



STALKING AWARENESS WEEK CAMPAIGN

22nd- 25th April 2025

Stakeholder Pack



About County Durham & Darlington Stalking Intervention Partnership

Statutory Duties

The [Tackling VAWG Strategy 2021](#) defines stalking as a crime of violence against women and girls.

Further crimes and behaviours covered by this term include:

- Rape and other sexual offences
- Domestic abuse
- ‘Honour’-based abuse (including female genital mutilation forced marriage, and ‘honour’ killings)
- Many others, including offences committed online.

Although there is currently no single piece of legislation detailing the partnership working responsibilities of organisations in respect of violence against women and girls, there are several relevant national duties and guidance. These include:

- **January 2025:** Government published their [response](#) to the recommendations within the [Suzy Lamplugh 2022 Stalking Super-Complaint](#). Announcements included Parliamentary changes to stalking legislation, including a commitment to making stalking multi-agency statutory guidance law, to which statutory agencies such as Police, Healthcare and Education, must have due regard. This will include a clear definition of stalking and guidance on how agencies should work together to pursue perpetrators and protect victims. National standards for stalking perpetrator interventions will also be published, using the existing and accredited domestic abuse (DA) standards as a starting point.
- **[Victim and Prisoners Act 2024](#):** brings forward measures intended to make clear what victims can and should expect from the criminal justice system, strengthen transparency, and oversight of criminal justice agencies and improve how victim support services deliver for victims. Clause 12 creates a “Duty to Collaborate” between the Police and Crime Commissioner, Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities, in relation to domestic abuse and serious violence. Collaborating bodies will be expected to produce a joint local commissioning strategy, which can be based on pre-existing need assessments but reviewed annually.
- **[Victims Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales \(Victims’ Code\) 2020](#):** Under point four of the summary of Victims’ Rights, it is made clear that victims have the right to be referred to services that can support them and have services and support tailored to their needs: ‘You have the Right to be referred to services that support victims, which includes the Right to contact them directly, and to have your needs assessed so services and support can be tailored to meet your needs. If eligible, you have the Right to be offered a referral to specialist support services and to be told about additional support available at court, for example special measures’.

About County Durham & Darlington Stalking Intervention Partnership

The Local Response: D-SIP

The County Durham and Darlington Stalking Intervention Project (D-SIP) is a multi-agency project involving collaboration between partners from statutory agencies, victim care services and the National Stalking Consortium. Current membership includes: Durham Constabulary, Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, North East Probation Service, Crown Prosecution Service, County Durham and Darlington Public Health, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), Harbour, Alice Ruggles Trust, and Paladin.

The shared vision of the D-SIP partnership is to develop a multi-tiered model, comprising of a Stalking Clinic and a Therapeutic Intervention offer for stalking perpetrators, aimed at reducing the incidence of stalking and the harm done to victims, as a result of the actions of perpetrators. The impact of D-SIP is to deliver a consistent approach to preventing, policing and deterring stalking behaviour, taking an offender focused approach whilst remaining survivor-centred and trauma-informed. In addition, to offering continuous and seamless support for victims of stalking, regardless of whether the stalking is domestic or non-domestic.

The D-SIP partnership has been operational and meeting regularly since March 2024, with partners attending on behalf of their organisation and in recognition of the local need.

Key Achievements; some of the achievements of the D-SIP partnership to date, include:

- Paladin Police Stalking Champion's model (Alice Ruggles Trust Annual Award Ceremony nominee).
- Alice Ruggles Trust 'Recognising and Responding to Stalking' School Assemblies Project.
- Stalking Performance Dashboard (ongoing).
- North East Probation Service: roll out of stalking awareness training across County Durham and Darlington.
- ISAC Peer Support Network.
- Secured wider partner involvement inc. CPS, Public Health, OPCC Accountability.
- Other: Stalking Protection Order Administrator (Serious Violence funding), ISAC's embedded within VCAS, upskilling of IDVA's to qualified ISAC's within Harbour.

The need to further succeed:

With the recent announcements regarding the new Government's commitments to tackling stalking, improved partnership working amongst local statutory, non-statutory and voluntary organisations it therefore essential. To advance D-SIP and work towards achieve the activities and outcomes intended to deliver the aim and impact of this intervention, the partnership would benefit from wider partner agency membership involvement from the likes of local education and legal representatives.

Exploring and confirming funding avenues with commissioning partners would also go some way in progressing the development of D-SIP. Whilst the OPCC look to seek funding nationally, to support the local collaborative multi-agency approach to tackling stalking and harassment across County Durham and Darlington, the D-SIP partnership will also look to funding streams from local commissioners.

Currently, there is no governance structure supporting D-SIP. Without a wider local VAWG Strategy, D-SIP does not fit within the wider governance structures at present. The OPCC are currently working with local partner-agencies in developing this.

An annual report is to be published in due course, pulling together the first years' worth of delivery from members of D-SIP, highlighting the successes and achievements of the partnership. It also showcases the risks and challenges the membership have faced, and the need for a more collaborative whole system response to effectively tackle the crime of stalking and support victims.



About the Campaign

Campaign Overview

Campaign launch date: 22/04/25-25/04/25

Format: Organic OPCC social media channels, partner content sharing, OPCC press release/media support

Subject matter: Stalking & Harassment

Target audience: Victims or, and those at risk of, Stalking & Harassment. All ages and genders, County Durham and Darlington wide.

Aims:

- Raise awareness of what Stalking & Harassment is
- Encourage victims, and potential victims, to recognise behaviours linked to Stalking & Harassment
- Encourage those who are experiencing Stalking & Harassment to seek support

Summary

The Stalking & Harassment campaign will run across National Stalking Awareness Week, between 22st- 25th April 2025, and is designed to highlight this particular area of domestic abuse which has been identified as high-risk, and misunderstood by target audiences.

At this stage there are no plans to utilise advertising spend. Instead the campaign will run across OPCC socials and encourage partner channels to share across socials.

Get Involved

We want our campaign to reach as many people across County Durham and Darlington as possible. With that in mind, please share as many of the posts as possible and use the suggested captions during the campaign period. The campaign will be running from 22/04/25 to 25/04/25, so please feel free to share as many posts as frequently as you would like during this time.

To ensure brand integrity, please do not mix and match graphics and copy or amend in any way.

All social media posts can be found [here](#).



Social Posts

Post 1



Stalking is...

- Fixated
- Obsessive
- Unwanted
- Repeated

Feel familiar?

If you are a victim of stalking, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency. For support in dealing with stalking visit the Victim Care and Advice Service at www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk or call Harbour on 03000 20 25 25.

Logos: JOY ALLEN DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service, The Alice Ruggles Trust, harbour, victim care+ advice service

Stalking is... Fixed, Obsessive, Unwanted, Repeated

Stalking & harassment can happen to anyone. Incidents might go unnoticed or seem small, but any pattern of repeated, unwanted behaviour that makes you feel uncomfortable and uneasy is stalking. Don't ignore it.

If this feels familiar, then you could be being stalked and harassed. Help is available.

If you think you're being stalked or harassed, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency. For support in dealing with stalking, visit the Victim Care and Advice Service at www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk or call 0800 138 2020.

Or call the Suzy Lamplugh National Stalking Helpline on 0808 802 0300, calls are free and won't appear on your phone bill.

Post 2



Posting insults online?
Sending you unwanted texts?
Following through fake social accounts?

IT'S ALL STALKING

If you are a victim of stalking, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency. For support in dealing with stalking visit the Victim Care and Advice Service at www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk or call Harbour on 03000 20 25 25.

Logos: JOY ALLEN DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service, The Alice Ruggles Trust, harbour, victim care+ advice service

Online stalking & harassment includes:

- Posting insults or humiliating pictures
- Sending unwanted texts & emails
- Following you through fake social accounts

This is illegal and may be a form of domestic abuse.

For help and support if you are being stalked & harassed, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

For support in dealing with stalking, visit the Victim Care and Advice Service at www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk or call 0800 138 2020.

You can also find out more by visiting the Suzy Lamplugh Trust website on <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/am-i-being-stalked-tool>

Or call their National Stalking Helpline on 0808 802 0300, calls are free and won't appear on your phone bill.

Social Posts

Post 3



**IT'S
EXCESSIVE CONTACT
SHOWING UP
WATCHING
WAITING
UNWANTED GIFTS
DIGITAL ABUSE
STALKING**

JOY ALLEN
DURHAM POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER paladin
National Stalking Advocacy Service THE Alice
Ruggles
Trust harbour
working for safer communities victim
care+
advice
service

If you are a victim of stalking, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.
For support in dealing with stalking visit the Victim Care and Advice Service at www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk
or call Harbour on 03000 20 25 25.

Did you know, under new legislation being worked on, victims will have the right to know the identity of anyone convicted of stalking them? Stalking doesn't always have to be with people you're in a relationship with?

Stalking & harassment is illegal, and there are laws of protect you.

For help and support if you are being stalked & harassed, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

For support in dealing with stalking, visit the Victim Care and Advice Service at www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk or call 0800 138 2020.

Post 4



**Love shouldn't be scary.
STALKING IS.**

JOY ALLEN
DURHAM POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER paladin
National Stalking Advocacy Service THE Alice
Ruggles
Trust harbour
working for safer communities victim
care+
advice
service

If you are a victim of stalking, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.
For support in dealing with stalking visit the Victim Care and Advice Service at www.victimcareandadvice.service.uk
or call Harbour on 03000 20 25 25.

People in abusive relationships are at a increased risk of experiencing stalking & harassment.

It is important to access help and support if you are thinking of leaving an abusive relationship.

For help and support with all types of domestic abuse, call Durham Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Harbour

Or contact Paladin's National Stalking Advocacy Service on 0203 866 4107.

If you're aged 16-25 years old, and think you are experiencing stalking, Paladin have a specialist young person's Independent Stalking Advocate. Find out more at <https://www.paladinservice.co.uk/>

Stalking and Harrassment Resources

Local:

Durham Constabulary:

·Hearing or speech impairments: If you've pre-registered with the [emergency SMS service](#), use our textphone service 18000 or text us on 999.

Call [999 BSL](#) to use a British Sign Language interpreter.

Victim Care and Advice Service: supporting victims of crime (regardless of when or where that crime occurred) across County Durham and Darlington.

·0800 138 2020

·victimcare@durham-pcc.gov.uk

·Make a self or professional referral online: [Durham Victim Care & Advice Service | Referrals](#)

Harbour Support Services – If you are experiencing stalking or harassment from partner, ex-partner or family member this Domestic Abuse Charity in Durham and Darlington can offer emotional and practical support. Contact Harbour via social media, live chat on website <https://www.myharbour.org.uk/> or by calling 03000202525

The Halo Project: supporting victims of honour-based abuse, forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

·Call: 01642 683 045 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

National:

Suzy Lamplugh Trust National Stalking Helpline: a free service offering advice for victims of stalking.

·The Helpline is open: 09:30 - 20:00, Monday and Wednesday, 09:30 - 16:00, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

·Helpline not open on weekends or bank holidays.

·Online Enquiry Form: [National Stalking Helpline Enquiry Form | Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#)

Alice Ruggles Trust: raising awareness of stalking including coercive control

·Contact | [Alice Ruggles Trust](#)

Protection Against Stalking: raising public awareness about stalking and support victims of stalking through providing specialist support services.

·If you believe you are being stalked, but not in immediate danger, contact support@protectionagainststalking.org

National Domestic Violence Helpline Freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Violence Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Mankind: a confidential helpline for all men across the UK suffering from domestic violence or abuse 01823 334 244

Galop: emotional and practical support for LGBT+ people experiencing domestic abuse 0800 999 5428

Respect UK: supporting victims and perpetrators of domestic violence 0808 8024040

Karma Nirvana: supporting victims of Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage 0800 5999 247

Details of National Stalking Support Services:

The Cyber Helpline: <https://www.thecyberhelpline.com/gethelp>

National Stalking Helpline: <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/Category/national-stalking-helpline>

Paladin: <https://paladinservice.co.uk>

Scotland: <https://www.actionagainststalking.org>



Stalking Awareness Week events

Paladin – On Thursday 24th April 2024 at 12-1pm, Paladin are offering a free online seminar into best practice and the importance of health professionals, working with Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs), in order to improve the response for stalking victims.

To book: <https://forms.office.com/e/xusxyNUR0P>

Suzy Lamplugh Trust - National Stalking Awareness Week Conference 2025 - Health Response: Spotting Stalking

On Wednesday 23rd April 10am – 1pm, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust are launching an online event aimed at staff working within the healthcare sector and either provide direct care to patients or work at a strategic level to improve conditions for patients and healthcare staff. This conference will highlight how specialist stalking services can work with the healthcare sector to recognise victims of stalking and ensure they access the support they need, as well as offering valuable insights and practical tools to enhance patient safety and safeguard victims of stalking.

To book: [National Stalking Awareness Week Conference 2025: Health Response: Spotting Stalking | Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#)

Alice Ruggles Trust – Thursday 6th November and Friday 7th November 2025, at College Court, Leicester and on-line.

To submit expressions of interest and be the first to find out about tickets and speakers, visit: [Our 2025 conference | Alice Ruggles Trust](#)