

## The Respect Standard Fourth Edition Endorsements

Respect has launched the fourth edition of its quality assurance framework: [the Respect Standard](#). A definitive guide for commissioners, the Standard is at the heart of our accreditation process, which assesses domestic abuse perpetrator interventions for safety and effectiveness.

We spoke to sector experts about why they endorse the Respect Standard.



### Sarah Dines MP, Minister for Safeguarding

Domestic abuse is unacceptable and preventable; but the tragic reality is that it devastates the lives of millions. Tackling these awful crimes is a government priority, and a priority for me as Minister for Safeguarding. In March 2022, we published the cross-government Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, with strategic commitments to prevent offending and pursue perpetrators, as well as to support victims and strengthen the system. We must stop domestic abuse from happening in the first place. When it does occur, our message must be unequivocal: perpetrators must change their behaviour.

Respect have pioneered work to keep survivors safe while offering perpetrators meaningful opportunities to change. The Respect Standard, first introduced in 2008, is central to this. By providing a quality assurance framework, it helps to ensure perpetrator interventions are delivered professionally and competently and are effective in reducing harm. As the intervention sector has grown in recent years, the Standard has expanded accordingly. I am therefore pleased to introduce the fourth version of the Respect Standard.

The Respect Standard is closely aligned with the Home Office Standards for Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions, and I am grateful for Respect's collaboration in developing these. By promoting a consistent approach, these Standards can help deliver safe and effective domestic abuse perpetrator interventions across England and Wales. Ultimately, our collective aim is to reduce the prevalence of these terrible crimes and this work is a core part of that effort.



### Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner

I endorse the Respect Standard because it is a quality framework for perpetrator work and puts survivors at the heart of its accreditation requirements. The Standard is vital in the fight against domestic abuse, and I welcome this updated edition which has been broadened to cover more types of perpetrator interventions.

Domestic abuse is a horrific crime which destroys lives and we need to ensure that there is an effective and safe way of addressing the behaviour of abusers with victims' voices and support for survivors at the very heart of the process.



## Vera Baird DBE KC, Patron of Respect

Perpetrator work is a speciality that has grown exponentially over the last few years, both in terms of awareness and provision, so it's vital that those leading this work continue to ensure that the needs and safety of victims are prioritised.

This new edition of the Respect Standard, with an entire section devoted to enhancing the safety and freedom of victims, shows that Respect is continuing its long tradition of putting victims at the centre of perpetrator work.

The Respect Standard is the kitemark for all perpetrator work, nothing should be commissioned that hasn't attained it. I am pleased to be a Patron of Respect and to watch them going from strength to strength in this utterly key area of work.



## DCC Maggie Blyth, NPCC coordinator for tackling VAWG

The Respect Standard is the go-to guidelines for DA Perpetrator Programmes (DAPPs); making sure those who wish to address their behaviour can through a Respect accredited programme, whilst ensuring the safety and support for survivors. As NPCC VAWG lead I will signpost the Respect Standards to Police Forces and Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure they use them to inform DAPP commissioning across England and Wales. This will be particularly important for policing with the changes around Out of Court Disposals from April 2023.



## Farah Nazeer, CEO at Women's Aid

Perpetrator programmes are an important part of the solution to end domestic abuse, and early intervention and behavioural change approaches have been evaluated as highly successful. At Women's Aid we endorse the fourth edition of the Respect Standard - to help ensure that all perpetrator programmes are both effective and safe. We particularly welcome the separation of survivor provision into its own standalone section, further reinforcing that survivors must be at the heart of all perpetrator interventions.



## Suzanne Jacob OBE, Chief Executive at SafeLives

The values and standards included in this document are really important. They relate to a growing range of frontline service models, which is a positive reflection of how practitioners continue to innovate to address domestic abuse perpetrator behaviour. They also reiterate the need for common expectations of what 'good', and even simply what 'safe' will look like in that provision. The emphasis on coordinated work both with victim-focused services and multi-agency partners is really welcome. None of us can end domestic abuse alone but together, we can wrap around families and create hugely valuable change.

Sara Kirkpatrick, CEO at Welsh Women's Aid

Welsh Women's Aid welcomes & endorses the fourth edition of the Respect standard. That specialist services who undertake work with perpetrators are safe, effective, and centre survivor safety and support is vital in our shared goal in eliminating violence against women.

We are delighted that this robust independent mechanism to quality assure interventions with perpetrators has been revised to keep pace with new and emerging evidence and not only will our national quality service standards continue to recommend adherence to the Respect standard, but we would also encourage all who commission work with perpetrators to commit to independent fully funded quality assurance mechanisms.

We look forward to continuing to work with Respect and all other providers of quality assurance frameworks in ensuring that specialist support for survivors and perpetrators is not only of a high quality but is also needs led, trauma informed, and strengths based, in order to achieve change that lasts.



Dr Nicola Sharp-Jeffs, Director at Surviving Economic Abuse

Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) is delighted to endorse the fourth edition of the Respect Standard which sets out that perpetrator interventions must prioritise the safety and freedom of survivors. With economic abuse now named and defined in the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) this includes ensuring interventions address entitlement to and control over economic resources.



Andrea Simon, Director at End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW)

Violence against women is not inevitable and to end it, we must take action to prevent it, alongside reducing the harms caused by perpetrators and managing the risks they pose.

We're delighted to welcome the latest edition of the Respect Standard, which is crucial for ensuring that domestic abuse perpetrator interventions are accredited, high quality, and designed to keep survivors and their children safe.

We are especially pleased to see that the updated version includes a standalone section on survivor support provision. Part of providing a service to perpetrators of domestic abuse is ensuring safe and effective interventions, that do not contribute to the harm experienced by survivors or escalate the risk from a perpetrator, are delivered alongside support for survivors by specialist VAWG organisations.



**Suky Bhaker, CEO at the Suzy Lamplugh Trust**

We support the Respect Standard 4th edition and its ambition to keep victims safer through this framework for work with perpetrators. It highlights the importance of a survivor centred approach which is vital to the success of this work to reduce reoffending and reduce risks to victims.



**Donna Covey CBE, Chief Executive at AVA (Against Violence and Abuse)**

Strong, evidence-based perpetrator work is essential to ending domestic abuse. That is why we encourage all the commissioners we work with to insist on Respect accreditation for the services they commission. This ensures high quality services that place survivors at their heart.

**Estelle du Boulay, Director at Rights of Women**

We are pleased to endorse the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Respect Standard. We have confidence in the Standard because it is embedded within a robust accountability framework of rigorous assessment. We are pleased to see that it places the emphasis that it is needed on consistency, transparency and benchmarking within work with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

It is crucial that work with perpetrators is delivered at a high standard that is effective in delivering safety for survivors; this ensures interventions are meaningful and able to contribute to the system change needed to help end Violence Against Women and Girls.



**Davina James-Hanman, Independent Consultant & Chair of Respect's Accreditation Panel**

I am delighted to welcome this latest version of the Respect Standard which has been updated to reflect changes in the field of perpetrator work since 2017. Incorporating feedback from survivors, practitioners and the latest academic research, these robust standards can reassure commissioners and providers who achieve accreditation that perpetrator interventions are of high quality, effective and most importantly, safe.



Professor Nicole Westmarland, Director of the Durham Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA)

Working internationally on perpetrator interventions, I see first-hand just how important it is to have properly accredited interventions when working with people who use violence and abuse. Without Respect's Standard and rigorous accreditation process the quality including the safety of this work could not be assured. I highly value and appreciate the work that Respect put into ensuring safe and effective practice and management of interventions. It is absolutely essential.



Professor Marianne Hester, Chair in Gender, Violence & International Policy Centre for Gender & Violence Research, University of Bristol

The new edition of the Respect Standard is excellent and provides a renewed emphasis on the crucial aspect of safety for survivors and children, with a standalone section on survivor provision, and has streamlined the accreditation process to make it more affordable for services.



Chris Edwards, Regional Probation Director for Greater Manchester and National Domestic Abuse Lead

Changing perpetrator behaviour sits at the heart of protecting others and we continue to see a range of new initiatives and interventions coming forwards in this area. In such a vibrant environment, the relentless pursuit of excellent practice is ever more critical – how services are structured, and how well they are delivered are key factors that can significantly determine their impact. The Respect Standard is a very important document in terms of ensuring high quality interventions are implemented and maintained.



APCC Joint Victims' Leads Donna Jones, PCC for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for London

We welcome the updated guidelines from Respect. As commissioners we must have trust in the services we commission and provide, the Respect Standard is a key indicator that providers can deliver best practice in this critical area. We are pleased to see the continued recognition in the new standard that survivors should be at the centre of perpetrator interventions. It is vital that while we work to change behaviours, we do not compromise victims' safety and security. We therefore offer our endorsement of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Standard and look forward to seeing the benefits to providers.

