

## What happens after the programme has finished?

Once you have completed the programme, if you wish, there is the option to join a fortnightly follow-up group to support you in maintaining the changes you have made.

## What will the programme work on?

The programme is a behavioural programme; it focuses on behaviour, i.e. how you act, how this re-enforces how you think and feel; and most importantly how you can act differently in the future.

During your time on the programme, we expect that you will have gained a much clearer sense of how you got to this point in your life.

We will explore your anger, the differences between feelings and behaviour, issues of accountability and honesty, what it means to be a dad, respectful and supportive parenting whatever the context of your relationships with your children, and most importantly how to rebuild the trust in these relationships and the rest of your life.

The programme looks at issues of intimacy and closeness, sex and sexuality, pressure, separation and how to let go. It will also focus on how your children may have been affected by your behaviour and how going forward you will be able to discuss and be accountable for your past actions in your relationships with them.

## How will the Court be told about my progress on the programme?

After the initial 12 sessions of the programme, DVIP will complete an interim report for the Court to highlight your attendance, progress and engagement on the programme thus far.

Following your completion of the programme, DVIP will submit a Completion report to the Court. This report will clarify the sessions you have attended and missed, identify areas of concern going forward; and comment on your engagement with the programme.

## How much will the programme cost?

If the Court makes an Order for you to attend the programme as a Contact Activity Direction/Condition then the cost of your attendance and the reports provided by DVIP will be funded by the Department for Education. Therefore, there are no direct costs to you to attend the programme.



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# Information for fathers



Fathers who have been referred by the Family Courts to attend a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme as a Contact Activity Direction/ Condition

## What is a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme?

DViP offers a Domestic Violence Prevention Programme for men who have been violent and abusive towards a partner or ex-partner.

## What is the Women's Support Service?

DViP also offer a linked service to your partner / ex partner who will be contacted once you have been referred to DViP. The Women's Support Service will offer her information on the programme and help her to focus on her own needs. This is separate from your programme, and is a voluntary service.

## Who is the Programme for?

Any man who acknowledges that his behaviour towards a female partner or ex-partner has been violent and/or abusive at times; who is keen to try and change some of the things that have gone wrong; and who wants to work towards stopping those things from happening again. The programme does not discriminate on the grounds of ethnicity, age, class, religion, sexuality or disability.



## The Court has made an Order for me to attend the programme, what happens next?

Once the Court has made an Order for you to attend the programme as a Contact Activity Direction/Condition, the CAFCASS Officer involved in your case will refer you to DViP. DViP will then make contact with your legal representative, (or you directly if you are self representing), to request the full Court bundle. Once we have this, the papers will be initially screened to ensure that you are suitable to attend the programme. If the case is suitable then you will be offered a suitability assessment interview within 4-6 weeks.

The suitability assessment will take place at DViP's office in Southwark and will normally last for 1-2 hours. Following this interview, you will be notified either in person or in writing that you are suitable to attend the programme. You will also be given a date to attend the two pre-group sessions of the programme. Pre-group sessions take place every 4-6 weeks; therefore you will be notified in writing nearer the date of the sessions of the venue, dates and times of the sessions.

## What happens in the two Pre-group sessions?

This is a short introduction to DViP's programme and will give you and us a sense of whether the full programme is right for you. The two pre-group sessions last two and a half hours each. It is hoped that they will help you to become more comfortable in the group setting before joining the main programme.

## What will the main programme cover?

Following your completion of the pre-group sessions, you will be invited to commence the main programme. These sessions are held on a weekly basis, in the evenings, for 2 and a half hours each. You will be required to attend one session per week for 30 weeks.

The main programme consists of 30 sessions. It is a safe and supportive space for you and other men to explore and address your previous use of abusive and controlling behaviour within intimate relationships in order to help you to understand and put a stop to the ways in which this impacts upon women and children. The aim is to build respectful relationships by ending not just your use of physical violence, but all abusive behaviours. The programme helps you to examine what attitudes support your abusive behaviour so you can develop non-abusive ways of relating to your partner and children.

*In the end,  
it is up to  
YOU.*