

**North Tyneside DA Strategic Commissioning Group 2014
Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment**

1. What do we know?

From April 2013 the North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership has adopted the following new Home Office updated definition of domestic abuse:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

“Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

“Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Key Data

National:

Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime; a comprehensive understanding of its prevalence remains a challenge. However the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2011/12 highlighted:

- Overall, 31% of women and 18% of men had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16. These figures were equivalent to an estimated 5.0 million female victims of domestic abuse and 2.9 million male victims between the ages of 16 and 59.
- Seven per cent of women and five per cent of men were estimated to have experienced any domestic abuse in the last year, equivalent to an estimated 1.2 million female and 800,000 male victims.
- Female victims were more likely than male victims to be killed by someone they knew. Over three-quarters (78%) of female victims knew the main

suspect, compared with 54% of male victims. In most of these cases, female victims were killed by a current or ex-partner (51% of all female victims) while male victims were most likely to be killed by a friend or acquaintance (39%).

Local:

This report relies predominantly on data from Northumbria Police, this can help inform a picture of the issue but there is a need to acknowledge that under reporting is part of the issue when considering domestic abuse.

North Tyneside Police Data:

In 2013/14 there were 3875 reported domestic abuse incidents, on average 323 domestic abuse incidents a month,

- 82% of the 3875 incidents involved a perpetrator who was a partner/ ex-partner
- In 1898 of these incidents there were children (49%)
- Of the 3875 incidents there were 2557 victims; of which:
 - 2005 were female (78%)
 - 552 were male (22%)
 - 87 were from BME communities
 - 50 were aged 16 or 17 years old
 - 170 were aged over 55
 - 1879 arrests resulted from incidents (48% of incidents resulted in an arrest, much higher than the Northumbria average of 29%)
 - 838 incidents were subsequently recorded as crimes (22% of incidents were “crimed”, higher than the 20% average)
 - 614 crimes were violent (73%)
 - 407 crimes involved alcohol (49% of crimes)
- 336 cases were heard at MARAC
- 107 were repeat cases which equals a 32 % repeat rate.

CAADA data for North Tyneside MARAC indicates that 30% of the referrals are from agencies other than the police. This is on target with CAADA national recommendations.

(Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference’s (MARAC) are recognised nationally as best practice for addressing cases of domestic abuse that are categorised as high risk. A MARAC allows agencies to identify the high risk domestic abuse cases and for the identified risk to be managed through a multi-agency forum.)

Crime

NB – It should be noted that the following crime and victim profiles are based on known cases. As domestic violence is prone to significant under-reporting, the actual number of offences committed will be considerably high than the stated numbers. Furthermore, certain characteristics (age, gender and ethnicity) may be under or over-represented due to the reticence of victims to report an offence.

Victims

An examination of the available demographics of known victims of crimes flagged as domestic violence showed that 83% (515) were female and 17% (105) were male. Although there was no discernible pattern in male victims, a distinct pattern of most-victimised age groups of females emerged:

25-29 (111; 22%)

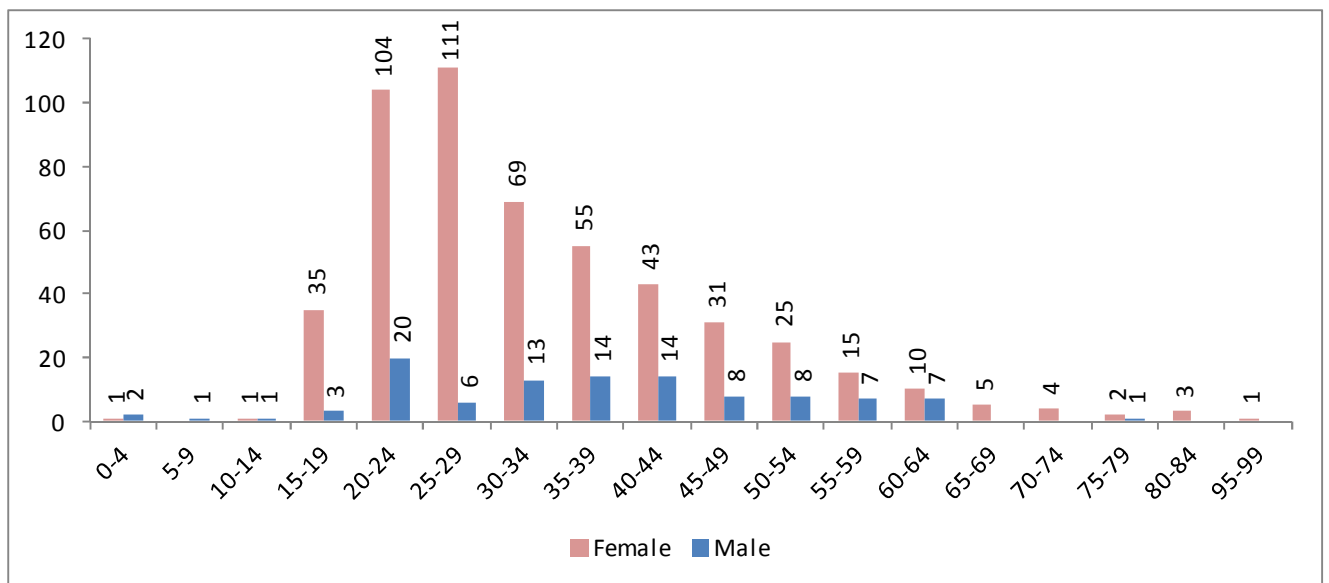
20-24 (104; 20%)

30-34 (69; 13%)

35-39 (55; 11%)

40-44 (43; 8%)

15-19 (35; 7%)



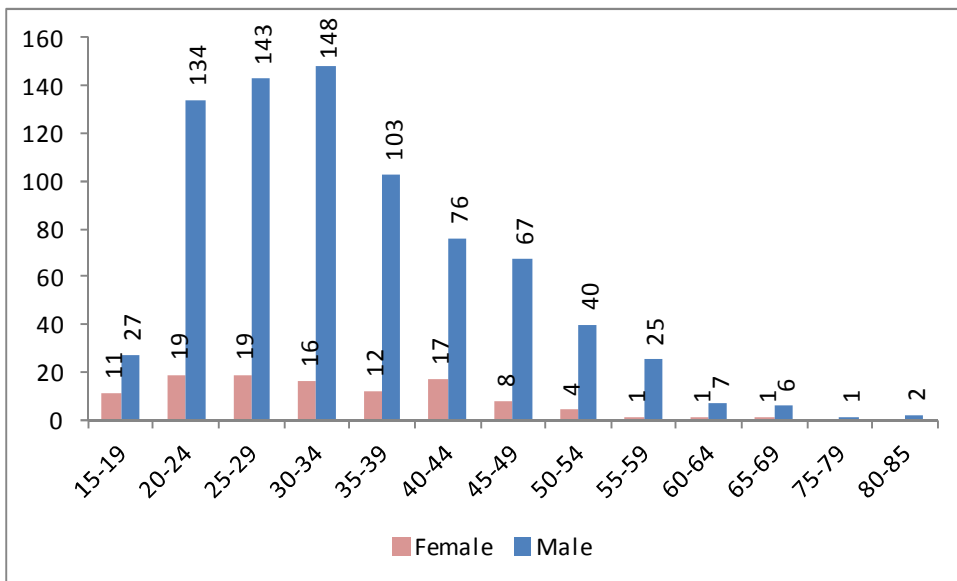
- Prima facie evidence indicates that younger women are most victimised, but could also indicate that they are more likely to report domestic violence than older age-groups
- 40% of victims had an identified occupation. 110 different occupations were cited, with most reflecting the younger end of the age scale and lower-status occupations. However, it was apparent that victims spanned a wide social spectrum. Occupations that were cited more than once are shown below:

STUDENT	17
CLEANER	14
SALES ASSISTANT	11
CARER	11
ADMINISTRATOR	11
SUPPORT WORKER	9
SHOP ASSISTANT	8
HOUSEWIFE	7
RETIRED	6
CALL CENTRE OPERATOR	5
CARE WORKER	5
CIVIL SERVANT	5
SCHOOLGIRL	4
RECEPTIONIST	4
TAXI DRIVER	4
MANAGER	4
HAIRDRESSER	3
CATERING ASSISTANT	3
NURSE	3
BARMAID	3
KITCHEN ASSISTANT	3

CUSTOMER SERVICES	2
COMPANY DIRECTOR	2
PERSONAL ASSISTANT	2
AREA MANAGER	2
NURSERY NURSE	2
WAITRESS	2
CLERK	2
TEACHER	2
LECTURER	2
SUPERVISOR	2
TEACHING ASSISTANT	2
RADIOGRAPHER	2
CARE ASSISTANT	2
CALL TAKER	2
SOCIAL WORKER	2

Offenders

- Partners or ex-partners accounted for 82% of offenders
- Perpetrators of offences flagged as domestic violence were predominantly men, with an age profile similar to that of victims.



Location

NB – the location of victims carries the caveat that it relies on the reporting of offences. Due to the known issue of under-reporting of domestic violence, seemingly unproblematic areas could mask a hidden issue. Conversely, established and effective awareness-raising in particular areas could in part account for a relatively high reporting rate.

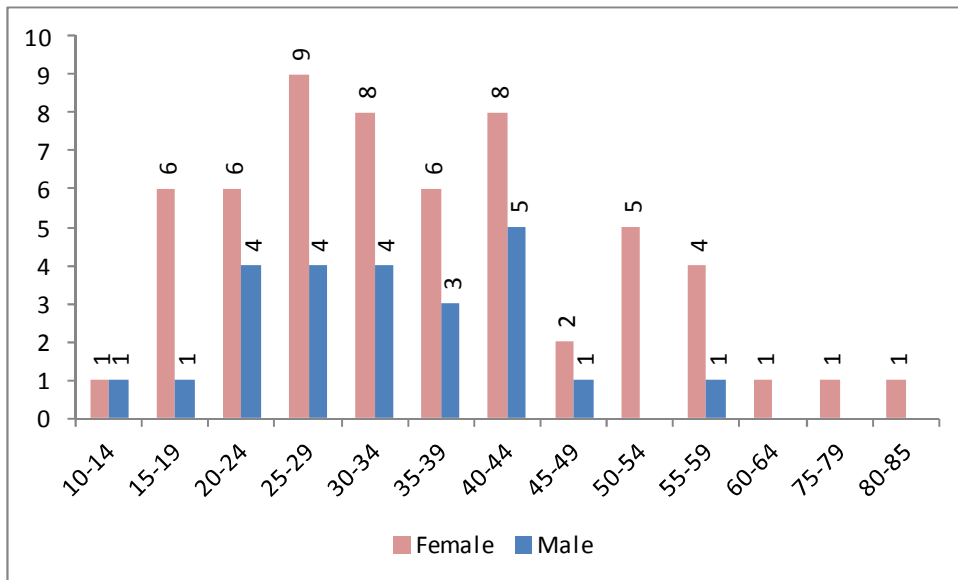
Howdon/Holy Cross	57	East Howdon/ Percy Main	12
West Chirton	45	North Shields Albert Edward Dock	11
Wallsend Town Centre [east]	37	Benton/Fairways	10
Battle Hill/Hadrian Park	35	Palmersville/Holystone	9
Killingworth/Camperdown/Burradon	34	Tynemouth Golf Course/Linskill	8
North Meadow Well	30	Marden Quarry	8
Longbenton	30	Tynemouth/Priory/Front Street	7
Holywell/Backworth/Shiremoor	28	Preston/ Preston Cemetery	6
Rosehill/Willington Quay	28	Whitley Bay Promenade	5
New York/Billy Mill	27	Wideopen/Seaton Burn	4
Cullercoats/Marden	24	North Shields Town Centre [east]	3
Percy Main/Royal Quays/ South Meadow Well	19	Whitley Bay Town Centre [west]	3
Wallsend Town Centre [west]	15	Whitley Bay Town Centre [east]	3
North Shields Town Centre [central]	14	St. Mary's/Briardene	2
Monkseaton/West Monkseaton/Hillheads	13	Tynemouth/Park Hotel	1
High Farm/Hadrian Lodge	13	Whitley Bay Sands	1
Forest Hall	13	Earsdon/Whitley Lodge	1
Dudley/Fordley/Annitsford	13		

- The home addresses of known victims of domestic violence shows a density similar to that of overall crime, disorder and deprivation. At a local level, areas of Wallsend, North Shields, Killingworth and Longbenton were most prominent. With the exception of Hillheads, locations nearest to the coast had the fewest known victims.

A&E presentations 2011/12

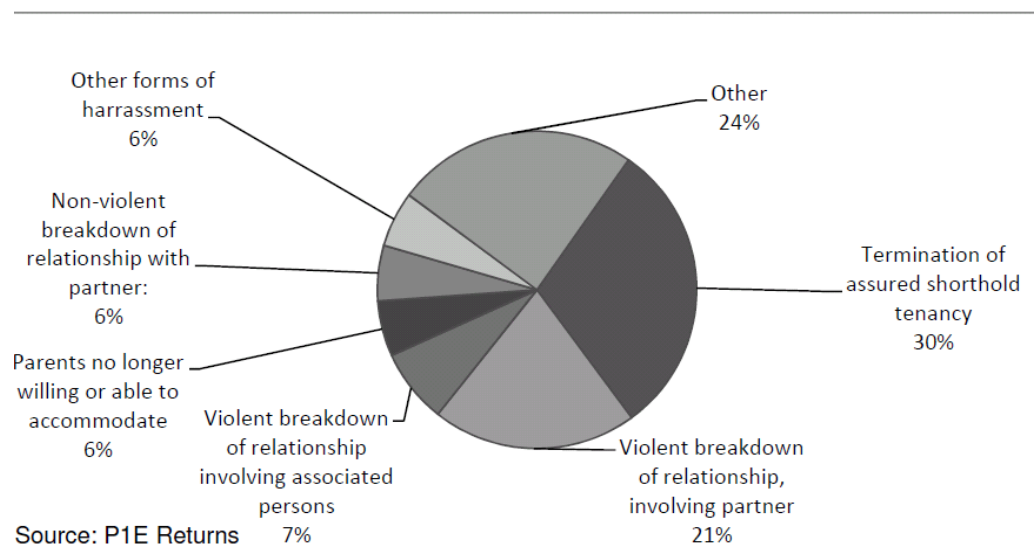
North Tyneside's Cardiff Model data can be used to give a limited proxy measure of domestic violence. Although there is no specific DV marker in the dataset, the graph below looks at assaults which took place in patients' homes. There were 82 such presentations at NTGH, with females accounting for the majority at 70% (58). This is particularly telling, as females accounted for only 30% of all assault presentations at NTGH. The number of own-home assaults increased by 10 compared to 72 in 2011/12. The increase was mostly in female casualties (+8); there were only two more male casualties. The resulting proportion of female casualties increased by 6% from the 64% who presented in 2012/13

In terms of age, younger age groups were evident, as in recorded crime data. However, a greater proportion in older age groups can be seen presenting at A&E than would be expected from crime data profiling.



Links with homelessness

Quarter 4 2013/14 homelessness statistics showed that the second main reason for households being accepted as priority homeless was violent breakdown of relationship involving a partner (21% of cases), with violent breakdown of other relationships accounting for a further 7%. Violent breakdown of relationship involving a partner increased from 18 cases in 2012/13 to 30 cases in 2013/14.



56% of priority homeless cases were within the 25-44 age group, 24% in the 16-24 age group, and 16% in the 45-59 age group. This is broadly in line with the proportions seen in 2012/13.

What are the Key Inequalities?

- Violence and abuse are mainly experienced by women and children, from all backgrounds, and for many their experience remains undisclosed with often devastating consequences for their long-term mental and physical health. It is no respecter of ethnicity, sexual orientation, class or age, with the impact of abuse of the elderly often poorly reported.
- The local police data indicates that the majority of victims are female and perpetrators male, at present there is not a non mandatory programme available for male perpetrators in North Tyneside.

2. Current Activity and Commissioned Services

The North Tyneside provision for victims and families experiencing Domestic Abuse has developed up to the present with a total funding from NTC of £407,172. This provides the following services:

- A Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator is employed directly by North Tyneside Council within Children's Services at a cost of £39,124. The main aims and objectives of this role are monitor the DA services funded by Children services; to support the DAP in the delivery of the business plan and deliver multi agency and single agency training.
- Acorns Children's Service offers therapeutic counselling for children and young people 6 to 18 years old who have experienced domestic abuse and/or sexual abuse.
 - **Funded by North Tyneside Children's Service, £30,000, until March 2015 and £28,000 from NTCCG.**
 - **Also funded by a range of charitable funding streams including £100,000 from Big Lottery and £20,000 from Northern Rock (ends March 2015).**
- Acorns Outreach Service provides an immediate crisis intervention service; structured women's groups and 1:1 support, to parents with children under 18 years old, who are at risk of, or are suffering the impact of domestic abuse. Since April 2013, following a change in the government definition of domestic abuse, referrals are also accepted for 16 and 17 year olds who are at risk of, or are suffering the effects of domestic abuse in their own relationships.
 - **Funded by North Tyneside Children's Services, £95,000, until March 2015.**
- Harbour NT provide 14 self contained units of refuge accommodation for women and children in North Tyneside. Harbour also offers an

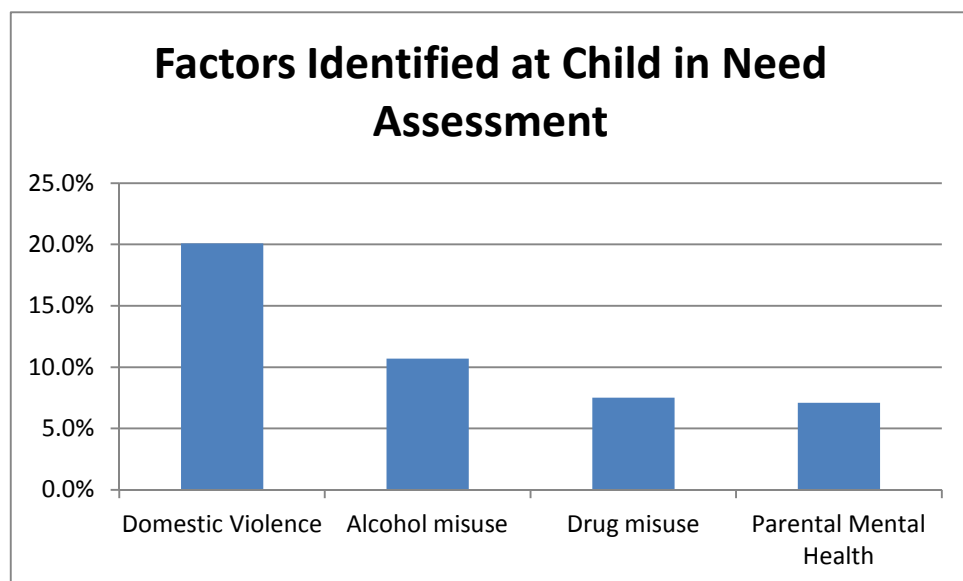
outreach service for women and men over 16 years old who live in North Tyneside.

- **Funded by North Tyneside Adult Social Care, £182,000, until March 2015.**
- Victim Support based in NT offers a support service to people who have been affected by crime: victims, witnesses, their family and friends, including incidents of domestic abuse.
 - **Funded by national funding.**
- The NT Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) Service work primarily with high risk victims in the short term to assess and manage identified risk and where appropriate support them through court proceedings against the perpetrator. Acorns who manage the service also employ a Children's IDVA who offers short term support for children and young people identified through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
 - **Funded by the Home Office at £20,000 per annum until March 2015 and Ministry of Justice funding of £16,638 until September 2014. The Community Safety Partnership has agreed to fund £15,155 to cover the Ministry of Justice shortfall until March 2015.**
- Domestic Homicides Reviews became statutory in 2011, there were three domestic homicide reviews in North Tyneside in 2013. Currently the estimated cost for conducting a DHR is approximately £12,000 and responsibility to meet the cost rests with the Community Safety Partnership.

3. Current Performance in relation to Agreed Outcomes

- The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) repeat rate of 32% is within tolerance of the locally adopted target of 34%. (Repeat Incidents of Domestic Violence measured by the proportion of cases reviewed at MARAC in a 12 month period.)
- In North Tyneside in 2013/14:
 - The outreach services were accessed by 362 adults, 360 were female and 2 were male.
 - A total of 66 women completed Freedom Programmes and 37 women completed Pattern Changing Programmes. Due to a recent reduction in the number of Freedom Programmes and Pattern Changing Programmes offered, social workers within Children's Social Care report clients being unable to access programmes within a reasonable timescale.
 - There were 565 referrals for standard victims of domestic abuse in North Tyneside to the Victim Support Victim Care Unit. Initial contact was made and 113 people requested a service and received support from the North Tyneside branch.

- There were 164 children referred to Acorns Children's Therapeutic service, 57% of these children were involved with Children's Social Care. A waiting list is operated, during 2013/14 there were 54 children on the waiting list.
- There were 714 high risk referrals received by the IDVA service and of these 453 were referred into MARAC. Of the 453, 233 engaged (51%). In addition 289 referrals were received by the service from the Specialist Domestic Violence Court, 145 (50%) of these engaged. The number of North Tyneside Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA's) is currently 1.6 full time equivalents, short of the CAADA recommendation of 4.5 equivalents based on the current number of cases. This under capacity impacts on the timeliness of a risk assessment and the level of support the staff are able to offer high risk victims.
- The CHIDVA supported 37 young people, offering a total of 138 sessions.
- During 2013/14 there were 926 concerns raised with Children's Social Care in relation to domestic violence; 335 of these were progressed for a Child in Need assessment under section 17 of the Children Act.
- As of the 31st March 2014 there were 157 children subject to a child protection plan. The below chart shows how domestic violence was identified as a factor in over 20% of cases, the most common issue at Child in Need assessments.

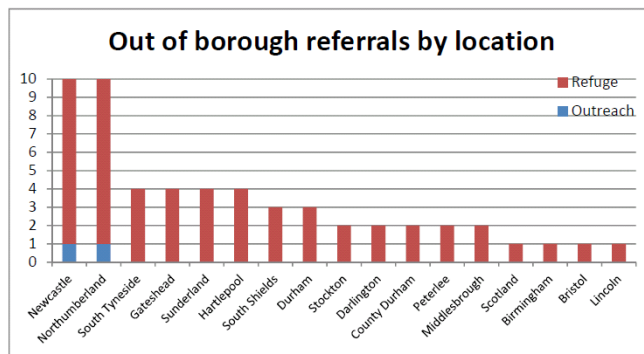
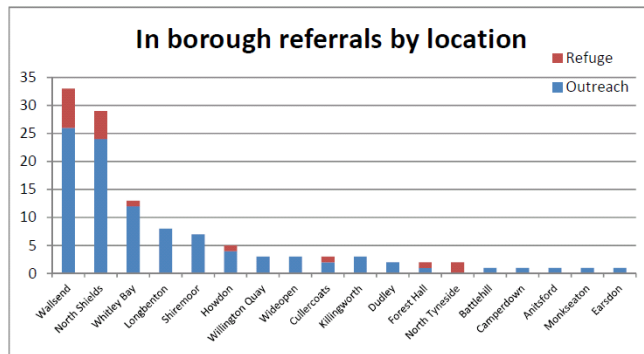


- During 2013/14 there were 21 requirements for the Probation BBR and 11 completions of BBR. (Building Better Relationships Programme) Building Better Relationships is an intensive group work programme aimed at changing offenders' underlying attitudes and helping men develop skills to avoid further abusive behaviour. Men for whom a group is not considered suitable may be offered the opportunity to engage in structured 1-1 work via the Solo programme. Solo is a 12 session course for domestic violence perpetrators, delivered by offenders managers on a one to one

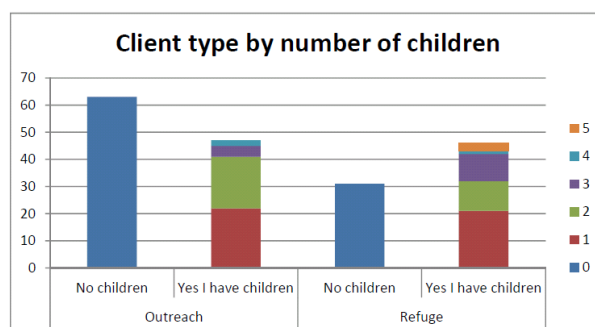
basis. 19 SOLO requirements were made and 8 SOLO requirements completed during 2013/14.

- 62 women accessed the refuge with 65 children. Referrals made to Harbour Refuge and Outreach services for people already living in north Tyneside shows the concentration of locations broadly reflecting that of the home locations of victims in police data. One notable exception is Whitley Bay, which features more prominently in referrals than in victim data.

Referrals from outside North Tyneside to the refuge are most notably from two areas sharing a land border with the borough (Northumberland and Newcastle). Other locations have much lower representation and generally decrease as distance increases. Note that although South Tyneside also administratively borders North Tyneside, the physical barrier of the Tyne may also create a perceptual barrier. This is unlike Northumberland and Newcastle, which have no distinguishable border with North Tyneside.



The majority of clients overall and those accessing Outreach did not have children, though those specifically accessing the Refuge service did. Most of the latter had one or two children.



4. Who is most at risk and why?

- National and local data indicates that female victims are at highest risk, with those aged 16 to 24 years old at highest risk of becoming victims of domestic abuse. This has been recognised by government and the national definition of domestic abuse was extended to include 16 and 17 year olds from April 2013. Referrals to MARAC and the Outreach services for 16 and 17 year olds are low and therefore further awareness raising for professionals working with young people is planned.
- Large numbers of domestic abuse incidents go unreported to the police and other agencies, those not reporting and accessing support are at risk as domestic abuse is recognised as a crime with a high incidence of repeat victimisation.
- A high risk victim of domestic abuse is someone who has been identified as being at risk of current or future serious harm or murder. The level of risk is identified by the police and multi agency partners using a common risk assessment checklist.
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002 states that children living in households where domestic abuse is occurring are identified 'at risk' and extended the legal definition of harm to include harm suffered by seeing or hearing ill treatment of others. The 2011 Munro Review of Child Protection found domestic abuse to be a significant factor in child protection with up to $\frac{3}{4}$ cases linked to domestic abuse, substance misuse and/or mental health problems in parents/carers.
- Physical and sexual violence and abuse have direct health consequences and are risk factors for a wide range of long-term health problems, including mental health problems, alcohol misuse, trauma, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted infections and risky sexual behaviour.

5. What is the Evidence of What Works in terms of Improving Health or Social Care Outcomes?

- Detecting domestic abuse and taking appropriate action will save lives, reduce future risk and improve the outcomes for victims affected by domestic abuse. Safety in Numbers, the latest report on Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) services presents strong evidence that the safety of women at high risk of death or serious injury is significantly improved through contact with an IDVA.

An Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (or Advisor) is a trained specialist whose role is pivotal within the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process, the focus of which is the safety of victims of domestic violence and their children. IDVA support to victims in the Specialist Domestic Violence Court can increase the success of addressing the actions of perpetrators and reduce attrition rates in the criminal justice system.

- In November 2010 the coalition government announced its Violence Against Women and Girls strategic narrative in order to have a comprehensive strategy to take a coordinated approach to tackling

domestic abuse, sexual assault, prostitution and human trafficking. The strategy itself is divided into four main areas, prevent; provide; partnership and reduce risk and reviewed annually.

- Large numbers of domestic violence incidents go unreported to the police - up to 80% of incidents are not reported to any agency other than Accident and Emergency. Health Services have a vital role to play in partnership working increase identification, assessment and response to victims of domestic violence and therefore to improve the safety of victims of all ages. Most, if not all victims will have contact with a health practitioner at some time.

6. The Cost Implication of DA

A number of agencies and groups have commented upon the cost to communities of DA:

- The inability to effectively meet survivors' needs result in greater pressure on and costs to statutory services including the police, health departments and social services. (Nicholles and Whitehead 2012)
- In monetary terms, CAADA estimates domestic abuse costs the tax payer approximately £3.9bn per year, with high risk abuse making up nearly £2.4bn. CAADA are the national organisation (Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) appointed by the Home Office to quality assure MARAC's and IDVA services and provide a benchmark for good practise.
- Prevention and intervention to end violence is more cost-effective than dealing with the consequences of long-term DV. (Department of Health, 2011)
- Using the available estimates of the costs of domestic abuse (Professor Sylvia Walaby 2009), based on the size of the 16-59 year old population, it has been estimated for North Tyneside that :
 - **20.5 million** - Total costs (not including human and emotional costs) pro rated by population
 - **6.1 million** - Physical and mental health care costs pro rated by population
 - **4.5 million** - Criminal justice costs pro rated by population
 - **1million** - Social services costs pro rated by population
 - **0.7million** - Housing and refuges pro rated by population
 - **1.4 million**- Civil legal services pro rated by population
 - **6.8 million** - Lost economic output pro rated by population
 - **35.4 million**- Human and emotional costs (not included in total) pro rated by population
- A tool produced by the Department for Education estimated average cost of responding to one DV incident to be £23,315. (Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services,2011)
- A recent publication from the Department of Health has reported that the MARAC process saves public services an average of £6,000 per case in direct costs. The NHS accrues 20% of the savings, police 32% and the wider criminal justice system 40%. (Department of Health, 2011)

- The cost-effectiveness of the IDVA programme has been nationally evaluated; the cost of providing IDVA support to a victim of high risk DA was estimated to be £500. Compared to the costs to public services associated with ongoing DA, IDVAs were therefore found to be highly cost-effective. (Howarth, 2009)
- CAADA research nationally has shown that where 4 IDVAs and 1 MARAC coordinator have been funded for every 100,000 adult females that in 63% of cases supported by an IDVA, the abuse stops.
- Undertaking a needs analysis and identifying priorities to inform a strategic commissioning framework could ensure more effective allocation of funding and positive outcomes for victims.

7. What are Local Views (including service user views)

- There is an established North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership that is chaired by the local authority and has representation from all the statutory and voluntary agencies. The Partnership meets quarterly and has a number of task groups to support the business plan which is reviewed annually. Domestic abuse is a hidden and under reported crime and therefore consultation on local views can be difficult.
- Domestic abuse support service's regularly consult with service users and this is required in service contracts. Feedback has indicated that service users benefit from accessing support, being believed and being able to self refer.

8. Outcomes of Equality Impact Assessment?

The NT DA Partnership has not undertaken a recent equalities impact assessment but this will be a future consideration.

9. What is this telling us?

- The need to increase the capacity of the NT IDVA service to support high risk victims, in line with national recommendations.
- Services need to address all levels of risk, and severity of domestic abuse and be accessible for all victims of domestic abuse regardless of age.
- Demand for an increase in provision for children and young people.
- There is a gap in service provision regarding the availability of non mandatory programmes for male perpetrators in North Tyneside.
- Demand for increased availability of Freedom Programmes and Pattern Changing Programmes.

10. What are the risks of not delivering on Outcomes?

- Support services are reduced and victims do not receive the assessment and support to improve their safety and make positive changes.
- That victim's do not report and access support services which could lead to increased risks and homicides.
- Poor outcomes for children and young people living with domestic abuse.
- The cost of domestic abuse to the public services and the human cost.

11. Key Recommendations for Commissioners

- Consultation on local views.
- To increase the capacity of the NT IDVA service to support high risk victims, in line with national recommendations.
- Ensure services to address all levels of risk, and severity of domestic abuse, are available and accessible for all victims of domestic abuse.
- To establish a service to provide interventions for medium risk perpetrators around domestic abuse, alcohol and mental health
- Links with the Think Family agenda and Troubled Families

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November 2014