



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Support for Children

Together making a difference



Introduction to DASA children's work

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced new duties on Local Authorities to ensure victims and their children across England can access the right to support in supported accommodation when they need it.

DASA accommodation providers within Westmorland and Furness include all local authority homelessness teams linking in with Women's Community Matters, Springfield and Eden Housing Association.

This brings us to the support offered by westmorland and Furness's DASA children's workers, providing key support to children and young people with lived experience of domestic abuse.

Support offered and feedback

The support focus's on the young persons lived experience of domestic abuse, exploring the big feelings and emotions involved. This then moves onto look at a range of potential coping strategies, understanding what has happened is abuse and moving on to lead a happy and healthy life. We can also look at work around health relationships as this is key to moving on from abuse.

Support is provided 121 and in a safe place like school, women's centres or refuge.

We Support for the duration of their stay in DASA accommodation and help with getting support in place post move to more stable accommodation.

Below is a quote from a parent about the support there child received.

"Since my son has been working with DASA worker, he has improved in every way possible, My son witnessed a lot that he should not of in my DV relationship and had a hard time processing his emotions due to this he would not open up to me I was at a loss with his behaviour, but since he has been working with the DASA worker he know knows how to regulate his emotions he now opens up to me about everything and we can have open conversations about what has happened to us, he's a lot calmer within himself he's a lot happier, he's working through his trauma, Dasa worker is amazing with him, has gone above and beyond for him.

I would be lost without them and there support so would my son, They have truly made a difference in both of our lives.

I think so many children and parents would benefit from DASA support and the support they can provide.

I can't honestly thank DASA worker enough for everything they have done for myself and my son."

How to refer

To qualify for support they will need to be living in temporary Domestic abuse safe accommodation as a result of fleeing Domestic abuse.

We can support children aged Aged 5 -17.

Please email DASA CYP Referrals DASACYPteam.WAF@cumbria.gov.uk for a referral form or with any questions.

Meet Clare our DASA worker

Clare.stratford@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Since 2010 I have worked within the domestic abuse sector in a number of roles. My career started as co-ordinating the North Cumbria Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which gave me a wealth of experience across all types of crime which included domestic abuse.

As part of this role I co-ordinated the Domestic Homicide Reviews for North Cumbria which led me to becoming the Cumbria wide DHR co-ordinator. This role gave me great insight into the barriers domestic abuse victims face, the lessons that could be learnt and good practice.

I also worked as a Crisis Worker at the Bridgeway Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Penrith. My role was to support the victims of rape and sexual assault while they attended the SARC. I supported both children and adults in my role.

In 2021 I moved on to work for Victim Support in a new position to the service Health Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisor (IDSVA). The role entailed working with hospital staff predominantly within the emergency department to identify and offer support to victims of both domestic and sexual abuse giving them response at point of contact and ongoing support. The role developed within the hospital and I worked closely with maternity, health visitors and other departments/wards as well as offering staff members who had been victims. Throughout my role I advised staff and provided domestic abuse training and highlighted the barriers to disclosure.

I am an accredited domestic abuse advisor my training was completed with Safe Lives and sexual abuse advisor training completed with Lime Culture. Within my various roles I have worked in partnership across multi agencies to provide support, safety planning and recovery to the clients I have supported.



For any enquires please get in touch

Dateam@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk.

To access the organisations domestic abuse policy please click here :

Employee information - Health and Wellbeing - Wellbeing support and resources | Westmorland and Furness Council

A variety of domestic abuse resources can be found here - **Domestic Abuse Resources - Home (sharepoint.com)**

For any colleague or staff member who wants to seek advice for themselves or someone they know impacted by domestic abuse please get in touch

Our door is always open

The following services can provide advice and support to survivors of domestic abuse and to any professional agency that may be supporting them.

National Domestic Abuse Helpline **0808 200 247** (24-hour emergency support)

Men's Advice line for male survivors of domestic abuse **0808 801 0327**

Galop for LGBT+ survivors of violence and abuse **0800 999 5428**

Cumbria Victim Support **0300 3030 157** (Mon – Fri, 9am - 6pm) or **0808 1689 111** (24/7 Support Line)

Women's Community Matters (Barrow) **01229 311102**

Springfield (South Lakeland) **01539 726171**

Cumbria Constabulary for an emergency response call **999**, for other enquiries call **101**

Translation Services

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone: **0300 373 3300**.

للوصول إلى هذه المعلومات بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال **0300 373 3300**

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 0300 373 3300 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，请致电 **0300 373 3300**

Jeigu norétumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba, skambinkite telefonu **0300 373 3300**

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę zatelefonować pod numer **0300 373 3300**

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua, telefone para o **0300 373 3300**

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen **0300 373 3300** numaralı telefonu arayınız

