



# **A Cry for Health: Why we must invest in domestic abuse services in hospitals**



# Findings from our research

- Our study looked at the impact of locating Idvas in A&E or maternity in 5 hospitals
- We found that this led to identification of extremely vulnerable victims, the majority of whom had children
- We are calling for Idvas to be located in every hospital in the UK at an average cost of £100,000 per site
- An annual saving to the public purse of £2,050 per victim in health service use was estimated.

**£15.7m**



the cost of securing a team of specialist  
Idvas for every NHS acute provider in England

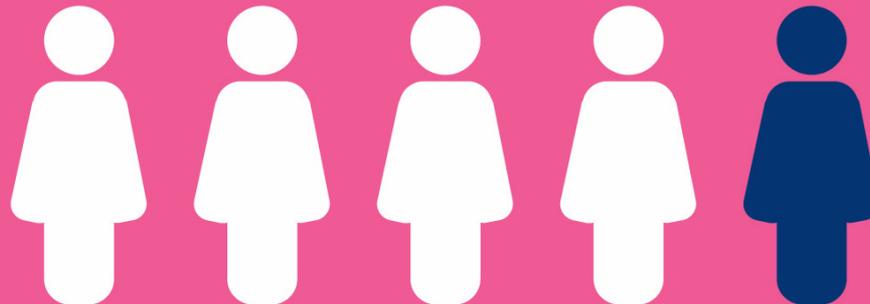
**Ending domestic abuse**



## Most people don't go to the police

- **42%** of victims in hospital had **not contacted the police**, compared with 23% of victims seen in the community.

The British Crime Survey found that 4 in 5 victims of domestic abuse don't tell the police



# But they are trying to tell other professionals

**2.6**  
years



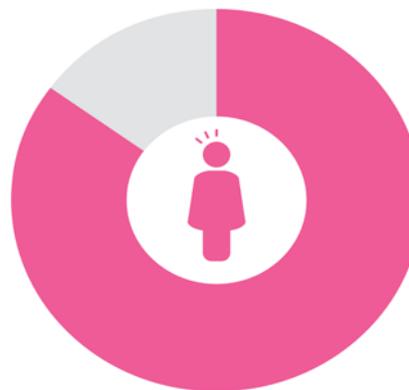
**HIGH  
RISK**

**3**  
years



**MEDIUM  
RISK**

85% of victims sought help  
from professionals on average



**5**  
times

in the year before they got effective  
help to stop the abuse



**Ending domestic abuse**

# Health is where help is sought

The Crime Survey for England and Wales reports that

**486,720** 

of victims experiencing partner abuse in the last year sought medical assistance

A&E Doctor: *“coming to hospital equals place of safety and expect confidentiality”.*

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# Victims identified through hospital have different needs and risks



In a relationship and earlier stage in the relationship



Living with the perpetrator

**Ending domestic abuse**



# Victims identified through hospital have different needs and risk



Higher severity sexual and/or physical abuse



Pregnancy

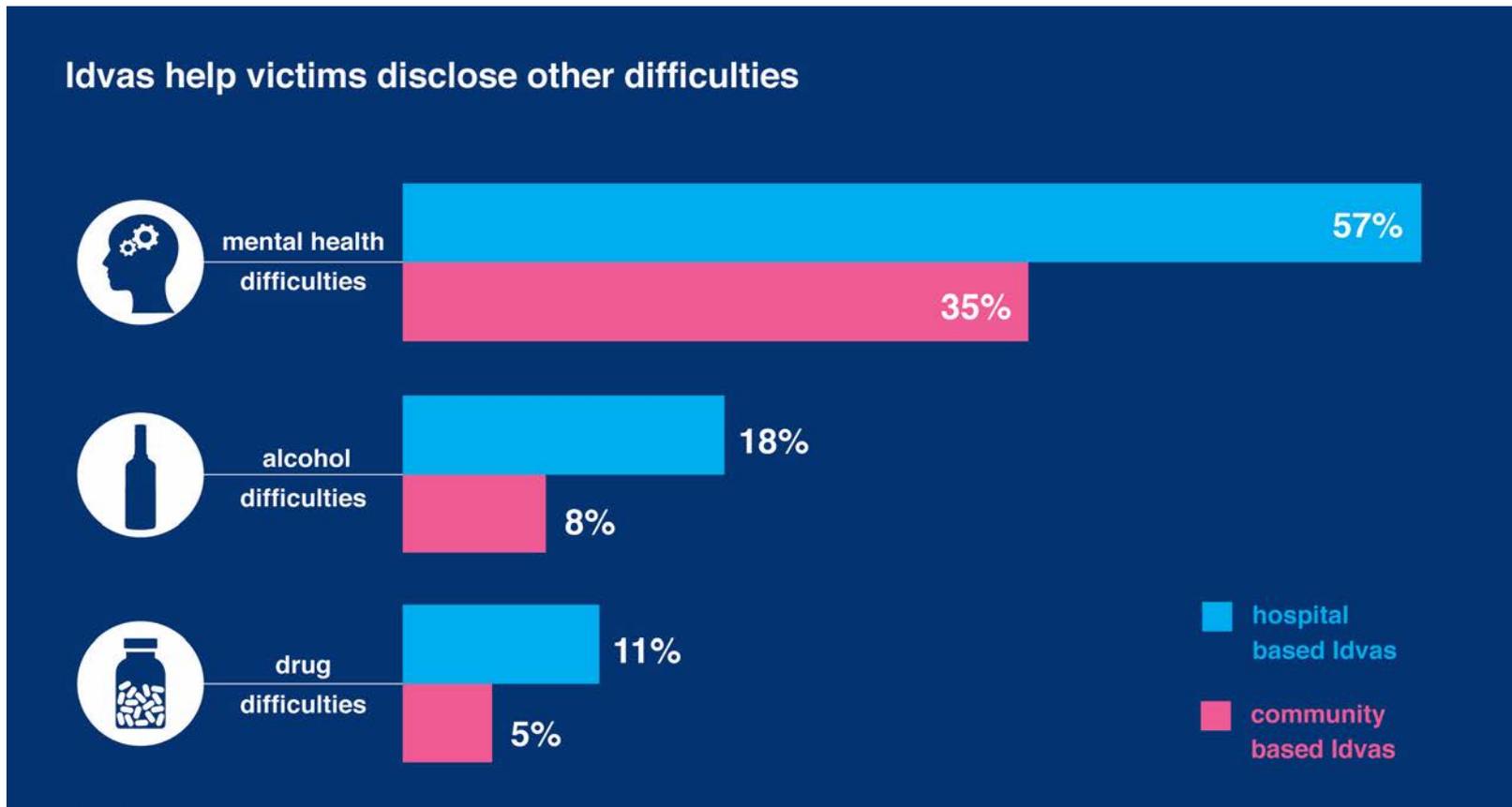


Younger



Children

# Overlapping safeguarding issues and vulnerabilities



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# Women are harmed and harm themselves

*“Domestic violence and abuse poses a major challenge to public health, social care and health care services, yet often goes unrecognised by professionals in those sectors.”*

Gene Feder, GP & Professor of Primary Care, University of Bristol and  
Chair of Themis Expert Panel

According to research by Sylvia Walby, an estimated 1 in 8 of all suicides and suicide attempts by women in the UK are due to domestic abuse. This equates to just under

**200 women**

a year dying and nearly

**10,000**

attempting suicide each year because of domestic abuse



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# The cost of domestic abuse to health services

The cost of domestic abuse to health services

**£1.73bn**



With mental health costs  
estimated at an additional

**£176m**



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## NHS staff need support too

**51,355**



**NHS staff are likely to have experienced abuse in the past 12 months**

**This breaks down as 44,825 women and 6,530 men**



## The role of the hospital Idva





# The role of the hospital Idva



Immediate support and advice



Linking victims and their children to the support they need



Providing expert training, advice and support to hospital staff.

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# Engaging Hospital Clients

**Condensing  
long-term  
support and  
safety planning**

**Challenging belief  
systems;  
responding to risk**

**Emotive and  
distressing  
environment**

**Changing our  
understanding of  
'impact' as an A&E  
service**

**Remaining  
independent**



# The Experience of the IDSVAs

## Medical vs Social Models

High stress and public environment

Changing ideas of 'impact'

Challenging stereotypes and stigmas

Inspiring positive and proactive responses

Responding to institutional hierarchy

Remaining independent



# Initiating Change

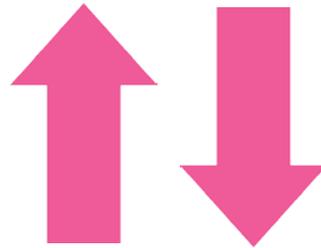
## Top Down

Strategic Guidance  
Safeguarding Leads

Steering Groups

Building Relationships

Stakeholders



## Bottom up

Front-line Staff  
Training

Staff Inductions

Staff Drop-ins

Building  
Relationships

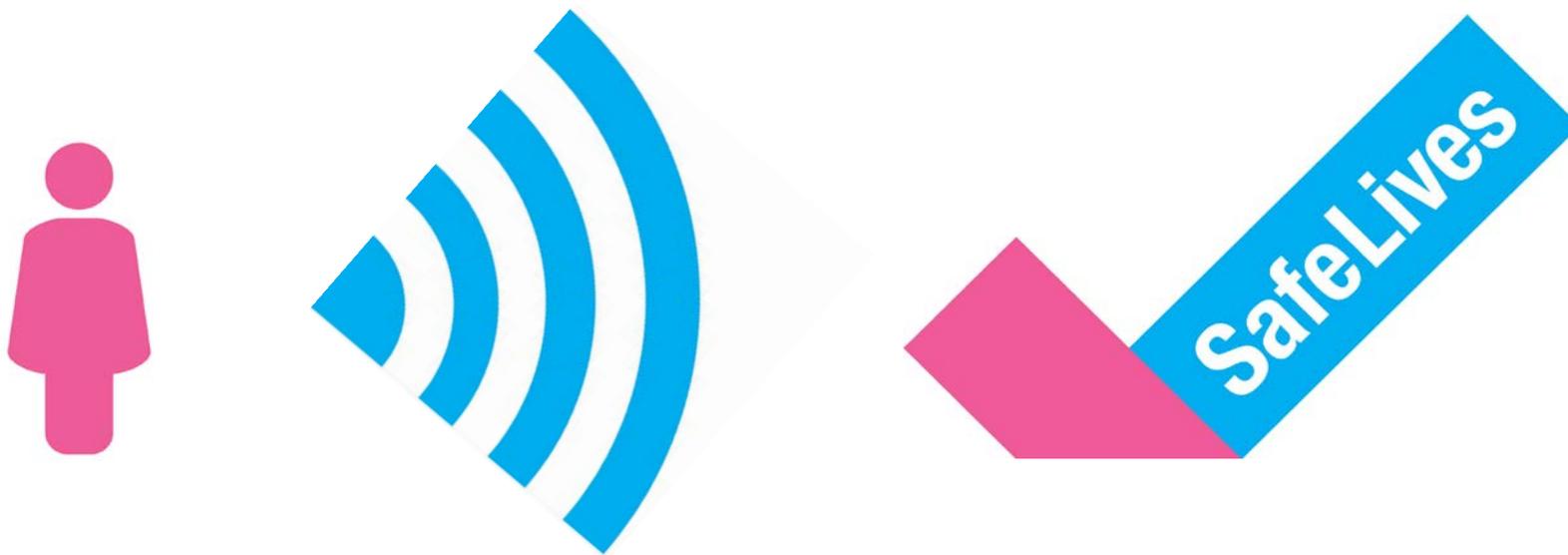
Becoming Familiar

Creating Toolkits

# What next?

- Target to double number of hospital-based Idva services by April 2018 – focus on CCGs and Public Health in LAs
- New health training product for LAP
- Consultancy to offer ‘health checks’ to Local Authorities across primary, acute and mental health services
- KH to help support local areas who want to introduce hospital based Idvas
- Public Affairs to keep making the case at a national level and gain senior political buy-in for the model

# SafeLives is listening



**Get in touch:**

[info@safelives.org.uk](mailto:info@safelives.org.uk)

Twitter [@safelives\\_](https://twitter.com/safelives_)

Facebook.com/safelives.uk

[deidre.cartwright@safelives.org.uk](mailto:deidre.cartwright@safelives.org.uk)

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