

# Abingdon on Thames

## Domestic Abuse Charter

### *The first Reducing the Risk torchbearer town*

The Town Council of Abingdon on Thames is committed to stand up against domestic abuse. We aspire to become a town which raises awareness of domestic abuse and where such abuse, in all its forms, is understood, recognised to be unacceptable, and where help and support are available to those in need. By raising awareness, we also hope to reduce the risk of abuse starting, continuing or escalating.

We recognise that domestic abuse takes many forms and not only relates to physical violence. It also includes all other forms of emotional, or financial control as well including coercive control.

Through mobilising others, we aspire to help develop an inclusive and supportive multi-agency network of services, both statutory and voluntary, which will aim to meet the needs of domestic abuse victim-survivors, and anyone else who may be directly or indirectly affected. These include children, young people, families, the elderly, the vulnerable and marginalised as well as the disabled.

We will do this by

- Supporting educational programmes for the public, schools, the workplace, leisure activities, faith groups and the wider community. The Town Council website will also have a dedicated section for information and sources of help
- Helping to provide more widespread and accessible information, in appropriate formats, to encourage everyone who may be affected to seek help, either in person, by phone or online.
- Working with partners and agencies to develop a well-publicised local network of services for the provision of information, counselling, ongoing support and advice. Partners include the statutory and non-statutory services, educationalists, legal, housing and financial services, specialist charities and others. Victim-survivors will also play a central part in developing this.
- Ensuring these initiatives promote inclusivity and accessibility for everyone including men, women, the young, the old, the vulnerable or disabled, those from other communities and ethnic groups and the LGBTQIA+ community. Many of these communities are currently underserved.
- We will host an interagency working group which will meet regularly to develop, implement and review the strategy and the services that are offered.