



1 in 4 Conference Report

On 27th November 2009, 80 people came together for Novas Scarman's 1 in 4 Domestic Abuse Conference in Cheltenham.

Providers, statutory and voluntary agencies and survivors heard national and local speakers, and discussed how services in Gloucestershire are meeting the needs of survivors, where the gaps are, and how we work together to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse for the benefit of whole communities.

The event was launched by Baroness Royall, who paid tribute to Gloucestershire's multi-agency work:

'One of the things we should celebrate is the great multi-agency partnerships you have formed in Gloucestershire - it forms a much better system of support for women and men experiencing domestic abuse, and their children.

'The Gloucestershire Public Protection Bureau is best practice in action - access to all agencies under one roof, including Novas Scarman's Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVA) and Central Allocation and Referral Point (CARP) services, is so important'.

Referring to the government's strategy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls launched in November, the Baroness urged everyone to continue working together to change attitudes from the playground upwards.

Challenges and Recommendations

From the speakers, workshop sessions and panel debate, the conference identified a number of challenges and recommendations:

- Prevention work should tackle gender stereotypes at an early age, and focus on educating and empowering boys and girls to recognise the value of respectful relationships.
- Preventative educational work should be integrated and community based, with the 3rd sector playing a role alongside statutory agencies
- In Gloucestershire, we need county wide coverage of domestic abuse services, including in rural areas
- We need to focus on improving coordination between agencies, to have a bigger impact. The vacant Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Coordinator post has a vital role to play.
- We need more specialist domestic abuse floating support services
- More work needs to be done to raise awareness of the CARP and IDVA services
- We need a dedicated IDVA service attached to the courts



- We need better access to therapeutic support for women and men survivors
- We need more engagement and representation in partnership work by Children's and Young People's services
- We need a dedicated children's resettlement worker
- We need better access to support for survivors with complex needs
- The voices of survivors must be central to service and strategy development
- Fathers need access to parenting courses
- Long term support is needed for survivors to really recover
- We need to press for security of funding, to build on what we've got

Novas Scarman was pleased to host this event and will work with the network of agencies and groups in Gloucestershire, to help address gaps, improve outcomes, and influence positive change at a national level.