

NORTHUMBRIA

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



CHAMPIONS NETWORK

Each year, over one million women nationally suffer abuse but fewer than one in four will report this to the police. Domestic violence and abuse is one of the most critical issues for Northumbria with 30,000 incidents being reported to Northumbria Police annually, this accounts for almost 25% of all violent crime.

Rape and sexual assault is also chronically under reported although we know one in four women will experience some form of sexual abuse in their lifetime.

Domestic and sexual violence has a profound impact on individuals, families, whole communities and businesses in Northumbria. Evidence shows that both nationally and locally, most victims of domestic and sexual violence are women and most perpetrators are men. However, anyone can be the victim of abuse and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender communities are affected, and men can be abused by women.

The aim of the Champions Network is to improve community and business responses to domestic and sexual violence by providing training and assistance to enable staff to support colleagues experiencing abuse and to signpost them to specialist services where appropriate.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Champions Network

The Champions Network will be set up across Northumbria, supported by a Steering Group comprised of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence leads in each area and other relevant partners from both the statutory and voluntary sector.

Nominated staff within organisations will be trained and supported to become Champions, to be the link between their organisation and the Network, to be a conduit for information and to assist their business to enhance their response to individuals affected by domestic and sexual violence in Northumbria.

Champions will meet on a regular basis to add to their knowledge and to build professional relationships. Champions will have access to:

- Local resources, information and campaign material
- A Northumbria wide programme of training
- Peer support through the Network attendees and meetings
- Ongoing support from the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence leads in each area.

Manager responsibilities:

- Select committed individual(s) and encourage and support them in their role as Domestic and Sexual Violence Champion throughout their organisation.
- Ensure the Champion has adequate time away from their normal role for training and network meetings: 1 day domestic violence training plus a minimum of two other training / network meetings a year.
- Support the Champion to be a point of contact in their organisation.
- Commit to enhancing the overall level of knowledge and awareness within their organisation in relation to domestic and sexual violence.
- Work with the Champion to implement and develop domestic and sexual violence policies and procedures within their organisation.

Champion responsibilities:

- Act as a conduit for information between their organisation and the Champions Network as necessary.
- Attend 1 day domestic violence training and a minimum of two other training / network events per year.
- Be a point of contact for their organisation for information relating to domestic and sexual violence.
- Raise awareness and enhance the overall level of knowledge of domestic and sexual violence within their organisation.
- Ensure up to date and accessible information is available in relation to support services for victims.
- Ensure leaflets and posters are displayed and available within their organisation.
- Contribute to the continued development and effectiveness of the Champions Network.
- Provide feedback to the Network in relation to Champion's training and development.

Champions Agreement (to be signed and returned to the Network coordinator)

Name of Domestic and Sexual Violence Champion:

Organisation:

Email:

Telephone:

Signature of Champion:

Print Name:

Signature of manager on behalf of organisation:

Print Name: