

Conference Behind Closed Doors

21st March 2014



Welcome

Councillor Adam Newton
Chair

East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

Nicky Stanley

Professor of Social Work

University of Central Lancashire



University of Central Lancashire

Children Experiencing Domestic Violence

- ❑ Children's involvement now seen as intimate and central rather than peripheral
- ❑ Shift away from children 'witnessing' domestic violence term
- ❑ 'Experiencing' focuses on the child's perspective and positions child as an active participant

Key themes emerging from review (Stanley 2011)

- ❑ Domestic abuse widespread and children are intimately involved
- ❑ Hearing and respecting children's views
- ❑ How do we identify those children most likely to experience harm?
- ❑ Evidence supported interventions
- ❑ Gaps in knowledge

The Extent and Nature of Children's Experience of Domestic Abuse

- About 4.5% of children and young people have experienced severe forms of domestic abuse in their lifetime
- Domestic abuse - a key indicator for child abuse and neglect
- Women who are separated and on their own with children most at risk of all forms of domestic abuse
- Families on low incomes and mothers with long-standing disabilities or illness more likely to experience all forms of domestic abuse.
- DV associated with disadvantaged communities with high crime rates and other forms of abuse
- Strong association between mothers' experience of dv and their mental health problems

Most domestic abuse involves children

- ❑ Children present in 63% of reported incidents in Scotland 2008-09 (MacLeod et al 2009)
- ❑ 61% of children in English sample of 251 incidents directly witnessed abuse (Stanley et al 2010)
- ❑ Children actively intervene to protect others (Mullender et al 2002; Edleson et al 2003)

Types of experience

- ❑ Children physically present during the violence
- ❑ children overhearing the violence
- ❑ children witnessing outcome of the assault
- ❑ use of the child to intimidate the mother
- ❑ children as triggers of violence
- ❑ children aware of ongoing emotional and psychological abuse
- ❑ children intervene/ seek help
- ❑ children injured

What do Children and Young People Want?

- Children & young people want professionals to talk to them about abuse, keep them informed & take them seriously:

'They listen to the adults more ... they don't want to talk to you.' (Nicola, Stanley et al 2012)

- Children want abuse to stop – want perpetrator to be 'taken away' – protection orders?

'they could like take him away straight away, instead of waiting around and everything and listening to sides, just ... they should be taken away because a mum or child wouldn't call 999 just to get a dad taken away for no reason.'
(Louis, Stanley et al 2012)

Talking to children about domestic abuse

- ❑ How do you sleep?
- ❑ Do you ever have nightmares?
- ❑ Tell me about your nightmares.
- ❑ What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?
- ❑ Do you ever get so angry that you want to hurt someone?
- ❑ Tell me about what you do then.

(Faller 2003)

What makes for harm arising from domestic abuse for children?

- ❑ Anxiety, hypervigilance, disturbed sleep
- ❑ Secrecy, stigma and isolation:

' I felt that I had a neon sign that told everyone what was going on in my family... plus you're bottling up your feelings and you kind of feel very alone.' (Young person, Buckley et al 2006)

- ❑ Adult responsibilities:

' You have to grow up quicker because if you didn't then you'd just, you'd melt, you'd just go.'
(Jodie, Stanley et al 2012)

Impact Varies by Developmental Stage

- Infants and pre-school: delayed development, sleep disturbance, temper tantrums and distress
- Schoolchildren: conduct disorders, problems in concentration and with peers
- Adolescents: depression, delinquency, aggression to peers, abuse in their own intimate relationships

Rossman (2000) – Cumulative impact

- Recruited 176 children and their mothers from community & refugees. Children categorised by lifetime exposure to dv. 36% followed up for 11mths.
- PTSD symptoms and behavioural problems worse for those children with longest lifetime exposure to dv.
- PTSD symptoms for children with higher levels of exposure to domestic abuse showed significant improvement over follow-up, particularly when children had received treatment.
- Children's school performance reduced if dv ongoing.
- Treatment associated with better outcomes
- Repeated exposure over time produces worse outcomes

Effects in adult life

- Depression (Roustit et al 2009; Russell et al 2010)
- Risks of being a perpetrator or victim increased (Whitfield et al 2003)
- Perpetrators who reported having witnessed their parents threatening to use/using weapons more likely to replicate such behaviour in their own relationships (Murrell 2005)

Surviving domestic abuse

- Kitzmann et al's (2003) review - third of children who had experienced domestic violence were doing as well as other children in their adjustment
- Where clinical diagnosis used as indicator of harm 69% did not meet diagnostic threshold (Spilsbury et al 2008)

Resilience located in:

- The child - self-esteem and confidence, a belief in self-efficacy, a repertoire of problem-solving approaches, high IQ
- The family – relationship with supportive adult (usually mother)
- The community – involvement with clubs, groups, schools, children's friendships

Risks of harm increased in context of:

- Poor mental health in mothers (may be an outcome of abuse) (Zerk & Mertin 2009; English et al 2003)
- Parental substance misuse (Cleaver et al 2007)
- Parental learning disabilities (Cleaver et al 2011)
- Other forms of child harm – polyvictimisation (Finkelhor et al 2009)
- Dislocation brings losses and restrictions

NICE Guidance on Domestic Violence and Abuse (2014)

Recommends:

'interventions that aim to strengthen the relationship between the child or young person and their non-abusive parent or carer. This may involve individual or group sessions, or both. The sessions should include advocacy, therapy and other support that addresses the impact of domestic violence and abuse on parenting. Sessions should be delivered to children and their non-abusive parent or carer in parallel, or together.'

Parallel Interventions for Mothers and Children – US Evidence

Graham-Bermann et al (2007) – RCT of 212 children aged 6-12 allocated to:

- 10 week group programme for children only
 - Children's group and parallel group for mothers
 - Waiting list
-
- Children's attitudes and levels of aggression most likely to improve when both children and mothers received a service
 - Children only programme showed no difference in attitudes and behavioural problems from children on waiting list

Parallel Interventions for Mothers and Children – UK Evidence

- Ontario model implemented in UK by Sutton Safer Families, Cedar Project, Scotland, and AVA
- Children learn to: place responsibility for dv outside themselves, use safety planning, manage loss and change
- Mothers learn to: engage with child's perspective on dv, reinforce messages delivered to child

Whole Family Interventions

- Family Group Conferences – used with families experiencing dv in Canada and Daybreak Dove Programme, S. England
- Pennell and Burford (2000) evaluated FGDM with 32 families and comparison group - child maltreatment and abuse of mothers reduced in FGDM group
- Whole family approach– erodes secrecy, facilitates getting to root of problem
- Does 'power and control' get addressed in this context?

KIDVA, East Lancashire

- Advocacy service for children and young people experiencing DV
- Involves individual and group sessions, support through social media and co-ordinating access to other services
- Referrals from schools, children's social services, MARAC and range of other sources

Gaps - Working with mental health services

- CAMHS – little published on interventions with families experiencing domestic abuse. Hard to access service.
- International examples of collaboration (eg PARKAS, Australia).
- Adult mh services – rarely screen for dv and rarely use information about dv to inform intervention (Howard et al 2009)

What we know we don't know

- Refugees undertake range of work with children – what is effective in this context? Is safety planning effective? Opportunities for families to be linked to relevant services?
- Schools – little known about their work in this field though anecdotal evidence of supportive work with mothers and children.

Messages for Services

- Front-line staff need to talk and listen to children, especially in crisis
- Focus on building resilience:
 - Build children's confidence and social connections
 - Promote supportive relationships with safe adults
 - Assist mothers and fathers to engage with child's perspective on dv
 - Response required from full range of services so support not confined to those identified as 'high risk'

References

- Stanley, N. (2011) *Children Experiencing Domestic Violence: A Research Review*. Dartington: RIP.
- Stanley, N. et al (2012) 'Engaging with Children's and Parents' Perspectives on Domestic Violence'. *Child and Family Social Work*, 17, 2, 192–201.
- Stanley, N. et al (2010) 'Children's Experiences of Domestic Violence: Developing an integrated response from police and child protection services' *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 26, 12, 2372-2391.



Young Voices

Jillian Montgomery
Children & Young Person's Worker
Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid Young People's Services

▶ Gateway 5–10yrs (level 1&2)

- Helping Hands
- One to one

▶ Groups aged 8–12yrs

- Helping Hands
- Planets
- Changing Steps
- Healthy Relationships

▶ Groups aged 13–18yrs

- Healthy Relationships
- Domestic Violence
- Self Esteem

Support Options

- Group activities
- One to ones
- Group Outings

Schools Work

- Primary
 - Social Guardians
- Secondary
 - Healthy Relationships

8-12yr old Programmes



▶ Helping Hands

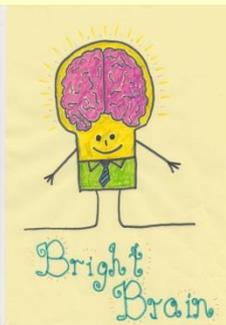
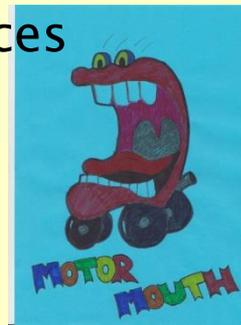
- Core themes, Gingerbread, helping hand.
- Helping the child to learn how to safeguard for themselves

▶ Planets

- Travel to different planets and explore the feelings and experience that the planet holds. For example, planet school, planet worry, planet angry, planet home etc.

▶ Changing Steps

- Start to understand personality
- Develop awareness of the internal positive and negative voices and the effects on yourself
- Who influences these internal voices
- What affect do you have on others internal voices
- Introduce Domestic Violence



13–18yr old Programmes

▶ Healthy Relationships

- Exploring what makes relationships healthy, unhealthy and abusive.
- Deciding what they might want from an intimate relationship.
- Helping them understand that they have the right to feel safe in any relationship.

▶ Domestic Violence

- Beginning to look at their experience of domestic violence.

▶ Self esteem

- Looking at the importance of building self esteem to enable young people to make healthy choices.

Young People's Experiences of Domestic Violence

Feel powerless to initiate change

Loss of confidence and self-esteem

Feel responsible for the situation

Feel confusion and emotional turmoil

Find it so difficult to concentrate on school and working for the future

Good knowing you are not the only one going through it

Always feel different – don't fit in no matter how hard they try

Have to cope with tension

change – 'unexplained' situations

Want someone to listen to them and believe what they say

Young Voices (8–12yrs using group)

“Don’t let violence get you down”

“I can let go of things that worry me”

“Don’t be a bully, be a friend”

Young Voices (8–12yrs using group)

“Every fingerprint is different just like you”

“Don’t be afraid of talking”

“I feel happy – Thank you!”

Young Voices (13–18yrs using services)

‘I remember dad coming in drunk at night and then starting on me and mum. He kept hitting mum and punching her on the face and then turned to me and punched me in the face, then on the side of my head. I still have a bump. My little brother and sister seen this happen’

Young Voices (13–18yrs using services)

‘growing up in a home with domestic violence was unbearable’

‘I’ve held all of this in for 14 years, it feels good to talk about it’



Because everyone can do something

Taken from the Social Guardians to
deliver Helping Hands Training



RATHMORE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Ut Vitam Habeant

**Hannah Kinney, Anna Lavery,
Rebecca Morgan, Niamh O’Kane**

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

- ▶ The YPI is an international programme that aims to develop community leaders.
- ▶ In small groups they identify a need in their community and a charity that works with that need.
- ▶ Each group researches their chosen charity
- ▶ Creates a presentation
- ▶ Delivers it to several audiences
- ▶ Chosen project Domestic Violence
- ▶ These girls won, giving a grant to their chosen charity.

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN



By Niamh, Anna, Rebecca and Hannah

For e.g. if one parent tries to control how the money in the house is spent no matter who earned it.

When one adult is always trying to make everyone else in the family do what they want by hurting or bullying them.

What is domestic violence?



Our social problem

Domestic violence affects our community widely because it does not just affect couples but also affects the rest of their family especially their children. If they are not taught other ways they will also use violence to resolve their problems.

- ◉ 1 in 4 women suffer from domestic violence at some point in their life.
- ◉ The PSNI respond to a domestic incident every 19 minutes. (2012-2013)
- ◉ Luckily, women's aid are here to lend a helping hand, with 880 women and 546 children living in refuges last year.(2012-2013)

Childline

0800 1111 (anytime)

If you are feeling scared or just want to talk to someone

24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

0808 802 1414*

Text support to 07797 805 839

Email 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

HELP

The Hideout

www.thehideout.org.uk

Space for young people to find out more about domestic violence

Chalky

0808 808 5678

Advice about your rights and the law

This applies to thousands
of
women and children

Help break
the cycle

OUR CHARITY



- The first refuge was opened in Belfast in 1975, and the Belfast group has grown largely over the years.
- Women's aid is a charity that is run all over the world.



Charity number-

XN 45049

Thank you

Thank you for listening to our presentation. We hope it made an impact on your view of the social problem.

To finish the presentation off, please watch this short slideshow.

PROBLEMS FADE DUE TO WOMEN'S AID

Women's
aid changes
lives
day by day.



Women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland

Women's aid

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Charity events



Charity events



Women's aids homes



'Thank you so much for all you've done for us over the last few months. I can't quite believe I have a fresh start and I'm able to look forward to being happy again. If it was not for all of you, I'm not sure I could have ever felt like that again. Thank you.'

Resident 2009

**“I am no longer in that
dark hole, there is a
bright light shining
down on me.”**

“I’m a lot stronger and I feel ready to get back to work. I got through those dark days with the help of Women’s Aid, to me they were always by my side.”

***“My Journey to Freedom
started the first time I picked
up the phone and rang
Women’s Aid.”***

Make it better



Thank you for listening



Do one thing...

MAKE IT BETTER

women's aid

Armita, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Coleraine
and Newtownabbey

Coffee



Behind Closed Doors

Sheila Simons

Chair of the SE Domestic Violence Partnership.



Strategic Definitions

- Domestic Violence and Abuse is:-

“threatening, **controlling, coercive behaviour,** violence and abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation) by someone who is, or has been an intimate partner or family member

- Sexual Violence and Abuse is:-

“any behaviour (physical, verbal, virtual/digital) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is **controlling, coercive,** exploitative, harmful or unwanted inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation) without consent or understanding.”

The main characteristic of domestic violence is that the behaviour is **intentional** and is calculated to exercise **power** and **control** within a relationship.

What are the main types of abuse?

- **Psychological/emotional** abuse eg: intimidation, threats, social isolation, verbal abuse, humiliation, constant criticism, enforced trivial routines.
- **Physical violence** eg: slapping, pushing, kicking, stabbing, damage to property or items of sentimental value, attempted murder/murder
- **Physical restriction of freedom** eg imprisonment, forced marriage
- **Sexual violence** eg: any non-consensual sexual activity including rape, refusing safer sex
- **Financial abuse** eg: depriving/taking control of money, withholding benefits/bank cards

Domestic Violence: The Myths

- **It's because the perpetrator has anger management problems, is stressed, has a drink problem, is depressed, saw it happening as a child.**
- **It has to involve physical violence.**
- **There must be something that the victim did to provoke it or maybe there is something dysfunctional about them in the first place.**
- **Embarrassing but not really dangerous (on average 2 women die every week in the UK and that does not include death by suicide)**
- **It only happens in families that are poor/disadvantaged**

Victims are at greatest risk of homicide at the point of separation or after leaving a violent partner



Barriers to disclosure for victims

- Fear that disclosure and accepting help will be worse than the current situation and could be fatal
- Minimise experiences and not define them as domestic violence
- Fear children will be taken into care.
- Fear the perpetrator will find them again through lack of confidentiality.
- Fear death – the fear is rational and justified
- Believe perpetrator's promise that it will not happen again
- Feel shame and embarrassment and may believe it is their fault.
- Fear that there will not be follow up support. Dominance of medical, diagnostic and treatment model.
- Fear abuser will have them detained
- Fear they will be deported
- Fear they will expose the family to dishonour
- Fear an escalation of violence/past use of weapons/animal abuse (disturbing correlation between cruelty to animals and domestic violence control)
- Be scared what the future will hold.
- Be isolated from family/friends
- Previous poor experience when they disclosed.
- Simply not ready

Professional barriers to enquiry of domestic violence

- Lack of confidence in approaching the subject
- Personal discomfort with the topic
- Too complex an issue
- Lack of knowledge/expertise about domestic violence
- Domestic violence not a priority
- Limited opportunity for enquiry - presence of partner
 - time constraints
 - competing demands
- Dominance of the medical, diagnostic and treatment model
- Focus on symptoms
- No indication of violence
- Gender
- Culture
- Fear of consequences - fear of re-traumatisation
 - fear of offending

(Source: Rose et al,2011)

The impact of domestic abuse has been found to have psychological parallels with the impact of torture and the imprisonment of hostages.

Survivors of terror: Battered Women, Hostages and the Stockholm Syndrome, Graham, P. et al (1988)

“Intimate Terrorism”



Stockholm Syndrome ?

- It is a form of traumatic bonding which describes “strong emotional ties that develop between 2 persons where one person intermittently harasses, beats, threatens, abuses or intimidates the other.”
- The victim expresses empathy and sympathy and have positive feelings towards their abuser, sometimes to the point of defending them. These feelings are generally considered irrational in light of the danger or risk endured by the victims who essentially mistake a lack of abuse from their abusers for an act of kindness .It is usually an unconscious act of self-preservation.

Brainwashing ?

- Is an invasive form of influence.
- It requires the complete isolation and dependency of the subject. The abuser (brainwasher) must have complete control over the victim so that sleep patterns, eating, using the bathroom and the fulfilment of other basic human needs depend on the will of the abuser. In the brainwashing process the abuser systematically breaks down the victims identity to the point that it doesn't work anymore. The abuser then replaces with it with another set of behaviours, attitudes and beliefs that works in the victims current environment,
- The effects of the process are more often short term, the brainwashed victim's old identity is not in fact eradicated by the process, but instead is in hiding and once the new identity stops being reinforced the persons old attitudes and beliefs will start to return.

Jaycee Lee Dugard

- Kidnapped at aged 11years on 10/06/1991 whilst waiting on the school bus by Phillip and Nancy Garrido.
- Remained missing for more than 18 years.
- On 24th&25th/08/2009 Phillip (a convicted sex offender) visited the campus of University of California in Berkeley accompanied by 2 girls aged 11 and 15years.
- Their unusual behaviour resulted in the uni staff contacting Phillip's parole officer and he was asked to attend his office on 26th/08/2009.He was accompanied by Jaycee and the 2 girls.
- They were separated from Phillip to ascertain their identity.
- Despite this Jaycee maintained her false identity as "Allissa" but advised the girls were her daughters and spoke fondly of Phillip. The girls also spoke warmly of him.

Cont'd.....

- It was 34 months into her captivity before the Garridos removed Jaycee's handcuffs for short periods.
- She was 13yrs old when she first became pregnant.
- The children were brought up believing Nancy was their mum and Jaycee their sister.
- During her captivity, Jaycee had access to a phone/e-mail and left the family home to accompany the couple on errands.
- It was only after Garrido admitted he had kidnapped and raped Jaycee did she acknowledge her real identity.
- On the day of the couples sentencing on 02/06/2011 Jaycee sent the following statement to the court:-

"I chose not to be here today because I refuse to waste another second of my life in your presence.....Phillip Garrido, you are wrong. I could never say that to you before, but I have the freedom now.....I hated every second of everyday because of you and the sexual perversion you forced on me..... For all the crimes you have both committed I hope you have as many sleepless nights as I did. Yes as I think of all of those years I am angry because you stole my life and that of my family....."

OCTOBER 26, 2009

People

JAYCEE DUGARD



KIDNAPPED 1991



**DAVE'S
DOUBLE LIFE
NEW DETAILS**

**EXCLUSIVE
PHOTOS**

'I'M SO HAPPY TO BE BACK'

ONLY IN People The inside story of how the California kidnap survivor is loving life with her family and recovering from her 18-year ordeal

JAYCEE DUGARD
PHOTOGRAPHED ON
OCTOBER 11, 2009

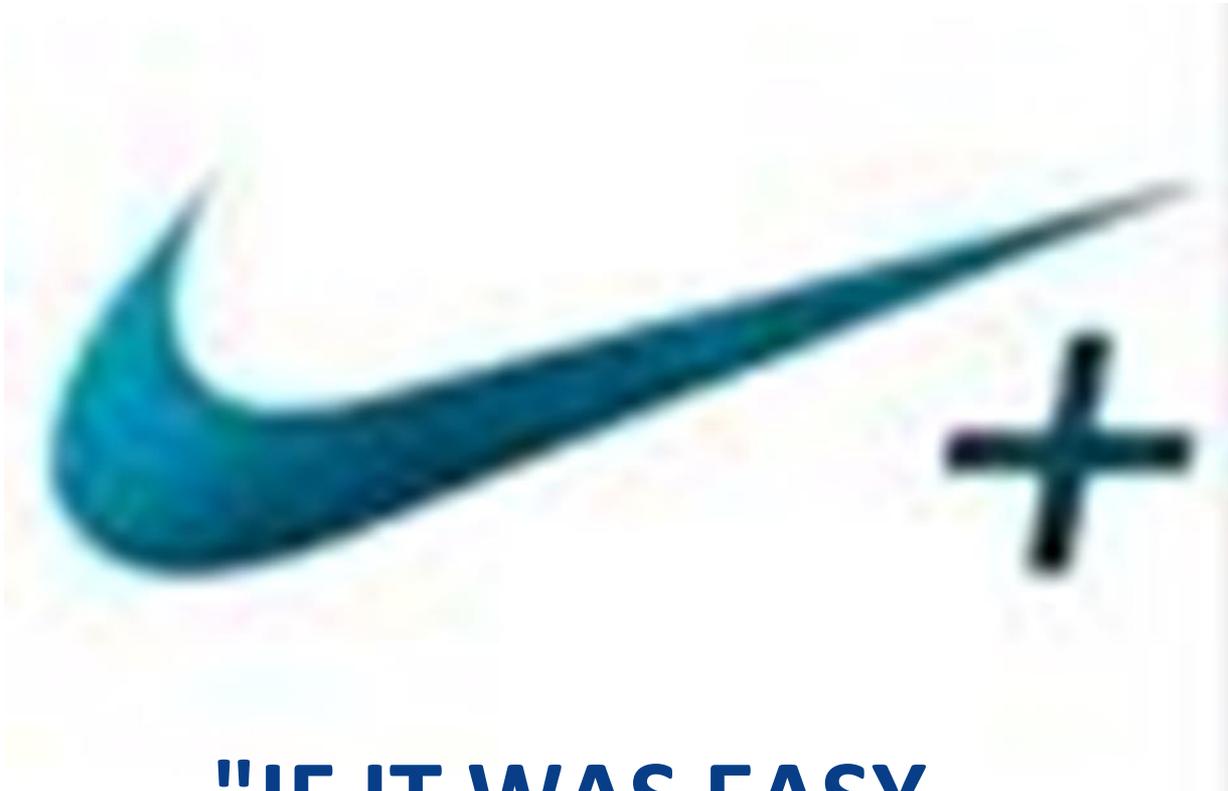


PEOPLE.COM

© David Schumacher/People/Time Inc

Why does she stay?

**Why has she made so
many attempts to leave?**



**"IF IT WAS EASY
EVERYONE
WOULD BE
DOING IT"**

Enabling disclosure for victims

Professionals will work with many victims who are experiencing domestic violence and have not disclosed. Research suggests that women usually experience 35 incidents before reporting it to the police.

- Routine enquiry/ Targeted enquiry. Asking the question. Must speak with victim on their own.
- Explain limits of confidentiality and safeguarding responsibilities.
- Reassure victim it is not his/her fault
- Give victim helpline numbers eg Domestic and Sexual Violence, Women's Aid, Social Services, PSNI
- Safety planning.
- Access to interpreting services

24 HOUR

Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

FREEPHONE

0808 802 1414

Open to *all women and men* affected by domestic & sexual violence

📱 text support to 07797 805 839 ✉️ 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

This number WILL NOT be disclosed Via
1471

This number WILL NOT appear on your
phone bill

You DO NOT have to give your name

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

Open to all women and men affected by
Domestic & Sexual Violence

Freephone from all landlines and mobiles

Translation service available



Men's Advisory Project

James Knox

About M.A.P.

- Charity founded in May 1999
- Provides counselling (1-1/group work)& support
- Based in Belfast
- Outreach projects in Dungannon & Coleraine
- Currently 18 volunteer counsellors
- Services offered 9am-9pm, Monday to Friday
- 1350+ 1-1 counselling hours offered (2012/13)

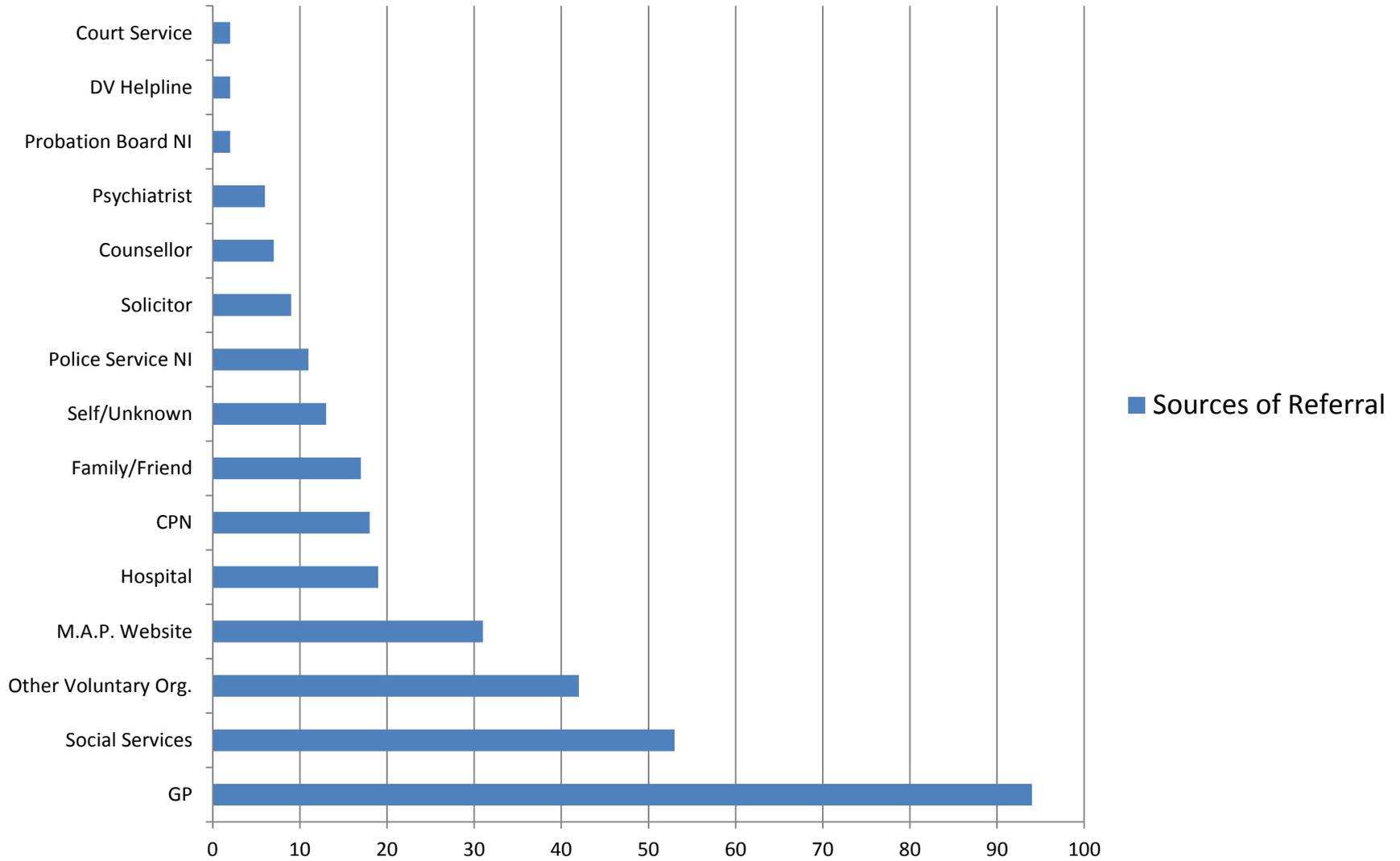


Our Clients?

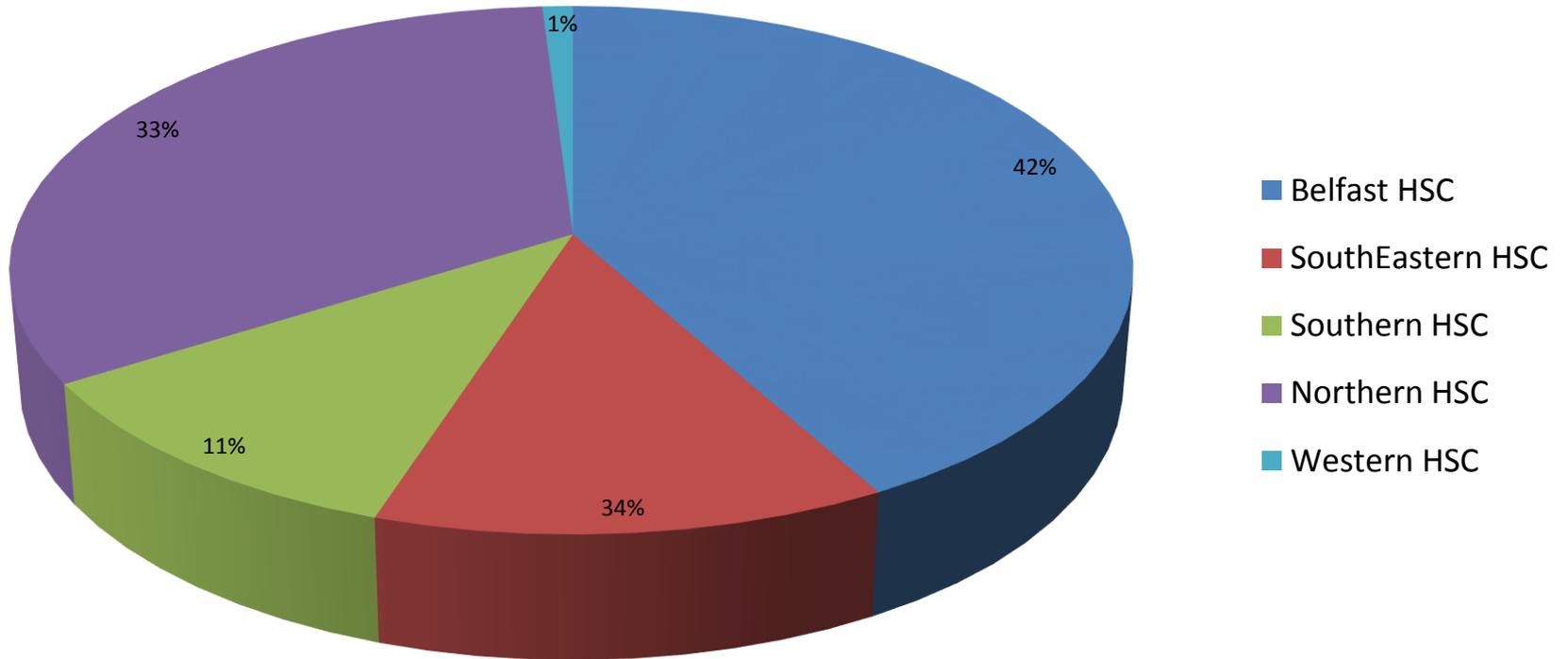
- Male victims of domestic abuse
- Men suffering from relationship breakdown
- Men & women experiencing powerful emotions (anger)
- All clients are over 18 years old



Sources of Referral March 2013 - February 2014



Origins of Referrals March 2013 - February 2014



Why are men hard to reach?

- Knowledge of what constitutes domestic abuse
- Recognising that they are victims
- Stigma attached
- Fear of not being believed
- Fear of losing contact with children

How do men try to cope?

- Keeping silent – perhaps because they are embarrassed or ashamed
- Leaving home, sleeping somewhere they feel safer such as a shed, car, a hostel or with friends
- Staying late at work, avoiding going home, or adopting uncharacteristic behaviours
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Accepting untrue allegations, going along with unreasonable demands or attempting to cover up the situation

Barriers to seeking support

- Unaware of support services available
- Think they will lose contact with their children
- Don't think they will be believed
- Ability to talk about situation
- Pride

Statistics

- Domestic abuse incidents recorded in the latest 12 months have largely mirrored the levels recorded in the previous 12 months but at a higher level for all but two months.
- At 27,693, the figure for the latest 12 months is 917 incidents higher than the previous 12 months

Statistics

- There were 12,330 domestic abuse crimes recorded in the latest 12 months (an increase of 1,331 crimes on the previous 12 month period)

Statistics

- The domestic abuse crime outcomes rate for the latest 12 months is 31.6%

This is 7.4 percentage points lower than the rate for the previous 12 months (39.0%)

Statistics

- 10,204 domestic abuse crimes were recorded where the victim's age and gender details were known:
 - Under 18: 1,233
 - Female 18+: 6,446
 - Male 18+: 2,525
- 2012/13 figures show an 11.4% increase in number of male victims reporting domestic abuse crimes from 2011/12.

All data taken from PSNI Reports.

Statistics

- A total of 674 male callers contacted the 24hr Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline

From 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013.

This was an increase of 198 male callers from the previous year.

Statistics

- Male victims (29%) are nearly twice as likely as women (17%) to not tell anyone about partner abuse
- Only 10% of male victims will tell the police (27% women)
- only 22% will tell a person in an official position (38% women)
- only 10% will tell a health professional (15% women) .

(Mankind Initiative, Feb. 2014)



What's needed?

Awareness Raising

- Improve male awareness
- Public Awareness Campaign aimed at male victims

Agency Training

- Which includes the experience of male victims
- Training is continuously available
- Training to courts service, Judicial Studies Board and to solicitors

What's needed?

Practical support and advocacy

- To include accompaniment to family court and support through the criminal justice system to reduce withdrawal from the legal process

Floating Support

- To help with housing issues, completing forms, accessing financial support, dealing with agencies such as social services and the police

What's needed?

Regional Support

- We have trialled regional support in Coleraine and Dungannon and will be rolling this out over the coming months.

Education

- Awareness sessions should be provided in schools and youth agencies

What's needed?

PSNI

- Monitor and ensure consistency of policy response, ensure evidence is recorded correctly to improve convictions
- Increased advertising aimed at men to increase confidence
- Increased information collection, including relationship of perpetrator and false allegations

What's needed?

Diversity

Older/Disability/Ethnic Minorities/S. O.

- All services offered should be open to these groups
- Supporting agencies should have training on Domestic Abuse and Violence

Current consultation
**Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in
Northern Ireland 2013-2020**

The main strands of the consultation relate to:-

- - *Driving change;*
- - *Prevention and early intervention;*
- - *Delivering change;*
- - *Support; and*
- - *Protection and Justice*

These are split into

- *28 Priority areas within the consultation*

Current consultation
**Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in
Northern Ireland 2013-2020**

*A well intentioned strategy can only
be as good as the resources provided
to back it up.*

- *Closing date – 11 April 2014*

Our contact details

Men's Advisory Project
Cathedral Buildings
64 Donegall Street
Belfast
BT1 2GT

P: +44 (0) 2890 241 929

E: info@mapni.co.uk

W: www.mapni.co.uk



Reaching Out To Older Women

Patricia Lyness

women's aid

Belfast and Lisburn

Domestic Violence or Elder Abuse?

- There is confusion, especially amongst health professionals, as to the difference between domestic violence and elder abuse
- The recording of some domestic violence may be 'hidden' and recorded as elder abuse
- Often literature on elder abuse shows domestic violence as a sub-set of elder abuse or ignores it completely

The Stereotypical Images of Older Women living with Domestic Violence



... Abuse is not primarily about older age at all but about certain damaging patterns which have continued into older age. This applies mainly to situations within the family; for example elder abuse is sometimes simply domestic violence which has continued into older age.

(Vinton, 1992, p.3)

Difficulties for Older Women

- Lack of awareness of services and options
- Fear of intervention and not being believed
- Financial / Economic
- Shame
- Isolation

Continued...

- Health Issues
- 2/3 of women over 75 have a long term illness and disability.
- Caring and dependency
 - 29% of women over 60 are carers
 - 40% of women over 60 look after grandchildren

Reaching Out

- Recognise that domestic violence doesn't end at 60
- Listen to older women
- Have older women visible in positions of power
- Have images of older women in publicity material
- Service more flexible and open to meet needs of users
- Appropriate housing

Continued....

- Designated workers
- Training in the needs of older women
 - Physical damage
 - Disability
 - Self-neglect
 - Mental health issues
 - Eating disorders, alcohol/drug misuse
 - Loss of confidence

Quotations

“I felt safer walking the streets at night than I did inside my own home”

“the hairdresser said my scalp is like a map, there’s so many scars on it”

“Before I came to Women’s Aid I felt I couldn’t go on any further – now I have choices”

Continued...

“I always felt ashamed but when I went to the group and sat with other women I didn't feel ashamed any more”

“I wish I had heard about Women's Aid years ago”

“My problems only started when my mother died”

“When I come here for 2 hours (group) I feel loved”

Lunch

Dr Bronagh Mc Kee,
Stranmillis University
College

Assistant Chief Constable
Mark Hamilton
PSNI

Questions / Discussion

Closing Remarks

Councillor Cecil Hall
Castlereagh

Policing and Community Safety Partnership