

Consultancy



Social Work Teams

DV-ACT experts have considerable experience of developing services for women and children who have experienced domestic abuse, as well as services for perpetrators. We can provide consultancy to social work teams either in one day 'surgeries' or in 1 to 1 sessions in person, by Skype or over the phone, as follows:

- Casework supervision – working with parents, perpetrators or victims to safeguard children
- Project development (i.e. supporting the set-up of a new project)
- Programme development (i.e. helping to evaluate and revise a project's work)



Other Sectors

Our experts can also provide consultancy on the strategic planning of domestic violence services across the community. We have previously worked with police teams, charities and local businesses providing valuable feedback to staff and helping to implement domestic abuse programmes and strategies.

Why not book

Free

bite size training for your team?

About us

DV-ACT is a UK-wide organisation providing expert assessments, consultancy and training for children's services and the family courts. Formerly part of the DVIP family courts team, our assessors have many years of experience in the family court arena both as specialist assessors and expert witnesses. All assessors are educated to post graduate level in relevant disciplines and have at least ten years' experience of specialist direct work with domestic violence perpetrators and victims.

DV-ACT was created with the following aims:

- **Safeguarding children from domestic abuse** - the need to safeguard and protect vulnerable children is at the heart of everything we do.
- **Supporting referrers** - offering reduced timescales to fit in with the requirements of child protection work.
- **Providing an expert service** - our assessors have many years experience in the field.

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DV-ACT

**Domestic Violence
Assessments
Consultancy &
Training**

**Consultancy &
Training**

Training

Safeguarding Children from Domestic Abuse with Expert Assessments, Consultancy & Training

DV-ACT trainers have decades of experience in delivering training to public and voluntary sector agencies including the National Probation Service, the Youth Offending Services, Children's Service teams across the UK and the Family Courts.



Working with families affected by domestic abuse

This training programme is focused on developing practical skills when working with families and increasing the confidence of practitioners when engaging parents in this difficult area.

By the end of the training practitioners should be able to:

- Demonstrate a sound basic knowledge of domestic abuse
- Hear disclosures from victims and know what questions to ask
- Work with and challenge perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Be clear on the limits to confidentiality
- Understand the pattern of separating and reconciling with abusers
- Have a sound understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on children
- Have increased confidence in working with domestic abuse in minority cultures
- Recognise and respond to risky situations including imminent danger
- Feel confident in completing work with families on safety planning and 'managing' risk themselves.



Risk Assessment

What constitutes risk? How do we demonstrate that a client poses a risk? Risk of what? To whom? In what circumstances? What are the best predictors of future behaviour? In a review of serious case investigations DV-ACT has found that in 94% of cases recommendations were made to improve the quality of risk assessment in cases of domestic violence and abuse. One of the most crucial learning points was the tendency among professionals to place too much emphasis on clinical judgement and ignore vital static risk indicators. The training in domestic violence risk assessment has been designed with the lessons from serious case reviews in mind.

By the end of this course participants should be able to:

- Identify static indicators of risk and use them to reach an accurate assessment of the baseline level of risk
- Identify dynamic risk indicators and use them to create risk management plans and make adjustments to the baseline level of risk
- Understand the cycle of violence and abuse as presented by perpetrators themselves
- Use tools and techniques to help victims and perpetrators to manage risky behaviour
- Conduct focused and practical safety planning with the child's well-being at the centre of the concerns.



Vulnerability & Attachment

This training day is designed to help social workers feel more confident in their work with clients who have an attachment to their abuser and where there is a likelihood of reconciliation following separation. After attending, practitioners should be able to:

- Identify key indicators of vulnerability
- Assess the likelihood of ongoing attachment and reconciliation and be able to work with victims in this area
- Have a sound knowledge of the most common cycle of violence
- Approach victims and children with confidence and know what questions to ask
- Make a judgement about treatment suitability.



Team Training

We are happy to discuss your particular training needs with team managers. The most cost-effective option is often for us to come into your workplace to deliver the training. As well as those courses already mentioned we can deliver the following:

- Giving expert evidence in court
- Delivering domestic abuse perpetrator programmes
- Group work techniques
- Motivational interviewing
- Domestic abuse and adolescents.