

The 3rd Edition Respect Standard Briefing Paper

Respect is delighted to publish the 3rd edition of the Respect Standard which is designed to ensure safe, effective, accountable work with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

The Respect Standard

- Sets out an evidence-based framework for work with perpetrators of DVA
- Has the safety of survivors and their children at its heart
- Encompasses all work an organisation carries out with perpetrators, including:
 - early intervention
 - behaviour change programmes (groupwork or 1-2-1)
 - high intensity case management
 - disruption activities
- Covers the whole cohort of perpetrators:
 - men and women in straight or same sex relationships
 - those who are motivated to change and those who aren't
 - those presenting different levels of risk and need

Respect Accreditation

- Is a robust and thorough full scrutiny audit, carried out by expert assessors
- Ensures that all services meet or exceed quality standards in management, intervention delivery, diversity and equality, multiagency work and where applicable in innovation design
- Includes a desk top review, site visits, dip sampling of client work videos and interviews with staff and stakeholders
- Considers the organisation's whole offer to perpetrators of DVA and linked work with survivors:
 - stage one focuses on safety and risk management
 - stage two on quality and effectiveness
 - an organisation must pass both to become accredited
- Is awarded by an independent panel of experts

The Respect Standard & Accreditation

- Gives confidence to survivors that their safety is paramount
- Supports providers to deliver safe, effective and accountable services
- Enables commissioners and funders to make sound decisions
- Ensures a consistent approach across different areas and types of agency
- Includes an outcomes framework to measure the impact of service provision
- Supports safe and responsible innovation
- Aligns with national priorities and Violence Against Women and Girls strategies and standards

"It all made sense when I read the standards, not just what the group was about but how this was a service for me, my safety and my children's safety. The Respect Standard gave me real peace of mind."

A Survivor whose partner completed a Respect Accredited Programme

“The Respect Standard is crucial in the fight against domestic abuse. It ensures perpetrator interventions are safe and effective in preventing future abuse and in turn allows victims to rebuild their lives.”

Victoria Atkins

Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability

The Respect Standard Principles

1. **Do no harm.** Organisations take all reasonable steps to ensure that their services do not create additional risks for survivors of domestic violence and abuse.
2. **Gender matters.** Organisations work in a way that is gender informed, recognising the gender asymmetry that exists in the degree, frequency and impact of domestic violence and abuse. They understand that men’s violence against women and girls is an effect of the structural inequality between men and women and that its consequences are amplified by this. A gender analysis includes violence and abuse perpetrated by women against men and abuse in same-sex relationships, and these also require a gender informed response.
3. **Safety first.** The primary aim of work with perpetrators is to increase the safety and wellbeing of survivors and their children. The provision of an Integrated Support Service for survivors alongside the intervention for perpetrators is essential. When working with perpetrators it is important to recognise the need for behaviour change, but risk reduction should always be prioritised.
4. **Sustainable change.** Organisations offer interventions that are an appropriate match to the perpetrator, considering the risks they pose, the needs they have and their willingness and ability to engage with the service offered. This will ensure that they are offered a realistic opportunity of achieving sustainable change.
5. **Fulfilling lives.** Organisations are committed to supporting all service users to have healthy, respectful relationships and to lead fulfilling lives.
6. **The system counts.** Domestic violence and abuse cannot be addressed by one agency alone and work with perpetrators should never take place in isolation. Organisations are committed to working with partners to improve responses as part of their local multiagency arrangements.
7. **Services for all.** Organisations recognise and respect the diversity of their local community and take steps to respond to everyone according to their needs.
8. **Respectful communities.** Organisations recognise that the environment their service users live in has an impact on their lives. They will make the links between individual change and the development of respectful communities.
9. **Competent staff.** Organisations deliver a safe, effective service by developing the skills, well-being and knowledge of their staff through training, supervision and case work support.
10. **Measurably effective services.** Organisations employ clear and proportionate measurement tools, which demonstrate both the individual benefits and the impact of interventions.