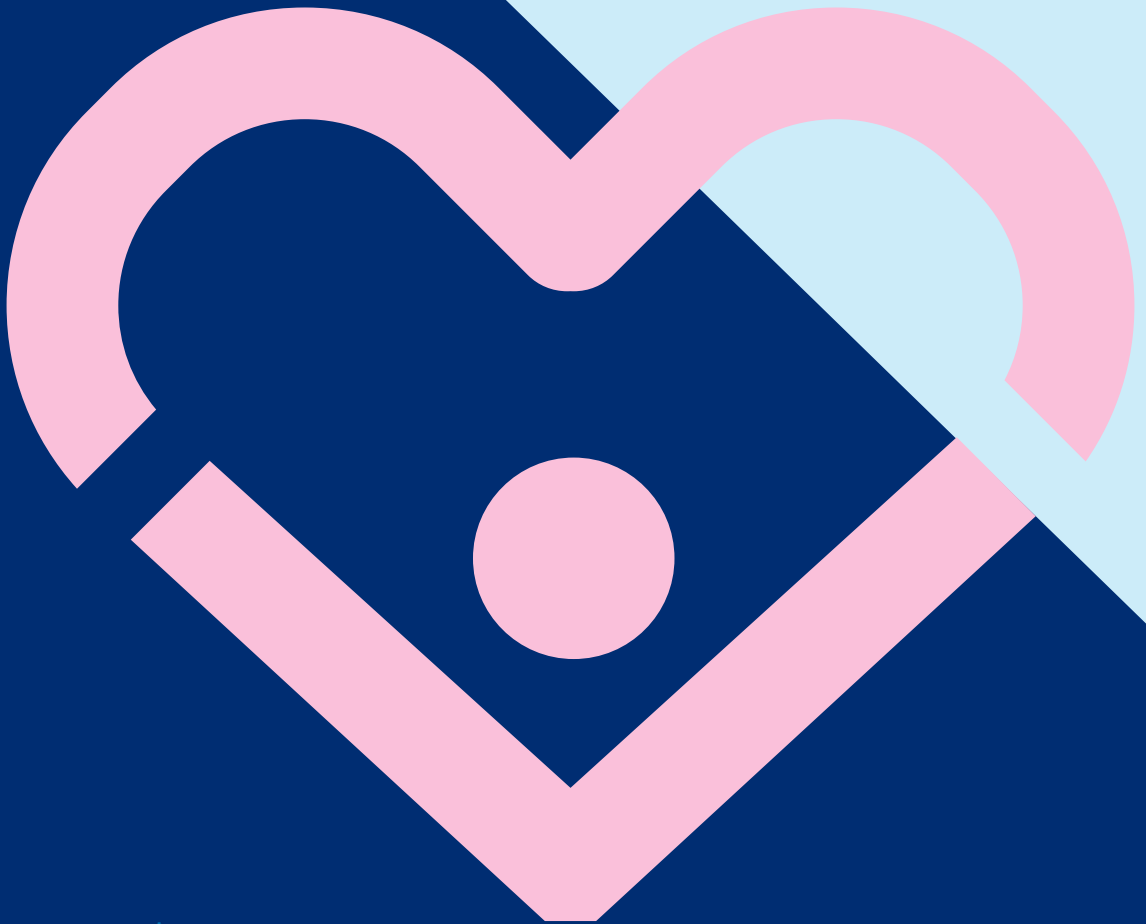


Impact Report

2021–22



Safe Lives

Ending
domestic
abuse



Impact Report

2021–22

Contents

Sentence case headings

4 Chief Executive Introduction

8 Our Strategy

24 **Strategic Priorities**

26 **Strategic priority 1:**
Act before somebody
harms or is harmed

40 **Strategic priority 2:**
Identify and stop harmful
behaviour

44 **Strategic priority 3:**
Increase safety for all
those at risk

58 **Strategic priority 4:**
Support people to live
the lives they want after
harm occurs

70 **Strategic priority 5:**
An effective and sustainable
organisation

76 **Our finances**

78 **Funders**

I would like to thank everyone involved for this opportunity I have enjoyed every minute, you are smashing it keep doing what you are doing you truly are an inspiration. With people like you at the helm am more than confident the world will become a safer place. Thanks again.

IDAA PARTICIPANT

Chief Executive introduction

After many years of hard work and continuous campaigning by us and many colleague organisations, it's beginning to feel like domestic abuse is finally being taken seriously as a societal issue.



Covid has been an accelerant for this, as everyone was suddenly trapped at home. It's also testament, though, to the increasing number of victim/survivors of domestic abuse across the UK who are speaking out to make change.

No one owes the world their story, but those who can and choose to make their story public are making a difference to hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, of others.

This year SafeLives Pioneers and our Authentic Voice Panel Scotland have been at the forefront of influencing national policy, changing attitudes, and driving change at a local level. Pioneers and fellow survivors were proud participants in the I Am photography exhibition in Manchester in spring, which was opened by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall (now Her Majesty The Queen Consort).

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan (2022) for England and Wales were published, paving the way for making a whole raft of changes

that will improve support for victims of domestic abuse. We are particularly pleased that children are now considered victims in their own right. Appropriate support for them must follow.

We welcome the recognition of Idvas (Independent domestic violence advisors) who victims themselves reported as making more positive difference to them than any other official service. We will continue to call for community-based support of all types to be placed on the same statutory footing as accommodation services, and we want to see more investment in small specialist organisations that support marginalised victims of domestic abuse. We remain hopeful that the Victim's Bill will address some of these outstanding issues.

For the first time we can see the national conversation starting to change from 'why doesn't she leave' to 'why doesn't he stop', with the publication of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy. Together, we need to pivot to the perpetrator, and stop blaming victims for the abuse perpetrated upon them.

We must talk about it more – in the media, in places of work, normalise it without accepting it and helping people have the courage on the outside to challenge it. If we can fundamentally change attitudes around drink driving and smoking – surely we can start to raise awareness and address domestic abuse in the same way. If survivors, children and young people get behind this – we can change the future.

SURVIVOR

Stopping abuse before it starts is the best way to reduce and prevent harm. Over the past year we have continued our Safe Young Lives work, a connected range of projects that support young people to develop healthier attitudes and behaviours in intimate relationships that they can carry forwards through their lives. The Your Best Friend project is a real highlight, reaching five million young people with advice, and funding nearly 40 grassroots organisations to work with young people in their communities. We continued to bring men and boys into our conversations, and their voices will be critical in our work for the future.

At SafeLives we're known for our high-quality research, and this year we delivered a number of research projects that break new

ground – including building our understanding of how harming behaviour begins; and about how domestic abuse affects victims who are blind or visually impaired. We also hold ourselves to a 'so what?' commitment about our work – everything we find out in research should have a link into frontline practice and operations.

Over the past year we continued to evolve our whole family approach, supporting more than 20 local areas to review how they are supporting victim/survivors of domestic abuse, and working alongside them to improve service delivery.

We continue to make an impact at the frontline, delivering domestic abuse training to almost 14,000 learners in the past year

alone. This year we also reached a huge milestone, having delivered Domestic Abuse Matters training to more than 50,000 police officers, including every force in Wales and Scotland (and most of England!)

The hard work continues. The cost of living crisis is already increasing risk for adult and child victims of domestic abuse and impacting funding amounts and security for frontline services. And whilst we are pleased that understanding about domestic abuse is growing, there remains an epidemic of violence against women and girls, and worrying public discourse that reinforces dated tropes about how victims 'should' behave.

Our own organisation also has to continue to change. As our published stocktakes on our EEDI work show, we as an organisation still have a great deal of improvement to make, as well as making change in the world and society.

There are real challenges ahead of us. But we remain totally committed to doing what it takes to stop domestic abuse, for everyone and for good. Thank you to everyone who stands with us.

Suzanne Jacob OBE
CEO, SafeLives

Delivering a whole family approach in 21 local areas in England

Your Best Friend

Drive Partnership positive impact on the lives of 11k adult and child survivors **since first launching**

Recognition of the importance and value of the Idva in the Victim's Bill

Domestic abuse included in the Strategic Policing Requirement in England

Domestic Abuse Matters training delivered to more than 50,000 police officers since launch

Domestic abuse recognised in the **Serious Violence Duty**

Our strategy

Our strategy sets out our roadmap to ending domestic abuse, for everyone, for good.

Our priorities address all aspects of domestic abuse, from a focus on building the healthy attitudes that reduce the likelihood of harmful behaviours occurring, to tackling perpetrator behaviour, ensuring the whole family gets an appropriate, joined-up response at the right time, and supporting people to recover from abuse.

We refreshed our strategy in 2021, strengthening our work with young people, and investing in bringing men and boys into the conversation. You can read about the progress we're making and our next steps in the following sections that set out what we've been doing to deliver each of our strategic priorities.

Influencing policy and building capabilities at the frontline are important enablers and work has continued apace in both of these areas in the past year.



Influencing UK policy

Influencing and shaping UK policy is a vital aspect of our work towards ending domestic abuse, for everyone, for good. We do this in a number of ways, from providing evidence for policy consultations to presenting research and good practice at events across the UK.

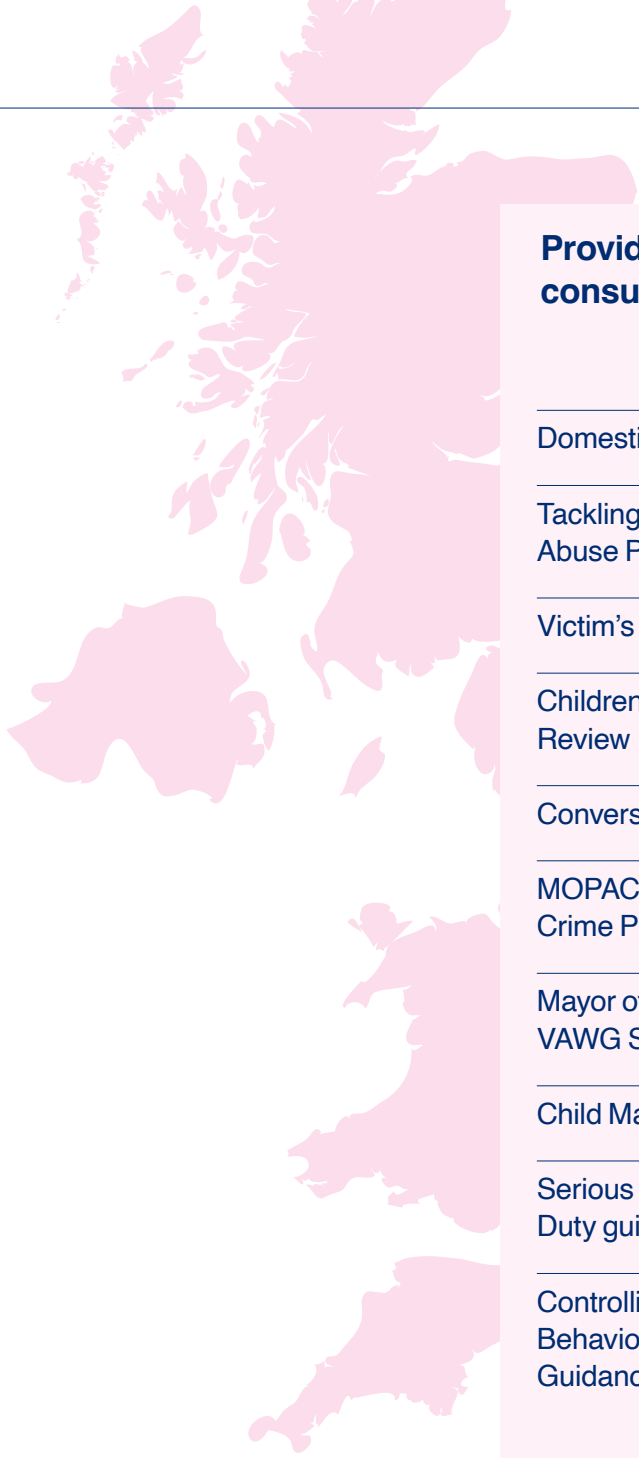
After years of careful policy and public affairs work, we are pleased that many of our priorities are reflected in the Westminster Government’s Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan (2022). The Plan recognises the vital importance of Idvas (Independent domestic violence advisors) in supporting victim survivors of domestic abuse to access the range of services they need to reach safety. The Plan also recognises the need to focus on early prevention, and tackling perpetrators, which we believe are essential elements in stopping harm.

As part of the Drive Partnership with Respect and Social Finance, we published a set of recommendations for the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy for England and Wales, calling for investment in perpetrator interventions and recognising that a joined-up approach is needed to safeguard victims

and families and stop abuse. We are pleased many of our recommendations have been reflected in the new legislation and the Domestic Abuse Plan, and we will be working on securing effective approaches and interventions in the year ahead.

It is significant progress that the Strategic Policing Requirement for England and Wales has established domestic abuse as a priority alongside other serious crimes, and that the Serious Violence Prevention Duty in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 also now includes domestic abuse and we will continue to work on ensuring this work is funded and resourced accordingly.

We submitted evidence to the Westminster Government’s Victim’s Bill (2022) consultation and gave oral evidence to the pre-legislative scrutiny committee in the summer. We welcome the inclusion of a statutory definition of Idvas in the draft, as well as the duty on local authorities, police and crime commissioners and the NHS to collaborate on commissioning support services. We will continue to call for a firewall between migrant victims of domestic abuse with insecure immigration status and immigration enforcement officials.



Providing evidence to inform consultation and policy development

Domestic Abuse Act

CPS Domestic Abuse Policy Statement

Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan

Ministry of Justice Legal Aid Means Test Review

Victim’s Bill

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (known as Clare’s Law)

Children’s Social Care Review

Conversion Therapy

Independent Strategic Review of Funding and Commissioning of VAWG (Scotland)

MOPAC Policing and Crime Plan

Mayor of London’s VAWG Strategy

Victims’ Experiences of the Justice System (Scotland)

Child Maintenance System

Serious Violence Statutory Duty guidance

Controlling and Coercive Behaviour Statutory Guidance



In September 2021 with the support of pro bono volunteers we submitted to the Westminster Government our report Investing to Save : Domestic abuse and the Comprehensive Spending Review, which demonstrates the human and financial cost of failing to invest in tackling domestic abuse, particularly for children. We will

continue to call for Governments in the UK to take a pan-departmental view of domestic abuse. A joined-up approach is essential to stopping domestic abuse and this means investing in prevention, a multi-agency response for the whole family, a trauma-informed family justice system, and a focus on tackling those who use harmful behaviour

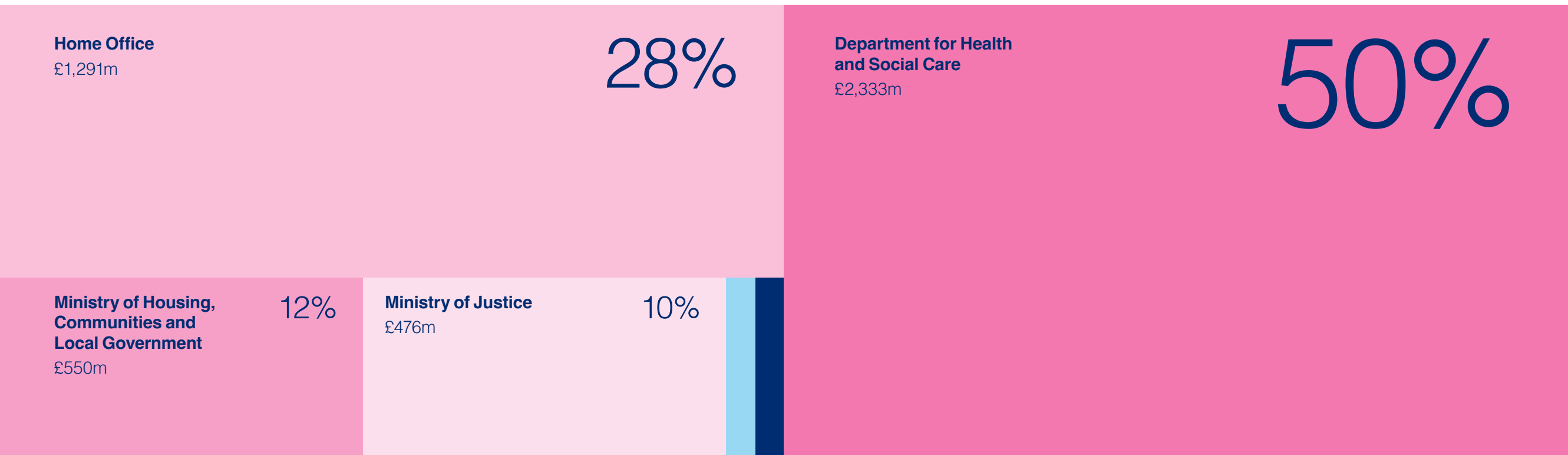
The Drive Partnership coordinates the Action on Perpetrators network which now has more than 125 members. The Drive team also act as the secretariat for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Strategic Reference Group on Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and supports the secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. We are really pleased that

these efforts have influenced national legislation and policy. Tackling perpetrator behaviour is now accepted as a cornerstone of ending domestic abuse, though the development of frontline responses and policy looks different in different parts of the UK.

Home Office figures for the cash costs of domestic abuse to government departments in England and Wales each year

Figures from 2016/17

- Other £11m
- DWP £4m



Sharing research and good practice at events and meetings

European Conference of Domestic Violence 2021

Whole Picture strategy presented at the Vision for Women's Health conference, and a meeting of national MAPPA chairs

Presented to Greater London Authority Police and Crime Committee hearing 2021



In Spring 2022 we signed a joint letter with 70 organisations calling for the Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention without reservations that would allow exclusions for migrant women from key protections.

We consulted with the Scottish Authentic Voice Panel and frontline services in the Safer, Sooner Domestic Abuse Network to submit a response to the Scottish Government's Independent Strategic Review of Funding and Commissioning of Violence Against Women and Girls. We also responded to the Scottish Government's consultation on Victims' Experiences of the Justice System, focusing on the importance of a trauma-informed justice system and the need for a Victim's Commissioner for Scotland. We received positive feedback from stakeholders, including in the joint response to the call for evidence from the National Violence Against Women and

Gender Based Violence and Health networks - which highlighted the Scotland Authentic Voice Panel as an example of good practice. We will continue to make the case for an improved strategic response to perpetrators of abuse in Scotland, as at the moment provision is less extensive than in Wales and England.

Throughout the year we continued to support Sistah Space in campaigning for Valerie's Law. This campaign calls for mandatory cultural competency training for the police and other agencies to acknowledge and protect Black women in abusive situations. The petition was debated in Westminster Parliament and we will continue to work with Sistah Space to see this implemented.



Building capabilities for those responding at the frontline

Developing knowledge and skills

Delivering training on domestic abuse to upskill practitioners is essential to building capabilities at the frontline, so that victims and families get the best possible advice and support.

We increased our training delivery significantly last year. In total, we trained nearly 14,000 people. This included over 9,600 police officers through the Domestic Abuse Matters cultural change programme developed by SafeLives for the College of

Policing, right through to employees at a whole range of companies including Urban Outfitters, Ogilvy and Publicis, as well professionally accredited courses for frontline workers in specialist voluntary sector organisations. Bursaries were available for the smallest organisations to access these courses.

In England and Wales, victims of domestic abuse overwhelmingly rated Idvas (Independent domestic violence advisors) as the best of all professional services available¹, demonstrating how critical this role is in aiding victims to reach safety and access the support they need. We were delighted to be able to scale up our flagship accredited Idva training programme this year, doubling the number of Idvas we trained to over 350, thanks to the support of the Ministry of Justice and the Welsh Government, and training 105 service managers.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-domestic-abuse-plan

I think this is an extremely valuable training for any Idva to complete. The information, materials and knowledge facilitators and experts provided was brilliant.

—
IDVA COURSE
LEARNER



In Scotland, our Idaa (Independent domestic abuse advisor) accredited training delivered in partnership with ASSIST and Scottish Women's Aid remained in high demand, and we are pleased to have trained 241 Idaas last year. This is more important than ever – for the first time Scotland has a functioning multi-agency system (Marac) in every local authority, as a result of our team's persistent advocacy, and provision of clear data about the difference Marac makes.

More than 680 learners from a range of sectors attended training sessions in Scotland that aim to build capacity in local areas to identify and respond to domestic abuse. This is having a positive impact on the ground, with one Housing Inspector subsequently reporting he was able to identify that property damage had been caused during a domestic abuse incident and so could make an appropriate response.

A really informative and thought provoking course. Looking at all risks and appropriate interventions to mitigate those risks through the Marac process.

MARAC COURSE LEARNER

Building on the Engage model (a whole family way of working to reduce the dangers from domestic abuse) which we originally piloted in our Beacon sites, we have been working with MyCWA and psychologist Emily Alison to develop a training course for frontline professionals to increase their confidence in working with those who use harmful behaviour. 200 learners completed the course in Cheshire and Tameside this year, and it will be delivered in North Wales in 2022-23.

As a result of working with local teams to improve their systemic response to domestic abuse, we are also seeing an increase in local authority interest in Working with Families training, which we delivered to social care teams in a number of areas in England in the past year.

We also offer bespoke training, tailored to the needs of local systems and services, which we delivered to more than 2,000 learners across the UK last year, on subjects including domestic abuse awareness, Marac, young people, sexual violence, safety planning, and the Dash risk assessment tool.

If you would like to know more about our training offer please contact training@safelives.org.uk

Domestic Abuse Matters

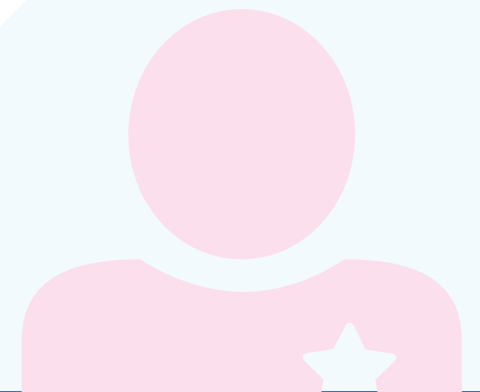
The Domestic Abuse Matters cultural change programme for the police has gone from strength to strength in the past year. We have now trained a critical mass of first responders in police forces of Scotland and Wales in Domestic Abuse Matters and continued to work with Thames Valley, Gwent, Dorset and Cleveland and started work with forces in North and South Wales, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Cumbria, Avon and Somerset, and the City of London. We also delivered an ambitious programme to the Metropolitan Police.

Since we developed and first implemented the programme in 2015, we have delivered Domestic Abuse Matters training to more than 50,000 officers in 30 different forces. Through this period the programme has been evolved to incorporate legislative changes including the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018.

We have also been delivering specialist modules Workshops for Cops in England and Wales since the beginning of the pandemic, to improve the police response to abuse. This was commended by the College of Policing as an example of innovative practice.

In Scotland, with the Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Unit, we have been working with partners to develop an extension to the Domestic Abuse Matters Scotland programme for Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Champions Network comprising six sessions on children, trauma, tech abuse, South Asian women's experiences, multi-agency systems for keeping people safe, and the application of the Domestic Abuse Scotland Act.

This work is having a significant impact, but we know there is much more still to do as the terrible crimes of the past couple of years demonstrate. The DA Matters culture change programme is an important step on the journey, but the police must go much further to root out misogynistic and racist attitudes and behaviours. Victims of domestic abuse must be able to trust that the police will respond sensitively, appropriately and fairly – and they won't have confidence whilst those who abuse their authority and perpetrate domestic abuse remain amongst the ranks.



Assuring quality

Leading Lights is our accreditation scheme for domestic abuse provision, giving frontline organisations, partner agencies, commissioners and victim survivors assurance that the support on offer meets the highest quality standards. More than 50 services were accredited last year, four of which are new services. Service manager accreditation is one of the key prerequisites of the Leading Lights scheme, and we supported many staff through this programme last year, driving up quality at a local level.

In March 2022 we were awarded Victim Centred Approach Funding by the Scottish Government to develop an accreditation system for services providing domestic abuse court advocacy across Scotland. Over the next three years we will work in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including ASSIST as expert partner to develop national standards for service provision that are strengths-based, evidence-led and survivor-informed to improve experience and outcomes for victim survivors in the court system.

Valuable opportunity to network and engage with other service managers and reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the service, and develop goals and action plans towards best practice.

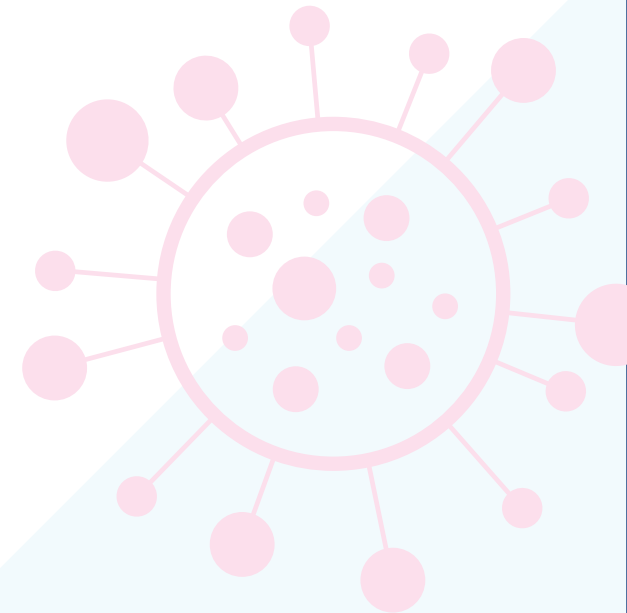
— ACCREDITED SERVICE
MANAGER LEARNER



Supporting frontline services

Covid-19

In November 2021 we published the final Shadow Pandemic report, the result of a partnership of 11 organisations work together to understand the impact of Covid-19 on victims of domestic abuse, perpetrators and practitioners. The report found the complexity and severity of domestic abuse increased during the pandemic, and that victims facing inequality and discrimination due to race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, immigration status and economic hardship were disproportionately affected. It was also clear that impact on mental health was a significant feature of domestic abuse in the pandemic. Frontline professionals suffered vicarious trauma, and there was evidence of chronic burnout. But of course, staff have been resilient and committed to reaching into victims and families despite the many barriers.



The sector worked together to take action to address some of the immediate issues faced by victims and survivors during the pandemic. But our research found improvement is needed beyond the pandemic. These findings must inform future service commissioning and delivery. As a sector we must recognise that victims and survivors from marginalised communities still do not get the support they need, and events such as the pandemic reinforce structural inequalities and increase risk. We are determined to keep this high on the agenda in the UK's response to the current cost of living crisis.

Recommendations for the future

- 1 Address structural inequalities in the current system
- 2 Support all Black and racially minoritised women, lesbian and bisexual women, migrant women, deaf women, disabled women, and trans people in culturally relevant and respectful ways
- 3 Address the exclusion of migrant survivors of domestic abuse from public and third sector services, ensuring frontline workers are trained in immigration issues, and have access to interpreters

A stand out for me this week was the opportunity to attend the Safer Sooner network...it was incredible (and emotional) to have so many of us who were around during the first few years of the domestic abuse court and ASSIST on the same platform. We are all still here, in different organisations, believing in the importance of this work continuing.

FIONA MCMULLEN,
OPERATIONS
MANAGER, ASSIST

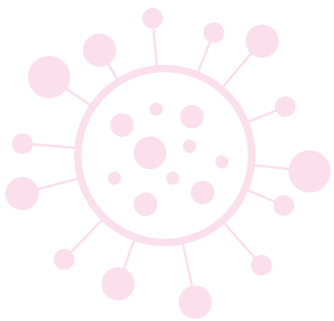
SafeLives networks

Our online SafeLives Community continues to grow, providing a space to connect with almost 3000 domestic abuse workers and other professionals working in the sector, and our regular CEO's call with frontline services provides a valuable connection for participants. In Scotland, our Covid group evolved into the Safer Sooner network for domestic abuse professionals. Already more than 70 people from the public and third sector have joined to share good practice, experiences and challenges.

Recruitment and retention in the sector

In building capability at the frontline, we know we must recognise the challenges of working in the domestic abuse sector, and ensure we are collectively supporting the workforce. In the summer we hosted a 'Great Resignation' event to discuss recruitment and retention. More than 40 sector leaders attended and shared their views. We are now exploring funding opportunities to take forward workforce development.

Drive Partnership is also working closely with H.O.P.E. Training to build capacity and confidence among professionals from racialised communities working in the violence against women and girls sector.



Strategic Priorities

Our strategic priorities set out our roadmap to ending domestic abuse.

For everyone. For good.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY**Act before somebody harms or is harmed**

Increasingly we are focusing on stopping domestic abuse before it starts, to prevent harm, and reduce its lifelong and generational impact.

Safe Young Lives

Over the past year we have continued our Safe Young Lives programme – a connected range of projects that aim to promote healthier behaviours and attitudes towards relationships in young people, as well as developing our understanding of how and why abusive behaviours begin, so appropriate action can be taken to prevent harm. We are developing a five year strategy for our Safe Young Lives programme,

consolidating our learning from the research we have done and projects we have successfully implemented with partners.

Putting survivor voices at the heart and start of our work is one of our core principles, so young people have been involved every step of the way, from steering the direction of travel to developing survey questions and designing campaigns.

Like your instincts are telling you that there's something wrong but...maybe you've never experienced love before and you're, no, this is what people have been talking about, this is what love is meant to feel like

YOUNG PERSON
20-24

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Act before somebody harms or is harmed

Sound of Silence panel

As well as involving young people throughout our Safe Young Lives programme, this year we have evolved the Sound of Silence panel, which brings together young changemakers to influence how organisations in the sector work with young people.

The ideas put forward by young people have the potential to be more innovative and inclusive than those thought up by adults for a younger generation that is living in a completely different environment to both adults now and young people in the past.

YOUNG CHANGEMAKER

Sound of Silence activities



Contributed to the Victim's Bill consultation



Newsround interview about toxic relationships



Co-created RSE research



Listening Rooms with the police, sharing views and making recommendations



Consulted about plans to bring men and boys into the domestic abuse conversation

Your Best Friend

Your Best Friend is an ambitious and innovative £1.5m Tampon Tax-funded project involving 11 partners. It aims to equip girls, young women and non-binary people aged 13-24 with the knowledge to spot red flags in their friends' intimate relationships and give them the confidence to offer support.

Last summer we conducted a comprehensive survey and held focus groups to build our understanding of the challenges young people face in their relationships. The results were eye-opening.

I had a friend who...felt that they had to send nudes...to people who they were dating online, and it was quite scary having to be on the end, having to persuade them not to do it, because it can be a really, really damaging thing. And I think it was also that everyone else around her was doing the same thing, so it was, sort of, normalised

YOUNG PERSON (13-16)

Your Best Friend partnership



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Act before somebody harms or is harmed

Controlling behaviours are so commonplace, and confused with socially-accepted ideas of love, that they're seen as normal or even desirable – and this prevents young people from recognising signs of abuse. The survey also found that young people are worried about their friends' relationships, but don't know how to have a conversation about their concerns.


Key insights for us and the wider domestic abuse sector when engaging with young people is that they have a completely different language for describing abusive behaviours. Girls, young women and non-binary people get their information from Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat, and they are highly unlikely to seek support from traditional domestic abuse services.

The abuse young people are experiencing is widespread, and it is concerning that they are developing attitudes towards relationship dynamics that are likely to cause harm throughout their lives.

Your Best Friend research

 **Survey translated into 5 languages**

 **641 responses**

 **16 focus groups**

Themes

- 1 Immediate online pressures
- 2 The commonness of control
- 3 The power gap
- 4 Blinded by butterflies
- 5 Opening their eyes
- 6 Treading a fine line
- 7 The time to step in
- 8 Easier said than done
- 9 Feeling helpless
- 10 Seeking support
- 11 It's not normal...the real impact


Over the past year the Your Best Friend partnership has been working with young people to take action to address this epidemic of abuse. Young people have designed and launched a multimedia campaign comprising a film, podcasts, workshops, animation, and graphics, placed where young people spend their time such


as shopping centres and cinemas, and across Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat. The campaign has reached more than five million young people in the UK. The interactive Snapchat campaign invited young people to add their comments. 25,000 young people swiped to access more information about toxic relationships.

Reaching young people

1.5m
Shopping centre posters


40,500
Tiktok content


11,800
Film teaser


947,000
Instagram ads


35,000
Twitter


10,000
Facebook


61,000
Video ads


25,000
Website


1,700
Film

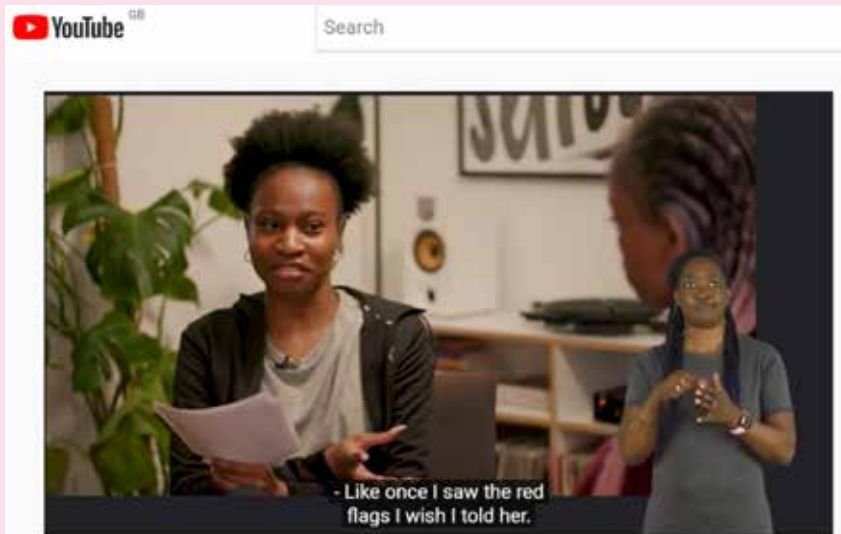

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Act before somebody harms or is harmed

Building on the campaign, Your Best Friend has awarded £300,000 to 38 grassroots organisations in England and Wales to take the research findings into direct work with local young people to build positive attitudes about healthy intimate relationships.

These organisations are best placed to make a real impact for the young people in

their own communities. This funding will be spent on a wide range of innovative initiatives, testing out new ways to engage, and reaching marginalised groups. Resources produced by the grassroots organisations will be published on the Your Best Friend website and learning shared to inform future work with young people.



Friends Can Tell Episode 4: "I've carried this burden that it was my fault"

I have friends who in the name of having a boyfriend, don't hang out with any other person...it's like they're in a cage...they love the cage for like two months...but after that they realise that, a cage is a cage no matter how designed and beautiful it is...and I think a lot of relationships with young people nowadays is like a cage. They're just trapping each other.

YOUNG PERSON, (13-16 YEARS)



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Act before somebody harms or is harmed



Your Best Friend grants:

Creation of online games for trans and gender diverse young people (Gendered Intelligence, UK-wide)

Relationship sessions on the Your Best Friend research themes (Rio Ferdinand Foundation, UK-wide)

Four educational animations and online campaign (Brook Young People, UK-wide)

Healthy relationship courses and online resources (Rochdale Connections Trust)

Support sessions and workshops (Wigton Youth Station)

Peer support sessions for migrant girls and women (Sandwell African Women Association)

Educational resources (Exposure Organisation Ltd, London)

Arts sessions and social media campaign (YPPA, Rotherham)

Drama resources (Act On It, East Sussex)

Workshops and peer support resources (Angles and Monsters, Leicester)

Nine week educational programme (Ascend SW CIC, Torquay)

Weekly art and music projects for racially minoritised young people (Baby People, Derby)

Series of short films (Wicked Winters Films, Bournemouth)

20 weeks of participatory theatre for disabled young people (Next Door But One CIC, York)

Resources for organisations that work with young people (FiLiA, Wales)

Educational film and workshops (Teens2Thrive, Peterborough)

Talking circles and social activities (Earth Moves Cooperative, Wallasey)

Resources on toxic behaviours and spiritual abuse (St Philips, Leicester)

Interactive workshops for young skaters (The YOU Foundation, Bristol)

Series of short films and connected workshops (People Empowered CIC, Merseyside)

Sexual health, and self-defence workshops, and theatre sessions (Bridgend College)

Conversations with racially minoritised young people (Utulivu Women's Group, Berkshire)

Creative and wellbeing activities for young Latvians (Latvian Community Association, Peterborough)

Educational resources for young people with learning disabilities and autism (Spring into Action, Accrington)

Weekly group for Slovakian Roma girls (Lindley Educational Trust, Sheffield)

Culturally appropriate workshops for the young Orthodox Jewish community (Goldstar Creative Marketing, London)

Empowerment sessions for young people (St Helens The Best Me CIC)

Healthy relationship film (Lads West Yorkshire)

Forum educational theatre (Pen & Paper Theatre, Barry)

Self-defence and socialising after school club (Warrior Martial Arts & Boxing CIC, Pontypool)

Series of short films about red flags (Endure Mentoring, London)

Monthly workshops and resources for South Asian girls and women (Bollyfit Active CIC, Manchester)

90 participatory arts sessions with disadvantaged young people (Arts Connection, Powys)

Resources for autistic girls, young women and gender diverse people (Autism Wellbeing CIC, Brechfa)

A year of early intervention workshops by mentors with lived experience for care-affected girls and young women (Sister System, London)

12 workshops, creative videos, social media campaign and residential sessions for young people (Fight For Peace – Lutadoros, London)

Weekly creative and social workshops (Sgiliau CBC, Caerphilly)

Transmedia storytelling social media resources (Independent Domestic Abuse Services, York)]

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Act before somebody harms or is harmed

The verge of harm(ing)

To stop abuse before it starts, it is essential to develop our understanding of how and why harming behaviour begins. Over the past year, we have been undertaking research, learning about the circumstances in which young people start using abusive behaviours, and starting to explore the approaches that might be effective in building healthier relationship attitudes.

This ground-breaking research comprised surveys, focus groups, workshops and interviews with young people and practitioners and our analysis offers unique insights into young people’s relationships. We will build on this to gather more insight on young men’s relationships and have already created a model of support and guidance for organisations that work with young people that do harm.

Verge of harm(ing) research findings

Q **Interconnectedness of relationships**

Abuse in the home is normalised, and reinforced in peer relationships, early intimate relationships, and by the media.

Q **A gendered experience**

Relationships are governed by a gender hierarchy based on expectation and acceptance of male coercion and female responsabilisation.

Q **Improving relationship literacy**

Relationship education needs to begin early and be reinforced over time, extending to wider society so young people can observe healthy relationships.

Q **Four pillars of support**

Support should be holistic and tailored to the young person and their context, provided in a safe space, in a supportive rather than punitive way, building a positive working relationship.

Relationship and sex education (RSE) research project

This year we were funded to undertake an exploratory study into how the new healthy relationships curriculum in secondary schools has been developed and resourced, the experience of teachers in delivering it, and how it is experienced by young people.

We partnered with six secondary schools in England and worked with the Sound of Silence Panel to conduct surveys, interviews and focus groups with pupils and teachers.

Gathering insight

5	expert interviews
1,025	survey responses from school pupils
63	survey responses from teachers
12	interviews with teachers
7	focus groups with young people

RSE research findings

- Q RSE classes are not received in the same way by girls and boys
- Q Boys want to learn more about how to manage their friendships and family relationships
- Q Boys want to know more about how to avoid peer pressure to be involved in gangs and crime
- Q Boys are interested in how to show vulnerability and behave in long term relationships
- Q Boys are interested in learning about emotional literacy, and how to speak up about their feelings and relationships in a more open way

We will publish the report findings and recommendations in Autumn 2022.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Act before somebody harms or is harmed

Men and boys voices

To end domestic abuse, we need to bring men and boys into the conversation. In 2019 we started engaging with men and boys about their attitudes and behaviours, and since produced a resource pack, podcast and webinar to support practitioners to have conversations with young people they work with. We have now started to build a coalition of organisations that work in men and boys spaces so that together we can tackle the issues they are experiencing, including being socialised into the misogyny that paves the way to perpetrating control and violence. We have had conversations with a broad range of stakeholders, and found that there is no single pathway into harmful behaviour for men and boys, but that the presence of a number of factors* often shape young people's views and experiences of relationships.

- Exposure to violence in childhood
- Presence of community norms that support gendered violence
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Harmful ideas of masculinity and gender norms
- Extra-familial exploitation

We believe engaging with men and boys must be a key priority in the societal response to stopping violence against women and girls and will continue to progress this work in the coming months. It's clear from our work to date that very few interventions are currently created with the specific needs and experiences of boys and young men in mind. That needs to change.



The messages you have growing up about what a 'man' is, I think have changed completely. I think some of the qualities of men wanting to be a breadwinner...that still feels masculine, but it's the softer stuff that I think we've got permission to do now. You're not seen as weak if you express yourself or if you've got problems.

STUART, RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

*A cycle of violence starting in the home is not deterministic – there is also evidence that young people who experience domestic abuse can develop higher levels of awareness about harmful behaviour and a desire to be in healthy relationships because of their adverse experience.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Identify and stop harmful behaviour

After many years campaigning, the narrative about domestic abuse is beginning to change, with increasing recognition that perpetrators must be held to account for their behaviour and actions.

Drive Partnership

The Drive Partnership (Respect, SafeLives and Social Finance) has continued to support local teams to deliver this ground-breaking intervention for high-risk perpetrators of domestic abuse in 10 areas across England and Wales this year.

The Partnership has delivered multiple training and development sessions tailored to each site's areas for improvement, including targeted workshops on responding to and learning from critical incidents; data protection; adult and child victim support; language; mental health and complex needs; using Digital Behaviour therapy; and behaviour change work with young people with autism.

Drive Partnership

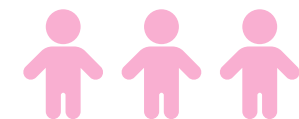


Delivered in **10 areas**

Working with **1190 perpetrators**



Supporting **1319 adult victim survivors**



Working with **2602 child survivors**

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Identify and stop harmful behaviour

The Drive team has also developed Restart, a new partnership-led multi-agency approach in five London boroughs, which identifies and responds to patterns of standard to medium risk domestic abuse for families engaged with Children's Social Care - improving safety, housing and long-term outcomes for adult and child victim-survivors.



The Partnership has been pushing for systemic change during the year to tackle four significant gaps:

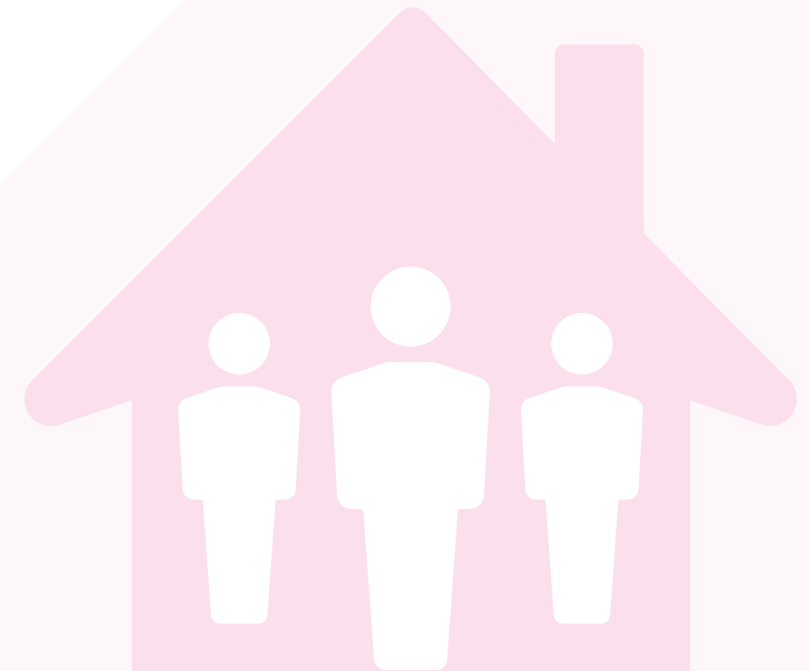
Children's Social Care – changing general policy and practice, and working with children associated with Drive (high-risk perpetration)

Racialised communities – focusing on workforce and leadership development and building the evidence base for culturally responsive intervention

Housing – Restart, and exploring interest and opportunities to develop the feasibility of social investment in housing pathways/ models for perpetrators

LGBT+ communities - conducting a literature overview and a deep dive audit of relevant Drive cases to develop an action plan to address identified themes

Within SafeLives, we have developed a new training course - Engaging With Those Who Harm – referenced in the Capabilities section above. The course has been delivered to 200 practitioners and builds confidence and skills for any professional who interacts with perpetrators of domestic abuse, so they are equipped to hold perpetrators to account and assess their readiness to engage in in-depth behaviour change work, and in use of referral pathways.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Increase safety for all those at risk

To increase safety for everyone at risk of harm, all the component parts of a local system must work together to identify victims of abuse, and ensure they get the full range of support they need.

Domestic abuse – the current picture

Domestic abuse is everybody's business, and last year we provided advice and support to **36 organisations** including Urban Outfitters, Ogilvy and Publicis to develop policies to support staff and customers who may be victims of domestic abuse; and partnered with Surviving Economic Abuse to train Natwest on coercive control and economic abuse.

We continue to collect data, monitor prevalence, analyse trends, and scrutinise demographics and representation, all of which are critical to building our understanding of the scale and impact of domestic abuse in the UK, and how best to respond.

Our Marac* dataset forms a national picture of Marac cases and presents the most accurate prevalence available of high-risk domestic abuse across the UK. We also gather data from services working with adult and child victim/survivors and perpetrators, illustrating their experiences and the support they receive. This is invaluable in helping us identify inconsistencies in outcomes for

victim/survivors and indicates where improvements and interventions may be needed.

In Scotland, we are gradually building our evidence and understanding to review and improve support for victims, identifying barriers and gaps including listening to the voices of survivors across the nation.

In 2021/22, 80,000 adults, who between them were parents and carers for 100,000 children, were referred to Maracs in the UK. The total number of cases seen at Marac rose by 4% on 2020/21, continuing the trend of year-on-year increases and up by 30% compared with five years ago. 15.4% of victims referred to Marac are Black, Asian or racially minoritised, despite comprising 18.1% of the population so are under-represented. We don't currently have access to more granular data which would tell us which ethnic groups, specifically, these victim/survivors come from. We hope we can improve on this in future.

*Multi-agency risk assessment conferences assess cases of those victims of domestic abuse who are deemed to be at the highest risk of serious harm, and work together to ensure appropriate safeguarding support is put in place.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase safety for all those at risk

The number of victims of domestic abuse with a disability seen at Marac increased from 7.9% to 8.5% in the past year, but disabled people comprise 21% of the population so this figure is still much too low. Likewise, the number of adult victim/survivors identified as being from LGBT+ communities was only 1.4%, compared with data from various sources which suggests the figure is more likely between 2.5% and 5.8% within the population. Overall, these figures show that either identification, referral, recording or a combination of these factors is leaving many communities under-served by the Marac process.

It is essential that Scotland has a national Marac Development programme; this allows for consistency across local authority areas and works towards closing the gap between the evaluated model Marac and localised versions.

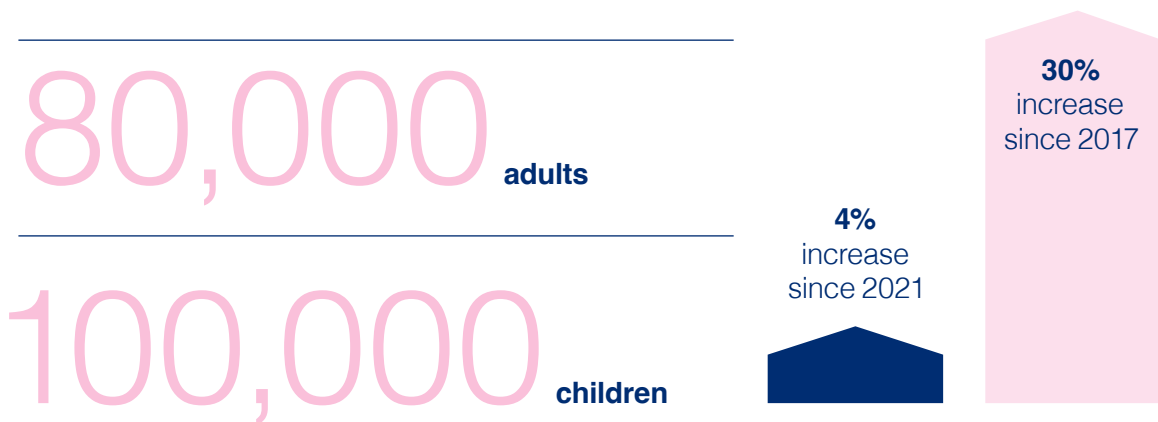
SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITY VAW COORDINATOR

In summer 2021, we delivered six free training sessions to 126 Scottish Marac representatives and chairs, as part of the Marac Development Programme (MDP), all highly rated, with one session achieving a Net Promoter Score of 100. With new Delivering Equally Safe funding from the Scottish Government, we built on this success and launched Safer Sooner - a project to improve multi-agency capability, consistency and capacity, with Marac firmly at its core. As well as continuing to provide direct support to local Scottish Maracs we have been able to strengthen our insight into local and national practice by building our data capability, developing links with more small and specialist services, and working with the Authentic Voice Panel to understand Marac from a survivor perspective. A key aim of Safer Sooner is to open up the pathways into Marac for everyone who needs that response, especially victims who are currently under-represented.

The course was extremely helpful and there was lots of new and useful information I gathered in the training in regards to referrals to Marac and the process

MARAC COURSE PARTICIPANT

2021/2022 cases reviewed at Marac



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase safety for all those at risk

Our approach for the whole family

We are experts in working alongside local areas to improve the response to domestic abuse, so that the needs of the whole family are considered, perpetrators tackled, and victims have swift access to the full range of support that will ensure their safety.

Leading on from our work in ‘Beacon’ pilot sites, over the past year we have further evolved and innovated our approach to supporting 21 local areas in England to work together to implement systemic change. Our principles of data, voice and practice are embedded in the process, so that change is insight-driven, the voice of survivors heard, and best practice followed. This involves reaching beyond immediate responders, to include developing relationships with NHS commissioners, and building confidence in children’s social care and adult safeguarding workforces.

Working with local systems to design a better response for the whole family

1. Define the problem – collect and analyse data from a range of sources including Marac, professionals, victims, families and perpetrators to build a picture of current practice and outcomes
2. Identify risk and protective factors – define gaps, opportunities and risks in the system across prevention, early intervention and response
3. Develop and test – work with services and families to co-develop solutions
4. Implementation at scale – work alongside local systems to scale up proven interventions and ways of working, and evaluate impact and cost benefit

Understanding the local picture




We have lots of meetings about domestic abuse, but this is the first time we have had survivors in the room being part of the conversation, it is fantastic.


PRACTICE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase safety for all those at risk

Voice of survivors


 **Survivors identified mental health as a key area of need**, yet many found that there were not enough mental health services offering long term support.


 **Poor communication between agencies** led to survivors retelling their stories which many found re-traumatising and encouraged a disengagement with services.


 Many survivors told us that **court was not a safe environment** and judges and lawyers had poor awareness of domestic abuse and associated trauma.

 Survivors who had children told us **there was not enough good quality support available for children** who have experienced domestic abuse.


 Whilst some agencies are generally well trained in domestic abuse, there are clear **gaps and areas for improvement**, particularly training on those who harm.

 Professionals identified **mental health support as a key need for both survivors and those who harm** and described gaps in this support across areas.

 **Communication and information sharing could be improved** by more efficient processes and improved multi-agency relationships.

 **Marac attendance was inconsistent across areas**, and there was evidence of some professional uncertainty around risk management and criteria for referral to Marac.

 Many **people were motivated to address their harmful behaviours** in order to maintain relationships with their children.

 Participants who had accessed support were generally **positive about the service and the outcomes** for their behaviour.

 Barriers to support included **a lack of understanding of healthy relationships** and a lack of information about available services.

 **I felt validated and believed.**

SURVIVOR

This valuable insight enables us to work alongside local areas to co-create better approaches, systems and processes to improve experiences and outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their families. Improvement plans are tailored to local circumstances, and generally entail:

All agencies involved seeing the picture of domestic abuse for the whole family

- Better engagement with victims and their families every step of the way
- Putting survivors at the heart and start of reviewing and redeveloping service provision
- Ensuring appropriate services are available to meet the specific needs of marginalised victims and families
- Addressing the mental health needs of adult and child victims of domestic abuse
- Providing interventions to tackle perpetrator behaviour.

Through this work in local areas we are continuously building a detailed picture of what works and what doesn't, driving innovation and continuously improving our approach to support delivery of the very best practice.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase safety for all those at risk

Whole Lives Scotland

Whole Lives Scotland, a three year National Lottery Community Fund project concluded in November 2021 with the publication of the Whole Lives Impact Report. The project involved a wide range of statutory and voluntary services, and survivors of domestic abuse, and aimed to assess how

well support is working for all victims and families. The project worked closely in three local authority areas, and undertook deep dives into experiences of victims with mental health conditions, learning disabilities and younger people.

Whole Lives Scotland

Worked with **3 Violence Against Women Partnerships**

205 practitioners completed surveys

Mapped activities of **42 services**

377 people completed the national survivor survey

Domestic abuse awareness raising tool

8400 unique visitors in 2021-2022

On average **862 unique visitors per month**

24,792 unique visitors since launch in August 2020

Developing knowledge and guidance

Multi-agency review of honour-based abuse and forced marriage in Scotland

Responding safely to counter-allegations

Inclusive frontline service provision for trans and gender diverse victims

Key findings

- Domestic abuse affects health, causes financial challenges, employment issues and housing problems
- Many victims don't access specialist services due to lack of knowledge or perceived stigma
- Minoritised victims experienced additional barriers to accessing support
- Support isn't always joined-up
- Victim and survivor voice is often missing from discussions from commissioning, service provision and risk-planning

Impact

WholeLives Scotland culminated in a series of outputs that aim to improve the experiences of all victims and survivors, including:

- Mental health and domestic abuse training and guidance
- Guidance about learning disabilities within the domestic abuse assessment tool
- Development of a referral pathway for victim/survivors with learning disabilities
- Easy read resources about gender based violence
- A new tool for working with victims/survivors with communication needs
- Resources for young adults
- Domestic abuse champions guidance
- Toolkit for employers

Lasting legacy

The programme also established the Authentic Voice Panel, a representative group of victim/survivors who contributed to the development of all the outputs and are also now actively working with organisations across Scotland to assess policies and practice from a lived experience perspective.

It feels so good knowing that my little input is helping build a better way of helping survivors. I struggled for years to get any help whatsoever...

PRACTICE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase safety for all those at risk

Review of the risk-led model

This year we instigated a review of the risk-led approach, one of the essential component parts of the UK response to domestic abuse. This was in recognition that it has not been substantially updated since it was introduced around 20 years ago, and to ensure the needs of all victim survivors, including those with intersecting characteristics, are responded to effectively. We have established an expert panel and reference group to bring together academics, practitioners and survivors to explore how the approach can be improved. The group will report findings at the end of 2022. Initial indications are that the risk-led approach remains the keystone of an effective response to domestic abuse and there are opportunities to evolve guidance and tools to ensure inclusivity.

Pre-trial therapy for child victims of sexual assault research project

Together with the University of Bristol and the Sexual Violence Consortium, we have undertaken research funded by the Home Office’s CSA Support Services Transformation Fund into access to support for children who have been sexually abused.

The research has found that many child victims of sexual abuse never access any support, and those that do face multiple barriers reaching therapy and justice. Most concerning is the widespread belief amongst all professionals that therapy should not happen until after the criminal justice case concludes, and therapy that is provided pre-trial often doesn’t address the abuse for fear of prejudicing trials.

Young people have also told us they want a different kind of response, one that goes beyond traditional therapies and criminal justice into social activism and creative arts to support them to recover.

With young people we have produced a Beyond Therapy podcast and set up the Beyond Therapy Festival of Activism Against Child Sexual abuse – the first such event of its kind combining arts, activism and research to challenge prevailing attitudes which was attended by more than 200 survivors, researchers and professionals

We are also calling for young people’s needs to be paramount in this process, for more investment in therapy, for therapy to be provided at the point of need, and for a holistic approach to be taken to support non-abusive parents and carers to provide ongoing care.

An incredible, paradigm shifting day.

ATTENDEE, BEYOND THERAPY FESTIVAL OF ACTIVISM EVENT

118 specialist CSA workers responded to the survey

12 interviews with CSA professionals

14 interviews with wider professionals

3 interviews with young people

4 interviews with parents and carers

23 young people responded to a survey

22 practitioners interviewed

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Increase safety for all those at risk

The unseen: Blind and partially sighted people's experiences of domestic abuse

This year we were commissioned to undertake the first ever research into the scale and prevalence of domestic abuse among the blind and partially sighted community.

Our report, *The unseen: Blind and partially sighted people's experiences of domestic abuse*, describes the scale and nature of the abuse affecting people with visual impairment. The report highlights the lack of relevant knowledge and experience among organisations and professionals working in both the fields of sight loss and domestic abuse and puts forward proposals for how to tackle the challenges and break down the barriers to help.

Victims and survivors described their experiences of this particularly insidious form of abuse, carried out by people in the most intimate of relationships. It consists of the abusive behaviours sighted people experience but with an added dimension that compounds the vulnerability of someone with impaired sight. This includes moving objects to cause falls, hiding medication, withholding support such as guiding equipment, not taking victims to appointments or watching and filming them without their knowledge.

With the Vision Foundation, we are calling for a multi-faceted and united response to improve the support available to blind and partially sighted victims and survivors of domestic abuse.



Rethinking domestic abuse in child protection: responding differently

Over the past year we have been working with the Universities of Sheffield, Huddersfield, Kingston and the charities Research in Practice, and FutureMen to better understand and improve our national response to domestic abuse and child protection.

It has been estimated that more than 25% of children and young people live with an adult who has experienced domestic abuse and violence. It was a feature of 42.6% of incidents involving serious harm to children in 2020 and a key factor in why children came into care and/or involved with child protection systems.

While there have been important developments in practice over the last decade, there continues to be a need to develop responses to those who are being harmed and those who harm in order to improve outcomes and promote sustainable change for children and their families.

In particular, there is an urgent need to ensure we learn from the expertise of those impacted and to pay careful attention to how gender combines with socioeconomic circumstances, age, disability, ethnicity and sexual orientation to shape their experiences.

In the coming year we will be inviting survivors to take part in research to explore these issues and develop recommendations and practice materials to support change.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

Even when relationships end, many adult and child victims of domestic abuse continue to be harmed, through economic abuse and debt, child contact disputes, stalking and harassment, or the ongoing toll on people's mental health. We believe victim survivors should be supported throughout every stage of the recovery process.

Authentic Voice

We are committed to ensuring the voices of survivors of domestic abuse are actively sought, heard, and have power. We are proud to be working with 20 Pioneers and 10 members of the Authentic Voice Panel in Scotland – all experts by experience.

Since launching our 2016 Authentic Voice Strategy we have continued our commitment to integrate the expertise of survivors into the heart of our organisational culture and all our work. Authentic Voice is part of our identity and the bravest, most powerful, impactful work we've done – SafeLives Pioneers and the Scottish Authentic Voice panel are key to this.

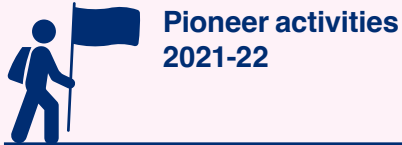
Their knowledge, perspectives, skills and strengths have been an essential part of innovating and embedding high quality responses to domestic abuse – created by survivors for survivors and rooted in their expertise.

Pioneers are integral to our Incubator (see below), influencing what work we do, and how we do it. Over the past year Pioneers and the AV Panel have been involved in a wide range of research projects, sharing experiences with and talking to stakeholders from the police to local service commissioners, inputting to our responses to national Government consultations, and developing and delivering training.

There is no them and us.
Authentic voice is at the heart
and start of all our work.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs



**Pioneer activities
2021-22**

- Research
- Collaborated on Those That Harm
- Reviewed document comparing Intimate Partner Violence with Family Abuse
- Supporting creation of Terms of Reference for R-DAC
- Collaborated on assessment tool for Early Intervention Programme for Pioneers
- Collaborated on the Vision Foundation work
- Collaborated on RSE curriculum survey
- Reviewing Public Health Approach codebook



**Stakeholder
presentations**

- HM Prison and Probation Service webinar
- Videos for Life Changes Counselling on the needs of DA survivors from minoritised groups
- 16 Days of Activism Video for Clarence House
- Top 100
- Inside Government VAWG Forum
- MoJ Webinar
- Home Office training
- Risk-led approach webinar
- Launch event for training family justice solicitors
- 'I Am' exhibition
- I Am talk to Surviving Economic Abuse
- National DA Matters Champions force leads network meeting
- Cumbria police re survivor engagement
- MATAAC Coordinators



**Influencing policy and
attitudes**

- Consultation response for statutory guidance on the Domestic Abuse Act
- Conversion therapy consultation
- Victims Bill consultation
- Coercive Controlling Behaviour Guidance consultation
- Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme consultation
- Online Banking Commission feedback, with Refuge
- Labour Party VAWG Green Paper
- Reviewing Ministry of Justice guides for people who have experienced rape or sexual assault
- Attended Government VAWG launch at the House of Commons
- Interviewed for Politics UK domestic abuse and mental health article



**Practice and
interventions**

- Worked with NatWest on their response to coerced debt
- Risk-led review expert and operational panels
- Created a role description for internal advocates for police experiencing domestic abuse with Avon and Somerset Police
- Practice workshops in 6 local areas
- Reviewed training materials
- Co-created AV Toolkit to support the expansion of Authentic Voice in a safe and supportive way
- Establishing DA Matters Survivors group

Change R-DAC to Rethinking Domestic Abuse in Child Protection

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

Congratulations to you all, especially Helen and Susanne from the Panel. This has been a fantastic launch and so much looking forward to watching your progress and engaging with your critical and politically important work and events. Your work will have so much impact and learning for all lived experience work across Scotland.

PRACTICE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

We are pleased Pioneer work has been recognised by others too, with a well-deserved high commendation as volunteer team of the year in the prestigious Third Sector Awards.

Together with the Improvement Service and Resilience Learning Partnership we were awarded funding by the Scottish Government to work in partnership with survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and trauma. The aim of Authentic Voice: Embedding Lived

Experience programme is to ensure that local authorities and other community planning organisations have the knowledge, confidence, and tools they need to embed survivor voice into local system and service design processes in a robust, trauma informed and meaningful way. Our launch event was co-delivered by AV Panel members and attended by the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care. In May 2022, we hosted a deep dive about whole system working that over 90 stakeholders from across Scotland signed up to. More are planned for 2022/23.

AV Panel activities 2021/22

Contributed to consultations including DWP child maintenance, Scottish Government VAWG Spending Review, and Justice Victims

Supported the creation of specialist training for Police Scotland

Shared expertise with Scottish Government Universal Credit and Social Security researchers

Presented to the trauma champions network

Reviewed Marac processes to ensure they are survivor focused and embedding authentic voice within newly created guidance

Worked with a local authority on how lived experience is represented

Attended national strategic forums

Contributed to funding applications



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

Family justice

Survivors of domestic abuse have said repeatedly that the family court process is retraumatising, and can often cause more damage than the abuse itself. As part of a project funded by the Legal Education Foundation, we held a series of roundtables with survivors of domestic abuse who had experienced the family justice system in England and Wales, in partnership with a frontline service, Voices. With the support of our Advisory Group for the project, we also undertook around 40 interviews with professionals across the legal and domestic abuse sectors, including practising barristers and solicitors, legal academics, representatives from law associations, and frontline domestic abuse practitioners. At the Old Bailey in March 2022, we were delighted to launch two reports, Don't Complain: Domestic abuse survivors' experiences with family lawyers, and Hit and Miss: Family lawyers' understanding of domestic abuse.

These important reports demonstrate that victims of domestic abuse continue to be let down by the family justice system, which does not understand the typologies of abuse, nor the impact of trauma.

key findings

Hit and Miss

- 🔍 Family lawyers' understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour is generally limited
- 🔍 The link between coercive control and serious harm is not understood
- 🔍 Non-physical forms of abuse are viewed as 'low level' and the cumulative effective unrecognised
- 🔍 Domestic abuse and child contact arrangements are often dealt with as unrelated cases
- 🔍 Family justice professionals do not understand the impact of abuse and trauma and so misdiagnose victims' behaviour and presentation
- 🔍 Myths about domestic abuse are pernicious and widespread throughout the family justice system

key findings

Don't Complain

- 🔍 Survivors are treated with a lack of support and empathy throughout the family justice process
- 🔍 Lawyers don't challenge judges who minimised abuse
- 🔍 There is a lack of recognition of intersectionality, and examples of prejudice
- 🔍 Survivors feel pressure to be compliant to give a good impression, and shut down
- 🔍 The system, legal language, and concerns about children, housing, income and immigration are intimidating
- 🔍 Building on the findings, we have been working with the Legal Education Foundation to deliver a culture change programme that aims to create systemic transformation within the family justice system. We have trained 12 new trainers to deliver this programme, which has so far reached nearly 150 learners, primarily family solicitors across England and Wales.

I had the judge turn around and say, just get over it. He's done what he's done. Move on. And I was very shocked, and my solicitor didn't say anything. Nobody said anything.

The training was delivered in a very informative and insightful way. The first-hand accounts and experience of the trainers was so helpful to bring the course to real life.

PROGRAMME LEARNER

We will also continue to work with the UK Government to ensure the recommendations of the final report of the Ministry of Justice Expert Panel on Harm in the Family Courts, Assessing Risk of Harm to Children and Parents in Private Law Children Cases (2020), are implemented in order to improve experiences for survivors of domestic abuse within the family justice system.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

NatWest Circle Fund

In 2020, NatWest donated £1m and worked with us to establish The Circle Fund to provide practical support for victims of domestic abuse in the UK. The fund was targeted at crisis and intervention, establishing safety, and recovery and resilience.

Using this funding to pay for repairs allowed Patricia to drive the children to school, go shopping without fear of meeting her ex-partner...and take the children on outings. Without the help of the fund Patricia says she was not able to leave the house which was having an impact on her mental health.

Thank you for sorting out the Natwest Circle Fund for me so I can buy furniture for me and my son. This is the best thing to have happened to me all year!

SURVIVOR OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Since then, 123 frontline domestic abuse services have been recipients of grants for onward disbursement directly to survivors. 40% are small specialist organisations supporting marginalised communities. And to date, 1,494 survivors have received support in locations across the UK, from Shetland to Devon, and from Carrickfergus to Aberystwyth. The fund has been invaluable in supporting survivors to pay costs that other grants tend to prohibit, for example car repairs and driving lessons. This incredible fund was the only eligible source of funding for 96% of applications.

I Am

Over the past 18 months we have been working with award-winning photographer Allie Crewe on an Arts Council-funded project, 'I Am', to bring survivors of domestic abuse into the light. Allie has photographed some of our Pioneers and other survivors of domestic abuse around the UK, creating a series of powerful portraits. A selection of the portraits were unveiled at the SICK! festival in Manchester in May 2022 – images and stories that literally stopped people in their tracks outside Manchester Central Library and across 150 Metro stops around the city. Survivors involved in the project welcomed the opportunity to tell their stories, define their image, and reclaim their sense of self.

The exhibition was opened by our patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall (now Her Majesty The Queen Consort), who spoke with survivors and frontline domestic abuse services. She also accepted a sunflower

badge from Annie Gibbs in memory of Sabina Nessa, who was murdered in 2021. The exhibition was promoted in the national press, encouraging people to 'reach in' to anyone that they were worried about, and demonstrating that there is life after abuse.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

It is hoped 'I Am' will be exhibited in other venues across the UK, and the images will be published in a book later this year.



Some of you will know about the **I AM collection** of portraits being exhibited in Manchester by Allie Crewe, commissioned by the SICK! Festival in partnership with SafeLives, which I have been privileged and blessed to be part of as a Pioneer. A major highlight last week was meeting HRH, Camilla the Duchess of Cornwall and being connected to a member of the public who said how proud she was to see Black women represented in the portraits.

Survivor Voice is a crucial element to all of our work, I never ever expected to be using mine (or my image) when I joined SafeLives. Voice is inspiring, it reminds us why we do the work we do, it breaks down the no us and them barriers, which should not be a thing in the first place because we are actually everywhere, even at the bus stop!

Using my VOICE helps me recover from the devastating impact of DA, a major shout out to SafeLives and all of the support, kindness and encouragement from colleague's who help me daily to find it."

Dawn Munroe
SafeLives Pioneer

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Effective and sustainable organisation

SafeLives continues to be an effective, growing and sustainable organisation. We are grateful to work with an amazing team of staff, associates, Pioneers, Authentic Voice Panel, Trustees, Advisory Group in Scotland, funders and supporters who all work towards ending domestic abuse, for everyone, for good.

SafeLives people

Our staff are the heartbeat of SafeLives, working with expertise and commitment alongside Pioneers and the Authentic Voice Panel, valued associates, and partners on a wide range of activities that take us ever closer to ending domestic abuse. The team has grown in the past year and we now have a team of 93.

In the past year we have been working on developing our SafeLives culture, to build an organisation that is inclusive and supports everyone to be their whole and best selves. We are adopting restorative practice as the way we want to work in SafeLives, to create a brave space that supports people to take responsibility for their actions and be considerate of others. We have introduced mandatory training on equality and diversity and on anti-racism and are embedding a programme that shares knowledge and best practice to support continuous learning and improvement.

We are proud to be led by a group of Trustees with wide experience from many fields. We continue to recruit highly skilled and experienced trustees and are delighted to welcome four new Trustees, including Shana Begum who joins Ursula Lindenburg as our second Pioneer Trustee, bringing expertise from her lived experience of domestic abuse as well as her expertise in local authority founding St Helens the Best Me CIC, a small specialist grassroots organisation, and in domestic abuse training.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Effective and sustainable organisation

Equity, equality, diversity and inclusion (EEDI)

We believe that every victim/survivors of domestic abuse should be able to easily access appropriate support that is sensitive to their needs and characteristics, and that services need to be available and suitable for all those who use abusive behaviour. Within the domestic abuse sector there is much work to be done to create inclusive and equitable services. At SafeLives, we know we ourselves have work to do to create a fully inclusive workplace.

We published our first EEDI action plan in 2020 and have put in place a wide range of improvements since then. Our most recent stocktake published in August 2022 confirms that our primary focus continues to be anti-racism, but that we continue to work on other areas alongside. We are making progress, but would have liked to have travelled further in the past two years. Whilst we have made a number of tactical changes, we recognise that deeper, more transformation improvement is necessary. In summer 2022, we commissioned Kaveed Ali, Director of EDI at UK Community Foundations, to undertake an independent

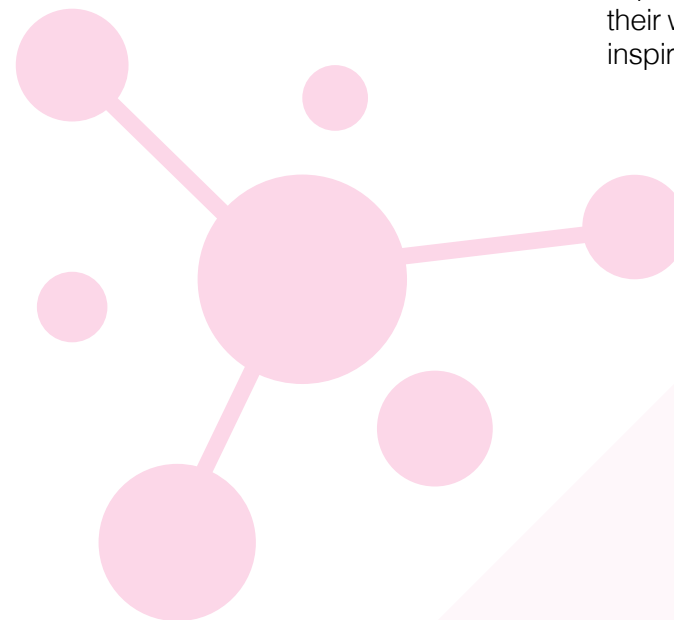
review of our culture and our work on anti-racism. We look forward to receiving his recommendations and commit to implementing improvement actions.

In 2021 we commissioned a report to understand how we can better support and work alongside small specialist services, who are essential in ensuring appropriate support is provided to survivors from all parts of UK society. The report found that some small specialist organisations were aware of us, but had not direct experience of working with us; and that other organisations found us to be good allies – so our allyship is not consistent across the sector. Small specialist organisations wanted connections with SafeLives to be more publicly visible, for us to champion inclusion of small specialist services in sector developments, and for us to offer more practical support in areas such as bid-writing, access to training, and research. We have developed an action plan and are aiming to continue working alongside small specialist services in the way that best meets their needs.

The Incubator

The Incubator is our engine room of innovation. The Incubator brings together Pioneers and staff, in particular our research and practice-focused teams, to identify gaps in the current UK domestic abuse response, and explore new territory. Diversity and lived experience help us see issues from a wide range of perspectives, and bring fresh thinking to solving problems.

Over the past year the Incubator has focused on the care journey, to explore and understand the support available for young people in the care system affected by domestic abuse. This lived experience-led work found that provision for these young people is inadequate in supporting their recovery from domestic abuse and other adverse childhood experiences. This crucially important work concluded with an event co-hosted with Amour Destiné for care experienced people to come together, share their work and create a space for creativity, inspiration and solidarity.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Effective and sustainable organisation



As an ex care child and working in local children’s homes for several years as an adult I believe that events like are a great way to promote discussion, people’s learning and understanding and thereby supporting change, growth and development.

EVENT
ATTENDEE

As a result, we also amended our Insights data collection service to better understand the prevalence of domestic abuse in the care experienced community, with the aim of improving future service provision. The next chapter of this work is in an exploration phase.

The Incubator is now working on new projects, relating to ‘seldom seen’ communities, tech abuse and the links between public and private violence, particularly for young people. We want each of these pieces of work to result in practical recommendations for change.



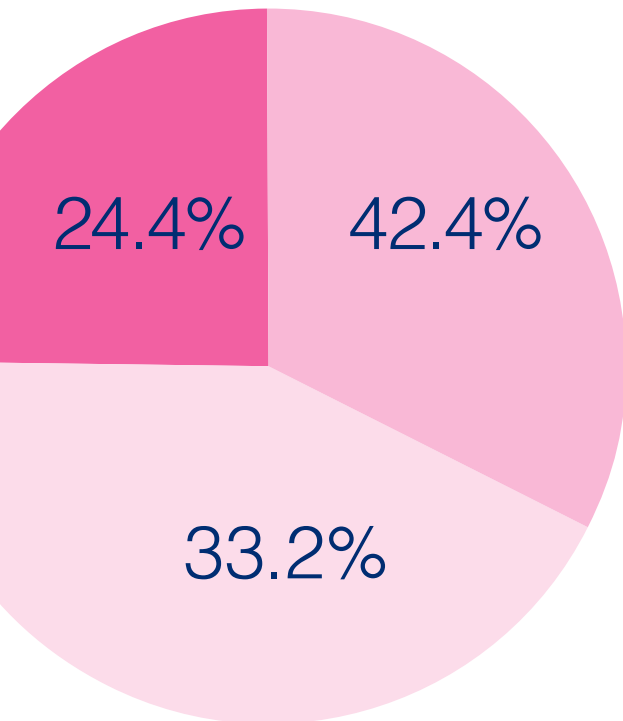
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Effective and sustainable organisation

Our finances

How we are funded

- Statutory income
- Fee earning income
- Charitable trusts, foundations and donations



In our financial year ending 30 June 2022 our total income was £9.2m representing an increase of £0.9M on the previous year. Our costs increased from £7.3m to £9.2m.

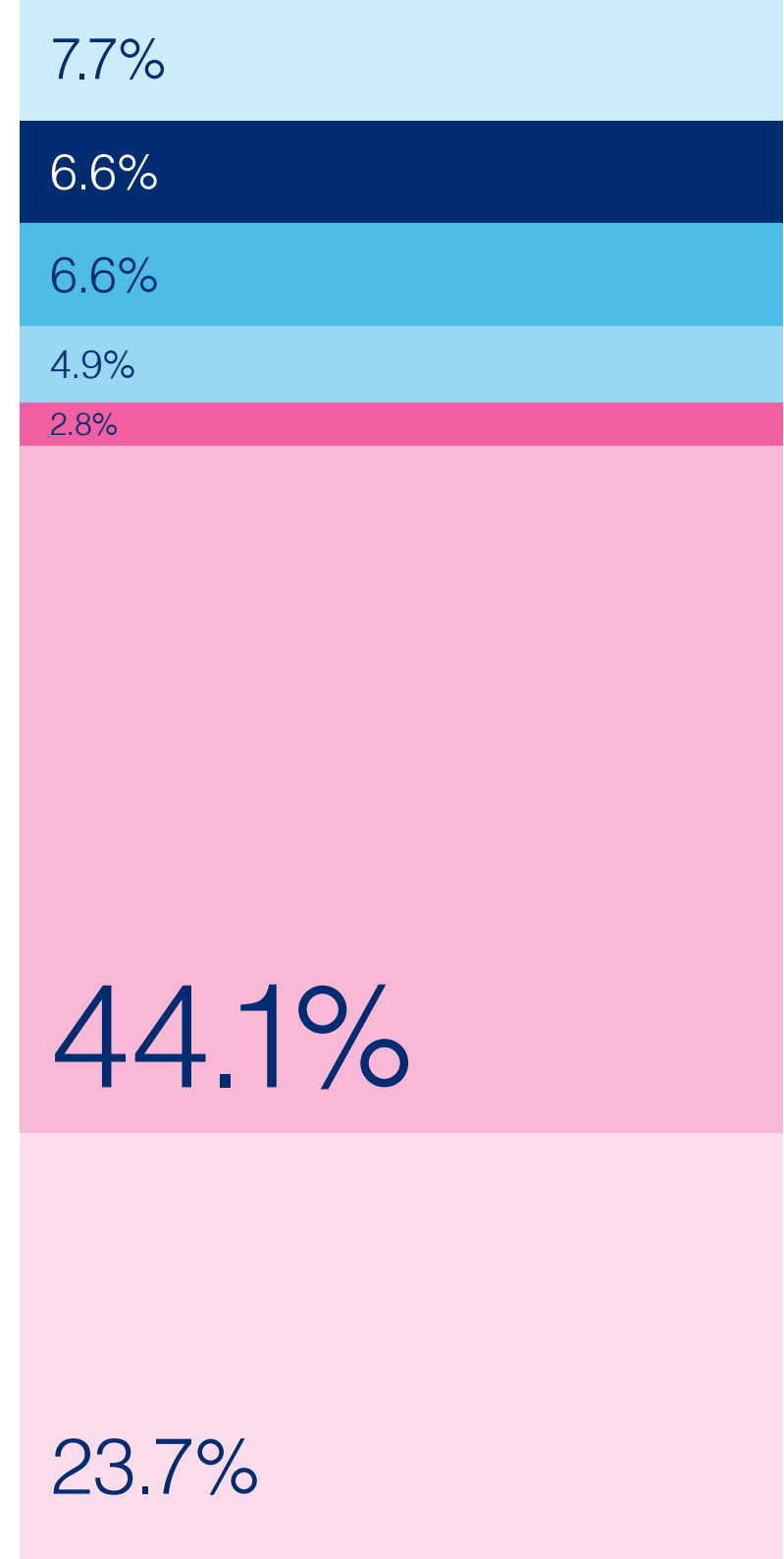
Our income includes £2.5m from training, £587k from localised practice work, and £317k from work in Scotland. We also received £4.3m funding for innovation in practice including £2.6m for Drive, £1.6m from other innovation grants, and £77k for the Beacons work.

Our research team attracted £328k of income, and our public affairs work was supported by £169k.

Note : £2.5m income (28%) was paid out directly to partners in the Drive and Your Best Friend partnerships, and through the Circle Fund payments.

How we spent our funding

- Support/governance
- Influencing
- Research
- Costs charged direct to C-19
- Fundraising
- Capacity Building
- Innovation



Funders

We strive every day to repay their confidence in us to reach something of real value.

SafeLives is extremely fortunate to have the support of many generous individuals and organisations to do our work, many of whom have funded us through multi-year and repeated grants. Our philanthropic funders often invest in our newest work, trusting us to be innovative in seeking out what works for families, and giving us valuable time and flexibility to build strong and trusting

relationships with survivors, small and specialist organisations and other colleagues across the sector. They are generous in many other ways, from giving expert pro bono advice, or introducing us to other valuable contacts – and many make the time to join Round Tables and discussions, adding their own insight.

We particularly want to thank:

Aurum Trust

Bleu Blanc Rouge Foundation

Charles Russell Speechlys Foundation

City Bridge Trust, the funding arm of The City of London Corporation’s charity, Bridge House Estates

Dulverton Trust

Epic Foundation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Firebird Foundation

Private family foundation managed by Greenwood Place

Home Office

John Ellerman Foundation

Legal Education Foundation

National Lottery Community Fund England & Wales

National Lottery Fund Scotland

Oak Foundation

Peter Cundill Foundation

Queen Anne’s Gate Foundation

Rayne Foundation

Scottish Government

Tampon Tax Fund

Treebeard Trust

Welsh Government

Kate Wilkinson and Harry Gaskell

Mr. W. Randall Work and Mrs. Jeanne M. Work

All those spirited individuals who have fundraised for SafeLives through challenges and events

And other donors who wish to remain anonymous.



Places we worked in 2021/2022

- 📍 Aberdeen
- 📍 Argyll and Bute
- 📍 Ascension Island
- 📍 Avon and Somerset
- 📍 Bedford
- 📍 Bolton
- 📍 Calderdale
- 📍 Cardiff and The Vale
- 📍 Cheshire West
- 📍 City of London
- 📍 Cleveland
- 📍 Cumbria
- 📍 Dundee
- 📍 East Ayrshire
- 📍 East Dunbartonshire
- 📍 East Lothian
- 📍 Glasgow
- 📍 Gwent
- 📍 Halton
- 📍 Herefordshire
- 📍 Highland
- 📍 Leicester
- 📍 London
- 📍 North Ayrshire
- 📍 North Lanarkshire
- 📍 North Yorkshire
- 📍 North Wales
- 📍 Oldham
- 📍 Rutland
- 📍 Scottish Borders
- 📍 Sheffield
- 📍 South Ayrshire
- 📍 South Lanarkshire
- 📍 South Yorkshire
- 📍 South Wales
- 📍 Tayside
- 📍 Telford & Wrekin
- 📍 Thames Valley
- 📍 Warrington
- 📍 Warkwickshire
- 📍 West Dunbartonshire

Thank you to Katrina Megget, who raised £1,723 for us by sailing 2000 miles around GB! And to Ben Byrne for donating £2000 from his new novel Hidden Harm.

If you are interested in following in Katrina’s waves and fundraising for SafeLives please email fundraising@safelives.org.uk

Closing remarks from Isabel Boyer, our Chair

The Board of Trustees is pleased to see the significant progress that has been made over the past 12 months. In partnership, the SafeLives team has worked incredibly hard to influence a raft of legislation that impacts victims of domestic abuse – dedication that will improve outcomes for thousands of people.



As ever, we have been breaking new ground in domestic abuse research, building our understanding of how harming behaviour begins, and exploring how behaviours and attitudes develop in young people's relationships. This important insight paves the way to stopping domestic abuse before it starts.

We are also incredibly proud of our involvement in the I Am exhibition, shedding the stigma of domestic abuse and bringing it into the light. I am in awe of the amazing Pioneers who took part in this exhibition who share their stories and insights at events around the country. The Authentic Voice Panel in Scotland goes from strength to strength too, working with professionals from a wide range of organisations to improve their knowledge about domestic abuse.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to thank SafeLives staff and associates, Pioneers and Authentic Voice Panel, everyone working on the frontline, and the many partners we have worked with in the past year.

There are challenges ahead. The cost of living crisis has the potential to trap victims of domestic abuse at home with their abusers, without means to leave or seek support. So whilst we have come a long way, there is much work yet to be done.

Isabel Boyer
Chair, SafeLives



It was when I tried calling a helpline to talk through my experience with emotional abuse and to understand what I had been going through, that I realised there was a bigger problem than just my own toxic relationship. I tried calling at least five times over two days and all I got each time was an answer-phone message saying I could leave my number and someone could try to call me back at an appropriate time. **I didn't leave a message but I did wonder how many other people struggled to get through to get the support they needed. I wondered how big the problem really was.** Instead of talking over a phone, I turned to the internet, trying to make sense of the confusing world of emotional abuse that I had experienced for eight years. **It turned out to be vast. I didn't have a physical bruise but the subtle, covert and controlling behaviour of emotional abuse had left a scar on my soul. All I could sufficiently do was sum it up as a feeling: I felt like I was drowning. I didn't know who I was anymore.** And clearly, I wasn't alone. There seemed to be many women and men – millions in fact – who had been on the receiving end of emotional abuse. **This was a problem bigger than just my own toxic relationship.** I realised that getting through on a telephone helpline might have helped me in that moment I needed it

but it wasn't going to help all those others who were too scared to call or those who couldn't even get access to a phone because of the controlling behaviours of their partner. **It wasn't going to help those who didn't realise the type of relationship they were in.** And it certainly wasn't going to prevent or stop abuse from happening in the first place. **I was lucky enough to get out of that toxic relationship and I was lucky enough to then fall in love with Mark, a truly amazing man who supports me and loves me the way a woman should be loved.** But not everyone is that lucky. **The thought that there were other people experiencing emotional abuse who were currently feeling what I had felt – ashamed for finding myself in this sort of relationship, trapped with seemingly no options for getting out, looking in the mirror and wondering who that person was staring back at me, feeling unloved and worthless – that tore at my heart. No one deserves to feel that way.** As part of my healing process, I realised I could turn my abusive experience into something good, which could help others. I came across SafeLives and the charity's focus on ending domestic abuse, by raising awareness and providing educational resources and advocating at a policy level, resonated with me. **It was a no brainer**

then to fundraise for SafeLives when Mark and I spent almost four months sailing around the coast of Great Britain in a 28-foot boat during the summer of 2022. It was part of my healing process but there was something apt about raising money for an anti-domestic abuse charity while being stuck on a boat in a confined space with a partner. That is the freedom I wish for everyone.

Turning my bad experience into something good meant Mark and I raised more than £2,000 (with Gift Aid) for SafeLives and also increased awareness of domestic abuse and the amazing work this charity does. **Our fundraising will go towards domestic abuse data gathering, training people on the frontline and working with partners. This is significant because this is what real change looks like: identifying and understanding the problem on the ground and responding systematically.** I am proud that my small action will have contributed towards this change and the creation of a better world. **I know from my experience that in times of darkness there is always hope. That is why I want to imagine a world where domestic abuse doesn't exist.** That is why I want to believe this world can become reality.



Katrina Megget,
survivor and fundraiser



SafeLives

Charity no: 1106864

Scottish charity reference number: SCO48291

Company no: 5203237

Contact

info@safelives.org.uk

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

Facebook [/safelives.uk](https://www.facebook.com/safelives.uk)

Instagram [@safelives_](https://www.instagram.com/safelives_)

LinkedIn [/safelives-uk](https://www.linkedin.com/company/safelives-uk)

