Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of controlling, coercive or 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. This encompasses but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse (Home Office, March 2013). Some young people under 16 experience child to parent abuse and/or Intimate Partner Violence in early dating relationships. We are also working to prevent and respond to this in Cheshire East.

Key messages

- The number of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the Police increased from 2012/13 to 2014/15, with a further increase in 2015/16. This is due to improvements in Police recording, including work to resolve classification issues, as well as awareness raising campaigns.
- Based on current data, the number of domestic abuse incidents reported is 29% of the estimated number of such incidents. High risk cases being referred to Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) have increased and high risk female cases identified (551) is now approaching the number of high risk incidents involving females expected in Cheshire East (630). This indicates that a large proportion of incidents not currently being reported are likely to be medium to low risk and there is scope to improve identification of such cases.
- High levels of reported domestic abuse in Polish communities (indicated by the ethnicity of victims and perpetrators and supported by the higher rates in Crewe) reflects the accessibility of domestic abuse services for Polish communities achieved through employing Polish workers and promoting the national Polish helpline.
- At least 1 in 4 MARAC cases are recorded as having mental health needs and at least 14% have alcohol recorded as an additional vulnerability. However, these rates are likely to be higher with some cases experiencing both these vulnerabilities. This demonstrates the complexity of cases and that mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse services in particular should be joined up to ensure people’s needs are met effectively.
- Further work is needed to measure the impact of current services, including how well the needs of victims and perpetrators are being met.

Repeated national studies show

1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives with the vast majority of those most frequently and seriously victimised being female (repeated British Crime Surveys)

2 in 3 of high and medium risk victims have children, on average 2 each
Nationally:
Each year around 2.1m people suffer some form of domestic abuse. In 2013-14 the police recorded 887,000 domestic abuse incidents in England and Wales. This suggests 40% of incidents are reported to the police.\(^1\)

Repeat incidents
Nationally, 42% of domestic violence victims have been victimised more than once (Safe Lives).\(^1\)

In Cheshire East, 19% of incidents reported to the Police in 2015-16 involved victims who had previously been victims in the last 12 months.\(^2\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cheshire East – local data(^2)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse Incidents (DAI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse Incidents (DAI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAI affected by alcohol</td>
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<td>DAI affected by drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Same sex victims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repeat victimisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serial perpetrators (2+ unconnected DA victims abused - 3 year rolling period)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Incidents (non-crimed, less serious)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Domestic Abuse and Domestic Incidents</td>
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Needs analysis – Police incidents in Cheshire East
Safe Lives predicts 40 high risk domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 of the adult female population per year.\(^1\) This would suggest 630 high risk incidents involving females aged 16 and over in Cheshire East. It is estimated that high risk cases constitute the top 10% of need, suggesting a total of 6,300 domestic abuse incidents occur every year in Cheshire East.

There were 1,847 domestic abuse incidents reported in Cheshire East in 2015-16 (local data). This is 29% of the estimated number of incidents.\(^3\)

Rate of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police per 1,000 population 2010-15 (national data)\(^4\)

Differences between local and national data The nationally reported data do not give an accurate picture of the scale of domestic abuse in Cheshire East. The police report one figure for the whole of Cheshire which is divided equally to obtain Local Authority figures for Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington. In addition, domestic abuse incidents were misclassified as domestic incidents in the Central database. Work has been done to improve the quality of Police data and their local data provides the most accurate scale of domestic abuse; the 1774 domestic abuse incidents in 2014/15 equate to 11.3 per 1,000 population, which is shown as a diamond on the graph opposite.
The highest rates of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police are in central Crewe. There are also relatively high rates in other parts of Crewe and in Macclesfield. This correlates with where our low income households are located (identified as a risk factor nationally). Crewe also has a high proportion of non-White British residents, with a significant Polish community. Together with the ethnicity analysis of victims and perpetrators, this supports potentially high domestic abuse rates in the Polish community.

Source: 7 – PCC – Cheshire, Halton and Warrington Domestic Abuse Quarter 4 2015-16
National research indicates that victims of domestic abuse are more likely to be:
• Women
• Living in low income households (<£10k)
• Aged 20-30
• Pregnant
• Separated
• Alcohol and drug misusers
• Experiencing mental health difficulties

Tackling domestic abuse is vital to ensure that some of the most vulnerable people in our society receive the support, understanding & treatment they deserve.

Data Sources:
5 - Modus; all commissioned DV service use this IT system
6 - CEDAP Annual Report 2015-16

Who are victims known to domestic abuse services?

This page shares the profile of victims of domestic abuse in Cheshire East in 2015-16:

**Gender**

8% of victims known to domestic abuse services in Cheshire East were male. Only 6 victims were identified as being involved in a same sex relationship.

**Age**

Locally, around half of recorded victims are aged 18-35. There were less than 5 victims aged 14-17 recorded.

5% of victims in 2015-16 were known to be pregnant.

**Ethnicity**

The ethnicity of 75% of victims has been recorded. The proportion of victims that are Non White British is higher than in the general population (13% compared with 6% - 2011 census). 5% of victims are Polish, indicating that there may be a high level of need in Polish communities.

These high rates may reflect the accessibility of domestic abuse services for Polish communities which has been achieved through employing Polish staff and promoting the national helpline for Polish victims.

The proportion of perpetrators who are non White British is also higher than the general population (see page 6).

Geographical location

We don’t currently have access to data to explore geographical variations in the numbers of domestic abuse victims accessing services across Cheshire East. We do have geographical data on police incidents (see previous page).

It is really good to know that there is support out there and I will keep the contact numbers in case I have any need in the future or if I know someone who is experiencing abuse. What I needed was a cup of tea and a hug not a call from lots of strangers telling me that the situation would only get worse and not better.
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a monthly meeting focussed on increasing the safety of high risk victims and their children. 574 cases with 782 children were subject to MARAC in 2015-16. 23 of these cases were male (4%), leaving 551 high risk female cases. In national studies used by SafeLives, 5% of those going to MARAC or accessing an IDVA service are male. The numbers of cases and children discussed at MARAC increased in 2014/15 and again in 2015/16 but are still lower than the 630 that SafeLives predicts. The repeat rate was 33%. National Guidance indicates an effective MARAC should have a repeat rate of between 28 and 40%, illustrating victim and agency confidence in re-referring incidents.

What is high risk domestic abuse?

- Over 80% of high-risk victims experience physical abuse
- 90% of high-risk victims experience emotional abuse and/or coercive control
- 88% experience multiple forms of abuse

The more we can focus on effective interventions, the more we can treat victims & prevent future re-victimisation. It is the government's strategic ambition, as set out in Call to end violence against women and girls 2010.

IDVA Outcomes (2015-16)

- 540 clients were referred to IDVAs who established contact with over 85% of those referred and fully engaged 46% (349 clients)
- 190 (54% of clients who fully engaged with the service) told us they feel safer
- 142 (41%) felt that their quality of life had improved

High risk cases

It is likely that this increase in MARAC referrals is due to multiagency promotion or the risk indicator checklist and the review of risk undertaken directly with victims by the domestic abuse hub. We are close to identifying our predicted high risk cohort of 630 case per year.

Data Source:
8 - DAFSU Annual Report 2015/16
Who are perpetrators known to domestic abuse services?

This page shares the profile of perpetrators of domestic abuse in Cheshire East in 2015-16:

10% of perpetrators (police incidents where the ethnicity is known were identified as being of non White British origin. This is higher than in the general population (6.4%) 2011 Census.

Gender

- Female: 3%
- Male: 86%
- Unassigned: 11%

Age

- 16 to 18: 10%
- 19 to 25: 10%
- 26 to 30: 10%
- 31 to 40: 40%
- 41 to 50: 20%
- 51 to 60: 10%
- 61 to 70: 5%
- 71 and over: 5%
- Unassigned: 5%

Ethnicity

- White British: 86%
- Not White British: 10%
- Not Stated: 4%

Alleged perpetrator/victim relationship

- Sibling: 10%
- Daughter: 10%
- Ex-partner/spouse: 40%
- Father: 5%
- Married: 5%
- Mother: 5%
- On/Off partner: 5%

In 2014, 350 Cheshire East perpetrators were found guilty in Crown and Magistrates courts.
Nationally 140,000 children live in households where there is high-risk domestic abuse. 64% of high and medium risk victims have children, on average 2 each. 25% of children in high-risk domestic abuse households are under 3 years old.

On average, high-risk abuse has been going on for 2.6 years, meaning these children are likely to have lived with abuse for most of their life. 62% of children living in domestic abuse households are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse.

Sources

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**Children affected by domestic abuse**

Safe Lives data shows the ratio of high risk victims to children discussed at MARAC is 5:7. This ratio suggests there would be 804 children involved in the 574 high risk cases in 2015-16 in Cheshire East. This is slightly higher than the actual 782 children that were linked to victims of high risk domestic abuse.

**Child in Need and Child Protection (Cheshire East CIN Census)**

In 2015/16, domestic violence was identified in 34% of the 4,200 completed assessments. This is slightly lower than the 2014/15 rate.

**Completed assessments where domestic violence identified**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessments where domestic violence has been identified</td>
<td>1,402</td>
<td>1,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(39%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total completed assessments</td>
<td>3,627</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IDVA Outcomes (2015-16)**

- 540 clients were referred to IDVAs and assuming the estimated 64% have children this equates to 346 clients. 349 clients fully engaged with the service.
- 95 (27%) of IDVA cases who fully engaged said that their children were happier and more settled.

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**Additional assets for children and young people**

**Operation Encompass**

Schools across the whole borough are informed of incidents in the previous 24 hours in the homes of pupils. Between January and June 2016:

- There were 377 notifications to education settings
- Crewe and Macclesfield received the most calls
- March and May were the busiest months with 154 and 140 calls compared to an average of 90 calls per month

**TANDEM**

A new programme trialled with four families to address child parent violence. Intensive parallel and joint child and parent work. Early results are significant, especially as these families had attempted change work previously which had not resolved their difficulties.

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**ACT ON IT**

A young person’s ‘Teen Relationship Abuse’ website providing information, stories and resources to support young people and those who care about and work with them.
Impact of Domestic Abuse

Mental health impacts

- 40% of high-risk victims report having mental health issues
- 16% of victims report that they have considered or attempted suicide as a result of the abuse, and 13% report self-harming
- Domestic abuse has significant psychological consequences for victims, including anxiety, depression, suicidal behaviour, low self-esteem, inability to trust others, flashbacks, sleep disturbances and emotional detachment
- Domestic abuse victims are at risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); as many as two-thirds of victims of abuse (64%) developed PTSD in one study
- Between 30 and 60% of psychiatric in-patients had experienced severe domestic abuse

Increased mortality

In 2013-14, 85 women were murdered by their partner or ex-partner in England and Wales. This accounted for just under half (46%) of all murders of women aged 16 or over. 7% of men murdered were killed by their partner or ex-partner.

It is estimated many more take their own lives as a result of domestic abuse: every day almost 30 women attempt suicide as a result of experiencing domestic abuse and every week three women take their own lives.

Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for establishing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) to identify and implement lessons learned, improve services and prevent domestic violence and abuse homicide. There have been fewer than 5 cases in Cheshire East which have been referred for a DHR. These incidents involved the deaths of parents at the hands of their adult children, who were affected by mental ill health and/or substance misuse. There have been no DHRs involving children.

Physical health impacts

Short term injuries - 1 in 5 high-risk victims reported attending A&E as a result of their injuries in the year before getting effective help.

Long-term physical health consequences. Health conditions associated with abuse include: asthma, bladder and kidney infections, cardiovascular disease, fibromyalgia, chronic pain syndromes, central nervous system disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, migraines/headaches.

Reproductive problems - Domestic abuse often leaves victims with reproductive consequences too, including gynaecological disorders, sexually transmitted infections, pre-term difficulties and pregnancy difficulties.

At least a fifth (18%) of children in domestic abuse households are injured as a result of the abuse.

Sources:
1 - www.safelives.org.uk
11 - Home Office Revised Statutory Guidance for conduct of DHRs (2013)
Current approaches to improving identification of domestic abuse:

- Over 1500 people have been trained through programmes including:
  - Local Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) Multi Agency Training; Level 1, 2 and Toxic Trio training (406 frontline workers trained in 2015-16)\(^6\)
  - Specific domestic abuse training has been delivered in 5 schools to over 80 members of staff. All schools and settings have an opportunity to access this training.
  - Multi-agency **MARAC/RIC awareness sessions** have been delivered to increase confidence of practitioners in the use of the CAADA Risk Assessment tool to identify referrals to MARAC/IDVA or outreach services as appropriate
- Raising awareness locally and participating in regional and national awareness raising campaigns (e.g. White Ribbon Day)

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Concerns of domestic abuse

- **Police Referral Unit**: 1706 domestic abuse incidents, 1887 domestic incidents\(^2\)
- **Integrated Domestic Abuse Team**
- **MARAC Discussions**: 574 high risk cases with 782 children\(^8\)
- **Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit IDVAs**: 654 referrals
- **Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub (CEDAH)**: Single point of access to information, advice, triage, referral – all family members. 1301 referrals\(^8\)
- **Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS)**
- **Early Help Brokerage**
- **Children’s Safeguarding Teams**
- **Range of statutory and voluntary sector providers including Troubled Families**

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*DVPN – Domestic Violence Protection Notice
DVPO – Domestic Violence Protection Order*

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I had a meeting with my IDVA, midwife and social worker and I found this really helpful and supportive, it was good that all these people were there to support me.”\(^6\)
Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub is a single 24/7 point of help, assessment and referral for anyone affected by domestic abuse – victim, perpetrator, young person, professional, concerned member of the community. The Hub refers to the services below:

### Outreach and Recovery work

**Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Service (CEDAS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach*</th>
<th>Adult Programmes Gateway*</th>
<th>Children and Young People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One to one work on safety, housing, finance, parenting etc.</td>
<td>Recovery for those harmed</td>
<td>Teen Relationship Abuse including info &amp; help @ <a href="http://www.actonitnow.org.uk">www.actonitnow.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing/refuge*</td>
<td>Lifeline - treatment for those harming others</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 dispersed Units supported by CEDAS plus access to CE housing services</td>
<td>Groups</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support/peer group for victims</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Advice ‘Clinic’</td>
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### High risk work

**Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**

Monthly meetings focussed on increasing safety of high risk victims and their children. Up to date information is shared and a risk management plan updated.

**Independent Domestic Violence Advocates***

Professional support for high risk victims based in the Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit and comprising:

- Core high risk team responds within 48 hours
- Lead IDVA oversees the work of the Hub, co-staffed by the commissioned service
- Hospital IDVAs provide direct support to patients and training for hospital staff. They work with a complex cohort of cases at all risk levels (1 IDVA based in Macclesfield Hospital and 1 IDVA directly employed by Leighton Hospital)

### Police - Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) and Orders (DVPO)

Immediate emergency protection lasting up to 28 days providing victims with space and safety to make longer term decisions regarding relationships and safeguarding children.

**Right to Ask scheme** allowing the public to proactively seek information that is held by police on a new or existing partner.

**Right to Know scheme** allowing police to disclose information where they believe there is risk of harm from domestic abuse.

### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN EDUCATION SETTINGS (SCIES)

Training and building capacity in schools to identify and respond to domestic abuse including working with police on Operation Encompass – informing schools post domestic abuse incident so they can support children in the best way.

SCIES also develop pupil led Safeguarding Groups to ensure work is fully informed by children’s voice and expertise.

*Polish workers available*
Opportunities for improvement / future developments

The priorities of the Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Partnership in 2016-17 are:

1. Work with service users to ensure maximum participation in the development of strategy, action planning and improvement of services
2. Embed the newly commissioned ‘Whole Family Service’ and ensure outcomes are delivered and shared
3. Further develop the role of the Hub in relation to the ‘One Front Door’, ‘Complex Dependency’ and the new police ‘Integrated Domestic Abuse Team’ dealing directly with those causing harm
4. Improve the quality of practice in Children’s Services for assessing, analysing, responding and reviewing effectiveness where domestic abuse is an issue for the family. Ensure that specialist sector provision supports this work with effective services and participation in multi-agency arenas.
5. Work with Adults Services to deliver our ‘whole family’ approach and ensure adults ‘at risk’ benefit from collaborative working across the domestic abuse and adult safeguarding sectors
6. Increase awareness of Right to Ask/ Right to Know Schemes with the aim of improving management of expectations, appropriateness of request and therefore conversion rate to disclosure

Additional opportunities include:

7. Continue to influence the commissioning and delivery of mental health and substance misuse services in order to more effectively meet the needs of victims and perpetrators
8. Develop a robust performance framework

What we don’t know but would like to know…

- How many clients of key partners (health including mental health/substance misuse, children’s and adults services, voluntary sector services) are affected by domestic abuse
- Reasons for lower referral rates from some sectors; whether there are barriers preventing partners from identifying those in need and referring to the hub
- Better understanding of support offered and how this meets assessed need of victims, children and perpetrators with a particular focus on the new perpetrator programmes (Lifeline programme and the new Integrated Domestic Abuse Team)
- Further geographical analysis to identify any additional areas of need within Cheshire East

Version control

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<tr>
<th>Publication date</th>
<th>Changes made</th>
<th>Content sponsor</th>
<th>Sign-off</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Refresh of 2014 JSNA section</td>
<td>Lucy Heath (Public Health)</td>
<td>Judith Gibson (Domestic Abuse)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

JSNA section contributors: Anna Whitehead (Public Health), Karen Porter (Safeguarding Children in Education), Abigail Ogier (Barnados), Bev Harding (Business Intelligence)