

A stylized sun graphic on the left side of the page. It features a large yellow circle with several short, curved yellow lines radiating from its top-left edge. The background is a solid orange color, and a large white semi-circle is positioned on the right side, partially overlapping the sun graphic.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Violence Against Women and Girls

Annual Report

2022 23

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Coordination Team

Integrated Commissioning and Public Health

Annual Report 2022/23 Domestic and Sexual Abuse, Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic and Sexual Abuse ruins the lives of too many people in the UK and in our city of Sheffield. The vast majority of immediate victims are women and girls, but we know that many men are also affected. Abuse has a hugely damaging impact on children and on families. By recognising abuse, calling it out, helping victims and changing attitudes and cultures we can reduce the impact domestic and sexual abuse has on individuals, families, and wider society.

Tackling Domestic and sexual abuse, and violence against women and girls, will only be effective if we all work together. That includes public services like the Council, the Police, and the NHS, but also voluntary services and community groups, businesses, individuals, and groups of people who want to make a difference.

If we work together, we can:

- Change attitudes and cultures so that abuse is recognised, called out and not tolerated
- Protect and support victims and their families through emotional and social support, and practical help to keep them safe
- Deal with perpetrators and find ways to change their behaviour and attitudes.

In Sheffield we have a long and proud history of partnership working to prevent domestic and sexual abuse. As a city we have agreed strategies to improve services and support for people, commissioned and delivered a range of services, and worked with women and people with lived experience of abuse to raise awareness and learn from each other to make things better for the future.

Annual Report 2022/23 - Domestic and Sexual Abuse, Violence Against Women and Girls

The Sheffield Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board has commissioned this Annual Report. The report sets out some of the wide range of activities the different partners involved in the current Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy have undertaken over the last year. It shows the impact these activities have had on the lives of people in the City. It also highlights some of the ongoing issues we face as a city and the things we need to address in the future.

- The [Domestic And Sexual Abuse Strategy 2018-22](#) is still being implemented despite being out of time. This is because:
- The Domestic Abuse Act introduced statutory duty to produce a [Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy](#) in place from 2021 until 2024
- Over the next 6 months the Board will be undertaking work with all the partners and wider stakeholders to get a better understanding of what is working, where the gaps in services and support are, and what we need to do more of in the future.
- A new strategy will be written in 2024 to cover Violence Against Women and Girls in its entirety, and domestic / sexual abuse experienced by all genders and include Safe Accommodation to meet the statutory requirement
- It will also include the city's White Ribbon status.

I hope that the information in this report is useful and look forward to working with all our partners over the coming months and years as we develop our new strategy and continue to work hard to prevent domestic and sexual abuse, and violence against women and girls.

Sam Martin, Chair of the Domestic And Sexual Abuse Strategic Board, Head of Commissioning Vulnerable People

Recommendations

- It is recommended that a business case for increased investment in support services for adults, and children, and behaviour change programmes for perpetrators is considered at a strategic level.
- It is recommended that non resource intensive solutions are maintained:
 - Development of community champions to promote early intervention and confidence in the wider workforce and including in underserved communities
 - Easy to access self guided support resources are developed for people who would appreciate this option
 - Ongoing strategic commitment to campaigns such as White Ribbon

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A highlight of 2022 was the [publication in](#) October 2022 of the SafeLives Public Health Systems Review. SafeLives are a national charity who were funded by the Home Office to do reviews of this kind in several local authorities. This found that:

- ***Sheffield has some real strengths in this area...overall Sheffield should be proud of how it responds to Domestic Abuse.***



Public Health Systems Review of the Domestic Abuse Response in Sheffield

Conclusions

- Sheffield has some real strengths in the area. The culture within services is positive, multi-agency working is effective. The service offer and a forward thinking training and strategic response, coupled with a strong survivor network and evidence of experts by experience being consulted throughout work, gives victims in Sheffield a real opportunity to be safe and move on from Domestic Abuse.
- There are further opportunities to increase awareness within the wider system, including but not limited to the specialist service resource, the Police and Housing response and inclusivity of marginalised groups. There is some excellent working practice, joined up work is responsive and practitioners are working well with newer Perpetrator services, and newer Social Work responses.
- Overall Sheffield should be proud of how it responds to Domestic Abuse. The strategic leaders give great insight and work with operational leads, and this filters into a culture of support and challenge within local services.

Ending domestic abuse

Prevalence of Domestic and Sexual abuse in Sheffield

The SafeLives Systems Review report also highlighted the estimated prevalence of domestic abuse in Sheffield

Number of victims: Overview

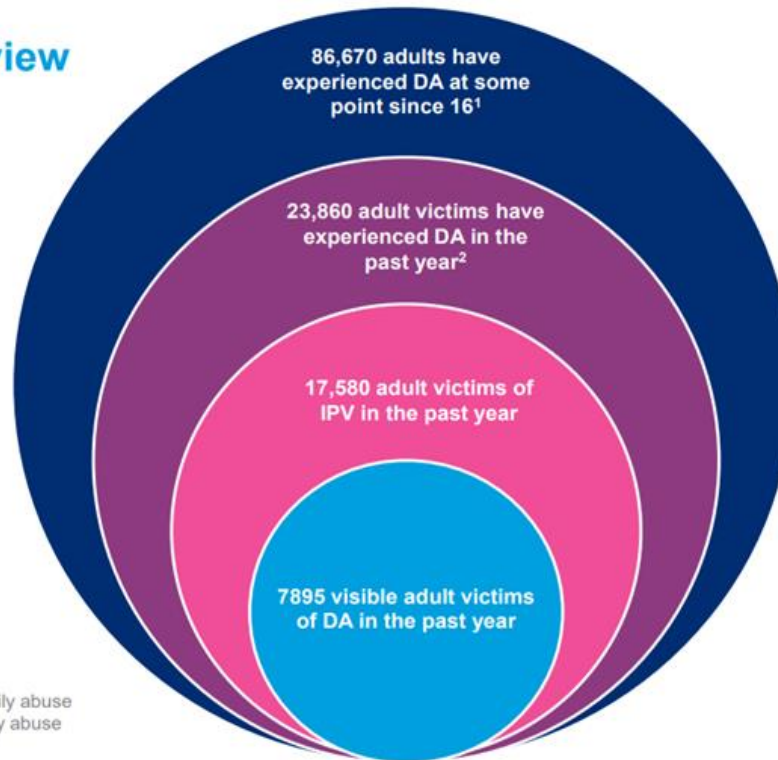
The SafeLives prevalence tool uses data from the Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) merged with local population data. It is in the ONS domestic abuse bulletin and more specifically the [prevalence and trends](#) paper. We also use Marac data to capture a true understanding of the prevalence of domestic abuse in a local area.

This details the estimated number of victims who have experienced domestic abuse (DA), not the number of victims who have accessed services.

¹Around 15% will have experienced both partner abuse and family abuse

²Around 8% will have experienced both partner abuse and family abuse

Ending domestic abuse



MARAC stands for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – these meetings discuss and safety plan around the most serious domestic abuse cases in the city (people at high risk of serious harm or homicide)



26,019

young people affected by domestic abuse
2022/23

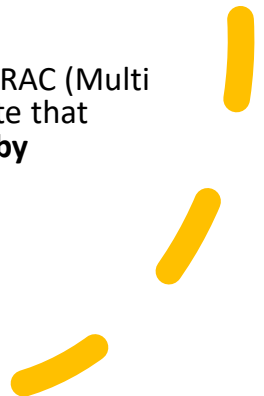


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Children impacted by domestic abuse

A key policy change has been the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 including the **recognition in law that children are victims of domestic abuse in their own right.**

Using Women's Aid National Audit data and Sheffield MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) data we can estimate that there would have been around **26,019 children affected by domestic abuse** in Sheffield in 2022/23.



Safe Lives Systems Review

Cost Calculations of High Risk Perpetrators

'Although it is difficult to estimate the cost of all perpetrators, we can reliably estimate the cost of high risk perpetrators. The University of Bristol evaluation of Drive calculated the cost to the state associated with perpetrators identified as high-risk via the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) to be £63,400 per case: £38,835 of which is associated with perpetrators directly and £24,565 with adult and child victim-survivors.

*In applying these costs to Sheffield, taking the 1,194 MARAC cases between 1st Nov 2020 and 31st Oct 2021, the cost to central and local government of high-risk domestic abuse in the region is calculated to be **over £75m** over the course of these cases.'*

[Public Health Systems Review of the Domestic Abuse Response in Sheffield \(sheffielddact.org.uk\)](https://sheffielddact.org.uk)

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	Costs (fixed)	Source
Cashable cost per MARAC case: perpetrators	£38,835.00	Hester et al, 2019
Cashable cost per MARAC case: Victims and Children	£24,565.00	Hester et al, 2019
Total cashable cost per MARAC case:	£63,400.00	Hester et al, 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £32k Police / CJS costs - £13,410 health - £14,390 Children's services - £3,600 Housing (including refuge) 		
Loss of quality of life and loss of economic output to the victim:	£31,545.00	Oliver et al, 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £24,300 associated with reduction in health-related quality of life (quantified using QALY approach) - £7,245 loss of economic output 		
Total cost per MARAC case with quality of life and loss of earnings	£94,945.00	Oliver et al, 2019

Caveats:

- The Cashable Costs are based on high risk MARAC cases only. They do not include any costs for non high risk cases.
- Number of Marac cases and repeat % for the local area is based on the latest (at time of calculation) submitted Marac data to SafeLives from the Marac.
- Calculations do not consider that some victims are serial victims, however, this number is unlikely to be large as assumed few victims will become a serial victim within the same year.
- Most costs are assumed to be for the year, but some costs may be spread over a lifetime - see Appendix 8 in the Drive report for more detail.
- The quality of life and loss of earnings costs are average costs for all cases, this maybe an underestimate for these high risk cases which will likely have a larger impact on a victim's life.
- Further details, limitations and assumptions of costs can be found in Appendix 8 of the Drive report.

Sources:

- Hester et al. (2019), Evaluation of the Drive Project – A Three-year Pilot to Address High-risk, High-harm Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. Appendix 8 shows break down of the costs: http://driveproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/DriveYear3_UoBEvaluationReport_Final.pdf.
- Oliver et al, 2019: The economic and social cost of domestic abuse 2019. This calculated the costs attributable to 1.9m victims of all risk levels at £34,015 per victim of which £31,545 per victim was due to a loss of quality of life (£24,300), and loss of economic output (£7,245).

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Sexual Violence / Assault Sheffield prevalence

The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) for 2021/22 estimated that:

- **2.3% of people aged 16 or over** had been a victim of sexual assault (including attempts) in the last year.
- In relation to sex: **3.3% of women** and **1.2% of men** (aged 16+) were victims in the last year.

The definition of sexual assault in the CSEW includes rape or assault by penetration (including attempts), Indecent exposure, and unwanted sexual touching.

Sheffield

For people aged 16+ in Sheffield this equates to:

- **7,702 females** and
- **2,674 males**


being a victim of sexual assault in the last year.



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Sexual Abuse Commissioning

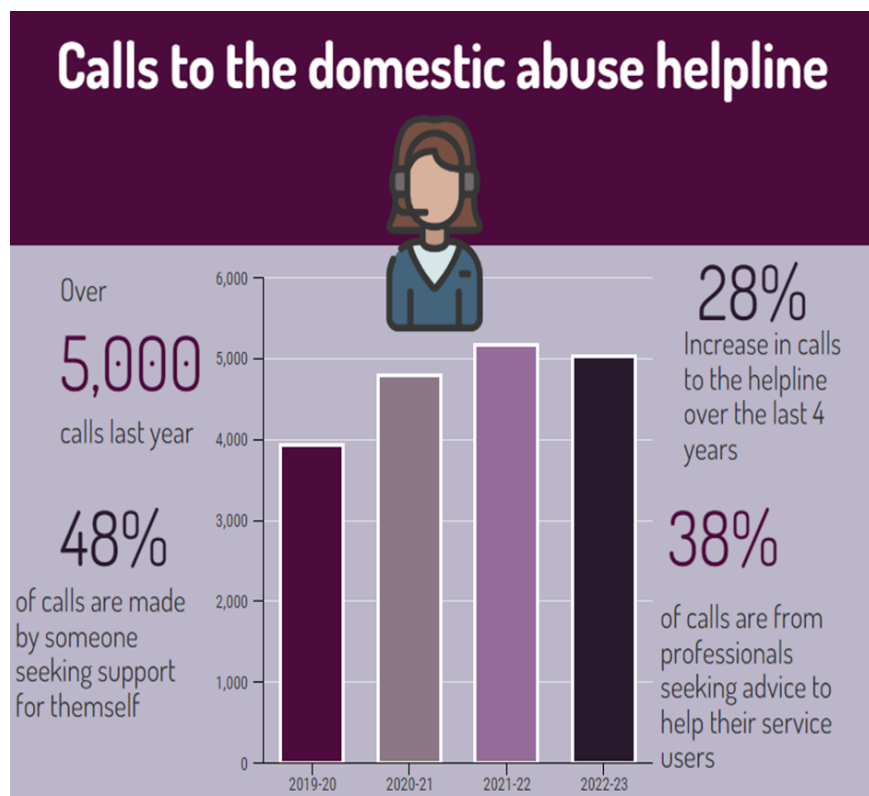
Services responding to sexual violence and abuse are commissioned primarily by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner e.g. the [Independent Sexual Violence Advisor](#) service delivered by Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre; and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, [Hackenthorpe Lodge](#), commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and NHS England. There is also a [Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre](#) based at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust commissioned by NHS England and the OPCC.



Sheffield City Council commissioned services - performance data

Domestic Abuse Helpline and support

- 5654 referrals received during the year.
- 62% referrals from the police
- Excluding the police referrals – 43% of the remainder are from health agencies.
- 36% of all referrals are at high risk of serious harm or homicide
- 99% of high-risk referrals have received or been offered safety advice
- 81% of users have a planned exit from the service
- 63% of all exits have a reduced risk or no higher risk at exit from support.
- 12 structured group work programmes were offered during the year and 80% of attendees completed the programmes
- Of users who completed an exit evaluation:
 - 69% reported feeling safer
 - 62.5% reported feeling confident
 - 71.5% reported they were better able to recognise abusive behaviour
 - 68% reported that their support networks had improved
 - 75% were clear that the abuse was not their fault
 - 62.5% understood more about the impact of abuse on their children

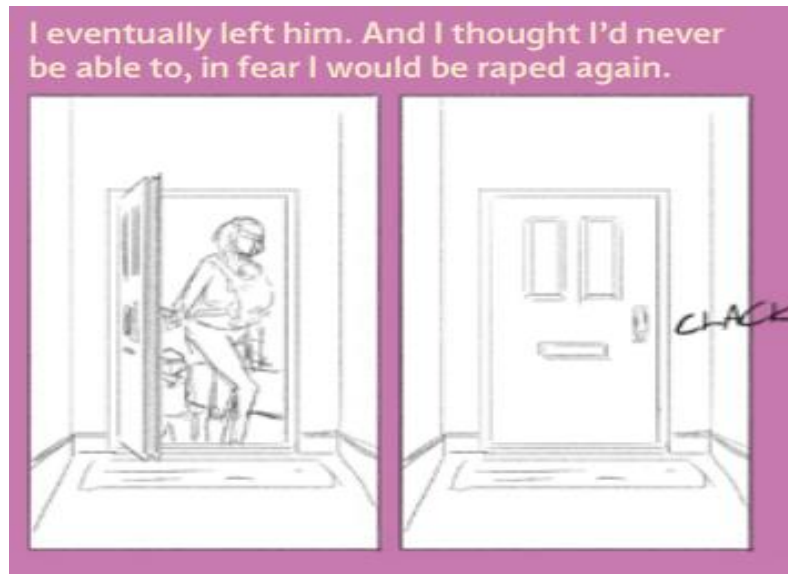


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**Providing support to
victims/ survivors in
Domestic Abuse
safe
accommodation is
now a statutory
duty under Part 4 of
the Domestic Abuse
Act 2021.**

364 adults with 574 children

were supported in safe accommodation: refuges, dispersed accommodation and in properties with Sanctuary Scheme measures



There is always a very high demand in Sheffield for domestic abuse safe accommodation. The target set for utilisation of domestic abuse safe accommodation is 90%, this was consistently met by IDAS and Sheffield Women's Aid with an average of 100% utilisation for Sheffield Women's Aid refuges and 96% utilisation for SafeZones dispersed accommodation scheme.

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Women's Refuges

- 43 families, with
- 79 children, plus
- 35 women without children
- **94%** of women who have exited refuge reported an improvement in their mental health.
- **100%** of women who have used the refuge say they feel safer and feel they are better at recognising abusive behaviours.
- **100%** of women feel better able to manage their finances.
- **100%** of children who accessed support from a counsellor in refuge reported an improvement in wellbeing



Support in dispersed properties

- 18 families with
- 54 children, plus
- 24 women without children
- **100%** of those who have used Safezones report feeling safer.
- **100%** of children who have lived in Safezones are registered with a nursery or school provider
- **70%** of people feel as though they have been supported to access a strong and resilient support network
- **95%** of residents have a positive move on from Safezones and when visited by Safezones staff two weeks after leaving, 100% of residents reported an overall improvement in their wellbeing

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Sheffield City Council Temporary
Accommodation with specialist
domestic abuse support (provided
by IDAS)

- *50 families including*
- *116 children plus*
- *20 adults without children*



Young Women's Housing Project
(16-25 year olds)

- *6 families including*
- *11 children plus*
- *27 women without children*

In Q4 22/23, following a lot of hard work, Young Women's Housing Project were awarded the silver level 'Trauma Informed Working' Quality kitemark from One Small Thing, the team was noted for their commitment and approach to trauma informed working and their submission was recognised as 'stand out quality'.

one small thing

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Sanctuary Scheme

Sanctuary scheme measures, also known as target hardening, were provided (part of the Domestic Abuse Community Support contract delivered by IDAS) to enable people to stay safe in their own homes:

- *People living in 501 properties were provided with Sanctuary Scheme measures, 100% of Sanctuary measures were provided within three weeks of referral (most common intervention: window alarms and lock changes)*
- *159 adults and 294 children were provided with support in properties where Sanctuary measures have been provided.*
- Most recent needs assessment showed that 92% (where data is recorded) of people receiving sanctuary scheme support in 2021/22 did not move to a new address as a result of domestic abuse.
- 86% reported that Sanctuary Measures made them feel safer.



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Advice for people in safe accommodation due to domestic abuse

Citizens Advice Bureau



- 249 users against a target of 125
- 218 users had support with benefits and tax credits
- 74 users had support to manage debts
- Income maximisation figure (from CAB)

*In 2022/ 23, **£70,000** of positive outcomes for victims / survivors was achieved through support from the CAB as a result of:*

- *increased or new benefit / tax credit awards*
- *reimbursement of benefits / tax credits*
- *charitable payments*
- *debt relief*

Shelter



- 82 advice surgeries held in the year available to both residents and staff.
- 10 households and 3 staff members supported with case advice in the year.

Children and Young People

Specialist commissioned support for children and young people is provided by Haven and Door 43 (provided by Sheffield Futures) and is highly targeted due to limited resources:

- 202 children and young people received one to one interventions
- 70% of those providing feedback to Haven reported improved health and wellbeing.
- 79% reported feeling safer at the time they gave feedback
- 55 children and young people received counselling (where they are in safe accommodation only)
- 100% of exits from Door43 reported counselling has helped them



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Counselling and Therapy

Mind Safe Space (for adults in safe accommodation due to domestic abuse)

- 40 people received counselling: 38 women and 2 men
- 89% of users felt more able to do the things they want to do
- 100% of users said counselling had helped them

Paradigm (for women in refuges)

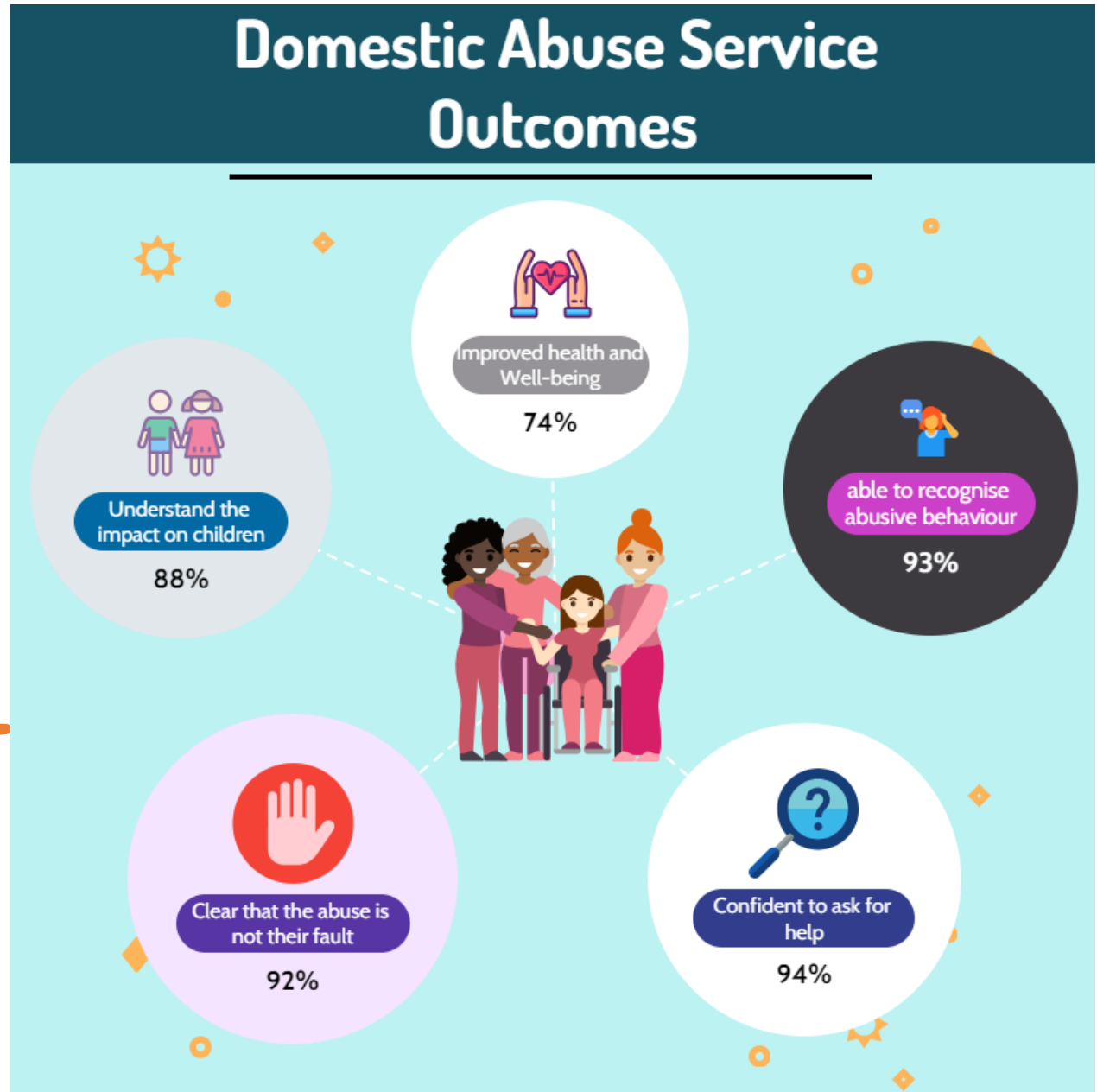
- 38 women received counselling
- 64% of users said counselling had helped them

Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre

- 305 received counselling
- 81% planned exits
- 98% said that counselling had helped them
- 305 received counselling
- 81% planned exits
- 98% said that counselling had helped them



Overall Outcomes



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Perpetrators of domestic abuse



Cranstoun Inspire to Change

- a 24 week, nationally accredited (by Respect), behaviour change programme
- 491 referrals (62% from police)
- 69 perpetrators engaged with the programme
- 9 perpetrators dropped out of the programme
- 33 perpetrators completed a 24-week programme.

Caring Dads

A 17 week long parenting intervention for fathers who perpetrate domestic abuse, delivered by the Strengthening Families Team

- 4 cohorts were delivered in 2022/23
- 20 fathers successfully completed the programme



88%

of people accessing the
community domestic abuse
support service are women



6%

of people across all domestic abuse
support services are LGB+

30%

of people accessing sexual abuse
services are LGB+

27%

of people accessing domestic abuse
support services are BAMER

41%

of people accessing accommodation
support services are BAMER



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Diversity insights



50%

of young people receiving counselling
are female

63%

of young people receiving counselling
are BAMER

12%

of people accessing support
services are male

3%

of people in supported dispersed
accommodation are male



36%

of adults accessing domestic abuse
services have a disability

22%

of young people accessing support
have a disability



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Diversity insights

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Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARAC meets to discuss people at high risk of serious harm or homicide as a result of domestic abuse. It usually meets 3 times a month to discuss 30 cases per meeting.

Police, Social Care (adults and children's), Health, Probation, Housing, IDVAs and other voluntary sector services share information and develop safety plans for victims/ survivors and their children

1,172 MARAC CASES

discussed in 2022/23



91%

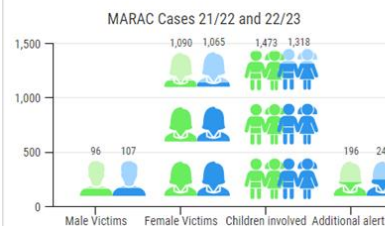
of MARAC cases heard are for female victims



1,318

children impacted, an average of 1.1 children per MARAC case

Sheffield MARAC Data Dashboard 21/22 & 22/23 Comparison



The year end 2022/23 is shown in blue. The green icons represent the position reported at year end 2021/22. Alerts were only reported from October 2021 so use caution when comparing.

For each male victim heard at MARAC there are 10 female victims.



This is down from 1:11.3 on year end 2021/22



On average, there were 1.12 children affected for each case heard at MARAC in 22/23. In 21/22 this was 1.24



There has been a 1.2% decrease in the number of cases discussed at MARAC in 22/23 in comparison to the previous year (21/22)



In 22/23 there were 39 MARACs and 1172 cases heard. This is three fewer MARACs and 14 fewer cases than 21/22, meaning the cases per meeting in 22/23 was higher (28.2 in 21/22 compared to 30.1 in 22/23)

% of referrals to MARAC in 22/23 that are:



Comparison to previous year (21/22):

- Repeat cases decreased from 31.3% of all referrals
- Police referrals decreased from 72.3% of all referrals
- Proportion that are BME increased from 23.8%
- LGBT increased from 1.6%
- Proportion with a disability decreased from 36.5%
- Proportion that were male victims increased from 8%
- 16 - 17 yr old victims increased from 2.6%

Training

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IDAS are commissioned to provide free training on domestic abuse for the Sheffield workforce

- **1314 people trained** (target 1200)
- **98% rated the courses as good or higher**
- 211 were trained in coercive control
- 161 were trained on DASH and MARAC
- Top attendees were staff from:
Sheffield City Council Housing,
Children's Social Care, Sheffield
Children's NHS FT, Sheffield Teaching
Hospitals NHSFT, Sheffield Health
and Social Care

Strategy Implementation

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- Sheffield has two strategies at present covering this area. This is because a new statutory requirement was introduced in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to have a [Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy](#). This was agreed in October 2021 and continues to be implemented:
 - 17 actions have been completed
 - 12 actions are in progress
 - 8 actions are still in preparation
- The [Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy](#) was agreed in 2018 and is still being implemented
 - 28 actions have been completed
 - 18 actions are in progress
 - 5 actions are still in preparation

Strategy Achievements:

commissioning

- Supported accommodation for [young women](#) has been increased by 6 units
- Support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse was recommissioned combining together 3 smaller contracts to provide support to children and young people with the greatest needs and extending this to those living in safe accommodation. The contract was won by [Haven](#).
- The new Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation contract was commissioned for the provision of women's refuges and safe accommodation for males and LGBT+ victims / survivors. This will increase the number of units to 70 family and individual units with support by the end of 2024. [IDAS](#) won the contract in partnership with [Sheffield Women's Aid](#)
- Counselling for adults in domestic abuse safe accommodation was won by Sheffield Mind to provide the [Safe Space](#) service



Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy

Issues to be
resolved...

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The strategy highlights that **continued work is needed to understand why some victims / survivors leave Sheffield to take up safe accommodation elsewhere** – is this because of demand on services in Sheffield? Is it because they can't be kept safe in Sheffield or are people making positive choices to leave the city?

And with huge pressure on homelessness pathways in Sheffield this means that issues such as **what do when perpetrators of domestic abuse need housing** are difficult to resolve – but we know that not housing perpetrators can put victims/ survivors and their children at risk.

Strategy Achievements: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

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- Sheffield City Council agreed a motion in November 2021 to join the [White Ribbon Campaign](#) and do all it can to prevent male violence against women and girls.
- Being part of the Campaign involves the Council taking a number of actions and initiatives to promote and raise awareness of the issues and the White Ribbon Campaign. A steering group of officers from across the Council was set up, chaired by Tom Smith, Director of Operational Services. Initial accreditation with White Ribbon was secured in November 2022 in time for White Ribbon Day.
- On White Ribbon Day staff were encouraged to wear White Ribbons and a range of internal communications was delivered through different channels, including the Whole Council staff events, press releases and videos.
- The next stage is to secure full accreditation is for the Council to develop and sign off a 3 year Action Plan which will show what further actions we will take to widen the engagement and awareness of the Campaign and the issue across the Council and with wider partners in the City.
- The plan is to align these actions in a new strategy in 2024 to cover Violence Against Women And Girls in its entirety, and domestic / sexual abuse experienced by all genders, and including the plans to maintain the city's White Ribbon status.



Strategy Achievements: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence Against Women and Girls Forum

- This group was started in February 2022 in response to the nationally high profile murders of women the previous year. It is open to anyone who identifies as a woman and membership includes individuals, representatives of community groups and campaigns, representatives from partner organisations, elected members and Council Officers. The group is member led and discusses issues of interest to members but has been consulted with e.g. in relation to the [Sheffield Women's Safety at Night Charter](#) and the design of Sheffield Against Sexual Harassment campaign materials.

Strategy Achievements: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

- Ask for Angela is a scheme that supports licensed premises to assist anyone who is being harassed or feeling unsafe on a night out. 16 premises and organisations received training and model policies in 2022.
- Suzy Lamplugh Trust workshops on responding safely to street harassment were promoted and a Sheffield specific workshop was promoted to organisations and businesses in July 2022.



Strategy Achievements: Justice for victims

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Increasing the proportion of perpetrators that are prosecuted successfully: Sheffield Domestic Abuse First Hearing Court

- The South Yorkshire Domestic Abuse first hearing court convened at the Sheffield Magistrates Court on 7 June 2022 and has run weekly since that time. It hears both Guilty Anticipated Plea and Not Guilty Anticipated Plea cases as well as domestic abuse Pre-Sentence Report cases and applications for Domestic Violence Protection Orders and applications to vary restraining orders.
- **The model reduces delay and provides timely support for victims.** A District Judge and a specialist Domestic Abuse Prosecutor are assigned to each court hearing. IDVAs contact victims prior to the hearings and provide their views to the court on the day – which is ‘invaluable’ according to the CPS. The success of the Sheffield court has meant the model is now being rolled out in Barnsley and Doncaster.

Strategy Achievements: Young People

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- Young People's DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment & 'Honour' Based Abuse) Risk Assessment.
- Reporting into the Learning and Practice Improvement Group of the Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Board, in 2022/23 the DACT led Under 16s Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group took a multi-agency approach to the development and implementation of a specialist risk assessment tool for young people experiencing abuse in their relationships.
- After a successful period of testing the tool, the [Young Person's DASH](#) and accompanying guidance were published in October 2022. As a result, there has been a small but noticeable increase in the numbers of high-risk young victim/survivors being heard at MARAC with 2.7% of those heard aged 16 and 17.
- 'The YP DASH process helped to build trust and an open, honest conversation with the client and by the end of the conversation the client expressed that she would like to explore therapy options to talk about her experiences further. I felt this was a very positive outcome for her' (Professional Feedback)
- 'I understood all the things my IDVA was asking me about and liked it wasn't all just about "what my boyfriend has done to me". It let me talk to my IDVA about other things and my feelings'. (Feedback from a 17 year old victim/survivor).

Strategy Achievements: Improving Whole Family Working



During 2022/23 the Strengthening Families team in Children's Services continued to embed the [Safe and Together](#) Model and its core principles across Children's Social Care but also to partners via regular briefings and the first Overview Days on the model. In total there were 113 workers trained in the 4 Day Core training and many more workers have attended briefing sessions and Overview Days.

The Safe and Together Model consists of 3 principles with 5 critical components:

1. Keeping the child safe and together with non-offending parent (Safety / Healing from Trauma / Stability and Nurturance)
2. Partnering with the non-offending parent as a default position (Efficient / Effective / Child-centred)
3. Intervening with the Perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child (Engagement / Accountability / Courts)

The 5 critical components are about recognising:

1. Perpetrator's pattern of coercive control
2. Action taken by the perpetrator to harm the child
3. Full spectrum of non-offending parent's efforts to promote child safety and wellbeing
4. Adverse impact of perpetrator's behaviour on the child
5. Role of substance abuse, mental health, culture and other socioeconomic factors



Strategy Achievements:

Improving Whole Family Working: *Safe and Together*

Positive outcomes due to use of the model include the following example:

- a family that had been in private proceedings for three years and had been in the family court arena 5 times in 5 years,
- father using the court system as a method to continue his abuse post separation and alleging 'parental alienation' by the mother.
- The Strengthening Families team focused on using the model to enhance the Social Worker's documentation submitted to court for the final hearing.
- The court statement clearly identified the impact of the current and historical abuse on the children and evidenced no trace of 'parental alienation'
- This led to the Judge acknowledging in court that the father continued to perpetrate abuse and imposing an order which prevents the father bringing the matter back to court for 2 years.
- The Judge gave specific thanks in Court to Social Care and Strengthening Families for the support offered to the family.

The impact of the model is also being felt across case work, in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference Meetings, and in case reviews. There is still more to be done in terms of holding parents / carers who are perpetrators of domestic abuse to account for their behaviour and being clear that such behaviour is a parenting choice, but good progress is being made.



Strategy Achievements Prevention



● Escape The TRAP: Preventing Teen Dating Abuse



Supporting young people so that they understand about healthy relationships:

30 professionals working across Sheffield both were trained to deliver [Escape the TRAP](#). This is a programme created to help all young people to recognise abusive behaviours and how they affect them. The programme also helps young people to consider their expectations of relationships and what kind of partner they would like, as well as the kind of partner they would like to be.

Staff from IDAS, SAYiT, Young Women's Housing Project, Children's Social Care, Haven, Youth Services and Family Intervention Services received the training and are offering the programme in groups and one to one. Trainees said:

- *My awareness has increased 100%.*
- *Training has definitely improved my confidence in this area. I have accessed my 'inner teen' and thought back to how I felt at the time. I feel I am more aware of the issues that teenagers may face how their perceptions of this. The impact*
- *I have a better understanding of the different personas and behaviours of a controlling relationship and am more able to identify the early warning signs.*

What do survivors and victims think?

Haven offered intensive support to 164 children to help them to recover from the trauma of domestic abuse during the year. Professionals described the service as supporting children well, that Haven staff were efficient, supportive, informative, very helpful, very professional and friendly and that they would absolutely and definitely recommend Haven's services.

- *"The worker was very professional and friendly. Arrived promptly. The children loved their time working with Lauren"* (Ann's Grove Primary)
- *"Great communication and a supportive member of the team"* (Safeguarding Manager Newfield School)
- *'Thank you so much for all your support. I feel that you have really helped me to grow over the last few months. I enjoyed all of your sessions and I feel that I understand my emotions better now. You made something difficult a lot easier to talk about. Thank you for listening and making me feel heard.'* (Child's feedback Q2 22/23)

haven
for children & young people
affected by domestic abuse

What do survivors and victims think?



Ansaria – a Mind case study

- Ansaria was in an abusive marriage for 29 years. During assessment, she stated that she did not realise what was happening in the home was abuse until she left in 2019 as her ex-husband's behaviour was culturally normalised and tolerated within the family system. She felt like she was the person at fault for years, although she knew somewhere in her heart that wasn't true. Ansaria was frightened when she started therapy, she was unable to sit with her back to a door and was worried she was permanently cognitively impaired due to the abuse.
- Her first image depicts her dominant feelings and her shattered heart which she covered with a tissue to symbolically protect it from scrutiny and harm. Along the bottom, Ansaria depicted herself as a black figure, walking with a depiction of the therapist (in green) towards hopeful imagery.



What do victims and survivors think?

Mind case study

- Through the work, Ansaria began to explore the family dynamics she had been living within for so many years and reframing her experience. By looking at the family system through a different lens, Ansaria began to conceptualise herself differently. Later in the work, Ansaria began to access her feelings in more depth and was able to sit with and honour her pain without judgement. Although this stage of the work was painful, self-belief and hope were beginning to germinate. During the final 3 sessions, Ansaria chose to directly confront the abuse she was subjected to by the perpetrator and express what he was truly like as a person.
- In her feedback Ansaria said *'Thank you for being a big part of my healing journey and for helping me finally lay my past to rest'*
- Ansaria gave her permission for her story to be shared and said, *'I never realised how effective creative psychotherapy could be. It certainly is a safe way of releasing trapped trauma'*



Door43 at Sheffield Futures

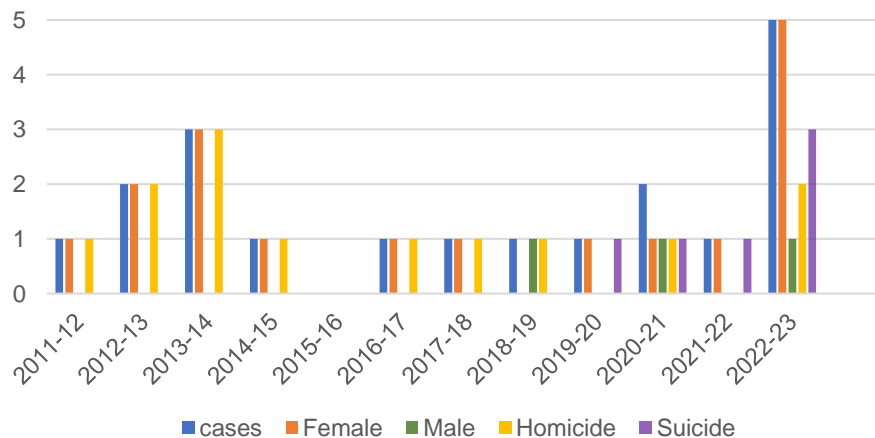
Megan – a D43 case study

- Megan, a 16 year old young person residing in refuge, was referred to the Door 43 Domestic Abuse Counselling project for their emotional health and wellbeing, social isolation, and due to previous abuse experienced by a family member.
- Megan came to her first therapy session appearing withdrawn and disconnected from the world around her. Over time she began to identify and describe her experiences which appeared as though she was living in a state of hyper-independence (likely as a result of coping with the trauma). For Megan some of this hyper-independence was displayed through not wanting to ask/accept help and becoming isolated in social situations. Therefore, her engagement with myself seemed like something to be celebrated! Throughout her 16 sessions, Megan began to see her relationships through a new lens, assisted by a reflective journal that she began to bring along to explore. When considering the counselling Megan identified that counselling sessions helped “a lot”, she felt more relaxed and specified that she now approached her peers and felt as if she could have healthy, balanced relationships.

What do victims and survivors think?

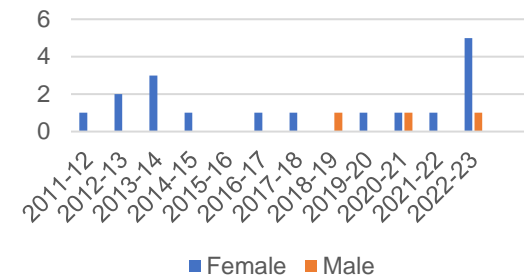
Domestic Homicide Reviews

Since 2011 until end March 2023 **18 statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)** have been completed or started in Sheffield with 19 victims. The charts below show the breakdown of gender and the numbers of cases that have been homicides plus the increasing number of suicides. This reflects the increased identification of domestic abuse related suicides by agencies such as the Police rather than a rise in suicides themselves.

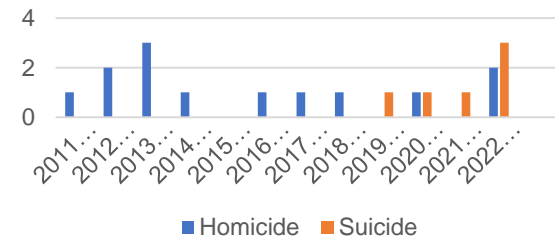


Annual Report 2022/23 - Domestic and Sexual Abuse, Violence Against Women and Girls

male / female



Homicide / Suicide



Learning from DHRs

Learning from DHRs (and Domestic Abuse Serious Incident Reviews) is disseminated through [Learning Briefs](#) and through the quarterly [Safeguarding Adults Reviews / Domestic Homicide Reviews newsletter](#).

Coercive Control Conference 2023

- In response to learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, and in line with changes in the Domestic Abuse Act which strengthened the law on coercive control, DACT hosted a conference on Coercive Control in February 2023.
- The conference was attended face to face by 100 professionals and livestreamed to a further 45. The event itself was very successful and featured guest speakers, including the world-renowned expert on Coercive Control, Dr Emma Katz and an incredibly impactful talk from Ryan Hart about his own experience of coercive control as a child, as well as a powerful presentation from a Sheffield survivor about her experience of post separation abuse and the family courts.
- 91% of attendees to the conference fed back at the end that they felt 'more confident in recognising coercive control'.
- *'Really liked the hybrid set up. I was glad to be here in person but having such quality guest speakers virtually worked really well. Nailed it! One of the best conferences I've ever attended'. (Delegate feedback)*
- *'Excellent day. Lots of material to take away and consider. Speakers were informative and consolidated learning. Thank you for hosting this eventful conference'. (Delegate feedback)*
- *'I wanted to share how much I enjoyed the event, it really given me food for thought. Every speaker was excellent, the whole day was planned so well'. (Delegate feedback)*



Budget and spending

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Income	
2022-23	
Sheffield City Council	1,272,600
Clinical Commissioning Group (Integrated Care Board)	48,794
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	171,937
Sheffield Safer Communities Partnership	29,000
South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit	10,000
DLUHC safe accommodation funding	1,329,538
DLUHC Safe accommodation underspend 2122	8,734
Total income	2,870,603
Expenditure	
Commissioned contracts and grants	2,795,690
Staff costs	74,113
Publicity	3,000
Coercive control conference	3,800
Total Expenditure	2,876,603

Conclusions

Sheffield has some high-quality services offering invaluable support to victims and survivors in the city. However, there are some areas where there are pressures:

- *For every victim / survivor / family affected by domestic or sexual abuse there is at least one perpetrator. The cost to individuals and society is high. If we believe that people can change then there needs to be good quality / evidence-based support to help them do this. **A funding stream for programmes to support perpetrators of abuse who want to change their behaviour needs to be identified.***
- ***The specialist service provision for children and young people to support their recovery from domestic and sexual abuse does not meet demand or need.** Over 26,000 children each year have a parent or carer affected and hundreds more are directly abused themselves. Lack of support to recover from the impact of this abuse or trauma can result in reduced life chances.*
- ***Commissioned therapeutic services to enable adults to recover from the impact of domestic and sexual abuse cannot meet the demand or need.** The impact of trauma impacts on emotional health and wellbeing with knock on effects on employment, relationships and the ability to positively contribute .*
- ***It is likely that the demand for domestic and sexual abuse support will continue to rise** because of increased public awareness and ongoing societal issues. Cost of living pressures have caused staff retention issues for providers and mean that less support can be offered with available resources. The pressure on services impacts disproportionately on those who find it most difficult to access support in the first place e.g.: black and minoritised people, LGBT+ people, disabled people*
- ***Ending violence and abuse requires society level change.** Sheffield City Council has committed to the White Ribbon campaign to lead by example. This needs to be an ongoing commitment, embedded into every day working and become business as usual.*

Recommendations

- It is recommended that a business case for increased investment in support services for adults, and children, and behaviour change programmes for perpetrators is considered at a strategic level.
- It is recommended that non resource intensive solutions are maintained:
 - Development of community champions to promote early intervention and confidence in the wider workforce and including in underserved communities
 - Easy to access self guided support resources are developed for people who would appreciate this option
 - Ongoing strategic commitment to campaigns such as White Ribbon

Appendix

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Governance Structure

The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board acts as the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Local Partnership Board and reports to the Safer Sheffield Partnership Board

Membership of the board comprises statutory partners (Police, Health, Probation plus Housing and Social Care) plus key commissioned providers and reps from non commissioned providers

The **board meeting** is two hours long with commissioning discussions held in closed sessions when providers are not present

