

### Positively oriented

Working with what is present rather than what is absent, from a strengths rather than deficits based perspective. ODVSS focus is on present and future potential and different outcomes rather than joining with the problem saturated history. Our work is drawn towards parts of the conversation that reflect people's resilience, abilities, resources and what they consider to be their personal strengths.

### Child centred

ODVSS is committed to understanding and acknowledging the experiences of children and making their safety and well-being paramount. ODVSS believes that by working with the parent around their safety and strengths the children will automatically benefit. ODVSS also recognises the unique needs of children that also may or may not coincide with the needs of their parents.

### Collaborative

ODVSS works collaboratively in relationships with other services that are involved in the lives of those affected by domestic violence. ODVSS works to include other services to work together with the person for more positive outcomes.

### Self discovery

ODVSS recognises that any person comes to any interaction with a variety of personal strengths and knowledge. 'Telling' clients can lead to a 'worker knows best' idea or alternatively, an idea that the worker carries 'expert' understandings about the client's life and therefore knows what is best for them. ***ODVSS strives to promote a sense of personal power and self trust by enabling the person to discover something for themselves through positive questions, as opposed to being told by an ODVSS worker.***

## What does ODVSS offer?

- Information, advocacy and support
- One to one confidential support
- Information Line: telephone support
- Accompaniment to Court and other services
- Outreach services: Birr, Edenderry, Ferbane, Banagher, Shannonbridge and Clara

### Office hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm

### Outreach hours:

By appointment available Monday to Friday 9am–5pm

### Information line hours:

Monday to Friday, 10am–12pm and 2pm–4pm

## Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service ODVSS

### Contact details

Information Line **057 93 51886**

Office **057 93 51796**

Fax **057 93 51796**

Email **info@odvss.ie**

Web **www.odvss.ie**

## Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service ODVSS

Information for Service Providers

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# ODVSS

## Service ethos

As a service ODVSS works to assist people whose lives are affected by domestic violence and the multi-faceted problems they face.

From its inception it has been committed to promoting the safety of those people subjected to domestic violence, and to locate the responsibility for violence and abuse with those people who use it. These practices have both informed, and been supported by, an evolving service philosophy.

**This philosophy** - which is informed by the principles of collaboration, inclusiveness, respect for difference and accountability - promotes a context that is conducive to the further development of effective and ethical practices.

## Vision statement

A society free from violence and abuse.

## Objectives

The aim of **ODVSS** is to address violence and abuse in personal relationships and to promote respect and fairness in personal relationships.

**ODVSS** recognises that the majority of people subjected to violence and abuse in personal relationships are women and children, and that children are particularly vulnerable.

**ODVSS** operates within a framework that emphasises human rights and social justice and gives priority to personal safety.

### ODVSS:

- provides crisis intervention, advocacy, referral, information, support and practical assistance for people subjected to violence and abuse in relationships
- encourages those who use violence and abuse in relationships to take responsibility for, and cease, this behaviour
- addresses the problem of violence and abuse in personal relationships, and associated issues by:
  - *working collaboratively with other agencies*
  - *providing education and information*
  - *promoting and being the embodiment of leading practice policy and programmes*
  - *initiating and participating in data collection and research.*

## Background

ODVSS began in 1997 originally named Offaly Women in Crisis, as result of the work of volunteers whose lives had been affected by domestic violence. ODVSS commitment to reflective practices bought a review of the service in 2007. With this review, the service was changed structurally and it was identified that the female victim/male perpetrator model was too simplistic and did not adequately address the complexities of domestic violence and the impact on children, families and communities.

## ODVSS practices

### Client focused

ODVSS focuses on the unique features of every person, honouring and respecting their experience, while addressing the priority of safety and the impact of violence and abuse. Being client focused is about listening anew with the intention of understanding, in particular when ODVSS may have had many previous contacts with a person.

### Client directed

A focus on the client's preferred directions, honouring and respecting their life preferences while addressing the priority of safety and the impact of violence and abuse. ODVSS has a genuine interest in what it is that the client is hoping for their life, regarding their relationships/family, both long term and short term. Working with these preferred options by continually clarifying the "what", the "if" and the "how" questions while simultaneously keeping safety clearly on the agenda. ODVSS will always check whose "voice" (i.e. the client's voice, not the workers or the client's partner) is being privileged in these conversations.