

# STANDING together

against domestic violence

**Standing Together Against Domestic Violence** coordinates the ground breaking multi-agency response to the crime of domestic abuse, and is based in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. Standing Together influences national policy and practice by initiating and driving innovation, providing safer options for survivors of domestic abuse and their children and holding abusers to account.

## STANDING TOGETHER DEMONSTRATES THAT PARTNERSHIP WORKS

Domestic Abuse is a serious and high volume crime which no one agency can deal with effectively if acting alone. Standing Together works with partner agencies in both statutory and voluntary sectors to ensure a coordinated response to incidents of domestic abuse and to place responsibility for action with the partner agencies. The Standing Together Partnership began in 1998 and The Standing Together Trust was formed in 2001 to carry on and develop the work of the partnership. The objectives of the Standing Together Charitable Trust are:

***To promote for the public benefit the provision of services directed towards the prevention of domestic violence and to meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence and their families.***

## THE WORK OF STANDING TOGETHER

**Coordinating the whole response to Domestic Abuse** – we describe our work as being a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to domestic abuse. Our original work began as coordination around domestic violence at the point of crisis and through the criminal justice system. Our approach now also seeks to prevent domestic abuse and enable earlier intervention before the crisis happens, and in a coordinated way, as this is not only better for survivors and potential victims but also saves money.

**Responding to Domestic Abuse Incidents** – this is coordinated by Standing Together from the first call to Hammersmith & Fulham Police through to court decision and sentencing. Standing Together also develops protocols, delivers training to the police and monitors performance.

**Advocacy for Survivors** - Practical and immediate help from the point of crisis is essential in making survivors safer. We work with agencies to ensure that survivor voices are integral to frontline services and inform strategic development at every level.

**The Specialist Domestic Violence Court** – 2002 Standing Together developed the first Domestic Violence Court in London, and the first in the country to hear trials. Standing Together has proved that the SDVC produces better results and has been instrumental in the 'roll out' by the Government of similar SDVCs across the country. Standing Together coordinates, trains and monitors the SDVC partnerships serving 3 London Boroughs (LBHF, RBKC, and Westminster).

**Children & Health** – Standing Together has a Coordinator who focuses on developing prevention and early intervention work around domestic abuse in health settings and in services for children and young people.

**MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference)** - are regular multi agency meetings which share information and develop risk management plans for high risk victims of domestic abuse. Standing Together coordinates and administers the MARACs in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster, Haringey and Ealing.

**Housing** – housing is a central issue for families affected by domestic abuse. Standing Together coordinates an Operations Group comprising professionals from both the statutory and voluntary sector housing agencies and produces tools, guidance and training to improve service to victims.

**Maternity and A&E Project** – we are working to support midwives in delivering on the national guidance that seeks to achieve every pregnant women being asked about any abuse within her relationship (funded by the Big Lottery). We are also developing a new service in the A&E department.

**Consultations with Survivors of Domestic Abuse** – ensuring that the voices of survivors inform the process of change. With their consent this feedback is published and passed on to relevant agencies, for reports see website.

**Training and Consultancy** – is a key part of our work both with local partner agencies and at a national and international level.

**Sharing Practice** – Standing Together is committed to sharing what is learnt locally to further the development of other co-ordinated responses. Standing Together has been recognised nationally as a model of good practice, and carries out consultancy work on a countrywide basis and across Europe.

## **Contacts**

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Please note we are not a front line agency and cannot offer advice about individual domestic violence cases.

### **WHAT PARTNER AGENCIES SAY ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

*'We are so grateful to Standing Together for coordinating all our activities around this awful issue of domestic violence. The partnership would not be functioning and victims and their children would be so much worse off. Thank you for all that you do.'*

### **WHAT SURVIVORS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

*"If you have no voice, if you cannot speak, then who speaks for you? They did.  
I love them for that"*

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