



# Impact Report

2023–2024



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**Thank you to every individual and organisation who has worked with us, stood alongside us, supported us, and championed our mission to end domestic abuse. Your contributions this year have been invaluable. Together, we can and we will stop domestic abuse, for everyone, for good.**

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It is with great pride and optimism that I share our SafeLives Impact Report for 2023–24.

**This past year has been a time of both transition and achievement, as we have navigated leadership changes, unprecedented challenges, and continued our vital work to end domestic abuse.**



## Foreword from Ellen

I am honoured to be back at the helm of this extraordinary organisation. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Suzanne Jacob OBE, who stepped down earlier this year after seven years of inspirational leadership. Suzanne's work, particularly on our Whole Picture vision, has laid a strong foundation for our future efforts, and I am committed to building upon this legacy.

2023-24 has been an immensely challenging year for survivors of domestic abuse and their families. The ongoing long-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with the rising cost of living, have placed unprecedented pressure on access to support services. Survivors have faced significant delays in family courts, and the financial struggles caused by the current economic climate have made it even harder for many victims to find routes to safety.

These challenges have also impacted services and professionals working on the domestic abuse frontline. A squeeze on statutory funding and an uncertain political environment have placed additional strain on the systems designed to keep survivors safe.

Despite these pressures, SafeLives has continued to deliver positive change. We have now worked with more than 50 local areas across the UK, including 11 in the last year,

applying a public health approach to domestic abuse and looking at the whole picture to support systems-wide change.

Our survivor-led initiatives, including the Echo programme in Bolton, Sheffield, and Leicestershire, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, have ensured that the voices of those with lived experience remain central to our work.

We are particularly proud of the renewed relationship with NatWest, which has allowed us to continue providing direct grants to survivors through their £1 million donation to the NatWest Circle Fund. This funding has been a lifeline for many, helping families secure vital resources in times of crisis and for recovery.

Additionally, we've expanded our work with children from minoritised families through the

Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (CADA) programme in Bolton and Sheffield, co-creating interventions that address the specific challenges these families face.

Our partnership programme, Drive, with Respect and Social Finance, has continued to make innovative strides in challenging perpetrators through the new Restart programme, and we've worked hard to increase cultural competence in the responses to those who harm. Drive has also been entrusted by the Home Office to develop long-awaited Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) pilots, a major milestone in the legal framework protecting victims.

This year, we trained more than 11,000 professionals and are launching the world's first Domestic Abuse Court Advocacy (DACA) accreditation programme in Scotland.

These efforts have played a crucial role in improving the response to domestic abuse across the UK.

Over the past 20 years, we have played a pivotal role in shaping and improving the multi-agency response to domestic abuse, working closely with practitioners and services to ensure that families receive the right support, at the right time.

I'd like to thank all our staff, Trustees, associates and survivors who've played a part in this.

As we approach our 21st anniversary in 2025, we are now in the early stages of developing a new strategy that will guide our efforts over the next decade, ensuring we continue to lead the way in ending domestic abuse for everyone, for good. The consultation process has been extensive, and we are grateful to the hundreds of survivors, professionals, and partners who have contributed their insights. Your voices will shape the future of SafeLives.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support as we continue to work towards our shared vision of a safer future for all.



**Ellen Miller**  
CEO, SafeLives

**Our mission remains clear: to prevent harm, reduce risk, and support recovery. Together, we can create a future where domestic abuse is no longer tolerated.**

# Our mission and approach

SafeLives is the UK charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone, for good. We believe that domestic abuse is preventable, not inevitable, and that everyone has the right to live in safety, free from fear.

Our work is built on a comprehensive understanding of the whole family. We focus on providing the right help at the right time, ensuring that survivors, children, and those at risk are supported in a way that meets their unique needs. We also challenge perpetrators to change, asking the critical question, “Why doesn’t he stop?” instead of “Why doesn’t she leave?” This approach applies to all victims and perpetrators, regardless of gender or the nature of their relationship.

Over the last two decades we have combined survivor voice, evidence, and best practice to make a real difference to families across the UK.

Survivor voice is at the heart and start of what we do and is the driving force behind how we deliver our work. SafeLives’ Pioneers, Changemakers and our Authentic Voice Panel in Scotland actively contribute to the design of our programmes, training, and policy recommendations and we reach thousands of survivors each year through our work on the

ground. By involving survivors from the outset and throughout, we foster a collaborative environment where those with lived experience are empowered to shape the systems intended to protect them. This approach ensures that we meet their needs in a way that is trauma-informed and truly reflective of their experiences.

Our commitment to making a meaningful impact is grounded in robust, evidence-based practice. Every programme, resource or intervention we design is informed by comprehensive research and data. By continuously gathering insights from our national and local datasets – the largest in the UK - we can identify trends, gaps, and emerging issues within the domestic abuse landscape. This allows us to adapt and improve our approaches, championing what works to prevent abuse, stop it from recurring, and safeguard individuals and families from harm. This includes working with local systems and training professionals to review and transform the support they provide.

# Domestic abuse is never all of someone’s experiences or situation – we have to look at the whole person, the whole family, our communities and wider society.

We also place a strong emphasis on innovation. By breaking new ground in our understanding of domestic abuse, we develop solutions that challenge dated methods and introduce fresh perspectives, focusing on prevention and recovery as much as the response. We collaborate with survivors, frontline professionals, and partner organisations to ensure that our findings translate into real improvements on the ground, making families safer, sooner.

At the core of our work has been our Whole Picture Strategy, designed to address the entire spectrum of domestic abuse. It focuses on early intervention, systemic change, and the inclusion of all family members in our efforts to prevent and respond to abuse.



## A Legacy of Change and Our Vision for the Future

# Reflecting on 20 years of innovation and progress



**Celebrating 20 years of SafeLives is a testament to what we can achieve together. From our roots in a small team pioneering a risk-led approach, we've grown into a movement that listens to survivors, empowers communities, and reshapes how we respond to domestic abuse across the UK.**

SafeLives CEO, Ellen Miller

SafeLives has been at the forefront of transforming the response to domestic abuse in the UK for the past two decades.

**A**t its inception, domestic abuse services were largely fragmented, with many victims falling through the cracks. SafeLives' founder, Diana Barran MBE (now Baroness Barran), recognised the need for a coordinated, risk-led approach that could quickly identify and protect high-risk victims. Over the last two decades, SafeLives has been instrumental in developing a comprehensive national framework that ensures no one is left behind.

The foundation of SafeLives' early work was its pioneering use of the Dash risk checklist, which created a shared language for risk assessment among multiple agencies. This tool, combined with the training of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (Idvas) and the establishment of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process (Maracs), revolutionised how local services worked together to support those at high risk of serious harm or murder. These innovations have saved countless lives and supported tens of thousands of survivors on their journey to safety and recovery and we acknowledge the hard work to develop and deliver these as we look to evolve approaches for the next decade.

### Key milestones

Over two decades, SafeLives has worked with local and national organisations to develop the systems for responding to cases of domestic abuse, systems which have been implemented across the UK. We have defined the roles, developed and delivered the training, qualifications and quality standards and underpinned these with research and data. Since 2016, we have worked on interventions around all members of a family affected by domestic abuse, and from 2018 we have worked 'upstream' of the problem, with an increasing focus on primary and secondary prevention.

2004

**CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) is established**

with a mission to improve the UK's response to domestic abuse. [The Dash risk checklist](#) is introduced, providing a standardised tool for assessing risk, and the first Idva training programme is launched.

2005

**SafeLives creates the accredited Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (Idva) role**

to support victims, assess risk level and coordinate the response of other agencies to increase their safety.

2006

**SafeLives leads the rollout of Maracs,**

which bring together local agencies to devise safety plans for high-risk victims, ensuring that survivors receive coordinated and timely support.

2008

**The Leading Lights accreditation standard is developed**

to define best practices for domestic abuse services, and the Insights outcomes measurement system for Idva services is introduced, allowing services to demonstrate their effectiveness and secure ongoing funding.



2012

**Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (Idaa) training launches in Scotland**

starting [our work](#) here. Today we work with each of the 32 Scottish local authorities; be that through support to [Maracs](#), the Domestic Abuse Court Advocacy ([DACA](#)) standards project, [Authentic Voice](#) and [our training](#) for professionals working in Scotland.

2014

**CAADA rebrands as SafeLives**

marking a shift toward integrating survivor voice into the organisation's work. This culminates in the creation of the [SafeLives Pioneers](#), which ensures that survivors directly inform and guide our strategic direction.

2015

**The Drive Partnership is launched in with Respect and Social Finance**

to address the behaviour of high-harm perpetrators and reduce the risks they pose to victims. Drive has since become an integral part of SafeLives' work, demonstrating that preventing abuse, and challenging perpetrators to change, is key to protecting survivors.



2016

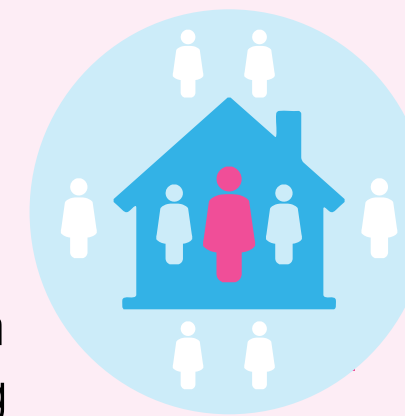
**Funding is secured for our [Beacons programme](#)**

bringing together survivors, domestic abuse organisations, and commissioners to develop a new, tailored approach to support. Designed by survivors and expert practitioners, the programme used a whole family approach, providing tailored interventions that addressed the unique needs of each family. It demonstrated that putting survivors at the heart of everything works – when those with lived experience guide and shape the solutions, it leads to more effective and lasting outcomes. This paves the way for a new way of thinking about the response to domestic abuse...

2018

**SafeLives introduces the [Whole Picture Strategy](#)**

taking a holistic approach to domestic abuse, focusing on early intervention, supporting children, and holding perpetrators accountable. This ambitious strategy expands our work to address linked adverse experiences, and emerging research on young people's relationships and toxic behaviour helps us tackle abuse before it starts. In Scotland, [Whole Lives](#) work with local authorities to improve the responses for 'hidden' groups of survivors.



2020

**The [Covid-19 pandemic](#) saw domestic abuse escalate across the UK**

with lockdowns trapping victims and limiting access to support. In response, SafeLives quickly adapted by providing guidance and wellbeing support to frontline professionals, amplifying survivors' voices and launching new resources through our 'Staying Safe at Home' campaign on how to [Reach In](#) when you are worried about someone, not wait for them to reach out.

2022

**Milestone event as Maracs become operational across all areas of Scotland**

SafeLives have been supporting Scottish Maracs through the [Marac Development Programme](#) since 2015, supporting local areas to embed the evaluated Marac model and develop a national framework to improve and enhance the multi-agency response to domestic abuse in Scotland.

2023–24

**As SafeLives celebrates two decades of impact, the numbers reflect our profound influence**

this year alone we have trained over 11,000 professionals and first responders, and reached more than 87,000 adult and 109,000 child survivors through interventions designed and developed by us in partnership with others.





## Looking Ahead

# Our strategy for 2025 and beyond

SafeLives is in the early stages of developing a new strategy that will guide our work through the next decade. This strategy will set ambitious goals which build on the foundations we have laid around prevention, early intervention, and long-term recovery for adult and child survivors as well as continuing to challenge perpetrators to change.

SafeLives is committed to using evidence, innovation, and the lived experiences of survivors to transform the system which responds to them. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with local agencies and services, develop new tools for identifying and managing risk, and advocate for systemic changes that ensure every survivor receives the support they need as quickly and effectively as possible and is able to rebuild their lives. Hundreds of people and organisations have responded to our consultation over the summer of 2024, and we plan to publish our new strategy in 2025.

When asked to describe SafeLives in three words, here's what stakeholders told us:



# Our priorities in 2023–24

This year, we have focused on five key priorities to deliver our strategy:

### 1 **Developing and delivering models of multi-agency work**

to improve the way domestic abuse is understood, prevented, and tackled at a local level; grounded in the voices of survivors and backed by good quality data/evidence. We have worked throughout the year to strengthen multi-agency working and partnerships across sectors, ensuring that understanding, prevention, intervention and responses to domestic abuse are coordinated and effective.

### 2 **Increasing the capability of frontline professionals through training, quality frameworks and improving relationships:**

We have trained more than 11,000 professionals this year, including frontline staff, police officers, Idvas and legal professionals. We now have 57 accredited Leading Lights services. Our Domestic Abuse Matters cultural training programme for police continues to go from strength to strength. Since 2015, SafeLives have worked with 37 police forces, and we have trained more than 70,000 officers.

### 3 **Making sure survivor voice is integral in how domestic abuse is understood and responded to:**

Survivor voice is at the heart of our work. We are committed to ensuring the voices of adult and child survivors are woven into the fabric of how domestic abuse is understood and responded to. Through projects such as our Echo programme and Family Voices, we have been working locally and nationally to make sure those with lived experience are shaping the services designed to support them.

### 4 **Speaking out for better legislation, regulation and enforcement of victims' rights and the development of an effective whole picture response:**

SafeLives has played a key role in advocating for stronger legal protections for victims of domestic abuse and the development of an effective whole picture response. We have worked closely with government departments on the development of the Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) pilots and provided critical insights into the new Victims and Prisoners Act.

### 5 **Ensuring we are an effective and well-managed organisation, to support delivery of these workstreams:**

As we look to the future, we remain committed to ensuring the sustainability of our organisation through effective management of our finances and our other resources. A key part of this commitment has been working with our entire team on Equity, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EEDI), as we develop and implement our new People and anti-racism strategies.

## The transformative power of Authentic Voice

The voices of survivors are at the heart and start of all we do. Our internal review of our authentic voice work by Dr. Jasna Magic celebrated its impact, acknowledging the positive benefits for our work:

Across this year, our **Pioneers, Changemakers, Authentic Voice Panel** in Scotland, and hundreds of survivors connected to our work in local areas, have helped to influence change in the response to domestic abuse.

### Embedding 'Survivor Voice'

Our experts by experience have contributed to complex pieces of work that go to the very heart of how we tackle domestic abuse.



**Our Pioneers'** expertise and insight has influenced:

- ✓ cultural competency training for our multi-site project focused on supporting children from racialised communities;
- ✓ a toolkit for perpetrator services;
- ✓ the development of our General Election manifesto asks;
- ✓ new training focused on recognising and responding to the new offence of non-fatal strangulation;
- ✓ our responses to Government consultations (such as 'Stable Homes, Built on Love' and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children');
- ✓ our report on the impact of specialist domestic abuse training for family lawyers
- ✓ Independent Office for Police Conduct guidance for police forces on victim-blaming language

And they have directly created resources such as:

- ✓ an online training package for early help workers, in collaboration with the University of Central Lancaster;
- ✓ 'If I was a stat' – a [Bambu](#) video on the intersection of domestic abuse and racism, which will now be included in our accredited training courses;

- ✓ video messages and content on so-called 'honour'-based abuse for International Women's Day;
- ✓ family engagement strategies for our new, UK-wide Family Voices project.



**Authentic voice has grown from a relatively small, but courageous and committed initiative, into a framework that is informing organisational values, has strengthened resources, and transformed how SafeLives accesses and embeds lived experience of domestic abuse across its core work and projects.**

In Scotland, our **Authentic Voice Panel** has become the 'go-to' survivor consultation group for the Scottish Government, helping to ensure lived experience is effectively embedded across systems and service design. The Panel have contributed to a whole raft of key projects, including:

- ✓ our partnership with the Improvement Service to embed lived experience within Scottish responses to DA, co-creating resources, improvement planning with local authorities;
- ✓ the development of Court Advocacy Standards;
- ✓ and they were delighted to spend time with our Patron, HM The Queen, at the launch of a safe space at Aberdeen Art Gallery in January 2024.



**Being a member has helped me grow my confidence back so much and regain parts of myself that I thought I'd lost forever.**

Our **SafeLives Changemakers**, a dedicated group of young people passionate about ending domestic abuse, have been more active than ever, working alongside professionals to shape campaigns and services for young survivors.

Their work has come out of our first steps in young authentic voice, mapped in our impact report – Sound of Silence: A Journey of co-creation in youth-led responses to domestic abuse – which we launched during 2023's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The SOS project engaged with almost 1,300 young people to explore how co-creation in youth-led responses to domestic abuse has given voice to those who are often overlooked, ignored or silenced. Since then, our Changemakers have:

- ✓ collaborated with the City of London University and the VISION Consortium on Too Soon, Too Late - research exploring whether the legal age to recognise abusive relationships should be lowered from 16 to 13.
- ✓ contributed to our Family Voices project for the Department for Education: - embedding family voice in local authority Early Help systems across England and co-creating a webinar reaching over 200 professionals.
- ✓ helped shape survey questions for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's study on services supporting children and young people, ensuring the input reflected young voices.

✓ provided feedback on the Home Office's consultation on defining child-to-parent abuse, suggesting the inclusion of 'parents and caregivers' in the definition, while raising concerns about expanding it too broadly.

✓ and for the first time, participated in the recruitment process for SafeLives' new CEO, with a Changemaker joining the staff panel.



**Being part of the Authentic Voice Panel has been an amazing experience for me. This panel bridges the gap in the domestic violence sector between all the different professionals qualified to give support and we now give the lived experience input, which gives a greater understanding of what life as a survivor is actually like.**





Photo credit, left & right: Ian Jones Photography

## Changemakers meet Her Majesty The Queen

In Spring 2024, Changemakers were welcomed to Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty The Queen for an intimate roundtable discussion on championing the voices of young people in the mission to end domestic abuse.

Our Changemakers emphasised the importance of promoting healthy relationships and the need for authentic youth voices to be at the forefront of efforts to address domestic abuse. The Queen, a long-standing advocate for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, was keen to explore ways to prevent young people from being harmed or harming others, reinforcing the value of engaging young people in creating solutions.



**To be given the opportunity to meet the Queen is so empowering and a moment I will always remember. It means so much for us as young people to be seen and heard by someone so influential, and to be able to use our experiences to help others.**



This meeting is part of a continuing relationship between SafeLives' Changemakers and HM The Queen. In 2022, the Changemakers attended a reception to raise awareness of violence against women and girls, and in March 2024, they participated in the Women of the World Festival at Buckingham Palace to celebrate International Women's Day.

The impact of these young advocates cannot be overstated. Their input is shaping how domestic abuse is understood and addressed, particularly the unique challenges that young survivors face. They are ensuring that the voices of young people are no longer an afterthought but a central part of creating solutions that work for everyone.

## Strategic Priority 1:

# Acting before someone is harmed or harms others

We work to prevent abuse by identifying early warning signs and intervening before harm escalates.



**When I see how sharing my voice has influenced national campaigns, services and laws...I feel powerful and proud of what we have achieved.**

SafeLives Changermaker

**S**afe Young Lives is our UK-wide programme working to prevent young people from being harmed – or harming – through domestic abuse. The young people that we've worked with over the last few years have had a profound effect on SafeLives and we have made a commitment to keep amplifying their voices.

Our focus this year has turned to sharing what we have learned to support multi-agency working, particularly by building awareness of domestic abuse and referral pathways in professionals working directly with children and young people, in schools, youth settings, the care sector, family courts and in adolescent mental health.

### **The Power of Young People's Authentic Voice: expanding Safe Young Lives (SYL)**

Our transformative 'Safe Young Lives' projects have generated vital new learning and have helped us integrate a specific youth-work model into our wider Authentic Voice (AV) work and enabled us to support our growing group of Changermakers: young people who work alongside us to end abuse.



**Working with SafeLives came at a very good time in my life. I was feeling quite silenced by society and I felt like no one wanted to listen to my thoughts about DA and what needed to change. As soon as I started working with SafeLives they made sure my voice was heard by not just them but other networks as well.**

SafeLives Changemaker

Our Changemakers have reshaped how we engage with and include young people’s voices.

We recognise the importance of a relationship-led, person-centred model, and have integrated youth work principles into our approach, ensuring we are managing expectations carefully and working at a pace that respects their commitments and boundaries.

All our work with young people is supervised by skilled staff, and in late 2022, we recruited a Young People’s Authentic Voice Coordinator to lead this.

**Verge of Harming: phase two**

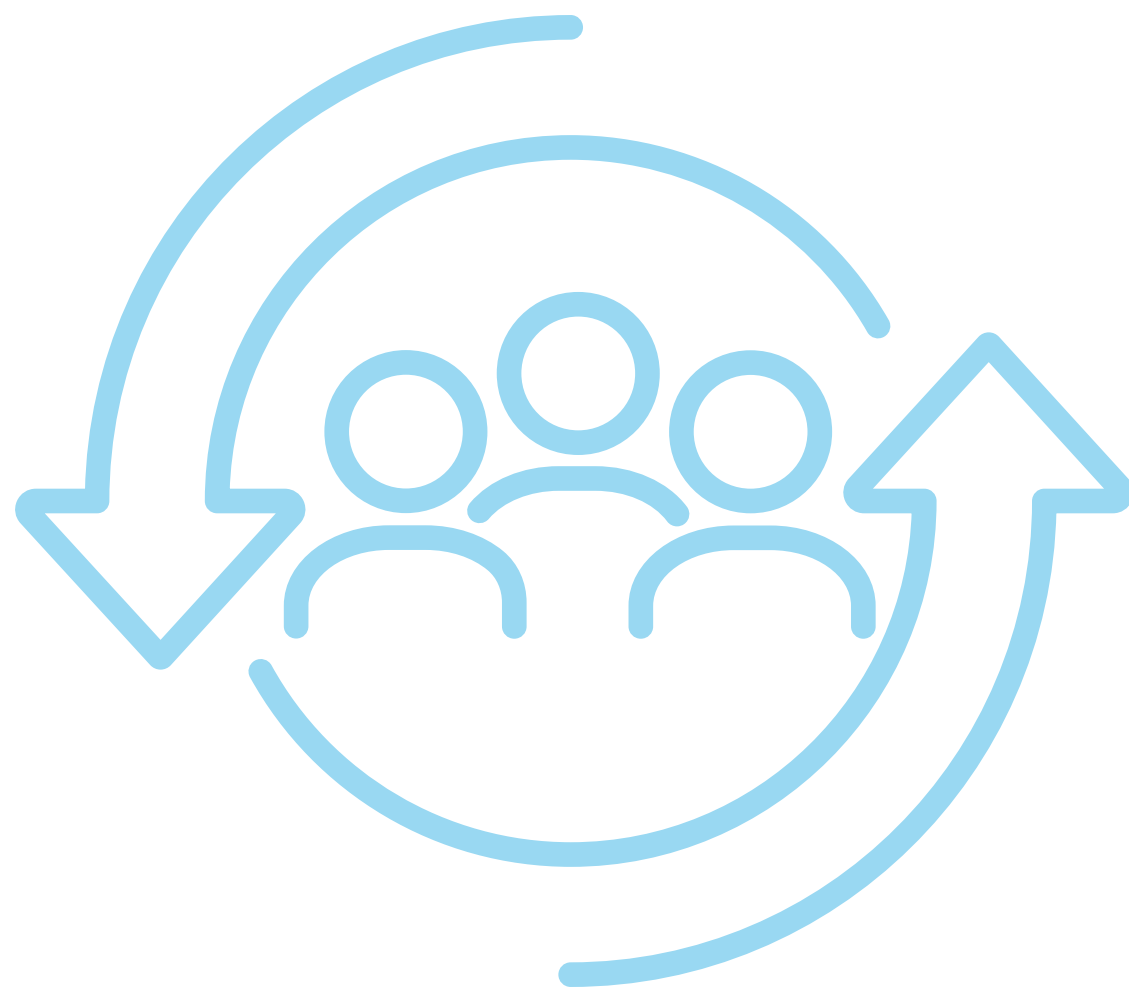
One of our key projects this year has been Verge of Harming – a research project exploring why young people begin to use abusive behaviours in their relationships and what interventions are effective in stopping abusive behaviour once it starts.

Building on the ‘Early Intervention Support Model’ developed in an earlier phase, we are taking this model and progressing it into a best practice, evidence-based framework to assist practitioners. Funded by Rayne Foundation and Queen Anne’s Gate Foundation, this project involves working with five frontline sites across the UK who have an active support offer for young people who harm.

**If I were a stat – exploring young Black girls’ experiences of domestic abuse**

We have worked with specialist service, Bambuuu, which focuses on supporting young Black women in Nottingham to support the launch of a co-created video that outlines challenges and solutions in supporting Black girls affected by DA. This draws on an original idea from our Incubator lead, which uses statistics about domestic abuse in the Black community and the barriers to seeking help.

The collaboration aims to provide a deeper understanding of the intersectional issues that young Black girls face when it comes to domestic abuse, including racial and gender-specific dynamics. Our work with Bambuuu reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that services are responsive to the diverse needs of all survivors, and we aim to expand our partnership-working with specialist services, as part of our broader strategy for inclusive, community-driven responses to domestic abuse.

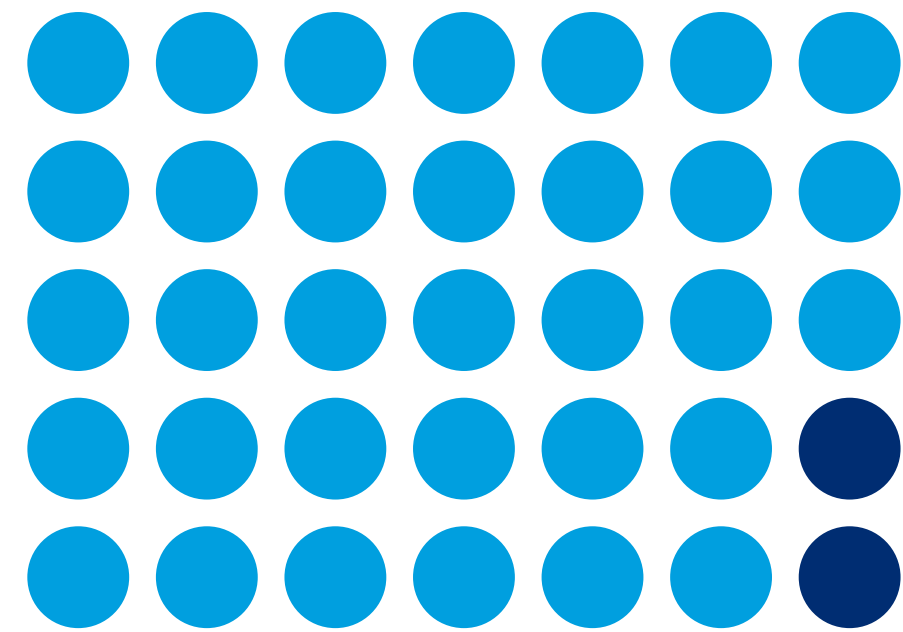


**SafeLives is the most empowering and influential organisation that I have ever worked with, they have never said no to any of my ideas and have always encouraged me to keep fighting for what I believe in. I’m so lucky and grateful that I have the privilege to work with this incredible organisation.**

SafeLives Changemaker

## Adolescent domestic abuse

We're also partnering with City of London University, looking at young people's experiences of toxic relationships and working sector colleagues including Refuge, Victim Support, Rape Crisis, Respect and WAFE to influence this research. The project is delivering online workshops with young adults aged 18–24 who experienced a toxic, unhealthy or abusive relationship when they were 13–16 years.



# £300k

disseminated in onward grants to 38 organisations

## Your Best Friend onward grants

As part of our powerful Your Best Friend programme, which aimed to give girls, young women, and non-binary young people the tools to identify potential abuse in intimate relationships, we disseminated £300k in onward grants to 38 organisations. We followed up with the grantees six months later and were delighted to see the impact.

The grantees delivered almost 700 sessions with young people. They worked with 157 other organisations and shared the co-created Your Best Friend resources and the materials their own young people had created with hundreds of thousands of others online.

They told us the funding helped them empower young people to engage in social action around toxic or unhealthy relationships. And they noted improved awareness and identification of unhealthy relationships, as well as young people building their own confidence and engaging in peer support, using their knowledge to have conversations with others and forming friendship groups within the programmes.

The Your Best Friend #FriendsCanTell resources continue to be shared widely and we're proud to have seeded so many new resources and conversations.



**They have gained the confidence to start conversations around unhealthy relationships with other young people who have not been involved in the project.**



**The project has empowered young people to engage in social actions every time they identify unhealthy relationship by raising an alarm, blowing the whistle to alert someone else for a quick help. The young people have been able to identify telephone numbers to dial in such cases, fill out our contact form online or post on their social media for actions against toxic relationships.**

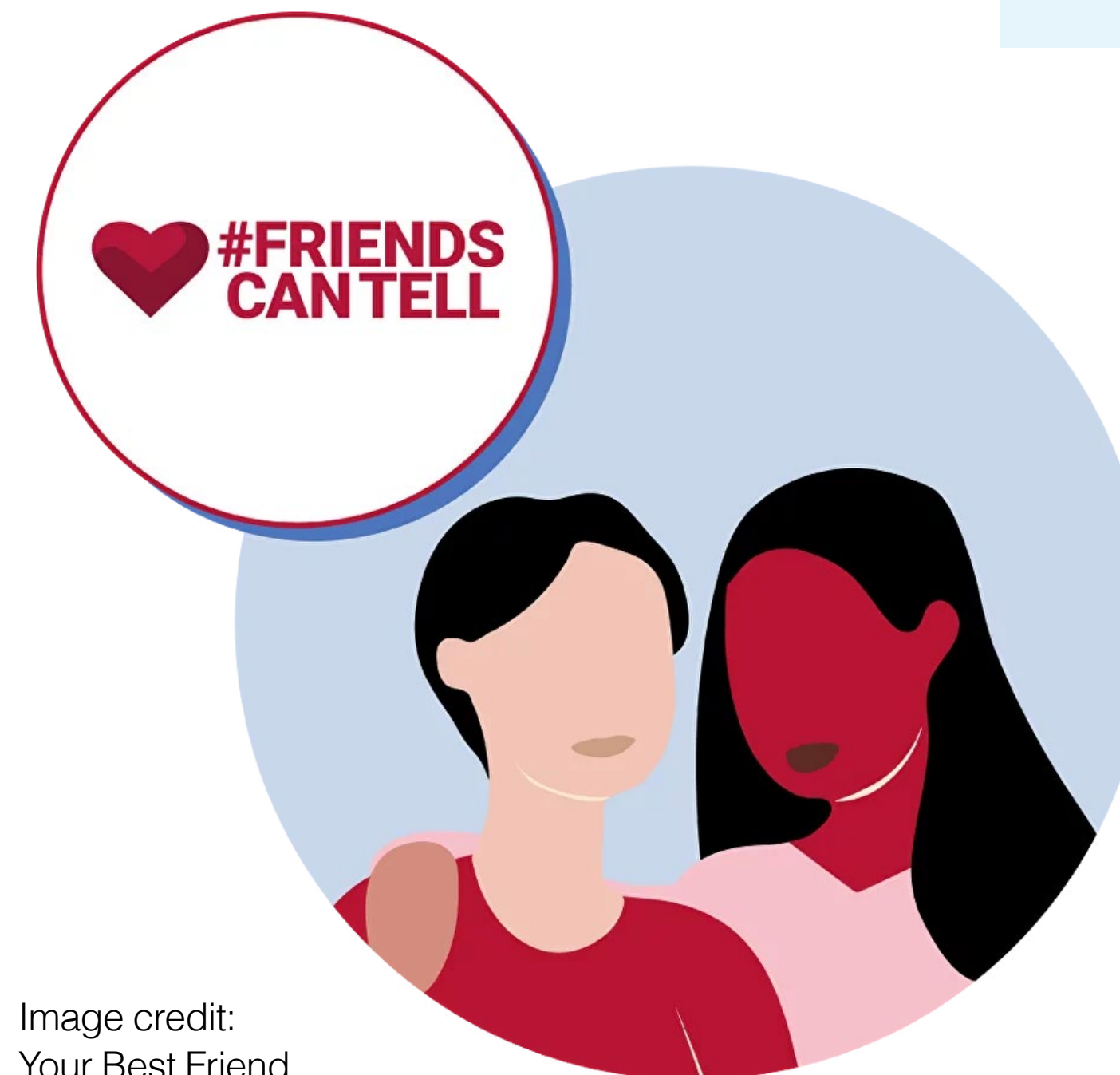
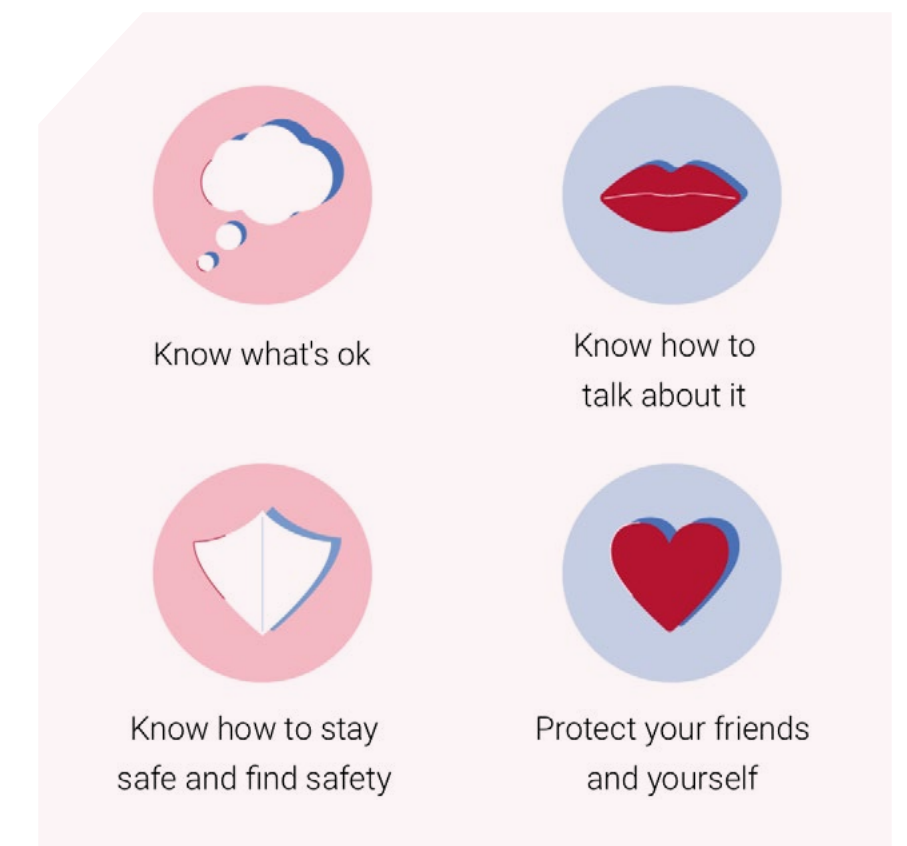


Image credit: [Your Best Friend](#)





## Strategic Priority 2:

# Stopping harmful behaviour

Through programmes like Drive, we challenge perpetrators to change their behaviour, ensuring that abusive cycles are broken.



### Transforming responses to perpetrators of domestic abuse

We continue to play a pivotal role in challenging high-harm, high-risk perpetrators of domestic abuse through our flagship Drive partnership programme with Respect and Social Finance.

In 2023-4, Drive has supported around 1,000 service users, bringing its total reach to 5,400 perpetrators, who had been harming close to 17,000 adults and children. The Drive intervention has reached 14 areas across England and Wales to date and a recent evaluation of its impact by the University of Suffolk found real evidence of national and local change.

We were also proud to expand Drive's Restart programme which worked this year (2023-4) with more than 100 perpetrators, close to 300 adult and child victim-survivors.

Developed in collaboration with MOPAC, The Drive Partnership, Cranstoun, and DAHA, Restart was initially introduced as a response to the pandemic in 2020. The programme enables families to remain safe in their homes by creating a new perpetrator housing pathway – a vital shift that has changed systems and thinking across Local Authority Housing teams.

**1,000**

service users supported



**5,400**

total perpetrators reached, harming close to

**17,000**

adults and children

**14**

areas reached across England and Wales



Since its inception, Restart has delivered substantial training, equipping 400 social workers and 500 multi-agency professionals within five Local Authorities' Children and Social Care teams with the tools they need to respond effectively. We are also preparing for Restart's expansion into a sixth London borough, supported by Foundations (What Works Centre for Children and Families) who are evaluating the initiative.



# 400

**social workers to date have received training through Restart**

# 500

**multi-agency professionals within five Local Authorities' Children and Social Care teams have received training through restart**

We have also secured funding so that Drive operates right across London; and have worked to build cultural competence in responding to perpetrators through a co-created toolkit designed to guide practice in areas such as immigration, familial abuse, interpreter abuse, and spiritual abuse. Two co-design groups drawn from survivors and by and for specialist services are also creating new, culturally specific interventions within Drive for LGBT+ and racially minoritised communities.

We have developed a refreshed Call to Action on perpetrators, following the success of the original Call in 2021, which has since helped secure Government investment of £75m in perpetrators services across England and Wales through 2022-25 and increased the confidence of commissioners and policymakers to support work with perpetrators. At a local level, we have also seen success in increasing the confidence in working with perpetrators



**I feel with Restart, it's like you're talking to another human being, not just a number, whereas dealing with a social worker, you feel like you're just another case that they need to finish.**

Victim-Survivor

across frontline teams, through Drive itself and our SafeLives' 'Engaging with Those That Harm' training – with 350+ people trained to date.

The Drive Partnership's plan for 2023-2026 builds on seven years of learning, responding opportunities and challenges, by piloting new flexible responses which cater to community needs in collaboration with by and for services, expanding workforce capacity and capability across sectors, growing the Action on Perpetrators network and enabling scrutiny of the Government's Pursuing Perpetrators pillar in the DA Plan.

By 2026, our goal is to see a consistent approach across local areas and agencies in England and Wales, working together – supported by national leadership – to disrupt domestic abuse, change perpetrator behaviour, and improve safety for adult and child survivors, including those from underserved communities.

## **Strengthening legal protections with Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs)**

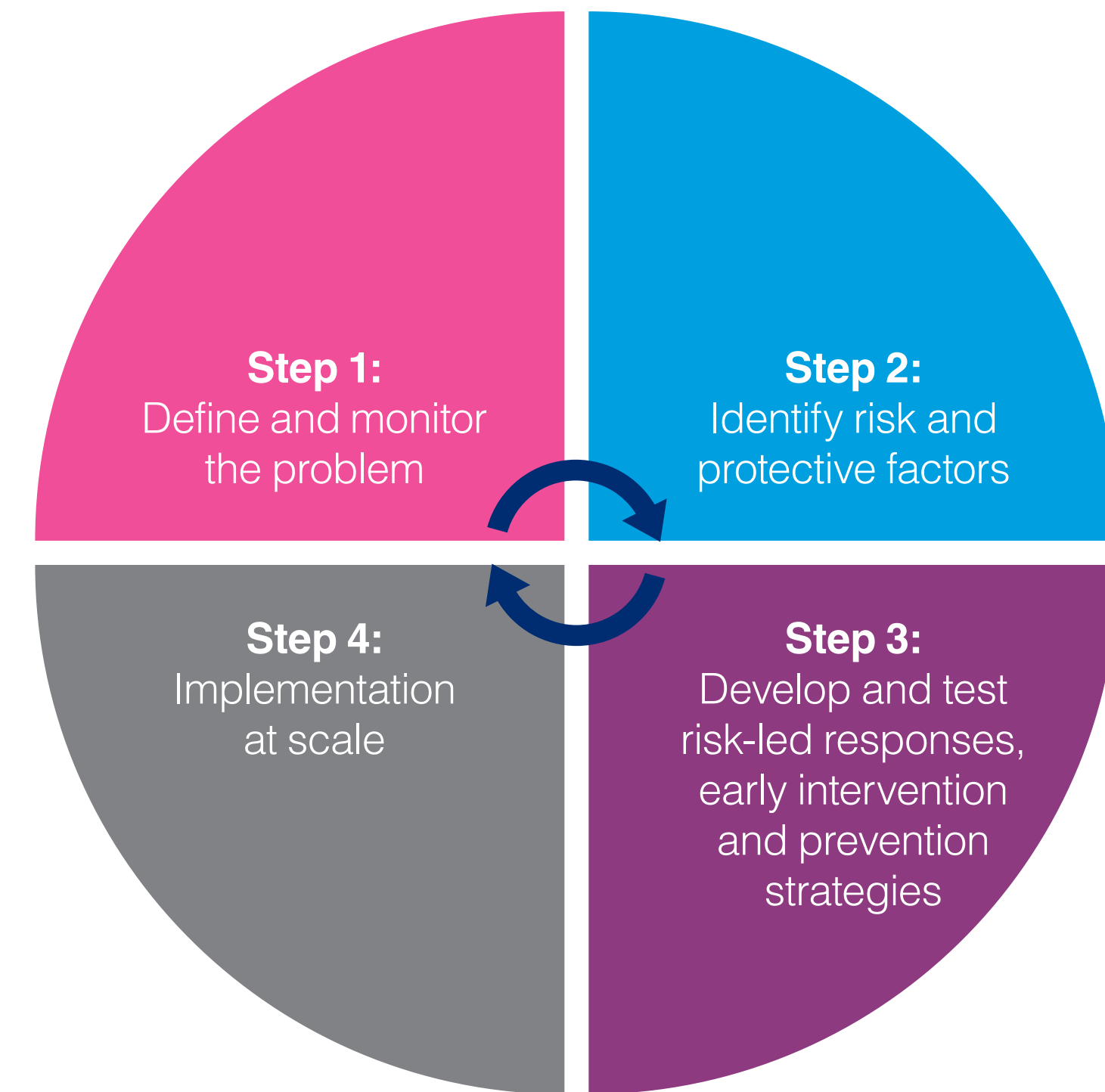
We are pleased to have played a vital role in the development and implementation of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders through our Drive partnership programme. These orders are a vital step in enhancing the legal tools available to protect survivors of domestic abuse and are part of a new framework designed to consolidate and strengthen existing protections for victims. The aim is a more flexible and effective response by allowing courts to impose restrictions on perpetrators, including banning contact with the victim and requiring them to attend behaviour-change programmes to secure immediate safety for the victim and long-term change in the perpetrator, addressing the root cause of abuse.

First announced in the Domestic Abuse Act, these pilots are being rolled out in several areas across England and Wales and Drive has been commissioned in autumn 2023 to devise and implement the pilots. We hope they can be a significant step forward in providing stronger, more consistent protection for survivors across the UK.

## Strategic Priority 3:

# Increasing safety for those at risk

By working with professionals across sectors, we ensure that survivors receive the support they need to stay safe.



**W**e can only end domestic abuse if we look at the whole picture for the whole family. A huge part of our work is focused on supporting local strategic and operational leaders and frontline practitioners to drive systemic change. This means working with local areas to develop an understanding of organisational cultures, contexts and connections and to review the local system which respond to adult and child victims and survivors.

We assess the local landscape, consulting with service users and providers to understand opportunities, strengths and gaps, then co-create solutions and make recommendations for improvements, taking a public health approach to addressing domestic abuse. We also focus on workforce development, growing the capabilities of those responding to victims and perpetrators.

## Taking a public health approach to working with the whole family:

Our [Public Health Approach](#) in local areas is already driving change. We support local systems to enhance their ability to recognise early warning signs of abuse and provide timely interventions. Our team have worked with over 50 local areas across England and Wales to date, including 11 areas in 2023/24.

Like public health strategies for disease prevention, we emphasise prevention, early intervention, and community-wide solutions to address the root causes and risk factors of domestic abuse. By addressing these factors early on, we aim to break the cycle of abuse and stop harm before it occurs.

We are seeing lots of similar challenges across the country, particularly lack of provision for children and perpetrators not being held to account. However, as a result of this work, we are also seeing local areas prioritising a holistic approach, gaining a better understanding of gaps around multi-agency working, specialist service provision and levels of awareness around domestic abuse, and improving engagement with survivors to drive change. Areas are able to work more cost effectively, making better use of the resources they have, and showing a strong return on investment.



**The holistic approach taken, the supportive approach of SafeLives staff, the quality of the feedback.**

Professional



**The consultants have been absolutely amazing and I'm very glad that we got the opportunity to work alongside them. The dedication has been incredible.**

Professional



**It's made me think a lot about our gaps and weaknesses but in a supportive way. Survivor voices and experience have been kept central to the exercise.**

Professional

## Reviewing the approach to risk identification and assessment

Effective identification of the risks and needs for each survivor and appropriate referral to support are cornerstones of a good response, which ensures everyone gets the right help at the right time. Key elements of this are the Dash risk assessment tool, independent advocacy support and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process (Maracs), bringing together statutory and voluntary agencies to share critical information and create coordinated safety plans. 2024 marks two decades since we initiated the wider adoption of this framework: from a handful of Maracs, there are now around 290 operating across the UK.

This year, we introduced a new Marac data platform that improves upload and access to case information. The platform, welcomed by Marac chairs and coordinators, generates useful dashboards and comparison charts, streamlining the data-sharing process and improving the speed and accuracy of multi-agency responses.

# 290

**Maracs operating across the UK in 2024**

Since 2022, all 32 local authorities across Scotland now have a Marac in place. To ensure consistency in how they operate, the Scottish Government are now exploring the possibility of putting Maracs in Scotland – supported by the Scottish Idva equivalent, the Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (Idaa) – on a statutory footing. This is an exciting development as we continue conversations with the Westminster Government about the future of this element of the response.

The [latest Marac data](#) paints a challenging picture however – since lockdown cases have continued to rise, and cases are an all time high – data from 282 Marac shows 128,000 cases, involving around 160,000 children, an increase of almost 6% over the previous year.

We know the model needs to evolve, not least to acknowledge much higher levels of risk being held in the system. We want to see a thoughtful rethinking of the Dash/Idva-Idaa/Marac approach to ensure it responds to current needs. And we are drawing on what we've learnt from our recent Marac in Scotland mapping work and our current review of the high risk response in London to determine our recommendations for change. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Scottish Marac working group will inform our future thinking, and the influencing work needed to make a case for change.



**If it wasn't for the service I honestly don't know where I'd be now...my Idva took so much time determining how I felt and what I wanted to achieve... It was my first opportunity in a long time to speak about how I actually felt and also to know that my voice was being heard.**

Asama, survivor of domestic abuse

### Championing the role of the Idva

The role of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (Idva) is a founding part of our work. These professionals are not only specialists in domestic abuse and trauma recovery, but also skilled advocates who work closely with multi-agency partners to ensure the voices of survivors are heard within complex legal and support systems.

To date we have trained more than 4,000 Idvas and are proud to be supported by the Ministry of Justice over the last two years to provide bursaries and reduced cost training for more than 700+ Idva and 50+ service managers, with particular focus on reaching those working in small, specialist organisations and organisations run 'by and for' marginalised victims of domestic abuse.

# 700+

**Idvas supported by the Ministry of Justice over the last two years**

The recent Victims and Prisoners Act highlighted the importance of Idvas. During consultation on the Bill, survivors consistently ranked Idvas and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (Isvas) as the most valuable forms of support. We will continue to push to ensure that the critical contributions of Idvas are fully recognised in law and supporting statutory guidance.

### Ensuring children are recognised as victims and get the support they need

We have secured major funding from the Home Office's Children Affected by Domestic Abuse fund, to develop and adapt three of our evidence-based interventions for children and young people, ensuring they are effective for racially minoritised communities. In partnership with the Panah Project and Ashiana, we have been co-creating these interventions in Bolton and Sheffield, identifying gaps and tailoring resources, training, and support to meet the unique needs of racially minoritised children and families.

Feedback from services and survivors has been overwhelmingly positive. Survivors have reported increases in self-esteem, confidence, and empowerment, with many using words like 'thrilling,' 'motivating,' 'empowering,' and 'liberating' to describe the experience.

We are advocating for a major national training programme for Children's Social Care (CSC) and early help teams, which would mirror the success of our 'DA Matters' programme for police teams and create a more informed, responsive system.

### Feedback from services and survivors in Bolton and Sheffield:

Empowering  
 Thrilling  
 Motivating  
 Liberating

## Survivor-led transformation across the UK

We want to make sure the voices of survivors actively shape the future of the response. We kicked off three major projects this year which aim to do exactly that.

**Echo**, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, spans Bolton, Leicestershire and Sheffield – enabling survivors to engage directly with local authorities and service providers. By participating in workshops and consultations, survivors provide essential feedback on how services can better meet their needs which is used to make real-time improvements in the quality and accessibility of support for domestic abuse survivors. Survivors' experiences are driving service design and delivery, leading to more responsive and effective systems of care.



**The name 'Echo' was chosen to reflect the project's core goal; ensuring that the voices of survivors are heard, shared, and amplified throughout the research and design process or, in other words, 'echoed' throughout the domestic abuse response.**

SafeLives Changemaker

**Family Voices**, funded by the Department for Education and the Department for Work and Pensions, with input from the Department of Health and Social Care, amplifies the voices, experiences and perspectives of families affected by domestic abuse at a national level. It offers a space where survivors, their children, and families can share their lived experience of programmes to inform the development of national programmes and policy, as well as the delivery of programmes locally. Working alongside social services and Early Help teams, we are identifying best practice as well as areas for improvement, consulting with families and providers to understand opportunities, strengths, and gaps.

And, launched in Summer 2024, the Hampshire project places survivors at the heart of service design, working with local authorities and the DA Partnership Board to create a model of support that is truly survivor-led.

At its core is the **Hampshire Authentic Voice Panel**, which invites local survivors to join as experts by experience, bringing their personal insights, experiences, and expertise to help inform and improve the support systems that are in place. The Panel focuses on inclusivity, ensuring broad representation from across the community and also breaks new ground by incorporating the voices of children and young people – who are often overlooked in domestic abuse responses.



**Echo**  
Spans Bolton, Leicestershire and Sheffield – enabling survivors to engage directly with local authorities and service providers

**Family Voices**  
Amplifies the voices, experiences and perspectives of families affected by domestic abuse at a national level

**Hampshire Authentic Voice Panel**  
Working with local authorities and the DA Partnership Board to create a model of support that is truly survivor-led

## Building capabilities

We support the frontline response and our work includes practice advice and guidance as well as workforce development.

### Focused work on supporting marginalised survivors

After extensive consultation with survivors, services and practitioners, we published new practice guidance to assist commissioners and frontline services in supporting Trans and gender diverse victims and survivors of domestic abuse. The guidance will be regularly reviewed, based on feedback around its implementation.

Additionally, our Incubator team has explored the needs of refugees and asylum seekers to inform practice, foster new partnerships, and inspire future initiatives. This research is laying the groundwork for a new project that aims to enhance access to healthcare for migrant survivors.

In Scotland we worked with services to publish a report in 2024 on [the role of Small and/or Specialist services in the Marac process](#) and gave findings to Scottish Government and its Marac in Scotland working group on marginalised victims' referral and inclusion at Marac.



**I wanted to say how pleased I was to see and read your Trans inclusion guidance – incredibly validating and empowering to read, with points raised that I've been discussing for such a long time.**

Community Capacity Building Lead



**Diversity is everybody's business. Everyone who plays a part in multi-agency risk assessment and management, safeguarding etc. need to be involved in embedding diversity and inclusion.**

Consultation Participant

### Counter-allegations guidance

We also released 'Who is the Victim?' guidance on navigating the challenges professionals face when dealing with counter-allegations in domestic abuse cases in England and Wales. This valuable resource sheds light on the complexities of identifying the primary victim in situations where both parties may make accusations of abuse and is designed to help support all multi-agency partners in feeling confident to identify and support these cases to protect families.

### Workforce development and quality assurance

There are now 57 Leading Lights accredited services operating across the UK. This quality mark, developed by SafeLives, is recognised by commissioners and funders alike. Accompanied by service manager and practitioner training, as well as the opportunity to use our Insights case data management tool, the programme ensures a quality standard, showing a service is operating safely and effectively and provides a regular touchpoint for sharing experiences and good practice with SafeLives and each other.

During the course of 2023/24 we've trained more than 11,000 people. As well as running training for specialist domestic abuse practitioners and other frontline responders, we have continued to offer domestic policy development and training to civil society organisations – working with a whole range of corporate clients.

# 11,000

people trained during 2023/24

## Strategic Priority 4:

# Supporting recovery

We help survivors rebuild their lives after abuse, providing them with the tools and resources they need to live free from fear.



### Responding to the intersection of domestic abuse and the cost-of-living crisis: NatWest Circle Fund

We were delighted to celebrate the continued impact of the [NatWest Circle Fund](#) with NatWest colleagues, specialist DA services and MPs at an event in Parliament in January 2024. The fund provides vital financial support to domestic abuse survivors, enabling frontline services to meet the immediate needs of those in crisis and to support recovery. We were especially pleased to announce a further £1m donation to support its continuation over the next three years.

Since co-creating the Circle Fund in 2020 with survivors and services, we have supported more than 4,000 survivors by enabling 140+ frontline services to offer rapid, flexible financial assistance. It has had a profound impact on families across the UK, particularly for those facing additional challenges due to Covid-19 restrictions and now the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

The fund's flexibility has allowed services to meet a whole range of needs, whether for emergency accommodation, food, household items, safety equipment or support back into the workplace. It is designed to fill gaps where other grants may not apply, with grants reaching marginalised groups such as LGBTQ+, Muslim, and South Asian communities.



Photo credit: Adam Hollingworth Photography



**This was the first trip we have had as a family, and it was fabulous—so grateful for the help.**

Survivor



**The Circle Fund helped me when no one else would.**

Survivor



## Navigating the family justice system

We know from survivors that experiences in family court can be traumatizing, leaving many survivors feeling silenced, misjudged and ignored. We have long pressed for real change and two new initiatives are showing real promise.

## Domestic abuse training for family lawyers



**The abuse was happening so regularly and so intense, I just can't pinpoint the dates. I felt like I was failing in not remembering and felt that maybe even my solicitor doesn't believe me.**

Survivor



**Is there a human being behind that? We see the suit.**

Survivor



**I feel I will be much better placed to support survivors. This course has taught me so much. It is a step back to re-look at how we all work.**

Survivor

Following our pilot family lawyer training which concluded in the autumn of 2023, we launched a report on its impact, with the support of Domestic Abuse Commissioner, survivors and legal professionals, at the offices of Charles Russell Speechlys, long standing supporters of SafeLives. Having reached over 360 legal professionals, it was clear that the programme provided learners with essential knowledge and skills to offer trauma-informed support to survivors of domestic abuse. Before the training, only 49% of attendees reported having a good understanding of domestic abuse, but after completing the sessions, 99% of learners said their knowledge had significantly improved.

Following positive feedback and the observation of training sessions by Government officials, the Government asked SafeLives to share learning with Local Family Justice Board chairs and members. This work is a helpful step toward ensuring that the legal system better supports survivors, reducing the risk of re-traumatisation and enhancing the overall response to domestic abuse cases within the family justice system.

## Cafcass secondment

In July 2023, SafeLives began a cautious yet determined partnership with the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) by seconding two senior members from our Practice and Innovation teams. This secondment follows five years of careful relationship-building and a shared understanding that change is necessary.

We are mindful of the many survivors who have had difficult and retraumatising experiences with the family justice system, including Cafcass, and recognise the deep mistrust that still exists. Our efforts are focused on making a meaningful difference, while acknowledging that this is a challenging, long-term process.

Our SafeLives secondees have worked to develop a set of domestic abuse practice 'Must Dos', which aim to improve how Cafcass approaches domestic abuse cases. We are committed to engaging with survivors' voices



**I think everyone should have this training to recognise what survivors experience and make a huge difference to victims' lives.**

Participant feedback



**The impact and the difference being made is tangible... feedback received about their work is unanimously positive.**

Community Capacity  
Building Lead

at every stage of this work to make sure that reforms within Cafcass are grounded in the lived experiences of those who have been through the family court system.

There has been positive feedback from Cafcass staff and frontline services about the collaboration with SafeLives and practice changes are underway to ensure DA is not minimised, the voices of children and adults are unmediated and the language used by family court advisors changes to avoid the use of 'alleged' or 'claimed' and instead just say 'said'. We know there is still much work to do and this secondment is just one part of our wider effort to improve the family court system's response to domestic abuse and increase understanding around domestic abuse.

## Strategic Priority 5:

# An effective and sustainable organisation

We want to make sure we remain adaptable, inclusive, and forward-thinking.



Over the past year, we have focused on embedding equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI) into our work, while also strengthening our internal processes and governance. Our aim is to create a resilient organisation that can effectively support survivors, frontline practitioners, and services, while continuing to innovate and lead whole system transformation.

This year, this includes continuing to invest in the development of our people, ensuring our financial sustainability and making plans for our new Strategy, as we prepare to celebrate SafeLives' 21st anniversary in 2025.

### Organisational development

We are committed to equity, equality, diversity and inclusion and fostering a culture which is consciously inclusive. Our new Director of People and Culture has undertaken a 'Listening Exercise' to gather staff, Pioneer, Changemaker, and Trustee perspectives on key themes such as inclusion, diversity, anti-racism, wellbeing, and staff engagement. These insights are informing our People and Culture Strategy, which is currently under development alongside our new organisational strategy. Further work is underway, led by the Senior Leadership Team, to develop a clear organisational 'why' for our

anti-racism work, in particular, to ensure this is given the priority it deserves in transforming our understanding around structural inequality and inequity.

We're proud that four staff members completed the [H.O.P.E. Leadership Programme](#), aimed at empowering professionals from racialised communities in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector. We are delighted to be able to offer four more members of staff the opportunity to take part in the leadership programme in 2024-5.

Additionally, we are implementing recommendations from our internal Authentic Voice (AV) impact review, including a new remuneration model for young people, aligning with what is offered to adult Pioneers. This ensures fair compensation for their time while managing risks and adhering to legislation.

We are undertaking a thorough review of our governance processes to ensure compliance with the latest legislation and to strengthen the charity's capacity to meet its purpose effectively. We expect the first part of this process to be complete in autumn 2024.

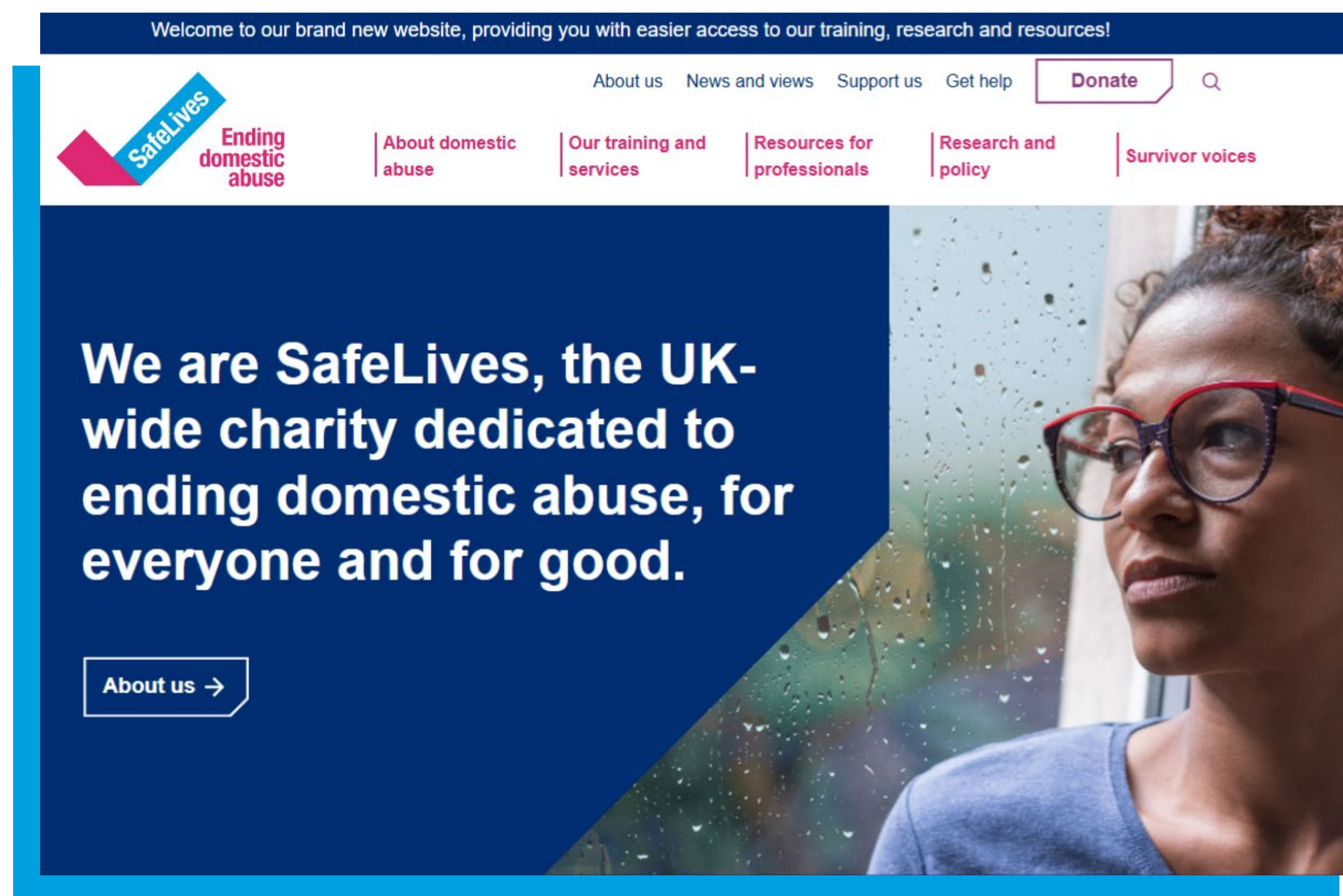
CEO Suzanne Jacob OBE returned from parental leave in autumn 2023 and stepped down in spring 2024 after seven years as CEO.

Ellen Miller, who was interim CEO during Suzanne's leave, was recruited as permanent CEO and rejoined SafeLives in April 2024. Our Head of Training has become interim Director of Quality & Innovation, whilst a longstanding founding staff member has a sabbatical year.

We successfully concluded our pay review process to improve transparency and consistency for staff, and are pleased that our staff turnover remains below industry average

We were delighted to launch our new [website](#) this year, serving as a central hub for regularly updated resources and information, ensuring that our key audiences have easy access to the information they need, whether they are seeking help, booking training, or accessing best practice guidance.

Built on the foundation of clear and compassionate design, the new site is user-friendly and responsive. With continuous improvements planned, the site will serve as a cornerstone of SafeLives' digital strategy to drive greater engagement with survivors and professionals across the UK. Improvements in our digital marketing have also led to a significant increase in the reach of our regular newsletter and promotional materials.



We are excited to have appointed three new Trustees to our Board, with plans to recruit two more to further diversify the voices shaping our governance particularly around age and to address the underrepresentation of racially marginalised communities at all levels of the organisation. And we continue to benefit from the support and expert guidance of our [Scottish Advisory Group](#).

Finally, we are delighted that Her Majesty The Queen has chosen to continue her role as Patron of SafeLives. Her Majesty has attended and hosted a range of events dedicated to bringing together individuals and organisations who are working to end domestic abuse and celebrating survivors and frontline services across the country. She has been an amazing advocate for change, recognising the power of the authentic voice of survivors and frontline practitioners. We're so grateful for her support and commitment to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good.

# Financial review

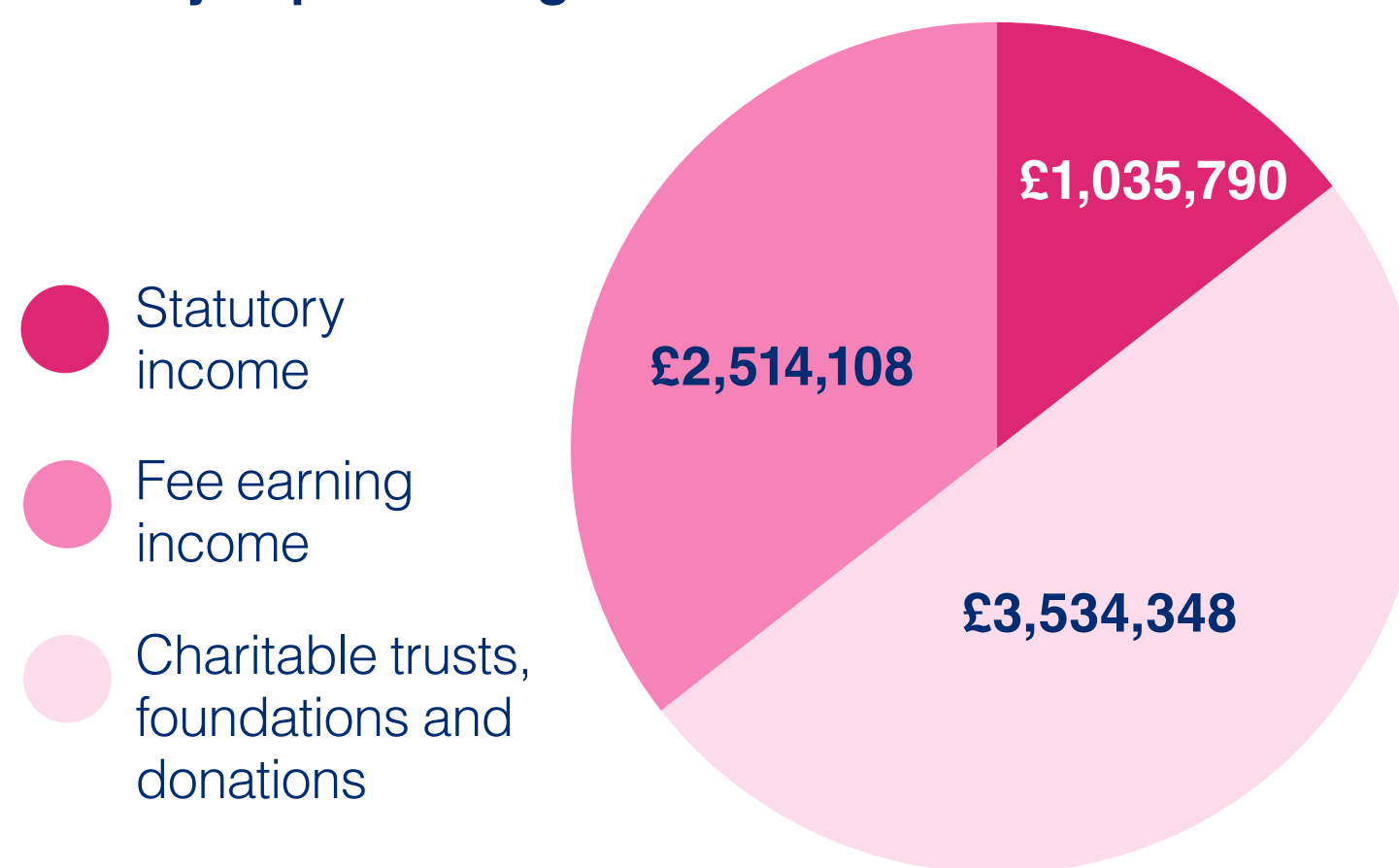
We had expected a challenging financial year in 2023-2024, but we have demonstrated resilience and adaptability, maintaining financial stability despite rising operational costs, reduced statutory funding, and high inflation. Thanks to strategic cost management and continued support from our funders and partners, we were able to achieve solid financial growth and did not draw down on accumulated reserves as anticipated.

Total income, including funding for partners and grants, was £9.902m, an increase of 12.2% over the previous year, as a result of growth in our practice consultancy income and unrestricted grants and donations and a further £1m donation from NatWest for the onward grant programme, the Circle Fund. We saw some small reductions in training and research income as some programmes concluded and core funding grants reduced.

Our reserves grew from £2.450 million to £3.584 million, with unrestricted reserves representing just over five months of core costs. This buffer is crucial as we navigate the uncertainties of future funding and the broader economic climate.

## How we were funded

Excluding income paid out directly to partners/ grants:



## How we spent our funding

Fundraising: £232,415

Research: £272,984

Influencing: £279,592

Support/governance: £1,240,898

Innovation: £1,362,273

Capacity building: £3,276,618

**Total: £6,664,780**

## Planning for 2024-25

SafeLives is well-positioned to continue our work to transform the response to domestic abuse and we will maintain a focus on income generation through business development, marketing, fundraising and the exploration of new opportunities. We remain optimistic about potential partnerships and hope that statutory funding will continue for our priority work, particularly in light of the new Westminster Government's commitment to halving VAWG in the next decade.

## Acknowledging Our Supporters

# Thank you

## Together, we can end domestic abuse, for everyone, for good.

**W**e are deeply grateful to our funders, partners, and supporters who have made our work possible over the past year. Your contributions have been invaluable in helping us continue our mission to end domestic abuse, for everyone, for good.

Special thanks to our SafeLives Pioneers, Changemakers, and Authentic Voice Panel members, whose courage and expertise continue to inspire and inform everything we do.

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 roundtables and discussions, adding their own insight.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported or funded SafeLives' work. We cannot end domestic abuse alone. Through your support we have been able to help thousands of families affected by domestic abuse, saving lives and helping people to live the lives they want in safety.

Our principal funders and supporters this year include the following, as well as other organisations who chose to remain anonymous:

- Aurum Trust
- Bleu Blanc Rouge Foundation
- Charles Russell Speechlys Foundation
- Dulverton Trust
- Epic Foundation
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- Firebird Foundation
- Private family foundation managed by Greenwood Place
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Legal Education Foundation
- Loungers Clothing
- NatWest
- Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- Peter Cundill Foundation

- Queen Anne's Gate Foundation
- Rayne Foundation
- Kate Wilkinson & Harry Gaskell
- The Home Office
- The Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- The Scottish Government
- The Welsh Government
- The National Lottery Community Fund (England & Wales)
- The National Lottery Community Fund (Scotland)
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- The Ministry of Justice
- Vision Foundation

**As we look to the future, we invite you to continue supporting our work. Whether through donations, partnerships, or advocacy, your involvement is crucial in helping us create a safer, brighter future for everyone affected by domestic abuse.**

## Closing remarks from Isabel Boyer, our Chair

# Thank you for reading this year's impact report and for your continued support for victims and survivors and the work we do to support the whole family.



Families experiencing domestic abuse and the services which support them are experiencing unprecedented pressures, and it's vital that the system which responds to them is working effectively. I'm proud of the things we've done this year to strengthen the local response, to train so many people, from Idvas to police officers to HR professionals, and to bring the voice of survivors to the fore at all times.

I was privileged to be part of the conversation with our Patron, HM The Queen, and our Changemakers, who always impress with their intelligence, passion, and commitment to a better world for victims and to ending domestic abuse. I've seen at first hand the work of our Authentic Voice Panel, another amazing group of women, who are using their lived experience to drive change in Scotland. And, of course, I have loved working alongside our two brilliant Pioneer Trustees, Ursula and Shana, who bring so much to our Board.

It has been a year of important changes in leadership as we welcomed Ellen as our new CEO and said goodbye to Suzanne, who had been CEO for seven years. I want to thank all my trustee colleagues for their wisdom and commitment. Together with the Senior Leadership Team, the Board played an important role in navigating times of change.

We hold on to all the good things about our Whole Picture Strategy as we start to shape the

future with Ellen, and I also want to thank Suzanne for the work she led to bring SafeLives to its current success.

We are so pleased that the Home Office has placed its faith in our Drive partnership programme to pilot the new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, and the legacy of our work with young people is bearing fruit in new research initiatives and interventions such as the CADA project - working with children from minoritised communities in Bolton and Sheffield.

Our work in Scotland this past year has seen several firsts: a first national mapping report of all Scottish Maracs, a world first in the DACA standards and a first survivor-led conference later this year.

We remain committed to our values of being Human, Rigorous, Brave and Inclusive and we look forward to a new year and a new strategy to take us into our next decade, which will continue to prioritise preventing harm, addressing risk and supporting people to live the lives they want after harm has happened.

*Isabel*

**Isabel Boyer**  
Chair, SafeLives



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## Support us

Help us improve the UK's response to domestic abuse, so no one has to face it alone – support SafeLives today.

[safelives.org.uk/support-us/](http://safelives.org.uk/support-us/)