



WILTSHIRE

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2017-2020

Introduction

This is the first Wiltshire domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy setting out our vision, aims and objectives for tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence and the outcomes we expect to see.

The key groups intended to benefit from this strategy are:

- Victims (direct and indirect) and survivors of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence
- Children and young people who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse and/or sexual violence
- Perpetrators or those at risk of perpetrating, to work to reduce the ongoing harm caused by domestic abuse and/or sexual violence
- Partner agencies working to support adults, children and young people affected by domestic abuse and/or sexual violence

National Strategy

The Government's [Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020](#) published in March 2016 continued with the 2010 pillar approach of:

- Prevention
- Provision of services
- Partnership working
- Pursuing perpetrators

Wiltshire has recently completed a [health needs assessment](#) (HNA) on domestic abuse.

The health needs assessment and the national strategy have been used to provide the strategic framework to inform Wiltshire's approach.

Definitions

What is domestic abuse?

Home Office Definition

Any incident or pattern of incidents 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. (HO, 2013)

This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

Physical, Emotional, Sexual, Financial and/or Psychological

Controlling Behaviour

A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive Behaviour

An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.” This definition includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and it is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Whilst the definition applies to young people aged 16yrs and above, it is critical to acknowledge that domestic abuse can have far reaching impacts on children and young people under 16.

What is sexual violence?

Sexual Violence Definition

Any behaviour of a sexual nature, which is unwanted and committed against someone without that persons freely giving consent. (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014)

This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

Sexual Abuse within families

Sexual Exploitation by individuals and/or groups

Online Sexual Abuse such as online grooming and/or sharing images of sexual violence on the internet.

Sexual Offences

Sexual offences including sexual activity with a child under 16 years of age are governed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (England and Wales).

The sexual offences act (2003) includes:

Rape

Sexual Assault

Serious Sexual Assault

Sexual Activity with a Child under 16years

National context - domestic abuse and sexual violence

Each year an estimated

1.9 million people

in the UK suffer from domestic abuse



1.2 million women



700,000 men

85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped each year



2 in 4 UK rapes are committed by a current or ex-partner

1 in 5 women (16-59) has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 16

Each year more than **100,000**

adults are at HIGH risk of being murdered or serious injury as a result of domestic abuse

Over 130,000 children live in these homes

The UK cost of domestic abuse each year



£15.8 billion

plus a further £9.9 billion on emotional and human costs

The cost of domestic abuse to health services £1.73 billion



4 in 5 victims of domestic abuse don't tell the police



Only 15% who experience sexual violence choose to report to the police

90%

of those raped will know the perpetrator

85%

of victims sought help five times on average the year before they got effective help

30% of DA starts or escalates during pregnancy

Local context - domestic abuse and sexual violence

15,300 adults in Wiltshire are believed to be living with domestic abuse

 **9,400** women

5,900 men 

 **80% Female**
 **20% Male**

Underreporting is a real issue

3,300 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to Wiltshire Police in 2015/16

403

rapes recorded to Wiltshire police in 2016/17

925 reports of other sexual offences

referrals to the ISVA service **563**

 **9%** of cases referred for ISVA support were Male victims

A recent review identified of 128 rape investigations **half** were DA related



Both court mandated and community programmes have low completion rates

Wiltshire currently provides **0.7** refuge units per 10,000 population

110 in 2015/16 refusals

"Support needs too high"



1,000 Cases 

Over 50% of Children's Services' cases involved Domestic Abuse in 2015/16



An additional **1,500** Children's Services' contacts were made that include domestic abuse

Wiltshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference discussed

500

cases in 2015/16

including over **650** 

children and young people in the HIGH risk household

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Strategic Framework

Our vision is to significantly reduce domestic abuse and sexual violence and the harm caused by it, to keep our communities safe and encourage healthier, happier lives

This will be supported by three key aims of prevention, protection and service provision.

Wiltshire aims to:

- Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence from happening in the first place, challenging behaviours and attitudes and intervening earlier to prevent it from continuing, reoccurring or escalating.
- Reduce the risk and impact on victims, children and young people and vulnerable adults, by holding perpetrators to account and support them to change their behaviour.
- Work together in partnership to provide appropriate levels of support where abuse occurs.

Wiltshire's priorities (objectives) are to:

- Target activity on education, training and earlier intervention to prevent abuse/violence from occurring, continuing, re-occurring or escalating.
- Identify, assess and reduce risk to victims, children and young people and vulnerable adults.
- Protect victims across all levels of risk through access to appropriate interventions
- Provide appropriate support to adults, children and young people living with the effects of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence to reduce its impact.

Wiltshire domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy - overview

Our Vision **To significantly reduce domestic abuse and sexual violence and the harm caused by it, to keep our communities safe and encourage healthier, happier lives**

Strategic Aim

Outcomes

PREVENT

Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence from happening in the first place by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it, and intervening early where possible to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.

Victims, perpetrators and their children are identified early and provided with the appropriate level of support to break cycles of domestic abuse and sexual violence and overcome the impact it has on their lives.

Communities and professionals understand what domestic abuse is, and know how to respond. Challenging attitudes or behaviours to reduce its prevalence.

Increased reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence to the police and reducing the number of repeat victims.

Training is delivered to all relevant practitioners, organisations and businesses.

PROTECT

Reduce the risk and impact on victims, children and young people and vulnerable adults, by holding perpetrators to account and support them to change their behaviour.

Children and young people at risk of harm are identified and referred appropriately.

Victims are safer and have improved resources to remain safe.

Victims have increased access to justice and perpetrators are held to account through the policing and justice system.

Perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual violence are supported to change their behaviour and improve their overall wellbeing., reducing the risk of repeat perpetration.

PROVIDE

Work in partnership to provide appropriate levels of support where abuse occurs

Victims have access to responsive services through coordinated pathways, which support sustained recovery, mitigating the risks of further abuse.

All identified victims are offered an equally accessible service which meets their needs.

Victims report improved health, wellbeing and resilience for themselves and their families.

Effective sharing of lessons learned through service evaluations and domestic homicide reviews

