



DV-ACT

DV-ACT Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme for Local Authorities

DV-ACT are an independent organisation providing expert domestic and sexual abuse assessments and treatment programmes for children's services and the family courts. Please note that this information is applicable to cases that are in child protection measures or care proceedings for cases in private law proceedings please contact us.

Treatment Programmes

DV-ACT provides bespoke 1:1 treatment programmes for both perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse. Our programmes are designed specifically to meet the needs of parents who are in court proceedings or who have children in child protection measures. All of our programmes include a final report completed by an expert assessor and can be used in court proceedings where necessary.

Domestic Abuse Prevention (Perpetrator) Programme

DV-ACT offers a structured perpetrator programme based on the Respect model with trained, domestic abuse treatment practitioners that have at least 10 years of experience of working in community or probation perpetrator programmes. This work takes place remotely using video call technology (with zoom or similar) meaning that it is open to anyone in the UK.

The programme includes partner support and a full final report by an expert risk assessor, ensuring that all parties are fully informed of the progress made.

The DV-ACT one to one DAPP includes:

- A suitability assessment (if a full risk assessment has not been completed by DV-ACT),
- 18 one to one sessions with a trained and experienced perpetrator worker,
- Bespoke programme of work to focus on the concerns of the court/local authority,
- Access to DV-ACTs online learning environment with homework exercises to complete during the week and mental health resources, forum and violence log (this access continues after programme completion),
- An offer of free confidential support to current/previous partners,
- Sessions delivered remotely using zoom or similar,
- An android tablet to complete the work on if required,
- A full final report that can be used in court proceedings.



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Programme suitability

The programme is designed to work with perpetrators in the UK where the family court or local authority has concerns regarding the risk of harm to children due to domestic abuse.

The programme is suitable for those who:

- Accept that at least some of their behaviour is/has been abusive,
- Have some motivation to change their behaviour,
- Are willing to attend and complete the full programme,
- Do not have any pending criminal proceedings for domestic abuse,
- Are not already attending a programme with probation.

We can work with those that: need a translator, are registered sex offenders, female perpetrators, same-sex partners, and those currently in a relationship or separated parents.

Programme aims

The programme aims to reduce the perpetrator's violence and abuse towards their intimate partners and improve the safety of children by:

- Encouraging perpetrators to move to a point where they can take responsibility for their abusive behaviour and make positive steps to change their behaviour,
- Increasing awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and assisting clients in applying this to their own behaviour,
- Increasing understanding of the effects that their abusive behaviour can have on their intimate partners and their children,
- Teaching non-controlling behaviour strategies in their relationships,

Programme delivery

The programme consists of 18 sessions delivered on a one-to-one basis by an experienced perpetrator worker remotely using a video calling app. Further sessions can be added if required at the discretion of the treatment worker. Sessions will then take place weekly with an additional session towards the end of the programme where the expert assessor will meet with the client in order to complete the final assessment report.



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Topics covered

As it is a programme delivered on a one to one basis, there can be a particular focus on specific areas of concern raised by the courts. However, the programme will cover all the topics usually delivered within a DAPP including:

- Strategies for reducing violence,
- Analysing feelings and behaviour,
- Motivation to change,
- Power and control,
- Parenting,
- Emotional abuse,
- Developing empathy,
- Sexual respect and intimacy,
- Respectful relationships,
- Positive self talk,
- Attitudes towards women.

Referral guidance

If the client has not first completed a full risk or joint assessment with DV-ACT an initial suitability assessment will need to be completed with an expert assessor. In order to start we will require:

- A completed referral form with both parents details,
- The full court bundle of documents,
- Confirmation that fees will be met,

Timescales and costs

A suitability assessment takes approximately 2 weeks from receipt of papers and the programme would usually take 18 weeks with a final report provided 4 weeks after completion. Interim reports can be provided upon request at any point during the programme.

The costs depend upon whether a suitability assessment is required and if you already have a DVACT-PAI assessment in place, please contact the office for details.

Final reports

Clients who are found unsuitable will receive a letter, setting out the reasons why they are unsuitable for this programme. A brief interim report can be made available upon request and a detailed final report is provided following the conclusion of the work. All reports are included in the cost of the programme with the final report including the following:

- Sessions missed/attended,
- What the sessions covered,
- Whether the perpetrator has met the targets outlined at the beginning of the work,
- Recommendations for further work where applicable,
- Recommendations for risk management strategies including how child contact can be safely managed.

For the preservation of objectivity, all reports are completed by assessors independent from the practitioner completing the programme of work. As this report is completed by an expert assessor it can be used with confidence in court proceedings – all DV-ACT assessors are experienced, expert witnesses.

Contact us

For further information or to make a referral, please contact us on programmes@dvact.org or call on 02039678368.