

Standing Together's Criminal Justice Innovation

STADV established operational working groups in relation to criminal justice work in its earliest activities, creating and establishing referral pathways for survivors reporting to the Police from as far back as 1998.

Since this time, STADV and partners have created the SDVCs but have also led practice in relation to police training, establishing referral pathways to support for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and early multi-agency case conferencing in relation to criminal justice cases which developed into the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

STADV were part of the review with the Government Team (CPS, Home Office, MoJ) to review the first 25 SDVCs which found them to be effective. We were the 'experts' who supported the Government Team and the accreditation process of new SDVCs was based the model developed by STADV and seen in Hammersmith and Westminster today.

Our current tri-borough criminal justice partnerships are structured in our Court Management Groups, MARAC Steering Groups and our Risk and Review Group which provides a wide breadth of criminal justice activity and improvement which keep the safety of the survivor at the centre of all of our work.

STADV publications in relation to criminal justice work

- *The Domestic Violence Bench Book and Good Practice Guide and The SDVC Tool Kit.*
- *In Search of Excellence: A Guide to Effective Domestic Violence Partnerships* (2011)
- *Support at Court: The experience of witnesses attending the Specialist Domestic Violence Court at West London Magistrate's Court* (2008)
- *Lessons to Share* (2007)
- *Two Years On – Partnership in Practice at the Specialist Domestic Violence Court, West London* (2006)

Recent examples of STADV Research and Consultancy

- Partnership with the University of Essex
PhD research (*Understanding Victim Retraction and Repeat Victimisation in Specialist Domestic Violence Courts*) is currently being undertaken using data uniquely available from the Hammersmith and Westminster SDVCs.
- East London SDVC
In 2015, STADV undertook consultancy work at East London SDVC, providing expert information about what we have identified as the essential elements of an SDVC in four London boroughs

Achievements

- 2000, STADV and the CPS Trained all front line police officers in Hammersmith and Fulham
- 2002, SDVC in Hammersmith began- the first SDVC in the UK to hear trials
- 2005, First Safety Audit conducted at the West London Magistrate's Court.
- 2006, Completion of two year training programme for Justices and court staff.
- 2006, Publication of 'Two Years On – Partnership in Practice at the SDVC'.
- 2006, Established Domestic Violence Witness Support Group
- 2006, Training of the Police Witness Care Unit in Hammersmith and Fulham
- 2007, Creation of *The Domestic Violence Bench Book and Good Practice Guide* and *The SDVC Tool Kit*.
- 2008, Publication of *Support at Court: The experience of witnesses attending the Specialist Domestic Violence Court at West London Magistrate's Court* (2008).
- 2012, Presentation on 'Domestic Violence and the SDVC' to Crown Court Justices.
- 2013, Westminster Dedicated Domestic Abuse Court established.
- 2014, training for Jersey's criminal justice system.
- 2014, Founding partner of Impact, a standalone, five-year project funded by MOPAC. A unique project, it is running only in Hammersmith & Fulham and seeks to improve integrated working between core agencies such as the Police, the Court, the SDVC Coordinator, CPS, Probation and the IDVA services in order to improve the outcome for victims of domestic abuse and their children. It also seeks to understand the nature of attrition and where improvements can be made.