
Overview

This standard is about exploring the behaviour and attitudes of individual perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence and abuse towards encouraging them to change their behaviour. It includes your ability to provide support and encouragement for change where it is judged that there is a genuine opportunity for the perpetrator to amend their behaviour.

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.

For the purposes of this standard, domestic abuse may include instances of sexual violence and abuse in a domestic violence

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:
- P1 communicate with perpetrators, in ways which:
 - P1.1 promote understanding
 - P1.2 encourages an open exchange of views and information
 - P2 work with perpetrators to explore their behaviour and attitudes which influence their abuse of others, including:
 - P2.1 encourage perpetrators to identify abuse and its consequences
 - P2.2 the potential and actual impact of their behaviour upon themselves, victims and others significant to them
 - P2.3 expectations of power and control over their victim
 - P2.4 denial, minimisation or justification for their abusive behaviour
 - P2.5 their attitude to their abusive behaviour
 - P2.6 aspects of their behaviour which concerns them and others
 - P3 offer information and advice to perpetrators which promotes the advantages of positive change
 - P4 explore with perpetrators how they can address the abusive aspects of their behaviour in ways which encourage ownership of their own behaviour
 - P5 explore with perpetrators the implications of changing their behaviour, including:
 - P5.1 aspects of their behaviour which concerns them and others
 - P5.2 perpetrators' own priorities in relation to their behaviour
 - P5.3 their motivation to change
 - P5.4 implications if no changes occur
 - P6 assist perpetrators to make informed choices about options for change, which:
 - P6.1 they can put into practice
 - P6.2 they are committed to
 - P7 explain to perpetrators the support available to them in line with organisational policies and procedures
 - P8 communicate relevant information to authorised parties in line with organisational procedures and timescales
 - P9 maintain accurate and up to date records in line with organisational policies and procedures

Knowledge and understanding

Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements which relate to challenging the attitudes and behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse and their impact for your area of operations
- 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
- K4 your organisation's role, objectives, remit and services for addressing domestic violence and abuse
- K5 the limits of your authority and responsibility and actions to take if exceeded

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 the methods used by abusers to gain power and control
- K8 the impact of abuse upon all those affected, including victims, survivors, children and dependants
- K9 how children and dependants may be used by abusers as part of their abuse
- K10 the types of information and support sought by those affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K11 sources of information and support available to those affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K12 how cultural, social and gender related aspects impact upon domestic violence and abuse
- K13 the role of other agencies and organisations who provide support, services and interventions to address domestic and sexual violence and abuse in your area
- K14 multi-agency arrangements for providing support and interventions for victims

and survivors in your area

Requirements particular to exploring perpetrators' behaviour

You need to know
and understand:

- K15 sources of information regarding perpetrators you are working with and how to access these
- K16 methods of verifying and corroborating information
- K17 how to distinguish between directly observed evidence, evidence from reliable sources and hearsay
- K18 the importance of identifying whether the perpetrator has other problems which contribute to their abusive behaviour
- K19 the importance of addressing perpetrators' other problems as part of the process of challenging their behaviour
- K20 different ways of encouraging perpetrators to see the need to change their behaviour
- K21 how to encourage perpetrators' motivation to change their behaviour
- K22 common obstacles to change for perpetrators and methods of overcoming these
- K23 the importance of helping perpetrators consider the effects of their choices and behaviour on others and themselves
- K24 the importance of perpetrators having ownership of, and responsibility for, decisions they make
- K25 different ways of supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour and how effective these are
- K26 the types of interventions available and their relative advantages and disadvantages
- K27 key risk factors for serious offending, including:
 - K27.1 number of previous convictions
 - K27.2 the nature of the current abuse
 - K27.3 patterns of abusive behaviour
 - K27.4 drug and alcohol abuse
- K28 circumstances where perpetrators are considered to be of a very high risk
- K29 high risk circumstances which require referral to another agency and how to progress such a referral

Requirements relating to communicating with perpetrators

**You need to know
and understand:**

- K30 appropriate styles and forms of communication including body language
- K31 how different cultures use and interpret body language in different ways
- K32 possible barriers to communication including:
 - K32.1 their causes
 - K32.2 ways to overcome them
- K33 the importance of being aware of your values and beliefs
- K34 the impact your values and beliefs may have when working with victims, survivors and perpetrators
- K35 how to challenge discriminatory or potentially damaging attitudes and behaviour and the importance of doing so
- K36 the limits of confidentiality applying when dealing with perpetrators
- K37 people who are entitled to relevant information
- K38 circumstances where it is necessary to inform others about perpetrators including when you have concerns for the safety of others due to perpetrator's behaviour

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