



## Accreditation

**Introduction of the Safe Minimum Practice assessment and new requirements for all Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes (DVPPs) that have not entered the accreditation process.**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011**

### **Background**

Over half of the eligible Respect members are either accredited or involved in the assessment process. It appears that we are well on the way to having accredited services but not all services have decided to go down this route. When Respect introduced accreditation we encouraged services to achieve accreditation within three years of joining Respect as members.

Over the last two years we have introduced a smaller, less rigorous assessment called the Risk Management and Safeguarding Assessment. This assessment has been used to quality assure services wanting to be approved providers working with the family court in England. This level of assessment is there to assure the court that services are working to a safe minimum level of practice. **Many services have used this Risk Management and Safeguarding assessment, which we are now renaming a Safe Minimum Practice assessment**, as a stepping stone to full accreditation, breaking down the process into two smaller steps.

Membership of Respect as a provider of a DVPP means that Respect phonelines and others may refer to the service. It has become more accepted that Respect membership means that referrers can have confidence in the quality of the service. If a service is accredited then this is not in doubt. However, for services which have not moved towards accreditation, Respect has no way of verifying the quality of the service.

### **New requirements**

**All current Respect DVPP members who have been members for 3 years or more and are not engaged in the accreditation process will be required to successfully complete a Risk Management and Safeguarding assessment within one year of 1.10.11, so by 30.9.12.**

**All other existing DVPP members and all new DVPP members will be required to successfully complete a Safe Minimum Practice assessment within two years of 1.10.11, so by 30.9.13.**

**Any organisation which does not achieve this will no longer be eligible for Respect DVPP membership. They will however be welcome to become a subscriber.**

Respect is aware that all our members are facing tough financial times. We hope that accreditation will act as a lever for funding and contracting. We will do all we can to support members to achieve accreditation, including: providing additional site visits to support services to put in place strong processes; identifying other resources that will help them in working through accreditation; supporting accredited services to improve their sustainability.

On a national level Respect is lobbying government for sustainable funding streams for DVPPs.

### **Costs**

- Full accreditation costs £7,000 (this includes all the support offered to services to help them with accreditation)
- Accreditation is renewable every three years - the cost of accreditation renewal is yet to be agreed but will be in the region of £2,000
- Safe Minimum Practice assessments cost £1,850 – this is deductible from the cost of accreditation if the organisation undertakes the full accreditation assessment within 12 months of the Risk Management and Safeguarding assessment
- Safe Minimum Practice assessments are renewable annually at a cost of £650 per year

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