

Bristol Against Violence and Abuse

Strategy 2015-2020

Bristol – a City where all citizens are free from domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

Domestic and sexual violence and abuse is an umbrella term, covering the following areas:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Sexual violence and abuse
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced marriage
- Human trafficking/modern slavery
- Sexual harassment
- Street sex work
- Off-street sex work and sexual entertainment venues

Mission

To take a zero tolerance approach to domestic and sexual violence and abuse: there are no excuses for gender-based violence.

To effectively prevent gender-based violence and abuse through campaigns, education and training, support victims to cope and recover from violence and abuse, and hold perpetrators to account.

Values & Ethos

Our mission and vision are underpinned by an approach based on a feminist analysis - in which violence and abuse is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. Our values are underpinned by a focus on equality and human rights.

In Bristol there is a firm commitment to creating a Co-ordinated Community Response to domestic and sexual abuse.

A co-ordinated community response works to create a network of support for victims and their families that is both available and accessible; use the full extent of the community's legal system to protect victims, hold perpetrators accountable, enforce the community's intolerance of domestic violence; and engage the entire community in efforts to change the social norms and attitudes that contribute to domestic violence.

Aims & Priorities

- Target resources where they are most needed
- Promote healthy equal relationships
- Uphold human rights
- Empower women and children
- Promote safety and recovery through a network of support services
- Challenge harmful stereotypes
- Effect cultural change
- Learn lessons and implement change through Domestic Homicide Reviews and other similar processes
- Challenge the sexualisation and subordination of women and children
- Hold perpetrators to account
- Influence partners to better identify and respond to domestic and sexual violence and abuse

This strategy for Bristol acknowledges and supports the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's objectives for tackling domestic and sexual abuse:

- *Build confidence amongst all victims and witnesses of domestic and sexual abuse to report their victimisation and ensure that victims are always taken seriously, listened to and understood*
- *Continue to improve the effectiveness of local services by actively seeking feedback from victims, improving the way we share information to protect people from harm, improving joint working and embedding multi-agency co-location arrangements*
- *Continue to develop prevention and education activity and innovate and implement best practice – including Domestic Violence Protection Orders, disclosure schemes and specialist investigation approaches*
- *Strengthen our multi-agency focus on perpetrators of abuse and progress Integrated Offender Management approached to dangerous and high risk offenders*
- *Increase awareness and understanding of domestic and sexual abuse including issues such as Female Genital Mutilation, child Sexual Exploitation, and human trafficking*