

Leeds Domestic Violence Service (LDVS) works with women, men & families in Leeds offering emergency accommodation, support, advice and advocacy around a range of issues

(Information for the Public)

# What can we offer you?

# 24 Hour Helpline – 0113 246 0401

LDVS operates a 24 hour telephone support line. Call us at any time for emotional support, information on LDVS or other services. You can call anonymously or ask us to start supporting you.

## Drop In Service

We run regular discreet drop in services across the city. Our drop in worker will offer confidential, emotional and practical support and can give information about your rights and talk through your options. No appointment is necessary – you can just call in – and you don't need to give your name. For more information about where the drop ins are held please call the helpline or email.

### **Community Domestic Violence Team**

Our Community DV Practitioners will provide regular practical and emotional support on housing, benefits and budgeting, safety planning, health and social care and community engagement. In addition we can accompany you to solicitor's appointments and support you in attending the Family Courts. We can liaise with agencies on your behalf to ensure that you receive specialist support in areas such as drug and alcohol dependency, mental health and children's education and wellbeing.

## IDVA Team (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates)

Our IDVAs will support you if you need immediate crisis or safety advice and will focus on reducing your risk. We will provide legal advice and advocacy on a range of issues within the family and criminal law. This can include advice on injunctions, children's matters, divorce, the police and we can support you at criminal court if you have to give evidence at a trial. Our IDVAs will offer short or long-term support depending on your needs.

### **Emergency Accommodation**

We can offer emergency accommodation to you, whether you are a woman or a man, and whether you have children or not, if you are experiencing domestic abuse and you need safe and secure temporary accommodation. You can come to us if you are currently living in Leeds or even if you are outside of Leeds and want to come here. Along with this, we will give you support whilst you stay with us, help you to find and move into your own accommodation and then, if you want it, support to settle in to your new community.

### **Group Support**

We run a number of support groups for women in different locations around the city. Through the groups we provide an opportunity for you to meet others who have been through similar experiences in a relaxed and informal setting. Our experienced group worker will facilitate you and the other group members to share stories, support one another, plan your safety, and discuss patterns of abuse and control. Our group facilitator will also provide advice, signposting and referrals for other support if you need it.