

SafeLives' Impact Report 2017-18

Getting it right first time



SafeLives

Ending
domestic
abuse

The journey to my collateral good

Melani Morgan, SafeLives Internal Pioneer

"I define 'collateral good' as the opposite of collateral damage, so the good that comes out of something bad which makes the bad bearable and as if happening for a reason. I vowed to myself that someday I would turn this experience I had just escaped to some good. That way in my mind it would have something positive attached to it. I could start to think about my future instead of living day to day, moment to moment just dodging the abusive episodes.

Being an Internal Pioneer means I can pick and choose where I share my lived experience. Sometimes I find strength in not disclosing it but using it in my day to day work. I think this is because this is what I did for a very long time. I reflect now and realise I have always used my voice but just not always openly. It feels right for me to be open sometimes and share my lived experience, and sometimes it doesn't. There is strength for me in making this choice daily."

evaluation
data + **voice** + **practice** =
research evidence survivors family friends frontline services health social services police

evidence for change

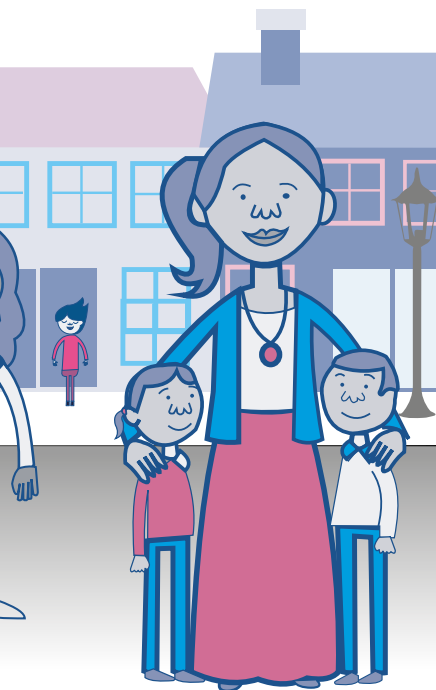
There is no 'them and us'.
Only us.



SafeLives' Impact Report 2017-18

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Introduction

This report sets out the difference we have made in the past year to the lives of people impacted by domestic abuse. It is also the final impact report of our 2015/18 strategy and will outline our impact against what we set out to achieve over the last three years.

We strive to end domestic abuse, for good. We cannot do this alone. Our impact is only made possible due to the determination and expertise of the survivors, services, funders, partners and policymakers we work alongside every day. We thank every single person and organisation who has made progress possible and who believes that one day we will be free from domestic abuse and its devastating impact.

We can only end domestic abuse if we know what works.

We do this by:

-  Listening to survivors and their children
-  Gathering and analysing evidence
-  Supporting and advocating for frontline professionals

The national response to domestic abuse must seek:

- **To provide the right resources in the right places to make people safe, sooner**
- **To respond to the whole family**
- **To stop asking ‘why doesn’t she leave’ and start asking ‘why doesn’t he stop’**

This report focuses on these ambitions and what we have done to make them a reality to end domestic abuse, for good.

In 2015, we set out to halve the time it takes for someone to become safe and double the number of people who have become safe. We could never do this alone. We have seen big improvements made - and a huge amount remains to be done. We thank every professional, practitioner and policymaker who helps people become safe, sooner.

Have we reduced the time it takes for people to become safe?

Yes. SafeLives Insights datasets reveal that on average, it now takes three years for those experiencing domestic abuse in England and Wales to access appropriate support. In Scotland, where the risk-led model we developed with partners has been less present, victims experience abuse for a year longer before they can get help (on average 4 years). Who you are, and where you are, has a significant impact on how fast you can expect to get the help you need. We want to see this duration keep reducing for everyone, everywhere.

Have we increased the number of people who have become sustainably safe?

Yes, we believe we have had a significant positive impact on this number. However, a lack of a definitive picture means we must use proxy measures, and external factors, primarily funding challenges, could be counteracting the progress we and others have been able to make. At time of writing, there is still no simple measure which would tell us definitively whether the number of people who have become sustainably safe is rising. National data capture and analysis on domestic abuse is still not comprehensive enough. However, the Office for National Statistics have made strides in this area and we continue to work with them to improve the picture.

In our own analysis, we consider the following measures:

- Across the UK, there are more Idvas than there used to be. Overall, the number of Idvas has increased by 20% from 2015 until 2017/2018. There is sound evidence that Idvas working in line with the design of the role, make people sustainably safe (in 33% of cases, the Idva reduced risks to victim/survivor safety in the long-term or permanently, and the risk was reduced in the medium term in a further 41% of cases¹.)
- Marac referrals have risen by 18% since 2015, meaning that more survivors than ever before are known to services. Analysis shows that Marac reduces the incidence and severity of abuse by 20%.
- Drive case managers, reporting to an independent evaluator for the pilot, highlight the benefit of intervening with the highest harm perpetrators of abuse. They assess that the risk to the victim/survivor reduced in 50% of cases².

All of these are reasons to be very positive about the impact of changes we have helped to make. However, none of these gains are secure without supportive policy and sustainable funding. The caseloads of specialist workers – both Idvas and others – are rising. Capacity in statutory agencies, on whom specialists have to rely on for interventions to do with social care, policing, and housing, are also under significant pressure. We know that when Idvas have less time to work with someone, the sustainability of the intervention is made less secure, and that they can't fulfil their role properly unless statutory agencies play their part. We are therefore very proud to point to positive indications of change but take nothing for granted.

¹SafeLives Insights data

²Drive Year 1 feasibility study



“When I joined SafeLives in 2015, I joined an organisation brimming with determination and passion to achieve change. We had a new strategy (and a new name) and with it, a sense that greater change was possible. That we could do even better. The team’s energy was matched with a commitment to always do our work in line with our values: human, rigorous and brave.

The 2015/18 strategy set out our aspirations: that we would work together with survivors, frontline services and supporters to:

- Develop new interventions and ways of working to reduce inconsistencies in the response to domestic abuse
- Build on our risk-led approach
- Listen to and amplify the voice of victims, survivors and friends/families
- Use our evidence to get the right policy and funding for services
- Increase our sustainability

I hope you’ll see, throughout this report, the evidence of substantial progress towards each of these objectives. It’s never easy, but we have stayed focused on the importance and urgency of the work. Amongst the many things we can be really proud of, a few examples:

- Testing, with partners Respect and Social Finance, our perpetrator pilot Drive. Together with our frontline partners, we are improving victim safety and triggering a change in the whole system of responding to those who use abuse.
- Making huge progress with our ‘Beacons’, working with local partners so whole families are supported in a way that works for them, not the system. This requires a readiness to do things differently on the part of many people and it’s brilliant to see the many champions helping move this from design into delivery.
- Creating platforms for people with lived experience to tell their story, in their own words. This is absolutely vital – if a charity wants to listen, really listen, to people, part of the job is getting out of the way. The benefits are astounding, and really moving.

I became CEO in December 2017 and I am so proud to lead this organisation. We have evolved since 2015 as we learnt more - but what remains steadfast is the passion and determination to create change, and the values we live by as we work to end domestic abuse, for good.

I can't do this without you. We can't do this without you. Every partner, survivor, friend and funder who has reached out over the last year, and indeed last three years – thank you. Your expertise, compassion and belief that together we can do this – despite every challenge in the way – is remarkable.

What follows is our impact. But it is really the impact of thousands of people working together and persevering.

As the 2015/18 strategy ends, so we have developed a new one. It will only succeed if you keep talking to us, working with us and believing that people have a right to live safe, happy lives and that we are going to get there."

Domestic abuse is not acceptable, or inevitable, and together – we can make it stop. **The time is now.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Jacob', followed by a small dot.

Suzanne Jacob, Chief Executive Officer,
SafeLives

Our highlights from the year

"It's great that SafeLives are looking outward from an inward position and recognising that those staff they walk alongside everyday may too be survivors. It's the way forward - embracing, encouraging and empowering fellow survivors and victims from the inside out. My role as a Pioneer has also taken me to Beacon sites, where I've spoken to lots of women who attend focus groups. I feel by SafeLives encouraging me to go and speak to the women, we have been able to gather the true authentic voice of the survivors."

Rachel, Pioneer

"Training our tenth police force as part of our Domestic Abuse Matters change programme."

Melani, Training Team

"Working with agencies in a local area as part of our National Scrutiny Panel. The reason that this resonated with me was because of the honesty and openness of the statutory services who, when viewing the case in hindsight, voiced poignantly that if they were to sit with this case at Marac again, they could plainly now see that they could and should have done things differently."

Lucy, Knowledge Hub

"SafeLives Pioneers, and how we've started to listen to our own internal voices. The response from colleagues who want their lived experience of domestic abuse to create change, alongside the voices of external Pioneers and survivors, is for me the bravest, most inspiring thing SafeLives has done. We are changing our culture, living our values and truly standing side by side to end domestic abuse."

Michelle, Practice Team



"Working with a young survivor, at her pace, to produce an account of her experiences and a series of recommendations for what needs to change. She is one of the most inspirational young women I've ever met and says the process has given her loads of confidence – which has driven her in her work now with female offenders."

Judith, Knowledge Hub

"Working with SafeLives has given us Pioneers the opportunity to share our experiences in the most empowering and inspiring way in the pursuit of preventing others having to endure what we and too many others have to go through. Personally I can say I feel heard, listened to and supported for who I am and encouraged to become all I can be."

Celia, Pioneer

"Meeting the internal Pioneers and working alongside other external Pioneers has given me the courage to seek out survivors within my workplace, and encourage a safe open discussion surrounding domestic abuse."

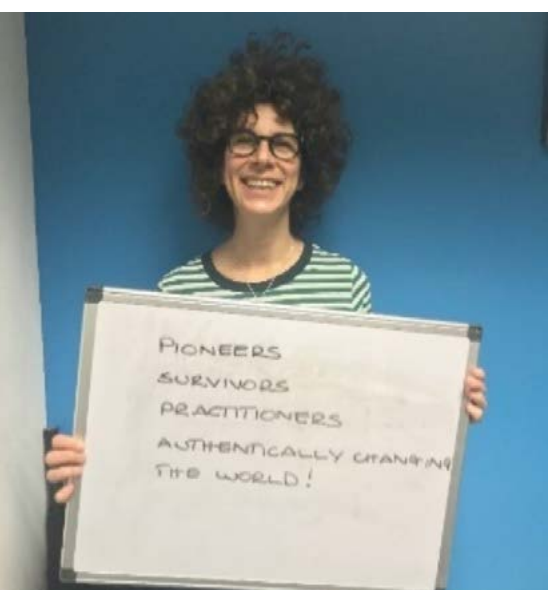
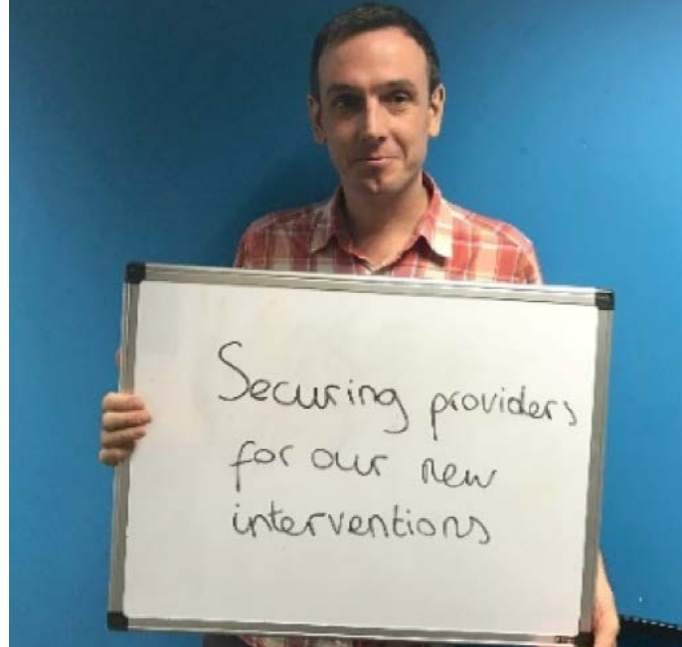
Vicky, Pioneer

“Beacon sites – which we hope will make a huge difference to survivors and their children”.

Matthew, Central Team

“Presenting 1,000 [survivor] voices to the Home Office. Using my voice to present their lived experiences was a true privilege – especially having completed some of the one-to-one interviews myself! Awesome!”

Susie, Research Evaluation and Analysis



“Getting together with other Pioneers, being part of something bigger – the big conversations – and contributing. I have been included in presentations to the Home Office; there really is no ‘them and us’.”

Claire*, Pioneer

“I was very proud to hear Prime Minister Theresa May using SafeLives’ words in her speech to domestic abuse organisations gathered at Number 10 on International Women’s Day. It was so gratifying to hear her say ‘We must ask why doesn’t he stop, rather than why doesn’t she leave’.”

Isabel, Chair of Trustees

“I’m proud that we helped to launch the All-Party Parliamentary Group on perpetrators: at the launch, the Minister said that we need to start holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour and our Drive project was mentioned multiple times as an innovative intervention focussing on breaking cycles of abuse.”

Bex, Drive Team

“I’m really proud of our Spotlight on LGBT+ victims and survivors – in particular working with the incredibly brave survivors who shared their stories with us.”

Ruth, Communications Team

“I really enjoyed helping with the reports for the Homelessness and LGBT+ Spotlights. Although it was sometimes difficult and upsetting to process the content, it was amazing and uplifting to hear about all the incredible new initiatives and stories from survivors.”

Iona, Research Evaluation and Analysis

“Securing the opportunity to deliver our domestic abuse change programme to all of Police Scotland!”

Lucy, Training Team



No typical survivor. No typical family

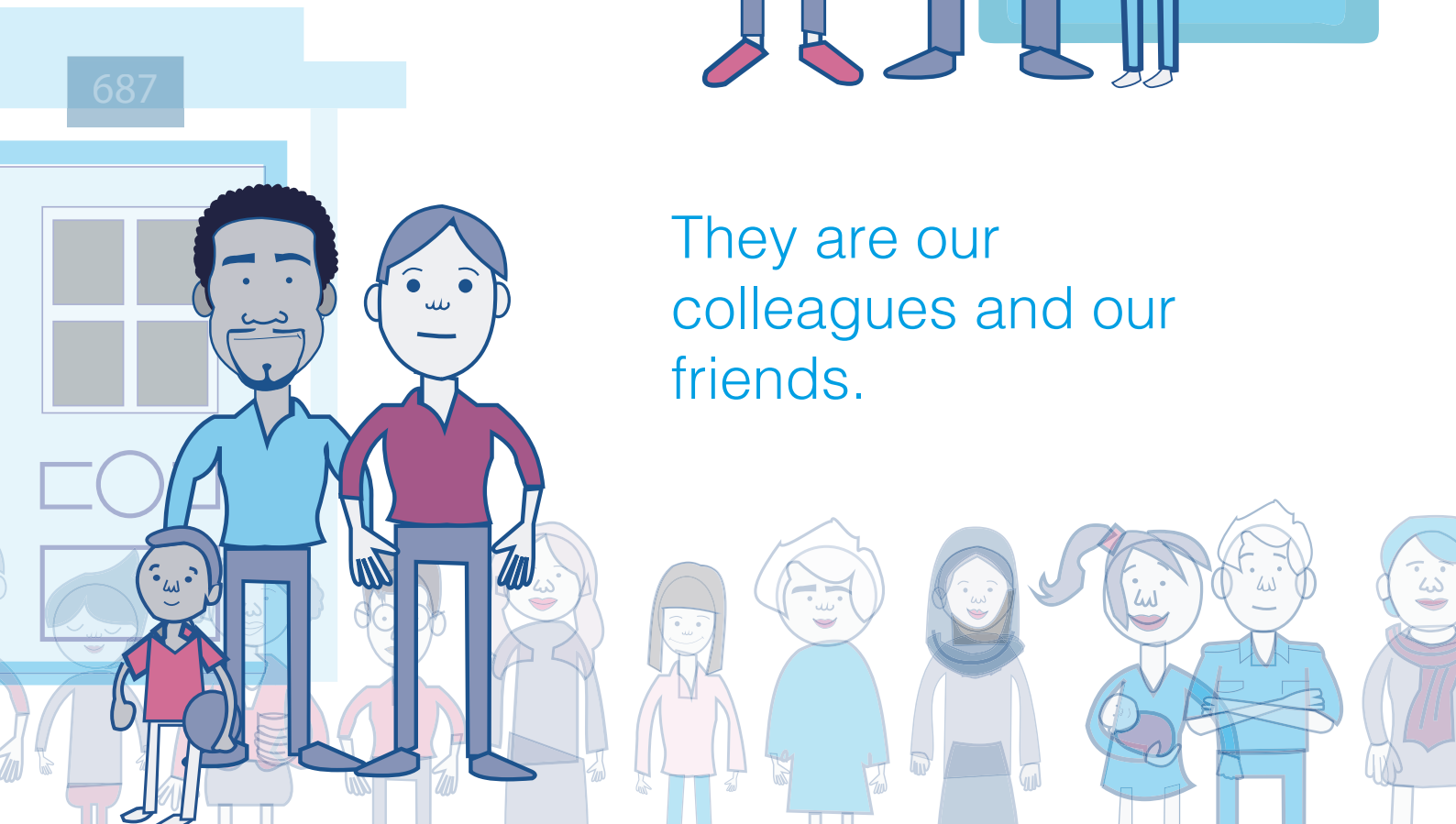
We are committed to amplifying the voice of survivors. We work with our small group of Pioneers who are determined to make change, have spoken to hundreds of survivors through consultations and projects, and gathered thousands of stories from survivors online. We are listening.

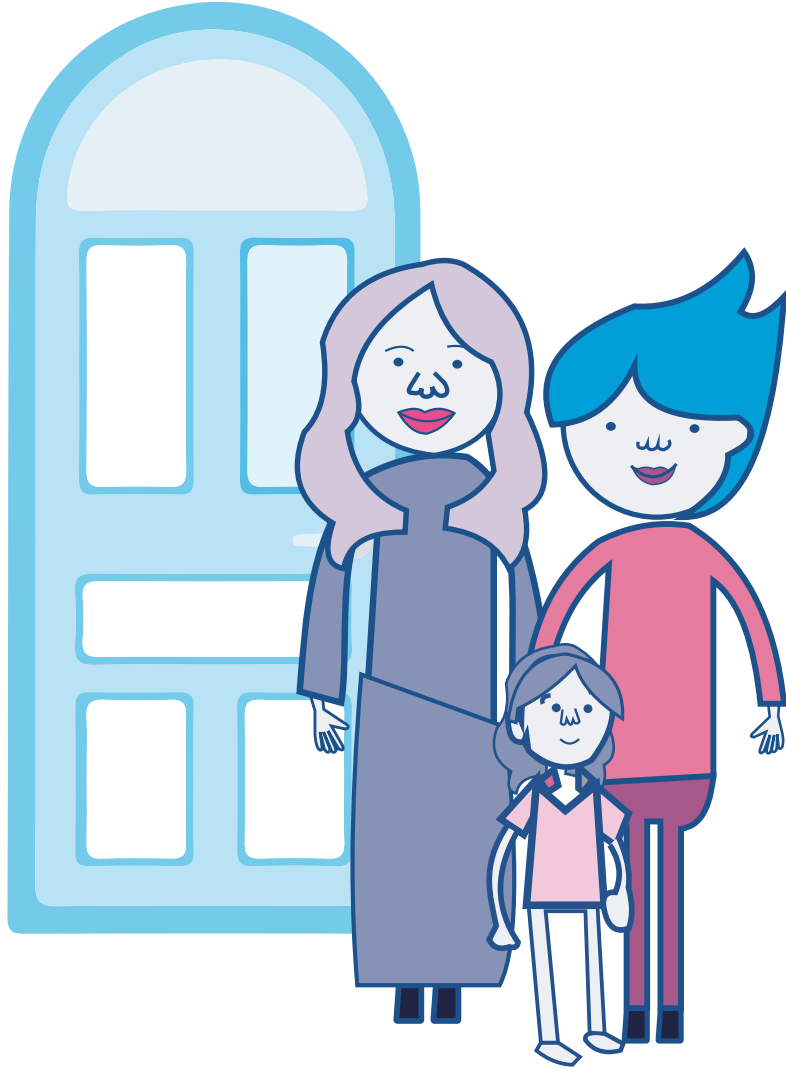
People impacted by domestic abuse live behind any front door, work in any office, live on any street.

They are the nurses who patch us up, the police officers who keep us safe, the teachers who support our kids.



They are our colleagues and our friends.





There is no
'them and us'.

Only us.

"We must talk about it more - in the media, in places of work, normalise it without accepting it, 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



Right resources in the right place

The issue:

People impacted by domestic abuse need specialist support whoever they are, wherever they go, and for that support to be effective, empathetic and sustained. Too many survivors still don't get this support.

- Survivors tell us it takes too long to find the information they need online.
- Four out of ten survivors reach out to their GPs, yet the health response is patchy.
- Almost every area of the UK lacks the necessary number of domestic abuse professionals, there is barely any support for children and young people and perpetrator provision is minimal.

We need to make domestic abuse 'everybody's business' so whoever someone turns to they will get the response they need to become safe, well and able to live the life they want. This means improving and supporting the specialist response while sharing knowledge and insight so that survivors are supported wherever they go, whoever they talk to.

Our impact:

Quality Assurance

In 2015, we committed to training professionals who support people impacted by domestic abuse.

Since 2015, we have delivered Domestic Abuse Matters, a cultural change programme, for 10,450 police first responders. This has included 6,215 in 2017/18.

**"If we had this training a few years earlier,
we undoubtedly would have saved
lives and prevented domestic abuse
homicides."**

Inspector

We committed to support domestic abuse specialist provision and we have trained 3,653 specialist domestic abuse professionals (including 2,734 Idvas and Idaas).

“I was taken to hospital and I met an Idva there. And suddenly I could talk to someone who understood. The Idva had the patience, the understanding. She knew what I was trying to say even when I couldn’t get the words out. I trusted her, and she started to put me and my family back together again. If I hadn’t met that Idva, I hate to think what might have happened – someone might have been killed.”

Survivor

We committed to improving the effectiveness of the response. Through our Leading Lights accreditation, we have supported many frontline services in reaching and maintaining high standards, despite the pressure they are under.

“Accreditation is vital for our services, and Leading Lights has been integral to Oasis’ ability to focus on the development of young people’s services. It has contributed to increased professionalism, skills, and our reputation, and in combination with contract success, has secured our ability to develop these other vital services.”

Deborah, Service Manager at Oasis domestic abuse service, Kent

We know services need support and resources, and we committed to doing all we can to share knowledge and insight to make things easier for those services. We did this by:

- Building the SafeLives Community: an online peer-to-peer platform with nearly 1,000 professionals sharing information and best practice and offering mutual support. We led a popular self-care series for these professionals, whose jobs are incredibly demanding.
- Expanding our research to get an even more detailed picture of specialist domestic abuse provision, where and how this is being supported and funded.
- Leading a series of Spotlights research projects that shine a light on victims who face additional barriers to support: including, this year, so-called ‘honour’-based violence, homelessness, and LGBT+ victims and survivors.

“Great to hear specialists speak on different subject areas and be able to ask questions.”

SafeLives Community user

Idva provision has risen by 20% since 2015, resulting in 75% of the Idva provision we need. We continue to champion the role of Idvas and Idaas, who work tirelessly to support people at highest risk of serious harm or murder. We will continue to ask commissioners to fund 300 further posts to close the gaps in what's available locally, as well as reduce turnover and burnout for Idvas and Idaas.

We have worked with commissioners in local areas far and wide, including Bexley, Jersey, St Helens and Merseyside, to plan services and support for families affected by domestic abuse.

We are proud of the risk-led approach and committed to building on work that is proven to save lives and help people live the lives they want.

We believe in a risk-led approach. This means that someone can talk about their own specific circumstances and receive a response that is tailored to those circumstances. We are passionate about supporting all those whose lives are or could be damaged by domestic abuse. We believe every single person at risk from abuse needs an effective, empathetic response that responds to their particular circumstances and helps them become safe and well in the long-term, in a way that is right for them. In supporting people earlier and in more sustained, suitable ways, we will see fewer people suffering the impact of domestic abuse at its most severe.

We urge all agencies to ensure their frontline staff are fully trained on how to assess risk. That control and coercion is at the centre of their understanding of risk, that they still use professional judgement and that the risk is viewed as being posed by the perpetrator, not caused by the victim.

Championing practitioners

In 2015, we committed to supporting and championing the frontline professionals who work so tirelessly to support survivors and their families. Every month in 2018, we have celebrated a different professional going above and beyond to support survivors and end domestic abuse.



Punita Bassi,
Senior Idsva, Bristol Royal Infirmary



Jagat Singh,
Specialist Court Idva, Aurora New Dawn, Portsmouth



Vicki Trapps,
Specialist Deaf Idva, DeafHope



Carly Lucas,
Service manager, Jersey Domestic Abuse Service



Sarbjit Ganger,
Director, Asian Women's Resource Centre, Brent



Jenni Steele,
Director, YANA Project, Lambeth



Lisa Peplow,
Regional Idva Service Manager, West Mercia Women's Aid



Kathy Bonney,
Head of Safeguarding, East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust



Simon Gunner,
Idva, Wirral Family Safety Unit

Improving the health response



In 2015, we committed to publishing our research into the impact of Idvas in hospitals and improving the health response to domestic abuse. Following the publication of our report *A Cry for Health* in 2016, we trained medical students in domestic abuse awareness and continued to champion the vital role of specialists in A&E, organising an event with Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall at Royal Stoke Hospital.

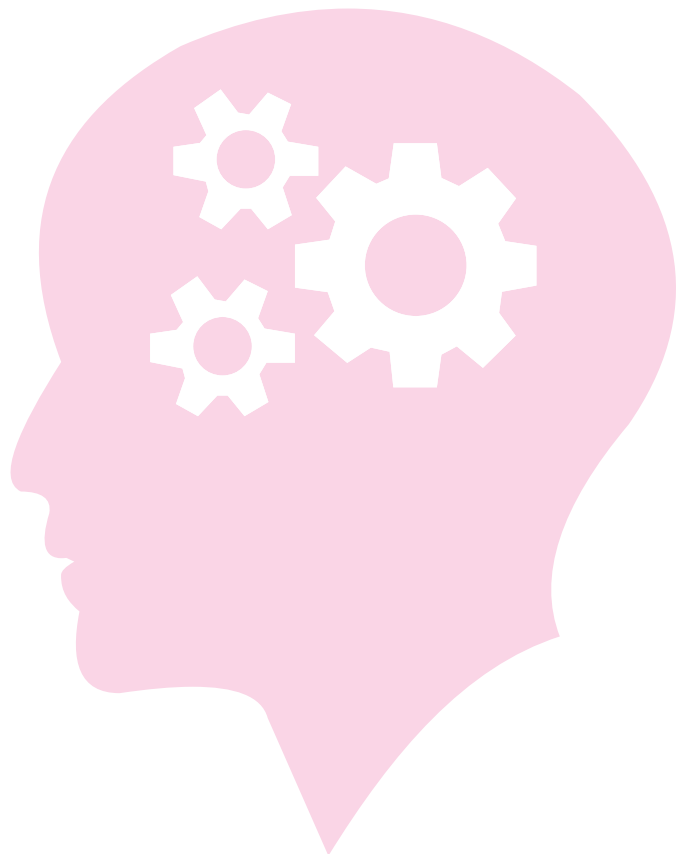
“The findings were exactly what we had seen in our Trust, and it really did strengthen our view that a dedicated Hospital Idva was needed. I think getting the support for funding to appoint our own Idva is one of our best achievements. It will make such a difference, and will benefit so many patients, families and staff.”

Head of Safeguarding, East Lancashire NHS Trust

Addressing domestic abuse in mental health settings

We know that mental health and domestic abuse need to be understood together, and that mental health settings can be a good place to identify victims of domestic abuse and refer them for support. *A Cry for Health* found that 60% of victims identified in hospital had mental health concerns, so we were determined to build on this work.

This year Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEH-MHT) in partnership with Solace Women's Aid and King's College London carried out a pilot to provide domestic abuse support within a mental health setting. Our Consultancy team evaluated the pilot and made several recommendations on how the model can provide the best possible support to survivors. We found a dramatic 660% increase in referrals to the Idva service, as well as increased staff awareness and confidence around domestic abuse. We found that specialist mental health Idvas can provide valuable support to survivors who often face barriers to accessing help they need. We will continue to make this case to commissioners and policymakers.



The response by employers

If domestic abuse is ‘everybody’s business’ we need to make it the business of every sector and workplace. This means employers having a robust, responsible position on spotting the signs of an employee being at risk and having an empathic process in place to support them. We hosted The Duchess of Cornwall at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018, alongside Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, dignitaries from across the Commonwealth, and our Pioneers, to discuss the urgent need for employers to have a better response and understanding of domestic abuse. We also trained MPs and staff in Parliament and worked in Brussels to improve the response and understanding of sexual harassment.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall met our Pioneers and said:

“I spoke to courageous women that had survived abuse, as well as to mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends of those who had been killed. Their silence was broken - but only after tragedy. I hope we can talk about what is happening behind closed doors across the world and I hope that these brave people have the courage to speak out - to be, in the words of one of those women, ‘victors not victims’.”

90% of professionals said greater understanding of tech could improve the domestic abuse sector.

We do not want survivors to hide – either online or offline. It is those who abuse who must change their behaviour and we can only hold them accountable when the tech giants play their part.

Digital & Tech

We need to go where survivors go – and therefore we are committed to digital innovation as increasing numbers of people look online for support and information.

In 2015, we set out to create a space for survivors to share their stories. We have done this through Every Story Matters – an online platform where survivors can share their stories and expertise confidentially. Their voices have fed through our projects and policy work. We took 1,000 stories directly to the Home Office to demonstrate the challenges still faced by families every day across the UK, and the long-term impact of domestic abuse.

We worked in partnership with Snook and Chayn to uncover tech solutions to domestic abuse, influenced the development of new TecSoS products, and have created training for professionals to improve their digital skills to better support survivors. We ran events with tech firms such as Google and Facebook to persuade them to take domestic abuse seriously and worked with Vodafone on a project that provides tech solutions to minimise isolation for survivors.

Whole family response

The issue:

A siloed approach to domestic abuse fails to understand the way different parts of someone's life and identity interconnect. This not only provides a disconnected response for the person who needs support, it also means people must repeat their story again and again. Information is not shared and opportunities to help are missed.

"I had to go through multiple agencies and it was literally just going in and going through, explaining everything, the whole story again. And that is very, very draining. Especially when you are finding it difficult to get out of bed in the morning, let alone anything else. So, I think anything that could cut down that process would be really valuable."

Survivor, North Somerset (one of our One Front Door sites)

We fail to see the whole picture for people – whether that be additional issues such as mental health concerns, the risk posed by perpetrators often being felt across a network of family and friends, or survivors feeling services are 'not for them.'

Around four out of ten (39% England and Wales, 42% Scotland) victims of domestic abuse report mental health issues and one in ten (10% England and Wales, 9% Scotland) say they are misusing substances.

Our impact:

We advocate for a joined up local and national approach that understands people do not operate in silos. Information must be shared, and we need effective multi-agency working and national partnerships striving for common goals. The whole reality of people's lives must be at the centre of policy and practice. If we work together and build a picture of each family that reflects how people actually live their lives, we can help people earlier and more effectively.

“Early intervention is the key. We know that the super-controlling 15-year-old boyfriend today could become a high-risk perpetrator in the years to come. SafeLives have helped us to understand the risks posed by perpetrators of abuse.”

**Seb Smith, Head of Service,
Suffolk MASH and One Front
Door Partner**

One Front Door

In 2015, we committed to working in a number of local areas to create and pilot a One Front Door approach that means we respond to the whole family, and all the family members' adverse experiences, at the same time. This initial pilot brings together two key elements: child safeguarding and domestic abuse. It is being rolled out in seven local authorities from 2015/18: Bexley in southeast London, Suffolk, St Helens, North Tyneside, North Somerset, West Sussex and Norfolk.

Trialling a One Front Door approach has led to broader, integrated action planning for all family members. We have strengthened agencies' understanding of domestic abuse and their ability to work with perpetrators of abuse. We are committed to improving the response to domestic abuse and child safeguarding and will use the learnings from our partner sites to ensure more families get the right support at the right time to make them safe and well.



Beacons

In 2015, we committed to review interventions for those with multiple needs, for children and young people, and for those victims who may not currently be at risk of serious harm or murder, but who still urgently need the right response to make them safe, sooner, and prevent further harm. This expanded to also include long-term recovery for survivors, helping them heal and build resilience, and support for people who are still in a relationship or living with the perpetrator of abuse. This set of interventions, combined with One Front Door and our perpetrator work, make up the start of our Beacon approach, which is being trialled in our two sites: Norfolk and West Sussex.

Work in our Beacon sites will help us create the national case for reducing the inconsistencies that exist nationally in the response to domestic abuse. Frontline teams in Beacon sites will be able to give a tailored response to individuals and families based on their specific situation and needs.

Interventions being trialled in the Beacon sites have been co-created with SafeLives Pioneers and specialist frontline domestic abuse services; our expert partners.

“Working with SafeLives and the other expert partners has been a brilliant experience, the collaboration of expertise, innovation, responsiveness and excellence have combined to produce a service that will change lives for the better. The interventions developed through this exciting and vigorous process will be scalable and my hope is that they will eventually be available to anyone who needs them, putting an end to the postcode lottery of services that are currently available across the UK.”

Saskia Lightburn-Ritchie, Chief Executive, Cheshire Without Abuse – one of our Beacon expert partners

In Norfolk, we will be working with partners from the Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership and Spurgeon's Children's Charity.

In West Sussex, we will be working in partnership with West Sussex County Council and The YOU Trust, in consortium with The Hampton Trust and Aurora New Dawn.

Spotlights

Survivors are so much more than their experiences; they are as diverse and multi-faceted as the wider population. There is no 'them and us' – those of us impacted by domestic abuse work in every office and live on every street, behind every kind of front door. The response to support people must incorporate other elements of life and identity that interconnect, whoever and wherever they are.

We committed to bringing together the authentic voice of those impacted by abuse, with data and practical expertise, to shine a light on groups for whom there are currently extra barriers to speaking up and getting suitable support. In 2017/18, we shone a light on three groups: those experiencing so called 'honour'-based violence, those who experience homelessness, and LGBT+ communities. These groups are often described as 'hidden,' but in fact they're trying to be seen – it is the response that needs to change. We promoted findings from our Spotlights through blogs, survivor stories, reports, press engagement and our podcast.

'Honour'-Based Violence

- Victims at risk of 'honour'-based violence (HBV) experience abuse for two years longer than those not identified as at risk of HBV.
- We identified need for greater collaboration between statutory agencies, domestic abuse services and organisations working with victims of 'honour'-based abuse, responses that are culturally aware, and a system that doesn't use a victim's immigration status against them.

"My husband started the physical abuse, and the other family members soon followed. His family began to give the children expensive gifts and my children began to turn against me."

Survivor

Homelessness

Our Spotlight podcast has been listened to 3,000 times in the last year, spreading knowledge, understanding and best practice around the UK.

- 32% of homeless women said domestic abuse contributed to their homelessness.
- We called for training for frontline housing staff to address the issue of domestic abuse. This should include distinguishing domestic abuse from anti-social behaviour, and direct actions staff can take to help manage risk, such as timescales around repairs. We encouraged all housing providers to work towards accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance.

“Escaping a perpetrator of domestic violence can take months of precision planning, like an army exercise. Imagine making your escape, only to find yourself homeless. You have left behind your entire home, your belongings and a part of yourself.”

Survivor

LGBT+

- LGBT+ victims are twice as likely to attempt suicide and three times more likely to self-harm than other people experiencing abuse.
- We have called for additional funding for specialist provision and to create the links between specialist and generalist provision, and better understanding of the broader discrimination and isolation that LGBT+ people face, which increases the likelihood of them being targeted by abusers.

“There is very little information regarding domestic abuse within a lesbian relationship; everything seemed tailored to the heterosexual relationship, and I had to specifically look for information regarding my circumstances.”

Survivor

“They wouldn’t accept that he was in a gay relationship. He felt very outraged...When the person behind the counter spoke to my client, he said, ‘oh your friend,’ it wasn’t his friend, it was his partner, and that’s still happening out there, even in the professional sector.”

Specialist professional

We need to stop asking 'why doesn't she leave' and start asking 'why doesn't he stop?'

The issue:

Across the UK, survivors and their children are too often expected to pack up their lives and move away, rather than the perpetrator be held accountable. If we fail to have an effective response to current perpetrators, and those at risk of causing harm, we fail those adult and child survivors, and we fail the thousands of people who remain at risk of being abused. We want to see fewer victims in the first place, not simply respond when people are in crisis. We must question why the perpetrator starts, why they don't stop - and prevent abuse starting in the first place.

Our impact:

In our 2015/18 strategy we committed to testing interventions to challenge and change perpetrators' behaviour. We also said we would explore housing options that create a housing model as varied and flexible as necessary.

In the case of Gentoo, we found that:

Approximately **13%** of all repairs jobs and **21%** of all repair costs were potentially related to domestic abuse, costing Gentoo **£8.4 million**.



Costs associated with evicting tenants who may be hidden victims of domestic abuse and re-letting the property, up to **£5,700 per eviction**.

Costs associated with dealing with perpetrators of domestic abuse and their behaviour, on average **£330 per perpetrator**.



8 out of 10 survivors tell us they want perpetrators to have a specific intervention.

Drive

Less than 1% of all perpetrators receive specialist intervention to prevent future abusive behaviour. We identified a lack of programmes for high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse. This high-harm cohort falls through the cracks of services – untraceable and unaccountable, leading to reoffending with the same or new victims. To keep victims and their children safe – perpetrators must be challenged.

We are listening to survivors and what they want for perpetrators:

“...The perpetrator gets away scot free, with now unsupervised access to the children after a year supervised. He will go on to destroy the lives of other women and I feel powerless to stop him.”

Victim/survivor where there was no perpetrator intervention

“Perpetrators [should] receive support to change their behaviour.”

Survivor

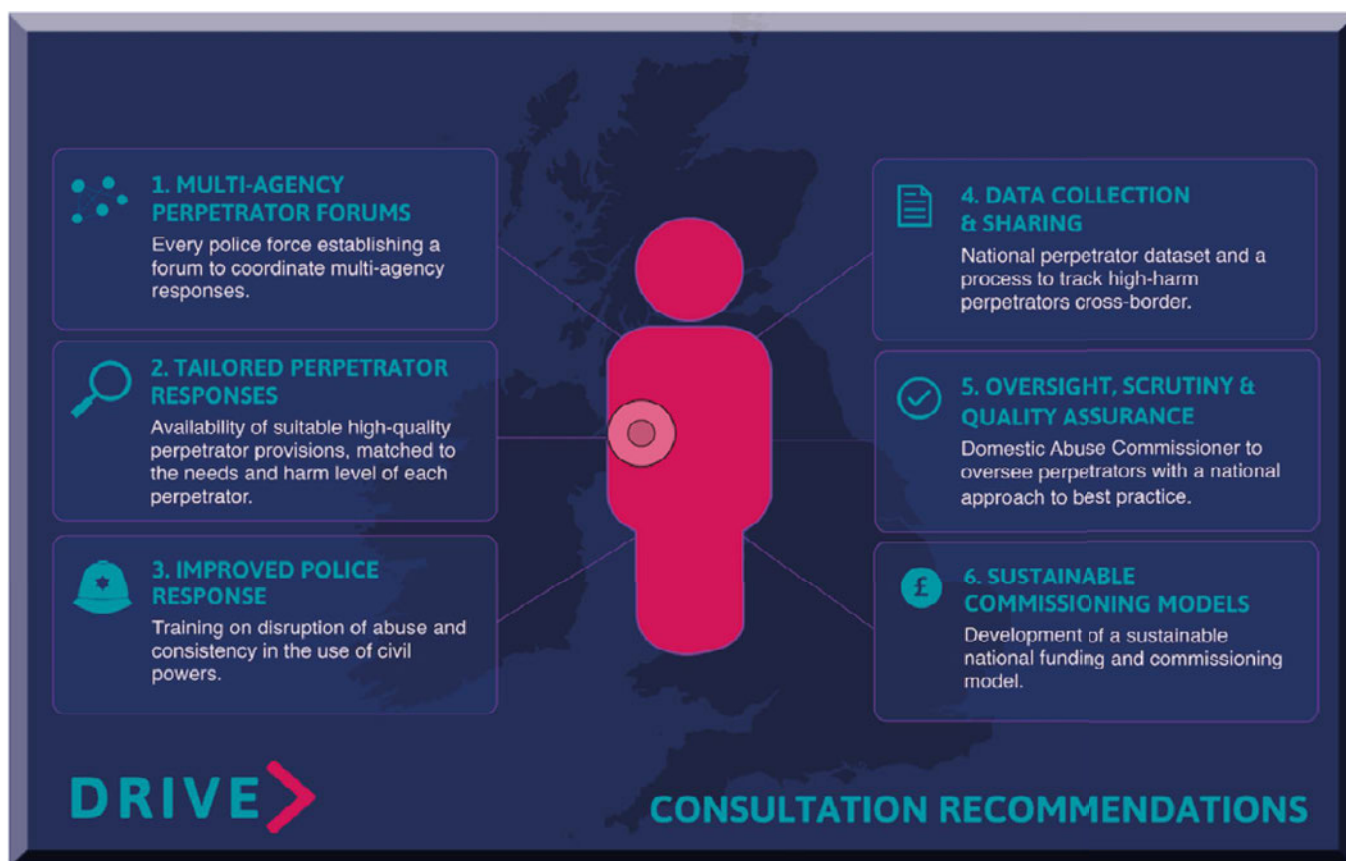
“Despite what I’ve been through, I don’t wish [the perpetrator] harm. [I would like] For them to get help and for something to be put in place to protect other women.”

Survivor

SafeLives, Social Finance and Respect developed Drive, a pilot to address a gap in work with high-harm perpetrators. The Drive pilot was launched in 2016 in Essex, South Wales, and West Sussex. In 2017/18, Drive has expanded to be tested in the new areas of Croydon in South London, Cardiff in South Wales, Birmingham and Sandwell in the West Midlands, and Worcester in West Mercia. All these sites are due to fully launch their services in autumn 2018.

Drive pieces together the whole picture – mapping and bringing together essential services, understanding the complexities of individuals and situations, and using all available resources to prevent perpetrators from causing further harm.

Drive works with both contact and non-contact cases, with case workers using a variety of methods to determine the best approach to address someone’s individual situation. This tailored intervention includes supportive activities, like mental health support and substance misuse programmes, while also using disruptive tactics to prevent abuse, like the criminal justice system and civil powers. The individuality of the response is key – it enables a dynamic assessment of harm by closely monitoring perpetrators and sharing information between services. Drive complements existing programmes and crucially, works alongside victims’ services so the safety of the victim and their children is the focus of the response.



Our experience and learnings from the pilot stages of Drive delivery highlighted that an improved police response, efficient multi-agency working, and high-quality responses tailored to the needs of each perpetrator, are key to addressing behaviour. As Drive expands nationally, these factors must be underpinned by strong data collection and sharing, quality assurance, and sustainable commissioning models.

“I now think before I act and don’t act impulsively. [My Drive caseworker] has given me more confidence and I see things differently. I think about my kids more, I don’t want my kids to witness abuse.”

Drive service-user

- 79% of Idvas working with clients linked to a Drive service-user reported increased safety for their client.
- Around 60% of the perpetrators in the Drive cohort had three complex needs, which included: substance misuse, alcohol misuse, housing issues, previous offending history, and mental health needs.
- Drive is removing barriers to help support behavioural change, while using enforcement responses and criminal justice processes to prevent abuse if appropriate.
- SafeLives is also working with frontline services providing other perpetrator programmes to capture demographic and outcome data related to their work. This means we can now add substantially to the evidence and research base in this area.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Perpetrators

The first ever All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) was created to focus on perpetrators of domestic abuse. Chaired by Thangam Debbonaire MP, the APPG aims to provide information to MPs and Peers about effective perpetrator programmes around the UK. The APPG is a welcome step forward, with research and policy developments being drafted to make victims and survivors safer by challenging perpetrators.

The Caledonian System

The Caledonian System is a Scottish perpetrator programme which takes an integrated approach to address men's domestic abuse and to improve the lives of women, children and men. It does this by working with men convicted of domestic abuse related offences on a programme to reduce their re-offending while offering integrated services to women and children. In partnership with Scottish Women's Aid and ASSIST, we have trained 40 Women's Workers for the scheme. The Caledonian System are also partnering with us as we roll out our Domestic Abuse Matters programme to Police Scotland – helping us to provide police responders with an understanding of the tactics and behaviour of perpetrators.

Support for people in a relationship or living with the perpetrator of abuse

We are working in our Beacon sites to support people who are in a relationship or living with the perpetrator of abuse. We believe everyone deserves support and to be safe, without judgement or expectation. Our data shows that 3 out of 10 survivors are still in the relationship when they access domestic abuse services and a further 8% of perpetrators are family members (rather than intimate partners), making 'separation' a less likely option.

These factors should not be barriers to accessing help, but currently they are. Victims who are living with the perpetrator will experience abuse for six years on average before they get effective help – that's double the time that it takes for those who are not living with the perpetrator. We must reach these people sooner and support them to become safe and well. Working with victims and children who are in a relationship or living with the perpetrator of abuse, while holding perpetrators to account and offering opportunities to change, is vital to safety and wellbeing.

“I was looking for ways to help him, not get rid of him.”

Survivor

“He's part of this but nobody ever talks to him.”

Survivor

Housing

Given that domestic abuse is largely perpetrated at home, housing providers can play a unique role in supporting victims of abuse who are their tenants and holding perpetrators to account. Our Consultancy team worked with housing association Gentoo and demonstrated the economic and social drive for housing providers to be part of the solution. We shared recommendations for greater awareness, training and transparency with the Chartered Institute of Housing and Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. We also started work as an expert partner to Shared Lives Plus, an organisation helping people who want a sense of community, as well as a roof over their head. With them, we are exploring Shared Lives Plus as a further possible model for those who need to change their accommodation to be and feel safe.

“I felt as though I was going through a thick, impenetrable fog every day. Having to trust those advising me even though I understood little of what they were saying to me. My children were terrified of being homeless and having to send our pets to the RSPCA – they still have nightmares about it now.”

Survivor



Words describing how individuals felt about their home after the abuse had ended

Being heard

In our 2015/18 strategy, we committed to influencing stakeholders to secure policy and funding that would improve the domestic abuse response.

Our Domestic Abuse Bill Response

In March 2018, we held an event with our staff, Pioneers, the Prime Minister and Home Secretary to talk to them directly about what needs to change. They also met young people's workers who we were training.

As part of the UK Government's Domestic Abuse Bill consultation, we have made the following recommendations based on survivor input, data and practice expertise.

- Specialist support services need to be commissioned, well resourced, and working to high standards in every local area, including support to recover from the long-term effects of abuse as well as to become safe. Domestic abuse awareness and support should be embedded in sectors such as housing and health – so every survivor gets the right response the first time, whoever they reach out to.
- We need an integrated One Front Door for referrals of all family members, and police, social workers and other statutory frontline professionals should be comprehensively trained to give survivors the best support. There should be specialist support for the 'hidden' victims who face barriers to accessing support, and for children experiencing domestic abuse.
- We need a radical cross-government strategy on boys and men who harm, taking in all forms of violence against women and girls and associated damage and offending, including harm that boys and men do to themselves. We recommend quality assured one-to-one interventions with high-harm complex needs perpetrators, as well as a roll-out of well-evidenced, Respect-accredited programmes for lower risk perpetrators.
- We need to support survivors to stay safe in their own home through greater rollout of Sanctuary schemes, specialist support such as Idvas and more varied supported housing options e.g. move-on, Housing First, a national housing reciprocal programme with regional centres, Shared Lives schemes and safe houses, as well as refuge. Suitable housing options must also be available to make it a realistic option to remove the perpetrator from the home and house that person somewhere else, so the victim/survivor and any child(ren) can stay safely where they are.

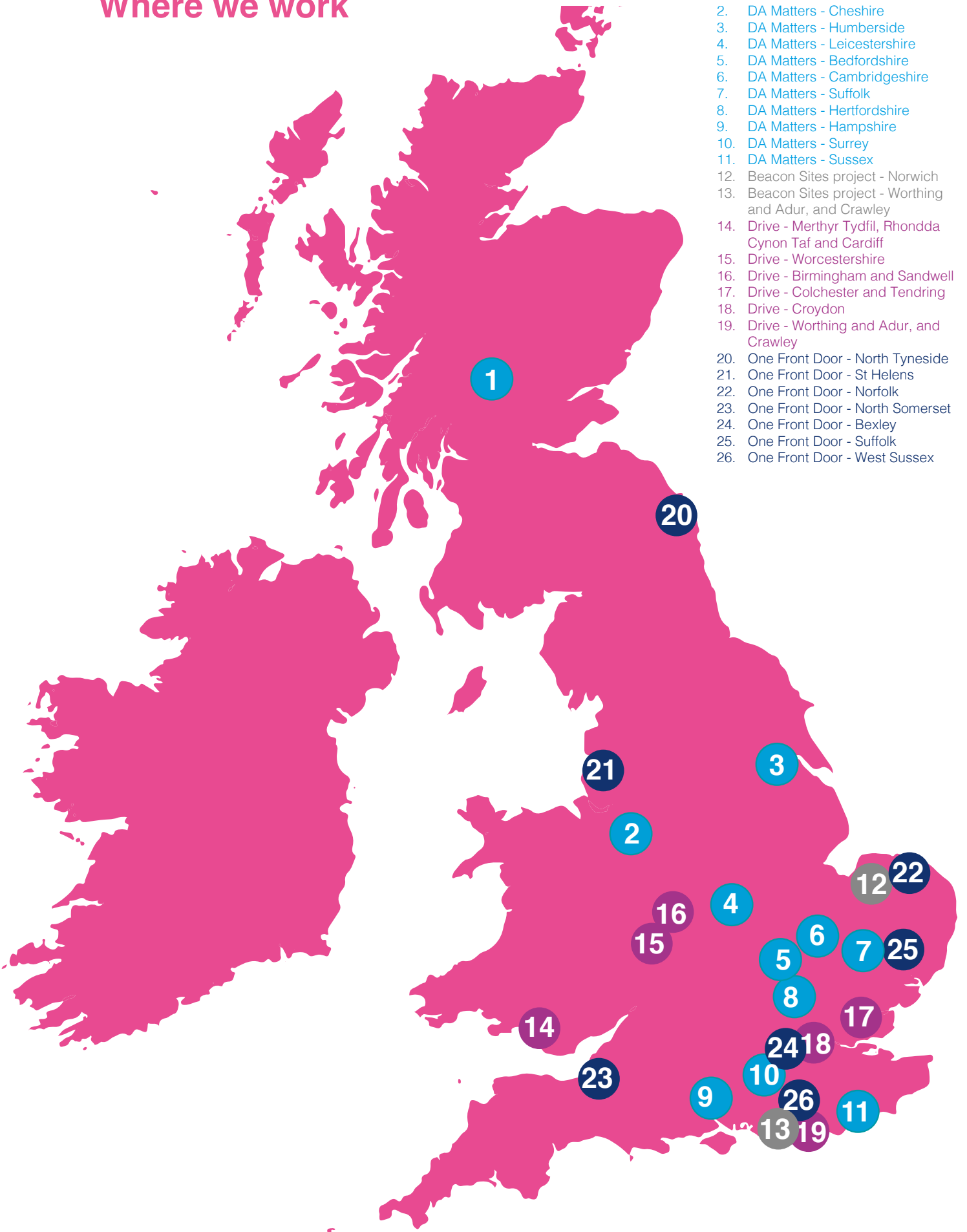


Our social change offer

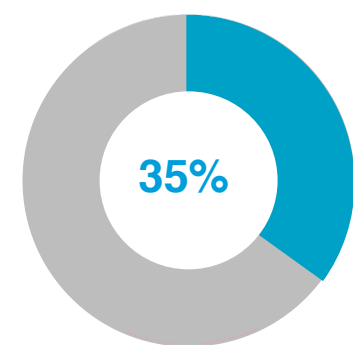
Who we work with



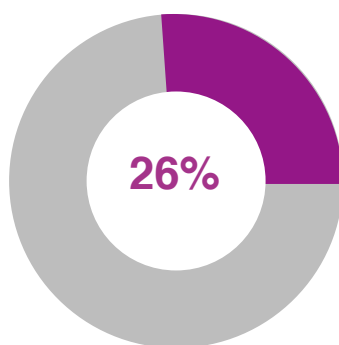
Where we work



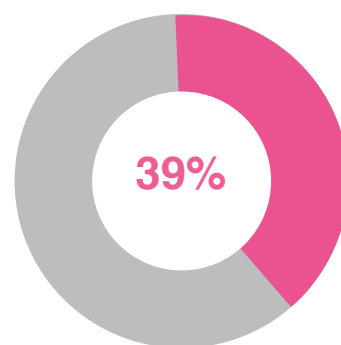
Where our funding comes from



Training and consultancy



Statutory funding



Charitable trusts,
foundations and individual
donors

In our financial year ending on 30th June 2018, our income was just over £5.4m – including over £1.3m which we paid directly to the partners involved in our projects.

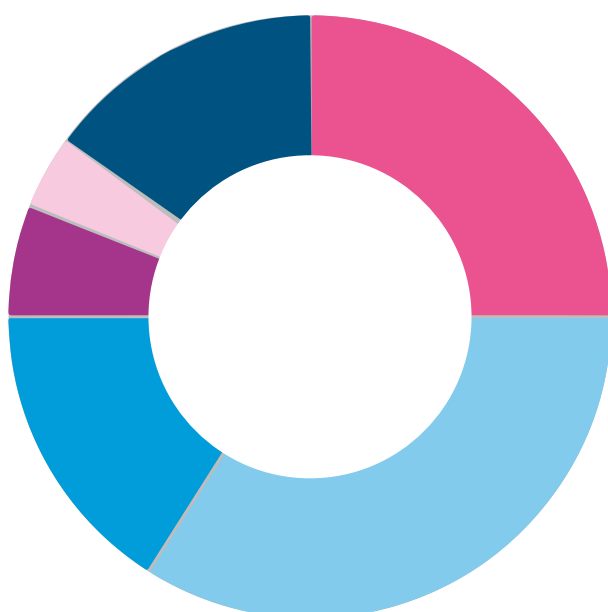
We work hard to generate a mix of income

- 35% coming from our training and consultancy work
- 26% from statutory funding
- 39% from charitable trusts, foundations and individual donors.

This mix allows us to retain independence in our work and gives us a balance between funding that enables us to innovate while building on our existing work to support people across the country.

How we spent it

Our expenditure in the last year was £4m, excluding payments to the partners who collaborate with us on our work.



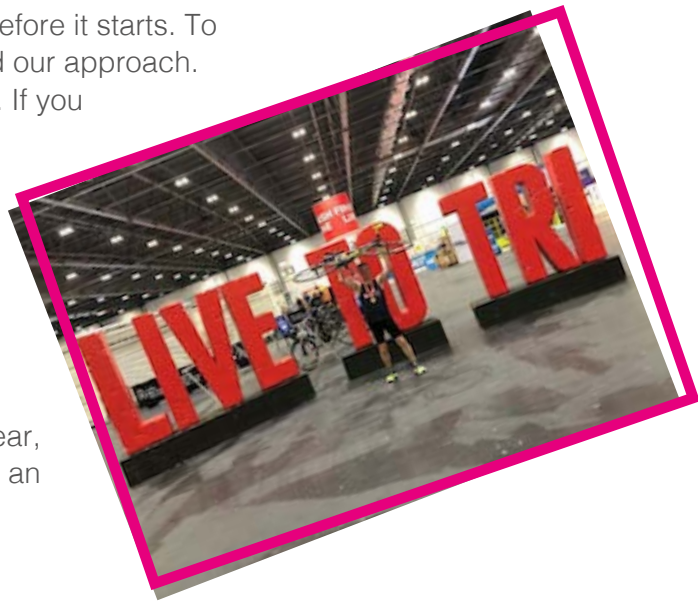
- **25%**
Innovation in practice
- **34%**
Frontline capacity building
- **16%**
Research
- **6%**
Influencing
- **4%**
Fundraising
- **15%**
Support functions

Our supporters

We want zero tolerance of domestic abuse and to stop it before it starts. To succeed in this, we need supporters who believe in us and our approach. We can't thank them enough for making our work possible. If you want to find out how to support our work, please get in touch with us and help us end domestic abuse, for good.

Paul

Paul Woodhouse is a Police Officer from Surrey. He took part in our DA Matters training for police in 2016 and became a Domestic Abuse Champion for his force. This year, he wanted to run, swim and cycle for SafeLives and raised an amazing £180. We can't thank you enough Paul!

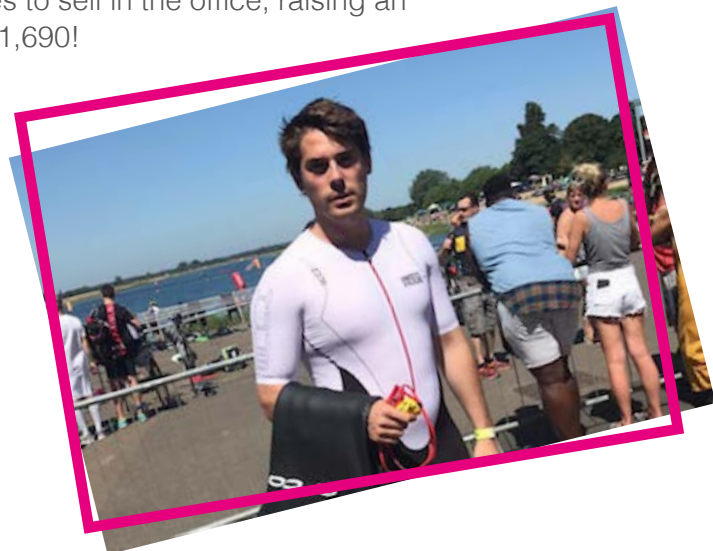


Prospectus running team

A big thank you to staff at the recruitment company Prospectus, who voted to support SafeLives this year. Their team was shocked by the news story that reports of domestic abuse increase if England lose in the World Cup. They wanted to help us make sure that nobody has to deal with domestic abuse alone. Staff took on the challenge of a 10k run and baked cakes to sell in the office, raising an incredible £1,690!

Cosmo

Cosmo Barran is long-term supporter of SafeLives. Over the last couple of years he has raised thousands of pounds to help us make sure nobody has to deal with domestic abuse alone. Most recently, he completed a half Ironman challenge. A huge thank you to Cosmo for running, swimming and cycling to help us end domestic abuse for good.



Vodafone

Our pilot with Vodafone helped survivors remain safely connected to their loved ones. Vodafone provided free phones and SIM cards to give survivors a chance to stay in contact with family, friends and support networks with a new number, reducing their chance of being tracked down by the perpetrator of the abuse.

We are extremely grateful to the following funders and partners who have enabled us to be responsive and spend funds where they are most needed. Their support has allowed us to innovate, as well as ensure we have the right staff in place and can cover daily running costs, so we can deliver our ground-breaking work to end domestic abuse:

CHK Charities Limited
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gillespie Family Trust
Home Office
John Ellerman Foundation
Mark and Kate Siggers
Oak Foundation
The Aurum Charitable Trust
The Childwick Trust
The Hornby Lonsdale Charitable Trust
The Segelman Trust
Wise Helpful Owls

This includes all the inspiring individuals who have supported us this year.

We are also delighted to have had the support of funders who have partnered with us to:

Address critical gaps in the support available for survivors and their children

Big Lottery Fund
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Peter Cundill Foundation
The Aurum Charitable Trust

Be brave and ask ‘why doesn’t he stop?’

Comic Relief
Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales
Police Transformation Fund
The Tudor Trust

Improve the way agencies work together so families get the right help

Home Office
Scottish Government

Build the evidence base, and conduct ground-breaking research, to stop all forms of domestic abuse

Big Lottery Fund
Oak Foundation

Test new housing and support options for survivors of domestic abuse

Tampon Tax

Show how technology can help victims to access information and support

Comic Relief
Vodafone

Equip practitioners with the knowledge and skills they need to provide the best possible help to young people and families

The Queen Anne’s Gate Foundation

Transform the way we respond to domestic abuse in health settings

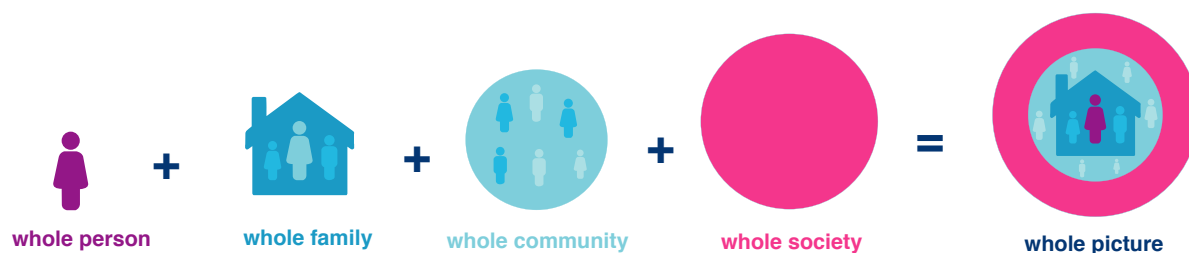
Tampon Tax

Made sure survivor’s needs are understood, and their voices are heard, by politicians and policymakers

The Coutts Foundation
Kate Wilkinson and Harry Gaskell

Looking to the future

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with others, building on the existing response to domestic abuse. We want to make sure every victim, survivor and child gets the right response to become safe and well – and we want to get to the root of the problem, stopping domestic abuse before it starts. Domestic abuse is everyone's business, and together we can make it stop.



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