_Tests-AUG_2020.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a 3 year pilot to evaluate this measure. DASV to keep watching brief and report when appropriate 	Criminal Justice (Probation)	DASV police rep	

<p>Place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909887/Domestic_Violence_Disclosure_Scheme-AUG_2020_.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness through communication strategy, ensuring effective links with D&C Police Comms team 	Criminal Justice (Police)	Sarah Daniels-Day Anna Moss	
<p>Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909930/Homelessness-Victims_of_domestic_abuse-AUG_2020_.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DASV group housing specialists to support Community Connections in amending priority need guidance 	Local Authority	CC rep Sarah French Katy Fisher	Councils to be fully funded by Govt
<p>Ensure that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/909910/Secure_tenancies_and_victims_of_domestic_abuse-AUG_2020.pdf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DASV task and finish group housing specialists to keep a watching brief on emerging guidance e.g. by attending SW domestic abuse housing forum 	Local Authorities	CC Rep Sarah French Katy Fisher	Guidance anticipates costs to be small and outweighed by benefits
<p>Additional: - an amendment to the bill in July confirmed that children will be viewed as victims of domestic abuse in their own right if they witness abuse in the home <i>Awaiting additional guidance and factsheets</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update aimed at CSC expected from Home Office rep at next CSAN meeting 8/10 (AM to attend) 	CYP partners	CSC rep	Unknown- but consider no recourse to public funds families for CSC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AM to attend MHCLG workshop 14/10 on statutory guidance and implications for Local Authorities• DASV task and finish will develop actions in line with guidance as soon as it is released			
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Section B – Non statutory commitments

In addition to the legislative changes set out in the act, the Government has set out 123 commitments to help tackle domestic abuse. This plan cannot detail all of these but includes the following examples identified as key non-statutory commitments.

Key non-statutory commitments	Actions to be taken Sept 2020-April 2021	Who is guidance aimed at?	DASV Leads	Resource Required
Introduce regulations and statutory guidance on Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education, and Health Education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy relationships work being delivered by NSPCC (Empower) will be reported into DASV for ongoing partnership awareness and support 	Education	Shelley Shaw	
Invest in domestic abuse training for responding agencies and professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Plymouth workforce development plan to be reviewed by the DASV workforce group (see both domestic abuse and trauma informed practice) • DASV will monitor for toolkits that supports WFD relevant to the new bill 	All partners	Anna Moss Caroline Wilson	To be reviewed by Exec Will need to consider WFD within commissioning specification
Develop national guidance for police on serial and repeat perpetrators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We anticipate a range of commitments around perpetrator work. A sub-group has been identified to work on this and an application for funding made via OPCC which sets out our ambitions for the City 	Police for example given Partnership for wider approach	Wayne Kirby Sarah Daniels-Day Ilona Rossen	Funding bid in progress (12 months only) No current commissioned programme

			AHIMSA reps Wayne Kirby	
Improve awareness and understanding of coercive control offence and review effectiveness of offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coercive control to be embedded in WFD approaches. Key learning objective from our local DHRs 	DASV partners/ Police	Anna Moss/ DASV police reps	
Continue to develop means to collect, report and track domestic abuse data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DASV has a data and performance group who will continue to develop our basket of indicators. This will include thinking about how we include system measures which reflect our ambitions to be a trauma informed CSP 	Main duty with fall to Local Authorities but data will be required from key public bodies and partners	Data Analyst is an identified gap	Some additional funding may be made available to facilitate this from Govt.