



Swindon Domestic Abuse Forum Tuesday 1st April 2025 0930-1200

Please put your name and role in the chat.



Marise Mackie RISE Service Manager









Please share on your social media channels using the graphic and include the link: www.fearfree.org.uk/rise



- Specialist providers of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Stalking Services.
- Operate across the South-West of England.
- Specialising in trauma-informed and holistic support.
- Supporting victims, children and those who behave in a harmful way.
- Prevention and awareness support and safety recovery and empowerment.

Breaking the cycle of abuse





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Breaking the cycle of abuse

Domestic Abuse- why does it matter to you- you will know someone impacted



Any incluent 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.

1 in 4 women is impacted by domestic abuse.

1 in 6 men is impacted by domestic abuse.

1 in 6 children are impacted by domestic abuse.

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

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Domestic Abuse is a Workplace Issue



- There are 2.3 million victims of domestic abuse a year aged 16 74 in the UK.
- Home Office research suggests domestic abuse cost over £66 billion in the year 2017 of which £14 billion was due to lost output from time off work and reduced productivity.
- Abuse can mean staff taking time off work, leaving a position or reduced quality of work which in turn can impact morale.
- Work is integral to many people's sense of identity, their relationships and is proven to have positive impacts on health and wellbeing.
- Many victims make their first disclosures of abuse at work.

How does RISE work

Making it work for you

About RISE





Trauma informed project

Support for people to maintain or access employment, training or education



Bespoke action plan

Produced for each client and mentorship until the plan is completed



Access to training

To enhance skills and employability



People are supported to move on to living healthy and safe lives



Service outcomes



RISE



R: Rebuilding

I: Independence

S: Support

E: Empowerment



Who can access RISE?

- Anyone who has experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Anyone who has changed their harmful behaviours
- Any young person aged 15+ who is not in education, employment or training (NEET) who has experienced domestic abuse in the household
- Must live in the South West including- Bristol, Devon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire





How can you help?

Can you offer employment, training, education or volunteer opportunities within your organisation?

Can you provide inputs, skills sessions, mentoring, facilities or other support?





michelmores

- Skills workshops
- ❖ Job skills
- CV and applications workshops
- Discussions around careers
- Mock interviews
- ❖ Soft skills

Elective Home Education (EHE)

1st April 2025

Lesley O'Hagan Service Manager Attendance and Inclusion



Elective Home Education

- All school-aged children in the United Kingdom have the right to a full-time education that is appropriate to their age, development and level of need.
- Although most children go to school, there is a growing number of parents choosing to home educate.
- We are committed to supporting and working positively with families that home educate to make sure children are safe and receiving the best education possible.

Elective Home Education (EHE) is when a parent chooses not to send their child to school full-time but assumes responsibility for making sure their child receives a full-time education other than at school. Some children are electively home educated from age 5 and may never attend school.



Elective Home Education- key features

EHE requires parents to take full responsibility for their child's education, including all associated costs (such as exam fees).

Schools are not required to provide any support to parents that have withdrawn their child for EHE. Support provided by Local Authorities (LA) is discretionary, including support for a child's special educational needs.

Parents should not be placed under pressure by schools to electively home educate their child. This is a form of 'off-rolling' and is never acceptable.



Key considerations

Where a pupil is withdrawn from school for EHE, there is no obligation for the school to keep that place open. If the parent wishes to return their child to school, they may not be able to return to the same school. There is no EHE trial period.

Once a child is educated at home, the LA will begin making enquiries as to how suitable the education being provided is. Failure to satisfy the enquiry may result in the issue of a School Attendance Order and / or the court may make an Education Supervision Order.



Parental roles and responsibilities

- Parents and carers do not need to be qualified teachers to home educate their children. There is also no requirement to follow the National Curriculum, though some find this helpful if they plan to make use of public examinations later.
- Parents and carers must be able to provide their child with a suitable, full-time education or provide access to means through which this can be achieved. They can choose how, when and with whom learning takes place do not have to have formal learning plans, lessons, or assessments do not have to follow to the age-related learning expectations used in maintained schools
- The LA will contact parents and carers to discuss home education, however they do not have to respond



School Attendance Support Team

- Part of the Attendance and Inclusion Service Area
- Specialist EHE work with families who are EHE or considering it
- EHE officers will work alongside social workers, the police and other professionals to support the welfare and education provision for children and young people
- Provide advice and guidance
- Work with the EHE community



Key updates

- Capacity has been added to the team an additional 3 EWOs have been assigned to conduct EHE visits and telephone consultations
- 609 CYP identified as EHE as of 21/3/25, net increase of 151 since September
- Focus on visits rather than telephone conversations
- Training for school staff
- Exam arrangements for Year 11 CYP have been checked
- Data share with IAS to cross reference, only 1 child open to OPAL has been identified and no children open to Edge of Care



Inclusion Dashboard EHE

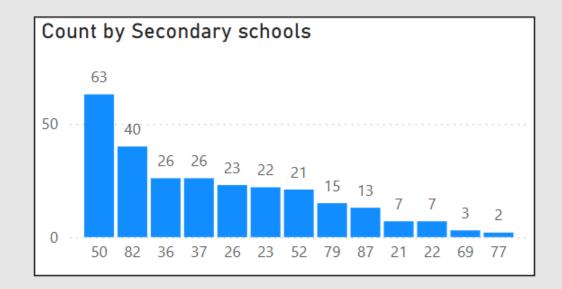
EHE Primary Reason	Headcount ▼
	476
Mental health	37
Parent/guardian did not give a reason	21
Dissatisfaction with the school - general	16
Lifestyle choice	15
Unknown	11
Philosophical or preferential reasons	7
Did not get school preference	6
Dissatisfaction with the school - bullying	5
Dissatisfaction with the school - SEND	4
Other	4
Risk of school exclusion	4
Not Recorded	1
Permanent exclusion	1
Physical health	1
Total	609

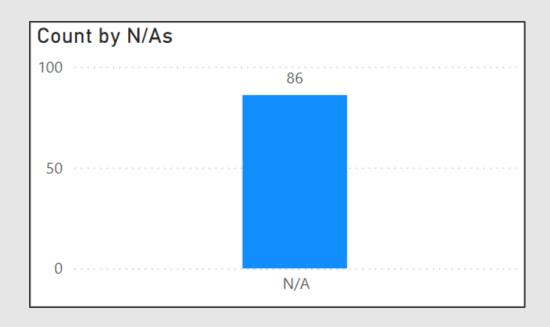
Postcode	Headcount ▼
SN2	181
SN3	149
SN25	113
SN5	56
SN1	52
SN4	29
SN6	23
	3
SN26	3
Total	609

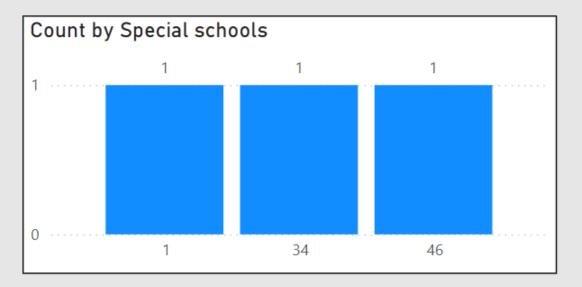
Ethnic	Headcount ▼
White British	391
Information not yet obtained	127
Any other White background	30
White and Black Caribbean	10
Gypsy/Roma	7
Indian	7
	6
Any other Black background	6
Any other ethnic group	6
Any other Mixed background	4
Black Caribbean	4
White and Asian	4
Refused	3
Black African	2
White and Black African	1
White Irish	1
Total	609

Gender	Headcount
Female	321
Male	279
Unknown	7
	2
Total	609

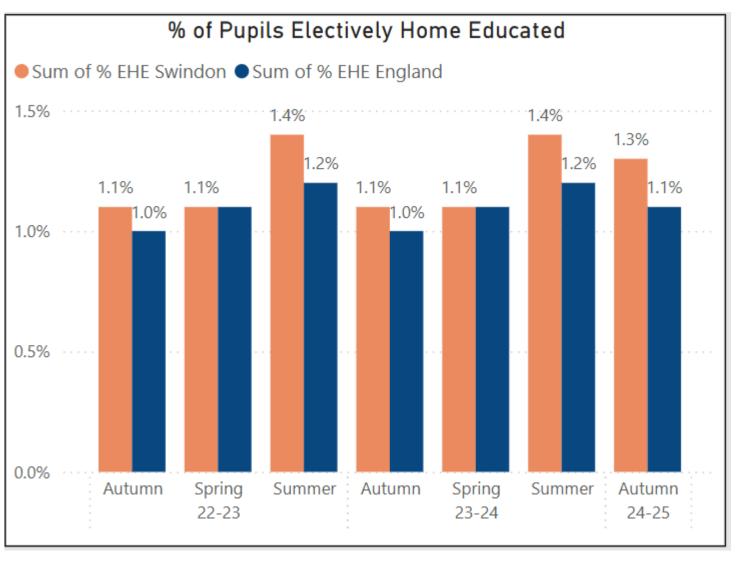








EHE National data v Swindon*



Data returns are provided to the DfE by the LA 3 times a year



Areas for development

- Development of a parental mailing list this would support key messages around public health, key education messages etc
- Training offer for social worker and provision of joint visit
- Attendance and Inclusion Dashboard
- Legal Interventions
- Working with the police regarding vulnerable families
- Conduct a review of the EHE cohort



You can contact the team...

Any concerns about Elective Home Education please contact the team at EHE@swindon.gov.uk

Expert by Experience

Warning!

The content of this presentation and associated discussion may be graphic





The boy won first prize in school fancy dress competition. His title was "I argued with my wife".

Funny?

Show of hands

"Man up!"

Scope

- Introduction Why am I standing here?
- Rules of Engagement
- My story
- So what?
- What can we do?
- Questions

"Tell the world, Johnny, tell them, 'Johnny Depp, I, a man, I'm a victim too of domestic violence'. And see how many people believe or side with you."

Introduction

- 27 year military career
- Studied martial arts since age 4
- So What? Lots of "Male stereotypes"
- Married a 5'3" Mental Health Nurse
- Remember "Man up..."?
- Men don't talk about it......
- Don't want to appear weak





"We must speak up about male domestic abuse"

News

(b) 15:02 21/04/2022



Introduction

Suck it up buttercup

Take a man-up pill

"Only men are abusers"

• "Men don't suffer abuse"

 "You must have done something to deserve it"





"We must speak up about male domestic abuse"

News

(b) 15:02 21/04/2022



Rules of Engagement

- Two-way discussion audience participation encouraged
- Chatham House rules apply no attribution
- Questions welcomed during or at the end
- No gender/sexuality bashing! Not here to blame
- Contact details

Not here for group therapy

My story

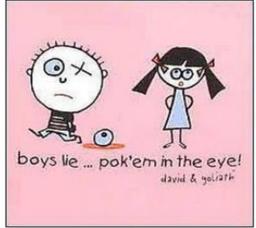
- Hindsight is 20/20 early signs, "tests", "you're hard to manipulate", "you have serious MH issues..."
- Controlling (coercive) behaviours comms, child, friends, isolated family
- Financial abuse joint accounts, post-separation bills
- Emotional abuse use of children as weapons "women own children..."
- Domestic Violence The lie, "let's park that for now"
- Cultural impact men not taken seriously bullying vs abuse
- Mental Health the "man-up" factor, the impact, "grieving a loss that hasn't happened, but cannot heal..."

Stereotypes - Funny, or not??!











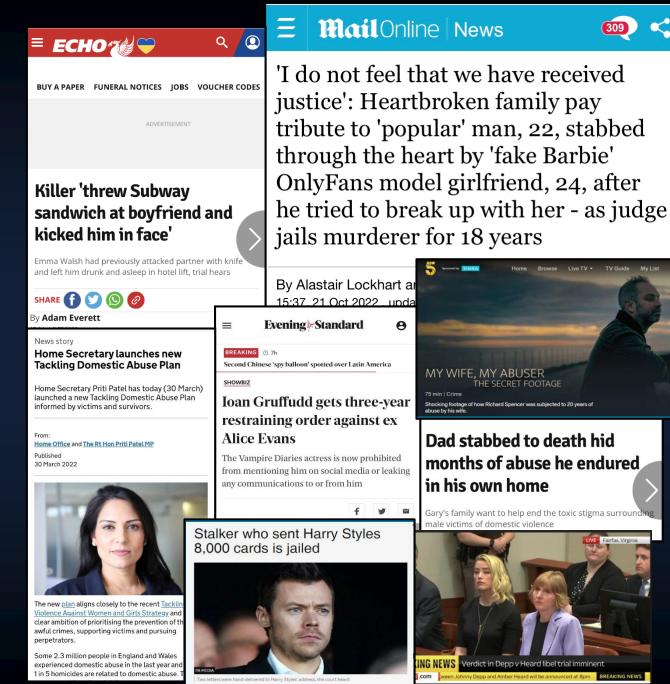






So what?

- Cultural holistic approach? (Stereotypes)
- Support holistic approach?
- 1 in 3 reported cases are men
- 1 in 6 men will be victims
- Only 4.4% of cases supported by local authorities are men
- Only 269 refuge spaces available for men, only 92 dedicated
- 49% of men do not report
- USA: 73% of men assessed to suffer DA over their lives. Only 13% report





Statistics

- 1 in 5 adults experience DA in their lifetime (1 in 4 women, 1 in 7 men)
- 2.4 million people were victims of DA last year (1.7m women and 700,000 men)
- DA still a largely hidden crime which goes unreported to the police less than 24% of crime reported.
- It takes on average 7 attempts before leaving an abusive relationship
- In 2023 13 men and 56 women died at the hands of their partner or ex partner
- 6.5% male victims and 2.8% female victims have considered taking their life due to partner abuse

So What?

- Pre- COVID:11% of male victims consider suicide
- Post-COVID: rose to 25%
- 75% of all suicides are men...
- 1 in 4 stalking victims are male
- 1 in 4 Forced marriage victims are men
- 24% of male survivors take 1 4 years to recognise abuse
- 20% take 5 8 years
- Government position lists men & boys as 'male victims of crimes considered in the cross-government Tackling VAWG(Violence Against Women & Girls)
 Strategy and Tackling DA Plan'

So What? Impact of VAWG on males

- We all recognise the need to support women and girls who are victims of these crimes
- Not about a resource switch to men and boys. More for all!
- CPS report included data from 13,000 men and boys, but not recognised as such – all defined as crimes against women
- No involvement from Male or Survivor organisations to the Govt.

Impact of VAWG on males – Invisible, Ignored, Trivialised

- Negative impacts of Male Survivors of VAWGs
 - Difficulty accessing support 73% male survivors
 - Poor service availability 74% male survivors
 - Not recognised by society 73% male survivors
 - Not believed by public services 73% male survivors
 - Minimising their experiences 80% male survivors
 - Feeling invisible 90% male survivors
 - Not mattering to society 90% male survivors
 - Not taken seriously 75% male survivors
 - Government does not care 88% male survivors
 - Making it harder to seek help 89% male survivors
 - Experiencing distress 89% male survivors

Sources: Mankind, University of Central Lancashire

VAWG? Potentially damaging, Why not VAP?

- A need for any form of domestic abuse to be recognised and challenged regardless of gender.
- A need to address the imbalance, whilst not detracting from the support already in place and available, rather make it more inclusive
- Let's make ALL voices heard
- Bring all agencies in to help and support victims with specialised help for different genders/sexualities.
- Support can still exist by charities for individual demographics

Impact on UK Armed Forces

- 1 Jul 23 186,000 people in British Armed Forces
- 1 in 10 SP suffer DV, KCL paper
- 91% male (169,000 men, 17,000 women)
- Using ONS statistics:
 - 1 in 6 men: 28,167 male victims in serving Afs
 - 1 in 4 women: 4,250 female victims
 - 32,417 total victims (assessed)

What can we do?

- Normalise the conversation about male victims
- Break down the cultural stereotypes
- Encourage engagement
- Mankind initiative Recognise, Respond,
 Refer, Record
- Watch for the warning signs:

The best minds in mental health aren't the docs. They're the trauma survivors who have had to figure out how to stay alive for years with virtually no help. Wanna learn how to psychologically survive under unfathomable stress? Talk to abuse survivors.

DR. GLENN PATRICK DOYLE

Male Victims

- Often do not understand or recognise they are a victim
- Feel a sense of shame, embarrassment and lack of pride
- Feel they don't have any control
- Do not want to draw attention to problems
- Minimise and cope
- Feel they are not strong, resilient or providing security
- See it as a weakness & may be stigmatised for getting help
- Will not want to leave their children behind Parental alienation...
- Feel very alone but hide it

What can we do? – Signs of abuse

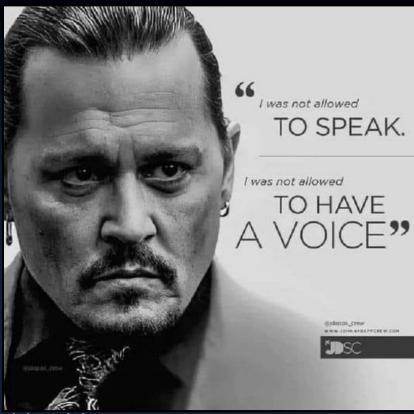
- Reports in far too often with partner
- Receives harassing communications
- Talks about partner's possessiveness
- Low self-esteem/confidence
- Personality changes
- Unkempt appearance
- Appears unwell insomonia
- Misses work/social occasions
- Dresses to hide bruises
- Limited money access
- Lost comms/social media access

SOMETIMES PEOPLE STAY IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT KNOW IT WAS ABUSE...

Source: Mankind.org.uk

What can we do? - help

- Mankind.org.uk
- SSAFA
- Unit Welfare
- Chain of Command
- Padre
- Respect.uk.net
- LDASS
- mensadviceline.org.uk
- mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mens-mental-health
- mind.org.uk/information-support/your-stories/man-up-getting-more-men-in-mental-health/
- thecalmzone.net
- DDASCAN
- Peer support
- Clean Slate



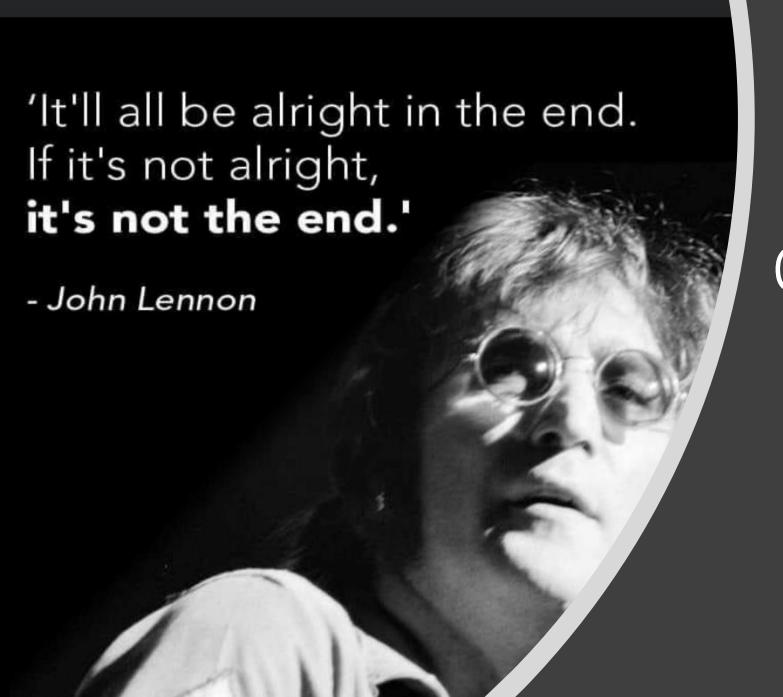




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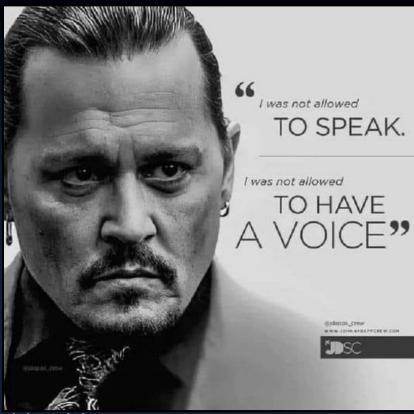
Show of hands



Questions?

What can we do? - help

- Mankind.org.uk
- SSAFA
- Unit Welfare
- Chain of Command
- Padre
- Respect.uk.net
- LDASS
- mensadviceline.org.uk
- mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mens-mental-health
- mind.org.uk/information-support/your-stories/man-up-getting-more-men-in-mental-health/
- thecalmzone.net
- DDASCAN
- Peer support
- Clean Slate



Links between DA and Suicide

Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP) - AWP Webinar: The Relationship Between Domestic Abuse and Suicide

Duration 25 minutes



Domestic abuse themes in Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Reports

Jackie Chipping April 2025

"I Wanted them all to Notice"

Protecting Children and responding to child sexual abuse within the family environment (CSPRP November 2024)

Main practice themes:-

- Professionals from across the multiagency system struggle to identify and understand when there is a risk of harm.
- There must be a better join up between the criminal justice and child safeguarding responses to child sexual abuse.
- Children and families are not receiving the support, help and protection they need throughout sexual abuse investigations
- We must improve assessment of people presenting risk of sexual harm to prevent further offending

Stats & Figures

The review was based on an analysis of 136 rapid reviews involving 193 children.

Demographics

- 75% of the children were under the age of 12
- 24% involved children with learning disabilities, autism, or ADHD
- 27% of children were from Black or other minoritised communities
- 10 children became pregnant and
 7 children died by suicide.

Cross cutting themes

- 47% of reviews involved neglect
- 29% of reviews involved domestic abuse experienced by the child.
- Over a third of reviews featured a family member with a known history of sexual offending behaviour or who was known to present some risk of sexual harm

Review Findings and Practice Themes

This national review highlights a systemic failure across all services to recognise and respond when children are at risk of, or are already, being sexually abused by someone in their family environment.

- Not hearing children's voices and understanding their needs
- Not understanding parents' and carers' contexts, vulnerabilities and needs
- Challenges in identifying signs, understanding risk and raising concerns
- Issues in responding to concerns of intrafamilial child sexual abuse

Key Learning for Practitioners

Systemic Challenges

- Children are often ignored or disbelieved, and risks posed by family members are frequently overlooked or minimized
- Practitioners lack the support, guidance, and direction needed to intervene effectively

Practice challenges

- Practitioners rely too heavily on children to verbally report abuse and lack proactive engagement to identify it
- Fear of interfering with investigations stops practitioners from talking directly to children about possible abuse

Professional Development

- Critical need for enhanced training and resources for professionals
- Practitioners need to be equipped to recognise and respond to signs of child sexual abuse confidently

Key Learning for Practitioners

Impact of Domestic Abuse

- Practitioners often fail to recognize and address the influence of domestic abuse on safeguarding and that domestic abuse and coercive control significantly impact parents' ability to protect their children
- Parents ,particularly mothers, were sometimes seen as displaying "disguised compliance" or being unwilling to protect their children, rather than being victims of domestic abuse/coercive control and or grooming
- Over reliance on parents to protect their child as well as a lack of support to enable them to do this due to their own situation/needs
- Relying on parents to supervise contact between their child and the persons suspected of the abuse was
 problematic within the context of domestic abuse and was a factor in half of the reviews
- Inappropriate use of working agreements and safety plans which often placed sole responsibility on the parents to safeguard the child without taking into account the parents situation and needs

Key Learning for Practitioners

Race and Ethnicity

 Practitioners do not sufficiently consider children's race, ethnicity and culture in their responses and There is a lack of understanding of the specific needs and contexts of children from Black and other minoritised communities

Support for disabled children

- Disabled children are at increased risk of sexual abuse
- Practitioners often misinterpret signs of abuse as related to the child's disability, highlighting the need for better understanding of disabled children's needs

Key Learning for Safeguarding Partnerships

Risk Assessment and Management

 Review and manage individuals posing sexual harm risks, ensuring robust information-sharing and collaboration

Communication with children

 Ensure practitioners are confident in talking directly to children about concerns of sexual abuse, keeping children and families informed throughout investigations

Health Pathways

 Ensure local pathways for referring children for appropriate forensic medical and other health assessments are in place, involving health representatives in strategy discussions

Key Learning for Safeguarding Partnerships

Strategic Planning

 Develop local action plans to respond to the report's recommendations, ensuring a coordinated approach to safeguarding

Professional Development

 Conduct multi-agency training needs assessments to ensure practitioners have the necessary skills and knowledge to identify and respond to child sexual abuse

Quality of Enquiries & Investigations

 Audit local multi-agency decision-making to ensure safeguarding decisions consider all indicators of sexual abuse, not just verbal disclosures

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual report December 2024

This report highlights that:-

- Domestic abuse within the household was present in 47% of the rapid reviews 2023-2024
- Domestic abuse was present in 52% of the incidents were the child died compared to 43% where there was a serious incident
- These figures align with the CSPRP Multiagency safeguarding and domestic abuse report 2022 where risk to children were underestimated despite clear signs of domestic abuse and critical information was not shared.
- The reviews also identified that men within the family were often "invisible to services.

Child interviewed as part of the Report

"I couldn't talk about the sexual abuse. It was too difficult.

I wanted them to notice and to ask me what was going on "

A Parent's comments as part of the Report

Mother said how her experience of domestic abuse had prevented her from speaking about her concerns that her child was being sexually abuse. She had hoped that practitioners would notice "the fear in her eyes" and see the "red flags" that should have triggered help for her daughter and herself.



MALE QUESTIONNAIRE



We are seeking anonymous feedback from males who have experience domestic abuse.

This feedback will be used to shape and improve domestic abuse services within Swindon.

Closing Date: Mon 28th April 2025

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, contact either:

Always dial 999 in an emergency

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Paragon: 0800 917 8565 or 01793 610610 or ParagonSwindon@theyoutrust.org.uk



Resources referred to during presentations

Marise's presentation: RISE - FearFree

Stu's presentation:

- Lost Boys The Centre for Social Justice
- https://mankind.org.uk/statistics/research-male-victims-of-domestic-abuse/
- Domestic Violence and Abuse in the Military | King's College London
- More than 1 in 10 Armed Forces personnel have experienced Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse | King's College London
- Simon's Story "Simon's life was taken. He was murdered by the woman he loved."

Video Relationship between DA and Suicide: Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP) - AWP Webinar: The Relationship Between Domestic Abuse and Suicide

Jackie's presentation:

- National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment GOV.UK
- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2023 to 2024 GOV.UK

Swindon Safeguarding and Community Safety Partnership Resources

Please see our local resources:

- NFS Non fatal strangulation March 2023 Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- Coercive control Coercive control Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- DASH MARAC <u>SSP practice brief DASH risk identification checklist and MARAC Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- DA tech webinar Video archive Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- FGM webinar <u>Video archive Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- Serious and Organised Crime <u>Video archive Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- DA webpage <u>Domestic abuse Swindon Safeguarding Partnership</u>
- Exploitation of adults Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- Hate crime Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
- Swindon Multi-agency Domestic Abuse strategy: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/downloads/download/1821/swindon_multi-agency_domestic_abuse_strategy

Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Reports

- Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: annual report 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK
- Summary of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel annual report 2023/24: CASPAR briefing | NSPCC Learning
- National review into child sexual abuse within the family environment - GOV.UK
- <u>Summary of the National review into child sexual abuse within</u> the family environment: CASPAR briefing | NSPCC Learning
- I wanted them all to notice Recording

Mankind Resources

- ManKind Initiative Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse
- The Survivorship Experiences of Men and Boys of Crimes
 Categorised as Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls –
 Mankind (report referred to in the presentation)
- Statistics and Research Mankind
- https://mankind.org.uk/statistics/research-male-victims-of-domesticabuse/
- Domestic Violence and Abuse in the Military | King's College London
- More than 1 in 10 Armed Forces personnel have experienced Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse | King's College London