

National Probation Service Domestic Abuse Policy

These are brief notes. A fuller version is pending.

1. The role of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) Women's' Safety Worker is to safeguard the needs of victims and their children.
2. Strategically there will be Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, Specialist Domestic Violence Courts and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (Advocacy Support) This will form an essential part of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare .
3. The National Probation Service produced (2005) a Domestic Abuse Policy (supported since by Home Office Public Protection Unit guidance, 2006) some extracts of which are:
 - Give high priority to the safety of victims (adults and children) of domestic abuse and their protection from physical, sexual, emotional and mental harm by perpetrators.
 - Enhance the quality of risk assessment and risk management action plans through the effective use of OASys (an assessment system) and the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA); and through obtaining collateral information and inter-agency information exchange by communicating clearly, promptly and effectively with partners in other public protection agencies.
 - Ensure appropriate and pro-active engagement with inter-agency risk assessment and risk management arrangements and with MAPPA, where appropriate, so that risk assessments and risk management plans reflect the active management of victim and child safety and wellbeing.
 - Ensure that the needs and well being of children exposed to domestic abuse are addressed through good communication with Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting Services, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) and other relevant local specialist children and young people's services

The West Mercia Probation Area have an agreed information sharing protocol to cover the specific issues around disclosure and managing information arising from intervention (e.g. IDAP).