

Report to Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group

Statutory duties of partners on Domestic Violence: local authorities

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Background

This summary of the role of local government in addressing Domestic Violence is based on a leaflet of the same name produced by the Local Government Association, available online at <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/22172>

Summary

Local government's role can be split into three areas:

1. Councils' input in corporate partnerships

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities have a statutory responsibility to work with other agencies to reduce crime and disorder in their local area. As domestic violence accounts for almost a fifth of all recorded violent crime, it should be included within local crime reduction strategies and action plans.

The work of local authorities on domestic violence is complementary to the work undertaken by the voluntary sector, criminal justice professionals and other public service providers.

2. Councils' corporate response

Domestic Violence Coordinator posts can work across partnerships. They are key within local authorities in providing training for relevant staff, both frontline and decision-makers.

3. Direct service provision

Much service provision for people affected by domestic violence is delivered outside of the statutory agencies. Here councils are central to commissioning and supporting the local, voluntary services.

Legislation relating to Domestic Violence

The LGA leaflet lists the following main statutory provisions relating to domestic violence which apply to local authorities:

- The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- The Children Act 2004
- The Homelessness Act 2002
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002
- The Local Government Act 2000

- The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The NHS and Community Care Act 1990
- The Children Act 1989
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (and regulations thereunder).