

Domestic Abuse Conference 2022



Preventing victims by changing lives



THE WOMEN'S CENTRE
Supporting women in Stockport



We Care, We Respect, We Listen

Introduction and Welcomes.

10:00 till 10.30: Siobhan Martin, Domestic Abuse Programme Manager.

10.30 till 11.30: Dr Jade Levell.

11.30 till 12.30: Dr Emma Katz

12.30 till 13.00: Lunch

13:00 till 13.45: Luke Hart.

13.45 till 14.00: Tracey Murray.

14.30 till 14.30: Q&A/Closing.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- The draft Domestic Abuse Bill gained Royal Assent on 29 April 2021 and is now enshrined in law as the Domestic Abuse Act.

The Act seeks to:

- Raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families.
- Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies.
- The act includes multiple priorities, updates and recommendations , with a staggered timeline

New and clarified statutory definition

- Create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, with new focus on post separation abuse ,economic abuse, and children as victims in their own rights.
- To fall within the definition, both victim and perpetrator must be “personally connected” The definition ensures that different types of relationships are captured(Intimate Partner Violence and Adult Family Violence) , to include family members and ex-partners.
- The definition is gender neutral to ensure that all victims and all types of domestic abuse are sufficiently captured, and no victim is excluded from protection or access to services.
- The definition of domestic abuse does not extend to paid and unpaid carers, unless they are also personally connected, such as a family member.



Children as victims

- As part of this definition, children will be explicitly recognised as victims ***if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse***
- The act defines domestic abuse as occurring where the victim and perpetrator are aged over 16. Abusive behaviour directed at a person under 16 would be dealt with as child abuse rather than domestic abuse.
- However, *for the first time*, a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, domestic abuse and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator, is also to be regarded as a *victim of domestic abuse in their own right*

Extension of coercive control offence (Post Separation Abuse)

- The act extends the offence of coercive and controlling behaviour, no longer making it a requirement for abusers and victims to either still be in a relationship or to still live together. (End of the relationship is not the end of abuse)
- There is significant research which shows that those who leave abusive ex-partners can often face sustained or increased controlling or coercive behaviour post-separation.
- As a consequence, we know that victims are at a heightened risk of homicide during the period immediately following separation. (separation could increase the risk to the victim)
- This change will have particular significance in the context of economic abuse, given that it does not require physical proximity but commonly continues, escalates and, in some cases, may begin after separation, which can present major challenges for victims seeking to rebuild their lives.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- Coercive Control (sections 1-2) additional considerations:

It is really important to fully appreciate the nuances of multi layered coercion in context of culturally harmful practice, and how it is both Intimate Partner Violence and Adult Family Violence, and community violence.

It is very important to reflect on additional complexity for LGBTQ+ older victims, disabilities and wider issues of generational trauma and adversities as a multi layer and through an intersectional lens when supporting victims.

There were 25,856 offences of coercive control recorded by the police in England and Wales (excluding GMP) in the year ending March 2020, compared with 16,679 (excluding GMP) in the year ending March 2019

Economic Abuse

An abuser may control how a victim acquire, use and maintain money and economic resources, including accommodation, food and clothing, employment and education.

This is known as economic abuse, and it is commonly experienced within the context of coercive control.

Economic abuse can take many forms for example Sabotage the victim's ability to acquire and maintain economic resources in addition to directly control the finances and finance decisions.

<https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/>

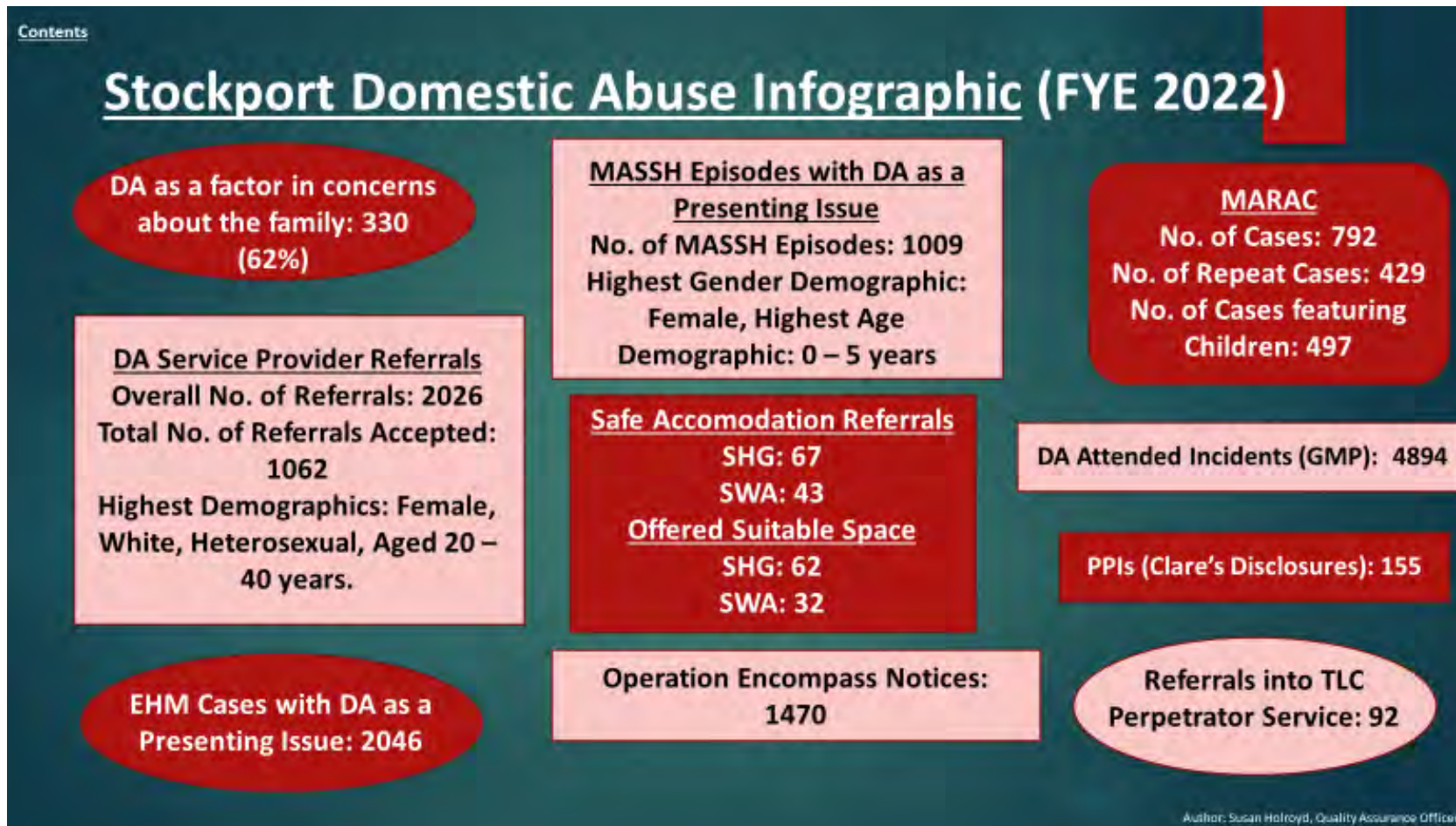
What else ?

- Domestic abuse protection orders (DAPOs) and Positive engagement notice-DVPN/DVPO
- create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation;
- extend the 'revenge porn' offence to cover the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress;
- clarify the law to further deter claims of "rough sex gone wrong" in cases involving death or serious injury;
- create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link).
- Stop perpetrators being able to cross examine victims in court.
- Stop Perpetrators to keep appealing against court rulings. (post separation abuse)
- G.P not able to charge for legal aid support letters.

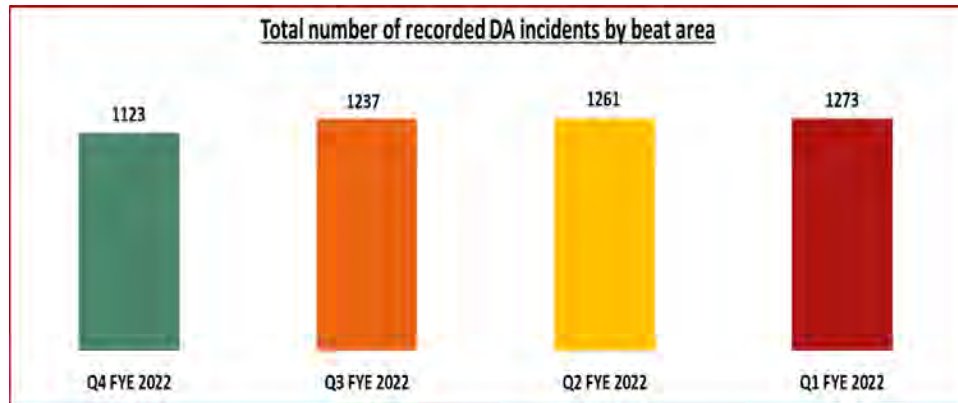
National Context

- The 2019-20 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)* estimated 2.3 million people experienced it in the previous year.
- COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated what is an already horrific experience faced by domestic abuse victims and survivors.
- The data is limited on the prevalence of children exposed to domestic abuse
- Only 17% of victims and survivors whose partner abuses them report it to the police Source - The Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) 2018 (based on recorded crime)
- In the year ending March 2018, 41% of adults aged 16 to 59 who reported having experienced partner abuse said that children had been present in the household. Source HM Gov-Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan 2022
- Research has shown that, of a sample of suicides in children and young people, 9% of those under 20 who had died by suicide had witnessed parental domestic violence. Source - Office for National Statistics.
- 362 domestic homicides recorded by the police in the three-year period between year ending March 2018 and year ending March 2020.

Local Context.



Domestic Abuse Incidents in Stockport.



Performance Indicator	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Total number of recorded domestic abuse incidents by beat area (FYE 2020)	No data	No data	1132	1097	2229
Total number of recorded domestic abuse incidents by beat area (FYE 2021)	1300	1175	1114	1108	4697

- These incidents are individually recorded by beat area of which Werneth, Brinnington and North Reddish are the highest incident areas in Quarter 4.

Stockport Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 21-24



[Stockport Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy - Stockport Council](#)

Early Intervention and Prevention - Education & Awareness so everyone is aware of and able to recognise and respond to DVA

- Develop our Education programme to offer learning across a range of platforms which will support make the community more confident in talking about DA and respond to it appropriately and safely.
- Ongoing discussion are taking place with designated safeguarding leads, to think about how they can be supported responding domestic abuse.
- Training programmes for all professionals to recognise the risk of coercive control and respond adequately.
- Bespoke training packages have been delivered. Learning from the impact of the training, will support in further training.
- Evaluation on the impact of the training is underway with both Children and Adults Training Managers.
- Working with Domestic Abuse Survey- ongoing.
- Work with the education sector to create new pathways to train students in vocational roles to understand DA and respond to it safely.
- CUT it Out programme 2nd cohort has been delivered to Level Three Hairdressing Students at the Trafford College Group.
- The programme is now part of the Bolt on offer and discussion are taking place on how to adapt the training for other professions.
- Coordinate our schools-based education interventions to educate young people about healthy relationships.
- Stop the Motion is due to be re-launched. The idea is that it will have a 'train the train approach'.

Responding Effectively to Perpetrators - So there are appropriate services for pathway to behaviour change

- Bring together services across Stockport to map our perpetrator offer and develop a clear, concise approach for the area-
- Initial mapping has taken place, there are some to be a gap in in standard and medium risk. Due to some services being under resourced. However, Stockport Support hub has now been launched with a new partnership between Stockport Without Abuse, Talk Listen Change and Target Prevention Alliance.
- Operational Group felt that a subgroup would be better suited to continue to map out pathways for perpetrators.
- Continue with Caring Dads programme to gather outcomes data to better understand the effectiveness of the intervention-
- Dr Sarah Barnes, Principle Researcher (GMCA) will be leading on an evaluation of Caring Dad's. This will be a joint evaluation with Rochdale, due to limited DATA in Stockport.
- Prepare to participate in and implement the new national and GM perpetrators strategy and implementation plan.- ongoing, as part of wider Greater Manchester and National Strategy.

Working Together

- To map the available services from all commissioned and non-commissioned services. – initial mapping has taken place, review of service is due to take place to ensure that all services are included, last mapping took place in early 2021.
- To create shared vision in design and delivery of services with our communities and capture the voice of the victims, including children in responding to the identified needs- awaiting feedback from services, will be discussed at the next Operational Group, thinking about how we can obtain victims views.
- To create a DA learning hub for professionals- Stockport Domestic Abuse Website is in it's early stages, task and finish group has been set up.

Post Abuse Support

- Lancashire Hill Project continues to run, strong links are being formed with START, to offer a holistic approach.
- Orange Umbrella/OWLS continues to connect with our communities, and coffee mornings have been reinstated following COVID restrictions. Retention and training of volunteers continues to be a challenge.
- Stockport Support Hub is now live. This will help provide a stronger post abuse support offer, with a step down and step up process.
- Stockport Women's Centre, Stockport Without Abuse and OWLS (Ongoing Women's Local Support) all continue to receive a high number of referral.

Children Affected By Domestic Abuse Highlights 21/22

Project 1- Complex Safeguarding:

Domestic Abuse senior practitioner, who is also a Caring Dad's Facilitator has co-worked over 52 cases, all of which were high risk and complex.

149 support contacts, reflective case discussions and consultations were offered throughout Stockport Family. In addition there have been 16 learning circles/training sessions have been offered.

Complex Safeguarding Independent Reviewing Officer has held over 50 cases, and offered 8 consultations. There have also been 4 sessions held with Locality social worker.

Project 2- Training.

Specialist training has been delivered to over 300 professionals within the partnership.

There have been various learning circles/information sessions throughout the year reaching 617 participants.

358 colleagues have received Basic Awareness Domestic Abuse training and DA Act training.

Overall 1275 participants have attended training/learning sessions throughout the year.

Children Affected By Domestic Abuse Highlights 21/22

Project 3 & 4 Early Intervention

29 education staff attended drop in session for Operation Encompass and DA cases Q&A.

Safe Lives worker: has worked with 28 young people supporting them through incredibly difficult times including pregnancy and trauma. Whilst the cases are under the projected amount the complexity of the work requires longer involvement with the young people to build trusting relationships.

Healthy Relationships sessions have been offered to 2192 students over the year, as well as the Cut It Out programme which has been delivered and will now form part of the bolt of offer with Trafford College group.

Project 5- Community

245 delegates have accessed domestic abuse training during the year.

Small community projects have been supported through the local fund.

Caring Dads Programme

We have now successfully ran 2 cohort's of the Caring Dad's Programme, with cohort 3 starting next week.

17 week group intervention programme which aims to help fathers value their children. It engages fathers, to help them develop more child-centred fathering and to take responsibility for ending their abusive behaviours towards their children and their children's mothers.

To date we've received 62 referrals.

46 dad's have been accepted on the programme.

17 Dad's have successfully completed the programme, with 23 dad's starting next week.



Caring Dad's feedback...

- Feedback from Caring Dad's.
- "Patience is key...the dads in the group might not get much attention off the social worker.... they concentrate more on mum. You had empathy not sympathy"
- "Helped me be more focused on the needs of my eldest, helping me with my relationship with her and it has improved since this time last year"
- "It makes you think, its education, I've learned about the children's emotions. I thought I wouldn't learn anything, but I have. My advice is listening to dads."



Themes during 2021-2022

- There has continued to be a steady increase in referrals whereby high and complex domestic abuse has been a common theme. There has been a notable change in the demographics of families needing support, as well as increased complexities.
- There has been an increase in HBV and Forced Marriage referrals, which has required further reflection, development, and training within the partnership, which has led to a Task and Finish Group being set up to develop and strengthen our strategic response to So-Called Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage.
- Domestic Abuse has been both a current and historic feature within the family's journey. Whilst DA is not the presenting issue with some families, it is later identified as theme throughout the families' journey. Thematic areas developing comprehensive plan and including fathers/stepfathers within assessment.
- The impact of the pandemic, current impact of poverty, and increased cost of living, fuel poverty, 'tolerating' and 'normalising' abuse, as well as 'generational trauma' continue to be key patterns and themes.
- There has also been an increase in complexities from learning needs of fathers, multiple trauma and complexities within family's accessing services.
- Generational Trauma, longer term impact of domestic abuse.
- Staffing and recruitment to posts.

2022-2023- next steps.

Training/Events:

Working towards a Domestic Homicide Thematic Learning Review- 14.09.22

Coercive Control Learning Circle- 12.09.2022

White Ribbon Awareness Day: 25.11.2022

Working with Men Training session: 03.10.22

16 days of Action (25.11.22-10.12.22)- To raise awareness and call for changes at an international, national and local level to end violence against women and girls.

Hold update learning circles/information sessions around the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Accreditations.

For Stockport Council to become White Ribbon Accredited.

Stockport Homes Group to become DAHA Accredited (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance).

2022-2023- next steps.

Programmes:

HEART and RESPECT 'train the trainer' programme in high school- to date 6 high school have signed up.

Stop The Motion 'Therapeutic Creative Design Programme' in high School.

ME too programme for primary schools.

IRIS advice and IRIS within GP's across Stockport.

Continue to roll out Healthy Relationships Session and CUT IT OUT programme.

Support Services:

To provide a level of need visual document with all support services.

Strategy updates:

Learning Circles/Information sessions to update all of partnership on the Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Update So-Called Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage strategy.

Domestic Abuse Champions Network:

To develop a Domestic Abuse Champions Network, including White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions.

Useful Contacts

- National DV Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Manchester DA Helpline: 0161 636 7525
- Men's Advice Line: 0800 801 0327 info@mensadviceline.org.uk
- Victim Support: 08 08 16 89 111
- Child line: 0800 1111
- Bright Sky app-Apple or Android
- Forced Marriage Unit – 0207 008 0151 fmufco.gov.uk
- Stockport Without Abuse- Office: 0161 477 4294. Website: www.stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk
- OWLS- Tel 0161 425 6300. Email: owlsgroup@outlook.com Website <http://owlsgroup.myfreesites.net>
- Stockport Women's Centre: 01614 355 4455. Email: admin@stockportwomenscentre.co.uk.
- Safety 4 Sisters: website: www.safety4sisters.org

Useful Websites.

- DAC Office Home - Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Women's Aid www.womensaid.org.uk
- For children and young people: The Hideout www.thehideout.org.uk
- Safe Lives www.safelives.org.uk knowledgehub@safelives.org.uk
- DA ACT Guidance here:

DA Act Factsheet Domestic Abuse Act 2021: overarching factsheet - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- DA act timeline <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021-commencement-schedule/domestic-abuse-act-2021-commencement-schedule>
- End the Fear www.endthefear.co.uk
- Safety plans

Safety planning | Women's Aid - Domestic violence service in Ireland (womensaid.ie)

- <https://www.mankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Client-safety-plan.pdf>