



## Ending domestic abuse

### Frequently asked questions about Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (Idaa) training

Take a look at some frequently asked questions below. For any other queries, please email [training@safelives.org.uk](mailto:training@safelives.org.uk) or call 0117 403 3224.

#### Who can apply?

The course is specifically tailored to those practising within Scotland. The broad range of topics covered on this course means it is suitable for experienced practitioners and those who are new to the role. This includes those who are:

- currently working as an independent domestic abuse advocate or domestic abuse practitioner
- about to start work as an independent domestic abuse advocate or domestic abuse practitioner
- managers of a domestic abuse service with a caseload.

For learners to get the most out of the training, they must have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse, particularly in relation to the gendered nature of domestic abuse. They may have attended a Scottish Women's Aid's or other specialist training on domestic abuse within the last 3 years, or can demonstrate their understanding on the application form.

If a learner has not completed recent training, the charities (ASSIST, SafeLives and Scottish Women's Aid) may wish to talk to them by phone before accepting their application.

Learners must have the support of their service manager to attend this training and to complete the required assignments. The course requires a significant commitment of study time outside of the training room and the course is most effective where a learner has the support of their line manager to attend the training and complete the notional study time requirements.

Pre-course reading material will be made available to all successful applicants.

If you are providing support to victims in a voluntary capacity, this course is unlikely to be suitable for you. If you have any doubts about whether you are eligible for the training please get in touch with the training team.

### **How much does Idaa training cost?**

The Scottish Government generously funded development and previous delivery of the Idaa programme, however despite continued support of the training, the Scottish Government is unable to fund further courses at the present time.

**The cost per person is £1652.** This includes the cost of £52 per student that must be paid to register with the accrediting body; SQA.

### **Subsidies**

**Though we would love to be able to offer subsidies this is not viable at this time as we have no core funding available for Idaa so it needs to self-fund.** We are looking into options to do this in the future but this is not available at present.

### **How can this training help learners?**

Through expert speakers and relevant topics, this course aims to help you:

- feel equipped to increase the safety of victims of domestic abuse
- increase your confidence levels through group work
- improve your career prospects with a professional development award on completion
- share experience and best practice with other Scottish domestic abuse practitioners in a learning environment.

### **Benefits for service managers**

By completing this training, service managers will be improving practice within their service and making victims and their children safer.

We advise that where the training is accessed by a service manager that they train separately from any member of their staff. This provides a more appropriate learning environment for both parties and allows each professional individual access to learning.

**Please note that we do not run separate Service Managers training in Scotland.**

### **What accreditation level is the course?**

The professional development award has been validated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and is level 7 of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications framework. The award is made up of 4 SQA Units.

Please note that to obtain the full professional development award, participants will need to complete all parts of the training and pass all x4 assessments. You will receive a certificate for each unit completed, and the full award from SQA.

## **What are the training requirements?**

To ensure you get the most from your training and to receive your accreditation, learners must:

- attend, be fully present and participate in all 12 days of the training
- complete all x4 compulsory assessments within the timescales agreed (*see assessment information below*)
- have access to the internet, a stable connection and a current version of Microsoft Word (to join the online training, access our online learner centre to submit assessment worksheets and receive email communications).

## **What is the Idaa course structure?**

The Idaa training course is delivered across four different blocks over a total of 12 training days. The course content of each block is outlined below:

### **Block 1:**

- Context and skills of Idaa role
- Pro-social modelling, active listening, stages of change and motivational interviewing
- Domestic abuse and health
- Housing options

### **Block 2:**

- SafeLives Dash and safety planning
- Marac and multi-agency risk management
- Case management from referral to closure

### **Block 3:**

- Criminal justice – input from Police Scotland and COPFS
- Civil law
- LGBT+ clients
- Black, Asian, and racially minoritised clients

### **Block 4:**

- Children and domestic abuse
- Adult support and protection sexual abuse
- Male clients and perpetrator screening
- Substance use and domestic abuse
- Vicarious Trauma.

## **What assessments will need to be completed?**

Each block has an adjoining worksheet assessment (four in total) that takes between 6 – 14 hours each to complete, depending on ability. **It is important to prepare for this additional time and work commitment.** Learners should speak to their Managers before applying to plan and prepare.

Learners have 4 weeks after the end of each block to submit their first attempts and have three attempts in which to pass by course closure (12 weeks after the last day of training).

Learners will be assigned an assessor who is there to support them should they need it and will be supported throughout the training by the Lead Trainer and Training Coordinator.

**To receive accreditation, learners need to attend all 12 days training and pass all x4 assessments by course closure.**

## **What help is there for those with accessibility needs?**

We welcome learners of all backgrounds and abilities. We encourage you to share with us any details on accessibility and diversity needs so we can ensure the right support is in place. You can also contact us if you have any queries.

## **Who are the course trainers?**

The training will be led by Mhairi McGowan (SafeLives Associate) and learners will also benefit from the input of a selection of specialist guest speakers.

## **What is the background to this training?**

Together, ASSIST, SafeLives and Scottish Women's Aid successfully made a joint grant application to the Scottish Government for the development and delivery of a domestic abuse advocacy training and qualification for specialist domestic abuse practitioners.

The course will be based on key parts of the successful SafeLives foundation Idva training programme, which has been developed over the past 11 years in England and Wales and delivered to over 1800 practitioners. The Scottish course will be a qualification that is validated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and has been tailored to meet the needs of a Scottish audience.

For more information about the organisations involved please use the links below.

[About ASSIST](#)

[About SafeLives](#)

[About Scottish Women's Aid](#)