

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN  
DOMESTIC ABUSE  
AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**



## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE?



### THE UK GOVERNMENT DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IS:



Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse.



- Controlling Behaviour refers to any act designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support.
- Coercive behaviour is any act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim.

### SOURCE

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>



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▼ **THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (WALES) ACT 2015 DEFINES THE KEY TERMS AS:**

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Violence against Women, referred to in the Act as 'gender-based violence' means:

- (a) violence, threats of violence or harassment arising directly or indirectly from values, beliefs or customs relating to gender or sexual orientation; (b) female genital mutilation (FGM); (c) forcing a person (whether by physical force or coercion by threats or other psychological means) to enter into a religious or civil ceremony of marriage (whether or not legally binding);
- Domestic abuse means abuse where the victim of it, is or has been, associated with the abuser.
- Sexual violence means sexual exploitation, sexual harassment or threats of violence of a sexual nature

▲ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/3/section/24>





## WHO IS AFFECTED AND HOW?

### ▼ IN THE UK:

- 1 in 5 children live in households where there is domestic abuse.
- Research shows that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will be affected by domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- 1 in 5 women aged between 16 and 59 has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 16.
- There is little data about abuse involving older people.
- 39% of men experiencing domestic abuse are over three times more likely than women (12%) not to tell anyone about the abuse.
- In 2011, an estimated 137,000 girls and women were living with consequences of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK and in 2011 an estimated 60,000 girls under the age of 15 were living in the UK who were born to mothers from FGM practising countries and therefore could be at risk of FGM.
- 2 women a week are murdered by their male partner or ex-partner
- 30% of abuse starts or increases during pregnancy

### SOURCE

<http://www.lwa.org.uk/understanding-abuse/statistics.htm> <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/161104-national-strategy-en.pdf> Robinson et al., The Welsh Government's proposed 'Ending Violence Against Women and Domestic Abuse (Wales) Bill': Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group 2012.



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▼ **IN ENGLAND AND WALES:**

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- Nearly half a million adults are sexually assaulted each year and around 85,000 women and 12,000 men experience rape in England and Wales every year – 11 rapes of adults every hour.
- 1.4 million women and 700,000 men aged 16-59 report experiencing at least one incident of domestic abuse in England and Wales.

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▼ **IN WALES:**

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- It is estimated that in Wales, 11% women and 5% men a year experience 'any domestic abuse', while rates of 'any sexual assault' in the last year were also higher for women (3.2%) than men (0.7%).
- It is estimated there are 140 victims of Female Genital Mutilation a year in Wales.



▼ **WESTERN BAY - BRIDGEND, NEATH PORT TALBOT AND SWANSEA**

| Police Recorded Crime           | Fiscal Year  |              |              | Quarter         |                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                 | 2013<br>2014 | 2014<br>2015 | 2015<br>2016 | APR-JUN<br>2014 | APR-JUN<br>2015 | APR-JUN<br>2016 |
| Violence against the person     | 5,810        | 7,499        | 9,324        | 1,723           | 2,170           | 2,850           |
| Of which domestic abuse related | 2121         | 2667         | 3177         | 590             | 772             | 952             |
| Homicide                        | 4            | 3            | 6            | 0               | 2               | 2               |
| Of which domestic abuse related | 2            | 0            | 2            | 0               | 1               | 0               |
| Violence with injury            | 3,589        | 3,809        | 4,163        | 932             | 1019            | 1184            |
| Of which domestic abuse related | 1,271        | 1,287        | 1,368        | 299             | 339             | 369             |
| Violence without injury         | 2,217        | 3,687        | 5,255        | 791             | 1,149           | 1,660           |
| Of which domestic abuse related | 848          | 1380         | 1807         | 291             | 432             | 583             |



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The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) checklist was implemented across all police services in the UK from 2009 (Richards, 2009). The checklist is used to 'grade' cases according to the risks that people are believed to face:

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▼ **STANDARD**

where the current evidence does not indicate likelihood of serious harm being caused.

▼ **MEDIUM**

where there are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.

▼ **HIGH**

There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious. Risk of serious harm (Home Office 2002 and OASys 2006): 'A risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic, and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible'.

**SOURCE**

<http://www.dashriskchecklist.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/DASH-2009.pdf>





## WHO IS RECEIVING HELP AND WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

### — MULTI-AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE

- In each of the three local authority areas that make up Western Bay key statutory agencies such as the Local Authority, the police and health work alongside relevant third sector agencies to form a partnership known as a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The MARAC meet once every fortnight to discuss high risk victims of domestic abuse.
- In 2015-2016 a total of 1,106 high risk domestic abuse cases were discussed at MARAC meetings in the Western Bay region.

|                                     | Bridgend     |              | Neath Port Talbot |              | Swansea      |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                     | 2014<br>2015 | 2015<br>2016 | 2014<br>2015      | 2015<br>2016 | 2014<br>2015 | 2015<br>2016 |
| Number of cases discussed           | 296          | 252          | 306               | 370          | 603          | 484          |
| Number of repeat cases              | 82<br>(28%)  | 46<br>(18%)  | 67<br>(22%)       | 77<br>(21%)  | 139<br>(23%) | 108<br>(22%) |
| Number of children in the household | 469          | 373          | 342               | 483          | 694          | 543          |



## — INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR

The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service (IDVA) support victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of serious injury or homicide. During 2015-2016 a total of 1,476 referrals were made to the IDVA service.

|                           | Bridgend     |              | Neath Port Talbot |              | Swansea      |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                           | 2014<br>2015 | 2015<br>2016 | 2014<br>2015      | 2015<br>2016 | 2014<br>2015 | 2015<br>2016 |
| Number of cases discussed | NA           | 197          | 265               | 344          | 854          | 935          |

### ▲ Not all those referred to the IDVA choose to engage with the service.

Each of the three regions in Western Bay have different specialist services to support those affected by domestic abuse. For example, all three areas have Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops, but all three are located in different settings and offer different services.

## — ACCOMMODATION

- Across Western Bay there are 7 refuges providing temporary accommodation and support for women and children. There is currently no refuge support for adult males in Western Bay.
- Fixed term accommodation – There are 5 self contained flats supported by staff from the refuge. Individuals can stay in these properties for up to 2 years. The average length of stay in these flats in 2015-2016 was just over 12 months. During 2015-2016, 6 women and 2 dependent children were supported in these flats.
- Three additional clusters of accommodation provide 14 units of housing. During 2015-2016, 22 women and 20 dependent children were supported in the clusters.
- Safe Houses – there are 4 fully furnished safe houses in Western Bay. Safe houses are visibly no different to ordinary houses on the outside. Internally, however, they have been fitted with specialist safety systems, such as CCTV, panic alarms, Intercom and fire resistant letter boxes



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## — ACCOMMODATION CONTINUED

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- Support in the community is for individuals aged 17 and over (with or without children) who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse. Support can take place in their own homes or any other place of safety. The service can be accessed through self-referral, referral from family/friends or statutory/third sector agencies. Support can be provided for up to 12 months (in exceptional cases, 2 years). The support has varying levels of intensity and support hours vary according to the level of risk, need and circumstances of the individual. In 2015-2016, 111 referrals were received and 85 survivors were supported.
- Floating Support provides an holistic approach to assessing the needs of the individual. There are 21 units of floating support available. During 2015-2016 a total of 366 individuals and 436 dependent children received floating support.

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■ Not all services are available in all three regions of Western Bay.

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- One Stop Shop – they provide advice, information and support from specialist support workers to help anyone who is or has been affected by domestic abuse. In addition, they are used by other organisations as a base to deliver their services, such as: a remote evidence facility for Family Court, rape, sexual abuse and trauma one to one counselling and victim support services.
- The Freedom Programme – a 7 to 12 week group programme that helps women to deal with the effects of domestic abuse and avoid abusive relationships in the future. In 2015-2016, 40 women attended the programme.
- There is a long waiting list for this programme which would suggest that demand is higher than capacity to deliver this programme.
- Positive Relationships Programme – provides services for men, women, couples, children and young people to prevent and break the cycle of domestic abuse. Since April 2014, 9649 children and young people have had an awareness raising session on healthy relationship behaviours through the scheme.



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## — ACCOMMODATION CONTINUED

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- Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) – a SARC is a specialist facility where recent victims of rape or sexual assault can receive immediate help and support. There is one SARC in Western Bay, based in Swansea. Separate rape crisis and sexual abuse support services are also available in Bridgend.
- Your Opinion Matters (YOM) is a service user project to ensure their voices are heard in the development of local domestic abuse services.
- Equilibrium Programme – is for men and is aimed at addressing controlling and abusive behaviours that are present in parental relationships in order to reduce the risk to children and adults in their homes and communities. The programme helps men to understand the nature of domestic abuse and how this affects their partner and child(ren).
- BAWSO – is the lead specialist provider of services to people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds affected by different forms of abuse, such as domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, human trafficking, prostitution and forced marriage. The service offers refuge, safe houses and outreach services.



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## — SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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■ Not all of these services are available in all three regions of Western Bay.

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- Video Interactive Guidance – a 3 year programme aimed at strengthening the attachment bond between mothers and infants that have been affected by domestic abuse. To date the programme has supported 8 families, plans are in place to support a further 37 families over the lifetime of the project.
- Safety, Trust and Respect (STAR) Programme and the RESPECT Programme – designed to address attitudes, behaviours and support young people who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic abuse. Young people aged 10 – 18 who have been found guilty of committing a violent offence (which could include domestic or sexual violence) are automatically enrolled in the programmes to learn about healthy relationships.
- Recovery Toolkit – a cognitive behaviour and person centred therapeutic approach
- SPECTRUM Project – works in primary and secondary schools to teach young people about healthy relationships, abuse and its consequences and where to seek help. Teachers, teaching support staff, youth workers, social workers and other interested professionals also receive awareness raising sessions.
- RAY Project – works in secondary schools to teach young people about healthy relationships, sexting etc. Also run groups for young people affected by abuse.





## HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?

- In November 2009, Sylvia Walby estimated the total cost of domestic violence to the UK economy to be £15.7 billion a year. In Wales, it is estimated to be £303.5 million a year. This can be broken down into £202.6m service costs and £100.9m in lost economic output. This does not include any elements of human or emotional cost which research suggests costs Wales, on average an additional £522.9m (this does not include any costs associated with sexual violence or other forms of abuse).
- Funding for the MARAC and the IDVAs comes from different funding streams which makes it hard to estimate overall costs.

### SOURCE

Walby, S. (2009) *The Cost of Domestic Violence Update 2009*. Lancaster University, available from: [www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/doc.../Cost\\_of\\_domestic\\_violence\\_update.doc](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/doc.../Cost_of_domestic_violence_update.doc)





## THINGS PEOPLE TOLD US THAT MATTER TO THEM

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- Improve awareness of VAWDASV, including male victims and the services available to support people affected by VAWDASV.
  - Improve training so that when people first seek help the response is sensitive to the needs of victims of abuse
  - Develop better options for housing for people affected by VAWDASV.
  - Increase the ability of health services to respond to physical and psychological health needs.
  - Develop and support peer networks and support groups.
  - Provide advice on financial matters
  - Keep victims safe when perpetrators work their way through the criminal justice system and are released from prison.
  - Give support to children who have been in abusive households.
  - Support perpetrators to change their behaviour.
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## WHAT CHANGES DO WE HAVE TO PLAN FOR?

- As required by the Act the Welsh Government published the National Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2016-2021 in November 2016. The strategy is based on 3 purposes:
  - ▶ prevention
  - ▶ protection
  - ▶ support
- This Strategy outlines six objectives which the Welsh Ministers consider will, if achieved, contribute to the pursuit of the purpose of the Act.
- The Act also places a duty on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to prepare and publish joint local strategies for tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. These local strategies will need to take into account the six objectives set out in the National Strategy.
- Increased pressure on resources due to the implementation of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, particularly the implementation of the National Training Framework and 'Ask and Act'.
  - ▶ The implementation of Ask and Act – it is expected that there will be a significant increase in the number of reported cases of domestic abuse. No additional resource has been allocated to support the increase in demand for services. Ask and Act places a duty on Local Authorities to become the main referral pathway for support for victims that disclose abuse. In some areas of Western Bay the One Stop Shop does not receive specific funding but instead relies solely on revenue funding from partners which may not be sustainable if the demand for services significantly increases. One Stop Shops have agreed to be the local referral routes.
  - ▶ Implementation of the National Training Framework to ensure that all front line staff have sufficient training in domestic abuse will have an impact on financial and staffing resources.

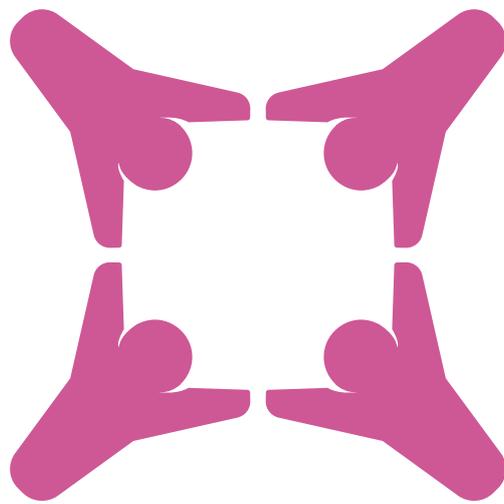


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- Uncertainty around funding from the Welsh Government, the Home Office and the Police and Crime Commissioner could impact on the range and number of services delivered in future.
  - There is a marked shortage of perpetrator programmes - this has been identified as an area for more development but is also an opportunity to improve partnership working across Western Bay.
  - Domestic abuse services for children and young people, MARAC Coordinators and the IDVAs are funded annually, this creates uncertainty.
  - A number of victims do not access refuge accommodation or other support services, more research needs to be undertaken to understand the reasons for this.
  - Increased reporting of historical sexual abuse.
  - Regionalisation – there have been issues around the Western Bay geographical footprint because the area ABMU Health Board cover (Western Bay) differs from the Police Division (Swansea/Neath Port Talbot). Across Western Bay there is one health board and two police divisions. Other potential considerations around regionalisation of these services include:
    - ▶ Each of the three geographical areas that make up Western Bay have different specialist services to support victims. Most services are area specific so regionalisation would be complicated because of different funding criteria, Local Authority Constitutions etc.
    - ▶ Each of the areas works slightly differently in terms of service access criteria, principles, assessment and referral pathways.
  - However, there are a number of positive considerations in terms of regionalising service delivery. If policies, strategies and guidelines were written to ensure a consistent approach to service delivery it would be easier to ensure that victims receive continuous care if they were to move across local authority areas.



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- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 shifts and extends the scope of adult safeguarding from 'vulnerable adults' to 'Adults at Risk', defined as:
    - ▶ An adult who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse and neglect.
    - ▶ Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).
    - ▶ As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it (2014:95).
  - Extending the scope of adult safeguarding will increase the number of referrals the service receives but no additional resources have been identified to deal with the increase.
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# **WESTERN BAY**

## **POPULATION ASSESSMENT REPORT**

[www.westernbay.org.uk](http://www.westernbay.org.uk)