

Case Study: Supporting People Experiencing Homelessness and Domestic Abuse Through a Multi- Agency Approach



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Camden**

FLIC: Who we are

- Fulfilling Lives Islington and Camden
- 8 year Lottery Funded Learning Project
- Working with people experiencing multiple disadvantage
- Relationship Focus
- Frontline team plus a systems change approach

Why did we focus on domestic abuse and homelessness?

95% of the women we work with have experienced domestic abuse and/or other forms of VAWG

0% of women were receiving specialist support for these issues when we started working with them

Challenging to use MARAC for survivors experiencing MD

Challenging for homelessness services to support survivors at high risk

Survivors often living on the streets with perpetrators always there

Client film

br01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2F-Qzs&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cfeea43212e4743fb8be308d946ae6aa3%7C079f0f20a91615233ef8aee2a%7C0%7C0%7C637618537184177603%7CUnknown%7CZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6MnC1000&sdata=vfBwsaQaVIOpCsZ%2BLbu%2BEz1MQPexrpyo0fx%2Ff%2B9Vcjkerved=0



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What ?

- ▶ **A safe home**
- ▶ **Strengths based, holistic support**
- ▶ **One long term support worker they could trust**

*"I went back to him because I had no-where to go.
If I had my own home, I would have been safer."*

Partnership project: FLIC and Solace Housing First

Challenge: Survivors experiencing MD need stable housing and holistic support to address VAWG issues. Specialist support often not available/accessible to this group. Lack of partnership projects.

- Started in 2018, designed and funded by FLIC, delivered by Solace.
- Aimed to improve learning, collaboration and understanding between women's and homelessness sector.
- Working with women experiencing domestic abuse/DA and other forms of VAWG who have been repeatedly referred to MARAC who are also homeless, experiencing poor mental health, and substance misuse.
- In first 18 months 100% of women were housed and engaging with regular holistic support.
- Has now become a commissioned VAWG service – funded by Islington from 2020 for 3 years.

"I went back to him because I had no-where to go. If I had my own home, I would have been safer."

Consortium project: WiSER

Challenge: To reach survivors experiencing domestic abuse who may not be able to engage with traditional DA service models

- Consortium project led by Solace Women's Aid that works with women aged 16+ affected by VAWG who find it difficult to access/engage with support and who are experiencing multiple disadvantage.
- 9 partners – 8 women's sector partners and FLIC. Opportunities for sharing learning, expertise and developing new approaches to better meet the needs of women. Operating across 8 boroughs.
- Small caseloads, trauma informed approach, assertive outreach.
- Two evaluations – project extremely successful in reaching and engaging this group.

"She taught me about domestic abuse from partners, educated me about relationships...every time I fell down, she helped me back up"

Working effectively with perpetrators and survivors in homeless settings

Challenge: How to reach homeless survivors who are always with the perpetrators?

- Guidance written by FLIC and Standing Together after a series of roundtable discussions
- Increase safety for survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage
- Improve the skills, confidence and safety of practitioners working in these scenarios.
- Aims to get perpetrator guidance and training standardised across homelessness organisations and influence organisational policy
- Evidencing the need for more specialist perp programs for perpetrators experiencing MD

"If we worked 'safely', we wouldn't reach the survivor at all"

Team Around Me – a collaborative approach

Challenge: How to improve multi agency case coordination and capture system blockages that arise, and better support 'complex' cases referred to MARAC?

- Standardized structure which hold agencies accountable for actions.
- Recognizes strengths and protective factors - before looking at challenges.
- Lead professional chosen by client – giving them the agency in their support.
- Establishes and collates system blockages, is action and collaboration focused
- Can be used by any service across the system

"The fact that we can do action research as we are going along gives us the potential to have massive long term impact"

Thank you!

<https://www.shp.org.uk/fulfillinglives>

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