



Sharing Best Practice

Making Safe – Reducing Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse

The Making Safe Scheme

The Making Safe scheme is a victim-focused scheme which offers a multi-agency approach to reducing the repeat rates of Domestic Abuse. It is unique in that it is a multi-agency initiative supporting victims of domestic abuse to remain safe within their homes whilst at the same time challenging the offender's behaviour and encouraging them to seek alternative ways of resolving conflict.

The scheme encompasses twelve agencies from the voluntary and statutory sector that work together to ensure positive intervention to victims of domestic abuse. The scheme includes workers from Foundation Housing, North Yorkshire Probation, North Yorkshire Police, Specialist Domestic Abuse Services, NSPCC, B and B Civil Offender Programme and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor based in the Specialist Domestic Violence court; there are also close links with the Local District Councils and Housing Associations. Safer Communities provide project management of the scheme and monitor the provision of the panic alarms and extra security to victims' property.

The Outcomes

Family life is not disrupted, children can remain at their schools, and the victim can remain in employment. Initial evaluation shows a remarkably low 10.8% re-offending rate by domestically violent offenders under the scheme compared with the national figure of 47% where offenders are offered Integrated Domestic Abuse Programmes in isolation without wrap around services.

National Recognition

In recognition of the schemes work in supporting families involved with domestic abuse, the scheme was awarded the 2008 Butler Trust Public Protection Award.

The Butler Trust is an independent charity whose Annual Award Scheme seeks to identify and promote excellence and innovation by staff working with offenders throughout the UK.

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The Making Safe scheme was initially run in the Scarborough Borough Council and Ryedale Council areas of North Yorkshire. The scheme is now being replicated across North Yorkshire and neighbouring regions

Contacts

For more information contact:

Sandra Rees - Scarborough/Ryedale Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator
sandra.rees@scarborough.gov.uk / 01723 383627

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