

Association of Child Protection Professionals
Domestic Violence and Abuse Special Interest Group (DVA SIG)
Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

- To inform the Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP) and its members of research, national trends, learning from practice developments, the implementation and impact of new guidance and policy relating to domestic violence and abuse (DVA);
- Develop links with the Child Abuse Review to share research and practice and encourage dissemination of information across groups of researchers, practitioner and practitioner researchers;
- To actively seek the voices of children, young people and adults who experience domestic violence and abuse (DVA), especially those who are seldom-heard and including diverse communities, learning from their experiences to promote best practice in safeguarding from DVA;
- Work with other organisations/interest groups operating within child and adult services to disseminate research findings and promote best practice in multi-disciplinary and multi-agency working.

2. Responsibilities and remit of group

2.1 Consider the impact of learning and reflection to influence organisational and practice system change, led by the membership.

2.2 Actively seek the voice and views of children, young people and adults affected by DVA to inform debate and understanding, and especially those from diverse and/or marginalised communities.

2.3 Influence organisational and practice system change, particularly with reference to using research to inform practice.

2.4 Receive updates from group and association members in relation to DVA and safeguarding regarding:

- Emerging learning themes
- Identification of good practice
- National and International Research
- DVA Specific Safeguarding Reviews
- Opportunities to influence policy and practice
- Tools for supervision and support for members, professionals and researchers working in the field of DVA

2.5 Link with other associated groups and specialist DVA organisations and actively promote inter-agency and multi-disciplinary working and knowledge.

2.6 Generate inter-university networks for safeguarding research that is informed through the AoCPP.

3. Outputs of Group

3.1 Review and debate practice, policy, research and areas of challenge in meeting the needs of the public sector to influence change in the evolution of processes and good practice.

3.2 Identify and enhance the existing pool of resources within the Association to inform improvements in practice.

3.3 Provide contributions to the AoCPP newsletter/journal.

3.4 Identify and develop training resources for dissemination via AoCPP forums e.g. via AoCPP training events

3.5 The Chair of the DVA SIG to provide updates to AoCPP Chair and contribute to the annual report regarding the work of the group and the development of priorities for future business plan.

4. Frequency of meetings

4.1 The group consists of AoCPP members meeting quarterly to debate, identify and develop learning and training opportunities. Extraordinary meetings can be called if required by the Chair of their own volition or at the request of any member of the group. Minutes and actions will be noted and circulated to all members of the group.

Meetings will be recorded and accessible via the DVA SIG webpage of the main AoCPP website.

Minutes and actions will be noted and circulated to all members of the group.

5. Reporting arrangements

5.1 The group will report to the Board of Trustees (BoT) providing relevant updates.

6. Terms of Reference review

6.1 The Terms of Reference for the DVA SIG may be amended by the Group and be subject to approval of the AoCPP Chair.

6.2 The Terms of Reference are to be reviewed annually every April.