

Domestic Violence and Abuse Audit

1. Getting to know parents:

- Do you greet parents when they come into your centre, talk to them about their children, know their names?

Yes/No

- Do you provide parents with time to share happenings, events or items with you? *Even if it's only a few minutes at the start or end of the day, it will help to create a friendly, warm and welcoming environment, and encourage parents to feel they can talk to you. It shows them you care and provides you with opportunities to learn about what is important to your children and their families.*

Yes/No

- Do you take the time on occasion to share something that is important to you, or to let parents know a little bit about yourself? *It will help parents to see you as a real and caring person.*

Yes/No

2. Supporting diversity:

- Do you recognise differences within your setting? *This might be as simple as having pictures of different types of families, but it will encourage parents who do not fit the 'normal' stereotype to feel that they won't be excluded, and will be understood, if they talk to you.*

Yes/No

3. Challenging bullying:

- Do you say no to all forms of bullying? *Although this affects children more than parents, it shows parents that you know that abuse and violence is wrong and will say so. They may feel that you are more likely to take their own disclosures of abuse more seriously.*

Yes/No

- Do you promote two-way respect? *Adhere to the golden rule: always show respect and you will get it back in return.*

Yes/No

- Do you make a conscientious effort to promote confidence and self-esteem among every child in your setting? *Give praise and positive reinforcement that is real and deserved, often; this can apply to parents as well – do you recognise the ways in which they are good parents? This might help them to feel that they can talk to you about what's happening without being branded a bad parent for being in that situation.*

Yes/No

4. Promoting awareness of DVA as an issue:

- Do you display material that advertises help for people experiencing DVA? *This could be as simple as posters and leaflets in the children's room and hallways, and small posters on the backs of toilet doors. Think about putting information in staff areas and waiting areas as well – it's not just parents who might be victims.*

Yes/No

- Do you have resources for children about DVA, including story books?

Yes/No

- Do you provide positive male role models in your setting? *Think about how fathers as well as mothers can be involved in trips, volunteering etc. Maybe you have a male governor, or a postman who's friendly. Think about displaying posters of responsible male role models.*

Yes/No

- Do you mention DVA in relevant policy documents, and in staff induction?

Yes/No

- Do you discuss the issue regularly in staff meetings? *It's especially important to make staff aware of parents experiencing DVA and any special arrangements in place e.g. who picks up the children.*

Yes/No

- Do you have a named person with responsibility for DVA issues in your setting? *This doesn't mean no-one else has to care, just that this person is the expert. Think about how to provide support so s/he can attend training and meetings.*

Yes/No

- Do you link into Bristol-wide DVA work? *You could join Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum, or find out if there are any agencies working in your area, and invite them along to a staff meeting.*

Yes/No

- Do you get involved in national/Bristol-wide DVA campaigns, like Eliminate Violence Against Women Day in November, and International Women's Day in March?

Yes/No

- Do your staff keep their child protection training up-to-date?

Yes/No

- Are staff trained, prepared and supported to challenge abusive behaviour and ask the question if they suspect DVA?

Yes/No

- Are you signed up to the employers' DVA strategy?

Yes/No