

SOCIAL OUTCOMES



Stevenage Borough Council

Cross-Agency Working to support victims in Stevenage

The following case study highlights how strong partnership working and shared responsibility achieved positive outcomes for a high-risk victim/survivor of domestic abuse. Stevenage Borough Council were supported by The Policy Lab to procure additional training for a number of services within the council, reinforcing understanding and equipping officers with enhanced knowledge and confidence to provide support to victims/survivors.

Case Summary

A female victim/survivor, living with her 15-year-old son, was referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) with a DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence) score of 16, indicating high risk. She was also a MARAC repeat, demonstrating the persistent nature of the abuse.

Following an incident of “wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm,” the alleged perpetrator was remanded in custody. Despite imprisonment, he continued to harass the victim/survivor through repeated phone calls and threats to kill her should she give evidence in court. His new partner also attempted to intimidate the victim/survivor by making threats via calls and messages from an unknown number.

Multi-Agency Response

- **Police Action:** The Police referred the case to Stevenage Borough Council’s Domestic Abuse Service, Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA), and placed a SIG marker on the property for enhanced protection.
- **Specialist Support (SADA):** A dedicated caseworker completed an assessment, exploring safety options with the victim/survivor. She expressed her wish to remain in the local area to maintain her support network.

- **Children's Services:** Hertfordshire Children's Services reviewed the case and confirmed that protective measures for the child were in place.
- **Legal Outcome:** With ongoing support, the victim/survivor gave evidence in court, resulting in a 33-month prison sentence for the perpetrator and a 10-year restraining order.
- **Housing Partnership:** SADA worked with the local authority tenancy officer to present the case at the housing panel. The victim/survivor was enabled to move to a safer property while retaining her social housing tenancy.
- **Safety Measures:** The local sanctuary scheme provided an additional layer of security. The video doorbell was transferred, a new SIG marker was placed on the new property, and both the victim/survivor and her son changed their phone numbers.

Through close collaboration, agencies ensured the victim/survivor was safe, supported, and empowered to remain in her community. The perpetrator was brought to justice, and sustainable housing and safety measures were secured.

Training and multi-agency collaboration are essential in responding to VAWG. By working together, services can not only safeguard victims/survivors and their families but also build resilience. This case highlights best practice in creating safety, ensuring justice, and placing the victim/survivor at the centre of decision-making.

For further information contact:

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