

# Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) update

## LGA

Lead Commissioner – Rachel Jackson

Domestic Abuse Commissioner – Emma Guest

# Purpose of presentation

**Challenges:** To highlight the challenges presented by the pandemic for DVA victim-survivors, partner agencies and service providers

**Aims:** To explain what our aims were, when looking at approaches to address these challenges

**Approaches:** To share the approaches deployed to mitigate the challenges

**Outcomes:** To highlight some outcomes and the impact of these approaches

**Examples:** To provide delegates throughout, with examples of what may work for them when considering their responses to DVA

# Challenges – Covid restrictions

- Reduced opportunity for victim-survivors to seek support – support networks removed and opportunities limited
- Amplified relationship stress due to restriction of movement
- Covid restrictions used as a means to control
- A need to reiterate that the stay at home order did not apply to victims that needed to seek support
- Services being able to meet demand and maintain delivery
- Understanding what was actually happening – volume of DVA, level of unmet need

# Aims

- That DVA victim-survivors were safe and knew how to access support services
- That WCC facilitated a clear understanding of the level of need and emerging trends around DVA across the county (two-tier dynamics)
- That there was a sense of collective ownership of the issue corporately and across partners
- That our commissioned DVA accommodation and support services functioned efficiently and safely

# Approaches – Communication

**Warwickshire CC #StayAlertToStaySafe**  
@Warwickshire\_CC

Warwickshire stands in solidarity with all those who suffer at the hands of a violent perpetrator. @RefugeCharity have produced this hard hitting short film about the effects of long term coercive control, starring Maxine Peake #16daysofaction #VAWG [ow.ly/RJDQ50CurTF](https://ow.ly/RJDQ50CurTF)



**Warwickshire CC #StayAlertToStaySafe**  
@Warwickshire\_CC

If you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community and are suffering from #DomesticAbuse please remember #YouAreNotAlone Please call 0800 408 1552 or email DVSU@refuge.org.uk In an emergency please call 999.



## 16 DAYS OF ACTION

Supported by PHE

**Warwickshire County Council**  
Public

Thank you to everyone who has shared our posts about #16daysofaction. Despite the campaign ending, Warwickshire is here to help anyone suffering at the hands of an abuser @warkspolice @RefugeCharity @EquipEquality1 . Visit [www.talk2someone.org.uk](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk) or in an emergency call 999]

**Warwickshire CC #StayAlertToStaySafe**  
@Warwickshire\_CC

If English is your second language you may rely on a partner to translate for you. If this same person is a perpetrator of domestic abuse – you may feel alone and scared. Please call Refuge on 0800 408 1552 or Equip on 07377 431997. In an emergency call 999. #YouAreNotAlone



**#SexualAbuseAndSexualViolenceAwarenessWeek**

**MALE SEXUAL ABUSE**

**1 in 6 men have been sexually abused or assaulted. Abusers don't discriminate – it can happen to anyone.**

Reporting incidents of sexual violence is confidential and can be done anonymously.

Safeline national male survivor helpline:  
0808 800 5005




- Supported by Chief Executive, Chief Constable, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Included 1,000+ attendance at webinars
- Local news coverage on television
- Elected Member briefings
- Talk2Someone website launched
- Targeted communications in boroughs
- Community partnerships used to share information to those isolating due to vulnerabilities

# Approaches - Collaboration

**Emerging Trends:** Establishment of an 'Emerging Trends' meeting – Police, OPCC, Criminal Justice, providers, health partners, district and county council reps. Adopted into the Violence Against Women and Girls delivery structure.

**Performance:** Gathering of data and an introduction of a shared performance management framework across all partners that considered DVA reports, capacity of refuge provision, MARAC referrals, local district trends.

**Corporate ownership:** Introduced a corporate Key Business Measure, Elected Member and Senior Leadership engagement.

**Risk Management:** Covid contingency management to ensure provider viability

**Funding:** collaborated and maximised funding opportunities e.g. via WCC and OPCC

# Outcomes - Communication

## Outcomes for the Communication Campaign

- 'Spot the Signs' campaign – the Facebook reach (the number of people who viewed the post) was over 180,000.
- The BAME focused campaign attracted nearly 185,000 reach.
- Facebook appears to have the majority share of followers and who are more likely to engage with the messages.
- Overall figures relate to: Facebook: – 371,177. Engaged Users – 10,719, Number of posts – 500
- Twitter: Retweets – 115, Likes 118. Number of posts 221

## Outcomes of the Campaign in DVA victim-survivors:

- An increase in the number of DVA victim-survivors seeking support
- Direct correlation between targeted communications and the numbers of DVA victim-survivors seeking support from the area targeted

# Outcomes - Collaboration

**Influence partners:** levels of repeat victims, progress of cases through the court system, referrals made to MARAC

**Improved reach of communications-** sign-up to communication and commitment to sharing messages was fundamental e.g. support from Warwickshire Police promotion of key messages was vital in achieving the level of engagement on social media.

**Respond to national items:** Everyone's Invited campaign and local responses – reduced impact locally

**Resourcing:** expansion of service delivery to meet emerging demands e.g. additional IDVA and MARAC capacity

---



# Conclusion

**Know your priorities:** develop clear aims and determine the most important items to focus on e.g. safety of others, partnership, communication and sustainability of services.

**Data:** essential to monitor trends and performance – plus it provides evidence base to reallocate resources and influence others.

**Collaborate:** There is no single agency that has the sole responsibility to address DVA and working with others is essential.

***Any Questions?***

# Contact details

Rachel Jackson – Lead Commissioner, Vulnerable People  
[racheljacksonpe@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:racheljacksonpe@warwickshire.gov.uk)

Emma Guest – Domestic Abuse Commissioner  
[Emmaguest@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:Emmaguest@warwickshire.gov.uk)