

# Partner Abuse Interventions

DVACT-PAI is an independent agency specialising in providing expert opinion in the family courts on all aspects of family conflict, including, domestic abuse, sexually harmful behaviour and psychological functioning. We also provide treatment programmes for parents where there are concerns relating to domestic abuse or sex offending, including a trauma programme for perpetrators or victims who have had traumatic experiences that impact on their ability to parent effectively.

All of our programmes are delivered on a 1:1 basis across the UK and 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 services are delivered by specialists with many years of direct experience in working with perpetrators and victims.

## Partner Abuse Interventions

The traditional route whereby a generic intervention is sourced in the early stages of local authority involvement is often unsuitable for the complex needs of parents within child protection measures, resulting in a lack of progress which moves the case into care proceedings. Assessments completed within care proceedings that indicate that parents are able to make the necessary changes when offered a tailored intervention often leads to a delay in proceedings while parents complete the work or parents are not given the opportunity to attend an intervention due to restrictions in the court timetable.

DVACT-PAI aim to meet this gap in provision by offering a wraparound family safety risk and vulnerability assessment alongside a treatment programme. This provides an opportunity for parents to receive an intervention more quickly and enables parents to demonstrate that they can make positive changes to behaviours of concern.

Completing a targeted treatment intervention that aims to achieve genuine progress for parents in protecting their children, shortens timescales, provides evidence as to the parents ability to safeguard the child and avoid further proceedings. The accompanying assessment report will push the case forward providing an expert opinion on the risk posed to the child, and fills a gap in evidence as to whether parents are able to safeguard their child.

This intervention involves the parent attending an initial 2 hour assessment interview with an expert risk assessor who will advise on the most appropriate treatment programme for the parent within an initial suitability assessment report. This will be followed by a 6-12 week programme (depending on the programme required) and a final interview to complete the full risk and vulnerability assessment report, which will include the progress made within the intervention.

## Behaviour Change PAI

This intervention includes a risk or vulnerability assessment alongside a full intensive behaviour change programme.

The 12 session 6 week victims programme will focus on the attachment to the abusive partner, with reflective work on how the attachment was formed and how the mothers vulnerability to further abuse can be reduced. The full 24 session 12 week Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme (DAPP) will be delivered to the offending parent with twice weekly sessions.

The Behaviour Change Intervention path is suitable for:

- Victims no longer living with the abusive partner who are willing to reflect on their previous relationship
- Perpetrators that make some admissions of their abusive behaviour
- There are no mental health or substance misuse issues that would reduce the effectiveness of an intervention.

## Needs PAI

A Needs PAI includes a risk or vulnerability assessment alongside a 6 week, 12 session programme that meets the immediate child protection concerns around safety and increasing accountability.

Victim work will concentrate on domestic abuse education, safety planning and recognising risk; A Perpetrator intervention will involve motivational work to increase levels of acceptance with the aim of moving them to a position where they will be suitable for a full behavioural change programme.

The Needs Intervention path is suitable for:

- Victims who remain in a relationship with the abuser
- Where there is limited acceptance of the risk concerns by the parent
- Where mental health and substance misuse difficulties are likely to hinder the parents ability to engage on an intensive programme of behavioural change
- High levels of trauma
- Perpetrators whose level of denial, minimisation and blame mean they are unsuitable for a full behaviour change programme.

## TraumaSense PAI

Where high levels of trauma mean that a focused trauma intervention is required the 24 session, 12 week TraumaSense programme is delivered as a psychoeducational programme designed to support victims or perpetrators who are struggling with the long-term emotional, psychological, and somatic impacts of trauma. The programme is rooted in the latest evidence-based research and trauma theory providing a unique and empowering pathway to post-traumatic growth.

## Intervention delivery

All sessions and assessment interviews take place using video calling on a one-to-one basis with a trained, experienced facilitator. Assessment reports are completed by expert domestic abuse risk assessors. DVACT-PAI hold the register for expert assessors who meet the necessary standards to provide Child Focused Domestic Abuse Risk Assessments. You can find our Standards and the Register of Experts on our website at [dvact.org/expertsregister](http://dvact.org/expertsregister).

## Costs and timescales

The PAI service reduces time and costs in comparison to a standalone assessment and programme. Details of the costs are below, however please contact the programmes team if you need a comparative quote that provides you with the timescales and costs of all the available options.

**Behaviour Change PAI** (Vulnerable mothers programme, capacity to protect programme, DAPP alongside a family safety assessment) - Victims £4700, Perpetrator - £5600, both parents £7800.

**Needs PAI** (Mothers Safety Programme or Motivational Programme delivered alongside a Family Safety Assessment) - Victims - £4700, Perpetrator - £4700, both parents - £6500.

**TraumaSense PAI** - Victims or perpetrators £4900

It is possible mix and different assessments and programmes depending of the needs of the parents, please contact the office for costs.

The initial suitability stage takes 4 weeks from receipt of documents with programmes delivered twice weekly over 6 or 12 weeks. The full final family safety assessment report is filed 6 weeks after programme completion.

## Referral process

These interventions can only be referred to by social workers for parents in child protection measures or in care proceedings. To start the programme we require:

- Completed referral form with parents contact details
- The full court bundle of documents if in care proceedings or if not in care proceedings we require the social work chronology, any assessments completed, and minutes from CP conferences or meetings,
- Confirmation that the fees will be met by the local authority.

To make a referral or for further information please contact the programmes team at [programmes@dvact.org](mailto:programmes@dvact.org).