

Early intervention and prevention work

National Training Framework on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (Welsh Government, 2019):

This framework comprises: 1) E-learning modules for professionals working in public service, covering IPV and sexual violence signs, and approaches to supporting victims; 2) Ask & Act approaches for frontline staff; 3) Ask & Act Champions training – to support colleagues and act as champions within their organisation; 4) Specialist Sector training for those working exclusively with victims of IPV. <https://gov.wales/national-training-framework-violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence>

Social Workers in Schools: An evaluation of pilots in three local authorities in England (Westlake et al; 2020):

Schools are a key referral site to Children's Social Care but the complex interface between schools and social care requires solutions that work locally. This report highlights three pilot evaluations involving the use of social workers in schools across Lambeth, Southampton and Stockport in order to address safeguarding concerns, early intervention, and statutory work. All pilots had a positive impact on reducing some of the social care outcome indicators, and there was evidence of reduction in one measure studied – reducing Section 47 (Child Protection) enquiries in Southampton and Lambeth, and reduce Section 17 (Child in need) starts in Stockport. <https://whatworks-csc.org.uk/research-report/social-workers-in-schools-an-evaluation-of-a-pilot-in-three-local-authorities-in-england/>

Domestic Abuse Matters: Police responders and Champions training (Safe Lives, 2019):

Initial findings from the Domestic Abuse Matters police training, led by SafeLives. Based on a survey of 3,657 first responders and 361 Domestic Abuse Matters Champions (first responders given extra training to challenge the behaviour and attitudes of peers). The

interactive training tool sought to promote a cultural shift within the police force, including: Understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour; Perpetrator tactics for keeping victims in relationships; Understanding victims and why they may not wish to leave a relationship or support police action; Questioning of victims and perpetrators; Evidence gathering; Safeguarding; Perpetrator manipulation of police responders.

<https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/DA%20Matters%20-%204%20Force%20evaluation.pdf>

Tackling Domestic Violence: Effective interventions and approaches (Home Office, 2005):

In July 2000 the Home Office awarded £6.3 million as part of the £250 million Crime Reduction Programme (CRP) to fund 34 pilot projects that aimed to develop and implement local strategies to reduce domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. Of these 34 projects, 27 focused on domestic violence and seven on rape and sexual assault. The 27 domestic violence projects were split into seven packages according to their main interventions (criminal and civil justice; protection and prevention; Black and other ethnic minorities; health; multi-service; education; and rural work) and were evaluated by teams based at the University of Bristol, University of East London and London South Bank University.

1) Primary prevention: raising awareness and challenging attitudes among young people

Primary prevention for children and young people was conducted within the CRP projects across a range of age groups. It was found that this work was particularly valued when it was student-centred, interactive, with visual input such as drama. Training for teachers and multi-agency support was important, and cross-curricular approaches reinforced the positive programme impacts. Recommendations for this to be applied nationally as part of the Personal, Social Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) curriculum.

2) Supporting women: enabling disclosure

A small number of the CRP projects had interventions aimed at enabling disclosure of domestic violence. Routine enquiry was particularly effective in health care settings,

implemented by health visitors and practice nurses. It was also useful in social care services, and may be applied by a wider range of practitioners. Training was important (and should last more than one day), as were good multi-agency relationships and referral systems.

3) Supporting women to report to the police

Increased numbers of women reported domestic violence to the police when they were supported to engage with the criminal justice system, for example through legal advocacy. This worked well when project workers were based within the police community safety unit or where the police were based within the project (one-stop-shop). Close links between projects and the police also led to an increase in arrest rates and project referrals. Legal support focusing specifically on Black and other minority ethnic women, including workers with minority language skills, increased their engagement with the criminal justice system.

4) Supporting women through the courts

Having close links with good family law solicitors, a legal worker attached to the project and police officers located within the project all enhanced the use of civil remedies. Women found it particularly useful when they were accompanied at court and when services were built around a 'one-stop-shop' model. The provision of training for magistrates led to a higher proportion of custodial sentences.

5) Reducing repeat victimisation

A range of advocacy approaches were applied by the CRP projects in an attempt to reduce repeat victimisation. The women using the projects had histories of higher levels of repeat victimisation than those in comparison groups, but this repeat victimisation generally reduced following project intervention. The approach most effective was the tailoring of advocacy and support to the specific needs of the victim. Having both a panic alarm and home security had the most impact, but it is important that target hardening are offered within a wider framework of support and alongside regular risk assessments.

6) Supporting women through individual work and groupwork

Breakout Rooms - Resources

Individual work, which incorporated 'emotional' and 'general' support, was difficult to conceptualise and evaluate, but played a large role in the work of advocates and outreach workers. Outreach was particularly effective when it was structured, had an agreed plan of action and incorporated support to children. Individual work and groupwork both helped women become more self-aware, recognise their experiences as abuse; and groupwork was useful to help women 'move on' with their lives.

<https://dro.dur.ac.uk/2556/1/2556.pdf>