

Name of Project: Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP)

Lead Partner: GALOP

Delivery partners: Stonewall Housing, London Friend

Tanya is a white British, lesbian in her 50's, living in north London. She had recently broken up with her female partner Beth of 3 years. Both Tanya and Beth were recovering alcoholics. Tanya had been sober for over 15 years. Beth had recently relapsed.

In recent months Beth's behaviour had become increasingly erratic. Beth had started to threaten Tanya which made Tanya increasingly frightened at home and she made the decision she wanted to leave the relationship. Tanya knew that Beth had a criminal record for carrying weapons and carrying out violent attacks whilst under the influence of drink and drugs. Despite the episodes of abusive behaviour, Tanya felt somewhat unsure about what she wanted to do next and she approached Galop for help, initially looking at information on Galop's website, where she made a self-referral to Galop.

Her case was referred to the Galop DAP caseworker who called her to discuss her options. After to some discussion, Tanya made a decision to report to the police. Galop supported Tanya to make a police report. The police then spoke to Beth assisting Tanya to retrieve her belongings from Beth's home, which Beth had been withholding. The police also informed Beth that if she did harass Tanya further or perpetrate any type of abuse or violence towards Tanya, she would be arrested, and potentially charged.

Galop also informed Tanya of her rights and offered to assist her in applying for a non-molestation order if needed. Regular telephone support gave Tanya the confidence to take action to make her own situation safer. Tanya can now live independently away from her former perpetrator and look forward to a life in front of her that is free from abuse.

Tanya was also given the details of Stonewall Housing if she needed any advice around her housing.

Galop's advocate also completed a referral to the DAP counselling service at London Friend. Tanya can use these therapeutic sessions to work through the emotional impact that this abusive relationship has had on her life. Tanya was also keen to use counselling to help her work on building positive and healthy relationships going forward.