

Your questions answered

Who will be in the group?

There will be a range of people from different cultural backgrounds in the group.

It is important that everyone treats each other with respect.

There will be up to 12 people in your group, and all have committed offences relating to domestic abuse.

There will be two experienced facilitators trained in the programme.

What if I cannot attend?

Inform your supervising officer immediately.

What if I am ill?

Get a doctor's note (not a self certificate) and give it to your supervising officer within 7 days of your missed appointment.

What happens if I do not attend?

You will need to give your supervising officer an explanation straightaway. If your explanation is not classified as acceptable, you may receive a breach warning letter or be dealt with by a return to court, or for breach of licence. If you are allowed to continue on the group you will need to catch up on the sessions, or the module, or start the group again, depending on the circumstances.

What are my rights?

You have various rights while you attend the programme.

You have the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination. The Probation Service will not accept any racist, sexist or other discriminatory behaviour towards you from either staff or fellow group members.

If at any time you feel you have been unfairly treated, you have the right to make a complaint. You should complain first to the Programme Manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way your complaint has been dealt with, you have the right to complain to the Chief Officer at the address below.

**6th Floor, Oakland House,
Talbot Road, Old Trafford,
Manchester, M16 0PQ**

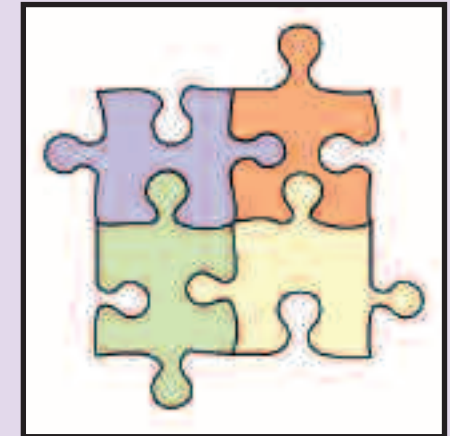
Tel: 0161 872 4802 Fax 0161 872 3483

Further information

For more information about anything in this leaflet, please talk to your supervising officer.

July, 2009

Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme



Information for GROUP PARTICIPANTS



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What is the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme?

The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme is designed to protect women and children from domestic abuse.

As well as work with your supervising officer, it involves you in group work sessions. Each session lasts two and a half hours.

You will need to talk openly in the group about your violence (your supervising officer will do some work with you beforehand to prepare you for this).

You will need to sign a contract and accept that we will contact your victim and other agencies, at regular intervals.

What will I gain?

- ◆ an understanding of the beliefs and attitudes which have played a part in your abusive behaviour
- ◆ an understanding of the impact of your abuse on your (ex)partner, children, others and yourself
- ◆ a range of skills and techniques to use in intimate relationships to avoid using violence and controlling behaviour.

BEFORE THE GROUP

- ◆ you will need to attend all appointments with your supervising officer
- ◆ you will attend a further introductory session at Minshull Street and also complete some questionnaires.

DURING THE GROUP

- ◆ you will participate in 27 group work sessions
- ◆ each session is two and a half hours, including a break
- ◆ after four modules a report will be written on your progress and you will attend a three-way review with your supervising officer and a facilitator from the group.

AFTER THE GROUP

- ◆ you will attend Minshull Street to complete a further set of questionnaires and then return in six months to complete a final set
- ◆ a final report will be written about your progress and what further work you will need to do
- ◆ you will attend a three-way meeting with your supervising officer and a facilitator from the group
- ◆ you will then need to keep appointments with your supervising officer.

You must agree to:

- ◆ attend on time and stay to the end
- ◆ take part in the exercises
- ◆ talk about your offending
- ◆ talk about your domestic abuse
- ◆ arrive clear-headed and not under the influence of alcohol, drugs or solvents
- ◆ treat facilitators and other group members with respect
- ◆ respect confidentiality
- ◆ turn off mobile phones
- ◆ abide by your letters of agreement and understanding.

How do we do it?

Trained facilitators will guide and encourage participants to develop the skills for themselves.

We use:

- ◆ group exercises
- ◆ discussion sessions
- ◆ self assessment
- ◆ problem solving exercises
- ◆ active learning exercises
- ◆ skills practice
- ◆ assignments between sessions.

All group work sessions are video taped. Some of these will be used to help train staff and to make sure the programme is run well. The group staff are expected to do a good job.