



DV-ACT

DV-ACTION Domestic Abuse Programme for Cases in Private Law Proceedings

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 private law (contact or residency) proceedings, please contact us for details for cases that are in child protection measures or care proceedings.

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 Perpetrator (Violence Prevention) Programme

Domestic abuse perpetrator programmes (DAPP's) are structured programmes of work that give perpetrators the opportunity to change their behaviour towards their past/present intimate partner. In the past DAPPs in the UK generally took place in a groupwork face to face setting, however, the pandemic has made remote sessions more viable giving an opportunity to those who are unable to access group work programmes the option of completing work on a one to one basis from home.

DV-ACT offers a structured perpetrator programme based on the Respect model with trained, experienced domestic abuse treatment practitioners. This work takes place remotely using video call technology (with zoom or similar) meaning that it is open to anyone in the UK.

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



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What does the programme include?

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 treatment worker,
- An offer of free confidential support to current/previous partners,
- Sessions delivered remotely using zoom or similar,
- The option to tailor the programme sessions to the needs of the perpetrator,
- A full final report that can be used in court proceedings.

Who is the programme suitable for?

The programme is designed to work with perpetrators in the UK where the family court or has concerns regarding the risk of harm to children due to domestic abuse and they are unable to attend a group programme (this could be due to a lack of provision in the local area, language difficulties, female perpetrator, same-sex relationship or waiting lists putting the intervention outside of the children's timescales). 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; female perpetrators; parents in court proceedings; those currently in a relationship and separated parents.

What are the aims of the programme?

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,



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What topics are covered in the sessions?

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.

How is the programme delivered?

The programme consists of 18 sessions delivered on a one-to-one basis by an experienced DV-ACT treatment worker remotely using video calling app zoom or similar. 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.

How long will it take?

The programme would usually take 20 weeks to complete with a final report usually provided 2 weeks after completion. However, any filing dates given for the final report will depend upon attendance.

How much does it cost?

All costs need to be met in full prior to starting the work as follows:

- Suitability assessment - £440 (payment is required before the assessment takes place)
- Programme with full final report - £2380 (paid in 2 stages, the 1st payment is due before the 1st session and the second payment due before the 10th session)



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What is required for a referral to DV-ACT?

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.

For those in private (contact or residency) proceedings, we will require:

- A court order, ordering DV-ACT to deliver the programme,
- The contact details of the respondent (supplied directly from them, the court or their solicitor),
- The full court bundle of documents which must include any Cafcass reports completed, statements from both parties and any findings made,
- Payment for the suitability assessment or the first phase of the programme (please see below)
- That the case remains open with the court and Cafcass (or equivalent such as social services or NYAS) with arrangements made for the filing of the final report,
- If the case includes high risk potentially lethal behaviours by the perpetrator we require a copy of a full robust risk assessment completed by an expert domestic abuse risk assessor that recommends the programme and confirms the perpetrators suitability. For further details of private law risk assessments please contact us.

What reports are available?

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 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;
- recommendations for risk management strategies including how child contact can be safely managed.

For the preservation of objectivity, all final reports are completed by assessors independent from the practitioner completing the 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.