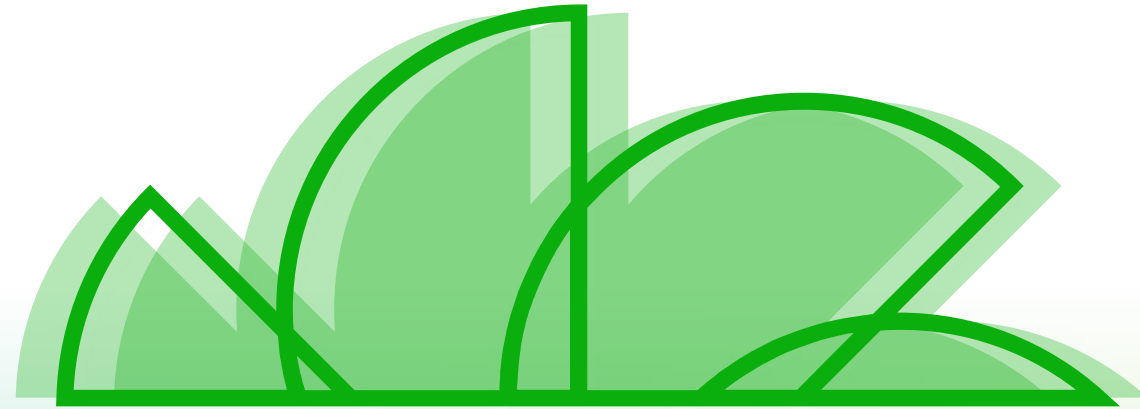


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WW5

## TAKING A WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

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Chaired by **Melonie Senior**, Practice Consultant, SafeLives

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# SafeLives

SafeLives' Whole Family, Public Health Approach to tackling Domestic Abuse

November 2023

# Safelives Vision and Strategy

## Whole person



Seeing and responding to the whole person, not addressing a series of issues



## Whole family



Considering the physical, mental, and emotional safety and wellbeing of all family members.



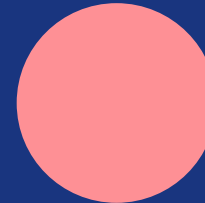
## Whole community



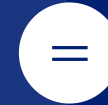
Equipping communities of geography, identity, workspace and to identify, understand and act on domestic abuse



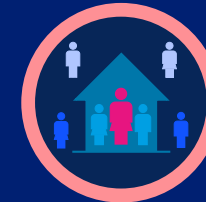
## Whole society



Challenging and deconstructing gender stereotypes – particularly those of masculinity – supporting boys and men to break these norms.



## Whole Picture



**A whole picture approach can transform the local response to domestic abuse, keeping families safe sooner**

# Local services are responding to domestic abuse; understanding and learning the best way to ensure victims get the right support at the right time

Our research has shown how **local systems understand the whole picture** of a family affected by domestic abuse



## Awareness of Children

Around **30%** of children in households supported by an Idva were **not known to children's services**

## Access to specialists

**87%** of survivors had **told multiple people** about their experience of abuse. Only **31%** had managed to reach specialist support

## Visibility of support

**85%** of victims of domestic abuse **seek help five times** on average before they get effective support

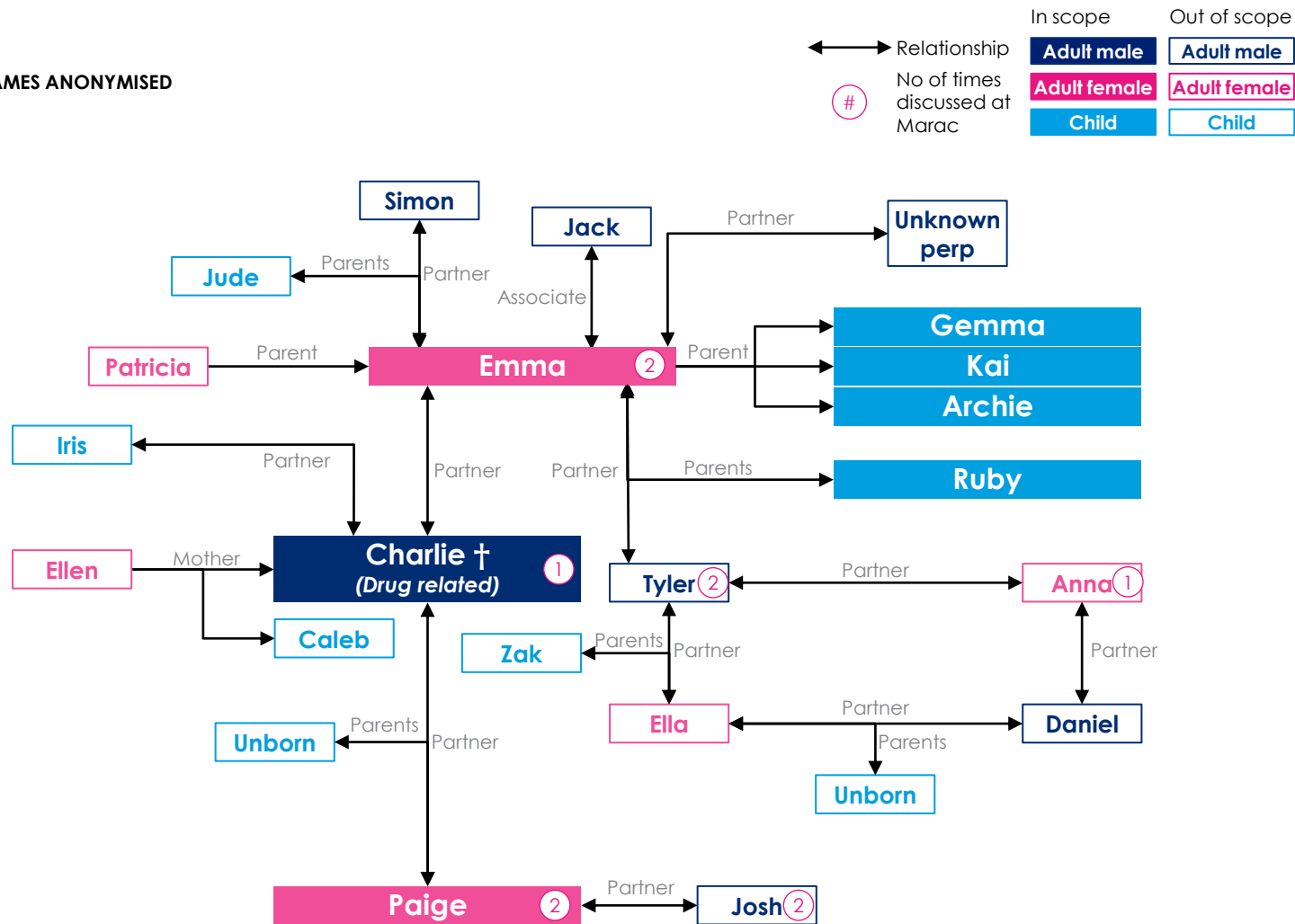
## Perpetrators

Only **1%** of perpetrators **receive any specialist intervention** to be challenged or change their behaviour



# There is rarely one victim. Domestic abuse affects whole families, and whole communities

NAMES ANONYMISED



**Children do not ‘see and hear’ domestic abuse.** They are victims in their own right (Domestic Abuse Act 2021)

**Approximately 1 in 15 children** lived in households where a parent is a victim of domestic abuse between 2019-2020, putting them at a higher risk of being physically abused and neglected

**22% of perpetrators have multiple victims.** Removing a victim from their home does not stop the abuse, or stop the perpetrator going on to abuse other people

Source: SafeLives' 2018-2019 Insights Data; The impact of exposure to domestic violence on children and young people: a review of the literature (2008)

# Children and Young people are telling us:



**Where's the line?** Young people don't know the point at which a relationship starts to become unhealthy or toxic.

**What can I do?** Young people lack the confidence or self-esteem to say "that's not okay" to the person abusing them, or in response to a friend's actions.

**My experience is unique** The abuse that young people experience looks different to the abuse that adults experience. I need my own response.

**Young people don't identify with the term 'domestic abuse'** – yet they are having to use adult domestic abuse services which are not equipped to meet their unique needs.

**I am more than just one thing!** Domestic abuse often comes hand-in-hand with other adverse experiences – inside and outside the home, from mental health issues, to racism, homophobia, or poverty.

**Ending domestic abuse**



# Engage in Cheshire

266 perpetrators,  
263 adult survivors  
102 child survivors\*

Engage is a whole system, whole family approach to domestic abuse support which offers practical support to create a lasting change in behaviour.

19% of crimes Domestic Abuse related

15.7 DA Crimes per 1000 population

Support for perpetrator focuses on denial and accountability work which aims to prepare them for behaviour change support.

Engage

Engage is a denial focused intervention which aims to move an individual from pre-contemplation to an acceptance of their behaviours, ready for a behaviour change programme.

***“You’re not going to manage that risk if you don’t know what’s going on. And you don’t know what’s going on unless you’re speaking to everyone in the family” Practitioner***

As part of the Engage programme, specialist 1-2-1 support is provided for each member of the family (perpetrators, adult survivors, and child survivors) and can take place in-person or virtually

35% of Perpetrators and 53% of Survivors had existing Mental Health diagnosis

\*Dec 2020 – March 2023



# Authentic Voice

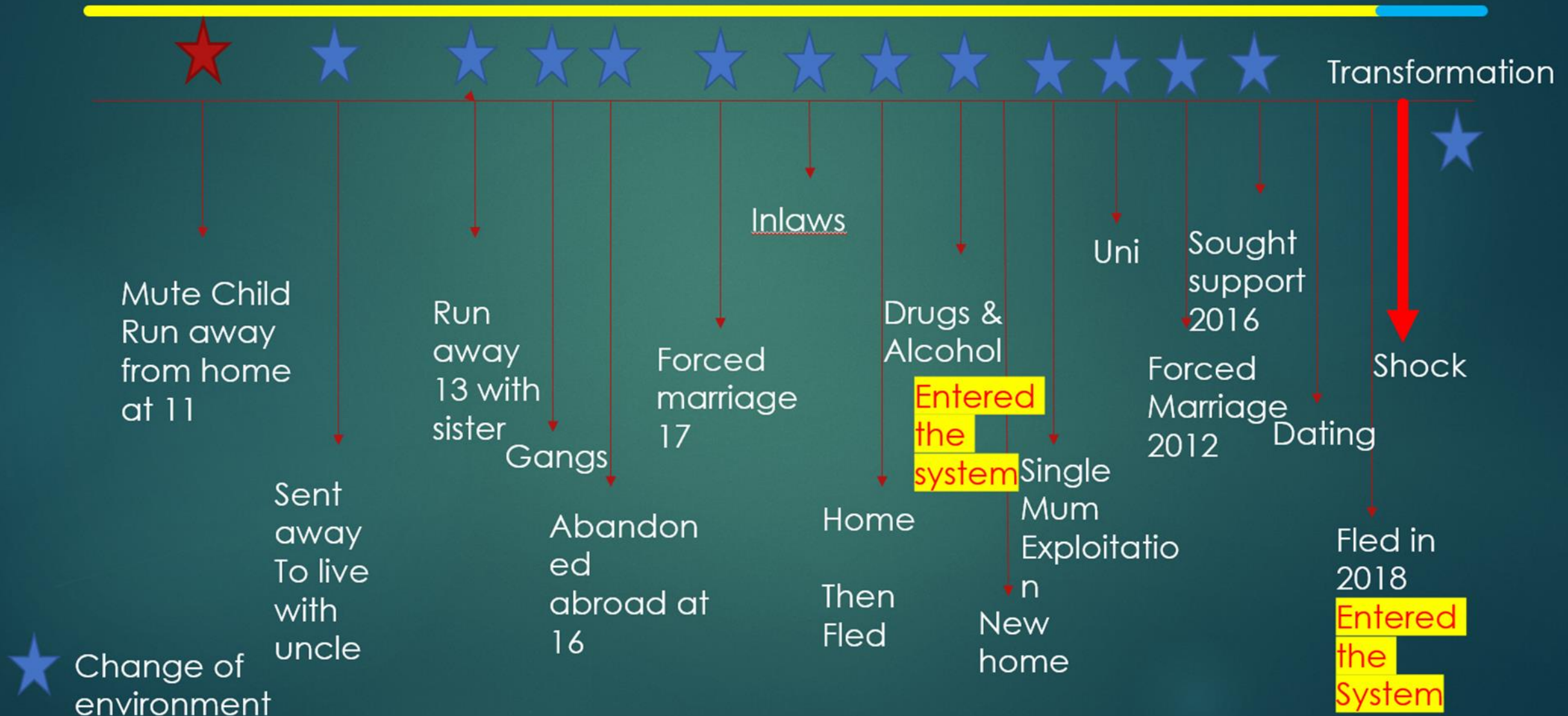
# Who am I?

- Safelives Pioneers
- 25 years lived experience, 4 years LIP in the Family Courts
- Domestic Abuse Prevention Officer
- Trauma informed Practitioner
- International Domestic Abuse Trainer
- Part of various Organisation, local, national and international
- Academic background in Business Management, Psychology and passionate about human behaviour.
- ***Volunteer to an NHS trust that has a '5 star rating in patient experience'***



# Timeline

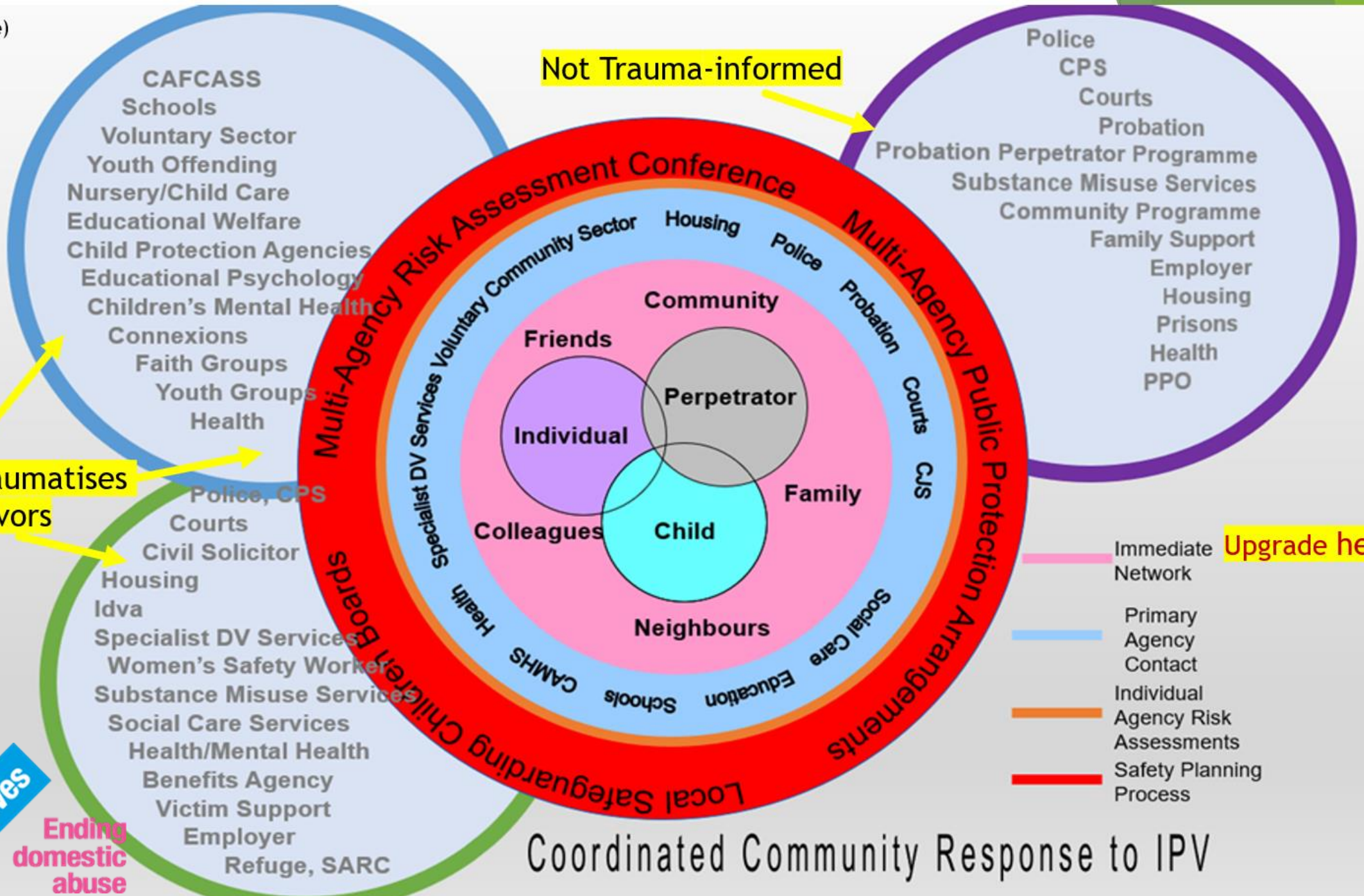
Naïve – Victim Mindset – No Edu On DA & Healthy Relationships



# Fleeing in 2018



- **I had 28 different services involved, from 3 different regions, with 3 different police forces.**
- **28 different versions of my story were told, because agencies asked 28 different set of questions from statutory to third sector organisations.**



Not Trauma-informed

Retraumatizes survivors

Upgrade here

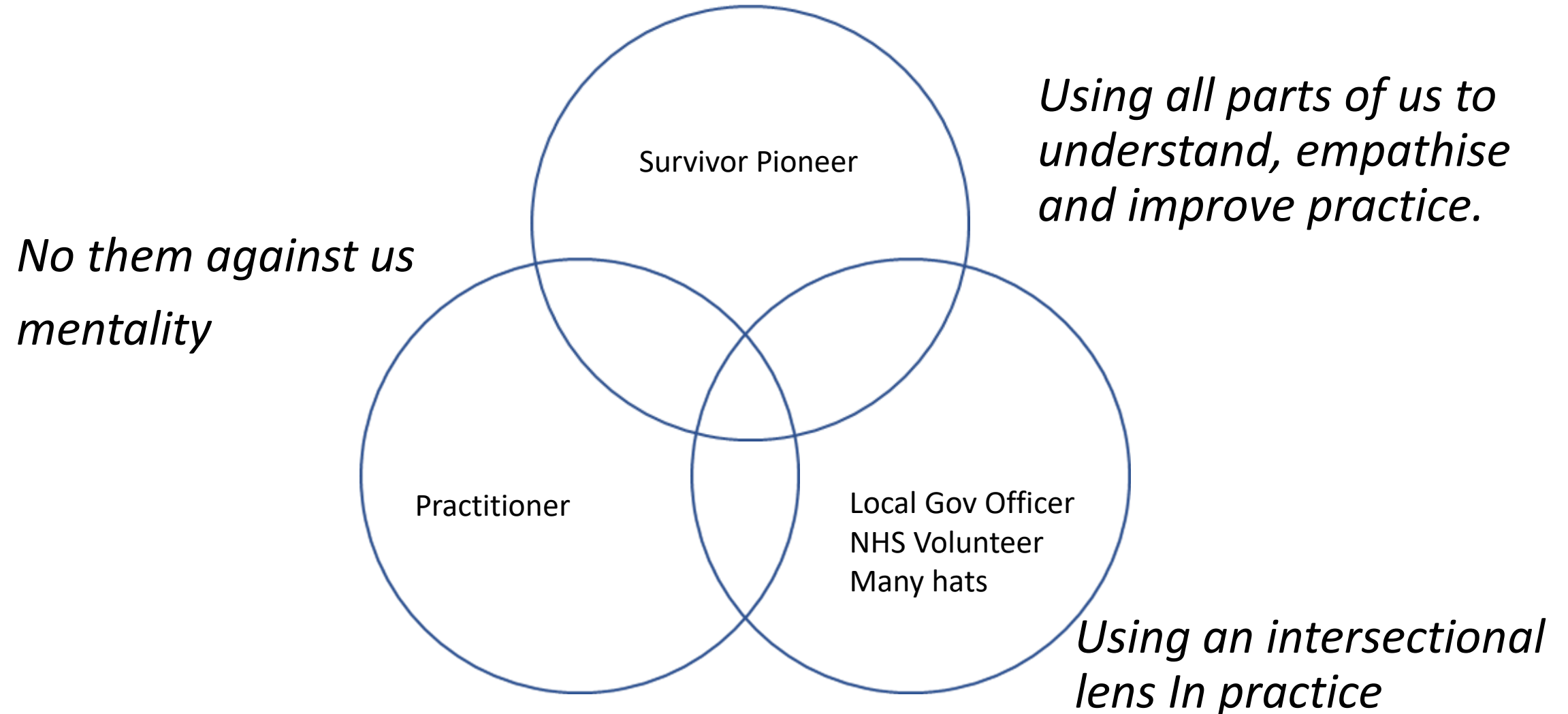
- Immediate Network
- Primary Agency Contact
- Individual Agency Risk Assessments
- Safety Planning Process

Safe Lives

Ending domestic abuse

# Coordinated Community Response to IPV

# Sharing power



# Domestic Abuse is;

- Is a Human – societal issue
- Everyone must do their part (be Anti-Domestic Abuse)
- Move away from the false dichotomy ‘Poor victim (Good person- or innocent Party) and Nasty Perpetrator (Bad person, evil, in the wrong)
- Home office states it’s a 74 billion pound problem.



It all goes back to *Workplace Culture*.

Do we feel safe to challenge parts of our culture, practice and policy that isn't helping to create the whole family approach?

Do we understand the impact of DA and link to psychological trauma?

Are we desensitised to being human because being professional is the accepted mask at the workplace?





# Activity

## Situation:

- A Mum with one child is being harassed daily by her on/off partner.
- She ended the relationship recently after the partner made threats to harm her. The partner has previously picked items up to use to harm her in the past, has caused damage to her property and has verbally abused her.
- Her child has been witness to some of these incidents, but Mum feels they are unaffected, as they continue to be compliant at school and at home, with no repercussions regarding behaviour changes.
- Mum feels there has been an escalation in incidents more recently and worries about physical violence.

# Activity

## Situation 2:

- The Perpetrator commits an assault after following the Mum home from work. They grab her, tells her that they're sorry, that they want to be with her, but as she tries to get away, they pull her closer leaving marks on her arms.
- There are witnesses to this incident.
- Mum tells her child when she returns home, who cries and runs upstairs.
- Perpetrator threatens via social media that if she goes to the Police they will kill her.

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