



The No More  
**SERVICE**

Accessing services for support with:

·Drugs ·Alcohol ·Adult Offenders ·Youth Offenders

Stevenage  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# The No More Service and SADA Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2023-2026

It's never too late or early to be whoever you want to be

Working in partnership with



WELWYN  
HATFIELD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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HERTFORDSHIRE  
CONSTABULARY



settle



heritage  
foundation  
Letchworth Garden City



DOMESTIC ABUSE  
ALLIANCE



Sainsbury's  
live well for less

## Making a Difference

Over 80% of Domestic Abuse Survivors agree that perpetrator programmes are an essential part of the support intervention. We believe that by going to the route of the problem/problems, we can prevent any further issues or unwanted behaviours in the future. The No More service offers complex needs support to individuals to tackle issues which negatively impact on their daily life. These issues include offering intensive support to clients, assisting with substance misuse, offending, domestic abuse, education and housing. This includes support from exploitation surrounding county lines and Modern Slavery.

Domestic Abuse can only end if we address those that are perpetrating the abuse. This means giving those who have made mistakes or been abusive, the chance to change and to have a system in place to challenge those not willing to change. We will address abuse in all its forms while also exploring other factors, which are likely to have contributed to the abusive behaviours.

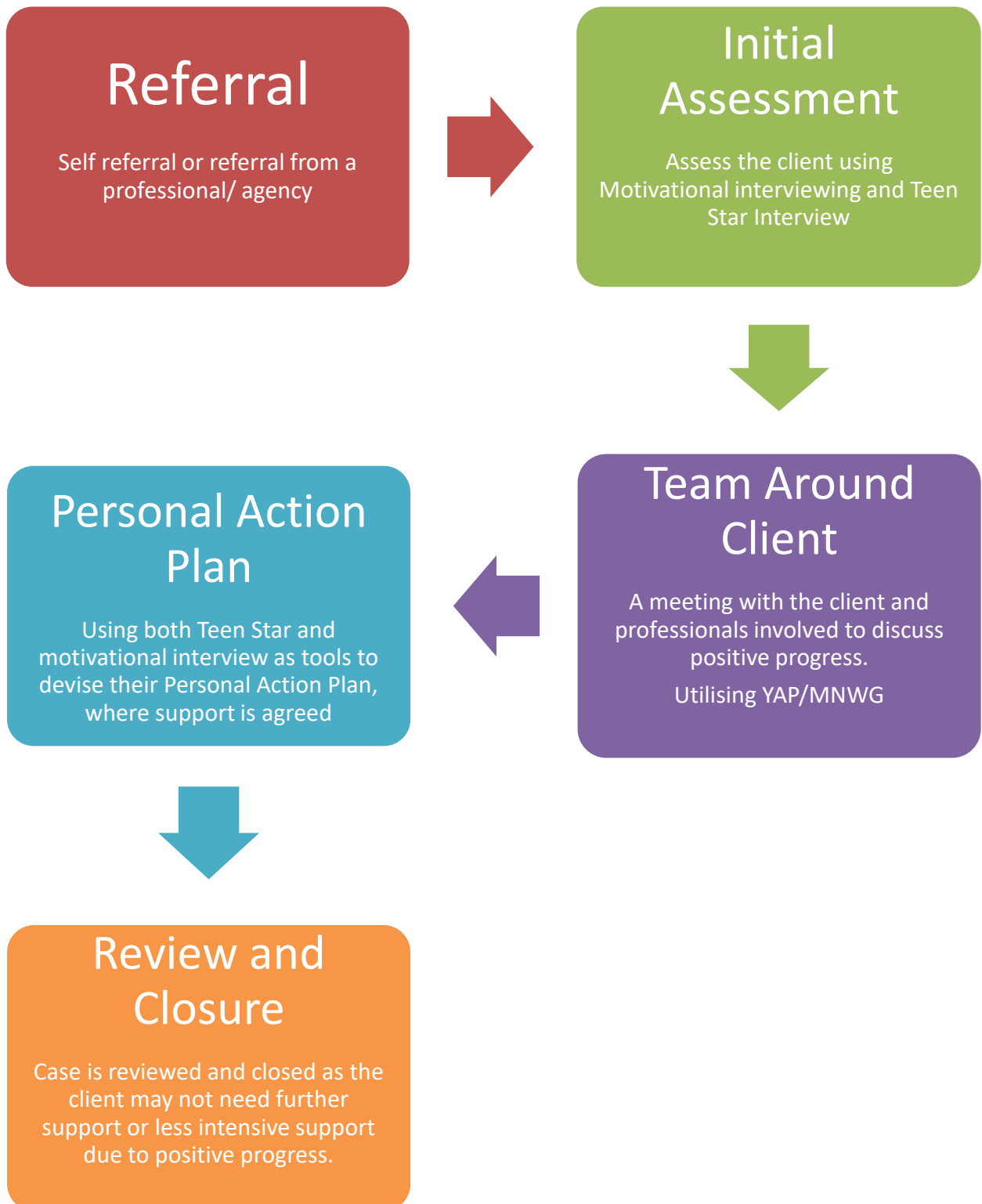
It is essential that we stop asking 'Why won't they leave' and start thinking 'Why don't they stop?' It is essential that responsibility is put on the perpetrator rather than the victim, to allow both parties to move forward with a healthy understanding of a relationship.

Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders will help provide new pathways to interventions, which are available to all Perpetrators, including minority groups and the LGBT+ community.



1 in 4 Perpetrators are repeat offenders. Some have as many as 6 different victims

# Perpetrator Programme Strategic Overview



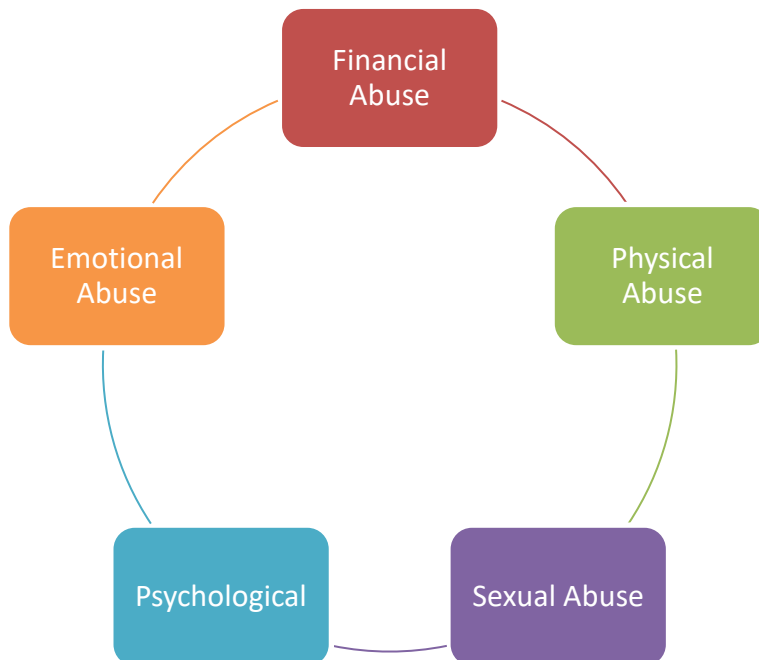
## Definition of a Perpetrator

One who perpetrates; especially one who commits an offence or crime. The definition of a perpetrator is a person who commits an illegal or bad act.

## What is Domestic Abuse?

### Home Office definition

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.” This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse...



## Controlling Behaviour

A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependant by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

## Coercive Behaviour

An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim. This definition includes so called

'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and it is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Whilst we acknowledge the government's definition of Domestic Abuse it is worth noting that the impact on children and young people under the age of sixteen has far reaching impact as they often get caught up in domestic abuse within the home.

## **New Government Domestic Abuse Bill**

- Introduce the first ever statutory government definition of domestic abuse to specifically include economic abuse and controlling and manipulative non-physical abuse - this will enable everyone, including victims themselves, to understand what constitutes abuse and will encourage more victims to come forward
- Establish a Domestic Abuse Commissioner to drive the response to domestic abuse issues
- Introduce new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to further protect victims and place restrictions on the actions of offenders
- Prohibit the cross-examination of victims by their abusers in the family courts
- Provide automatic eligibility for special measures to support more victims to give evidence in the criminal courts
- To address coercive control and economic abuse, and how domestic abuse affects children
- To transform the response in the justice system

The bill will also ban the distressing practice of domestic abuse victims being cross-examined by perpetrators in the family courts.

Stevenage Borough Council was instrumental in helping to develop the Domestic Abuse Bill.

## Key Intervention Areas



## Strategic Framework

We have referenced from the No More Service and SADA Survivors Against Domestic Abuse Service framework to implement our Perpetrator Service and have robust governance arrangements in place to ensure that a collaborative approach is taken when working with offenders. Our strategy covers services for all perpetrators, victims and survivors and their families of domestic abuse and the voice of the children.

The No More Service will develop and implement best practices and strategies that meet SBC Working group's agenda for reducing incidents of domestic abuse. The group will assist in the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan for perpetrators of domestic abuse, which includes survivor and perpetrator participation. This will also include the You and me Mum course.

In addition, there is a six weekly SADA Multi-Agency Panel Meeting (SADAP) with partners, including Health Visitors, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA), Children Services, Mental Health Team, Police and housing providers to discuss “medium and low risk” cases by definition.

We are now able to offer a service to support both perpetrators and victims and survivors that have or are experiencing modern slavery, human trafficking and sexual exploitation. We work in partnership with Operation Tropic and have a referral pathway in place and can offer support to them to either keep safe and remain or in some cases assist with returning to their home country.

In partnership with Herts County Council and other agencies, we will assist and contribute to the development and implementation of strategic objectives and associated services, ensuring that domestic abuse is effectively integrated internally and with partner agencies.

By working with the perpetrators, we aim to positively improve the lives of those around them, including their children whose voices are sometimes not heard. By working in partnership with other agencies and those who have experienced domestic abuse, it can help tackle the problem and find solutions.

Referrals both made by professionals or self-referrals are reviewed by the Senior Complex Needs Advocate. There are then delegated to the complex needs advocate or support worker. Those cases that are particularly complex; a good example being the *Everyone in* provision the nationwide response to the pandemic saw a rise in clients who were rough sleeping and the additional needs this brings.

## **Perpetrator Intervention**

All perpetrator interventions will go hand in hand with coordinated support for the victim. The No More Service will offer one-to-one intensive case management. This will allow the service to support those with more complex needs or a higher severity of offending. Our specialist case workers will challenge perpetrators to recognise their behaviour as abuse, while also addressing issues associated with substance or alcohol misuse, health and wellbeing (including Mental Health) and offending behaviours not related to Domestic Abuse. All support consists of multi-agency collaborative working to share information and manage the risk to victims/survivors.

From April 2023 the No More Service will be able to offer a limited amount of housing opportunities to perpetrators open to the service. The accommodation will be offered on a licence agreement and on the condition that they continue to work with the NMS.

When DA perpetrators become homeless this increases the risk to the victims and harassment and abuse escalates. By offering a settled accommodation for a period of time this will help the individuals to focus on the intervention work and start planning for a future. They will be fully supported by their allocated worker to look at their long-term housing plan as part of their support plan.

## Key Statistics

Domestic abuse accounts for **1 in 5** of all violent crimes

**Victims** of domestic abuse are more likely to **experience repeat victimisation** than victims of any other type of crime.

Every minute, police in the UK receive a domestic assistance call yet only **35%** of domestic violence incidents are reported to the Police.

**Two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner**

**Domestic abuse** commonly takes place in **households with children and young people**. We know that witnessing domestic abuse can be particularly **traumatic for children**. A minimum of **750,000** British children and young people a year (around 6.5%) are witnesses to domestic abuse and around **30%** of domestic abuse **begins or escalates during pregnancy**.

**130,000**

Children live in households with high risk domestic abuse

**1 in 5**

Children have been exposed to domestic abuse

SADA Domestic Abuse Service supported a total of **785** people for intensive support from April 2020 to March 2021

In 2019, **Common Assault** and **Battery** was the most prevalent DA offence, comprising 33.6% of DA crime in 2020. This is compared to 31.0% of DA offences in 2019

**38.1%** of recorded rape during 2020 was related to Domestic Abuse



## Our Aims and Objectives

By working with the perpetrators, we aim to positively improve the lives of those around them, including their children whose voices are sometimes not heard. By working in partnership with other agencies and those who have experienced domestic abuse, it can help tackle the problem and find solutions.

The service takes a holistic approach to address all areas of a client's life and our aim is to help them develop practical solutions to address these, including;

- Housing
- Finances
- Safeguarding
- Employment
- Offending
- Relationships
- Risk of Exploitation
- Health
- Education
- Family
- Use of Time
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing

No More and SADA will continue to research and identify good practice in the management and reduction of domestic abuse ahead of making recommendations to Stevenage Borough Council and partners for developing new practices and ensuring continuous improvement in how we deliver the service.

## Our Main Objectives;

1. Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse and Domestic Abuse Services
2. Supporting Domestic Abuse Perpetrators, victims and their families
3. Deliver Domestic Abuse Support to perpetrators to reduce the overall risk to victims/survivors and their families

## Client Comments/Case Study

### Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Support Case Studies

**CLIENT ONE** – Male, single, conviction for rape, as well as domestic abuse related offences, housed via Adult Offender Protocol (AOP)

- We have supported with food and toiletry parcels through pandemic.
- Serious rent arrears accrued. Repeat referrals made to SBC debt advice team.
- Looking at ways to reduce rent arrears whilst maintaining open communication.

- Agreement that notice would not be escalated to court action or eviction proceedings.
- Client has remained single since prison release and expresses no current desire to enter a relationship. Demonstrates remorse and accountability for past offences.

**CLIENT TWO** – Female, in same-sex relationship, long-standing mental health issues, alcohol and heavy cannabis misuse, extensive convictions and several prison sentences.

- Referred by Probation after receiving a community-based order banning her from the town centre.
- Client had been evicted from the Haven homeless hostel and placed into SBC temporary accommodation.
- A combination of emotional support, goal-setting, examining choices and consequences of behaviour.
- NMS took case to housing panel and an SBC tenancy was granted.
- Client finally started to disclose coercive and controlling behaviour from partner.
- Client admitted that she was now frequently responding to abuse from partner with physical violence herself.
- Partnership working between NMS, Probation, Police Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and mental health.
- NMS continue to offer significant emotional support.