

Easy Read



A Patchwork of Provision Report

How to help victims and survivors of domestic abuse across England and Wales

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About this report



This report tells you what we found out when we asked people about the help you can get for **domestic abuse**.

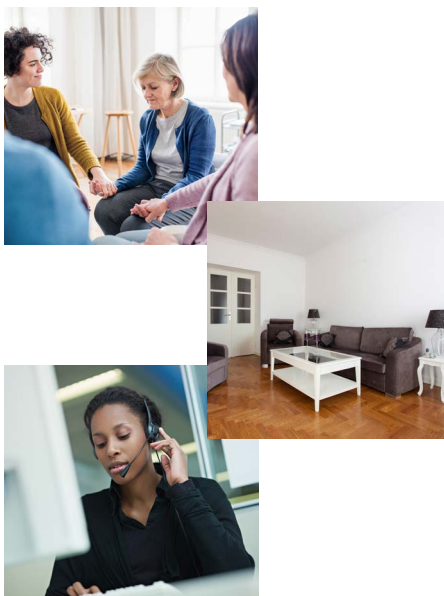


Domestic abuse is when your close partner or family member hurts you or says they will hurt you. They might bully you or control you.

This could be things like hitting you or making you feel bad about yourself. They may control your money or what you do online.



What we have found out can be used to help make **domestic abuse services** better.



Domestic abuse services are things like:

Support groups

Refuge accommodation. This means a safe place to stay

Helplines that you can call for help or advice.

More about this report



Lots of people helped us to do this research. We could not have done it without their help.



We want to say thank you to everyone who helped us.

What we found out



What victims and survivors need and how support services can help

Victims and survivors are people who have had domestic abuse happen to them.



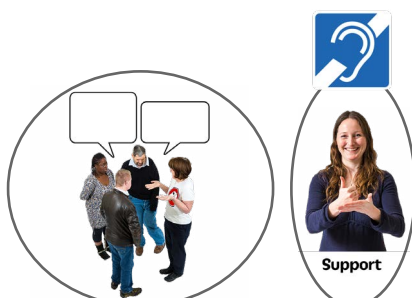
1. Specialist services do help people to feel safer and more in control of their lives after abuse.



2. People need different types of support to help them be safe and to feel better after abuse.



3. Most people from **minoritised communities** want to get support that is '**by and for**' their own community.



Minoritised communities are groups of people who are made to feel like they are different from the biggest group of people. For example they could be from the Deaf community.

More about what we found out



By and for means services that are run by and for people who are minoritised. For example a service run by Deaf people for Deaf people.



4. Specialist 'by and for' services give much better support to their group of people than other types of services.



5. People who use domestic abuse services like them to be separate from other services like the court or social services.



What support were victims and survivors able to access?

6. Most people were not able to get the support that they wanted.



7. Some services were only available in some parts of the country. That means it is just luck if the service you need is near you.

More about what we found out



Minoritised victims and survivors told us that they found it difficult to get the support they wanted.



8. Men also said that getting help was difficult or very difficult.



9. A lot of people told us they were not able to get domestic abuse support for their children.



10. Services for people from minoritised communities were not all the same. These services did not all have specialist help for Deaf people or people with learning disabilities.



11. Support was not always as good if a person was experiencing **multiple disadvantage** or had extra needs.

More about what we found out



Multiple disadvantage means having more than one thing that makes life difficult for you. These could be things like being a drug user, or being homeless.



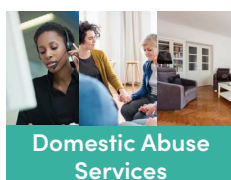
12. Some services could not help people with **No Recourse to Public Funds**.



No Recourse to Public Funds or **NRPF** means a person who is not allowed to get benefits or money to help with housing.



Domestic abuse support across England and Wales



13. People get help from different types and sizes of service.



Most services are special domestic abuse and or **Violence Against Women and Girls** groups. This is because domestic violence happens more to women and girls.

More about what we found out



Violence means harming a person.



14. Most domestic abuse services get less than £500,000 a year to run the service. Other services got much less.



Where money comes from for domestic abuse support services

15. Services need money over a long time to support all the people that need help.



If services don't have enough money they can't help people.



16. Specialist domestic abuse services get money from the Government as well as other places.

More about what we found out



17. Most services get most of their money from the Government.



18. If services only have money for a short time it is hard to run the service.



19. There is a not enough 'by and for' support across England and Wales. They often don't have enough money.



20. Smaller services often get no money from Government.

More about what we found out

Which professionals people first tell about their abuse? How did they find out about services?



21. People are most likely to tell friends or family about the abuse.



22. The professional that people would tell about the abuse would most likely be from health, followed by the police.



23. Some professionals could tell that someone might need help and offered them support. When this happened the support was very good.



24. The **Coordinated Community Response** is a very important way to help people get the support that they need.

Coordinated Community Response means the whole community and services working together to help a person.

What needs to happen now



Services need extra money to help everyone that needs it.



Government should help more to pay for specialist 'by and for' services.



People with multiple disadvantage need more support.



Local NHS and Councils should give services the money to do all of work that is needed.

This money should also be spent making sure people know about the services.



Services should make it clear if they can help men.

More about what needs to happen now



People need to know what domestic abuse is, and what help they can get.

This is particularly for people with learning disabilities



Other services must get better at spotting who needs help for domestic abuse and offering help.

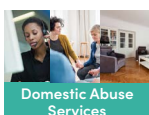


This will make the Coordinated Community Response better.



Staff working in health need to understand about domestic abuse.

This will mean they can help people get support when they need it.

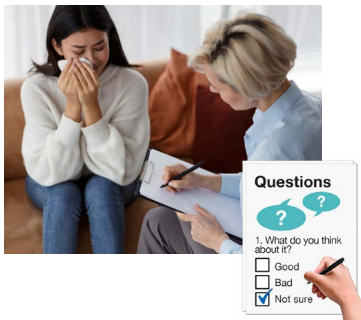


It must be clear that it is better if domestic abuse support comes from special domestic abuse services.

What we still need to find out



We still need to find out more about these things:



1. What is it like for minoritised and marginalised people who get a service that is **not** 'by and for'.



2. What is the result for people depending on what type of support they got.



3. What do specialist services that are not 'by and for' organisations look like.



4. More about who had support from domestic abuse services in England and Wales, and what support they got.