

Introduction:

Safeguarding children exposed to domestic abuse (DA) has been a priority for SSCB due to the risks posed to children living with DA and its prevalence.

The main objectives of this audit were to:

- ✶ Evaluate the effectiveness of multiagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are exposed to violence
- ✶ Raise awareness of DA amongst service providers
- ✶ Explore provisions in safeguarding children and promoting their welfare

Methodology:

In order to encompass both qualitative and quantitative data, a range of research methods were deployed.

This included:

- ✶ Basic analysis of available information
- ✶ Use of a structured survey to identify any training needs and staff confidence
- ✶ A multiagency case file audit including a multiagency discussion meeting to capture the practitioner's perspective



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Outcome:

A clear and SMART action plan was developed based on the recommendations below (what needs to happen next?). The action plan is monitored through the SSCB Quality Assurance Group.

What's working well?	What are we worried about?	What needs to happen next?
<p>Practitioners are generally aware of available guidance, documents and tools to assist their work around Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>Uncertainty as to whether practitioners have undertaken the relevant Domestic Abuse training</p>	<p>Understanding the extent of domestic abuse in Surrey – better data collection and reporting system</p>
<p>Good examples around multiagency working, joint up intervention to improve outcomes for children affected by Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>Inconsistent use and impact of domestic abuse checklists, assessment tools and Strategy Meetings</p>	<p>Encouraging practitioners to attend available training</p>
<p>If you are concerned about the safety of a child, young person or an adult you can contact our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Phone: 0300 470 9100 Email: mash@surreycc.gov.uk</p> <p>Out of hours phone: 01483 517898 to speak to the <u>emergency duty team</u>.</p>	<p>There are issues around information sharing – this includes information sharing between school and other agencies, information governance and data protection issues often create barrier in sharing useful information specially from mediation, counselling and other confidential services, information sharing between local authorities</p>	<p>The need to keep children as the focus of intervention is embedded in culture</p>
	<p>Although it was clear from the audit that the need to keep children as the focus of intervention is embedded in culture, there is still a significant gap in using their views to inform service planning</p>	<p>Raising awareness of services and support available for male victims and perpetrators of Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Ensuring the risk assessment is completed consistently especially on father, step-father and mother's current and ex-partners</p>



Further information and resources:

[SSCB Domestic abuse training](#)
[Surrey County Council website](#)

[SSCB Domestic Abuse policy and procedures](#)
[Surrey Police website](#)

[SSCB Domestic Abuse checklist](#)
[Surrey Against Domestic Abuse website](#)

