







Sexual Violence

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# VAWDASV Strategy 2022 – 2026: A comprehensive understanding of VAWDASV

VAWDASV encompasses violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and sexual violence. VAWDASV should not be understood narrowly, it includes concepts such as such as sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, so-called ‘honour’ based violence, elder abuse, stalking and coercive control as well as domestic abuse and sexual violence.



# VAWDASV Strategy 2022 – 2026: A comprehensive understanding of VAWDASV



- **Domestic abuse can however dominate the public and professional perception.**
- This can, and has, led to responses starting and finishing with domestic abuse with the broader concepts missed. This might take the form of professionals not recognising issues for referral, treating abuse as a safeguarding issue rather than an offence or commissioners regarding domestic abuse provision as ticking all the boxes.
- During the life of this strategy we want to ensure that the understanding of VAWDASV is comprehensive, addressing sexual violence as successfully as we address domestic abuse for example.

# Sexual Violence

## VAWDASV (Wales) Act 2015

- “sexual violence” (“*trais rhywiol*”) means sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, or threats of violence of a sexual nature
- sexual exploitation” (“*camfanteisio rhywiol*”) means something that is done to or in respect of a person which—
  - (a)
  - involves the commission of an offence under Part 1 of the [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c.42\)](#), as it has an effect in England and Wales, or
  - (b)
  - would involve the commission of such an offence if it were done in England and Wales;



# Sexual Violence

Any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted or takes place without consent or understanding

(2008 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Northern Ireland)

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# Sexual Violence Includes but is not Limited to:

Non recent sexual  
abuse / childhood  
sexual abuse

Rape and other  
serious sexual  
offences

Child sexual  
exploitation

Exploitation  
through the sex  
industry

Use of Technology

Voyeurism /  
exhibitionism

Sexual harassment

Withholding  
contraception /  
removing  
condoms

# Prevalence\*

**1 in 5 women**

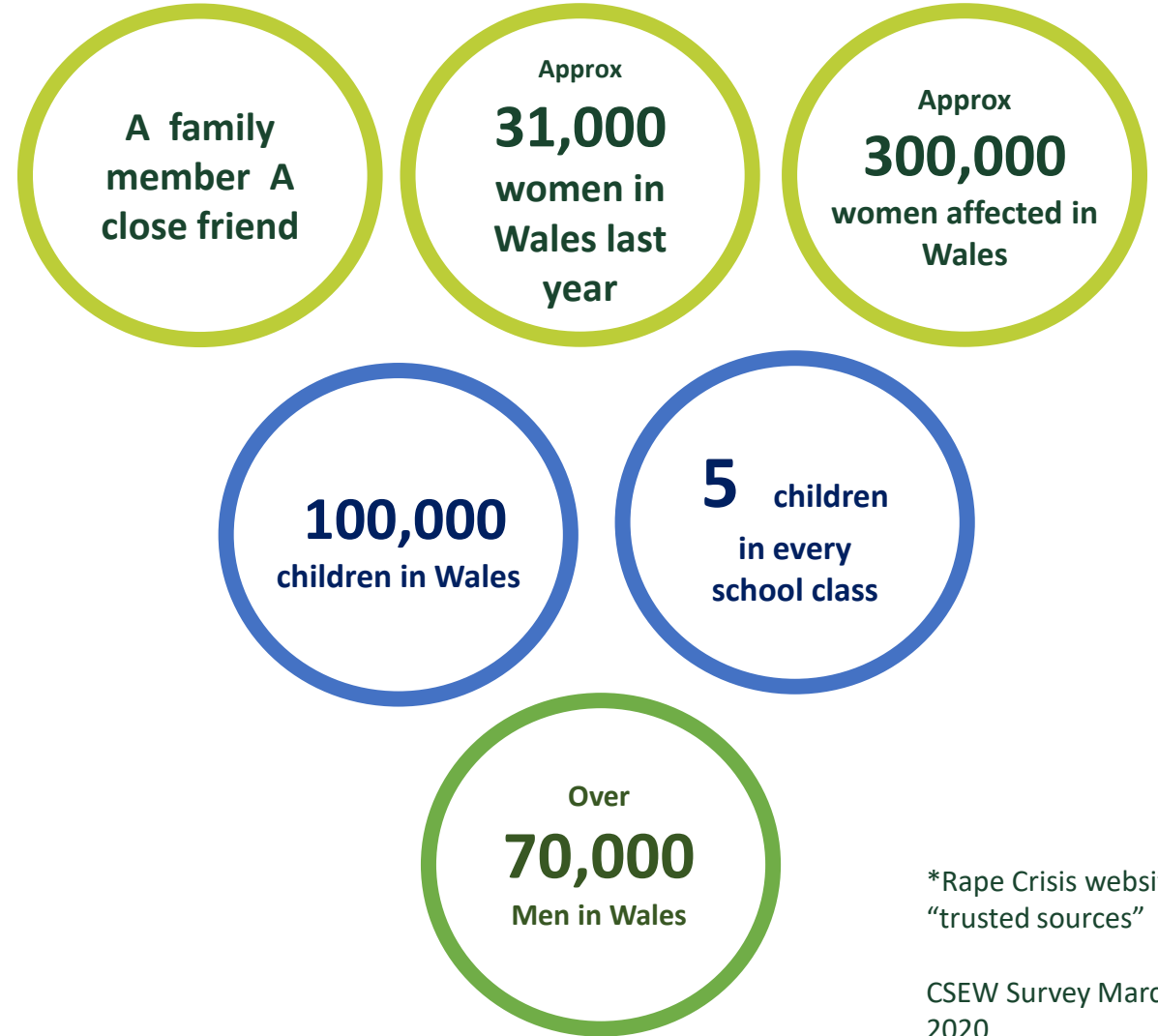
have been raped or sexually assaulted as an adult

**1 in 6 children**

have been sexually abused

**1 in 20 men**

have been raped or sexually assaulted as an adult



\*Rape Crisis website  
"trusted sources"

CSEW Survey March  
2020

England & Wales  
April 2021-March 2022



**2.7%** of adults aged 16 to 59 years had experienced **sexual assault** (including attempted offences)

**36%** of all *recorded* sexual offences were **rape** offences

**26% increase**  
from previous year

- Other *recorded* sexual offences **increased by 35%**

*Estimates from the CSEW for year ending March 2022*



# End to End Rape Review Report 2021

Less than 20% of victims of rape report to the police

Only 1.6% of rapes that are reported result in someone being charged.

That means that considerably fewer than one in every 100 rapes actually leads to justice for its victim.



# New Pathways: Services



6 of the 8 Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in Wales



A team of 28 Independent Sexual Violence Advisors



A large team of specialist SV counsellors 24 employed, 70 sessional and 40 volunteers)



New Wellbeing Service run by Sexual Violence Support Workers



Psychoeducational Courses and Group Work



Sexual Violence service in Prison



Professional SV, VAWDASV and Health and Social Care sector training

Counselling College



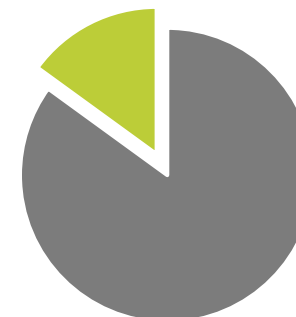
# Our Annual Data

5,000

Annual referrals to SARC, ISVA and  
Therapeutic Services



25% Children



15%  
Men

8,500

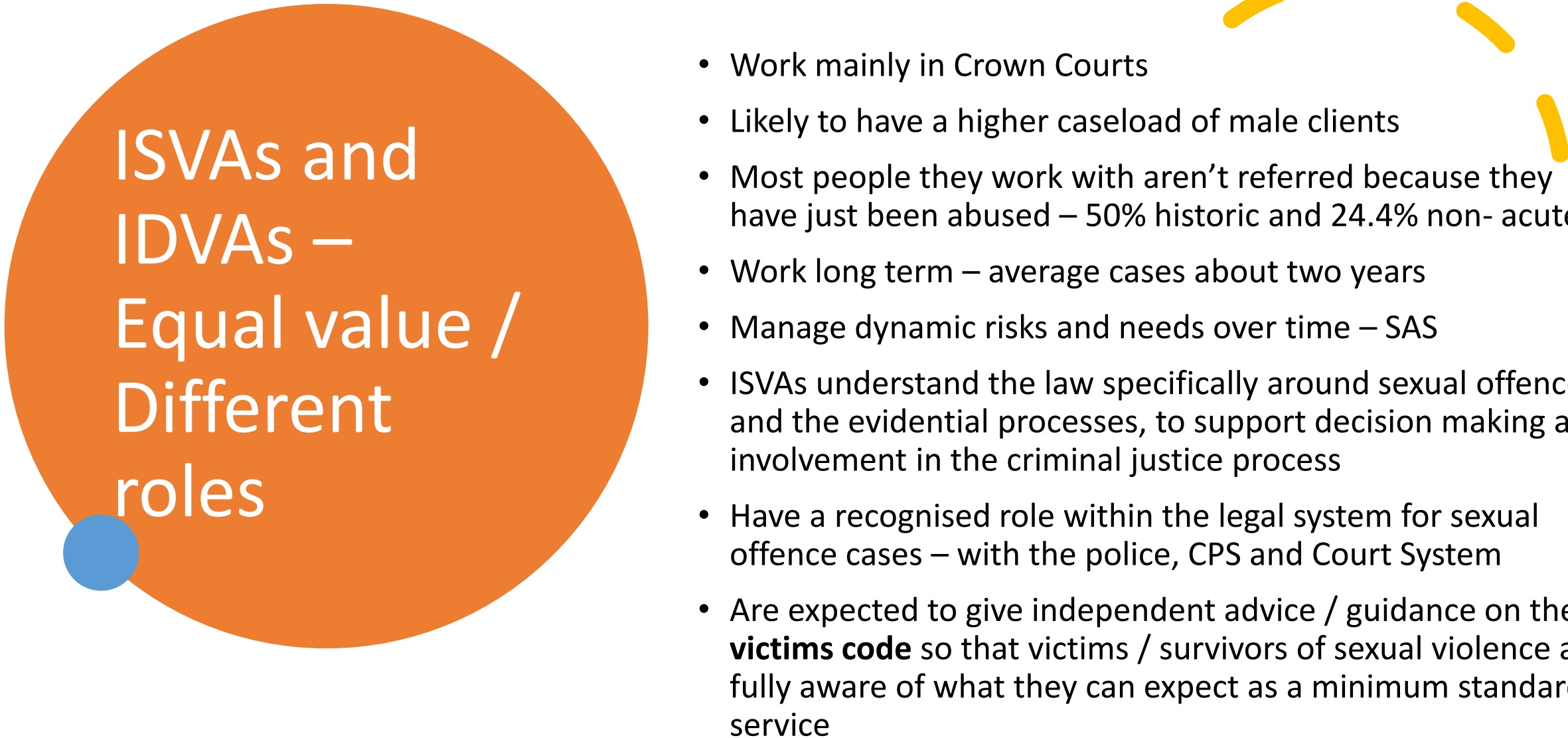
People in services

>50%

Therapeutic referrals are for non-recent  
childhood sexual abuse

# Impact of Sexual Violence

- Trauma symptoms – flashbacks, hypervigilance, intrusive thoughts
- Relationship issues – lack of trust, issues with intimacy
- Shame and guilt
- Mental health issues – anxiety, depression, diagnosis of a personality disorder
- Health issues - STIs, pregnancy, gynaecological issues, chronic fatigue, bowel problems, digestive issues
- Health issues – related to not going for smear tests, mammograms and tests for bowel / prostate problems
- Coping mechanisms with negative consequences – self harm, substance misuse, suicidal behaviour



## ISVAs and IDVAs – Equal value / Different roles

### ISVAS:

- Work mainly in Crown Courts
- Likely to have a higher caseload of male clients
- Most people they work with aren't referred because they have just been abused – 50% historic and 24.4% non- acute
- Work long term – average cases about two years
- Manage dynamic risks and needs over time – SAS
- ISVAs understand the law specifically around sexual offences and the evidential processes, to support decision making and involvement in the criminal justice process
- Have a recognised role within the legal system for sexual offence cases – with the police, CPS and Court System
- Are expected to give independent advice / guidance on the **victims code** so that victims / survivors of sexual violence are fully aware of what they can expect as a minimum standard of service



# Working Together

- Work closely with our partners in the other specialist agencies – the domestic abuse organisations and those working with so called honour based abuse and forced marriage
- This includes giving information and advice to partners but also consulting them for their specialist knowledge and input
- Working collaboratively with practitioners to provide the best possible service for our clients





# ASSIA Project

- Domestic abuse team in Bridgend – Local Authority
- New Pathways Sexual Violence Support Worker seconded into the team to provide:
- Specialist sexual violence advice and information to IDVAs
- Short term work with IDVA client's where appropriate focused on stability and safety – for example flashback management/ grounding techniques
- Referrals into sexual violence counselling where required



# ASSIA Project

This project provides an enhanced seamless project which avoids duplication, improves information sharing and negates the need for clients to repeat their stories

It also recognises and supports the specialism of the IDVA and ISVA roles

This is a model of working that we are planning to roll out with other domestic abuse teams in Wales

# Case Study

Working together with the domestic  
abuse sector