Overview

There are two million victims of domestic abuse in England and Wales, more than two thirds of which are women. For many years, services for victims and their children have been unable to cope with the scale of this crime, leaving far too many unable to access the support that they so desperately need. According to recent figures from Women’s Aid, an estimated 21,084 referrals to refuges in England were declined, averaging over 400 women victims being turned away from refuge every week.

Signalling a renewed determination to confront this complex and often hidden crime, the Government introduced the Domestic Abuse Bill to Parliament on 16th July 2019 after an extensive consultation process. This landmark piece of legislation sets out a series of wide-ranging reforms to radically shake-up the legal and policy response to domestic abuse. Crucially, the new framework adds financial control, coercive control and threatening behaviour to the definition in law. Furthermore, there are new measures to enhance awareness and protection for victims through the new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Order as part of a wider systemic overhaul to improve service provision and transform the criminal justice response to meet the needs of victims and prosecute perpetrators.

Fundamental to the implementation of the reforms is the creation of a new watchdog, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner. As part of its remit, the Commissioner will advocate for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, oversee the remapping of services, monitor the response of national and local government, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse.

Legislative action, however, cannot tackle this issue alone – Wider societal change, greater public awareness and more proactive early intervention strategies are needed to successfully confront and prevent this horrific crime. This special Policy Foresight symposium offers a timely opportunity for local authorities, third sector, health, police and other statutory agencies to come together to examine the likely impact of the proposed reforms and explore how to enhance joined-up working, improve information sharing and bolster support for victims of domestic abuse and their children.

Why Attend?

➢ Understand the national context – Examine the Government’s new proposals to tackle domestic abuse, receive an update on the reforms, Domestic Abuse Commissioner and the new public sector duty on local authorities
➢ Examine the implications of the new statutory definition of domestic abuse for victim support
➢ Discuss the potential impact of systemic change on the criminal justice process to ensure perpetrators are prosecuted
➢ Explore how to bolster partnership-working to ensure victim’s voice are heard and they receive the support they need
➢ Learn from examples of best practice and innovative solutions to prevent domestic abuse
➢ Share ideas, exchange knowledge and network with colleagues and stakeholders from across the domestic abuse support, refuge services, law enforcement, local authority/government, housing, health and voluntary sector landscape
Programme

09:15  Registration and Morning Refreshments

10:00  Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:10  Opening Address: A New Approach to Confronting Domestic Abuse – The National Context

10:45  Morning Refreshments

11:00  Morning Panel Session: Safeguarding Victims of Domestic Abuse through Proactive Early Intervention

- Preventing Domestic Abuse – Raising awareness of risk factors and warning signs and developing targeted responses
- Providing trauma informed care – Upskilling frontline staff to better support victims of abuse
- Improving access to accommodation and housing support for at-risk individuals and their children
- Providing effective interventions and adequate service provision for harder to reach groups including disabled, migrant women, LGBT and individuals in rural settings
- Domestic violence perpetrator programmes – Understanding their role and improving their effectiveness to create behaviour change and stop violence

12:10  Discussion Groups

12:20  Question Time: Morning Panel Debate

13:00  Networking Lunch

13:45  Afternoon Panel Session: Strengthening Multi-Agency Working to Support Survivors & Bring Perpetrators to Justice

- Strengthening Local Partnership Boards and MARACs – Enhancing multi-agency working and data-sharing between health, police, adult and children’s services, local authorities and third sector
- Bridging the Gap – Remapping local services meet to the needs of victims through coordinated and robust support, providing access to domestic abuse services
- Transforming the criminal justice process to prioritise victim experience and safety
- Ensuring effective investigations and prosecutions to bring perpetrators to justice and end abuse
- Providing long-term solutions for victims to access housing and support to rebuild their lives

15:10  Afternoon Refreshments

15:20  Discussion Groups

15:25  Question Time: Afternoon Panel Debate

15:55  Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments

16:00  Networking Reception
### Delegate Registration Form

**DELEGATE FEES** [per place]

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Business / Private Sector / Legal Sector</td>
<td>£ 495 + vat</td>
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<td>Central Government / NDPBs / Executive Agencies</td>
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<td>Local Authorities / Education / NHS / Police / Fire / NGO / Third Sector</td>
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Total no. places:  
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**Invoicing Details:**

Name of Key Contact:  
Organisation Name:  
Address:  
Email Address:  
Accounts Dept. Contact:  
Purchase Order No:  
Cost Centre Code (if applicable):  
Telephone No:  
Post Code:  

**Card Payments:**

Government Procurement Card (GPC)  
MasterCard  
VISA / VISA Debit  

Cardholder:  
Card No:  
Expiry date:  
Security Code (CVC):  
Date:  
Signature:  

Other Payment Methods:

- Please Invoice my organisation £ ……………… + VAT (at 20%) quoting Purchase Order No. ……………….
- Electronic / BACS Remittance of £ ……………… + VAT (at 20%) to Nat West Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-24-12 Account No: 88880419 Please email remittance advice to accounts@policyforesight.com or fax to 020 3633 5766
- I enclose a cheque in the sum of £ ……………… + VAT (at 20%) made payable to Policy Foresight Ltd Please send cheque quoting event code 191113 to Policy Foresight Ltd, Castle Hill House, 12 Castle Hill, Windsor, SL4 1PD A VAT invoice will be issued on receipt of payment. VAT No: 295 4260 81

**DECLARATION:**

I am authorised to register the delegate(s) as detailed above. I also agree to notify you of any cancellation in writing. Only cancellations confirmed in writing at least 28 days before the conference date will be refunded, minus an administration fee of £50 plus VAT. Substitutions can be made at any time. Non-payment of an invoice does not count as cancellation and you will still be liable for the full cost. Non-appearances on the day are also liable for the full cost.

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