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# The SafeLives blueprint for a transformed response to domestic abuse

We have to transform the whole system to achieve sustainable safety from domestic abuse for all victims and all children.

And it needs to be an end-to-end approach, not just isolated interventions struggling in an unreformed system. Over the coming decade, SafeLives will work with our partners to create or recommend a set of interventions and new ways of working to meet each point of our blueprint. We believe that the impact of this will go far beyond domestic abuse, enabling easier identification of children and young people at risk and supporting victims and their families to get help with complex needs as well as domestic abuse.

## The system we propose:

- 1. Victims and their families need to be at the heart of the system.**

They need to know how to get help for themselves – or what to do if someone tells them about domestic abuse. And they should know that services in every area are of high-quality, and focussed on meeting their needs and making them safe.
- 2. We need to identify all victims, their children, young people at risk and perpetrators earlier.** Early identification is the responsibility of every public service. Then we need to assess the risks they face jointly and separately, and get each member of the family the right intervention fast.
- 3. There must be quality services for all victims.** Victims at high- or medium-risk of murder or serious harm must get help in the community from a qualified Idva, working as part of a robust multi-specialist team. This help must not be predicated on them leaving their relationship. High-risk victims must get help from a high-quality Marac. Victims at high- and medium-risk with complex needs must get specific help with those needs alongside help to become safe from abuse. Victims at standard-risk need to get the right support, often from universal or volunteer-led services.
- 4. Children living with domestic abuse must get high-quality services** that help them be safe and develop their resilience. Children's services must link to support for the primary victim as part of a whole-family model.

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5. **Perpetrators should get the right challenge alongside the right help to stop abusing.**

A specialist worker should proactively secure the engagement of every perpetrator of high-risk abuse, seek to change their behaviour and link them to other services or to voluntary perpetrator programmes. This will reduce the risk to the current victim, and prevent abuse to future victims and children.

6. **Once families are safe, there should be a clear pathway of support** for the victim and their children to recover from the abuse and live a life sustainably in safety – including peer support.

7. **There must be a supportive policy and funding environment.** Politicians should set the right policy framework and commissioners should align their budgets and fund services according to jointly-agreed outcomes that address risk and need in their local population.

