# Welwyn Hatfield Domestic Abuse Forum

## Section A: The organisations and groups within the partnership

### Lead applicant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organisation:</th>
<th>Welwyn Hatfield Domestic Abuse Forum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Organisation:</td>
<td>Consortium or formally constituted partnership</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Contact details: | Contact - Sharon Montgomery  
Email - s.montgomery@crane-staples.co.uk  
Phone - 01707 329 333  
Address - c/o Crane and Staples Solicitors, Longcroft House, Fretherne Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6TU |

### Summary of organisation:
Our role, is to promote the provision of services directed towards the relief /support of persons who have suffered or are suffering from DA; educate voluntary /statutory agencies and the public in all aspects of domestic abuse, its causes, remedies and prevention; and promote and maintain co-operation and joint action between partner agencies. This is undertaken via a joint annual conference with St Albans and Hertsmere DA Forum.

### Partner 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organisation:</th>
<th>Hatfield Children Centre Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Organisation:</td>
<td>Nursery School Led Children's Centre Group</td>
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| Contact details: | Contact - Kerry Robinson  
Email - krobinson@hatfieldccgroup.org.uk  
Phone - 01707 344423  
Address - c/o Birchwood Children Centre, Birchwood, Birchway, Hatfield, AL10 OPD |

### Summary of organisation:
Purpose of organisation and role within the partnership (70 words max):  
Provide help, support and information for all families with children under five years of age. CC staff run sessions in centres and community buildings and also work with families in their homes. Services and support range from universal to higher tier child protection, often involving domestic abuse. The CC team have a range of skills and training to support families suffering domestic abuse. They deliver protective behaviours and Freedom Programme on a termly basis.

### Partner 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organisation:</th>
<th>Welwyn Garden City Children Centre (CC) Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Organisation:</td>
<td>Local Authority funded organisation</td>
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| Contact details: | Contact - Sarah Fitzgerald  
Email - s.fitzgerald@ludwick.herts.sch.uk  
Phone - 01707 343512  
Address - C/O Ludwick Nursery School, Holwell Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 3TP |

### Summary of organisation:
Provide help, support and information for all families with children under five years of age. CC staff run sessions in centres and community buildings and also work with families in their homes. Services and support range from universal to higher tier child protection,
often involving domestic abuse. The CC team have a range of skills and training to support families suffering domestic abuse. They deliver protective behaviours and Freedom Programme on a termly basis.

### Partner 3

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organisation:</th>
<th>Welwyn Garden City Schools Partnership</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Organisation:</td>
<td>Herts County Council funded organisation</td>
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| Contact details: | Contact - Nicola Fisher  
Email - nfisher@stanborough.herts.sch.uk  
Phone - 01707 387702/07957 361227  
Address - WGC Schools Partnership, C/O Stanborough School, Lemsford Lane, WGC, AL8 6YR |
| Summary of organisation: | To support families who have a child aged 5-19 in the 27 schools in WGC. We support families with a range of issues including but not limited to DA. We work with parents and young people, offering a range of support including parenting courses, Protective Behaviour groups and drawing and talking therapy. We also support schools with the CAF/EHM process. If you have any additional partners, please use the supplementary sheet at the end of this application form to share their details. |

### Partner 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Organisation:</th>
<th>Hatfield School Partnership</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Organisation:</td>
<td>HCC funded consortium</td>
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| Contact details: | Contact - Jackie Clark  
Email - JClark@dehavilland.herts.sch.uk  
Phone - 01707 346620 x 207 or 07824697707  
Address - c/o De Havilland School, Travellers Lane, Hatfield, AL10 8TQ |
| Summary of organisation: | Purpose of organisation and role within the partnership (70 words max): Our role at Hatfield Partnership of schools is to support families who have a child aged 5-19 in schools in Hatfield, who choose to ‘buy into’ our service. We support families with a range of issues, this is at the early intervention stage. Our work includes working with parents and also individually with children, many of these experiencing domestic abuse. We also support families to gain support from other agencies |

### Partner 5

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<th>Name of Organisation:</th>
<th>Paradigm Housing Small Steps Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Organisation:</td>
<td>Housing Association</td>
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| Contact details: | Contact - Jacqueline Clements  
Email - Jacqueline.clements@paradigmhousing.co.uk  
Phone - 01707283041  
Address - The Foyer, Goldings Crescent, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 8TZ |
| Summary of organisation: | The Small Steps project is a unique scheme for single, homeless, young parents living in Welwyn and Hatfield. Small Steps provides accommodation and support, including specialist classes, for young parents aged 16-25 who can no longer live at home. Supporting them with independent living skills, positive relationships and managing their own accommodation. Small Steps also provides Community project which provides the same support to young parents living in the area. |

### Partner 6

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<tr>
<th>Name of Organisation:</th>
<th>Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church</th>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Organisation:</td>
<td>Church / Community Hub</td>
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### Town Centre Church and Community Hub

**Contact details:**
- **Contact:** Christine Novelli
- **Email:** novelli.christine@gmail.com
- **Phone:** 07711791098
- **Address:** Church Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6PS

**Summary of organisation:**
Town Centre Church and Community Hub providing a range of activities and events to support the whole person - mind, body and spirit. WGC URC hosts the Freedom Programme (10-week course looking at characteristics of the 'dominator') and the WH Women's Refuge Outreach Service throughout the year. We are active participants in the forum bringing practical solutions to raising awareness of DV with young people and post-FP course support of victims of DV.

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### Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC)

**Name of Organisation:** Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (WHBC)

**Type of Organisation:** Local Authority

**Contact details:**
- **Contact:** Chrystalla Karvella
- **Email:** c.karvella@welhat.gov.uk
- **Phone:** 01707 357524
- **Address:** WHBC Campus East, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6AE

**Summary of organisation:**
WHBC, as a Responsible Authority agency and as part of the Community Safety Partnership, is committed to deliver its priority to support people enduring or escaping Domestic Abuse, intimidation and harassment. We are the lead agency in coordinating the Sunflower drop in in Hatfield and ensure all our front-line officers receive training to spot Domestic Abuse, make a referral and signpost to the appropriate service. WHBC regularly attends MARAC.

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### Welwyn and Knebworth Children's Centre Group

**Name of Organisation:** Welwyn and Knebworth Children's Centre Group

**Type of Organisation:** Nursery School Led Children's Centre Group

**Contact details:**
- **Contact:** Sue Smith
- **Email:** susan.smith@tenterfield.herts.sch.uk
- **Phone:** 07969 309788
- **Address:** Tenterfield Nursery School, Welwyn, AL6 9JF

**Summary of organisation:**
Children's Centres provide services for families who are expecting a baby and for those who have children from birth to the end of their reception year (age 5). All families are welcome at activities and courses and we also provide targeted support for the most vulnerable families living in the area. We work in partnership with health and education to meet the needs of families.

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### Hertfordshire Community Trust

**Name of Organisation:** Hertfordshire Community Trust

**Type of Organisation:** Health/Health visiting

**Contact details:**
- **Contact:** Rebecca Barron
- **Email:** Rebecca.barron@hct.nhs.uk
- **Phone:** 01707 252450
- **Address:** Queensway Health Clinic, AL10 0LF

**Summary of organisation:**
The health visiting team (Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust) work closely with local families, with children under 5 years of age, promoting health to improve outcomes. This includes identifying, referring, and supporting families exposed to domestic abuse.
1. Your partnership's project or initiative.

The Welwyn Hatfield Domestic Abuse (DA) Forum is a collective of voluntary, statutory, private and community groups. It brings together professionals from many agencies working directly with the community and very frequently come across individuals/families who have been subjected to domestic abuse either at present time or historically. The DA Forum is held every 2 months. Members include housing services, children centres, school family workers, school nurses, health visiting services, ASB teams and others. We aim to share information amongst members, update on existing services, share best practice, network to improve joint working and create stronger partnership links.

Members of the Forum have expressed a concern about the lack of service provision to support children and young people who have escaped or endured Domestic Abuse. Our initiative ‘My child and I’ aims to reach out to all, raise awareness of the impact, understanding trauma and recognising need of further support.

2. How did your partnership come about and develop?

The DA Forum has been active for more than 10 years, chaired by Sharon Montgomery, Crane and Staple Solicitors. We recognised the need to share good practice, discuss issues that affect our community and come up with solutions. The County Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) completed in 2015 identified that children/young people were known to be present in the house in 26% of all reported DA crimes and incidents in 2015/16. The number of children/young people recorded as a witness to the abuse is 14% of all reported DA crimes and incidents in 2015/16. The DA Forum has identified a gap in training provision for frontline staff from across sectors; education, housing, health which will enable them to understand the impact of DA on children and young people. We called the program ‘My child and I’ which will be developed into a 3-tier program.

We are currently piloting the tier-1 service, a universal training session, which aims to raise awareness amongst frontline staff and help professionals increase knowledge identifying DA and recognising the impact and trauma. ‘My child and I’ will ensure front line professionals know where to signpost the family to get appropriate support at the right time.

3. Impact. Please describe what outcomes you are achieving, your impact or how you are making a difference.

1. Training: Increase in skills and knowledge of more than 100 front line staff in nurseries, schools, health settings and raise awareness of the impact that Domestic Abuse has on children and young people. We are using ‘Braveheart Education’ for our pilot training session on the 31st January. The session was fully booked shortly after publicised within the Forum and extended member groups. The training will give front line professionals the skills to spot DA and recognise the impact on children and young people. The professional’s role is to act on the knowledge gained and signpost the family to the appropriate service.

2. Signposting: Families and young people referred to the right place at the right time, helping to reduce the impact of domestic abuse contributing to more positive life prospects in the long term. Provide better future prospects for parents, children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse. Signposting families, children and young people early will increase chances and improved opportunities to transform disruptive relationship patterns to healthy, strong relationships and provide appropriate levels of support to break cycles of Domestic Abuse.

3. Partnership: Provide Networking opportunities and knowledge of who is providing what, referral guides and a list of names and contacts for each organisation (already provided by the DA Forum).
4. **How partnership working is helping you to achieve more.**

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<tr>
<th>The DA forum has a very wide membership including many voluntary and statutory organisations. A lot of our members due to staffing restrictions are not able to attend the meetings. The DA Forum members are kept updated with news, information, happenings and other useful material via email communication. The DA Forum members support the Sunflower Drop in – a domestic abuse drop in in Hatfield coordinated by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Members of the Forum provide cover on days where the CSP is struggling to find cover ensuring the drop continues to provide an effective service. A list of all member agencies, contact name and details and a brief description of area of expertise is distributed amongst members of the DA Forum to enable communication between members and make referrals effectively. Members of the DA forum also represent their organisations at MARAC, appropriate information is shared with the members. The DA Forum invites services, organisations and professionals to present to the group to raise awareness of services and agree on ways to work together by complementing what is on offer.</th>
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5. **How you are making sure that the partnership is working effectively.**

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<th>In the past members of the Forum have supported joint initiatives to reach out to the community and raise awareness. One example is last year’s Crucial Crew event for Year 9 students. The Forum held a stand with interactive activities around Healthy Relationships, what is acceptable and what not. We received excellent feedback from students and their teachers. The Forum members brought in expertise and knowledge from their own agencies and helped to successfully provide cover for the stand for a full day event. Core members of the ‘My Child and I’ program, have met outside the DA forum to develop this further. We acknowledge the need to have more specialised services on board to help with the long-term impact on DA. A representative from Step 2 attended our last meeting and has agreed to deliver a ‘Referral training’ to enable professionals to make better referrals or understand where a CAMHS referral is not appropriate. Members from across the DA Forum and the ‘My Child and I’ program will attend as it will increase an understanding of the referral system and the referral process. The DA Forum acts as a networking opportunity and helps agencies built trust in each other’s abilities and expertise. Members feel confident to get in touch with another member to ask for information and support. Building connections and knowing other members of the forum enables members to be confident and be aware who to call for specific support.</th>
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6. **What you are learning from each other.**

| The DA forum has provided a lot of learning opportunities and increasing knowledge of existing and new services in the district. Due to the ongoing change of funding streams, services are rapidly changing. The Forum brings all the news and updates to its members in the form of presentation and email updates. A police officer from the Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Unit (DAISU) attended to raise awareness of the changes at the Unit and the work they undertake. Other instances of sharing important information were: New Coercive Control Legislation, HomeStart merge, Stefanou foundation Healthy Relationships Health Baby program (HRHB), Family Lives. Examples of learning:
1. HomeStart supported a victim to attend the Sunflower drop in where a housing officer was present to support with tenancy information and support the victim to move out of the property with as less impact to the family as possible
2. All agencies benefited in finding out about the DAISU and legislation changes and put this in context of what would that mean to their service user.
3. Children Centre staff made referrals to the HRHB program
4. Training provided on Risk Assessments using the DASH form. |