



# Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2012



Domestic Abuse  
Oxfordshire  
Reducing the Risk



## Safer Oxfordshire

*Working together to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime*

## Contents:

Introduction

Strategic aim

Strategic objectives

Guiding principles

Strategy summary: a three stranded integrated approach

Legislative framework, performance measures and evaluation

Strategy development and delivery plan

Appendix 1 Glossary

Appendix 2 Oxfordshire Strategy Matrix

Appendix 3 Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group

- remit
- strategic positioning and cross cutting
- staff resources
- finance
- accountability

Appendix 4 Organisational position of the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group

Appendix 5 Oxfordshire Community Response Matrix



**Domestic Abuse can  
affect anyone.  
It could be someone  
you know.  
It could be you.**

## Domestic Abuse Home Office Definition 2004

"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."

This includes issues of concern to black and minority ethnic (BME) communities such as so called 'honour based violence', female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

*An adult is defined as any person aged 18 years or over.*

*Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, and grandparents, whether directly related, in laws or step-family.*

*Home Office Crime Reduction website 2008*

Honour-Based Violence (HBV) is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community.

*The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)*

A forced marriage is one where one or both parties are coerced into a marriage against their will and under duress. It is an abuse of human rights and cannot be justified on any religious or cultural basis.

*Foreign and Commonwealth Office.*



Anyone can experience domestic abuse – it can happen in all kinds of relationships, regardless of age, race, gender, disability, wealth and lifestyle.

Respect



## Introduction

The quality of couple and family relationships is fundamental to our wellbeing as individuals and as a community. The past thirty years have seen a societal change in attitude towards understanding and tackling domestic abuse and it is now at the forefront of community safety and child protection agendas locally and nationally. Oxfordshire has long placed a priority on addressing abuse within relationships, to promoting the safety and welfare of all those affected, and to holding those responsible to account.

The importance of this strategy is evident

- Domestic abuse affects both men and women although the majority of victims are women. It crosses all socio-economic groups and cultures. It is prevalent but often hidden, and is still significantly under-reported. It is estimated that one in ten women will experience domestic abuse at any one time. One in four women will experience domestic abuse during their lifetime, and up to one in six men will experience it during theirs
- Domestic abuse comprises a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviours which have a tendency to escalate. It accounts for 16% of reported violent crime, and 25-30% of Oxfordshire's adult homicides
- The physical and emotional consequences for the victim are profound and insidious. Ongoing abuse induces lack of confidence, self blame, a tendency to deny the degree of abuse, social isolation, depression and other mental illness. This and other factors explain why leaving an abusive relationship is not easy, and to plan to do so often increases the risk
- Domestic abuse invariably impacts on children in the household whether or not they have direct experience of the abuse. It may detrimentally affect their emotional wellbeing, behaviour, attainment and longer-term life chances. The younger the child the more vulnerable. Domestic abuse is a factor in the majority of Safeguarding Children Board serious case reviews of child death or injury, and in three quarters of cases of children on child protection plans. A recent Oxfordshire school pilot revealed that seven out of eight young people on fixed term exclusion had experience of domestic abuse
- There is a financial cost to society. An analysis by Sylvia Walby, updated in 2008, estimates the total cost to the country as £15.73 billion. The annual cost of domestic and sexual abuse to statutory services and business in Oxfordshire is estimated at £125 million (not including human and emotional costs)

*I think this is among the best if not the best in the country. Oxfordshire is really leading. One thing Oxfordshire is really good at is what they call partnership – agencies work properly with each other.*

Nick Ross Nov 08

We are proud that Oxfordshire has developed a strong partnership and innovative approach to reducing the risk of domestic abuse which is recognised in the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Local Area Agreement (LAA) library of good practice, [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk). We will continue to evidence the effectiveness of our work through monitoring our progress and producing an annual report.

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who supports, in a wide variety of ways, the different elements of this strategy. Most of all we would like to stress our accountability to everyone who is affected by domestic abuse in Oxfordshire and our aspiration to make a difference.

#### Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (ODASG):

Cherwell Community Safety Partnership  
Oxford Safer Communities Partnership  
South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership  
Vale of White Horse Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership  
West Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership  
Oxfordshire County Council Safer Communities Unit  
Thames Valley Police  
Thames Valley Probation  
Crown Prosecution Service  
Oxfordshire voluntary sector:  
    Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse (Reducing the Risk)  
    Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service (ODAS)  
    Victim Support  
NHS Oxfordshire  
Oxfordshire County Council Children, Young People and Families Service



*“The quality of couple and family relationships is fundamental to our wellbeing as individuals and as a community.”*



## Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy

### Strategic Aim

ODASG's aim and common purpose is to

- reduce the frequency and consequences of domestic abuse
- increase the safety and wellbeing of all those affected

### Strategic Objectives

The strategy has four core objectives supported by performance measures

- **Prevention:** raising awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on adults and children and fostering healthy couple and family relationships
- **Early intervention:** promoting early disclosure of abuse and safe response
- **Effective support:** developing dedicated services and a range of resources which can be accessed by all parts of our community
- **Risk management and enforcement:** implementing excellent risk management and civil and criminal justice processes

Please see page 16 for the remit, strategic positioning, cross-cutting work, staffing and finances of ODASG.

### Guiding Principles

The strategy rests on key principles which provide a strategic framework

- The safety of everyone affected, and safeguarding children, is our priority
- Integrated services are vital to ensure safety and effective support
- Empowering victims and respecting their choice is an underlying principle
- The strategy should be founded on evidence-based good practice and on guidance from The Home Office's National Frameworks and Community Response Model (*see appendix 5*)
- The strategy should be informed by local needs, take forward those elements where a county approach adds value, and similarly draw on a Thames Valley- wide approach where this brings added benefit
- Agencies across Oxfordshire should work to a common model which integrates work with victims, children and offenders and incorporates common standards and a common approach to risk assessment
- The strategy should be inclusive and draw on the input of survivors of domestic abuse, including children and young people

## Strategy summary

Our intention is to achieve our aim and objectives through

1. Forging an integrated approach to work with adult victims/survivors, children and perpetrators
2. Supporting this through comprehensive training, performance management and communication strategies
3. Sustaining a dedicated multi-agency partnership, aligning our work with other initiatives in the county and mainstreaming domestic abuse services so far as possible

## The three strands of the integrated strategy

### Work with adults affected by domestic abuse

- The bedrock of our strategy is to promote early disclosure of abuse and safe response through multi-agency networks of trained front line staff, which meet on a regular basis, provide an expert resource within their organisation and a conduit across agencies. These are Oxfordshire's domestic abuse Champion Networks. They are designed to provide a virtual one stop shop across our rural county and a seamless link for those affected to all the resources they need. Champions receive ongoing training and all new service initiatives are connected into the networks

- Management of significant risk is undertaken through Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) , Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) and Oxfordshire's Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service which is, in effect, a homicide prevention service
- A wide range of services are being continuously developed to provide safety, choice and support e.g. website, helpline, district-based outreach workers, refuge and sanctuary provision, access to civil remedy, support groups, mentoring and counseling
- Community awareness raising and preventative work are undertaken through campaigns, media and materials, through educational work with children and young people, through early years work, and through wider support for couples and families to build healthy relationships

*21,000 women in Oxfordshire between the ages of 16 and 59 will experience domestic or sexual abuse during the course of a year. One in ten women will experience domestic abuse at any one time.*

### Work with children and young people affected by domestic abuse

The impact on children of witnessing domestic violence is defined in legislation as abusive. The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board recognises domestic abuse as a core element of child protection.

The Children's Strategy Group is a subgroup of both the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and the Safeguarding Board. This enables it to

- ensure that processes and training are aligned with the 'adult' strategy
- build integrated services and a family-centred approach
- develop links for assessment between children, adults affected and perpetrator

The primary stands of its work are

#### 1. Preventative work

- early years support for families
- integrated Personal, Health, Social and Economic (PHSE) education modules appropriate to different age groups

#### 2. Effective early intervention

- equipping staff working with children and young people to identify children who may be at risk, respond appropriately and undertake an initial risk assessment. Core to this approach is to train Champions in every school and child-centred setting and to train staff in specialist roles to act as consultants
- providing an appropriate risk assessment tool, associated sign-posting and procedures
- developing the capacity of staff working with children below the child protection threshold to engage and work with families safely and effectively, building on Oxfordshire's locality structures for this purpose
- ensuring that children and young people at acute risk are readily identified and have immediate access to child protection processes and resources

#### 3. Age-appropriate, inclusive services and resources

- the development of therapeutic and support services for children and young people which are age appropriate
- support for parents to support their children
- increased capacity to work with children and young people with complex needs

#### 4. High risk management

- ensuring that child protection and MARAC processes are well aligned
- working with community safety and mental health services to address the 'toxic three' of domestic abuse, mental health and substance abuse as the most common factors in serious case reviews

The Children's Strategy Group is also tasked with developing a strategy for work with young perpetrators, and work with young couples in an abusive relationship.

*For full information please see the children's domestic abuse strategy [www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk)*

#### Work with perpetrators

This work incorporates prevention, early intervention, resources to manage and address behaviour, and enforcement. There are two significant components

- Criminal justice processes which focus on: early and effective intervention, management of high risk offenders, efficient process through the court, and links with civil remedy
- Probation-led and community-based initiatives, resources and programmes. These are designed to contain and change behaviour safely

There is wide variation in individual and family profiles, motivation and risk levels posed by perpetrators. Not all domestic violence takes place in the context of a pattern of controlling behaviour by one partner on another. This work requires a range of resources and robust assessment.

The effectiveness of this element of the strategy is a key to

- ensuring that offenders are held responsible for their actions and society demonstrates that it will not tolerate violence and abuse within relationships
- promoting the safety and wellbeing of adults and children at risk
- responding, challenging and supporting perpetrators of abuse who wish to change their pattern of behaviour and need help and encouragement to do so



*Domestic abuse crosses all socio-economic groups and cultures. It is prevalent but often hidden and it is still significantly under-reported.*

## Elements which underpin the integrated strategy

All aspects of the strategy are supported by a comprehensive county training strategy, effective performance management, a communication strategy to raise awareness and encourage early disclosure to police or other agencies, and support to ensure the strategy is inclusive and meets legislative requirements in this respect.

## Honour-Based Violence

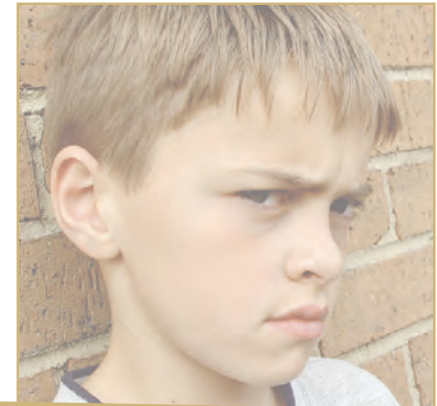
HBV has in common with domestic abuse a pattern of controlling behaviour which may include physical and/or emotional abuse, detention, and in some circumstances homicide. It differs in that the perpetrator may be a member of the immediate or extended family, a community member or a combination of these. The guiding principles informing the work are similar to those outlined on page 4. However training, risk assessment, interventions and resources in relation to prevention, early intervention, risk management and support may differ.

## Legislative framework, Quality Assurance and Performance Management

Oxfordshire's strategy is developed within the framework of relevant legislation, evidence-based good practice and national guidelines. The strategy is flexible to respond to new legislation and quality assurance guidelines, to identify gaps, and to proactively request research where evidence is lacking.

## Legislation: Acts and Bills

- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2006: basis for Commission for Equality and Human Rights 2007 Positive duty on public sector to promote equality of opportunity - with significant implications for domestic abuse including Violence Against Women.
- Equalities Bill 2009 – overarching bill for equality and diversity legislation



Domestic abuse is a factor in the majority of Safeguarding Children Board serious case reviews of child death or serious injury and in three quarters of cases of children on child protection plans.

## Government Papers and National Guidelines

- Safety and Justice: government proposals on domestic violence 2003
- Inter-ministerial Group National Report 2005
- Home Office: National Framework for Domestic Violence 2006 which gives four key outcomes:
  - to increase early identification and intervention with victims
  - to build capacity within the sector
  - to improve the criminal justice response to domestic violence
  - to support victims and manage perpetrators
- Cross-Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse 2007
- Guidelines for work with Honour-Based Violence 2008
- Together we can: End Violence to Women and Girls 2009

## National performance Indicators

- NI 32 – repeat incidents of domestic violence
- PSA 23 – focusing on the reduction of crime including sexual violence

National good practice guidelines are summarised in ‘The Community Response to Domestic Violence Model’ which incorporates tiers of risk and illustrates the need for a co-ordinated response amongst agencies.

Central to the National Delivery Plan is the work of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC). In addition Oxfordshire follows:

- Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) quality standards for MARACs and reducing risk to victims
- RESPECT quality standards for work with perpetrator programmes

*For Oxfordshire’s community response model please see appendix 5.*

“Domestic abuse is a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviours which have a tendency to escalate. It accounts for 16% of reported violent crime, and up to 30% of Oxfordshire’s adult homicides.”

### National framework with specific application to work with children and young people

Domestic Abuse is a core element within child protection and safeguarding. In January 2005 Section 120 of the Adoption and Children's Act 2002 was amended to include 'impairment suffered from seeing or hearing ill treatment of another' within the definition of harm to children. Central to Oxfordshire's integrated domestic abuse strategy are

- Every Child Matters 2004
- The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006 which details responsibilities and provide substantial guidance for good practice.
- Maternity Matters 2007
- Healthy lives, brighter futures 2009

Oxfordshire also draws on national and local evidence from serious case reviews of child death and serious injury.

*Repeat victimisation accounts for 66% of all incidents of domestic abuse.*

### Oxfordshire's performance management framework

The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group has developed its own performance management framework. This includes both quantitative and qualitative data, and incorporates service user feedback. The purpose is to establish the need for services and ensure that

- our services are safe
- we are making a difference, including performance against any benchmarks
- we are making most effective use of our resources

The framework is subject to regular review to ensure it supports the work of ODASG and the development of the domestic abuse strategy effectively. It is intended to

- enable monitoring of formal accountabilities including the LAA 2 National Indicator, NI 32, which relates to repeat incidents of domestic violence
- help to identify cross-cutting issues across the partnerships with view to developing shared action plans within and across the partnerships and an alignment of activities and resources to achieve greater impact more efficiently
- inform the Strategic Intelligence Assessment process
- identify and inform local and strategic priorities

For full account see ODASG [annual report www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk)

## Strategy delivery plan

The strategy is rolled out in planned stages and through eleven activity areas supported by action groups. The groups develop and report against action plans which are monitored by the ODASG. They also have a remit to

- identify strategic capacity elsewhere where there are opportunities for liaison and mutual benefit
- look for strategic alignment and cross-cutting opportunities
- identify current resources and services on which they might build and add value

**1 Early intervention and Champions:** Action group led by the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Champion's Co-ordinator. This work includes sustaining and developing the champion-based approach, regular evaluation, associated work with the helpline and website, and ongoing initiatives to encourage safe early disclosure of abuse and effective response.

**2 High risk management:** led by the MARAC review group which includes Police, IDVA service, Probation, Oxfordshire County Council Children, Young People and Families and the chair of ODASG. The group is responsible for the effectiveness of the multi-agency MARAC and alignment with child protection and Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) processes. It leads on the action plan to deliver the NI 32 target and on developing effective interventions in high risk cases.

**3 Remedy through criminal and civil law:** Action group led by the Crown Prosecution Service and advised by Oxfordshire solicitors. The group works with the statutory and third sector to develop and deliver excellent services for victims of domestic abuse, through the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts. It engages with the Crown Court to improve services to victims and builds links with the County Court and promotes effective civil remedy.

**4 Support services for those affected by domestic abuse:** Action group led by the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator in liaison with dedicated service providers. The group's remit is to identify gaps, enhance the quality of current provision, advise on the development of new services which meet the need of victims and survivors, incorporate safe assessment and signposting, ensure co-ordinated referral processes and link new services with the Champion Networks.



*Men are victims of domestic violence at the hands of both male and female partners.*

BBC

*The effects of domestic abuse can be just as serious for men as they are for women.*

Shelter

**5 Children's strategy:** led by the children's domestic abuse strategy group. This is a strategy in its own right - see page 6.

**6 Perpetrator strategy:** Action group led by the Probation Service and the Oxford City Domestic and Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator with remit to develop initiatives and resources, and associated assessment tools, with a view to safely containing and/or changing the behaviour of violent and abusive partners.

**7 Sexual violence and abuse**

Oxfordshire's sexual violence and abuse strategy is being developed as an integrated strategy in its own right. However there are significant areas of overlap with domestic abuse and ODASG has a lead role in coordinating the strategic approach. Development of the strategy is supported by a multi-agency advisory group chaired by the Oxford City Domestic and Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator.

**The work of these seven groups is underpinned by four further areas of activity**

**8 (i) Strategic positioning, (ii) performance management and (iii) funding.**

These are key elements for the strategy and reflect the direct responsibilities of ODASG. This work is undertaken in close liaison with the Chair.

**9 Training**

Development and delivery of integrated training is fundamental to the success of the strategy and this work is led by the county co-ordinator.

**10 Communication**

A communication group develops and co-ordinates ODASG's communication plan. Its purpose is to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and to prompt early disclosure. Domestic Abuse materials, initiatives and campaigns are delivered under the 'Reducing the Risk' brand. They are designed to complement other community safety and safeguarding messages, and draw on media and communication expertise in a variety of organisations across the county.

In addition, regular open fora are held in Oxfordshire to communicate and invite input into aspects of the county strategy. Conferences and seminars are held locally or regionally to raise either public or professional awareness of specific themes.

*Domestic abuse invariably impacts on children and affects their emotional wellbeing, behaviour, attainment and longer term life chances.*



## 11 Inclusion

Services for men, women and children which are inclusive, accessible and responsive to a range of needs and circumstances are central to the principles and success of this strategy. The work draws on expertise from across the county on the development of inclusive services including advice about culturally-specific aspects of the strategy.

### An integrated Structure

Activity across the eleven groups is aligned and co-ordinated through the work of an Executive Team, which is chaired by the county Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator. Each action group is represented on the Executive Team and on ODASG.

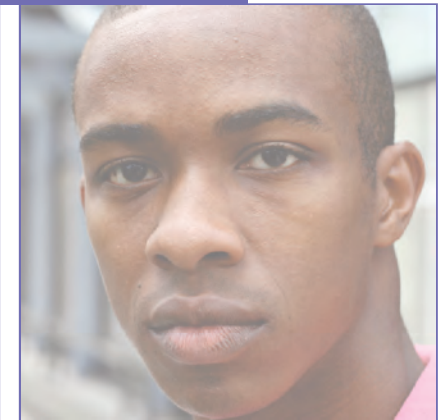
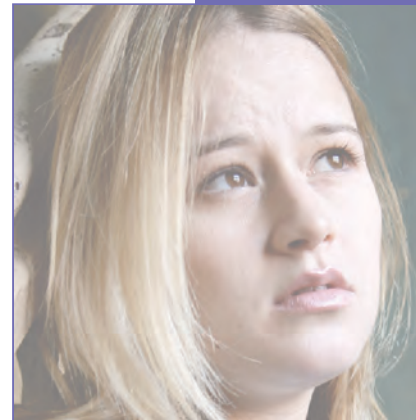
Each action group also identifies its performance management, training, communication and financial needs and any issues of inclusion. These are considered and integrated into co-ordinated action plans by the respective 'underpinning' group, and by the Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust in respect of the children's strategy.

An annual report details progress against the eleven areas of activity. [www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk)

*On average two women a week in the UK will be killed by a male partner or former partner.*



**Domestic Abuse can affect anyone.  
It could be someone you know.  
It could be you.**



## Appendix 1: Glossary

**CAADA: Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse.** Independent national quality assurance and training body recognised by the government as setting the quality standards for IDVA services and MARAC

**CAFCASS: Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service.** Independent body established in 2001 to look after the interests of children and young people who are involved in proceedings of the Family Court

**IDVA: Independent Domestic Violence Advisor.** Trained professional who supports adults at significant risk from domestic abuse and is able to act as a lead professional for the MARAC. IDVA services are nationally recommended good practice

**LAA: Local Area Agreement.** This is a three year agreement between government and a partnership of agencies for the local area. LAA2 is the second agreement

**MAPPAs: Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements.** Statutory process for supporting the assessment and management of the most serious sexual and violent offenders

**MARAC: Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.** Multi agency process for sharing and evaluating information and agreeing actions to safeguard adults at high risk from domestic abuse

**NI: National Indicators.** These are a single set of national indicators set by the government. Progress is measured against agreed targets

**ODASG: Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group.** Multi Agency body responsible for the development and implementation of an integrated strategy to address and reduce the risk of domestic abuse in Oxfordshire

**PCAMHS: Primary Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.** Early intervention service for children with emotional or mental health needs

**PHSE: Personal, Health, Social and Economic education** – an element of the UK school curriculum which equips children and young people with knowledge of a range of issues and associated life skills

**PSA: Public Service Agreements.** These are targets and objectives set for government departments

**PSB: Public Service Board.** The body established by the Oxfordshire partnership in 2005 to oversee development of the Local Area Agreement and take responsibility for monitoring the development and delivery of priority outcomes

**RESPECT: National body which sets standards for programmes and resources which address the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic abuse**

**SDVC: Specialist Domestic Violence Court**

**SIA: Strategic Intelligence Assessment.** A joint strategic assessment of crime and community safety issues undertaken annually by Police and Safer Community Partnerships

## Appendix 2: Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Matrix

	<b>Victim/survivor</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Perpetrator/offender</b>
<b>High risk management and law enforcement</b>	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Service (MARAC) Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVA) Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)	Child Protection processes aligned with MARAC Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service	Criminal justice processes MAPPA/ work with prolific offenders
<b>Resources for safety empowerment and support</b>	Refuge provision Outreach support Floating support Sanctuary scheme Civil Law remedies Support groups Counselling Mentoring by survivors	Age appropriate support: Therapeutic programmes Primary Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (PCAMHS) Peer groups Support for parents to support children Resources for children with complex needs Specialist/ refuge based children's workers Child and Family Court Advice & Support Service (CAFCASS)	Probation and community-based behavioural change programmes Skill acquisition Mentoring and individual therapies Helpline
<b>Early intervention</b>	Staff training Champions Awareness raising Helpline Website Materials	Staff training Champions Locality-based work Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the Family Youth Offending Service	Staff training Champions Community programmes and resources to address behaviour Criminal Justice processes
<b>Prevention</b>	Early years family support services Parenting/family relationship programmes and services Healthy relationships PHSE Community awareness Campaigns	Early years family support services Parenting/family relationship programmes and services Healthy relationships PHSE Community awareness Campaigns	Early years family support services Parenting/family relationship programmes and services Healthy relationships PHSE Community awareness Campaigns

## Appendix 3: Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group

### Remit

ODASG is a multi-agency partnership established in 2004 to develop an integrated strategy to reduce the risk of domestic abuse across Oxfordshire. It has a common purpose to

- increase the safety and wellbeing of those affected by domestic abuse
- enhance the capacity of its members to meet their respective district and countywide responsibilities

The strategy group is broadly responsible for

- strategic overview, driving the strategy forward, regular appraisal
- identifying key principles, legislative requirements, national guidelines and evidence-based good practice - responding to new requirements as they arise
- Monitoring and co-ordinating the work of the eleven action groups, ensuring sustainable capacity for strategy development and delivery, addressing any substantial issues and obstacles
- Quality Assurance
  - Performance management including delivery of national and local targets
  - Promoting research and evidence-based work, endorsing and evaluating new initiatives and acting as a repository of good practice

- Strategic positioning, communication, influence
- Alignment with the work of other strategic bodies and cross-cutting
- Financial strategy and maximizing use of resources
- Support and direction for partnership post-holders

### Strategic positioning and cross-cutting

ODASG is member of Oxfordshire's Safer Communities Partnership and is one of a number of themed partnerships which take forward community safety priorities across the county. The associated Children's Domestic Abuse Strategy Group is also a sub-group of Oxfordshire's Safeguarding Children Board.

ODASG is well-placed to

- identify cross-cutting elements within community safety themed partnerships, such as the alcohol and drug strategies and strategies to reduce violence
- incorporate the children domestic abuse strategy within safeguarding and locality structures
- work closely with the Children's Trust to contribute to areas such as the integrated youth strategy, early years strategy and PHSE development
- work with the Health and Wellbeing Partnership in areas such as adult safeguarding

ODASG contributes to work across the Thames Valley and to wider regional and national initiatives.

## Staff resources

Co-ordination of the strategy rests on two posts which act as lynchpins for activity to develop, co-ordinate and roll out the breadth of strategy

- The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator works strategically to develop and co-ordinate the strategy and associated areas of activity. The post holder both advises and is directed by ODASG and works closely with the Chair
- The Oxfordshire Champions Co-ordinator co-ordinates and delivers those operational aspects of the strategy for which ODASG is directly responsible including the Champions, their Networks and the county website

The Oxford City Domestic and Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator provides essential additional executive capacity and leads on developing the sexual abuse strategy, the perpetrator action plan, work with HBV and aspects of the inclusion agenda.

## Finance

As a partnership ODASG has no core funding. Development and delivery of the strategy relies on

- contribution from partners and grants for specialised services and for partnership posts. Funding for the co-ordinator post is reviewed annually

- mainstreaming through training and adding value to existing resources
- liaising with Supporting People for cost of refuge, some outreach services and some housing associated aspects of the strategy
- approaching charitable trusts and individual donors for aspects of the strategy delivered by voluntary sector partners

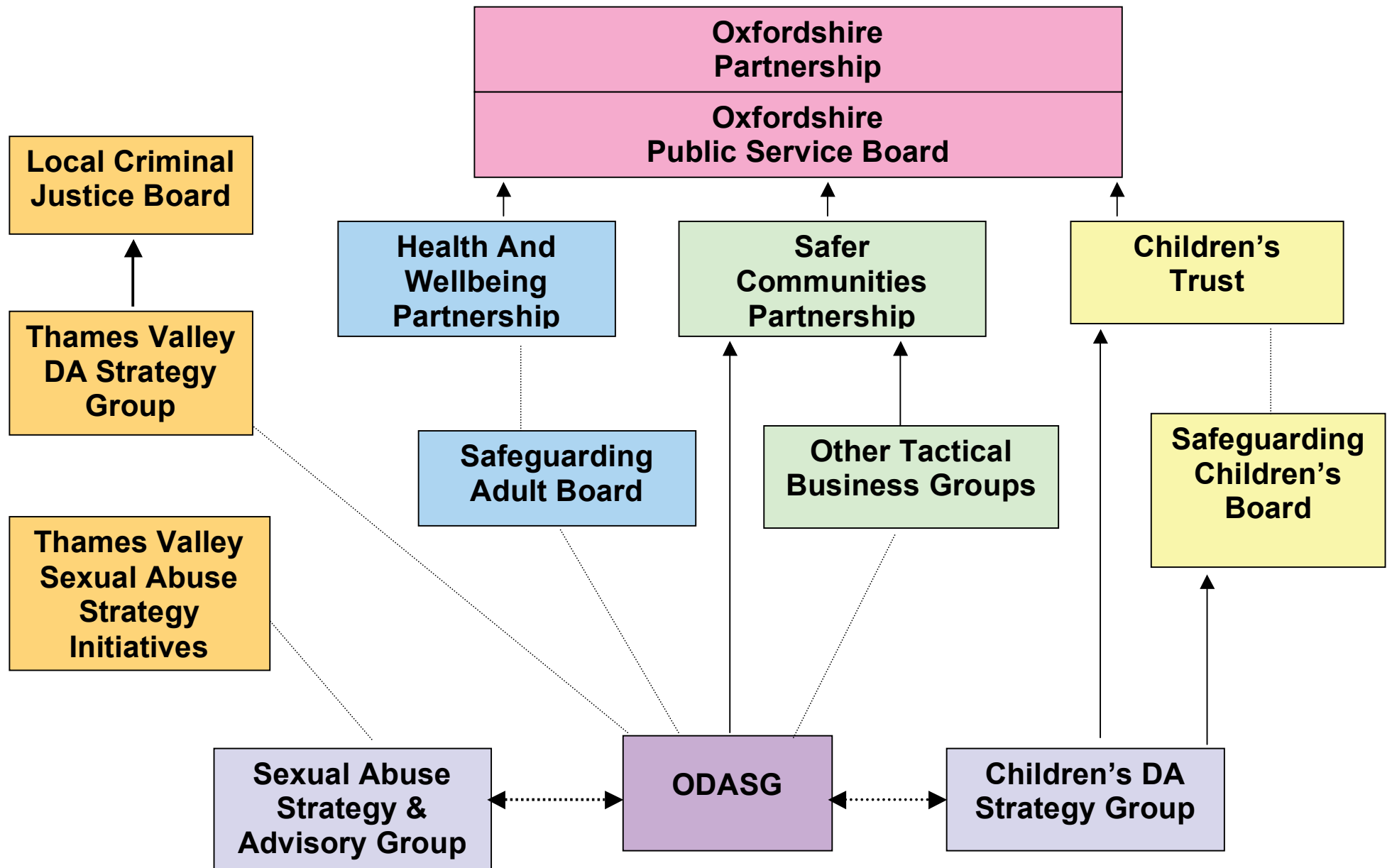
Over 2009-12 ODASG aims to identify more robust and sustainable funding for key elements of the strategy.

## Accountability

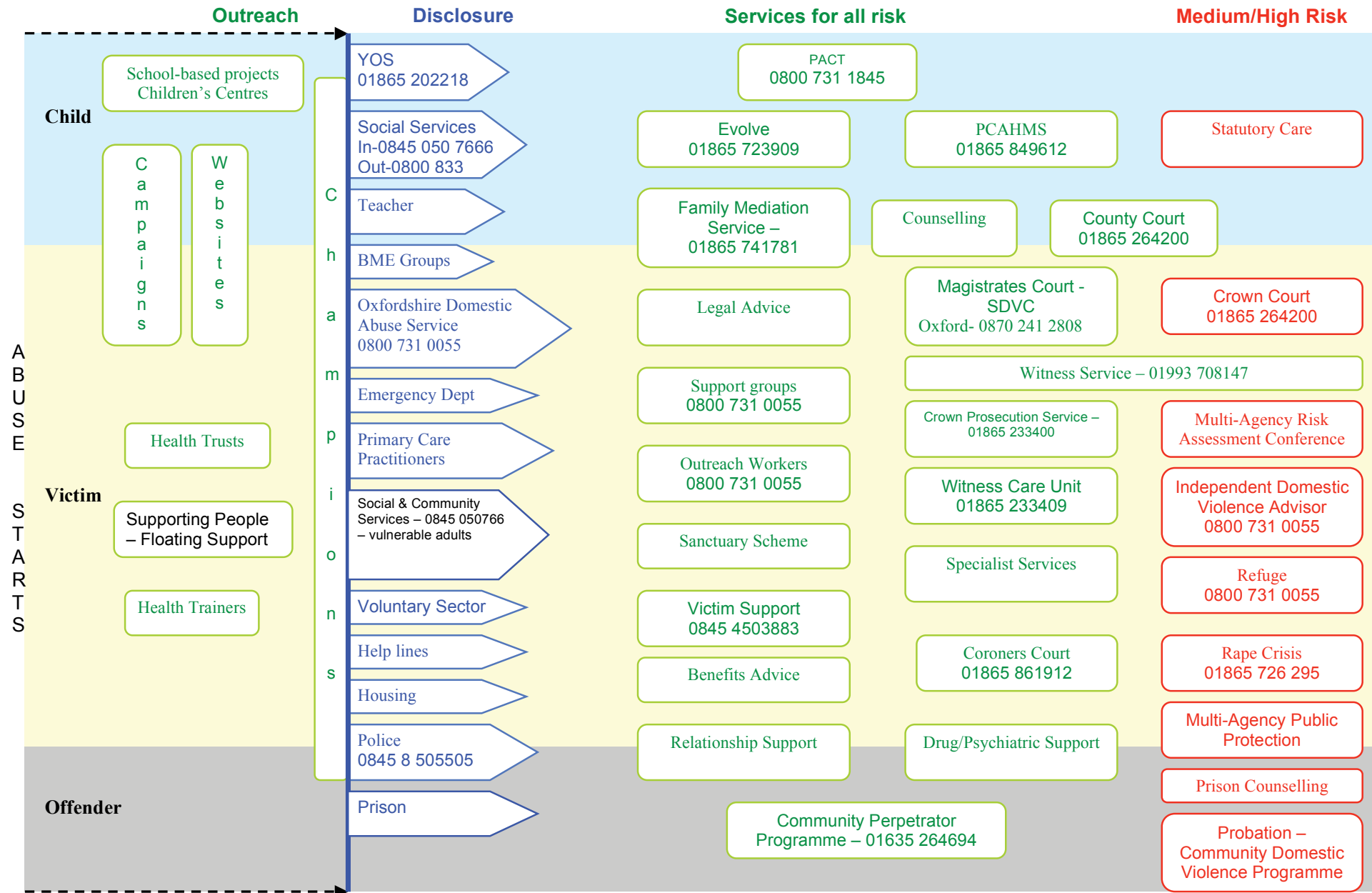
ODASG reports to Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership; and to the Public Service Board for aspects of the Local Area Agreement for which it has a lead role. It is directly accountable to its constituent members, indirectly to other stakeholders, and ultimately to all adults and children in Oxfordshire who are at risk through domestic abuse.



## Appendix 4: Organisational position of the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group



# Appendix 5: Oxfordshire's Community Response Model





**Domestic Abuse can  
affect anyone.  
It could be someone  
you know.  
It could be you.**

**Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0800 731 0055**

**National 24hr Helpline – 0808 2000 247**

**[www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk) / [www.amiabused.com](http://www.amiabused.com)**



