

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

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What is it?

"I would be sitting on the sofa and for no reason be smashed across the face, no reason, no answers, just left to deal with my tears."

Domestic Abuse

physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and financial abuse that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship and forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour.

"I thought that because he never actually hit me, that it wasn't abuse. I've always been afraid of him, so I've worked myself and our children around pleasing him."

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What is it?



"At first I couldn't believe I'd been raped. I tried to put it to the back of my mind. If I didn't think about it, it couldn't have happened."

Rape

Any act of non-consensual intercourse by a man with a person; the victim can be either male or female. Consent is given its ordinary meaning, and lack of consent can be inferred from the surrounding circumstances, such as submission through fear.

Sexual Assault

A person (a) commits an offence if they; intentionally touches another person (b); the touching is sexual; the other (b) does not consent to the touching and (a) does not reasonably believe that (b) consents.

"The worst part of all this is he got me to trust him, then turned my trust into fear"

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Scale of the Challenge



1 in 4 women are physically assaulted by their partner or ex-partner at some time in their lives – *Council of Europe, 2002*

Approximately 90% of domestic abuse is perpetrated by men against women – *British Crime Survey, 1996*

A woman will be assaulted an average of 35 times before reporting it to the Police – *Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 1997*

On average, women contact up to 10 different agencies before obtaining the help they need – *Leeds Metropolitan University, 1994*

23% of women and 3% of men experience sexual assault as an adult - *Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse, 2007*

Only 15% of serious sexual offences against people 16 and over are reported to the police; and of the rape offences that are reported, fewer than 6% result in an offender being convicted of this offence - *Rape Crisis, 2009*

51% of serious sexual assaults were committed by current or former partners of the victim; Only 11% were committed by strangers – *British Crime Survey, 2005/06*

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Scale of the Challenge – Domestic Abuse



"The main effect of the violence was that I started to change - I stopped being myself. I would avoid any conversation that had anything to do with my life before him."

Peterborough:

906 incidents reported to the police (2008-2009)

109 cases engaged with IDVAs (Q4 2008-2009)

208 cases heard at MARAC (2008-2009)

"I was living each day in a blur, nothing felt real. I was coping with everyday things but only doing as much as I needed to to get through"

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Scale of the Challenge – Sexual Violence



"I couldn't believe the lies and deceit he got away with. Everything had been twisted and manipulated into a version of events that bore no resemblance to what I had experienced."

Peterborough:

217 incidents reported to the police (2008-2009)

27.56% of those offences brought to justice (2008-2009)

"You'd never pick him out as capable of that, he was small built and never got into fights and everyone who met him thought he was a sweet guy..."

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What are we doing?



SERVICES & INTERVENTIONS

- Victim Support
- Women's Aid
- Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)
- Specialist Domestic Violence Court
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

- Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA)
- Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

Risk Assessment to determine what support and interventions are needed

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What are we doing?



ACTION PLANS

Domestic abuse

- Improved pathways for all to access domestic abuse support
- Domestic abuse prevention through a perpetrator focused approach
- Proactively intervening to protect victims from further offending
- Tackling honour based violence in communities

Sexual violence

- Improved pathways for all to access sexual violence support services
- Prevent and reduce the risk of offending/re-offending through interventions targeted at potential perpetrators
- Prevention of sexual violence through programmes targeted at those groups identified at highest risk
- Development of coordinated communication, social marketing and publicity campaigns

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"I was in an abusive relationship that lasted for 21 years. By the time I left I was barely functioning. Now, six long, hard years later not only have I managed to survive, but I have also found contentment... There IS life after abuse."

"I wouldn't say I've recovered, I'm not sure that you can ever recover from rape. I think you learn to accept that it happened and that it wasn't your fault. You can't go back to the person you were before it happened. However you can learn to cope with it and move on with your life."

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