



Domestic Violence
Intervention Project

Family Courts Team

Specialist domestic abuse assessments of risk and vulnerability



What we do

We provide specialist domestic abuse assessments of risk and vulnerability supporting local authorities in relation to child protection processes, parental contact applications and care proceedings.

We work both in and outside of the family courts arena.



Why choose DVIP Family Courts Team?

Domestic abuse risk assessments require particular expertise. Whilst most professionals in child protection work have a general understanding of domestic abuse dynamics, it cannot be assumed that they possess the deep specialist knowledge and experience to assess the complex risks to children presented by perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Experienced support

DVIP ensures that all its assessors are highly skilled and **experienced in domestic abuse** knowledge, research findings, complex interviewing and analytical ability and recognition of how both controlling perpetrators and vulnerable women may present during the assessment process.

Our assessors are educated to postgraduate level in fields such as psychology and criminology, and have substantial **direct experience** of working with families where domestic abuse is an issue.

Our assessments

We offer the following different types of assessment:

Risk assessments

Risk assessments include detailed consideration of static and dynamic domestic abuse risk indicators, and a summary of the direct and indirect risks posed to the victim and children.

Vulnerability assessment

Vulnerability assessments include a detailed consideration of domestic abuse vulnerability, ability to protect the children and levels of insight into the effects on children.

Joint assessment

Joint assessments of both parents are conducted through separate interviews and include both risk and vulnerability assessments.

In addition to the above we also offer **Special Guardianship Assessments** of third party carers.

The cost of an assessment will vary depending on the type of assessment required and the complexity of the case.

Timescales

Single assessment: 6 weeks
Joint assessment: 8 weeks



The benefits of a DVIP expert assessment

- **Input from a well-established organisation** that is considered a centre of excellence in the field of domestic abuse intervention work, and which is cited by the Home Office as a Best Practice project.
- **The possibility of early intervention** with an expert assessment that can be completed at any stage of a case, and which can be used in court if necessary.
- **Thorough assessment available to both parents and third party carers** looking at risk and vulnerability, based on extensive interviews and relevant evidence from supplied documentation.

"I found DVIP's risk assessment report extremely beneficial in terms of putting together a plan for this family. It is detailed, comprehensive, informative and objective. It brought my attention to issues of risk I would have never thought about."

Social Worker, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

- **Experience in assessing complex cases** that may include: sexual abuse, direct abuse of children, female perpetrators, and people we support from diverse background.

- **Expert opinion** by an assessor who is able to attend court as an expert witness when required.
- **Clear recommendations** that consider treatment options and help move cases forward.
- **An integrated response** from one organisation which can deliver both expert assessment and treatment of perpetrators, victims, young people and children.
- **Support for the mother** can be given by our integrated women's support service alongside perpetrator work.
- **Final assessment following DVIP treatment** by the same independent assessor to evidence how interventions have promoted change.



- **A detailed report** analysing the person we support's history of domestic and other abuse, alcohol and drug use, attitudes to the abuse and levels of denial. We also consider the impact of any exposure to abuse on the children, and the victims' ability to protect the children.

Evaluation and feedback

Local authority solicitors and social workers reported the following from our service:

- **95%** said the report was useful or very useful in increasing their understanding of the use, severity and frequency of domestic abuse in their cases
- **93%** said the report was useful or very useful in assisting the agency's care planning processes
- **90%** of reports used in Court proceedings had recommendations followed
- **98%** of local authorities said that they followed some or all of the recommendations in the report.

"DVIP provides timely reports, strong assessments and excellent evidence. I would absolutely recommend DVIP to anyone"

"We would have struggled without DVIP because parenting assessment proved to be inadequate in terms of domestic abuse"

Who can refer?

We accept referrals from children's services for cases in pre-proceedings and care proceedings, and children's guardians for cases in care proceedings.

Referral forms are available from our website - www.dvip.org.uk

To discuss making a referral or to request a referral form, please contact:

020 7593 0027

DVIP.RiskAssessment@richmondfellowship.org.uk

Further information

To find out more about DVIP and the services we provide please visit: www.dvip.org.

DVIP is part of **Richmond Fellowship**, visit: www.richmondfellowship.org.uk for more.



DVIP is a division of Richmond Fellowship.
We are working to end domestic abuse and reduce the harm it causes to individuals, families and children.
Visit: www.dvip.org or follow us:  [@dvip_uk](https://twitter.com/dvip_uk)



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