

**MILTON KEYNES INTER-AGENCY**

**CODE OF PRACTICE**

**on**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

was written and promoted by the  
Milton Keynes *Forum Against Domestic Violence*

The *Forum's* objectives, related to domestic violence, are part of the  
Milton Keynes Community Safety Strategy

Those aims are listed on the back cover

Advice and support for *people experiencing* domestic violence is available from several agencies in Milton Keynes, particularly from *Milton Keynes Lighthouse*.

There is also a week-day morning rota of Solicitors available to support with emergency Court proceedings. *Copies of the rota are held by several agencies including the Police, Womens Aid, Milton Keynes Lighthouse etc..*

**Home Office Definition**

“Any incident or 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.”

# MILTON KEYNES INTER-AGENCY CODE OF PRACTICE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Formulated by Members of the  
Milton Keynes *Forum* against Domestic Violence

**Domestic Violence is the abuse experienced by people, particularly 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.

**The impact of Domestic Violence on children is significant and far-reaching.** Children can be direct victims of the violence. They are also often traumatised as a result of witnessing the violence. The harm suffered by these children may be long-term, affecting their physical and psychological well being and impairing development in all spheres of life.

**The majority of perpetrators of Domestic Violence are men.** However, people in same sex and some men in heterosexual partnerships also experience Domestic Violence situations. Domestic Violence occurs across all social groups throughout society.

An anti-discriminatory approach is integral to all aspects of this Code of Practice.

## **Staff should:**

- Give priority to ensuring the immediate safety of the victim and children.
- Listen to the victim's report of violence and take it seriously.
- Not attribute responsibility for the violence to the victim; offenders are accountable for their own behaviour.
- Appreciate the potential danger of further violence and do not under-estimate the actual violence that exists toward the victim and the children.
- Let the victim know that support, information and guidance are readily available.
- Maintain up-to-date information about the rights of those suffering domestic violence.
- Create a climate which encourages reporting of incidents of domestic violence by:
  - being accessible to the victim and children;
  - ensuring the safety of both the victim and children;
  - raising awareness of the issues of domestic violence within the community;
  - raising awareness of the issues of domestic violence within partner agencies; and
  - dealing with the victim and children in a caring, sensitive and professional manner
- Acknowledge and safeguard victims, children and young people's rights.
- Recognise and value the expertise of partner-agencies in the areas of domestic violence.
- *Recognise that victim may have additional difficulties related to their culture such as the need for an interpreter*

## **ALL AGENCIES SHOULD:**

- Work together on behalf of those suffering domestic violence, including children and young people, recognising each agency's responsibilities and limitations.
- Be aware of the issues, particular to specific ethnic and other minority groups, and ensure that culturally appropriate information and resources are available.
- Develop joint strategies for Milton Keynes response to domestic violence, including awareness raising and training.
- Link this Code of Practice to other relevant Policy or Strategy documents.
- Evaluate and monitor agency responses to domestic violence.

**Outcomes and performance measures relating to the implementation of this Code of Practice are described in the Milton Keynes *Community Safety Strategy*.**

28<sup>th</sup> November 2006

**The Forum's objectives for domestic violence are to:**

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If you wish to make contact with the Milton Keynes Forum against Domestic Violence please telephone Milton Keynes Council on (01908) 253914 Neil Atkinson

# **MILTON KEYNES INTER-AGENCY CODE OF PRACTICE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

These agencies and voluntary organisations are signatories to the  
Milton Keynes Inter-Agency Code of Practice on Domestic Violence:

Franklins, Solicitors  
Giffen, Couch & Archer, Solicitors  
Linnells, Solicitors  
Milton Keynes Area Child Protection Committee  
Milton Keynes Community NHS Trust  
Milton Keynes Crime & Community Safety Partnership  
Milton Keynes Council  
Milton Keynes Family Mediation Service  
Milton Keynes NHS Trust  
Milton Keynes National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
Milton Keynes Racial Equality Council  
Milton Keynes Rape Crisis  
Milton Keynes Women's Aid  
Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Probation Service  
Pictons, Solicitors  
Relate Milton Keynes  
Shelter – MK Housing Aid Centre  
Thames Valley Police - Milton Keynes Area  
Victim Support (MK)