



The Social Work Role in Domestic Abuse

SASW

The professional association for social work and social workers

In collaboration with:



Violence Against Women Partnership



Welcome



**Sarah McMillan, Professional Officer,
Scottish Association of Social Workers**

Welcome



Lucy Denvir, Consultant in Public Health (Health Protection),
Chair of Angus Violence Against Women Partnership



Violence Against
Women Partnership

Equally Safe

The National Strategy and Delivery Plan



- *“Gender based violence is a function of gender inequality, and an abuse of male power and privilege. It takes the form of actions that result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering to women and children, or affront to their human dignity, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It is men who predominantly carry out such violence, and women who are predominantly the victims of such violence. By referring to violence as ‘gender based’ this definition highlights the need to understand violence within the context of women’s and girl’s subordinate status in society. Such violence cannot be understood, therefore, in isolation from the norms, social structure and gender roles within the community, which greatly influence women’s vulnerability to violence.”*
- This definition of gender based violence is based on the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Definition of Domestic Abuse

The Angus Violence Against Women Partnership identifies domestic abuse as gender-based abuse and have adopted the Scottish Government's definition of domestic abuse.

“Domestic abuse (as gender-based abuse) can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour), sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family and friends).

Domestic abuse is most commonly perpetrated by men against women. The existence of violence against men is not denied, nor is the existence of violence in same sex relationships, nor other forms of abuse, but domestic abuse requires a response which takes account of the broader inequalities which women face.”

Typologies of Intimate Partner Violence

Susan Jack,
Training & Development Worker,
Glasgow Women's Aid

THIS IS MY SAD FACE I CAN WARE
AT HOME

THIS IS MY PRETEND FACE WHAT
I HAVE ON AT THE SCHOOL



MY
FACES

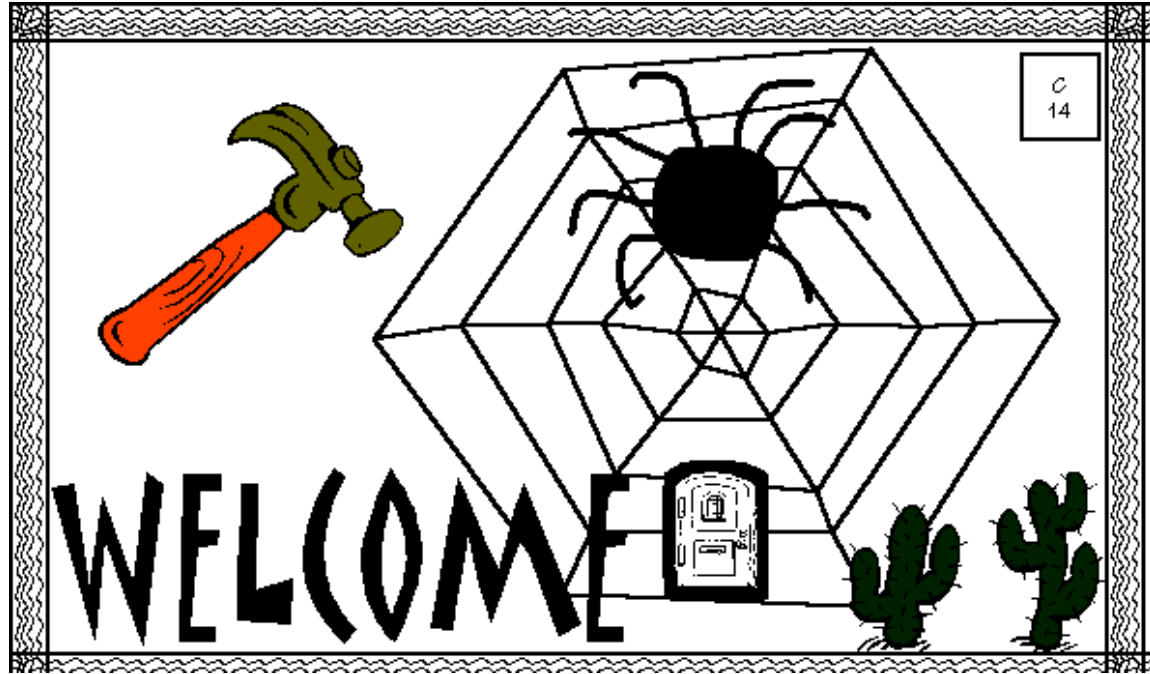
I AM GETING MY EARS PEERCD
WHEN I AM 10

Policing & Domestic Abuse 2016/17

- **58,810 domestic incidents recorded in Scotland with 54% criminal investigations**
- **Domestic Incidents account for 15% of all violent crime in Scotland**
- **Scottish Police Officers attend a Domestic Incident every 9 minutes**
- **Almost 20% of police operational time is spend dealing with Domestic Abuse issues**
- **Patterns: 79% female victims/male perp, but 18% male victim/female perp and 3% incidents occurred in same sex relationships.**
- *Scottish Government Statistical Bulletin (Crime & Justice Series)*

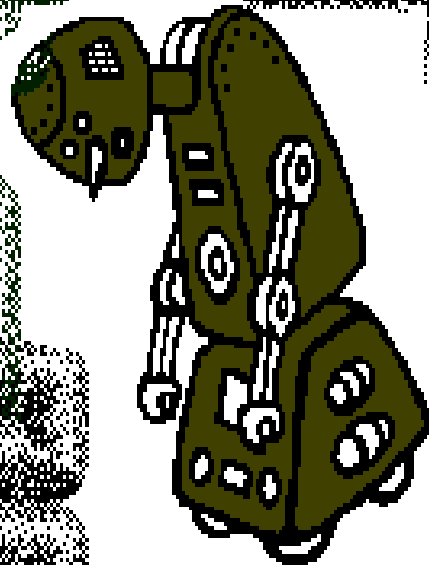
Unpicking the Police Stats...

- **Situational Couple Violence** –
 - *Perpetrated in equal numbers by men and women*
 - *Violence that is expressive*
 - *Physical force without context of control*
- **Intimate Terrorism** –
 - *Perpetrated overwhelmingly by men*
 - *violence that is functional/instrumental*
- **Violent Resistance.**
 - *Perpetrated overwhelmingly by women* (Michael Johnson)



BY M AGE 10

NO ESCAPE!



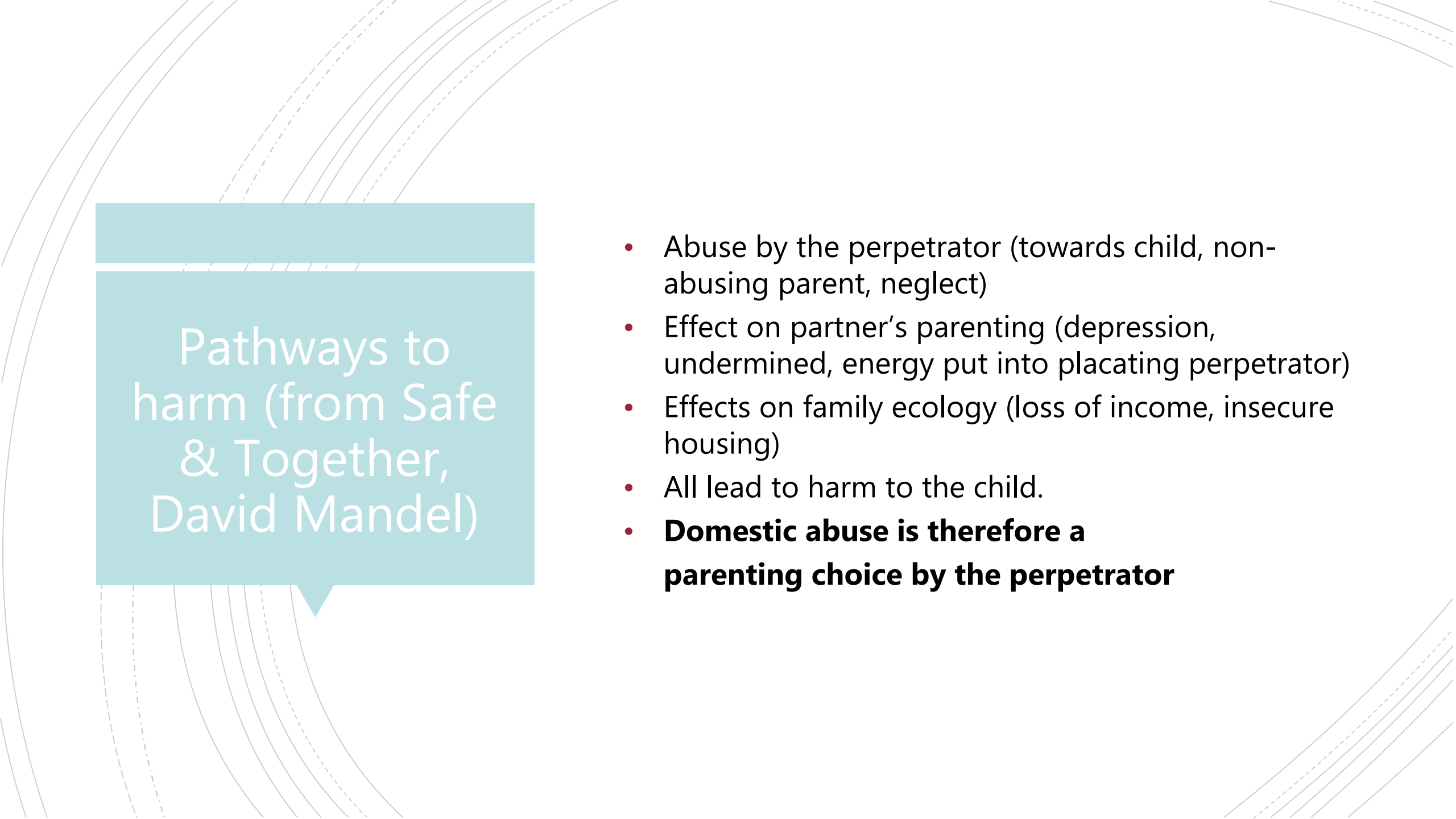
M
AGE 10

Coercive Control & Children

- Children were effected by many forms of coercive control beyond the physical violence against their mother, including:
 - Control of time and movement within the home
 - Deprivation of resources and imprisonment
 - Isolation from the outside world
- Katz, 2016

Key Practice Messages

- Domestic abuse can profoundly disrupt a child's environment, undermining their stability and damaging their physical, mental and emotional health.
- If non-abusive parent/carer is not safe, it is unlikely children will be... Supporting the adult victim of domestic abuse ultimately supports the child.
- The impact of domestic abuse on a child should be understood as a consequence of the perpetrator choosing to use violence rather than the non-abusing parent's/carer's failure to protect.
- *Child Protection Guidance 2014 Scottish Government*
- ***Type 2 Trauma- usually involves a fundamental betrayal of trust in primary relationships.***

The background features several sets of concentric, curved lines in shades of grey and teal, creating a sense of movement and depth. These lines are primarily located in the top-left and bottom-right corners of the slide.

Pathways to harm (from Safe & Together, David Mandel)

- Abuse by the perpetrator (towards child, non-abusing parent, neglect)
- Effect on partner's parenting (depression, undermined, energy put into placating perpetrator)
- Effects on family ecology (loss of income, insecure housing)
- All lead to harm to the child.
- **Domestic abuse is therefore a parenting choice by the perpetrator**

Child Protection & Catch 22

To Stay

- ✓ Keep the family together for the sake of the children
- ✓ Mediate the perpetrator's abuse
- X 'Failure to protect'

To Go

- X Possible (statistically probable?) escalation of abuse
- X Probable unsupervised contact, possible loss of custody
- X Vindictive/implacably hostile/uncooperative

COERCIVE CONTROL & THE DOMESTIC ABUSE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2018

- Behaviour that is abusive (violent, threatening or intimidating), with the effects:
- Making ex/partner dependent on or subordinate to
- Isolating ex/partner from friends, relatives or other sources of support
- Controlling, regulating or monitoring ex/partner's activities
- Depriving or restricting ex/partner's freedom of action
- Frightening, humiliating, degrading or punishing ex/partner.
- **Domestic Aggravator - Antisocial Behaviour & Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016**
- **Section 38, assault etc**

The Act & Children

- Statutory aggravation where child under 18 is involved
- Applies where:
 - Abuse directed at child in order to humiliate, control, frighten partner
 - If child sees or hears an incident
 - Reasonable person considers this would adversely affect a child

Other Protections in the Act

- Restriction on release of the accused on bail in solemn cases.
- Creation of a standard condition of bail prohibiting an accused from personally obtaining a statement or a precognition from a victim.
- Prohibiting an accused from personally questioning witnesses during the trial.
- Special measures aimed at protecting child witnesses during trial.
- Permitting certain expert evidence around the behaviour of an alleged victim, to counter inferences about their credibility or reliability, similar to the provisions covering certain sexual offences.
- Requiring the court to consider the future protection of the victim when sentencing the offender.
- Presumption that the court will make a non-harassment order to protect a victim and child.

Any
Questions????

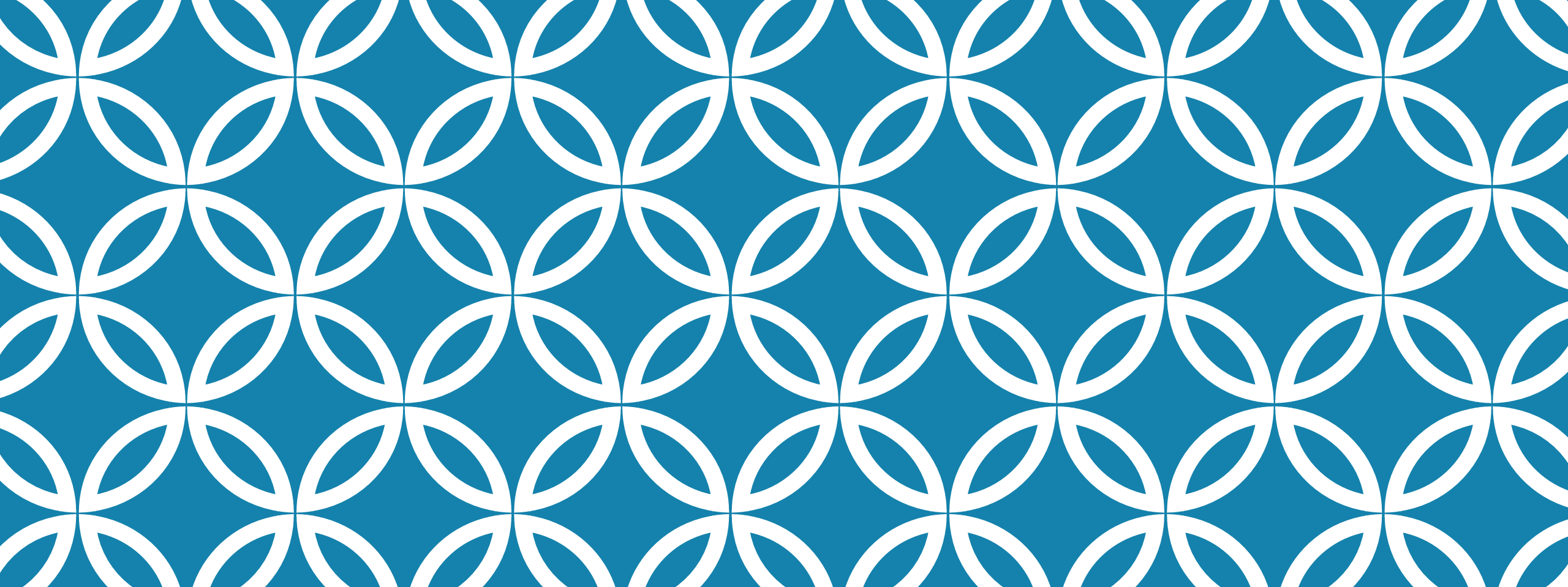


Round Table Discussion

**In your practice, what would distinguish between
Situational Couple Violence and Intimate Terrorism?**

Working with Perpetrators

**Laura Coburn & Lyndsay Richmond,
Social Workers, Angus Council**

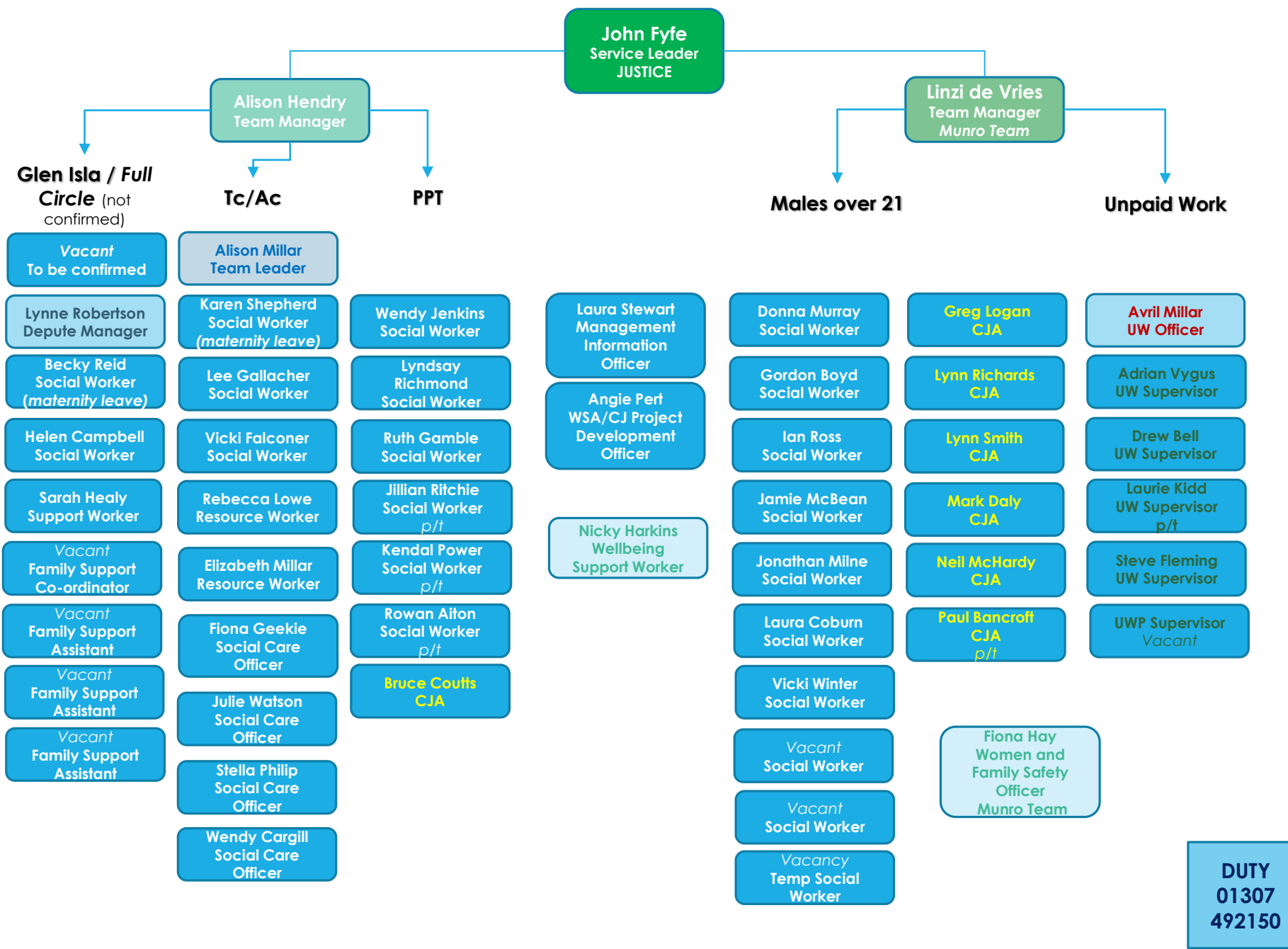


WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS

Laura Coburn and Lyndsay
Richmond, Social Workers at
Criminal Justice Services

AIMS OF SESSION

- Overview of service
- Statistics within Angus
- Typologies of abuse
- Discuss assessment process and service that Criminal Justice Services deliver
- Risk assessment
- Understand the barriers and challenges of working with perpetrators of domestic abuse
- How to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Group work programmes
- Perpetrator feedback



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STATISTICS

Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police and whether they included a crime or offence, by local authority, 2017-18
(Scottish Government, 2018)

	No of Incidents	% of Incidents including a crime or offence	% of Incidents not including a crime or offence
Angus	1,139	48%	52%

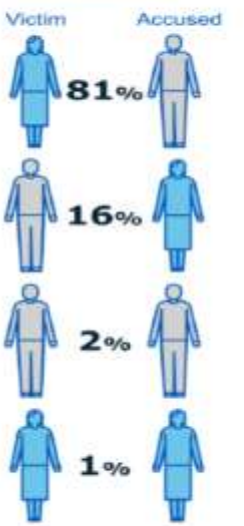
DOMESTIC ABUSE RECORDED BY THE POLICE IN SCOTLAND, 2017-18



59,541 Incidents

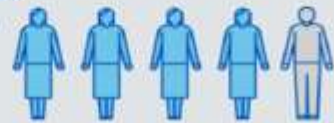
WHAT was the gender of the victims and accused?

The majority of incidents involved a female victim and male accused



WHO Were the victims?

over 4 in 5 (82%) of the victims in 2017-18 were female

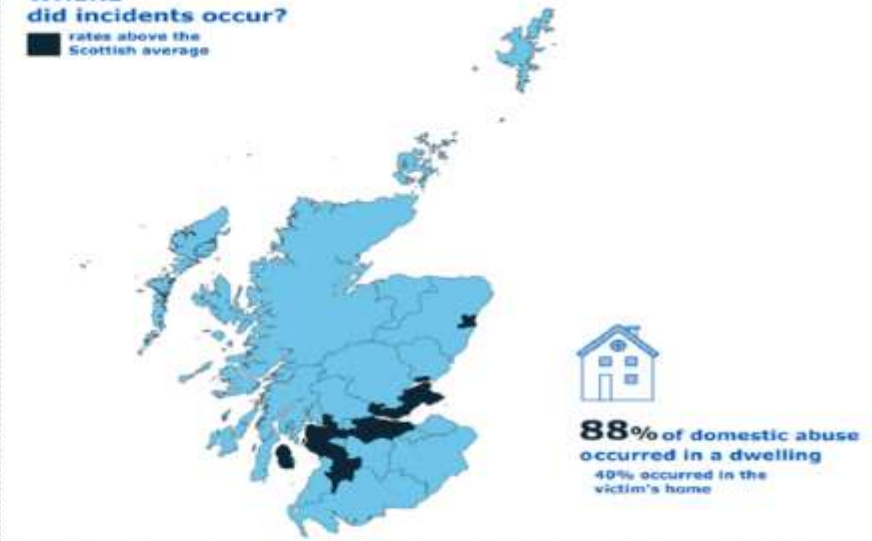


Victimisation rate per 10,000 population



WHERE did incidents occur?

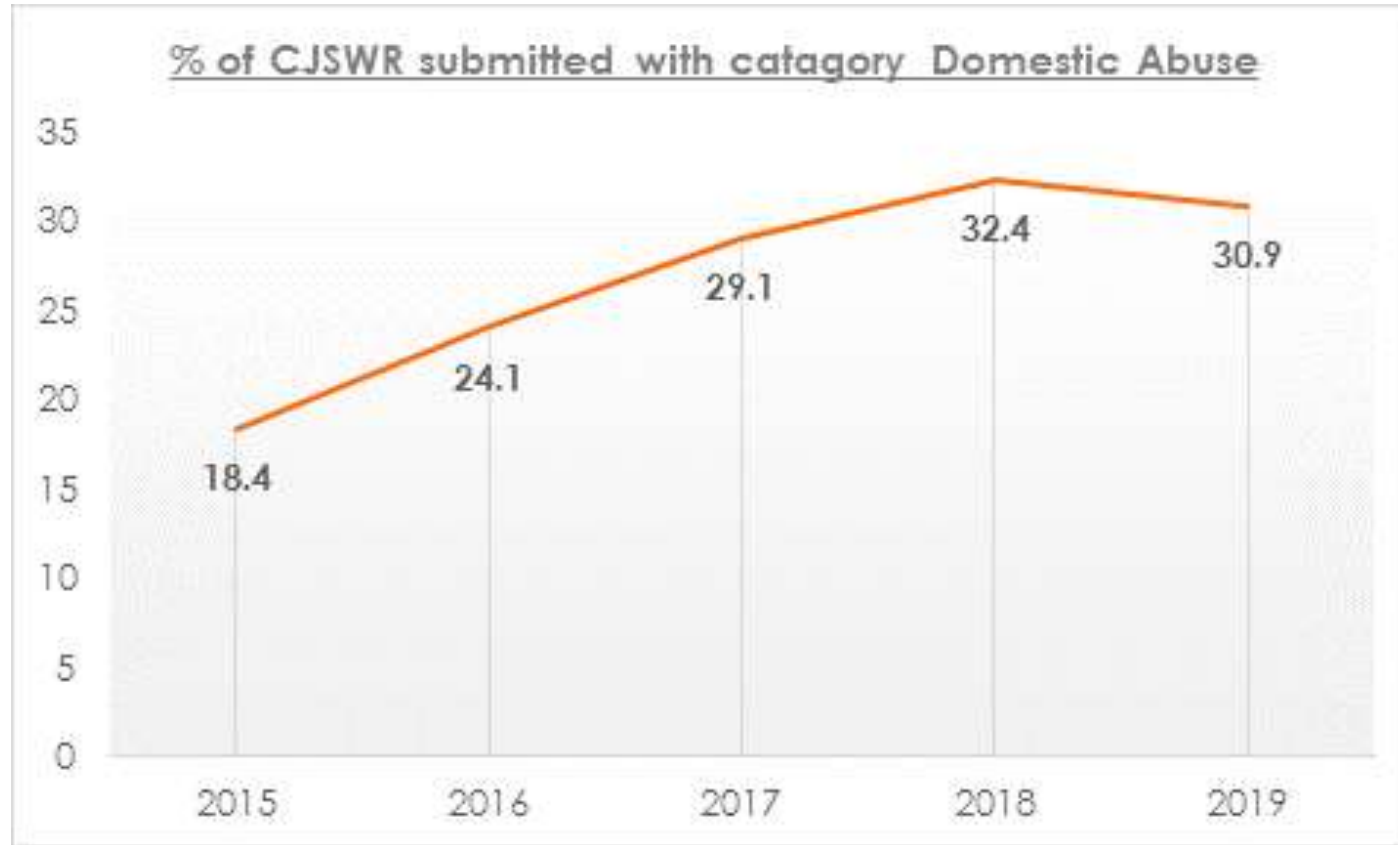
rates above the Scottish average



WHEN did incidents occur?



35% of domestic abuse incidents occurred on either a Saturday or a Sunday



Data collated by Laura Stewart, Management Information Officer, Criminal Justice Services, Angus Council.

Intimate Terrorism	Situational Couple Violence	Violence Resistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A pattern of coercive control - Fear - Continues after separation - Typically perpetrated by men - Linked with homicides - Escalates over time - Produces a negative impact on victims ability to act independently and in their own interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situational based - No underlying dynamic of control and domination - Perpetrated by both men and women - Violence can be severe - Violence can be frequent or infrequent - Partners do not live in fear of one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims fight in self defence. This could be physically or verbally - Might act in revenge/retaliation - Might fight in self preservation e.g. when victims kill their abusers - Victim does not seek power and control

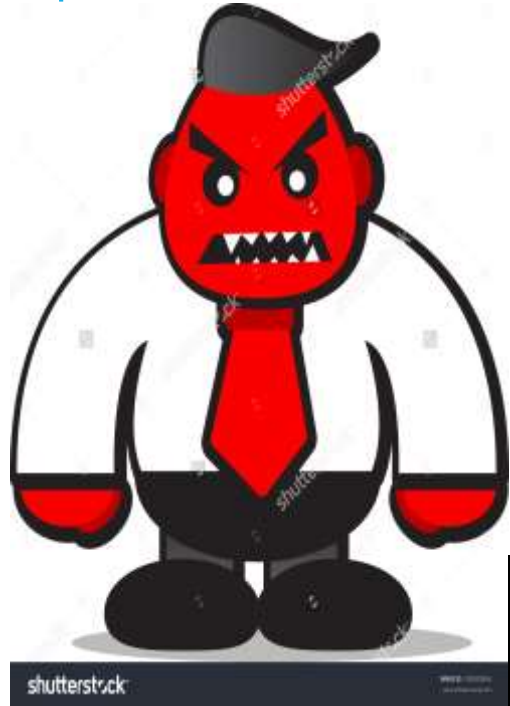
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Court process
- Criminal Justice Social Work Report (CJSWR)
- Assessment and recommendation
- Disposal options including community payback order
- Group work programmes

RISK ASSESSMENT

- LSCMI
- SARA V3
- SA07 & RM2000 (sexual offences only)
- Safe and Together Model
- MARAC
- MATAC
- Family safety worker

WHO ARE PERPETRATORS?



BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES OF WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Barriers for workers and perpetrators

- Own stereotypical judgements
- Stigma
- Fear
- No conviction
- Lack of services
- Information sharing

Challenges for workers and perpetrators

- Hostile behaviour
- Minimisation
- Denial
- Blame
- Grooming
- Substance use
- Employment
- Mental health

HOW TO WORK WITH ~~PERPETRATORS~~ PEOPLE

Research base

- SSSC codes of practice
- BASW code of ethics
- Anti-discriminatory practice
- Care vs Control
- Pro-social modelling

Skills

- Communication
- Active listening
- Show empathy and compassion
- Non-judgemental
- Show understanding
- Caring and supportive attitude
- Honesty and trust
- Balanced approach

WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS

Within CJS

- Safe and Together Model
- Motivational Interviewing
- Schema Therapy
- Good Lives model
- Trauma informed practice
- Relationship based practice
- Maslow's hierarchy of needs
- Anger management

Externally

- Multi-agency working (other social work services)
- AIDARS
- Penumbra
- Community Mental Health Team
- Action for Children
- Police Scotland

GROUP WORK PROGRAMMES

Fergus Programme

- 16 pre-pack modules to complete
- 24 week group sessions
- Targets domestic relationships only with established pattern of domestic abuse
- Aims to explore domestic behaviours in a peer led environment
- Subject to regular reviews with key professionals
- Female safety worker to support victim throughout
- Monthly maintenance meetings

Understanding Relationships

- 8 week programme
- Targets any relationship
- Main theme is communication and expressing emotion
- Male group members
- CJS and voluntary clients

UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIP PROGRAMME FEEDBACK

“At each of the Understanding Relationships Group Work sessions I learned something new. The programme helped me better understand other people’s points of view, which I can now act on out in the community”

“Today’s session went really well as I’m an emotional guy at the moment and coming to the group is making me feel better about that I can change in the future”

“Becoming a peer mentor helped improved my confidence to support other people. I feel like a completely different person now.”

“Really good session, lots of useful tips for dealing with a breakup. This is a huge problem for me. Hopefully, I can remember these things and put (them) into use the next time I get into a relationship. Learning (that) if I am struggling, it’s okay to seek help and advice. Glad not the only one that has these problems and that everyone goes through it”

“Good participation from everyone. No awkwardness. No judgments. Respect from everyone and facilitators”

FERGUS PROGRAMME FEEDBACK

“ I learnt how my relationship affected my kids when I was so wrapped up in my own troubles”

“ I have noticed a change in his behaviours towards me and the girls. His drinking has really reduced”

“ I learnt how we make excuses for our actions..... (I will) try to stop making excuses and accept some blame”

“ It was good to be honest within the group and hear other people’s stories”

“ I don’t need a social worker, I don’t need to change”

“ She’s a psycho, it’s her that needs the help”

“ Why is there no group work for them?”

“ The family are like night and day. The group has really helped Mr R, he speaks about the group all the time and the whole family use the tools” – Children and Family Social Worker

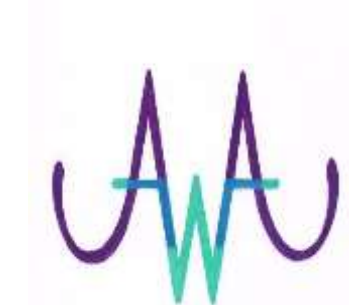
Round Table Discussion

1. How do you feel about working with perpetrators of domestic abuse, and how do/will you manage these feelings?
2. How could you hold men accountable for their abusive behaviour?

Legislation, MARAC & Disclosure Scheme

Anne Robertson Brown, Executive Director

Angus Women's Aid



Anne Robertson Brown

Executive Director Angus Women's Aid





Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

- Prior to 2018, in Scotland, there was no specific crime of Domestic Abuse and therefore, no recognition of its nature and consequences.
- The previous legislation was incomplete and not fully effective to holding perpetrators accountable
- The focus tended to be on physical abuse and undermined the experiences of victims
- The new offence improves the ability of the police and prosecutors to address domestic abuse, but also help in raising public awareness as to the range, pattern and severity of behaviours that can be involved.



Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

- The new Act's provisions reflect women's and children and young peoples' lived experiences
- Bridges the gap in addressing controlling behaviours not covered by existing offences and crimes, particularly those that cannot be dealt with via common assault, threatening and abusive behaviour and stalking
- Women have been telling us for 40 years that the harm from emotional and psychological abuse is the most traumatic and most prevalent



The Act and other legislation

- Currently most domestic convictions are Section 38 (breach of peace)
- Also used - Section 39 (stalking), assault etc
- This will continue, in some cases.
- Domestic aggravator – Antisocial Behaviour & Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016.



Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018

A specific criminal offence where a person “engages in a course of behaviour which is abusive of their partner or ex-partner”. This covers not only physical or sexual violence but also psychological harm and behaviour that affects a person’s independence.



Section 1 creates a specific offence of engaging in a course of violent, threatening or intimidating behaviour that is abusive towards a partner or ex partner.

The act attempts to criminalise emotional and psychological abuse ((coercive control))

Allows police and courts to pursue someone on a “course of conduct” offence – a single offence where physical, psychological and coercive behaviour can be prosecuted at once.



Coercive Control & the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) act 2018

- **Course of conduct (two or more incidents) of abusive behaviour**
- **Partners and ex-partners**
- **Do not have to prove harm**
- **That a reasonable person would think likely to cause harm to that individual**
- **Mens rea (criminal intent) – intentional or reckless**



What constitutes abusive behaviour?

The Act makes very clear what behaviour amounts to abuse namely:-

- behaviour that is violent, threatening or intimidating, including sexual violence;
- behaviour that makes a partner, or ex-partner, dependent on, or subordinate to them;
- isolating a partner, or ex-partner, from friends, relatives or other sources of support;
- controlling, regulating or monitoring their day-to-day activities;
- depriving a partner, or ex-partner, of, or restricting their, freedom of action; and
- frightening, humiliating, degrading or punishing a partner, or ex-partner.
- Any behaviour that is intended to have one or more of these effects, or would be considered by a reasonable person to be likely to have one or more of these effects, amounts to abuse.



The Act & Children and Young People

Statutory aggravation where child under 18 is involved.

Applies where:

- **Abuse is directed at child or a child is used in order to humiliate, control, frighten a partner**
- **If child sees or hears an incident**
- **Reasonable person considers this would adversely affect a child**

No corroboration needed



Other Protections in the Act

- Restriction on release of the accused on bail in solemn cases.
- Creation of a standard condition of bail prohibiting an accused from personally obtaining a statement or a precognition from a victim.
- Prohibiting an accused from personally questioning witnesses during the trial.
- Special measures aimed at protecting child witnesses during trial.
- Permitting certain expert evidence around the behaviour of an alleged victim, to counter inferences about their credibility or reliability, similar to the provisions covering certain sexual offences.
- Requiring the court to consider the future protection of the victim when sentencing the offender.
- Presumption that the court will make a non-harassment order to protect a victim and child.



Evidence gathering

- **Think about what kind of evidence can be used?**
- **Is there anything we need to change when supporting women and children?**



Clare's Law

- **Clare's Law is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in Greater Manchester in 2009. She had been unaware of George Appleton's history of violence against women.**
- **The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS) was rolled out across Scotland on 1st October 2015.**
- **Police Scotland revealed 2,144 requests had been made under the scheme.**
- **This led to 927 people in Scotland being told in the last two years their partner has a previous history of abusive behaviour.**

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland

Disclosure = the sharing of specific information about an individual with the person making the application or a third person for the purposes of protecting a potential victim from domestic abuse.

Who can ask?

Third party may not receive the information – disclosure may be made direct to potential victim.

Right to tell.

Stage 1

application
online
police station
phone 101

Stage 2

Initial contact

Stage 3

Face to face meeting

Stage 4

Multi Agency Meeting
consider disclosure
application

Stage 5

Potential Disclosure



45 days



A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a victim focused information sharing and risk management meeting attended by all key agencies, where high risk cases are discussed. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety. In a single meeting, MARAC combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic abuse case: victim, children and perpetrator.



What are the aims of a MARAC?

- to share information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims – adults and their children
- to determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community
- to identify outstanding aspects of risk assessment in regard to the victim, children or perpetrator that need referral or progress
- to pulled together a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm
- to reduce repeat victimisation
- to improve agency accountability and
- improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic abuse cases.



What can refer to a MARAC?

- **All agencies**
- **How – contact MARAC Coordinator**
- **Tayside MARAC COORDINATOR is based at Bell Street Police Station**
- **ANGUS MARAC MEETS MONTHLY**



MATAC MATAC

- Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating
- Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating
- High risk serial perpetrators
- High risk serial perpetrators
- Referrals – predominantly Police but others can refer through DAIU – Police Bell Street
- Referrals – predominantly Police but others can refer through DAIU – Police Bell Street
- Tayside MATAC meets monthly
- Tayside MATAC meets monthly



MARAC COORDINATOR

01382 596637

DOMESTIC ABUSE INVESTIGATION UNIT

01382 591912

ANGUS WOMEN'S AID

01241 439437

Panel Discussion



Wendy Hinnie & Lee-Anne Disbury
Angus Safe & Together Champions

Laura Coburn & Lyndsay Richmond
Social Workers, Angus Council

Anne Robertson Brown
Executive Director, Angus Women's Aid

Closing remarks

**Sarah McMillan,
Professional Officer, SASW**