



Promoting improvements  
in policing and fire & rescue  
services to make everyone safer

## **Working in partnership to prosecute all forms of domestic abuse**

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# Our inspection

- Home Secretary commission, as part of the response to the horrific murder of Sarah Everard
- This part focuses on the police response to women and girls who are victims.
- Review of recommendations; lived experience work; focus groups and interviews with IDVAs, commissioned and non-commissioned services; new inspection activity.



## Scale of the problem

- Between 2009 and 2019, on average, one woman was killed by a man every three days in the UK
- There were an estimated 2.3 million victims of domestic abuse in the year ending March 2020, 1.6 million of whom were female.
- **758,941** domestic-abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in 2019/20, equating to...
- **15%** of all crimes recorded by the police that year.



# Overall findings

- The police have made significant improvements in how they respond to VAWG over the last ten years
- But there's much more to do. The police have particular powers and responsibilities to pursue perpetrators, prevent crime and protect women and girls – they urgently need to do this more consistently and effectively.
- Making the same recommendations won't achieve the shift needed.
- 'We can't police our way out of VAWG'. A fundamental and radical shift in priority is needed, with a seamless and focused whole-system approach



# Improvements in the police approach..

- More consistent risk assessments
- Identification of repeat victims and tailored responses
- Use of safeguarding measures and support
- Committed and professional police officers and staff
- Dedicated local and national leaders
- Better understanding of early intervention and prevention



## ...but more for police to do.

- More is needed to keep women and girls safe from harm by preventing VAWG happening in the first place, working with partners.
- Using the full extent of police powers to tackle perpetrators and bring them to justice, and manage known offenders.
- Women and girls need to be better protected from further harm. The police need to ensure that protective orders that are in place are enforced to the full extent and offenders are managed effectively.
- A better understanding of victims' needs and what support they require while the case progresses through the criminal justice system.

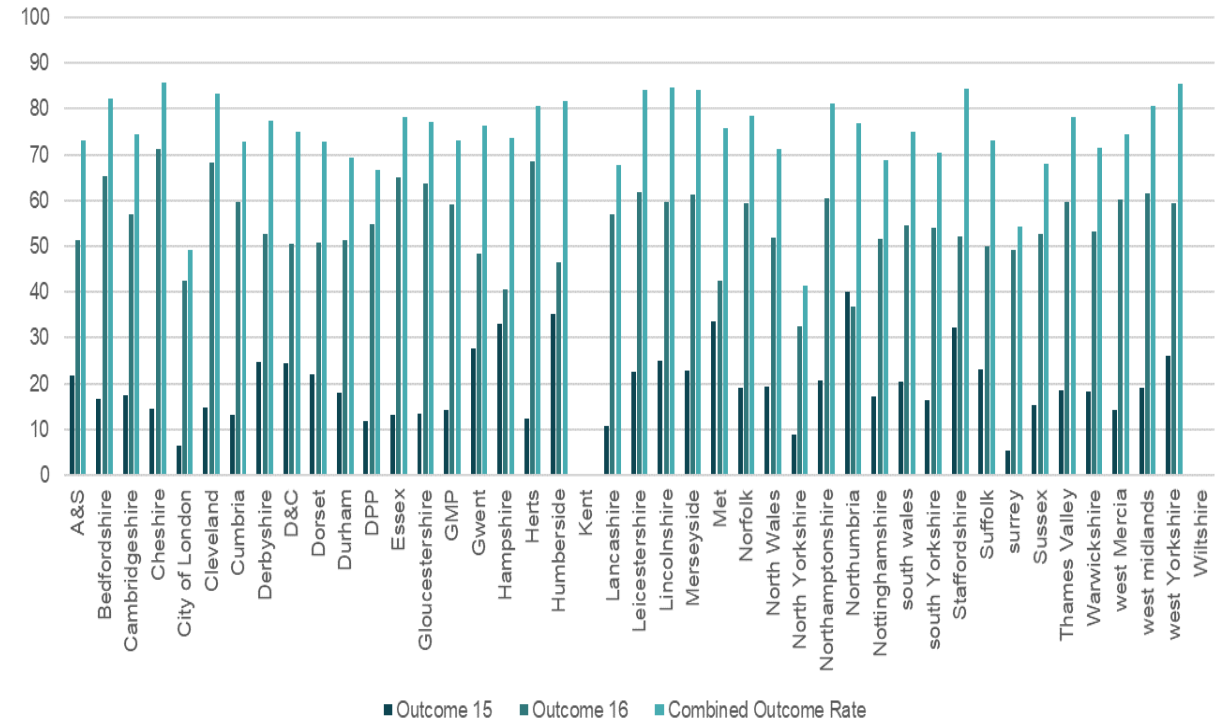


# Inconsistencies: Bringing offenders to justice

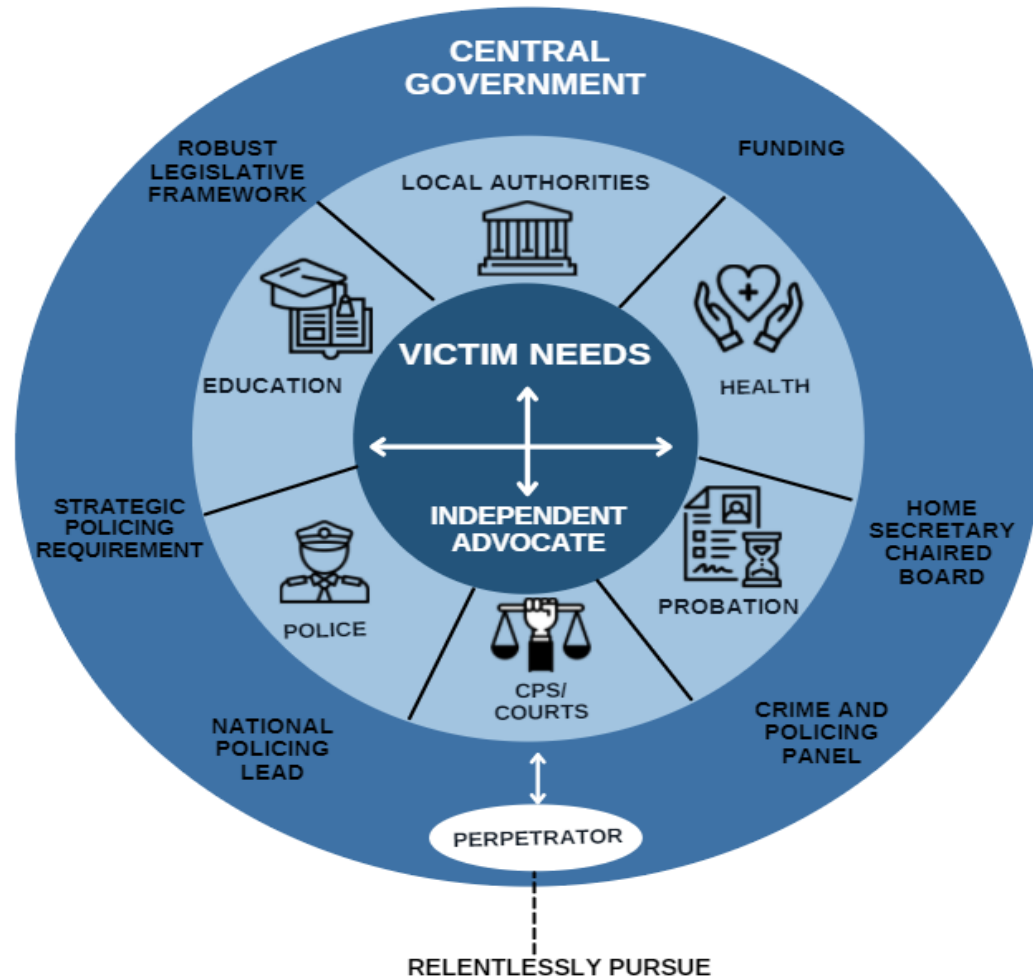
3 in 4 domestic abuse crimes are closed without perpetrator being charged

Wide variation across forces and lack of understanding

Position worsening over time



# Radical new approach: Whole system



- There needs to be an immediate upwards shift in the prioritisation of VAWG
- Partnership activities needs to improve and be made a statutory duty.
- Improved governance, accountability and scrutiny at all levels.
- Sustained, immediate and wrap-around victim care should be available





# Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** An immediate and unequivocal shift upwards in the policing and Government prioritisation of VAWG
- **Recommendation 2:** The relentless pursuit and disruption of adult perpetrators to be a national policing priority, with enhanced capability and capacity.
- **Recommendation 3:** Structures and funding put in place to make sure victims receive tailored and consistent support.
- **Recommendation 4:** Immediate improvements in the consistency and quality of forces' responses to VAWG.
- **Recommendation 5:** Immediate review of use of outcomes 15/16 in VAWG offences



Questions?

