

PERPETRATOR SERVICE - SERVICE INFORMATION AND REFERRAL GUIDELINES

These guidelines are designed to assist with referrals to Harbour's Harbour's Perpetrator Service and should be read alongside the referral form.

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The Men's Group Work Programme is a service designed to help men become non-abusive in their relationships with partners and children. It is suitable for men in hetero-sexual relationships and men who are currently not in a relationship. It is not suitable for women or men in same sex partnerships.

HARBOUR PERPETRATOR'S SERVICE

Our Men's Group Work Programme covers the following areas:

- Hartlepool
- Stockton
- Redcar and Cleveland
- Middlesbrough

The Men's Group Work Programme runs for 30 sessions consisting of:

- 3 assessment sessions to decide if the programme is suitable
- 7 group sessions of education and awareness of domestic abuse
- 2 individual 1 : 1 sessions to discuss learning and any other issues
- 7 group sessions of learning emotional management skills
- 2 individual 1 : 1 sessions to discuss learning and any other issues
- 7 group sessions of skills practice to avoid being abusive to partners
- 2 individual 1 : 1 sessions to discuss learning and any other issues

The Group Work Process

Each session is facilitated by two people, usually one man and one woman. The session will include discussion, written exercises and coaching and modelling of how to deal with situation. The Group works best when there is a high degree of honesty and openness and when group members are supportive of each other's efforts to change.

Facilitators endeavour to ensure that each client responds to this challenge.

We do not offer 1:1 appointments on an ongoing basis, but only as part of the assessment for Group Work.

Group work cannot be attended until the client has completed the assessment process and are invited to join the programme.

The sessions are held as follows:

Area	Assessments	Group Work	Group Location
Hartlepool	Tuesdays	Tuesday Evening	Whitburn House in Hartlepool
Stockton	Mondays	Monday Evening	Lifeline Building in Stockton
Redcar and Cleveland	Mondays	Monday Evening	Lifeline Building in Redcar
Middlesbrough	Wednesdays	Wednesday Evening	Families Forward in Middlesbrough

All evening sessions run from 6-8pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REFERRAL PROCESS

In all dealings with referring organisations, Harbour seeks to be positive and transparent and expects the same from those making referrals. Harbour requires as much information as is known during the referral process to ensure the correct decision is made on the referral for the benefit of the individual.

A referrer should expect an update or response from Harbour within 48 hours of making the referral.

The Referral Process

Referrals can be made on behalf of a client and referrers can be copied into any correspondence, or the client can make a self referral. It is advisable to discuss the Programme with the client before making the referral as we can only work with men who are willing to address their abusive behaviour.

Once the referral is made we will offer the client an assessment appointment.

If he fails to attend this appointment we will contact the referrer and after discussion if it is deemed suitable will offer him one more appointment. If he fails to attend this appointment we will close the case.

If the referrer wishes, we can arrange a 3 way appointment with referrer, group worker and client to give information about the programme.

Should the client attend the first appointment he will be offered at least two more assessment appointments. Further 1-1s can be offered in special circumstances, i.e., if the client needs more time to work through the material or needs more motivation to attend the group work programme.

These appointments are used to gather information and assess suitability for the group work programme.

During the assessment procedure the client's partner will be contacted by a Harbour Support Worker to offer support and advice. Any man who refuses to agree to this will be deemed not suitable for our services.

The partner will also be informed of the man's attendance and progress on the group work programme.

To be **eligible** for the Harbour Men's Programme, a man must:

- Accept responsibility for his abusive behaviour and be motivated to change
- Not have any pending domestic violence related court proceedings
- Be aged 18 or over
- Be the perpetrator of abuse to female victim(s) in an intimate relationship
- Not have mental health issues which would prevent his engagement with the programme
- Agree to his partner being offered support
- Agree to the sharing of relevant information with his partner and Agencies responsible for adult and child safeguarding
- Not have any ongoing child contact proceedings going through court, unless the referral source is CAFCASS – whereby guidelines must be followed.
- Not present a risk to Harbour's employees

Where a person presents with complex needs, Harbour must believe that it can effectively support the person with the issues arising from the perpetrating of abuse

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a pattern of controlling and aggressive behaviours from one adult towards another, within the context of an intimate or family-type relationship. It can take the form of physical, sexual, psychological, financial or emotional abuse. The violence and abuse can be actual or threatened and can happen once every so often or on a regular basis.

The Men's Group Work Programme operates for men who are using any of the above behaviours and would like support in understanding the effects these behaviours have on others and who want to make changes.

Complex Needs

Where an applicant has a range of complex needs, in particular addictive behaviours and/or mental health issues, Harbour needs to make a judgement whether it can effectively support the individual. The balance of this judgement rests with whether the individual can demonstrate that they are functioning independently in their daily life, in which case they should be able to benefit from Harbour's support services.

Exclusion Criteria

We are unable to work with men who

- Have severe mental health problems
- Have a low cognitive function
- Are on the middle to high end of the Autistic Spectrum
- Are unable to function in a group situation
- Have severe substance misuse
- Refuse to take any responsibility for the violence
- Refuse to admit the violence has happened.

Risk to Harbour Employees

As we are working with potentially violent men it is important that referrers inform us of any risks posed by the individual including details of any Multi-Agency Public Protection Meetings that have been called.

The following notes refer to the corresponding sections of the referral form:

1. THE REFERRER

Please indicate the date of the referral; this enables Harbour to monitor the time taken for referrals to be processed.

Harbour currently offers Perpetrator services in Hartlepool, Redcar, Stockton and Middlesbrough. Please indicate which would be the most convenient for the service user.

2. PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE PERSON REQUIRING THE SERVICE

Please provide as much information as possible.

3. SIGNIFICANT FAMILY MEMBERS

Please provide as much information as possible.

4. PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT

Please provide as much information as possible.

5. KEY AGENCIES WORKING WITH THE FAMILY

Harbour uses information about the individual's background and any agencies working with the family to carry out an initial risk assessment. A member of staff may contact any of these agencies to obtain background information.

An individual who has been violent towards a staff member of these agencies is unlikely to be offered a place within the Harbour's Men's Service.

6. OTHER INFORMATION

The purpose of asking these questions is that the information may relate to the person's experiences or any special requirements they may have.

Cultural and Faith Needs

The referrer should provide any relevant information about specific needs and requirements of the individual in line with their culture or faith. Wherever possible, Harbour will endeavour to meet these needs, with assistance from other agencies as appropriate.

However, we will not accept cultural or faith needs as a reason for using violence against a partner or children.

7. CONFIRMATION

Please sign to mark that you understand this declaration.

8. DECISION ON REFERRAL

Harbour staff will make a decision on each referral based on the information provided, taking account of the needs of existing service users and consulting the Men's Service Co-ordinator where the circumstances are complex.

Where the decision is that the man cannot be offered support Harbour will provide a reason for this decision.

9. Suspension of Involvement

There may be times when it is not possible to continue working with a man once he has been accepted into the Men's Service either during the assessment process or whilst he is on the group programme. On certain occasions we may suspend or end his involvement with Harbour Men's Service.

- If it becomes known that he has been violent towards partner/children
- If he comes in repeatedly under the influence of drugs/alcohol and it appears this is an issue that will hinder his attendance on the group programme then it will be discussed with him that he will need to consider accessing treatment before continuing with the programme.
- If he becomes aggressive in sessions either towards members of staff or other group participants
- Lack of engagement/participation in group sessions – continued lack of awareness of concerns
- If he refuses to acknowledge violent or abusive behaviour
- If he tries to block the women's safety worker or thwart their attempts to contact his partner
- If he refuses to sign the contract agreeing to sharing of information with relevant agencies

10. APPEALING DECISIONS

If the referrer or the individual disagrees with the decision, the appeals procedure involves contacting the Men's Service Co-ordinator in the first instance to express why the decision should be reviewed again.

If this does not lead to a resolution to the satisfaction of all parties, then a formal appeal should be made to the Chief Executive of Harbour, in writing, explaining clearly why the decision is disputed.

The Chief Executive will respond to such appeals, in writing, within five working days.

Further information about the appeals procedure can be obtained by calling 01429 270110 or e-mailing brigitterowell@myharbour.org.uk