



We are building a network of services that support adult and child victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Scotland. Through six sessions held monthly we will share practice, voice questions and draw on the expertise of colleagues in the sector, as we look to COVID-19 recovery planning



A wide range of specialist and mainstream service managers, practitioners and strategic leads expressed interest in the network

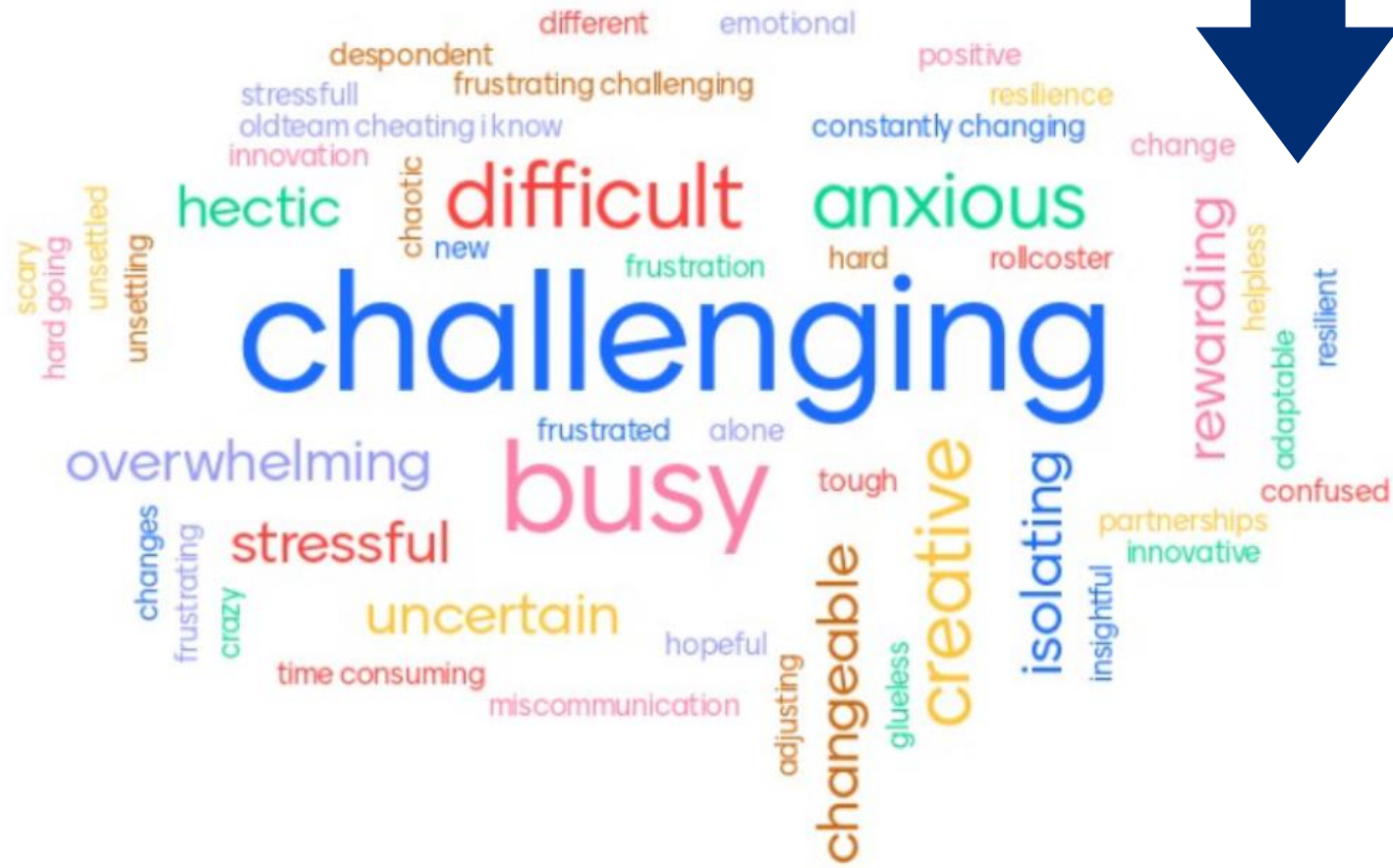
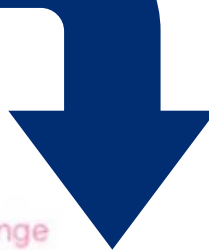
The main reasons people wanted to participate were to:

- Share information
- Develop practice
- Network



50+ professionals working with domestic abuse across Scotland participated in the first virtual meeting on 17th June

We asked attendees to describe the last three months...



Biggest challenges for services moving out of lockdown phase 1

Capacity



Maintaining service delivery with increased referrals and less availability from partners.
Delays with court proceedings.

Safety



Attempting safe face-to-face contact with service-users.
Managing home/office communication or safe office working.



Meeting staff needs

Ensuring safe working practices. Training new staff effectively.
Childcare issues.
Wellbeing.

What do services need?

Staff



Sustained, secure funding to build teams that can meet the expected increase in demand.
Providing recovery services.

Resources to meet wellbeing needs of staff (mental health, vicarious trauma, burnout, work conditions, external supervision).

Logistics



Appropriate spaces and resources to provide safe face-to-face support.

Support to grow digital spaces (technology, digital literacy for clients, staff training and guidance on safety).

Clarity



Clear guidance from local and national government, and others such as courts.
Communicated from managers to frontline.

Partners



More flexibility and availability from partner agencies, especially statutory mental health & housing. Improved multi-agency communication.

What next?

- The next network meeting will focus on **staff wellbeing** during the pandemic
- We'll speak to victims and survivors across Scotland as well as many more professionals through two short **surveys** released in July
- We'll feed back to Scottish Government and others on what we hear