



# **Bristol Domestic Abuse Strategy**

## **2004 - 2007**



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**Bristol Domestic  
Abuse Strategy  
2004 - 2007**

## FOREWORD

Domestic abuse is everyone's business. It is a major cause of family distress and social exclusion and it continues to do untold damage to the lives of thousands of women and children who experience it.

The Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum has a major commitment to tackle both the cause and effect of domestic abuse in the city. The forum is a multi-agency partnership established in 1998 and has a wide membership from statutory and voluntary sector organisations including Health, Social Services, Housing Services, Local Domestic Abuse Fora, Survivors, Probation, Police, CPS, Solicitors, Education, Child Protection and direct providers of services.

The Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum produced its first three-year strategy in September 2000. Since then the city has seen some positive changes in the services available to address domestic abuse and a rise in public awareness of the issues. However domestic abuse is still on the increase and there is a need for a more consistent and co-ordinated response if we are going to see any profound long-term change.

It is with this desire for real change that we have as our focus Prevention, Protection and Provision and under each of these headings we set out concrete aims and targets for the period 2004-2007.

Carol Metters  
Chair Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum 2003

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

The Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum has adopted the following definition of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse is defined as:

- The misuse of physical, emotional, sexual or financial control by one person over another who is or has been in a relationship. This includes family members.
- Domestic Abuse covers a wide range of behaviours and may be actual or threatened.
- Domestic abuse is usually perpetrated by men against women, but not exclusively.
- Domestic abuse occurs in all groups and sections of society and may be experienced differently, due to, and compounded by, race, sexuality, disability, age, religion, culture, class or mental health.

## USE OF TERMINOLOGY

BDAF recognises the use of both the terms 'victim' and 'survivor'. Some service users will see themselves as survivors and equally some victims don't survive.

This document recognises the use of both terms and uses them interchangeably.

# THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

- Domestic abuse accounts for one quarter of all recorded violent crime. (British Crime Survey England & Wales 2000)
- 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence at some time in their lives. (BMA 1998)
- Domestic Violence is the least likely crime to be reported to the police. It is estimated that under 1/3 of incidents were reported in 2000. (British Crime Survey England & Wales 2000)
- Within the UK an incidence of domestic abuse occurs every 6 to 20 seconds. (The Day to Count – Betsy Stanko 2000)
- On average 2 women per week are killed by a partner or ex-partner in England & Wales. (Home Office 1999)
- 8% of male murders and 50% of female murders are domestic. (Crime in England and Wales 2002)
- 1 in 5 young men and 1 in 10 young women think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable. (Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust 1998)
- 50% of women in touch with mental health services have experienced domestic abuse. (Women's Mental Health 2002)

- In 90% of incidents involving domestic abuse, the children are in the same or the next room. (Hughes 1992)
- 76% of children who were ordered by the courts to have contact with a violent parent were said to have been further abused as a result of contact being set up. (Unreasonable Fears – Radford, Sayer & AMICA 1999)
- 30% of domestic abuse starts during pregnancy. (Why Mothers Die – Dept of Health 1998)

## Within the City of Bristol the figures for 1.4.02 to 31.3.03 were

- 4902 reported domestic incidents
- 760 repeat victims

(Avon and Somerset Police 2003).

## VISION STATEMENT

Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum is committed to raising the profile, recognising the impact and reducing the incidence of domestic abuse. The experience of survivors of domestic abuse should inform all parts of any strategy. It is paramount that a city-wide approach to victims of domestic abuse is consistent, co-ordinated and innovative and must reflect the needs of all communities.

## AIMS OF THE STRATEGY

This multi-agency strategy on domestic abuse has as its overarching aim the reduction of domestic abuse and repeat victimisation. This will be achieved through:

### PREVENTION

*To continue to find innovative ways of raising awareness and reducing the incidence of domestic abuse.*

### PROVISION

*To ensure the provision of a comprehensive and co-ordinated range of services across the city.*

### PROTECTION & JUSTICE

*To ensure the effective protection (legal & otherwise) of survivors and their children in the wider community and in their own homes.*

## PROCESS

BDAF identified the need to revise the initial domestic abuse strategy. Subgroups were set up from the legal professions, the police, housing, social services, health, the voluntary sector and education. These groups looked at setting a three year plan with specific priorities for action to meet the agreed main aims. The draft strategy was then sent out for consultation to as wide a range of organisations as possible and feedback was then discussed at BDAF meetings.

This is a living document which will be reviewed annually by the BDAF Forum. If you would like to give feedback or suggest ideas, please contact the BDAF Co-ordinator on tel: 0117 925 0680

Having established Priorities for Action, subgroups will be set up with responsibility for implementing each priority. These groups will be accountable to BDAF and annual reports will be made available to monitor progress.

# PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

## City-wide priorities for the members of the Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum.

1. Ensure agencies develop and implement a Domestic Abuse Policy for both service users and staff.
2. Assist agencies to create systems for recording and monitoring the occurrence of domestic abuse.
3. Establish clear protocols to facilitate the sharing of information between agencies.
4. Ensure that each agency has a designated domestic abuse contact who will be made known to the Forum and to other agencies.
5. Develop best practice guidelines for use by agencies across the city.
6. Evaluate the impact of the strategy and action plan annually through the Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum.

## Prevention

1. Raise public awareness of the scale, consequences and effects of domestic abuse and of the services available in the area.
2. Prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place by changing public attitudes particularly among young people.
3. Evaluate perpetrator schemes available through the Probation Service and explore the opportunities for providing perpetrator schemes for non convicted perpetrators. If evaluation is positive, provide support.
4. Research profile of perpetrators in Bristol.

## Provision

1. Set up a response service for victims in crisis.
2. Provide single and multi-agency training to raise the awareness and build the skills and confidence of staff working with victims of domestic abuse.
3. Identify gaps in existing service provision and look at developing specialist provision for survivors currently excluded.
4. Set up a Survivor's Forum.
5. Develop a mentoring service for Black and ethnic minority survivors.
6. Develop an outreach service for families with complex needs (drugs/mental health problems, sex workers etc).
7. Develop dedicated children's services.
8. Provide counselling for victims of domestic abuse.
9. Research position for survivors without recourse to public funds and plan accordingly.

## APPENDIX A - with thanks to:

### Protection & Justice

1. Provide advice and information to victims on how to access legal remedies.
2. Reduce the incidence of domestic abuse and increase the effectiveness of legal and police responses to reduce the level of repeat victimisation.
3. Research and promote the need for supervised contact centres for children, and increase the provision of unsupervised contact centres.
4. Monitor the effectiveness of the Avon and Somerset area Domestic Violence Incidents Strategy Group Services Level Agreement.
5. Provide support for victims to attend court.
6. Develop a Multi-agency Domestic Abuse Team made up of Specialist support workers and police workers, acting as a one-stop-shop for reporting domestic abuse, providing support and a variety of interventions.

- Members of the Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum
- Members of local Bristol fora
- Bristol North PCT
- Bristol South & West PCT
- United Bristol Health Care Trust
- Avon & Somerset Police
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Bristol City Council (Social Services)
- Bristol City Council (Equalities & Social Inclusion Team)
- Bristol City Council (Education & Life Long Learning)
- Bristol City Council (Neighbourhood & Housing Services)
- Next Link Domestic Abuse Services
- Lyons Davidson Solicitors
- Crime Concern
- Service Users from Next Link Domestic Abuse Services
- Probation Service
- CAFCASS
- Public Health Forum
- Health & Social Care Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership
- Bristol Supported Housing Forum
- Child & Young People's Strategic Partnership

## APPENDIX B – Links:

### **Safety & Justice - The Governments Proposals on Domestic Violence (June 2003).**

This paper sets out the nature & prevalence of domestic violence and examines its impact on victims and its cost to the wider community. It explains the government's strategy for tackling domestic violence which is based on three elements: prevention, protection and justice and support. ([www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk))

### **Bristol Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy (2002-2005)**

provides the latest information on serious issues which concern residents in Bristol. It offers a new way of working, a partnership approach to focus best ideas and target funding and resources to the highest priorities. ([www.crimebristol.org.uk](http://www.crimebristol.org.uk))

### **Bristol City Council's Homelessness Review & Strategy (July 2003)**

Following the Homeless Act 2002, Bristol City Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of homelessness and the services available in Bristol and has published a strategy accordingly. The strategy will be kept under review and amendments will be undertaken with a new strategy being published in five years time. ([www.bristol-city.gov.uk](http://www.bristol-city.gov.uk)) Single Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Team – 0117 377 2874

### **Bristol's Local Strategic Partnership Community Strategy**

is intended to influence all other major public strategies and plans in Bristol and to take a longer term view of the city's future aspiration needs & priorities. The Partnership has agreed to focus on young people, the local economy, the environment, transport & community safety. ([www.bristol-city.gov.uk](http://www.bristol-city.gov.uk))

### **Avon and Somerset Area Incidents Strategy Group Service Level Agreement**

is intended to ensure victims and witnesses of domestic abuse are fully supported within the Civil and Criminal Justice System and receive fair and equitable treatment from a standardised system in place in the Avon and Somerset Area. Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator Avon and Somerset Police - 01275 816145

## STRATEGY – PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2004 – 2007

The following abbreviations have been used in the action plan:

Abbreviation	Full name/meaning
BDAF	Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum
DA	Domestic Abuse
ASB	Anti Social Behaviour
UBHT	United Bristol Health care Trust
S & W PCT	South & West Primary Care Trust
NBT	North Bristol Trust
AWPT	Avon & Wiltshire Primary Trust
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
LEA	Local Education Authority
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
ACPC	Area Child Protection Committee
ACAD	Advice & Counselling on Alcohol & Drugs
N & HS	Neighbourhood & Housing Services
SFLA	Solicitors & Family Law Association
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
CAFCASS	Child & Family Courts Advisory Service
LA	Local Authority

# CITYWIDE PRIORITIES FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE BRISTOL DOMESTIC ABUSE FORUM

## 1. Ensure agencies develop & implement a domestic abuse policy for both service users and staff.

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Not all agencies & organisations currently have a domestic abuse policy for staff & clients. Some have policies that need implementing	Ensure that each statutory & voluntary agency develops & introduces a policy for staff & clients	Dec 2004	Raised awareness re DA leading to improved support for staff & clients	Chief Executive of each member organisation	Drafting of policies by Jan 2005  Implementation of policies by April 2005	Check introduction of policies  Monitor staff awareness of policies	In-house
	<b>Health</b> Develop policies for all Bristol Health Orgs. for clients-	Dec 2004		Health leads for DA & staff groups		Assess increase in understanding & confidence of staff re dealing with DA	In-house
	for staff- (UBHT, S&W PCT, North PCT, North Bristol Trust)	June 2005		Led by Human Resources Depts	As above & protocols for health service staff & information on where to go.	Monitor increase in reporting of DA	
	<b>Education</b> Develop DA policy integrated with CP strategy – identifying 3-4 key tasks for action plan	Dec 2004	Teachers will have a better understanding of DA & how to support children Support for school staff will be improved	Education Dept of Bristol City Council with staff at schools	Introduction of policy  Training for staff in schools  Development of leaflet for parents	As above	Via Education Dept.
	For those agencies where a policy already exists undertake regular reviews e.g.	On-going					
	<b>Housing</b> Undertake independent assessment of current policy & procedures re DA	Dec 2003	Improved policies & procedures	Manager ASB Team & independent consultant	Produce report by April 2004	Consultation with stakeholders re fulfilling research	One-off cost from existing resources
<b>Detailed Delivery Plan</b> Few organisations have developed an action plan on how to respond to DA in their field of work	All agencies to develop a detailed delivery plan to meet the objectives of their policies	Summer 2005	Raised awareness & improved support for victims of DA	Staff with responsibility for DA	Completed action plan	Monitor delivery of action plan & level of referrals	In-house



## 2. Assist agencies to create systems for recording and monitoring the occurrence of domestic abuse

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Not all agencies monitor & collate information on DA.	All agencies should monitor & collate data on DA when encountered .	May 2004	Better picture of the occurrence of DA. Improved support for victims	BDAF to produce a template for those with no system in place (Jan 2004)	BDAF Policies & Procedures Subgroup to audit all member agencies (May 2004)	Gather statistics & identify gaps in information	BDAF – template In-house for each agency
	<b>Health</b> – Increased documentation of injuries by gps & all primary care staff	Ongoing	As above	Senior managers at Bristol N PCT, Bristol S&W PCT UBHT, NBT & AWPT	Seek support from PCT Operations Directors (Sep 2003) – Design Action Plan (March 2004). Awareness raising with GPs 2004-2006	Monitor levels of recording & information provided to support prosecutions	In-house
	Explore feasibility of city-wide reporting procedure to be used by all agencies	Dec 2005	Data enabling a better understanding of scale of DA in Bristol & to facilitate planning of services.	BDAF Policies & Procedures subgroup to look at systems in place elsewhere in UK	Formation of subgroup (March 2004) Researching & reporting back (Sep 2004) Development of model procedure (Feb 2005) Implementation (Dec 2005)		Community Safety Partnership

## 3. Establish clear protocols to facilitate the sharing of information between agencies.

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Currently interagency communication is very limited & slow	Analyse those protocols already in existence in Bristol (link with private statutory & voluntary sector). Adopt an information sharing protocol	By Dec 2004	Improved level of support & service  Better use of resources	BDAF Policies & Procedures subgroup	Formation of subgroup (Nov 2003)  Researching & reporting back (Mar 2004)  Development of model protocol (Sep 2004)  Implementation (Dec 2004)	Questionnaire for Nov 2004 Conference delegates to obtain feedback on draft protocol  Questionnaire to be distributed to BDAF members thereafter on annual basis	Phil Davis Avon and Somerset Police to investigate funding

**4. Ensure that each agency has a designated contact who would be known to the Forum and to other agencies.**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Few organisations have a DA contact	Each organisation/ agency should appoint DA contacts for their own staff but also external enquiries & involvement with BDAF	Jan 2004	Information/support more easily available for staff. Improved collaboration between agencies & coordination of initiatives	Chief Executive within each Organisation	Contact in place by Jan 2004. BDAF to circulate named contacts. Feedback systems for information sharing need to be set up within each Organisation	Monitor interagency collaboration & co-ordination on projects	In-house

**5. Develop best practice guidelines for use by all agencies.**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
No common guidelines across the city	Produce a set of guidelines which every agency can incorporate in their own guidelines	Dec 2004	A set of guidelines which will inform good practice across the city	BDAF Policies & Procedures Subgroup	Distribution of guidelines to agencies	Feedback from agencies	In-house

**6. Evaluate impact of strategy & action plan annually**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
No mechanism in place to assess progress	Evaluate implementation & impact of strategy	Jan 2005 & then annually	Revised & improved ongoing action plan	BDAF	As per delivery plan	Feedback from subgroups	BDAF

# PREVENTION

## 1. Raise public awareness of the scale, consequences and effects of domestic abuse and of services available

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Information is patchy & not widely available. Information needs updating re-launching & distributing across city	Raise awareness of DA within the local community using updated literature & increased media coverage. Plan publicity campaigns associated with specific events	By Oct 2004 then ongoing	Raised awareness should lead to increased use of services & more women coming forward for support	Publicity Subgroup of BDAF to: - review existing literature & develop new material - to increase profile of DA in local press - develop BDAF website	Audit current information by June 2004 New literature designed & printed by Oct 2004. Distribution Oct 2004 onwards Press work ongoing	Monitor increase in reporting & take up of services Undertake research re effectiveness of literature & website Monitor local press for coverage	Funding to be sought through CSP, local printer & sponsorship of local companies
BDAF has no website	Develop a BDAF website				Website developed by June 2005		

## 2. Prevent the domestic abuse from happening in the first place by changing public attitudes particularly among young people

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
No education/youth service policy around raising awareness with young people regarding domestic abuse.	Enable both the LEA and the Youth Service to produce a policy and action plan. Find innovative ways to challenge and influence young people's thinking	Dec 2004  Dec 2004	Consistent awareness raising for young people. Training for staff  Effective and pioneering methods to influence thinking	LEA and Youth service with BDAF Education Subgroup  LEA with partners including BDAF Education Subgroup	Meet with both services. Draw up plan of action. Deliver training to staff.  Targets as set out in Government's Safety & Justice Paper	Monitor feedback from schools, LEA and Youth Service	In house

**3. Evaluate perpetrator schemes available through the Probation Service and explore the opportunities for providing perpetrator schemes for non convicted perpetrators. If evaluation is positive, provide support.**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Currently in Bristol only convicted perpetrators have access to training programmes through the probation service. There is a lack of research on the success of current programmes.	Explore & evaluate existing schemes available via Probation & the possibility of establishing a pilot programme for non convicted perpetrators. Look at models in use elsewhere	Jan 2004 onwards	Reduction in level of re-offending	Multi-agency BDAF perpetrator subgroup	Apply for funding to conduct research (Jan 2004)  Research current models of good practice (Sep 2004)  Explore feasibility of pilot project (Jan 2005)	Assess results of current programmes, other projects & Bristol pilot project if set up	Multi-agency funding to be sought

**4. Research profile of perpetrators in Bristol**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
No research done	Gain a better understanding of perpetrators and who they are etc	Dec 2005	Inform other thinking around perpetrator work	Multi-agency BDAF subgroup and Next Link	Conduct questionnaire as pilot project to be done with Next Link service users  Draw up & cost research brief. Apply for funding (2004)	Assess results	Multi-agency funding to be sought

# PROVISION

## 1. Set up a response service for victims in crisis

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Emergency services and safehouse provision only. No dedicated service to help through process	Provide a crisis response service to victims to enable them to make choices, either to stay at home and remove partner or find alternative safe accommodation and escort through process	Mar 2004	Help and support provided at crisis point Prevent abuse from re-occurring	Next Link. BDAF & CSP	Set up service Expand to cover evenings and weekends	Monitor take-up of service & outcomes	ODPM CSP

## 2. Provide single and multi-agency training to raise the awareness and build the skills and confidence of staff working with victims of domestic abuse

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Currently there is insufficient training available to meet demand	Provide single & multi-agency training on DA	Sep 2003 ongoing	Skills & confidence of staff increased leading to improved support for victims enabling them to make informed choices	BDAF & ACAD funded training	Regular training dates on DA available to new staff from Sep 2003 with more specialised training from Winter 2004	Monitor availability of training.	ACPC & via funding raised by BDAF
	Larger organisations to develop awareness raising training internally	By Mid 2005	More staff will have access to awareness raising training	Training/H.R Depts internally		Assess awareness of staff	
	Promote training to mental health agencies; youth workers and education; social Housing providers; GPs and the Judiciary Care forum; Children's network etc	Sep 2004	Increase awareness in other sectors	BDAF sub group	Accreditation	Evaluation of training	In house
	Get training accredited	June 2005					



### 3. Identify gaps in existing housing service and develop specialist housing provision.

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Gaps exist within existing provision for specialist support for women & children	<b>N&amp;H Services - Housing</b> 1) Increase safe-house provision to provide emergency accommodation for any victim of DA needing it. 2) N&H Services to create an ASB team to provide a one-stop shop service for dealing with anti social behaviour 3) Establish clear monitoring & report mechanisms 4) Develop witness protection scheme & refer for legal advice to enable victims to stay safely in own home if they wish	April 2004	Network of suitable safe accommodation	N&H Services (Manager ASB Team) & partner agencies e.g. Nextlink	At least 1 new unit by April 2004. Additional units as demand requires	Take-up rate. Satisfaction surveys. Audit commission review	Existing N&HS budgets  Negligible cost  Not yet known
Insufficient safe housing available – N&H Services have none		Dec 2003	Greater consistency & case efficiency. Policy development. Identifiable point for stakeholders	Graham Sims Pete David Steve Barrett all (N&HS)	Establish pilot (Dec 2003) Review (Dec 2004)	Satisfaction surveys. Reporting levels Audit commission BV inspection	
Inconsistent approach to case work (N&HS) Lack of policy development		April 2004	Staff better informed Improved service & management info.	Manager ASB team (N&HS)	Establish regime (April 2004) Staff training (June 2004) Review (Dec 2004)	6 month review Audit commission BV inspection	
No clear case monitoring. Policy not consistently applied (N&HS)		Dec 2004	Fewer transfers – less upheaval & improved support	Manager ASB team	Develop scheme (Dec 2004) Review (April 2005)	Satisfaction surveys 6 month review	
Victims are currently re-housed elsewhere (often not best option for victim)							

# NEW PROVISIONS

## 4. Set up a Survivor's Forum

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
None at present	Set up and facilitate a survivor's forum to provide a voice to survivors in Bristol	May 2005	A clear mechanism for survivors to add their thinking and ideas to strategy & policy development in a forum that meets their needs.	BDAF Co-ordinator	Publicise forum through local fora.  Facilitate as necessary and appropriate.	Evaluate after 1 year	Not yet known

## 5. Develop a mentoring service for Black and ethnic minority families

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
None at present	Set up a mentoring project where both mentors and mentees are from Black & ethnic minority backgrounds	Jan 2006	A mentoring service which will enable Black and ethnic minority service users to gain in confidence & skills	BDAF and Next Link	Raise funds for service  Develop service and evaluate	Evaluate after 1 year	Not yet known

## 6. Develop an outreach service for families with complex needs

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Next Link provides a resettlement and tenancy support service. No specialist workers.	Provide specialist support to women with DV and other needs including alcohol/drugs mental health/sex workers	Funding by Dec 2005	A tailor-made service to meet a range of needs	BDAF and Next Link	Raise funds for 1 or 2 workers  Recruit and develop service	Evaluate after 1 year	Not yet known

## 7. Develop dedicated children's services in Bristol

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Specific service for children via Next Link. Counselling services available to children and young people through Off the Record and Childtime	Expand children's services in the city making them available to all children and young people through schools; youth clubs etc.	Dec 2006	A specific service for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse	BDAF Children's sub group	Plan service needed Apply for funds	Evaluate service through steering group	Not yet known

## 8. Provide counselling for victims of domestic abuse

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Insufficient free or low cost counselling for victims	Set up low-cost Counselling Services with child care	Dec 2006	Access to low cost therapy together with childcare for survivors.	BDAF Services sub group	Raise funds for 3-4 counsellors to work throughout Bristol, and provide on site crèche facilities	Take up of service. Evaluate after year 1	BDAF to raise funds

## 9. Research position for survivors without recourse to public funds

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Refuge provision and LA housing difficult to access without funding. Position not clear	Research current provision for asylum seekers/refugees and others without recourse to public funds and plan accordingly.	April 2005	Access to safe housing as a priority no matter what the survivor's immigration status.	BDAF Services sub group	Clarify current position Raise funds locally	All women will have access to safe housing.	Social Services

# PROTECTION & JUSTICE

## 1. Provide advice and information to victims on how to access legal remedies.

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Lack of awareness of legal remedies both by agencies and service users. Public funding (Legal Aid) is under constant threat.	Inform and facilitate the provision of information to victims and agencies	Sep 2004	Victims will be helped to make informed choices.	Solicitors Family Law Association (SFLA)	SFLA members to monitor and report back to Forum.  BDAF to include information in multi agency training.	BDAF to gather DA figures annually from members of SFLA	Not yet known
	Ensure adequate provision of public funding for domestic violence cases.	Dec 2004	Continued provision of public funding to victims.	SFLA	BDAF member to attend LSC committee	BDAF to gather funding issues from SFLA members dealing with DA annually and act accordingly.	

## 2. Reduce incidence of domestic abuse and increase the effectiveness of legal & police responses to reduce the level of repeat victimisation

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Levels are high. Victims are often reluctant to press charges & may retract statements	1) Police to attend all calls, gathering as much evidence as possible & keeping victims informed of progress throughout	Ongoing	Victims will feel supported & more inclined to proceed with case	Police	Reduction in the level of repeat victimisation by 5%	Victim questionnaire completed by DV officers.	Police
	2) Encourage the development of a proactive prosecution policy of charging perpetrators by removing onus from victims to prosecute	Ongoing	Victims do not feel responsible for the court case & are therefore more likely to appear as a witness	CPS	Increase in no of cases proceeding	Monitoring no of cases successfully reaching completion	CPS
	3) Fast track domestic abuse cases to prevent retraction of statements	Summer 2003 onwards	Shorter time to conclusion of case should lead to lower attrition levels	CPS	Reduce case time by approx.1 month (straight forward cases). Listing on first occasion when "not guilty" plea entered	Monitoring level of retractions & successful case completions	CPS



**2 cont. Reduce incidence of domestic abuse and increase the effectiveness of legal & police responses to reduce the level of repeat victimisation**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
	4) Set up a system to gather & analyse the views of victims re. the criminal/civil law system in particular to evaluate whether special measures would affect the level of attrition. (e.g.screens and video links)	March – Oct 2004	Higher rate of prosecutions  Lower attrition levels  Reduction in repeat levels of victimisation	CPS and Police	Produce form (May 2004)  Information gathering by Criminal Justice Coordinator. Analysis to be fed back to BDAF Dec 2004	Criminal Justice Coordinator to monitor information gathered	Criminal Justice Coordinator
	5) Incorporate within police domestic violence training procedures for dealing with breaches of civil injunctions. Regular domestic violence training for the police on 2-year rotation.	Ongoing	Reduction in repeat levels of victimisation	Police and Solicitors	Increased awareness of police officers of civil injunction procedure.	Training records	Police

**3. Research and promote the need for supervised contact centres for children, and increase the provision of unsupervised contact centres.**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
No Contact centres in Bristol provide supervised contact. Limited availability of unsupervised contact centre places.	Research need for supervised contact centres and increased places in unsupervised contact centres	Dec 2005	Provide an approved service for victims	Head of Avon and Somerset CAFCASS	Find funding sources Carry out research Plan service accordingly	Evaluation of centre and families who use it.	Not yet known

**4. Monitor the effectiveness of the Avon and Somerset area Domestic Violence Incidents Strategy Group Services Level Agreement.**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Service Level Agreement signed Summer 2003.	To implement and monitor the agreement.	Dec 2005	Provide an approved service for victims	Criminal Justice Coordinator.	Refer to Criminal Justice Coordinator	Analysis of questionnaire.	Criminal Justice Coordinator

**5. Develop a Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Team acting as a one-stop shop.**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
Lack of support for DA victims. Police unable to focus on detection & prevention work	Set up multi-agency DA team offering specialist support workers as well as police workers to act as one-stop shop	April 2005	Variety of interventions will better support victims – leading to fewer retractions & repeat victimisations & more convictions	Audit Crime Concern Team set up & run by CSP	Audit of service Nov 2003 Team in place April 2005	Take-up rate. Satisfaction surveys 12 month review	CSP

**6. Provide support for victims to attend court.**

Current position	Aim	Timescale	Outcome	Who in charge	Key targets over 3 years	Test for impact	Funding
No designated service in Bristol	Provide assistance to victims to attend court	Sept 2004	Assistance should lead to a reduction in prosecution withdrawal	BDAF Services sub group	Sub group to plan targets	Evaluate levels of prosecutions	Not yet known

