

Foreword

Since its launch in 2002 the Stella Project has worked emphatically to improve understanding and practice across the domestic violence and alcohol and drug sectors in London. The first edition of this unique toolkit was published in 2004 to address concerns about the lack of consistent thinking and response to these complex issues. It provided basic information, advice and sample documents for practitioners and service managers to enable them to respond to people using their services safely and appropriately.

When it was first published the toolkit was widely welcomed and demand for it has remained constant. Since then there has been increased awareness of the links between domestic violence and substance misuse and much progress in the development of collaborative and integrated service provision.

This progress is matched by a commitment across the sectors for continued improvements. I am pleased that the Stella Project has been able to update the toolkit and offer more guidance and examples of what works and I am especially pleased that much of this is based on first hand experience of agencies taking on this innovative work.

This updated edition features more examples of assessment forms and guidance on risk management as well as guidance on working with perpetrators in drug/alcohol treatment and supporting children living with parental substance misuse and domestic violence. You will also find more examples of policies and strategic partnership working which can be emulated within your own agency and local area.

I commend those working to address these complex issues and am sure that this updated toolkit will provide essential guidance and support that will ultimately increase the safety of survivors and their children.

Sue Atkinson

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