



European
Network

NATIONAL REPORT GUIDELINE

Country: United Kingdom

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1) **Organisation/programme** (max 3000 characters)

Respect is a national membership organisation in the United Kingdom dedicated to developing, delivering and supporting services for both male and female perpetrators of domestic violence (DV), young people who use violence and male victims of domestic violence. Respect supports and trains its members, manages the accreditation of perpetrator programmes, promotes knowledge and research on domestic violence and influences public policy. National service standards developed by Respect and an accreditation system were in place in the UK by 2008. Most DVPPs that are members of Respect are accredited, part way through accreditation or accredited at the half way point of Safe Minimum Practice (SMP). These programmes have been assessed by external assessors. The remaining DVPPs are being supported to achieve accreditation.

- **Do You conduct any programme(s) for the domestic violence perpetrators at the moment? If yes, please describe it/them briefly. If not, please explain why**

The main goal of Respect member DVPPs in the UK is the promotion of the safety and well-being of victims of DV and their children. This is achieved through working with perpetrators in order to reduce or end their use of DV. Respect has found that many DVPP programs in the UK use a combination of different DVPP techniques and approaches. These include pro-feminist models, cognitive behavioural therapy, psycho-dynamic approaches, discussions of motivation, engagement and gender impact and often some degree of anger management.

- **What type of (other) activities regarding preventing domestic violence have You conducted within last four years?**

The Mirabal multi-site research project investigating outcomes of men's participation in Respect accredited programmes was originally initiated by Respect as a pilot in 2008. It is now run independently and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Furthermore, ten non-probation DVPPs are currently using the REDAMOS database developed by Respect. The combined data from REDAMOS and the Mirabal research project will be published in 2015. Respect also provides a helpline service which enables people using DV to seek advice and professionals to find out more about services for clients using DV. Respect is also carrying out a research review on restorative justice (RJ) as a DV intervention and one DVPP in the UK is piloting RJ as a DV response. Respect will publish information on these activities within the next year in the Respect newsletter.

- **What would you define as the biggest obstacles/challenges regarding violence prevention in your organisation within the last four years?**

The loss of funding due to the financial crisis and financial uncertainty heading into the future presents a challenge. Due to funding cuts some programmes have lost funding or are struggling under financing burdens. The gap in knowledge about the effectiveness of DVPPs exacerbates the challenges of funding requirements. Unclear research and a lack of agreement between academics means that practitioners, policy makers and service commissioners have difficulty knowing what to expect from DVPPs. Persistent geographical gaps in provision present another challenge. In 2011, 21 out of 48 English counties had no recognised non-probation DVPP and gaps persist in Northern Ireland and Wales. Many of these gaps exist in rural areas where it is more difficult to establish a programme. However in areas that have lacked a DVPP for a long time there is either a development plan underway to begin a programme or a development plan in its initial stages. Nevertheless, even in areas

with established DVPPs there exists a gap in capacity. The main reason identified in one survey for this capacity gap was lack of funding or funding cuts.

2) **Country** (max 1800 characters)

- **The overview of general situation in Your country regarding work with perpetrators (e.g. What has change in your country legislation within the last 4 years? Most important legal and policy measures implementation; In which way they helped?)**

DVPPs have been run in the UK since the late 1980s. Today, work with perpetrators as well as the local government, health, probation and charitable sectors are in a state of rapid change. Many of the persistent geographical gaps in provision are being filled. However significant cuts to public sector funding since 2010 and a change of direction in government policy and commissioning processes has meant that non-probation DVPPs that were formerly financed in the voluntary sector have had to move to bidding for contracts from statutory organisations. The risk is that smaller organisations with specialist skills will fail to gain funding as costs can be more easily reduced by larger organisations. Today child protection, a topic that has been a policy, research and practice focus over the last fifteen years, constitutes one of the main funding sources and sites of intervention. There is also action being taken to move DVPPs in house to within local authorities. Women's organisations also play a more active role in DVPPs rather than purely providing partner support.

- **Do You know any other organisations/programmes in your country which deal with domestic violence prevention mostly by work with perpetrators? If yes please point them out**

Probation have developed their own programs for criminally convicted perpetrators of DV. Probation services can be found in every county and urban area of the UK. Probation programmes are similar to Respect member DVPPs in content and function but are run in accordance to programme manuals accredited by the Correctional Services Accreditation Panel. Recently both probation and non-probation programs have had to bid increasingly for funding from statutory sources, blurring the once clear line between the two types of programmes.

Other DV interventions exist in the UK, including anger management programmes, individual counselling or therapy, couples counselling, substance misuse treatment, parenting or fathering programmes, family interventions and restorative justice. These interventions have in some cases been developed in collaboration with the DVPP sector and can be useful when

combined with violence prevention programmes. It is important however to remember that these different interventions and DVPPs are not substitutes for one another.

3) **Best practices** (max 1800 characters)

- **Point out the best practices in work with perpetrators existing in your organisation/country**

Respect's service standards and accreditation process provide thorough support for good practice. Support, training and good practice from Respect seems to play an important role in the development of new programmes and many new DVPPs begin working towards these best practice standards from their very beginnings. New programmes often benefit from approaching Respect for purpose built training carried out by highly experienced and skilled practitioner-trainers. Furthermore, the Respect accreditation procedure and system can provide quality assurance for programmes. Accreditation is another way of demonstrating good and safe practice and governance and it should therefore continue to develop in the future. Programmes accredited by Respect are obliged to analyse the impact and use of their own programmes and provide evidence of this.

A Respect member DVPP should include the following aspects: dealing with and assessing referrals of potential clients; group or individual activities to help men stop using DV and repair the harm done to women and children; programmes of length and content adequate for providing a reasonable chance of effectiveness; contact, support, advocacy and safety planning for DV victims including current, recent or new partners; risk assessment, monitoring and management including participation in local risk management systems, safeguarding children structures and internal risk management with partner support workers; monitoring and evaluation of the intervention's impact on the safety of women and children; and a system of support or referral for perpetrators who are not male heterosexuals which in many cases requires individual work. Research and work currently being undertaken will mean that in the near future more will be known about best practice in regards to work with male heterosexual perpetrators. However knowledge is also developing in the UK about work with LGBT, female and young perpetrators, a process which will help improve service standards for these clients.

4) **Needs and recommendations** (max 1800 characters)

- **What has to be done in regard to prevent domestic violence in your country (mostly regarding to work with perpetrators)?**

Commissioning arrangements and conditions need further attention to be applied consistently and relevantly. Respect has drafted DVPP commissioning guidance in accordance with the accreditation service standards which will be finished within the next year. Outcome measures also need to be improved and both the Mirabal research and the IMPACT Evaluation of European Perpetrator Programmes project will contribute to improving this. The gap in understanding of what works in domestic violence prevention needs to be addressed and future research and evidence will assist in this. One risk is that commissioners and referring agencies will opt for shorter programmes in response to funding shortages and participant resistance. However, whilst shorter programmes may be cheaper in the short term there is no clear evidence that they are more effective than longer programmes or more cost effective in the long run as failure to address ingrained patterns of abuse will continue to cost the public in the future.

- **Point out the most urgent, most important and most promising tasks and steps that should be focused on**

Current challenges include completing geographical coverage, maintaining or increasing the capacity of existing programmes, expanding services to meet the needs of different client groups, ensuring good practice and high quality are achievable within funding structures and recognising that short term cheapness is potentially more costly in the long term if the intervention is ineffective or unsafe. Local authority in areas with gaps could be asked to report on how they intend to fill these gaps over the next three years, whilst the Home Office could publish evidence from the evaluation of probation programmes. Respect's focus on developing partnerships and disseminating evidence from the Mirabal research will also help in measuring effectiveness. DVPPs need continued support from Respect and increased funding in response to developing evidence of public value for money can help to increase existing programme capacity. Provision for perpetrators who are not heterosexual males should continue and Respect will continue to develop new approaches where appropriate and disseminate knowledge about them.