

***Domestic & Sexual Violence
and Abuse***

It is estimated that 8,910 women and girls in Cardiff, aged 16 to 59, will have been a victim of domestic abuse in the last year and 3,465 women and girls aged 16 - 59 have been a victim of sexual assault in the past year (Home Office Ready Reckoner). In 90% of domestic abuse incidents, a child is present or in an adjacent room. Figures show that, in 40 - 70% of cases where women are being abused, the children are also being directly abused themselves (Welsh Women's Aid). The Cardiff Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse (DSVA) Forum recognises the impact that domestic and sexual violence and abuse has on children, women and men, including their ability to feel safe, be healthy, achieve their full potential and interact in society. The recent Welsh Assembly Government Publication, *The Right to Be Safe* (2010), is the 6 year integrated strategy for tackling all forms of violence against women in Wales. It recognises that, in order to "transform Wales into a self-confident, prosperous, healthy nation and society, which is fair to all... [this] can only be achieved if our communities are resilient and safe places [and therefore we must] remain committed to tackling all forms of domestic abuse and supporting all victims".

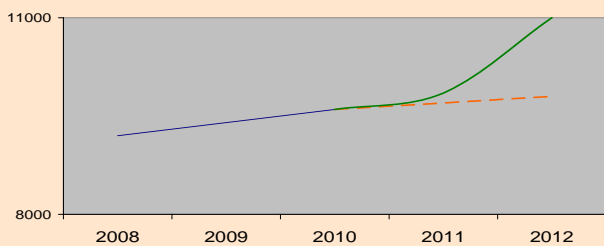
A second Welsh Assembly Government publication, *Information and Guidance on Domestic Abuse: Safeguarding Children and Young People in Wales* (2010), states that "The wide adverse effects of living with domestic abuse for children must be recognised as a child protection issue. The effects can be linked with poor educational achievement, social exclusion...juvenile crime, substance abuse, mental health problems and homelessness".

Domestic violence accounts for approximately 25% of recorded violent crime (Welsh Women's Aid) and an average of 800 reports of domestic violence are received by South Wales Police in Cardiff each month which demonstrates clearly the impact that domestic and sexual violence has on the safety of Cardiff's residents. Last year 685 cases were taken to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in Cardiff, which represents those cases which have been assessed as the very highest risk. Last year frontline service providers in Cardiff accommodated over 559 women, children and men as a result of domestic abuse. Up to 15% of all cases accepted by Cardiff Council as homeless and in priority need relate to domestic violence.

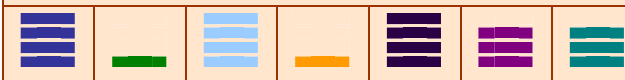
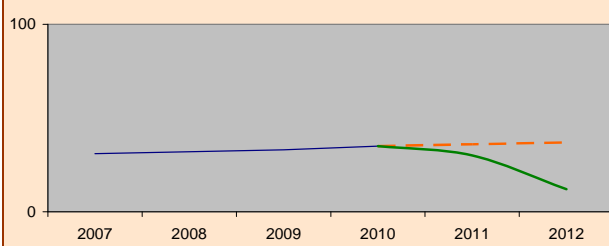
Furthermore the estimated cost of DSVAs to Cardiff is estimated to be over £63 million (Home Office Ready Reckoner) and this figure does not account for the human or emotional cost.

Headline Indicators and how are we doing?

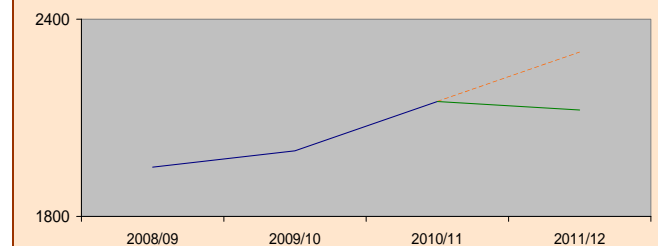
Number of PPD1s per year (Public Protection Documents – reports of domestic violence received by the Police)
(South Wales Police Data)



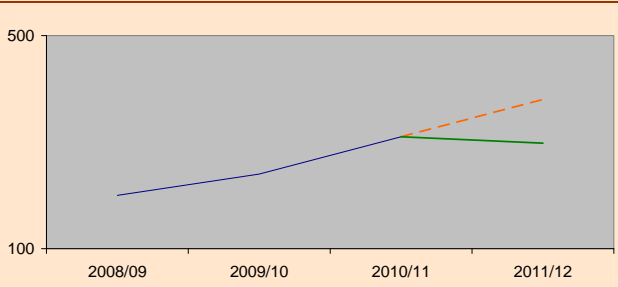
Percentage of child protection referrals where Domestic and/or Sexual Violence and Abuse is identified (Speculative Data Children's Services)



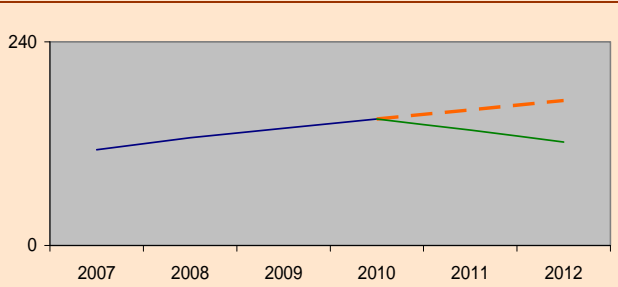
Number of repeat incidents of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence and Abuse with a repeat victim (South Wales Police Data)



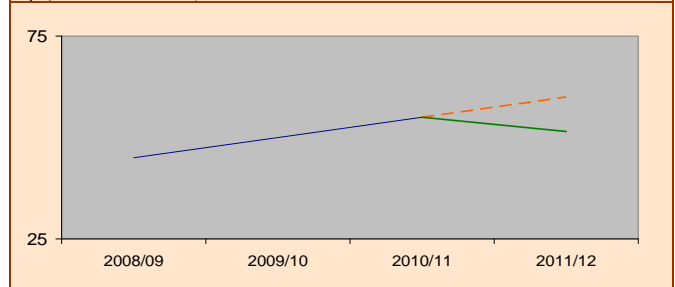
Number of people attending A&E as a result of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence and Abuse (Cardiff and Vale UHB Data)



Number of people presenting as homeless as a result of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence and Abuse (Welsh Assembly Returns (WHO12) Data)



Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice who were or remain affected by Domestic and/or Sexual Violence and Abuse (Speculative Data)



Key:

- - - - - The route we will take if we do nothing
- The curve we want to turn

The bars under each graph represent how the indicator impacts on the seven Cardiff outcomes for the city as seen below:

Outcome	Impact Level
Healthy	High (4 bars)
Environment	Low (1 bar)
Safe	Medium (3 bars)
Thriving & Prosperous	Medium (2 bars)
Full Potential	Low (1 bar)
Live, Work & Play	Medium (2 bars)
Fair, Just, & Inclusive	High (4 bars)

Data Development:

- Mapping service users' journeys through support for domestic and/or sexual violence or abuse.
- Data on those enabled to remain in or return to their own home as a result of safety interventions.
- Self-reporting from those supported, whether they now feel safe and have improved self-esteem.
- Number of repeat perpetrators of domestic and or sexual violence or abuse.
- Number of patients entering substance misuse treatment.

Story behind the baselines

Number of PPD1s: Despite South Wales Police receiving an average of 800 reports of domestic violence in Cardiff per month, statistics demonstrate that many victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse do not report to the Police at all, and instead, will access support from frontline specialist domestic violence support providers. Although we do not wish to see incidents of domestic violence increasing, when incidents do happen we want to ensure that they are being reported, so that victims can be supported and statistics become a more accurate representation of the true prevalence of DSVA. If the figures for those that have sought support from frontline providers and those that report to the Police were able to coincide this would represent a positive development.

Percentage of child protection referrals where DSVA is identified: Domestic Violence is one of the consideration categories used by Children's Services when assessing children at risk and the Forum would like to see a reduction in the number of cases where domestic violence is identified in child protection referrals.

Number of repeat victims of DSVA: Domestic and sexual violence or abuse is often not a one-off occurrence and can be frequent and persistent. MARAC data demonstrates that those affected by domestic and/or sexual violence or abuse will often be repeat victims, many with the same perpetrator.

Number of people attending A&E as a result of DSVAs: These figures represent one of the most devastating areas of those affected by DSVAs and there is a need to prevent people from sustaining serious physical injuries and therefore see these figures decrease. Work must be undertaken with health professionals so that DSVAs can be identified when victims present at A&E.

Number of people presenting as homeless as a result of DSVAs: Up to 15% of all cases accepted by Cardiff Council as homeless and in priority need relate to domestic violence. However this figure is a drastic under-representation as not all people affected by DSVAs will present to the local authority and instead may seek assistance from frontline service providers. Supported housing providers such as Cardiff Women's Aid, Black Association of Women Step Out (BAWSO), Llamau, Hafan Cymru, Cedar House and Nightingale House collectively play a part in supporting victims. Homelessness should be the last resort for those affected by DSVAs and the option to remain in or return to their own homes with additional security measures must be available more frequently.

Number of first time entrants into Youth Justice who were or remain affected by DSVAs: Various studies demonstrate the links between adolescents who have grown up in violent homes who then go on to either repeat the violent relationship they have seen or commit violent crime (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention). Data from an Office of National Statistics (ONS) survey revealed that 42% of young female offenders had experienced domestic violence. The adverse affects that DSVAs have on young peoples' lives must be addressed and preventative work must be undertaken within schools, colleges and youth settings in order to do so.

Partners with a role to play

- Third Sector
- Cardiff Council
 - Social Care
 - Housing
 - Schools
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
- Further Education Sector
- Organisations/Agencies for with children
- Criminal Justice Services
- Equalities & Advocacy Organisations
- Advice Services
- Cardiff Health Alliance
- Children and Young People's Partnership
- Safer Capital

What are we going to do?

- A robust DSVAs Forum already exists and an active response to reducing domestic and sexual violence and abuse must be continued in Cardiff.
- Data sharing protocols and procedures must be developed to ensure that an adequate picture of the support needs of those affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse can be identified.
- An excellent online portal for DSVAs services in Cardiff has been developed in the Women's and Men's Handbook websites. There is now a need to continue their development and promotion across all agencies in Cardiff.
- Cardiff Council's e-learning toolkit has been extremely successful when implemented with Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal staff and Housing Association staff. This needs to be made more accessible to other key agencies working with those affected by DSVAs or abuse. Training must be available to more key agencies/organisations and individuals such as police, health practitioners, teachers, criminal justice practitioners and community based workers.
- The development of a 'one-stop-shop' facility which would be a single physical access point to the full range of DSVAs services in Cardiff. This will improve access to services and promote greater collaborative working.
- More awareness raising must be undertaken around the less well known types of DSVAs (such as forced marriage, honour based violence and male domestic violence) to ensure that anyone affected by any form of DSVAs is aware of the support services provided and where they can receive help.
- Survey those who have been directly affected by DSVAs their views on services, initiatives and developments. Further development of service user panels and engagement with service users in consultation exercises.