

# Domestic abuse – A conversation with the Health and Wellbeing Board

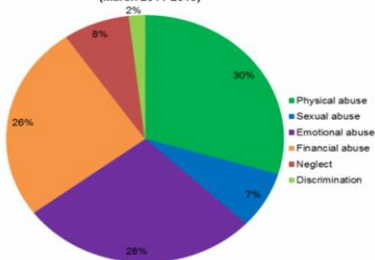
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## Definition of domestic abuse March 2013

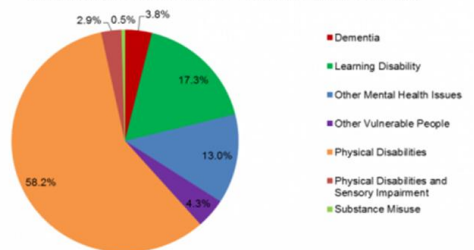
Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Types of alleged abuse experienced by domestic abuse related referrals to Adult Safeguarding in Bath and North East Somerset (March 2011-2013)



Health and vulnerability issues of the domestic abuse referrals to Adult Safeguarding in Bath and North East Somerset (March 2011-2013)



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## Domestic abuse and health

- **Domestic abuse & health needs**
  - Over **6,000** victims p.a.
  - Victims are **3x** more likely to have mental health needs
- **In practice**
  - Between 2009-2011
    - **10** hospital admissions
    - **0** A&E admissions
    - Were recorded
  - **9** referrals to specialist services from A&E
  - Victims **would prefer to speak to GPs** compared to all other services

64% of probation offenders have alcohol misuse issues



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## Focus groups findings 2013-14

- We heard domestic abuse damaged confidence, self-esteem and health
- We heard how hard it is take the first step and tell someone about what they are going through
- We heard a desire for help in guiding through the entire journey, particularly for low and medium risk victims
- We heard that people would value discussions with GPs, but recognise the pressure that they are under

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## An Opportunity - Public Service Transformation

- An opportunity for partners to identify a “whole system” approach to further improve and join-up services as well as invest “upstream” in prevention and early intervention in order to reduce harm.
- Local Safeguarding Adults Board is scoping the opportunities and benefits for developing a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- PCC Integrated Victims Strategy

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## Links with other projects and initiatives?

- Bath and North East Somerset Local Safeguarding Adults Board scoping the opportunities and benefits for developing a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- PCCs, work with partners to develop a ‘whole system’ approach to victim care Draft Integrated Victims Strategy has been produce

## IRIS – Identification & Referral to Improve Safety

- General-practice based project with health and the third sector working in partnership to improve the health care response to DVA
- Provides in-house training and support to practice teams encouraging them to respond, refer and record
- Provides referral and advocacy for patients with experience of DVA and care pathways for victims and perpetrators
- Showed positive results in both identification and referral during a randomised controlled trial and is cost effective (NHS and societal cost savings)
- Is commissioned in 13 areas of England, 4 in Scotland and 1 in Wales

## IRIS – Bristol

- Commissioned by Public Health since 2009
- 1 full-time, specialist IRIS advocate-educator at Next Link
- 29 practices trained; 18 actively referred patients in 2013
- 103 referrals during 2013
- Offering practical and emotional support
- *“Our referred patients receive extremely responsive support and follow up. I have been impressed by how the IRIS service encompasses a whole range of help...I have spent much less time (and resources) on investigating “medically unexplained symptoms” as the underlying issues for my patient are finally understood.”*  
 Bristol GP in an IRIS DV Aware Practice

## IRIS GP surgeries and the number of referrals received by different GPs in each practice (Jan-Jun'13)

