

What works: how children's services practice can effectively address domestic abuse



Invitation

We are pleased to invite you to attend our workshop titled ***What Works: how children's services practice can effectively address domestic abuse*** on **Thursday 13th October** 9.30am to 1.30pm (including lunch) at ORT House, 126 Albert Street, Camden, London, NW1 7NE.

The workshop will bring together experienced practitioners and experts to explore the cross cutting, complex and often high risk nature of effectively addressing domestic abuse in children's services practice. It will be jointly delivered by Cordis Bright and a current and former Director of Children's Services. More information about workshop contributors and their specialist experience and knowledge in the field of domestic abuse and children's services practice is provided below my signature.

Workshop objectives

- Identify effective practice in children's services in tackling domestic abuse
- Explore successful strategies that can be used to strengthen practice
- Scope out likely future pressures on services
- Agree how other partners can contribute.

Why now?

- 60% of serious case reviews involve domestic abuse (Brandon et al, 2012)
- Domestic abuse was recorded as the most common factor in 41% of continuous assessments completed in 2013/14 (Ofsted Annual Social Care Report)
- A third of children witnessing domestic violence also experienced another form of abuse (Radford et al, 2011)
- Domestic abuse will be the second 'deep dive' theme of Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) starting in September
- The new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy includes a focus on children, young people and families reflecting a life course approach
- Participants at our '*Lessons Learned: effective commissioning for domestic abuse services*' seminar in May highlighted the lack of joined up approaches to working with

families and a lack of provision for perpetrators as key challenges in effectively addressing domestic abuse.

Audience

The workshop is aimed at:

- Directors of Children's Services
- Assistant Directors
- Managers of domestic abuse services
- Managers of social work teams
- Local authority commissioners of domestic abuse services
- Chairs of local safeguarding children boards

Other people that may be interested in attending are staff from Offices of Police and Crime Commissioners, NHS, independent sector providers of domestic abuse services, and social workers.

The sessions will be interactive and participative. We are keen to tap-in to your own expertise and provide opportunities to share your own experiences.

Agenda

The agenda will include the following discussion groups and panels:

- **Key issues and gaps in addressing domestic abuse in children's services practice.** This session will include a presentation based on research from case file audits of over 300 children's social care files in four different local authorities which identified key improvement areas in addressing domestic abuse
- **Effective practice around multi-agency working and joined-up approaches** to addressing domestic abuse. This session will include a discussion around the second 'deep dive' theme of domestic abuse for Joint Targeted Area Inspections (JTAI) starting in September
- What the **national VAWG strategy (May, 2016) and National Statement of Expectations** means for providing and commissioning services for children and young people
- **'Top tips' for children's services** to effectively address domestic abuse. This will include our top tips as well as exploring colleagues' own experience of achieving improvements
- **'What works' in designing a strategic approach** to addressing domestic abuse in children's social care practice.

Workshop details are:

- **Time:** 9.30-13.30
- **Date:** Thursday 13th October
- **Venue:** ORT House, 126 Albert Street, Camden, London, NW1 7NE
- **Cost:** £50 per place including lunch

To book your place please contact Mark Norton at Cordis Bright on marknorton@cordisbright.co.uk or phone 020 7330 9170. Or book directly via EventBrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-works-how-childrens-services-practice-can-effectively-address-domestic-abuse-tickets-27122515173>.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the workshop please contact Yvette King (yvetteking@cordisbright.co.uk) or Sarah Barker (sarahbarker@cordisbright.co.uk) at Cordis Bright or phone 020 7330 9170.

I hope that you'll be able to attend.

Best wishes,



Yvette King, Head of Safeguarding
Cordis Bright

Contributors

Yvette King: Head of Safeguarding at Cordis Bright. Support to over 48 local authorities on children's services through leadership and management support, coaching and mentoring, advanced training, quality assurance, auditing, service reviews and as an interim Assistant Director of Safeguarding. Former HMI Inspector

Andy Dempsey: recently appointed as Director of Children's Services at Torbay. Formerly: Director of Children's Services; Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Youth Services at St Helens

Meera Spillett: formerly Director of Children's Services at Oxfordshire, Deputy Director of Prevention, Early Intervention and Specialist Services at Norfolk. Former HMI Inspector. Associate of the Staff College (previously known as the Virtual Staff College).

Sarah Barker: Researcher at Cordis Bright. Recently conducted an evaluation of a regional model of VAWG services. Previously delivered frontline services, training, including a national domestic abuse training qualification, and consultancy in the specialist VAWG sector.

More about Cordis Bright: we provide research, consultancy, training and case file auditing aimed at supporting our clients to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. Recent projects relating to domestic abuse include: conducting domestic abuse and violence against women and girls needs assessments and developing strategic commissioning approaches for a number of localities across the UK; supporting the development of a new model for commissioning for victims' services; conducting evaluations of national helplines and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), providing ongoing support to service providers and reviewing the funding of domestic abuse projects across Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Cordis Bright recently delivered a seminar on '*Lessons Learned: effective commissioning for domestic abuse services*' with partners which was attended by over 40 health, police and local authority commissioners.

Recent projects with a specific focus on children and young people include: providing ongoing support and review to local authorities, including a Safeguarding Unit, Early Intervention teams and Youth Offending teams, and service providers, evaluating three projects supported under the Department for Education's Social Care Innovation Programme, working across 15 local authorities to help profile current and future pressures in high-demand, high-cost areas within children's services and delivering bespoke training to and robust case file auditing for social work teams.