

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE STRATEGY

2019 – 2022



June 2019

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FOREWORD

I am very pleased to introduce the Wakefield District Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2019 – 2022, on behalf of the inter-agency Safer Together Partnership. Safer Together is firmly committed to realising our vision to live in a community that will not tolerate domestic and sexual abuse, thereby preventing future generations of victims and perpetrators.

Domestic abuse can have a devastating effect on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, friends and communities. Although a lot of work has been done over recent years to increase protection for victims and children and make perpetrators accountable, more needs to be done.

This strategy gives direction to our multi-agency Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board, a subgroup of the Safer Together partnership, to ensure that there is good and effective partnership work for achieving our ambitions of prevention, early identification, protection and safety of victims and bringing perpetrators to account and justice.

I fully support this strategy and believe that by working together we can come together to end any acceptance of domestic abuse and create lasting change that will make our community a safer place to live.



Councillor Maureen Cummings
Chair of Safer Together Partnership

June 2019



1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic and sexual abuse is common and forms part of the structure of every society and culture. This means that in many instances it is normalised and not afforded the level of attention it deserves - with devastating consequences on families, friends and the broader society. It also has a significant impact on public spending which has been estimated to have a cost of over £66 billion per annum in England and Wales¹.

Domestic abuse has been identified as one of the main forms of violence in the district and a significant element for the numbers of children with child protection plans and those who are looked after. Sexual violence and abuse is often a tactic which is used within an abusive relationship. Statutory responsibilities in relation to survivors of domestic abuse and their children are limited – mainly to domestic homicide, child protection and housing.

There are often parallels between the crimes of domestic abuse and sexual abuse in terms of the nature of the extent to which goes under reported; the trauma on its victims and survivors and wider families and some of the motivations of the perpetrators. This supports the need for an integrated strategy which tackles both domestic and sexual abuse in the context of a domestic abuse relationship.

Our priority is to prevent domestic and sexual abuse from occurring in the first place but equally, where people experience abuse, we must protect and assist them and ensure their needs are met.

We want to see less domestic and sexual abuse with fewer victims. However, when domestic abuse occurs, we want to make sure that we have the right services in place which are available at the right time and meet the needs of those who use them.

We want to make sure that victims feel that they are being treated as individuals, rather than simply just part of a case in the system, and that they are clear about who they can contact to get more help and information

Although progress has been made in recent years, organisational responses to domestic and sexual abuse have been largely centred on crisis intervention with adults, on providing services to individuals and families already affected by abuse in order to prevent further harm. While this is a necessary response to domestic abuse and can be highly effective at particular points in time, it alone cannot address the underlying causes of domestic and sexual abuse. There is a need for proactive strategies of prevention, early intervention and cultural change/social norms.

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The economic and social costs of domestic abuse, Home Office, January 2019 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772180/horr107.pdf

2. LINKAGES TO KEY PLANS

This strategy has links with the following key local and national plans and priorities:-

Wakefield District Priorities

The strategy supports the 'Successful People' priority of the Wakefield Together partnership which focuses on reducing inequalities, growing skills levels, enabling a good quality of life and supporting families. It is recognised that domestic and sexual abuse can have a devastating impact on individuals and families.

Community Safety Plan for Wakefield 2018 – 2020

This strategy supports the priorities of the Safer Together partnership of 'domestic abuse' and 'rape and other sexual offences'.

West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2021 (refreshed 2018)

The strategy supports the priorities of 'domestic abuse' and 'sexual abuse'.

West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2016 – 2021

This strategy aligns directly with the regional strategy and provides a specific focus on priorities and actions within the Wakefield district.

Government's Violence Against Women and Girls ('VAWG') Strategy 2016 – 2020

As noted within the West Yorkshire strategy, the gendered nature of the national strategy is recognised, we want to make sure that the needs of all victims and survivors are addressed in the Wakefield district. This strategy is therefore not gender specific.

The outcomes contained within the Government's strategy provide a focus for the Wakefield district:-

- Continued decreases in the overall prevalence of domestic and sexual violence and reductions in the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation.
- More victims are helped to long term independence and freedom from violence and abuse by breaking the generational cycle, strengthening the focus on prevention and early intervention and addressing underlying issues driving perpetrators.
- More victims and offenders are identified at the earliest possible opportunity, with effective interventions in place to prevent violence and abuse from escalating to a crisis point, with a reduction in high-rates of re-victimisation.
- Increased awareness across all sections of society that VAWG is unacceptable in all circumstances with individuals, communities and frontline agencies empowered to confidently challenge negative attitudes to VAWG.
- Increased awareness in children and young people of the importance of respect and consent in relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong - including abuse taking place online.
- Social norms, values, beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and practices tolerating VAWG amongst communities in a range of developing countries continue to shift in recognition of its unacceptability.

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- Stronger global evidence base and high quality data on primary prevention is available which helps to inform policies and programmes at home and overseas.

Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse Consultation Response and Draft Bill – January 2019

The Government has published a draft Bill with the aim of transforming the response to domestic abuse. The Bill is based around four main objectives, each with prevention and protection at their heart.

- **promote awareness** – to put domestic abuse at the top of everyone’s agenda, and raise public and professional awareness
- **protect and support** – to enhance the safety of victims and the support that they receive
- **transform the justice process** – to prioritise victim safety in the criminal and family courts, and review the perpetrator journey from identification to rehabilitation
- **improve performance** – to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse across all local areas, agencies and sectors

3. DEFINING DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE

Domestic abuse is defined as 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. This can include but isn't limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

People often associate domestic abuse with physical assault but there is increasing recognition that emotional and controlling behaviour are the daily realities of living with domestic abuse.

Controlling behaviour can include 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 is 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 abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

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At the time of writing, the draft Domestic Abuse Bill signals a new statutory definition of domestic abuse. It is likely that this will lead to a change by specifying economic abuse as a distinct type of abuse, as it encompasses a wider range of behaviours than financial abuse. It may also provide greater clarity regarding the different types of relationships which are covered, including family members, ex-partners and those who are not cohabiting.

Sexual violence and abuse can be defined as:-

- any behaviour (contact or non-contact) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding.
- sexual offences include rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape within marriage/relationships, forced marriage, so-call honour based violence/abuse; female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation, trafficking for sexual exploitation and organised abuse.

The definition used within this strategy focuses specifically on sexual abuse within an abusive relationship. Sitting within a broader definition of violent crimes, there are many parallels between the crimes of domestic abuse and sexual abuse in terms of the nature of the extent to which it goes under reported; the trauma on its victims and survivors and wider families and some of the motivations of the perpetrators. Many survivors are victims of both domestic abuse and sexual abuse.

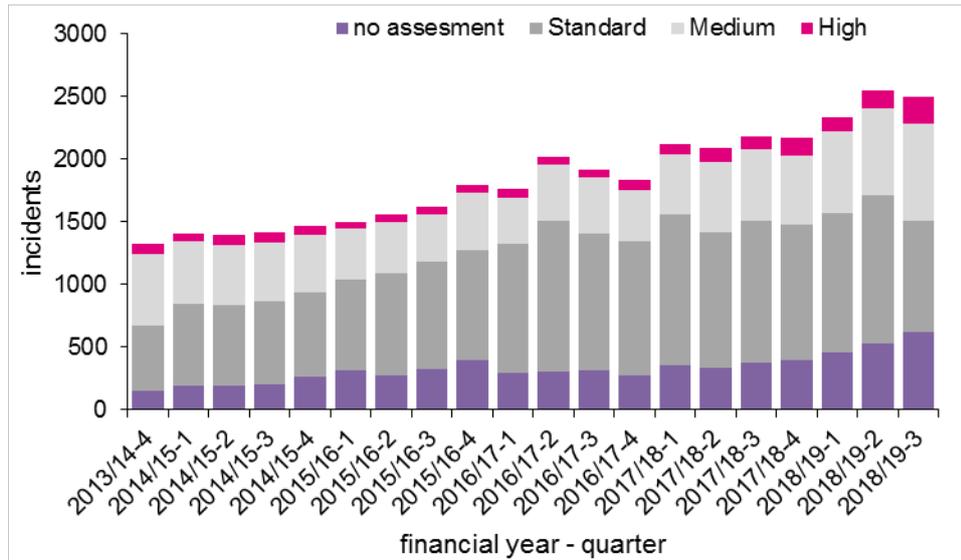
This supports the need for an integrated strategy which tackles both domestic abuse and sexual abuse. The strategy does however also reflect on the differences between the crimes and aims to give equal measure to reflecting these and tailoring its priorities and supporting interventions to address these.

4. WHAT THE DATA IS TELLING US

In the United Kingdom, an estimated two million adults experienced domestic abuse in the last year. This equates to 1.3 million women and 695,000 men. The Crime Survey for England and Wales showed that 83% of victims of domestic abuse did not report to the police. It remains a hugely unreported crime, with only 1 in 5 people reporting domestic abuse. The NSPCC found that 130,000 children live in homes where there is high risk domestic abuse and that domestic abuse features in over half of serious case reviews

In the Wakefield district, the following provides an overview of the trends in domestic abuse incidents which is broken down by the level of victim risk.

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Over the last few years in the Wakefield district, there has been a large increase in the number of incidents being recorded by the Police. These are mainly lower risk incidents with a possible association with national changes to Police data collection. With regard to levels of domestic abuse incidents, over the last 9 months, Wakefield’s incident rate has been around the West Yorkshire average as illustrated in the following table.

Apr-Dec 2018	Incidents per 1,000 population
Bradford	25.1
Wakefield	21.7
Leeds	21.4
Calderdale	19.7
Kirklees	17.7
West Yorkshire	21.4

Domestic abuse incident rates in West Yorkshire.

Profile of Victims

Over 2018, 75% of victims were female and 25% were male. Where self-reported ethnicity has been recorded, 6% of victims were from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. There are victims of all ages, but victims in their 20s and 30s are the most over-represented when compared with the district’s overall age profile.

Profile of Suspects

Over 2018, 73% of suspects were male and 27% were female. Where self-reported ethnicity has been recorded, 8% of suspects were from BME backgrounds. There are suspects of all ages, but people in their 20s and 30s are the most over-represented when compared with the district’s overall age profile.

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Children, Young People and Families

In 2018, children were present (or in the same property) at 26% of all incidents recorded by the police. From April to December 2018, 164 referrals made to Early Help included domestic abuse as a reason for the referral. Over the same period, 146 (17%) of new referrals to the Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service ('WDDAS') involved families where children had an existing Child Protection Plan or Child in Need plan.

During 2018 the Youth Offending Team worked with 40 young people who had received a court order related to domestic abuse – around 25% of the total Youth Offending Team caseload. Alongside this, there is evidence that at least 19% of the total annual Youth Offending Team caseload were from family backgrounds where they had witnessed or been exposed to domestic abuse in some way. Around 8% of the non-statutory caseload (lower level offenders who've had an early intervention in an attempt to divert them from court appearances) could be identified as being a victim or witness of domestic abuse.

In 2018, Wakefield District Housing ('WDH') had around 155 calls to their OneCall line regarding domestic abuse. All cases logged as domestic abuse are then escalated centrally to WDH Community Safety Officers who are then tasked to engage quickly (within 24 hours) with the complainant. From there, a range of actions are considered based on the circumstances (e.g. tenancy advice, WDDAS referral if required, warnings or tenancy challenges if perpetrator is a named tenant etc.).

Geography of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse affects people across the whole district, but the follow table illustrated that incidence levels tend to be higher in the more deprived wards.

Ward	Incidents per 1,000 population	% of population living in top-20% most-deprived neighbourhoods in England
Wakefield East	34.9	75
Airedale and Ferry Fryston	32.6	65
South Elmsall and South Kirkby	28.5	51
Wakefield North	27.6	45
Castleford Central and Glasshoughton	27.0	24
Wakefield West	26.0	51
Pontefract North	24.9	23
Normanton	24.6	39
Knottingley	24.5	42
Featherstone	24.4	23
Altofts and Whitwood	24.3	33
Hemsworth	22.9	64
Wakefield South	19.5	27

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Pontefract South	18.0	39
Ossett	17.5	0
Horbury and South Ossett	16.8	0
Crofton, Ryhill and Walton	15.0	18
Wakefield Rural	13.4	0
Wrenthorpe and Outwood West	13.0	0
Stanley and Outwood East	12.5	0
Ackworth, North Elmsall and Upton	12.0	26

Incidence levels by ward, April – December 2018.

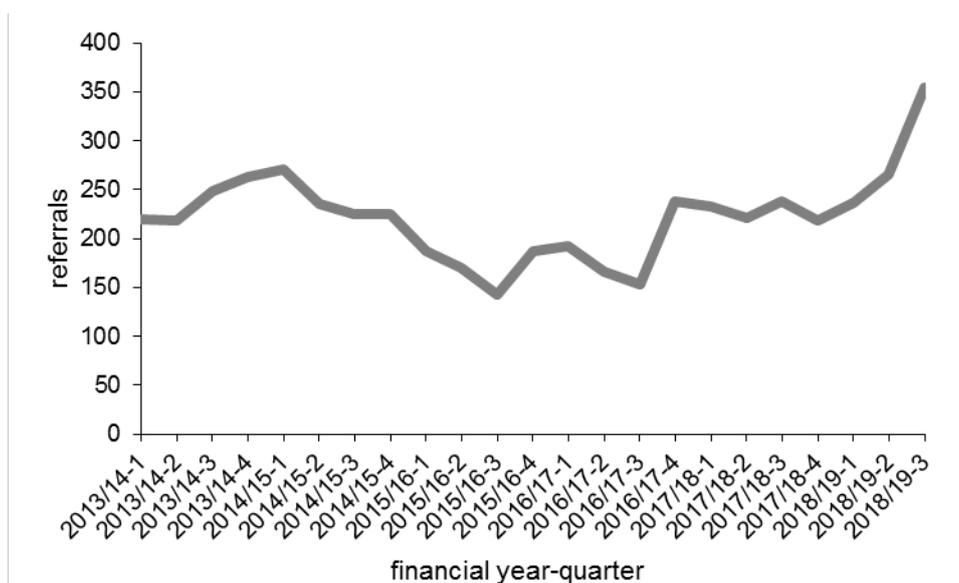
Repeat Victimisation

Levels of repeat victimisation have risen markedly in recent years. The increase in the proportion of incidents being classified as crimes is part of the reason for this, as the quality of the victim and suspect data improves significantly once a crime has been recorded, and identification of repeat victims then becomes more accurate.

In the 12 months to December 2018, 49% of incidents involved a victim who had been a victim on one or more other occasions during the 12 months prior to the latest occurrence. This compares with the West Yorkshire average which was 48% - relatively little difference between districts.

Referrals to Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service ('WDDAS')

After a couple of years of decline, the numbers of referrals to WDDAS (which replaced Safe@Home in September 2015) have risen again. In 2018, around 98% of referrals were for victims and 2% for perpetrators. 39% of referrals are for high risk victims.

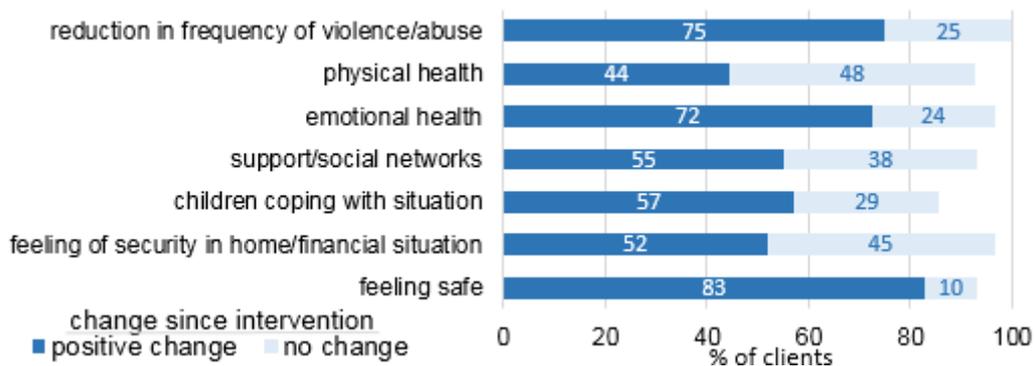


WDDAS referrals.

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Engagement with support services is by consent and victims decline services and disengage at different stages. A data deep-dive of police records in February 2017 showed that when victims were asked if they consented to a referral being made to WDDAS, 57% did not give consent.

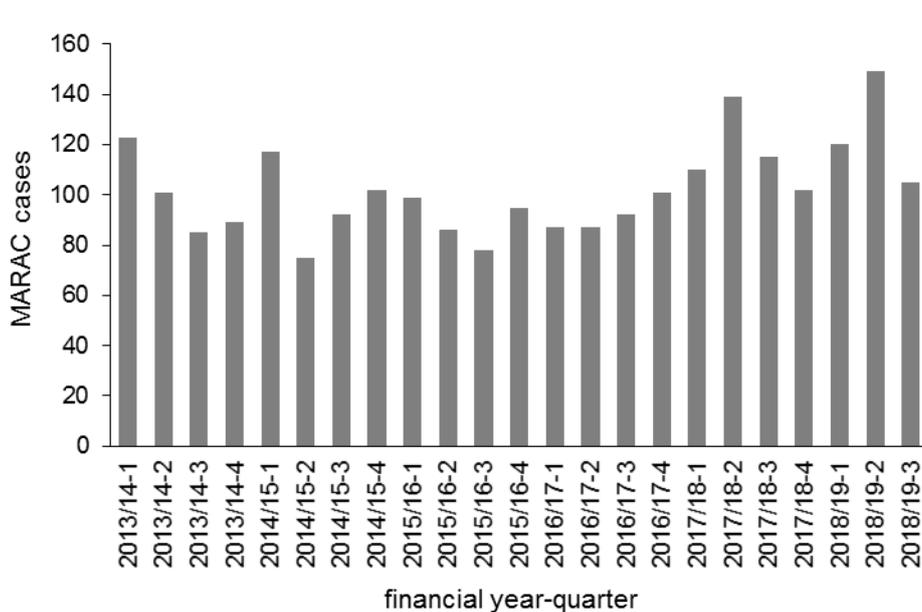
The outcomes for victims who have been worked with by WDDAS can be measured using the results from questionnaires completed before and after their intervention. For victims completing their intervention in 2017 to 2018, 83% said they now felt safer and 75% had seen a reduction in the frequency of the abuse. There were also good levels of improvement in emotional health.



Outcomes after WDDAS intervention, 2017 and 2018.

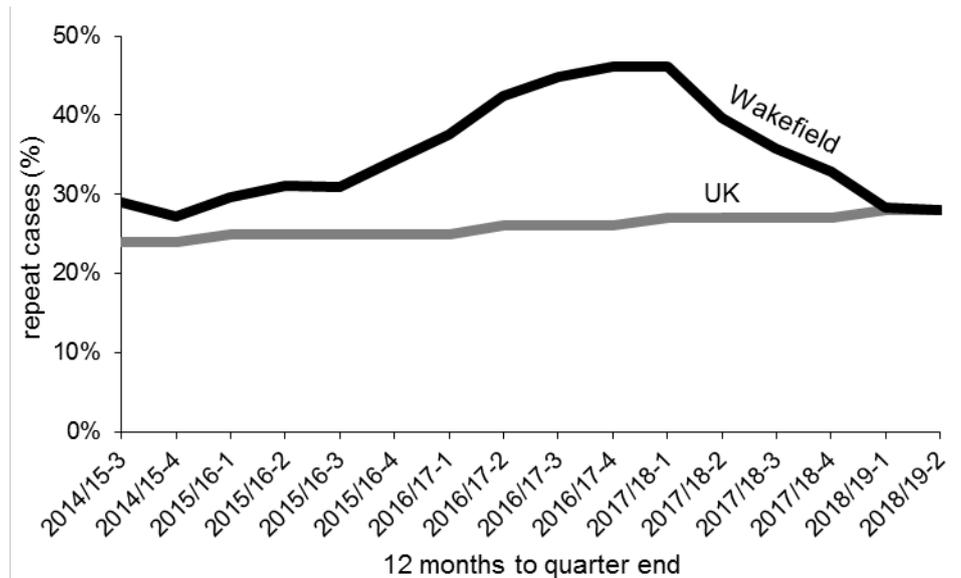
Referrals to MARAC

The number of cases going to MARAC has increased over the past couple of years, reflecting the increase in high risk victim incidents being reported to the police. The proportion of MARAC cases that were repeats had risen quite markedly compared to the regional and England averages, but has fallen again over the last six months.



Cases going to MARAC.

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MARAC repeat case rate.

Sexual Abuse

For England and Wales as a whole, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates that 20% of women and 4% of men have experienced some type of sexual assault since the age of 16. An estimated 3.1% of women and 0.8% of men aged 16 to 59 experienced sexual assault in the last year, according to the year ending March 2017.

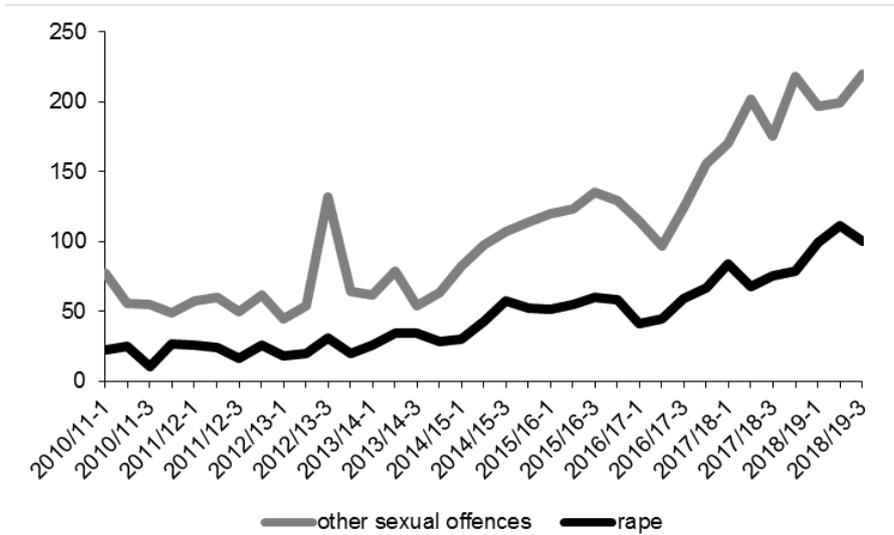
There has been no significant change in the prevalence of sexual assault measured by the CSEW between the year ending March 2005 (2.6%) and the year ending March 2017 (2.0%) surveys. It showed that around 5 in 6 victims (83%) did not report their experiences to the police.

The increase in sexual offences recorded by the police nationally is thought to be driven by improvements in recording practices and a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes, including non-recent victims.

Local Sexual Offence Trends Over Time

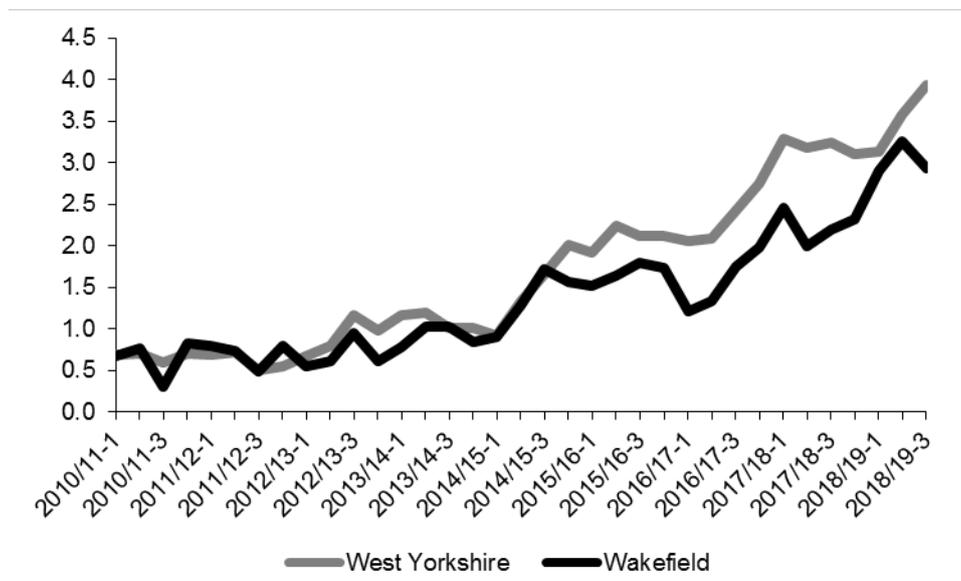
The number of offences recorded in Wakefield District has increased over the past five years, for both rape and other sexual offences (see below). The peak in offences recorded at the end of 2012 coincided with widespread media coverage of Operation Yewtree, the formal criminal investigation by London's Metropolitan Police Service into historic allegations of child sexual abuse by Jimmy Savile and other individuals. Between April and December 2018, it's estimated that 17% to 22% of sexual offences reported to the police were non-recent (occurred over a year ago)

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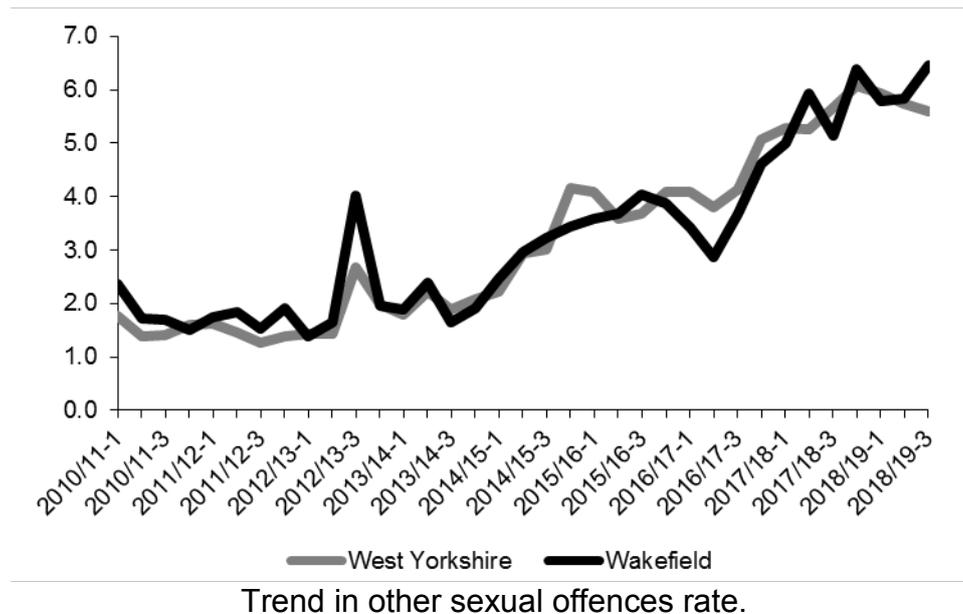
Trends in recording of rape and other sexual offences, Wakefield District.

Over the last few years the rape offence rate in Wakefield District has increased at a slightly slower rate than across West Yorkshire, while the increasing trend in other sexual offences has been much more in line with the force-wide trend.



Trend in rape offences rate.

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Sexual Abuse Victim Profile

Over the nine months from April to December 2018, around 90% of rape victims and 80% of sexual assault victims were female – similar proportions to those recorded by the police nationally. Around 16% of all victims of rape or sexual assault were under 13 years old. Around 12% of all sexual offences were committed by a stranger, very similar to the proportion reported nationally (13%) in the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Geography of Sexual Offence Incidence

At ward level, incidence of sexual offences is highest in Wakefield North and Wakefield East wards. Rates are lowest in Altofts and Whitwood and Wakefield Rural wards.

Ward	Sexual offences rate per 10,000 population
Wakefield North	46.2
Wakefield East	45.9
Wakefield West	34.7
Castleford Central and Glasshoughton	29.2
Knottingley	26.6
Featherstone	26.0
Airedale and Ferry Fryston	25.5
Wrenthorpe and Outwood West	24.7
Pontefract North	24.7
Stanley and Outwood East	23.3
South Elmsall and South Kirkby	22.5
Ossett	20.6
Hemsworth	20.3

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Wakefield South	18.2
Crofton, Ryhill and Walton	17.5
Pontefract South	17.2
Horbury and South Ossett	16.8
Normanton	16.5
Ackworth, North Elmsall and Upton	15.3
Altofts and Whitwood	14.9
Wakefield Rural	14.2

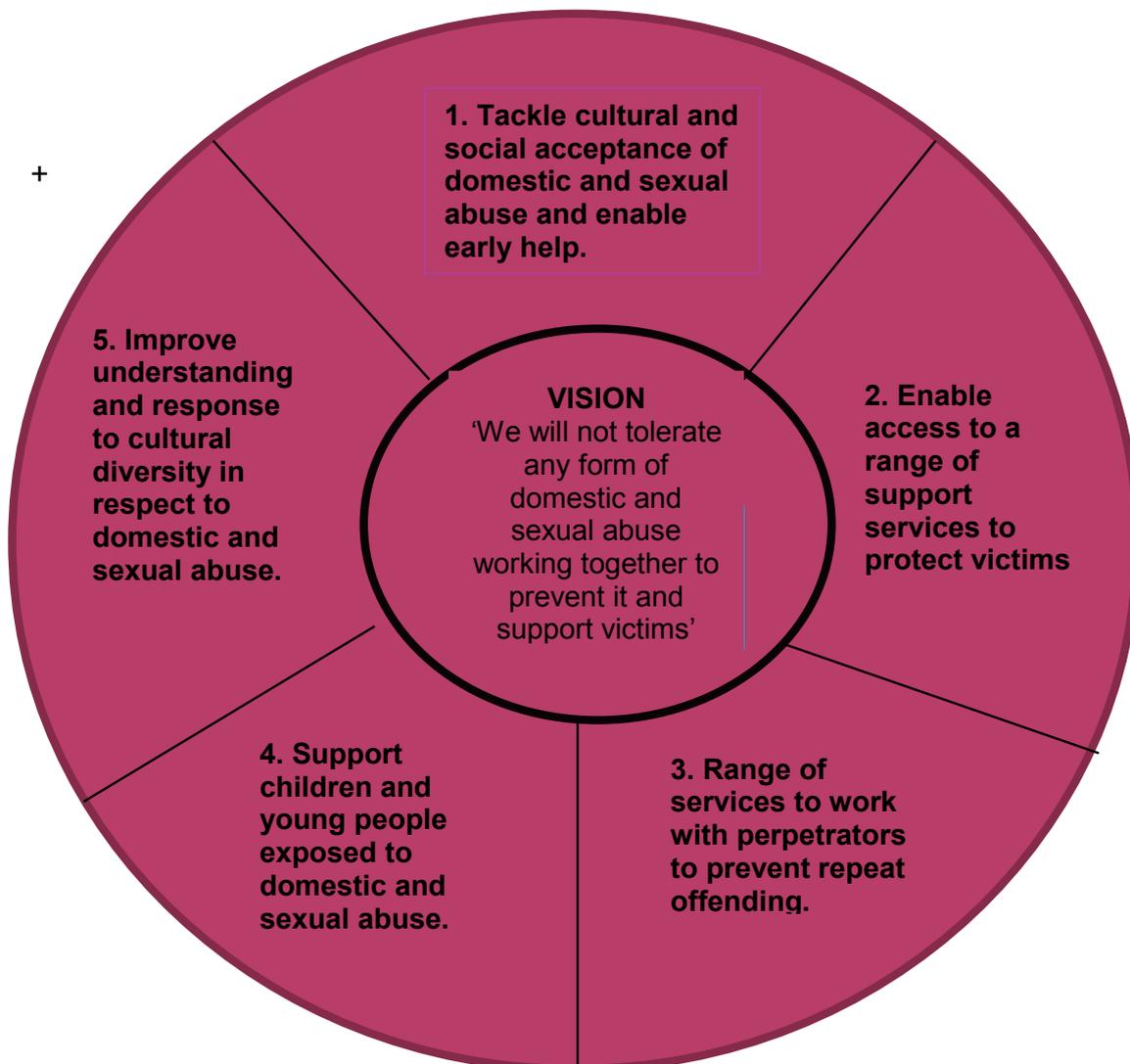
Sexual offence rate by ward, April-December 2018.

5. VISION AND PRIORITIES FOR DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE IN WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

The vision for preventing domestic and sexual abuse and supporting victims in the Wakefield district is:-

‘The Wakefield District will not tolerate any form of domestic and sexual abuse and partners are committed to both working together to prevent it and supporting victims’

The following priorities will guide the work of the partnership to achieve the vision.



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These priorities are further explored as follows.

Priority 1: Tackle cultural and social acceptance of domestic and sexual abuse and enable early help.

Why this is important

The public attitude to domestic and sexual abuse impacts upon their acceptance of this. Everybody living within the Wakefield district should be 'free from fear' and not accept abuse towards them. There is a need to continue to change the culture within the Wakefield district so that domestic and sexual abuse will not be tolerated. We need to make the prevention of domestic and sexual abuse a priority for everyone including all staff and volunteers working in communities.

What we have done so far

White Ribbon Campaign

The Wakefield District has been accredited by the national White Ribbon campaign which has the aim to end male violence against women. This campaign works with men and boys to challenge those male cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence. Wakefield has identified volunteer ambassadors and champions to engage with other men and boys to call out such behaviour among their peers and promote a culture of equality and respect. Local rugby clubs have also supported the White Ribbon Campaign by completing a cycling challenge alongside partners and members of the public.

As part of the White Ribbon campaign, Wakefield has led a programme of activities through '16 days of action' beginning in November of each year which is aligned with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 large scale conferences have been held with presentations from practitioners, victims, perpetrators and national experts.

Other activities during this period includes 'Door on Tour' where officers from partner agencies attended markets from across the district to raise awareness of domestic abuse and risk of this behind 'closed doors'. Domestic Abuse awareness raising amongst hairdressers has also been undertaken to specifically target women in community settings.

Work was delivered to a number of large businesses across the district to raise awareness of domestic abuse amongst the workforce. Representatives from the Safer Together partnership also attended the Thornes Park Parkrun to raise awareness. The importance of voluntary organisations was recognised also where agencies undertook shopping bag packing in supermarkets across the district as a means to raise awareness but also to raise funds for Wakefield's women's Refuge.

There is a need to continue to embed the White Ribbon campaign across the partnership within approaches to eliminate violence against women.

Publicity and Awareness Raising

A wide ranging 'Free From Fear' publicity campaign has helped to build awareness. In addition to leaflets and posters, items such as lip balms and nail files have been

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produced with discrete emergency telephone contact details printed on them. The leaflets have been produced in various languages and the materials have been placed in settings across the district.

Targeted campaigns have been provided which has been informed by need. For example signage on the Council's refuse waggons has been used in geographical areas where the prevalence of domestic abuse is higher. Campaigns have also been run at a time of higher risks of domestic abuse, such as the football World Cup. Domestic abuse information has been displayed in public houses across the district and shopping centre screens

Films have been produced targeting specific areas such Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender ('LGBT'), Forced Marriage and Coercive Control, Teen to Parent Abuse and Peer Relationship Abuse. These films continue to be used during training and are available on the Council's website to raise awareness.

The Safer Together Partnership worked with the Community Alcohol Partnership and Airedale Academy to produce a drama around domestic abuse to raise awareness with young people. The drama was later filmed and the DVD continues to be used within schools across the Wakefield district.

Workforce Development

Domestic Abuse training is offered by various organisations across the district from both the voluntary and statutory sectors. Wakefield Council provide a programme of training which any member of the Wakefield workforce can book onto, free of charge. Sessions include general Domestic Abuse Awareness, Coercive Control, Domestic Abuse Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Abuse Risk Identification (DASH), Forced Marriage, FGM, Honour Based Abuse awareness and preparation for Operation Encompass. Bespoke training is also available for those who wish to consider a particular aspect of domestic abuse or who wish to be trained in-house.

The Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Specialist provides some of the training and is also available to support members of the workforce who may need further help or advice around domestic abuse cases. Support and de-brief is also provided for those workers who may be working through their own experiences of domestic abuse. The Community Cohesion team have also offered specialist advice, support and practical help to practitioners and members of the community.

Wakefield Council produced a document 'Guidance and Support on Domestic Abuse for Managers and Employees' which acknowledges that domestic abuse is a widespread problem likely to affect employees as well as customers and service users. This guidance has been made available to other organisations who wished to develop their own protocols for supporting and developing their workforce.

Cultural Diversity

Honour Abuse awareness training for professionals and social media messages to the public is delivered every year around the 14th July 'National Day of Memory'.

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The Cohesion Team along with the Local Safeguarding Adult Board, Well Women Centre and Yorkshire MESMAC² have obtained short term funding to deliver a support group with adult FGM survivors until end of March 2020.

Health

A health focused domestic abuse practitioner was appointed to work directly with GP practices. The importance of health practitioners has been recognised as significant in enabling early intervention through routine enquiry and appropriate signposting to enable people to obtain early help.

Children First Hubs

The Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service has collaborated with the Children First Hubs as a means to deliver early help to families where domestic and sexual abuse might be emerging. Although workers who are supporting families provide early support, Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioners provide advice.

Schools

The importance of positive messages for children and young people around healthy relationships and creative approaches to engaging through schools has been provided through I-Space, a third sector organisation. This has included attendance at Assemblies as well as training young people to become Peer Ambassadors and group work to support children and young people.

What we will do next

- Continue to provide information about support available and provide media publicity campaigns.
- Continue to support the White Ribbon campaign and annual '16 days of action'.
- Continue to deliver training to the workforce
- Ensure key messages about domestic and sexual abuse including harassment, consent and healthy relationships are delivered within schools across the district.
- Engage with communities to tackle cultural and social acceptance, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender ('LGBT') and Black and Minority Ethnic ('BME') communities.
- Engage with third sector services to change beliefs and attitudes across the district.
- Working across services to promote Healthy Relationships within the support offered to families.
- Work with partners to deliver positive messages to children and young people in schools and colleges as part of early intervention and prevention.
- To encourage more practitioners including GP's to undertaken routine enquiry.
- Develop a Domestic Abuse Network/Practitioner forum to share good practice and raise awareness.

² 'MEEn who have Sex with Men – Action in the Community'

How progress will be measured

- Increased victim confidence in reporting their experience of domestic and sexual abuse and seek help
- Individuals and families are supported to access help at the earliest opportunity

Priority 2: Enable access to a range of support services to protect victims of domestic abuse and sexual abuse.

Why this is important

Good support will help to keep vulnerable people safe and improve longer term health and well-being. Survivors of domestic and sexual abuse often need support to address a wide range of needs. Services will be focused to enable people to help themselves by building on their strengths and increasing resilience. The Safer Together Partnership recognises that responding to domestic and sexual abuse needs a multi-agency and community based response and we commit to working together to address gaps and maximise our resources.

What we have done so far

Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Team (WDDAS)

The WDDAS team was established following a domestic abuse service review which created a central Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Service co-located with West Yorkshire Police. This team co-ordinate the response for domestic abuse cases enabling better joint working with the Police to deliver a more cohesive and responsive service to victims and their families. Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioners support victims and also advise staff within Children's First Hubs and Children Social Care to support victims within families.

WDDAS also provided support to perpetrators of domestic who recognise they are using abusing behaviours and want to make positive change.

Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC)

Victims of sexual abuse are supported through the SARC and through Victim Supports Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) service. WDDAS also have trained ISVA who work closely with supporting agencies.

Repeat Domestic Abuse

It is recognised that the Wakefield district has higher proportion of victims with repeat reports of domestic abuse than other local authority areas. A range of actions have been taken to seek to better understand the reasons for this and to provide appropriate services. This includes regular inter-agency panel meetings to seek to better support repeat victims of domestic abuse; work to persuade victims to accept help and the establishment of the domestic abuse navigator project.

Domestic Abuse Navigator Project

The Domestic Abuse Navigator Project which is linked to the wider West Yorkshire Finding Independence programme ('WY-FI'), was established following a successful bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Innovation Fund. The service

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recognises that victims of domestic and sexual abuse can live complex lives and the posts of 'Navigators' have been established to provide intensive support alongside WDDAS. Funding is in place for the project to continue until August 2019. The project includes a comprehensive evaluation and the Safer Together partnership will learn from this evaluation to inform future service development.

Domestic Abuse Partnership Car

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Car project has been progressed across West Yorkshire and commenced in Wakefield in March 2018. The Staying Put organisation is currently providing this service in Wakefield on a Friday and Saturday 6pm to 12 midnight. Domestic abuse practitioners attend live and non-live domestic abuse incidents with Police Officers to provide information on WDDAS and support services and immediate emotional support when required. There are times when victims do not take up the offer of services, however substantial amount of time is spent with them providing emotional support and information on what is available.

Voluntary Organisations

A network of services are delivered across the district through voluntary and community organisations. One example of this is a partnership between Wakefield Council and Victim Support which provides direct support to victims who do not require a high risk response enabling all victims to access support. The aim of this is to enable early support and to avoid escalation. The Rosalie Ryrie Foundation, Well Women Centre, Penny Appeal, Turning Point also provides a wide range of services and support to victims across the district.

Refuge and Accommodation

Marie House is a Women's refuge which has been commissioned and provides accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic and sexual abuse. The refuge provides 8 self-contained flats, which can accommodate 8 women and up to 36 children.

West Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Project (MHCLG)

Wakefield has collaborated with the other local authorities to deliver a West Yorkshire domestic abuse project funded by central Government. The project provides domestic abuse services, including those relating to refuge and other safe accommodation. The project will support 400 victims across West Yorkshire over 18 months through the provision of Advanced Practitioners in refuges and other domestic abuse services. Further victims will be helped through the impact of workforce development programmes, cross border referral pathways and roll out of minimum standards within GP surgeries and health settings. This project builds upon a previous West Yorkshire project funded by the Government's Department of Communities and Local Government ('DCLG').

Supporting Children and Young People

Support and services are provided to support children and young people exposed to domestic and sexual abuse and are shown under Priority 4.

Freedom Programme

The Freedom Programme is being delivered across the district by Children First Hubs, working in partnership with WDDAS and Well Women Centre. This 12 week

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programme is designed to help victims of domestic abuse recognise signs and patterns of abusive behaviours to prevent and reduce the likelihood of repeat victimisation.

Victim Support

Developed a robust partnership with Victim Support and the ISVA service to provide support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

What we will do next

- Provide support to victims with complex needs through the Domestic Abuse Navigator service and learn from the evaluation.
- Develop support services within the voluntary and community sector organisations.
- Continue to tackle repeat domestic abuse by providing appropriate interventions.
- Develop peer support networks.
- Develop consultation helpline for practitioners.
- Engage with specific communities (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender ('LGBT') communities, Black and Minority Ethnic ('BME') communities and organisations that specialise in working with vulnerable groups, to ensure that services are appropriate and accessible
- Work with partners to respond to the needs of people with additional vulnerabilities (e.g. people with care and support needs, people with physical and learning disabilities)
- Ensure there is effective housing support and provision through the Council's Housing Needs service.
- Enhance counselling provision for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.
- Improve interventions to address 'teen to parent' domestic abuse and 'peer relationship' abuse.
- Develop services to support parents/grandparents who are experiencing domestic abuse perpetrated by their adult children/grandchildren.

How progress will be measured

- Levels of repeat victimisation.
- Satisfaction with services provided.
- Numbers of individual and professionals accessing support.

Priority 3: Enable access to a range of services to work with perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse to prevent repeat offending.

Why this is important

In order to prevent domestic and sexual abuse, it is important that agencies understand the motivations of perpetrators and that good support and interventions are in place. It is also important that perpetrators are held to account through the criminal and civil justice system. Although evidence to date indicates there are more male perpetrators than female, it is important to be aware that females can be perpetrators.

What we have done so far

Perpetrator Service

A dedicated perpetrator worker has been established within the Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service to support males or females (16+) who have identified they are using abusive behaviours and want to change.

Caring Dads

A number of staff have been trained to deliver Caring Dads as part of the perpetrator offer across the district. This is a group intervention programme aiming to help fathers improve their relationship with their children. It helps dads learn how to spend time with children in healthy ways, and understanding the impact on children of controlling, abusive and neglectful actions, which include witnessing domestic violence.

Voluntary Organisations

A dedicated perpetrator worker has been established within the Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service to support males or females (16+) who have identified they are using abusive behaviours and want to change.

Integrated Offender Management ('IOM')

The police and partners work collaboratively to safeguard victims of domestic abuse; minimise the risk of re-offending and provide supportive interventions to offenders to break the cycle of domestic abuse offending. The overarching priority is to safeguard the welfare of the victim, which is considered at every stage of police and partner involvement.

Police and partners must consider the threat and risk with regard to the location of IOM engagement with domestic abuse offenders. On many occasions the relationship between the offender and victim will continue with both parties remaining in the same residence. Any visit to a residence where the offender and victim reside as partners must be carefully considered due to the potential negative impact on the victim's welfare. It may be more appropriate for a partner agency to conduct supportive visits. It may be more appropriate for other engagement opportunities to be considered, e.g. engagement whilst the subject is attending a partner appointment, i.e. probation.

The use of partners is an integral part of managing domestic abuse offenders and it must be considered that a partner agency may be the best body to have responsibility for interventions with such an offender. It is expected that initial

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attending Police officers will provide details of supportive agencies to victims. Domestic abuse offenders will be sign posted to partners who are able to provide support around aggravating factors which trigger offending, i.e. substances abuse, Mental Health, etc. and also awareness services.

West Yorkshire Perpetrator services

A service covering West Yorkshire was used to undertaken direct work with perpetrators. This is currently being re-commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Criminal Justice

Probation Services offer Domestic Abuse Programmes to offenders who have been sentenced of an offence linked to domestic abuse. These consist of:

Building Better Relationships which is Ministry of Justice nationally accredited programme reducing reoffending by adult males convicted of intimate partner abuse.

HELP – Healthy Relationship Programme to help offenders manage situations and avoid problems escalating in to violence creating successful relationships.

Creating Safer Relationships which is a one to one intervention to help men make sense of their own world and find ways to develop and maintain positive and functional relationships.

What we will do next

- Develop network of perpetrator services to include males and females.
- Appropriate criminal justice responses, disruption and support.
- Develop peer mentoring
- Training workforce around engagement and supporting perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse
- Improving partnership working in Police Custody
- Awareness campaigns focused on supporting perpetrators to access help

How progress will be measured

- Numbers of perpetrators receiving a service
- Reduction in risks for victim.
- Numbers of professionals attending training

Priority 4: Support children and young people exposed to domestic and sexual abuse.

Why this is important

It is recognised that there is a need to support the wider family and specifically children and young people who may be living with domestic abuse. Domestic and sexual abuse have been found to be the reasons for many of the referrals to children's social care. We recognise the impact that domestic and sexual abuse has on parenting and the bond between the non-abusive parent and their children. It is important to find ways to increase the ability of parents to protect their children and support them as survivors to lead abuse free lives themselves.

What we have done so far

A range of services and interventions are in place for families, including the following:-

Children First Hubs

Children's First Hubs are in place across the district providing early help to families. Where domestic and sexual abuse is being experienced within a family, additional support is provided through the Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioners where required. One to one programmes are provided with parents about the impact of domestic abuse. Counselling or emotional support can also be provided through referral to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service ('CAMHS').

Time to Talk programme

Developed Time to Talk programme, a targeted intervention for children who have experienced living in a household where domestic violence has been a feature. This programme runs in partnership with the Freedom Programme.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is an initiative to support children and young people in school following a domestic abuse incident the previous day.

The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support those children and young people who have witnessed or been present at the time of a domestic abuse incident. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware at the earliest possible stage in order to provide relevant and tailored support to children and young people immediately following the incident to help 'make the next day better'.

Operation Encompass has now been introduced across the district.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

CAMHS provide assessment, interventions and support to children, young people and their families who are suffering from significant mental health or behavioural problems, including those exposed to domestic abuse.

Kooth

Kooth is an on line counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people 11 to 24 years of age.

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Voluntary Organisations

A range of services are provided for families by voluntary organisations. This includes the Rosalie Ryrie Foundation, Well Women's Centre, Penny Appeal and Turning Point.

Schools

iSpace has been commissioned to provide targeted domestic abuse work within schools raising awareness and training pupils to become ambassadors. See Priority 1.

Spectrum delivers structured learning and education around relationships and sex education to secondary schools and colleges.

Domestic Abuse DVD and session plan developed and available on the Local Safeguarding Board website to help schools raise awareness of domestic abuse amongst students.

What we will do next

- Continue to deliver Operation Encompass across the district
- Deliver child focus campaign and link in with the national agenda for e.g Women's Aid Children First Campaign
- Continue to improve services to support children and young people

How progress will be measured

- Operation Encompass notifications delivered to schools
- Number of children and young people accessing support

Priority 5: Improve understanding and response to cultural diversity in respect to domestic and sexual abuse.

Why this is important

We know from local and national data that the prevalence of domestic abuse is higher in some migrant, black and minority ethnic and other diverse communities. We also know that Forced Marriage, Honour Abuse and Female Genital Mutilation ('FGM') are cultural practices. We are committed to providing accessible and appropriate services to all community members and we know that there are practical and cultural barriers to reporting and to receiving support. There is work to be done to challenge barriers and overcome issues within some communities to make it easier for people to come forward for support.

What we have done so far

Referral Pathway

We developed a pathway for reporting of Forced Marriage and Honour Abuse for Adults and Young People 16+.

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Training and Awareness Raising

We developed a face to face training programme for Forced Marriage and Honour Abuse which has been delivered to professionals.

We have delivered LGBT awareness programmes to multi-agency audiences to help ensure that services are appropriate and welcoming

We have delivered a public and staff awareness campaign on 14 July (National Day of Memory for Victims of Honour Abuse) using the Forced Marriage short film, training and engagement with specific communities, including social media

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

We have delivered two community outreach programmes to FGM survivors, in partnership with Well Women Centre and Yorkshire MESMAC.

We developed a Multi-Agency Working Protocol for FGM, FGM Strategy and Action Plan, which will be monitored by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. A partnership approach has been taken to ensure the needs of adults, children and young people are met and safeguarded.

What we will do next

- Ensure our practitioners are aware of cultural factors in domestic and sexual abuse, forced marriage, honour abuse, FGM and other harmful cultural practices
- Engage with specific communities and work with partners to respond to the needs of people with additional vulnerabilities (including forced marriage, honour abuse, individuals with communication difficulties and other communities as indicated by local intelligence)
- Implement the FGM strategy and action plan.
- Engage in regional work and learn from best practice.

How progress will be measured

- Number of professionals trained
- Number of public engagement events

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

This strategy has a number of implications for equality and diversity in line with the Equality Act 2010 and will be taken forward with due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

7. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

This strategy will be overseen by the inter-agency Domestic Abuse Management Group which reports to Wakefield's Safer Together Partnership.

A detailed action plan will be maintained with specific actions to deliver the ambitions within this strategy.