

FALKIRK DOMESTIC ABUSE MULTI AGENCY FORUM

Overall Aim of the Multi Agency Forum

To co-ordinate and develop services which effectively meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing violence, including domestic abuse, in the Falkirk area. This includes direct service provision, action intended to hold perpetrators accountable, work to reduce the tolerance of domestic violence amongst the general public and public awareness raising of the level and impact of violence against women.

Membership

Membership is open to all relevant services and agencies that work in the Falkirk area. Members should agree with the overall aim of the multi agency forum and with the partnership's terms of reference.

Members have a responsibility to inform appropriate managers, staff or volunteers within their own service/agency about any relevant information coming from the Domestic Abuse Forum.

Members are expected to share relevant information from their service/agency at meetings and to pass on their service's/agency's views to the forum.

Meetings

Meetings will take place on a quarterly basis. Short-term working groups may be established to take forward particular pieces of work outwith regular meetings.

Nominated members should make every effort to attend meetings but a representative may attend in their absence. In the event of non-attendance, apologies should be submitted to the Domestic Abuse Policy Coordinator who had administrative responsibility for the forum.

Agendas will be issued at least one working week in advance of meetings. Members should add items to the agenda no later than one week before the meeting takes place. Non-agenda items can be covered under AOCB, although consideration will be given to time availability.

Minutes will be issued within one month of the meeting. Agreed actions will be clearly set out. Members can disseminate these to other interested parties.

Terms of Reference

- **Adhere to the principles of the National Prevention Strategy.** Key elements of the Prevention Strategy are:
 - Public awareness raising
 - Education
 - Training
 - Services for women and children
 - Work with men who use violence
 - Legislation
 - Workplace Strategies
- **Ensure the partnership works effectively to implement prevention, protection and provision measures.**
- **Members to work together in developing an annual action plan for the forum to take forward.**
- **Ensure realistic targets relating to Violence against Women are included in the action plan.**
- **Support services/organisations to address domestic abuse issues.**
- **Ensure appropriate training is available for key staff and volunteers across the partnership.**
- **Member organisations to ensure that paid staff and volunteers receive appropriate training.**
- **Ensure that information on local and national services is available to women experiencing violence in the Falkirk area, including information about children's support services.**