

DV-ACTION Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme - Self Referrals



DV-ACT are an independent organisation providing expert domestic and sexual abuse assessments and treatment programmes for children's services and the family courts.

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.

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. The DV-ACT one-to-one DAPP includes:

- a suitability assessment,
- 18 one-to-one sessions delivered by a trained facilitator with at least 5 years experience of delivering perpetrator work for a community DAPP or probation programme,
- sessions delivered remotely using zoom or similar,
- the option to tailor the programme sessions to cover the concerns of the court, and take into account different learning styles and abilities,
- independent learning tasks to complete between sessions,
- access to technology to complete sessions (where required),
- free confidential support to current/previous partners,
- a final risk assessment report that can be filed with all parties.

Programme aims

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

- encouraging parents 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 parents 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,

Referral criteria

Our program is available to those parents who have a child that is subject to ongoing child protection measures (child in need, child protection, PLO) or care proceedings and are referred by a social worker. We can accept a limited number of self-referrals from parents in private court proceedings.

Self-referring parents should be aware of our criteria as follows:

- Parents must first attend a suitability assessment (please see below) and be committed to attending sessions regularly until completed;
- We will need a court order for a domestic abuse programme and permission from the court to disclose the full court bundle of documents to us;
- The attending parent will need to meet the full cost of the programme (£400+VAT for the assessment and £3000+VAT for the full programme) and any translation costs.

Please note that we are unable to accept cases in the following circumstances:

- Where there is a Section 91 in place;
- If there are ongoing criminal proceedings or police investigations;
- If an expert or programme provider has found the parent unsuitable for a programme in the last 6 months.

Programme suitability

The programme is designed to work with parents in the UK where the family court has concerns regarding the risk of harm to children due to domestic abuse. Parents will need to be found suitable via a suitability assessment before they can be offered a place on the programme. To be suitable parents need to:

- accept that their behaviour is/has been abusive,
- be motivated to change their behaviour,
- be willing and able to attend and complete the full programme,

Session content

Programme sessions can be tailored to the case but will cover all the topics usually delivered within a DAPP following the Duluth model including:

- strategies for reducing violence,
- analysing feelings and behaviour,
- impact of abuse on children and women,
- reparative parenting,
- emotional abuse,
- developing empathy,
- respectful relationships,
- attitudes towards women

Final report

At the end of the programme the parent will attend an additional session with an expert assessor in order to complete the final assessment report. The detailed final report will be filed 4 weeks following completion of the programme and will include the following:

- confirmation of sessions missed/attended,
- what the sessions covered,
- whether the parent 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.

Costs and timescales

The programme takes 18 weeks to complete sessions with at least 4 weeks following this to prepare and file the final report. Please contact us for our current timescales to start the programme. The costs for those self funding the programme are as follows:

Suitability assessment £400 +VAT

The programme £3000 +VAT (this can be paid in instalments)

Please note that translation fees and court attendance fees are not included and will need to be met in addition to the fees given above.