



Improving Children's Outcomes Through Tackling Domestic Abuse

Jess Asato
Head of Public Affairs and Policy
SafeLives

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About SafeLives



- We are SafeLives, the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good.



- We are independent, practical and evidence-led, with survivor voice at the heart of our thinking.



- We work with organisations across the UK to transform the response to domestic abuse.

We want what you want for your best friend:



- Action before someone is harmed or harms others



- Harmful behaviour identified and stopped
- Increased safety for everyone at risk



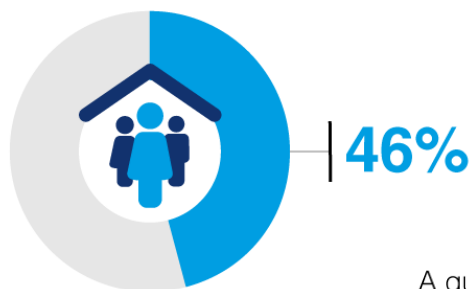
- The ability for people to live the life they want after harm has happened

Ending domestic abuse

The impact of domestic abuse on children and young people: experiencing domestic abuse in the household

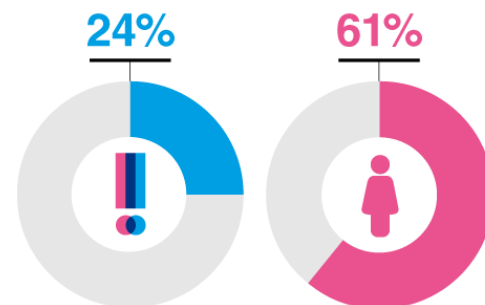
- SafeLives' data - at the time they start school, at least one child in every classroom will have been living with domestic abuse since they were born.
- As many as 1 in 5 CYP are exposed to domestic abuse during their childhood.
- Around 30% of children in households supported by an Idva were not known to children's services.
- Young victims are exposed to other risks – 29% to child sexual exploitation and 15% to gang violence

Just under half of young people exposed to domestic violence are being directly **harmed by the family member**



Source: SafeLives Children's Insights 2015–17, young people aged 13–17

A quarter of young people exposed to domestic violence go on to demonstrate harmful behaviour within their own relationships and **in 61% of cases the abuse is directed towards their mother**



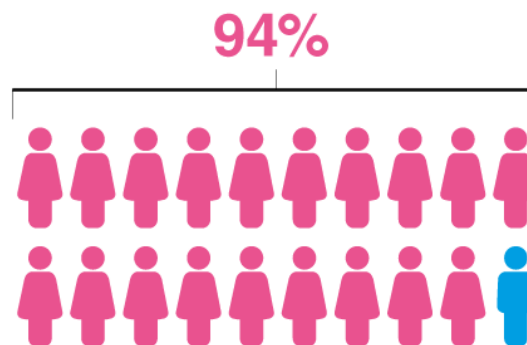
Source: SafeLives Children's Insights 2015–17, young people aged 13–17

Ending domestic abuse

The impact of domestic abuse on children and young people: experiencing domestic abuse in their intimate relationships

- 16-19 age bracket has the highest prevalence rates of experiencing domestic abuse
- 5.3% of men and 14.0% of women aged 16 to 19 had experienced domestic abuse in the last year (CSEW 2020)
- For women, this is 40% higher than the next age group (20-24)
- 50% of young people in abusive relationships have been exposed to abuse in their family homes

94% of young people experiencing abuse within their intimate relationships are **female**



Source: SafeLives Children's Insights 2015–17, young people aged 13–17

Ending domestic abuse

Specialist interventions for CYP are poorly provided

- SafeLives Practitioner Survey - frontline services found it difficult to connect with young people during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Statutory services are thinly stretched, including those providing early intervention programmes for children in need
- Action for Children report – Patchy, Piecemeal and Precarious found children faced barriers to accessing support in at least two-thirds of the local authorities that took part in the in-depth interviews
- 2010 61.5% of domestic abuse services in England offered dedicated CYP services; reduced to 54.3% in 2018 (Women's Aid 2019)
- Many young people still rely on services designed for adult victims, or simply don't get a service that's suitable for them at all.
- The provision of Ypvas alongside Idva services is patchy across the country: many areas have only one IDVA service with a specialist Ypva.
- We calculate £330m is annual cost of service provision for all CYP affected by DA.
- Meeting the needs of children is often not included within the funding services receive from local authorities.

Forms of interventions with CYP

- Most common domestic abuse is **group-based psychoeducation**, either for children and their non-abusive parent or just for children (Howarth et al 2016) These programmes aim to change attitudes and build resilience by increasing understanding of a topic. Psychoeducation is a less intensive form of intervention than therapeutic support. E.g. Against Violence and Abuse's Community Group Programme
- **Therapeutic support** is structured specifically as a treatment for the particular needs of an individual. E.g. Action for Children's specialist one-to-one counselling programme or Barnardo's Mandala Therapy
- **Programmes for CYP and non-abusive parent** e.g. Trevi House 'You, Me and Mum' or Grow Together piloted in SafeLives' Beacon sites
- **Young People's Violence Advisors** (Ypvas) specialist advisors who work specifically with young people who have experienced abuse in their own intimate partner relationships.
- **Pre-school children interventions** e.g. MonkeyBob developed by MyCWA used in SafeLives' Beacon sites

Ending domestic abuse

SafeLives' Connect interventions in Norfolk & W. Sussex

What concerns were identified?



48% child's safety



42% child's relationships with family members



28% child's living or learning environment



36% child's coping strategies



41% child's mental health



25% child's relationships with others

What support did they receive?

% are of those identified with needs



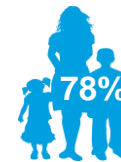
Were supported with safety/understanding of safety



Were supported in their relationships with others



Were supported with their mental health



Were supported in their relationships with family

What was their experience on leaving the service?



80% reduction in CYP witnessing abuse
42% reduction in CYP experiencing direct abuse
43% reduction in CYP demonstrating harmful behaviour

150 Exit forms have been submitted



95% improved safety following safety support
93% improved safety following mental health support
89% improved safety following support with family members
96% improved safety following support with other relationships
47% reduction in CYP known to social services



92% improved wellbeing following safety support
93% improved wellbeing following mental health support
83% improved wellbeing following support with family members
96% improved wellbeing following support with other relationships

Cultural change training for Children's Social Care workers: the background

- Ofsted
 - highlighted domestic abuse as 'the most common factor in the lives of children who need social care services,'
 - Blame placed on victim
 - Lack of understanding of dynamics of abuse
- DHR Analysis
 - recommended specialist training and meaningful changes in attitudes and practice for Children's Services
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)
 - Lack of recognition of separation leading to risk escalation
 - Not focusing enough on perpetrator
 - Overemphasis on victim to keep children safe
 - Failure to connect individual incidents to build a whole picture and recognise coercion and control
- SafeLives Every Story Matters survey
 - Question asked "why doesn't she leave?"



Ending domestic abuse

Cultural change training for Children's Social Care workers: the programme

- Mobilisation period
- Health check
- Train the trainer event
- Attitudinal and culture changing frontline training using a critical mass
- Mentors network, with training, to support the change.
- Senior leader sustaining the change workshop
- Ongoing support and relationship management
- Evaluation



Ending domestic abuse

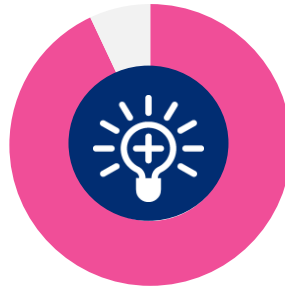
Key findings from our evaluation of cultural change training for Children's Social Care workers



75%

of learners felt training would help them **respond to victims in a more informed way**

93%



of learners understood the **stages of change victims experience, and how this impacts on their experience.**



82%

of learners were willing to **recommend the training to a colleague**

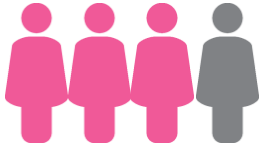


I will have more confidence in how I respond to families, victims/perpetrators children. Confidence to use more family led response...

DA: Whole Picture Learner

Ending domestic abuse

Key findings from our evaluation of cultural change training for Children's Social Care workers



75%

of learners felt the training would have a **positive impact on how they perform their role**

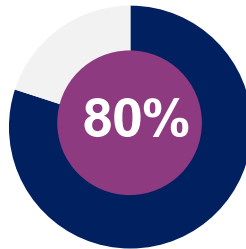


90%

of respondents had a good understanding of the **different types of abuse, including economic abuse.**



of respondents reported high levels of knowledge of **the best questions and communication techniques to use with victims**



of respondents felt they had a good understanding of **how perpetrators might try to manipulate them as frontline practitioners**



“Really insightful exercises to bring to life why victims make choices and pressures they may be under day-to-day.”

DA: Whole Picture Learner

Ending domestic abuse

The potential impact of the Domestic Abuse Bill: key legislative measures in the Bill – part 1

- a statutory definition of domestic abuse including economic abuse;
- duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation;
- establishing office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner with functions and powers;
- new Domestic Abuse Protection Order;
- prohibiting perpetrators of domestic abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts (and preventing victims from having to cross-examine their abusers);
- creating a statutory presumption that domestic abuse complainants are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts;
- domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody;

Ending domestic abuse

The potential impact of the Domestic Abuse Bill: key legislative measures in the Bill – part 2

- placing the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme on a statutory footing;
- ensuring that, where a local authority, grants a new secure tenancy to a victim of domestic abuse who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy, this must be a secure lifetime tenancy;
- extending the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales to further violent and sexual offences to ensure UK is compliant with the Istanbul Convention;

New Bill measures:

- Children recognised as victims in their own right;
- ‘Rough sex’ defence outlawed;
- Extends measures on cross-examination and special measures above to civil courts;
- Non-fatal strangulation offence to be introduced
- Post-separation CCB to be recognised as a crime

Ending domestic abuse

The potential impact of the Domestic Abuse Bill: key gaps

- No measures to increase provision of domestic abuse specialist services in community-based settings
- No principle of 'non-discrimination' to ensure those victims with protected characteristics (BME, disabled, LGBT+, older) are able to access specialist services
- No measures to ensure victims with No Recourse to Public Funds can access specialist services and protect migrants who report their abuse from facing immigration enforcement
- No measures to increase training for frontline public sector workers
- No measures to quality assure perpetrator interventions or increase the provision of accredited perpetrator programmes
- Very little role for health services specified in Bill or statutory guidance
- No measures to create long-term awareness raising campaign to change cultural attitudes in society

Ending domestic abuse

“ I don’t want in my lifetime to ‘possibly’ see an end to domestic abuse. I want it to become a reality and we must ALL make this happen. ”

**Rachel Williams,
SafeLives Pioneer**

Ending domestic abuse



Keep in touch



www.safelives.org.uk



0117 403 3220



@safelives_



@safelives.uk



@safelives_



community.safelives.org.uk

Jess Asato

Head of Public Affairs and
Policy

jessica.asato@safelives.org.uk

07939 594 634

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