

# Guildford Against Domestic Abuse Pledge

Our Borough, Our Residents, Our Problem

## About the Guildford Against Domestic Abuse pledge

The Guildford Against Domestic Abuse pledge has been created by the Safer Guildford Partnership to encourage our member organisations to make a commitment to support people experiencing domestic abuse\*. Domestic abuse is one of the biggest issues in society today. The true scale of the problem is difficult to determine because a large proportion of domestic abuse goes unreported. There are estimated to be between 14,205 – 42,288 victims of domestic abuse in Surrey and in 2018-2019 there were 14,002 domestic abuse incidents reported to Surrey Police. Tragically, two women are killed every week by their partner or ex-partner in England and Wales alone.



SAFER GUILDFORD  
a partnership approach

Between April and September 2020, the South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service which covers Guildford, saw a 51% increase in referrals rising from 192 for the same period in 2019 to 289.

## Why are we doing this?

The answer is simple; all Safer Guildford Partnership members either live or work in Guildford and have a responsibility to do all they can to create safer communities for the residents, workforce and students (age 16 or over) in the borough. This pledge gives Safer Guildford Partnership member organisations the opportunity to sign up to make four focused commitments to provide support for people experiencing domestic abuse. It is a way for them to publicly commit to take action to support victims of domestic abuse. Once they have done so the onus is on them to ensure that they complete the commitments with the support of the rest of the partnership. If an organisation has already delivered the commitments, then they can still sign the pledge and use their experience to help others with more work to do.

\* The pledge is based on the Make a Stand pledge that was developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance.

## The pledge

By signing up to the Guildford Against Domestic Abuse pledge you are committing to make sure your organisation does the following:

<p>1. Raise awareness of domestic abuse with residents, workforce, and students (age 16 or over) to help them understand what domestic abuse is and how to respond if someone they know discloses domestic abuse</p>	<p>2. Make information about local domestic abuse support services available on websites, social media, internal bulletins, and appropriate public places and support surrey-wide social media campaigns</p>
<p>3. Put in place a HR policy, or review and update an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse</p>	<p>4. Appoint a champion at a senior level in your organisation to own the activity you are doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse</p>

1. There is a DA training programme available to partners and we can further support with webinars for staff and the public with the help of South West Domestic Abuse Service.
2. The [www.surreyagainstda.info](http://www.surreyagainstda.info) website is available to all and pre-prepared social media content and images can be shared for your use. Content for newsletters, posters, leaflets can be provided on request.
3. We have DA workforce policy templates available and can support organisations to develop their own workforce policies
4. We can encourage senior leaders to become White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions and ask them to consider working towards White Ribbon Accredited Status for their organisation. Surrey County Council were awarded this status in November 2020 for a period of three years.

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