
Overview

This standard is about determining strategic priorities upon which your organisation's resources for addressing domestic violence and abuse are to be focused. It includes developing, implementing and managing associated strategic plans for the delivery of relevant services.

It is recognised that abuse can occur without physical violence, yet can be equally damaging to those affected. Throughout this standard, where the term 'abuse' is used it is taken to include instances also involving physical violence.

Domestic abuse is frequently perceived as a gendered crime perpetrated by men against women; however this standard is intended for practitioners who support those experiencing domestic violence within any intimate or family relationship, regardless of their social background, age, gender, religion, sexuality or ethnicity.

For the purposes of this standard, 'community' may refer to areas of practice, constituencies, geographical areas, service users or different groups of victims and survivors.

In some organisations, the terms 'victim' and 'survivor' may be used individually or interchangeably.

**Performance
criteria**

- You must be able to:
- P1 obtain information from relevant agencies about:
 - P1.1 the communities' geographic areas
 - P1.2 the geographic areas with the greatest needs for initiatives addressing domestic violence and abuse
 - P2 identify priority areas to focus your organisation's resources in line with information gathered, and:
 - P2.1 agree these with others
 - P2.2 establish a rationale for these
 - P2.3 justify your conclusions
 - P3 review initiatives undertaken by other organisations which can inform potential initiatives and strategy considered by your organisation
 - P4 assess options for initiatives and services that may be offered by your organisation, and:
 - P4.1 confirm these are consistent with priority areas and their needs
 - P4.2 establish how best to address the needs of priority areas in line with organisational procedures
 - P5 assess risks associated with potential strategy for initiatives and services in line with risk assessment procedures, and:
 - P5.1 balance identified risks with the desired outcomes
 - P6 explore opportunities for strategic partnerships and links with other agencies to address domestic violence and abuse
 - P7 agree the focus of your organisation's resources and associated initiatives and services with colleagues and other agencies
 - P8 identify actions and resources required to implement agreed strategy in line with organisational requirements
 - P9 identify key performance measures for implemented initiatives and services, including methods for:
 - P9.1 monitoring
 - P9.2 evaluation
 - P10 monitor the progress of strategic initiatives against agreed plans in line with identified monitoring measures

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- P11 identify variances which affect progress against plans and:
 - P11.1 report these to others in line with organisational procedures
 - P11.2 address these in line with organisational procedures
 - P11.3 provide regular feedback on progress against plans to others in line with organisational requirements

Knowledge and understanding

Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements for the provision of services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse and their impact on your strategy
- K2 relevant legislation applicable to your area of work
- K3 relevant others you may need to work with including:
 - K3.1 agencies and organisations
 - K3.2 colleagues
 - K3.3 community representatives
 - K3.4 service users
 - K3.5 stakeholders
 - K3.6 victims and survivors
- K4 your organisation's role, remit and services for addressing domestic violence and abuse
- K5 the role of external support agencies involved in addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse in your community

Key, general requirements for addressing domestic violence and abuse

You need to know and understand:

- K6 what constitutes domestic violence and abuse, and its prevalence in your local community
- K7 signs of abuse and methods used by abusers to gain power and control
- K8 the impact of abuse upon all of those affected by it, including victims and survivors, and children and dependants
- K9 types of information and support sought by those affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K10 sources of information and support available to those affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse

Requirements for developing and implementing strategy

You need to know and understand:

- K11 national and local initiatives and their impact on developing services towards addressing domestic violence and abuse in your community

- K12 your local community and the factors affecting the demand for services towards addressing domestic violence and abuse
- K13 the importance of long and medium-term planning to the success of an organisation
- K14 factors to consider when profiling different neighbourhoods
- K15 the needs and expectations of your own and other agencies relevant to providing services and initiatives towards addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K16 the importance of providing support and services to victims and survivors, including those 'hard to reach' groups
- K17 methods for reaching victims and survivors, hard to reach groups and others
- K18 sources of information that can aid prioritising of resources
- K19 resources available to your organisation
- K20 the importance of consulting with other agencies when seeking to agree priority areas and associated programmes
- K21 how to identify potential risks in relation to the achievement of aims
- K22 the importance of consulting with relevant others during the development of the strategic plan and how to do so
- K23 the importance of sharing information between individuals and agencies
- K24 how to develop measures and methods for monitoring and evaluating the success of initiatives and services
- K25 the principles of confidentiality
- K26 legislation and procedures for maintaining confidentiality
- K27 how to develop guidelines for exchanging information between individuals and agencies

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