



Home Office

# Domestic abuse

Transforming the response

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# The case for change – the scale of domestic abuse

CSEW estimates that there were 1.94m DA victims in 2016/17 (713k male, 1.23m female)

*The scale of victimisation is far greater than recorded by the police.*

*Crime Survey of England & Wales estimates only **1 in 5 victims report their abuse.***

*The proportion of total recorded crime flagged as domestic abuse was **12%** in 2016/17.*

*Domestic abuse offences comprise **33%** of all violent crime reported to the police.*

Victims are predominantly female:

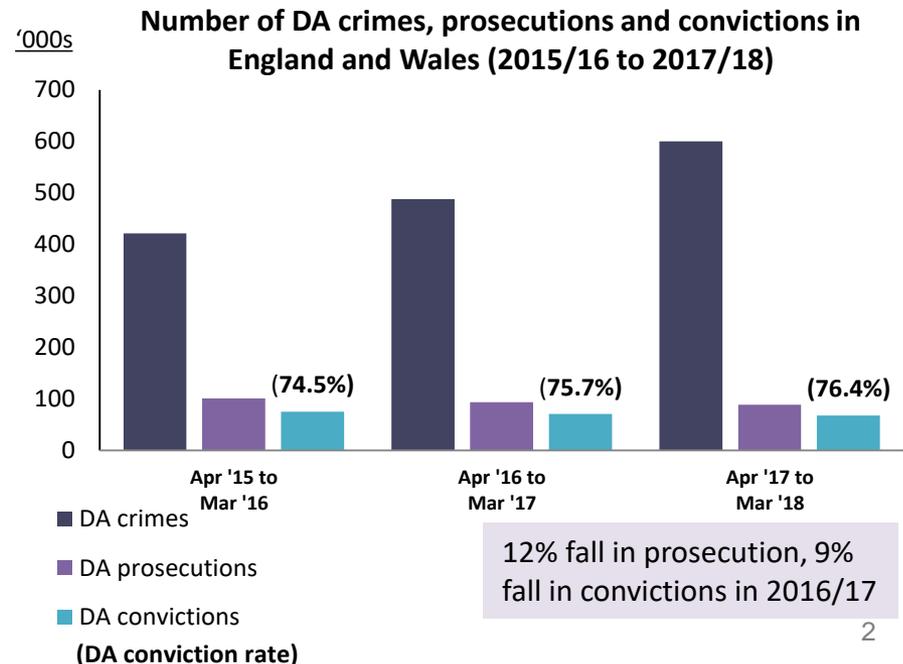
Police recorded domestic abuse is rising and prosecutions and convictions are falling:

Between April 2013 and March 2016:

**28%** of recorded **homicides** were domestic abuse related (454 homicides)

 **67%** DA homicide victims were **women killed by men**

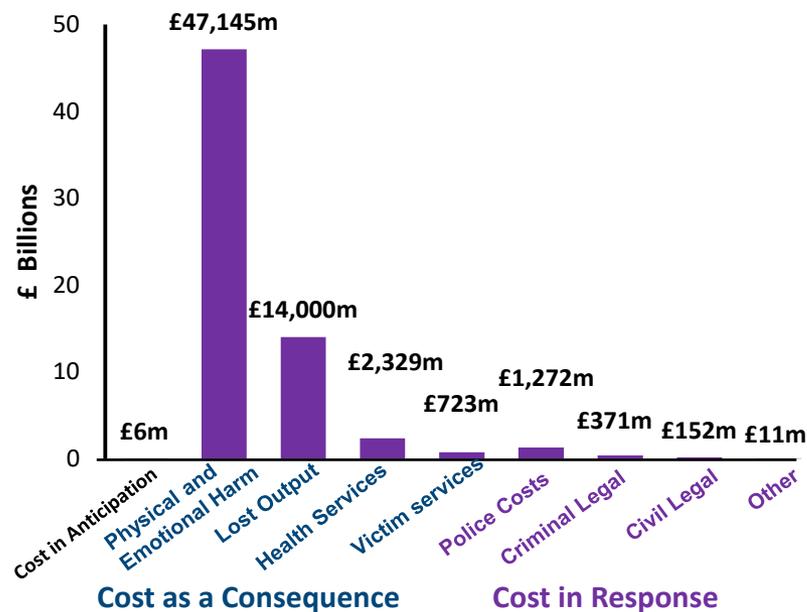
 **10%** DA homicide victims were **men killed by women**



# The cost to society of domestic abuse

Home Office estimates domestic abuse cost £66bn in England and Wales in 2016/17

The bulk (£47.1bn) of the cost is the harm to victims, particularly emotional harm (£46.5bn).



Comparatively this is greater and further reaching than other harms:

Harm	Estimated Annual Cost (UK)
Drugs	£20 bn
Serious Organised Crime	£37bn
Modern Slavery	£4.3bn

DA affects victims and their children. It hugely increases the risk that they will also experience abuse as adults.

NSPCC research suggests **up to a third** of all UK children have been exposed to DA, with long term negative impacts on:



A 2018 Dept for Education report estimates **51%** of 'Children in Need' had domestic abuse as a factor in their social services assessment.

**Witnessing DA causes psychological harm:**

- **52%** experienced behavioural problems and issues with social development and relationships (Safelives)
- At a greater risk for substance abuse, juvenile pregnancy and criminal behaviour than those raised in homes without violence (UN)

**Witnessing DA as a child is linked to experience of DA as an adult:**

- **22%** who witnessed DA later experienced it themselves, compared to 4% who had not witnessed it (CSEW).

# The policy response

## 1. Promote awareness of domestic abuse

To put domestic abuse at the top of everyone's agenda and raise public and professionals awareness



- **New definition of domestic abuse and statutory guidance**

- Resources supporting Relationship and Sex Education
- Roll-out of police training
- Expansion of health pathfinder
- Communications campaigns

## 3. Pursue and deter perpetrators

To provide an effective response to perpetrators from initial agency response through to conviction and management of offenders



- **Legislative assumption of eligibility of special measures**
- **Extend extra territorial jurisdiction**
- **Banning cross-examination in family courts**

- National roll-out of covert app
- More support to victims going through family courts
- Improve access to interventions that change the attitudes and behaviour that drives domestic abuse offending

## 2. Protect and support victims

To enhance the safety of victims and the support they receive



- **A new domestic abuse protection order**
- **Put guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme on a statutory footing**

- £8m to support children affected by domestic abuse
- New crisis support for those with no recourse to public funds
- Additional funding and capacity building for specialist services for disabled, elderly & LGBT victims
- Updated training and guidance on economic abuse
- Additional funding for male victims
- Consultation on future accommodation funding options

## 4. Improving Performance

To drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse



- **Introduce a DA commissioner (role will consider impact on children)**

- Updated National Statement of Expectations



# Preventing domestic homicide

## Improving understanding of coercive control

- Improve understanding of courts and justice system
- Guidance on protecting victims of coercive control after relationship ends
- Guidance on economic abuse, abuse perpetrated through courts and impact on children

## Improving understanding of stalking

- New Stalking Protection Orders
- Training for police and Crown Prosecution Service
- Review of sentencing guidelines

## Strengthening response to repeat and serial perpetrators

- National operating principles for police on repeat and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Domestic Abuse Protection Order – new tool for managing perpetrators
- DA Commissioner oversight of provision of perpetrators interventions

## Next Steps for Domestic Homicide Reviews

- Creating a public, searchable repository of DHRs
- Updating DHR statutory guidance
- Working with DA Commissioner to look at how learning is being implemented locally and nationally
- Doing more to ensure national recommendations are shared and acted upon
- Providing regular updates on key learning for local areas
- Working with PCCs to look at how they can best work with local partners on implementation of recommendations

What are the common probs found in DHRs:

- Poor record-keeping and risk assessment
- Lack of information sharing
- Abuse not recognised/explored further
- Health bodies have the most recommendations made and training is the most common.



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**Thank you**

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