

Milton Keynes Forum against Domestic Violence

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Domestic Violence is the abuse experienced by people, principally women and children, which, is perpetrated by partners or ex-partners or by others with whom they are, or have been, in a relationship, including carers. Domestic Violence is also experienced within the immediate and extended family. It includes psychological, financial, emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

All member agencies commit to the following terms of reference:

Strategic Terms of Reference

- To act as the inter-agency Forum for the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority area in responding to Domestic Violence and to promote working together at all levels in this response.
- To take a leading role in the development of strategic policy and planning in respect of Domestic Violence programmes across the Milton Keynes community
- To promote awareness of the extent, nature and effects of Domestic Violence within the community and public at large including voluntary agencies and statutory agencies.
- To establish short and long term targets in relation to
 - primary prevention such as public education and work with young people in schools
 - secondary prevention such as services for women and children escaping Domestic Violence
 - tertiary prevention such as initiatives aimed at reducing repeat offending
 - These Terms of Reference are to be read in conjunction with the current Aims and Objectives of the Forum, Mission Statement and Code of Practice.

Terms of Reference for liason with other agencies

- To contribute to relevant other local strategic plans including the Crime Reduction Strategy, The Health Improvement Plan and others deemed appropriate by the Forum
- To work with the Milton Keynes Crime and Community Safety Partnership
 - To identify the nature and profile of crimes of Domestic Violence in the area by reference to available local statistics and qualitative work
 - To help periodically to develop a strategy to reduce Domestic Violence for incorporation within the Milton Keynes Crime and Community Safety Partnership
- To prepare work programmes in conjunction with the Milton Keynes Crime and Community Safety Partnership
- To develop links with and make formal reports to the Area Child Protection Committee, the Crime and Community Safety Partnership and Milton Keynes Council, The Primary Care Trusts, The Hospital Trust and any other agency deemed appropriate by the Forum

Terms of Reference for Forum Activities

- To develop and promote a Code of Practice and other relevant strategic planning documentation and to review these when necessary.
- To receive information and advice and recommendations from national and local government and member agencies concerning tackling Domestic Violence on the basis that it is shared appropriately between member agencies.
- To develop an awareness of national and international strategies for combating Domestic Violence
- To receive and share as appropriate statistical information about the extent of Domestic Violence in the Milton Keynes area and to develop a multi-agency initiative to collect statistics formally.
- To work together to ensure that those responsible for perpetrating Domestic Violence are held accountable for their actions for example by promoting the establishment of an appropriate Perpetrator Programme
- To investigate the issue of serial perpetrators and to consider the implementation of strategies to address this issue
- To highlight the training needs and where possible organise joint training programmes, conferences, seminars etc
- To lobby locally and nationally as appropriate for more and improved services and resources for those who are experiencing or have experienced Domestic Violence
- To work together to produce information and resources including
 - Resource handbook for front line workers
 - Protocol on information sharing between organisations
 - Information for women experiencing Domestic Violence
 - An education resource pack
 - A web site
 - Written policies
 - Good practice guidelines
 - A training pack

- To monitor and evaluate all initiatives with which it is involved
- To ensure that agencies are aware of the issues particular to specific ethnic and other minority groups and that as far as possible, culturally appropriate information and resources are available
- To ensure that the particular needs of people from disadvantaged groups, who are experiencing Domestic Violence, are addressed in all activities.
- To ensure that survivors of Domestic Violence are consulted appropriately concerning Forum activities
- To raise money in order to realise the aims of the Forum and / or in conjunction with member agencies to tackle Domestic Violence within Milton Keynes and within the remit of these Terms of Reference
- To maintain and develop the Forum including the appointment and / or seconding of staff.
- To work for the establishment , maintenance and development of a multi-agency project in its own premises
- To work individually within agencies and together to provide services and advice for victims and survivors of domestic violence including children.

Operational Terms of Reference

The Milton Keynes Forum is an autonomous organisation made up of agencies that have signed the Code of Practice.

The Forum was originally known as The Milton Keynes Violence Against women and Children Working Party, having changed its name in 2000.

Any monies held by the Forum are maintained in a holding account of the Milton Keynes Council, which provides administrative support for the Forum.

All members are required to pay an Annual Fee for Membership payable to the Account held by Milton Keynes Council on behalf of the Forum.

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