

Women's Service

CASE STUDY

**Names have been changed in the interests of client confidentiality.*

Anna* was referred to the service when her partner was signed-up to attend the Domestic Abuse Group. She had been with her partner for ten years. They have three children; only one of the children is her present partner's child. There has been a history of abuse covering a number of years and when her partner was put on probation originally he attended the Domestic Abuse Group. At this time he appeared to change but then his motivation to attend declined and he was suspended. He then was given another place on the Group and this is when the main changes started. Anna and her partner started to communicate more, he stopped drinking and began helping around the house.

Work with Anna primarily was to make sure she was safe from further abuse and to help her devise a safety plan for herself. In this case she decided that calling the Police as soon as any problems arose was to be her main strategy. She felt that if her partner abused her again this would be the end of any relationship with her and she would put him out of the family home. She also required help in speaking to other professionals. For example, one of her children was having behavioural problems and she felt she was not getting the support that she needed. With support Anna was able to make appointments and a diagnosis has been made with regards to her son.

After a period of time Anna began to get more confident and started planning what she would like from her life. Getting an education and getting a job was two of the things she was thinking about. With some support Anna has been to the college and has started doing a class locally. Anna has also been for a first interview for a job and is to be interviewed again.

The confidence this lady now shows would not have been evident a year ago. She has with support started to turn her life around. Anna's partner completed the Domestic Abuse Group and continues to be supportive and communicative in their relationship.

Forth Valley Groupwork Services

