In 2020, the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire successfully bid for funding through the new Home Office Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions Fund to develop a **Whole System Approach in North Yorkshire & the City of York to Addressing Abusive Behaviours** working collaboratively with partners to improve the overall accessibility of immediate advice & triage to enable perpetrators of domestic abuse to receive the right support at an earlier stage to address their abusive behaviour, alongside any health & social care needs which may otherwise be a barrier to effective behaviour change.

To support this Whole System Approach to Addressing Abusive Behaviours the ‘Hard to Help’ training is now available for any frontline workers to ensure they have the appropriate knowledge and tools available to better identify domestic abuse, successful engage with perpetrators and encourage them to access support services. Currently all sessions are delivered online, with face to face delivery sessions once COVID restrictions allow. The training is delivered over a 2.5hr sessions split into 3 parts:

1) DA awareness, including ‘Rurality’ to raise awareness of the picture in North Yorkshire

2) Getting to know and understand perpetrators

3) How to engage perpetrators in support, including using DASH for identified victims

Individual workers can book themselves onto the course or team managers can arrange for their whole team to attend: [https://hardtohelp.org/book-training](https://imsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fhardtohelp.org%2fbook%2dtraining&umid=7FE5B17F-C1F9-1205-9D30-F0D1974D2A1C&auth=de41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-1683361a7fdd8009ce9a1cc0dbdd42590bc2fd21)

To underpin this training, a new Domestic Abuse Online Learning Platform is now available for all professionals to access bitesize training modules & presentations on key subject matters such as mental health, trauma, dual diagnosis, substance misuse and the impact on abusive behaviours, as well as downloadable resources to use with clients. The Platform features a Core Training Toolkit plus a log in function to allow access to the full training resources library: [https://hardtohelp.org/](https://imsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fhardtohelp.org&umid=7FE5B17F-C1F9-1205-9D30-F0D1974D2A1C&auth=de41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-99101f9af85152535b926dff31690b8b610a91e4)

**Jointly Commissioned Domestic Abuse Support Services Overview**

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), City of York Council (CYC) and the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire (NYPFCC) recognise the negative impact that Domestic Abuse has on families, children and communities. They are committed to working together within the Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group of the North Yorkshire Community Safety and Safer York Partnerships to provide effective and consistent support and interventions to meet the needs of those affected.

It is anticipated that greater value for money will be achieved by ensuring the total local investment collectively prioritises the most effective interventions and services, with an emphasis on early-intervention and providing consistent services to meet current and potential future need of anyone affected by domestic abuse, thereby reducing demand on operational policing services and other related statutory services such as health, housing, children, young people and family prevention services as well as social care.

In order to achieve this vision, NYCC, CYC and NYPFCC have jointly commissioned the following holistic package of services to support across North Yorkshire & the City of York:

* **Domestic Abuse Victims Community Based Support services**

Delivered by Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS). Support is available for anyone aged 16 and over who is a direct victim or survivor of domestic abuse. Support is available for all genders and regardless of sexual orientation. The services offer:

* + Community engagement and Champions training to raise awareness of all forms of domestic abuse
	+ Early intervention and prevention advice and support
	+ 1 to 1 emotional and practical support, including support through any police investigation and/or court proceedings
	+ Target Hardening where necessary to help victims remain safely within their own homes
	+ Supported group work and peer support networks
	+ Onward referrals and/or liaison with other agencies and support services as appropriate

The overall objective of the service is to enable all victims and survivors of domestic abuse to cope with the immediate impacts of crime and recover from the harm experienced, and reach out to more people who are victims and survivors of domestic abuse through targeted community engagement to encourage an increase in self-reporting to access support. The aim is for victims and survivors to be and feel safer in their own home, and to be able to support themselves independently, or through an appropriate peer support network by the end of the provision of support.

Referrals can be made by police officers and other professionals working with victims and survivors as well as self-referrals, and support is available whether individuals want to make a formal report to the police or not:

* Online: [**www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/**](http://www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/)
* Email: **info@idas.org.uk**
* Phone: 03000 110 110
* Live Chat web chat facility via the IDAS website

All referrals will initially be reviewed by specialist domestic abuse staff in a centralised referral hub who will complete an initial assessment looking at risk and need, providing triage, immediate advice, support and safety planning including arranging personal or home security equipment as required. For those that require further support, the hub team will refer on to a Safe Lives Accredited (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser accredited) Domestic Abuse Practitioner to provide specialist 1 to 1 support, peer support group and/or to an external agency.

* **Domestic Abuse ‘Whole Family’ Approach: Support Services for children & young affected by domestic abuse**

Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) have been commissioned to develop a ‘Whole Family Approach’ from 1st July 2021 providing support services for children & young people affected by domestic abuse in North Yorkshire and the City of York. In addition to providing tailored support directly to children, young people and their parent/s or guardian/s, IDAS will work in collaboration with University of York St. John and other key stakeholders to significantly improve the overall evidence base of actual needs of children & young people living in households where domestic abuse occurs, and identify the most effective interventions to meet these needs and inform future service development and strategic planning.

Support will be available for all families with dependent children & young people living in households where domestic abuse occurs. Support is available for all genders and regardless of sexual orientation. The services will offer:

* + Intensive 1 to 1 emotional and practical support for C&YP aged 10yrs & over
	+ Referrals for parents/guardians into and ongoing liaison with IDAS victim services to ensure that support plans are co-ordinated and support the family’s common goals
	+ Supported group work and peer support networks
	+ Onward referrals and/or liaison with other support services as appropriate

The overall objective of the services is to enable children & young people living in households where domestic abuse occurs to cope with the immediate impacts and recover from the harm experienced. The aim is for children & young people to be and feel safer in their own home.

Referrals can be made by police officers and other professionals working with families as well as self-referrals, and support is available whether they want to make a formal report to the police or not:

* Online: [**www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/**](http://www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/)
* Email: **info@idas.org.uk**
* Phone: 03000 110 110
* Live Chat web chat facility via the IDAS website

All referrals will initially be reviewed by specialist lead practitioner in a centralised referral hub who will complete an initial assessment looking at risk and need, referring into or liaising with the Domestic Abuse Victims Community Based Support services before allocating to a specialist Young Person Domestic Abuse Practitioner to ensure a holistic assessment of the whole family, alongside information about any other agency involvement, so that duplication is avoided and support is coordinated for the whole family.

* **Domestic Abuse Accommodation Based Support services**

Delivered by Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS). Support is available for high and medium risk victims and survivors aged 16 years and over who are fleeing domestic abuse; and any dependent children up to the age of 16 years. Support is available for all genders and regardless of sexual orientation. Support is available whether or not they want to make a formal report to the Police. There is no “local connection” restriction for the Service as all victims and survivors must be allowed to travel the distance needed to be safe from their abusers. The services offer:

* + Safe Haven scheme (currently in development and due to come on line late 2021) providing short-term emergency accommodation and respite opportunities for up to two months with host family’s; this will provide vital respite accommodation where other accommodation is full, and will be particularly beneficial for victims and survivors who it may not be possible to accommodate in women’s refuges, do not have access to public funds or live in rural communities
	+ Safe Accommodation with tailored support for up to 1 year in a safe and secure environment either in specialist refuge or dispersed accommodation for victims and survivors, and any dependent children
	+ 1 to 1 emotional and practical support including support through any police investigation and/or court proceedings
	+ Specialist support for any dependent children and young people living in the accommodation including 1 to 1, group and play sessions and educational activities
	+ Parenting support, advice and information including support to access local school placements
	+ Support with independent living skills to assist with move on from the domestic abuse accommodation based support service
	+ Support to explore suitable move on options
	+ Supported group work and peer support networks
	+ Resettlement support for a period of up to 3 months following move on from the accommodation including onward referrals and/or liaison with other support services as appropriate.

The overall objective of the services is to enable high and medium risk victims and survivors fleeing domestic abuse, and their families, to make informed choices about their safety, health, housing and any other identified outcome needs.

Referrals for victims and survivors fleeing domestic abuse will be accepted from:

* + National Women’s Aid Network
	+ National Mankind initiative
	+ Statutory and non-statutory agencies and specialist support providers
	+ Self-referrals

Referrals can be made:

* Online: [**www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/**](http://www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/)
* Email: **info@idas.org.uk**
* Phone: 03000 110 110
* Live Chat web chat facility via the IDAS website

All referrals will initially be reviewed by specialist domestic abuse staff in a centralised Referral Hub which will be the first point of contact with IDAS for all victims and survivors fleeing domestic abuse. This will ensure that everyone has access to consistent support; starting with a Hub assessment looking at risk and need, and then, where needed, referral to an appropriate follow-up support service most relevant to meet their needs. The Hub will also provide triage, immediate advice, support and safety planning as required.

The IDAS Hub will have access to information about accommodation availability across the county and the UK; where accommodation is required, the Hub Team will make arrangements to appropriately accommodate victims and survivors fleeing domestic abuse in accordance with their identified needs and risk - if there is a need to be accommodated in another Local Authority area for safety reasons the Hub will arrange this.

* **Adult Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse service - +Choices**

Delivered by Foundation UK. Support is available for anyone aged 16 years and over who is a low risk perpetrator of domestic abuse, including repeat offenders and parent to adolescent violence, who wish to voluntarily address their abusive behaviour. Support is available for all genders and regardless of sexual orientation. The service offers:

* + Triage and emergency, temporary (up to 7 nights) accommodation where required
	+ 1 to 1 motivational interventions to support perpetrators to recognise and acknowledge their abuse behaviour
	+ Tailored Perpetrator Programmes, including both 1 to 1 and group delivery options
	+ Support to address wider needs such as housing, finance, substance misuse and mental health through onward referrals and/or liaison with other agencies and support services as appropriate

The overall objective of the service is to enable individuals, regardless of gender, who are engaged in abusive behaviour towards their current or former intimate partners, or immediate family members, the opportunity to recognise, acknowledge and change that behaviour. The aim is to prevent the abusive behaviour escalating and/or reduce the risk posed to, whilst increasing the safety of, victims and their children.

Referrals can be made by police officers and other professionals working with perpetrators, their families or victims (with consent) as well as self-referrals:

* Email: foundationdapp@foundationuk.org
* Phone:

01904 557 491 (York & Selby)

01423 500 905 (Harrogate & Craven)

01723 361 100 (Scarborough, Ryedale, Hambleton & Richmond)

* Emergency Out of Hours only: 0300 30 30 911

All referrals will be initially assessed by a Specialist Project Officer, who will review all relevant information regarding risk to complete an initial risk assessment including assessing the perpetrator’s suitability for the programme, identification of their most immediate needs and any immediate action needed to safeguard their victim from further harm. Some perpetrators may require emergency accommodation as they have been removed from their home due to the risk they pose to their victim and/or family. Temporary accommodation will be provided for up to 7 nights with support to report to their local housing office the next working day where longer term accommodation is required. Once any immediate needs have been addressed, perpetrators will be allocated to a Specialist Support Worker and a full needs and risk assessment will be undertaken with them to identify the most suitable support to address their needs and guide them through the various stages of behaviour change.

* **Support Services for Young People Displaying Abusive Behaviour – Respect**

Delivered by Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS). Support is available for young people aged 10 to 16 years who are demonstrating abusive behaviour towards their family members and/or within intimate relationships with other young people. Support will also be offered to their parent/guardians. Support is available for all genders and regardless of sexual orientation. The services offer:

* + Short-term telephone support for parent/guardians with supporting Parent Information Packs providing advice on safety planning, boundary setting and behaviour management
	+ Respect Young People’s Programme which uses a ‘whole family’ approach to address adolescent to parent violence and abuse
	+ Specialist Young Perpetrators Programme which uses a tailored 1 to 1 approach with older young people using abusive behaviours within intimate relationships with other young people
	+ Onward referrals and/or liaison with other support services as appropriate.

The overall objective of services is to enable young people who are starting to show signs of or demonstrating abusive behaviour within intimate relationships and/or the family setting to recognise this and help them to change their behaviour and re-build their relationships with their intimate partner, parent/s, guardian/s and/or siblings. The aim is to prevent the abusive behaviour escalating and/or reduce the risk posed by the young people to their intimate partner, parent/s, guardian/s and/or siblings.

Referrals can be made by police officers and other professionals working with young people and their families (with consent) as well as self/parent-referrals:

* + Online: [**www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/**](http://www.idas.org.uk/contact/make-a-referral/)
	+ Email: **respect.project@idas.cjsm.net**
	+ Phone: 03000 110 110
	+ Live Chat web chat facility via the IDAS website

All referrals will initially be reviewed by specialist domestic abuse staff in a centralised referral hub who will complete an initial assessment looking at risk and need, providing triage, immediate advice, support and safety planning. For those that require further support, the hub team will refer on to a specially trained Young People’s Domestic Abuse Practitioner to provide the most appropriate support package to meet their needs.