

## \* Women's Aid/Refuge - School Agreement

### Schools will:

- ✓ ensure staff are aware of the nature, scale and impact of domestic abuse and the likely needs of children who have been so exposed
- ✓ liaise with Women's Aid/refuge staff and mothers on admissions for children
- ✓ liaise with previous schools on children's abilities and needs
- ✓ provide a welcoming and supportive environment, attentive to any additional needs which children may have
- ✓ communicate with mothers and with Women's Aid/refuge staff regarding any matters of concern
- ✓ offer practical help, where possible, to help children feel included
- ✓ consider children's life experiences/sensitivities when introducing new projects or activities
- ✓ involve Women's Aid/refuge staff, as well as mothers, where appropriate, in referral of children to additional services
- ✓ pay strict attention to all aspects of confidentiality
- ✓ prepare children for 'moving on'
- ✓ liaise with Women's Aid/refuge staff more generally on school issues which may impact refuge residents and those on Floating Support Schemes eg new/extended provision, policy changes
- ✓ include addressing domestic abuse within related policies
- ✓ address domestic abuse and its effects within the PSHCE curriculum, ensuring all children know what abusive behaviour is, that it is unacceptable and that it is ok to access support

## **Women's Aid/Refuge Services will:**

- ✓ assist mothers in finding a school place as soon as possible
- ✓ use a range of schools within the catchment area, unless children's needs indicate suitability of one particular school
- ✓ introduce an information sharing agreement with mothers in relation to school matters as part of the refuge / Floating Support Scheme induction process
- ✓ pass on all known relevant information when seeking a place
- ✓ encourage mothers to have on-going communication about anything that may be relevant to a child's needs or wellbeing
- ✓ act as liaison between school and parent where this is agreed and needed
- ✓ liaise with the Safeguarding Children in Education Team about barriers impeding speedy admission
- ✓ support mothers with child's school attendance and punctuality
- ✓ support children with school related activities
- ✓ pass on information concerning the 'move on' school/local authority where this is known
- ✓ offer domestic abuse awareness for school staff in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children in Education Team
- ✓ liaise with school staff more generally on refuge issues which may impact local schools eg enlargement, changes to personnel

\* Please note that the term 'Women's Aid' applies to the complete range of services offered to survivors of domestic abuse which includes accommodation in refuge but also floating support for families who have moved on from or never been in refuge.

**The Safeguarding Children in Education Team is a resource  
to schools and refuges working on these commitments**