

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme Evaluation

Assessing the effectiveness of the
programme on participants and victims



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The rise in complex domestic violence and a local 4% conviction rate for domestic abuse in Sussex means that 96% of domestic abuse perpetrators are not receiving outcomes that mandate them to work with probation services and behaviour change interventions.

Internal policing expertise and past practices have indicated that cases cannot be resolved through the criminal justice system alone and must be targeted using a multi-agency approach.

Sussex was awarded Home Office funds to focus on three strands: those motivated to change and group work, high harm and stalking. This project began in March 2021 to address the need for interventions to support perpetrators with the vast majority not receiving formal support via statutory services for example.

The three strands work collectively, with the wider motivated to change cohort engaging with group work sessions, a bespoke intervention for obsessive and compulsive behaviour for stalking perpetrators and a multi-agency unit to tackle those high harm domestic abuse perpetrators.

The high harm programme has taken learning from the Building Better Relationship programme and the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) pilot to create a more enhanced, effective, multi-agency structure, with an aim to address a range of stabilising and destabilising factors that can contribute to abuse focused on recency, frequency and severity of harm.

The high harm unit locally called the Complex Domestic Abuse and Stalking Unit and consists of multi-agency staff from Sussex Police, a dedicated drug and alcohol worker, a dedicated mental health support provider, a dedicated Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) for victims associated with the perpetrators (including any children), a dedicated housing support advisor, an adapted healthy relationships intervention and access to a dedicated mentoring scheme.

This evaluation assesses the impact and effectiveness of the High Harm Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme. This programme was commissioned by the Office of the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and managed by the Complex Domestic Abuse Unit, formed by Sussex Police and partner services.

Methodology

This analysis assesses a cohort of 48 perpetrators in Sussex, plus associated victims. Those included are perpetrators and victims who were accepted for support and engaged or had contact/a relationship formed with one or more services. The findings do not include unaccepted/invalid referrals or those managed solely by probation.

The data collected includes a combination of quantitative statistics and qualitative analysis to assess the effectiveness and success of the high harm programme.

Summary of Qualitative Findings

The below table shows a summary of qualitative findings, taken from partner commentary. The most common themes present across all areas of support include: multi-agency structure crucial to programme success, universal low engagement levels, challenges with geography and capacity issues.

Service	Successes	Challenges
Sussex Police (Offender Managers)	•Reduction in offending and arrests •Changes seen in individuals in complex cases, improving life improvements and harm reduction •Multi agency structure working well and helpful for information sharing and risk assessments •Pursue plans drafted for those not willing to accept support	•Engagement low due to history with Police and negative experiences •Participants who resist support and know how to avert police attention •Victim withdrawal and reluctance to support investigations
Healthy Relationships Intervention	•Some perpetrators engaging well and others engaging to an extent •Multi-agency structure working well, able to assess and refer •Chance to collaborate with Men & Masculinities for a more tailored service	•Low completion levels due to complex cohort who may not be suitable for programme •More input from social worker required at point of referral •Complications with other agencies can disrupt the intervention process
Mentoring	•Helpful when assisting with specific goal such as housing or personal finances	•Engagement challenging •Overlap between professionals
Mental Health Support	•Good engagement in early stages •Effective work done with individuals with mental health issues and assistance with medication •Safeguarding of highly vulnerable individuals	•Engagement levels drop off and are volatile due to low mood and personal difficulties •Difficulties with geography and capacity with only 1 caseworker
Substance Misuse Support	•Some progress made with individuals who have substance issues •Safeguarding of highly vulnerable individuals •Joint work with other partner services has been successful	•Difficulties with geography and capacity due to only 1 caseworker •More support for those with learning difficulties/disabilities •Sometimes breadth of service is limited, and referrals are made elsewhere instead
Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) – supporting victims	•Helpful in aiding the ending of a relationship and encouraging victims to support criminal justice process •Face to face meetings crucial	•Engagement levels volatile when victims minimise abuse •Hard to communicate with victims who live/spend time with abuser •Pan-Sussex capacity difficult with such volatility in contact and only 1 caseworker
Housing Support	•Housing officer has made excellent progress in housing a number of individuals •Solving housing issues can give couples the needed space apart	•Housing is dependent on local council and availability

Summary of Quantitative Findings by Service

Overall Total Cohort 48	• 54% are located in West Sussex, 25% in East Sussex and 15% in Brighton & Hove. Prominent locations include Arun, Brighton & Hove and Crawley • 48% have children residing with them or the victim and 58% have had children open to social care within the last 18 months • 58% have been supported for 1 year or less and 42% or 1 year or more
Sussex Police Offender Management 48	• 20 cases have been evaluated as effective (42%) • 40 participants had progress reviewed in which 65% had a decrease in DA crimes, 33% had a decrease in DA NCD and 60% had a decrease in DA arrests • A total cohort reduction of 87 crimes, 22 NCDs and 47 arrests versus the previous rolling year has saved at least 292 policing hours and at least £46k in costs • Harm scores have decreased by 81%, shifting from an average of 1,340 to 252 per perpetrator
IA Healthy Relationships Intervention 20	• 56% of cases have been evaluated as effective • 45% of participants engaged with the process in some capacity • At least 2 participants made a self-referral to the service
Mentoring 10	• 40% of cases have been evaluated as effective • 70% of participants engaged with the process in some capacity
Mental Health Support 30	• 37% of cases have been evaluated as effective • 53% of participants engaged with the process in some capacity • There were at least 5 referrals to other services • At least 2 participants who are at risk of self harm/suicide attempt have been safeguarded
Substance Misuse Service 29	• 53% of cases were evaluated as effective • 63% of participants engaged with the process in some capacity • 59% required assistance for both drugs and alcohol, 24% for drugs only and 14% for alcohol only
IDVA 38	• 58% of cases have been evaluated as effective • 81% of participants engaged with the process in some capacity • 28% were supported through criminal justice processes • At least 13 victims have ended the relationship and at least 3 are supporting police action
Housing Support 16	• 50% of cases have been evaluated as effective • 80% of participants engaged with the process in some capacity • 8 cases required housing for both perpetrator and victim, 6 cases perpetrator only and 2 cases victim only

Conclusion and Recommendations

The evaluation indicates there has been clear success in reducing crimes, arrests and non-crime incidents in more than half of the cohort, crediting the work of a broad-based multi-agency, co-ordinated team.

Six key successes include:

1. **65%** showed a reduction in domestic abuse crimes
2. **33%** showed reduction in non- crime domestics
3. **60%** showed a reduction in arrests
4. **81%** average reduction in harm score
5. Effective **multi-agency structure** and information sharing
6. **Improvements and harm reduction** in individuals identified through case studies

Three key challenges include:

1. Engagement
2. Geography and capacity
3. Targeting of non-engaging perpetrators

The following recommendations have been produced using the qualitative data and observations provided by the Complex Domestic Abuse Unit.

Programme Recommendations

1. Consider how to best use the healthy relationships programme in a manner which caters for individuals ready to accept responsibility for their behaviours as required by the programme. Whilst this should inform the high harm offer, explore ways to support and facilitate implementation for those individuals willing to partake should be explored, especially those who do not fulfil the high harm criteria, but are too risky for the wider motivated to change offer in strand 2
2. Consider restructure and funding to take advantage of the infrastructure and Pan-Sussex breath of cover provided by the drug and alcohol service
3. Seek ways to increase number of support workers for substance misuse, mental health and IDVA provision that increases Sussex wide capacity and effectiveness. More caseworkers will bring more effectiveness in the High Harm arena with broader long-term benefits
4. Sussex Police to commit to longer term employment of the Police element: one administrator and two Police Constable posts on the Complex Domestic Abuse and Stalking Unit

Other Recommendations

5. Present at Pan-Sussex strategic domestic abuse and VAWG forums to encourage mainstreaming the High Harm Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme to enable it to become independent of Home Office/PCC funding, and agencies can adjust internal structures to facilitate
6. Sussex Police to consider all high harm offenders arrested for domestic abuse to be managed by Safeguarding Investigations Units as per high-risk cases, for improved investigative response

Introduction

Domestic Abuse in Sussex

Domestic violence has become more recognised over the past several decades and understanding continues to develop regarding the complexity and nature of abusive relationships. In the past 10 years, recorded crime has nearly trebled from 7,142 crimes in 2011 to 20,869 crimes in 2021¹.

Domestic violence was one of the only crime types to increase during the pandemic compared to other offences and continues to be a local policing priority.

During the period 1st October 2021- 30th September 2022, there were 19,043 domestic abuse crimes recorded in Sussex across 13,305 victims². Due to the nature of domestic abuse, it is common to be a repeat victim and 27% of the recorded victims had been a victim of more than one offence. Around 10% of the recorded crime was classed as serious and complex violent crime.

The local 4% conviction rate for domestic abuse in Sussex means that 96% of domestic abuse perpetrators are not receiving outcomes that mandate them to work with probation services and behaviour change interventions.

A number of perpetrator programmes have been piloted across Sussex; however, an absence of secure funding created some instability in this service provision. The £1.02m secured through the Home Office grant and PCC funding enabled a review, remodel and re-launch of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator provision across Sussex using a 3-strand approach.

Creation of the High Harm Programme

This project launched in March 2021 and is aimed at high harm offenders, exercising the priorities of “recency, frequency and severity.” This requires engaging and supporting those with multiple complex needs, where these needs have contributed to severe domestic abuse and cannot be resolved by any criminal justice outcome for various reasons (most notable evidential).

Internal policing expertise and past practices have indicated that cases cannot be resolved through policing alone and must be targeted using a multi-agency approach. Due to the sensitivity and complexity of abusive relationships, victims are often unable or unwilling to provide supporting evidence to allow prosecution of repeat perpetrators. The additional complications of long waiting times for trials, relationship volatility and the high possibility of a prison sentence for their partner contribute to victim withdrawal. Moreover, in cases where there is recognition and understanding of the abuse, victims frequently seek help to encourage change in their partner or to end the relationship, and frequently so do perpetrators.

The findings presented in this document are focused on reducing harm over the last 18 months for offenders and their victims. However, it must be recognised that domestic abuse cannot be resolved by these efforts alone and successes tend to result from

¹ Sussex Police Power BI Demand dashboard

² Sussex Police Power BI Victim dashboard

improvements to engagement and thus better influence long term behaviour change and reduce harm.

Only a small number of participants who completed programme support can be classed as rehabilitated with low probability of reoffending, due to behaviour being too entrenched and underlying issues too complex. Domestic abuse has been a serious societal challenge for decades and the project has served to confirm that fact. The learning from this pilot can be used to inform the team operation and wider multi-agency approach for this challenging issue going forward.

However, despite these complex challenges this evaluation indicates that there has been success in crime reduction, arrests and non-crime incidents in more than half of the cohort, with the broad-based multi-agency, coordinated team effort targeting the highest harm in Sussex.

Purpose and Scope

Sussex has piloted a number of perpetrator programmes; with the new approach launched using these as a base to improve and enhance processes.

The findings will address the success of the project alongside knowledge gaps and improvement areas. This will inform the future of funding from the Home Office and other related projects.

The findings have been established using data of participants who engaged and were involved with one or more services. It does not include unaccepted referrals, participants who had no contact or relationship formed with the Unit, or those managed solely by probation.

Some areas are considered out of scope for this analysis including: the motivated to change programme in strand 2 of the programme managed by Cranstoun, the Stalking perpetrator intervention in strand 3 or any additional impacts on public services such as health, local authorities, criminal justice and other agencies.

Methodology

This report was written by Lucy Madge, OSPCC Performance and Strategic Analyst, Lucie Venables, OSPCC Head of Commissioning and Detective Inspector Lee Horner from Sussex Police.

Focus and Approach

In order to establish a clear structure and focus, the report follows a cohort of perpetrators and victims who engaged and had contact or involvement from the Unit.

Firstly, assessment data is presented, collected between June and August 2022, establishing the engagement, involvement and effectiveness of the intervention on the participants. This includes an evaluation and commentary provided by the team as to how successful each aspect of the service was for the participant.

This has been complimented using quantitative data extracted from local data systems Niche and Power BI to assess the impact on offending and arrests.

Caution should be applied when interpreting the data, particularly that of a quantitative nature. Although assumptions can be drawn, it may not always be possible to establish direct causation between the programme and the findings due to other external influences.

Definitions

The data used in this analysis evaluates performance since the programme commenced in April 2021. This is inclusive of committed crimes and arrest data from Niche. Harm scores are taken on a rolling year basis from Power BI (October 2021- September 2022.)

The duration of time spent on the programme varies by perpetrator, however this has been categorised in the data.

Although the cohort used in this report appreciates the individuality of each domestic violence experience, five key categories of participants were identified and explored:

- Perpetrators who were identified and selected by the Complex Domestic Abuse Unit
- Those who had a valid and accepted referral to the Unit
- Those where contact and/or a relationship was formed with one or more services in the Unit
- Those who have been on the programme for 6 months or longer
- Victims who are partners/ex-partners of the perpetrators

Data Sources

Several data sources were analysed to explore the effectiveness of the programme in Sussex. These included the following:

- Secondary data:
 - o Partnership data from commissioned services in the Complex Domestic Abuse Unit
 - o Complex Domestic Abuse Unit assessment data created for the evaluation by the Offender Management Team
 - o Harm scores from Power BI
 - o Sussex Police crime, incident and arrest data from Niche
- The data and additional information were provided by:
 - o **Complex Domestic Abuse Unit**
 - Detective Inspector Lee Horner- Team Manager
 - Detective Sergeant Martin Harmer/ Detective Sergeant Kerri Bartup
 - PC Caroline Bond & PC Joe Curtis- Offender Managers
 - Samantha Care- Administration Support
 - Samuel Webb- Administration Support
 - o **Health Relationship Intervention and Mentor Scheme**
 - Carol McKay- Domestic Abuse Programme Facilitator
 - Elizabeth Ivane- Mentor Co-Ordinator
 - o **Mental Health Support Service**
 - Maria Guinazu- Mental Health Worker
 - o **Substance Misuse Programme**
 - Bethany Hill- Substance Misuse Worker
 - o **Victim Provision IDVA**
 - Dawn Amanwa- IDVA
 - o **Housing Issues**
 - Dawn Devaney- Housing Officer

Theory of Change

Inputs

- Funding of £1.02m received from the Home Office and the OSPCC to focus on three strands of domestic abuse including high harm
- Multi-agency team created to support multiple complex needs for perpetrators, victims and their families
- Data collected from partners and Sussex Police Complex Domestic Abuse Unit
- Learning taken from IOM pilot and Building Better Relationships programme



Outputs

- Ability to pursue perpetrators with identification of new enforcement opportunities, using intel and disruption toolkit
- Increased prevention by using holistic approach for intervention, assessment, signposting, increasing stabilising factors and decreasing destabilising factors
- Protect victims by using history marking, trigger plans, maximise opportunities for evidence led prosecutions and effective use of DVPN/DVPOs or ancillary orders
- Prepare by using ancillary orders, safety planning, safeguarding, MARAC referrals and move on support for victims to end relationship



Predicted short term outcomes

- Increased safety of associated victims and families by providing immediate intervention
- Immediate support of stabilising and destabilising factors
- Management and oversight of perpetrators by Sussex Police
- Information sharing and collaboration for risk assessment and safeguarding



Predicted long term outcomes

- Rehabilitation of perpetrators and reduction of harm on victims/families
- Provide a whole-system approach on the impact of domestic abuse on victims, perpetrators and families
- Increased organisational learning and understanding of high harmers



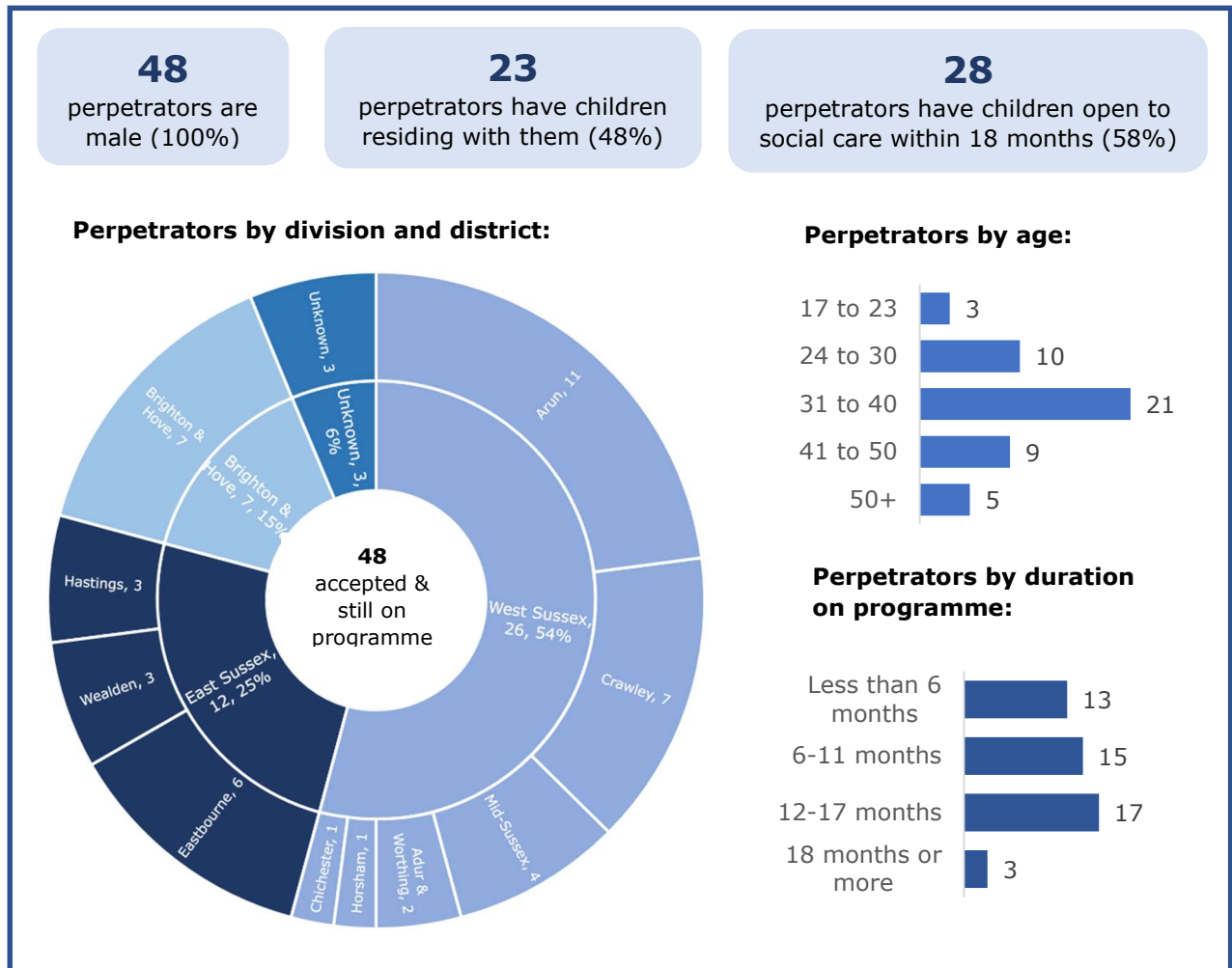
Key assumptions

- Engagement of perpetrators and victims throughout
- Interventions and support measures are effective in reducing risk and harm
- Strong relationships continue between partners and effective communication is exchanged regularly as needed
- Information is shared between organisations
- Demand and need for the service continues

Delivery of Multi Agency Partnership

The Multi-Agency Partnership was created to use a holistic approach in preventing, protecting, pursuing and preparing in high harm domestic abuse cases. The agencies commissioned provide support to address the multiple complex needs which can contribute to a high harm domestic abusive case. The assessment of the cohort has taken place between June and August 2022.

Perpetrator Cohort



The Perpetrator Cohort has 48 participants who were accepted for support, of which 100% are male. The participants reside Pan-Sussex with 54% in West Sussex, 25% in East Sussex, 15% in Brighton & Hove and 3% at an unknown address. The most prominent locations are Arun (15%), Brighton & Hove (15%) and Crawley (15%).

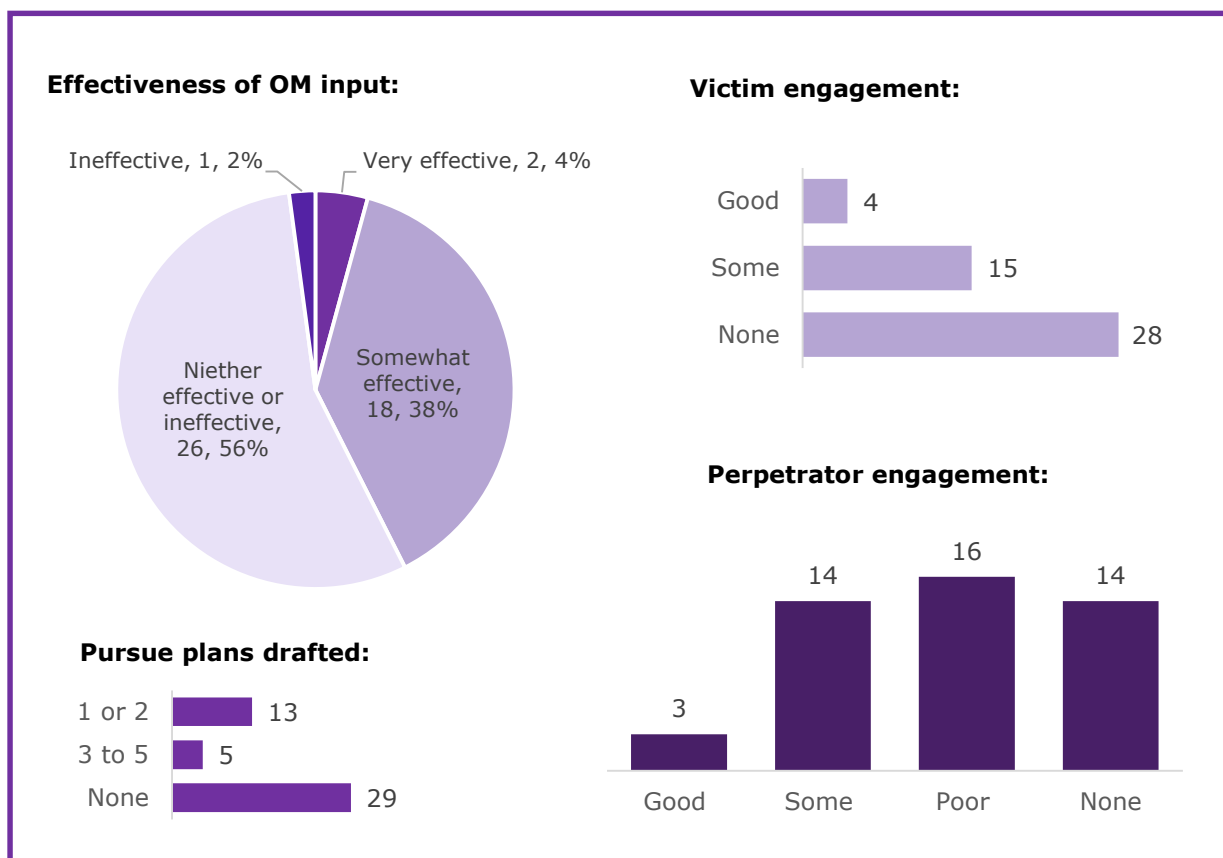
The ages of the perpetrators range from 17 to 50+, with the most common age category being 31 to 40 (44%). Of the perpetrators, 23 (48%) have children residing with them or their partner/ex-partner and 28 (58%) have children who have been open to social care within the last 18 months.

The programme has supported 28 perpetrators (58%) for 1 year or less and 20 perpetrators (42%) for 1 year or more.

Sussex Police Offender Manager Intervention

The role of the Sussex Police Offender Manager is to select and manage the cohort using police information, referrals from other policing teams and referrals from external agencies. The team consists of 1 Detective Sergeant post, 2 ViSOR Offender Managers (Police officers) posts and 1 Police staff administrator post.

The team have the ability to pursue high harmers through pursue plans and provide more magnified insights into monitored cases. This can lead to quicker, strategic decision making and can accelerate investigation.



Of the 48 perpetrators, 17 engaged with the programme well or some of the time (35%). There were also 19 victims who engaged with the process (40%). Where effectiveness has been ranked by the team, 20 cases have benefitted well or somewhat from programme involvement (42%). There are 26 cases deemed neither effective nor ineffective, however this includes early cases with less evidence of impact.

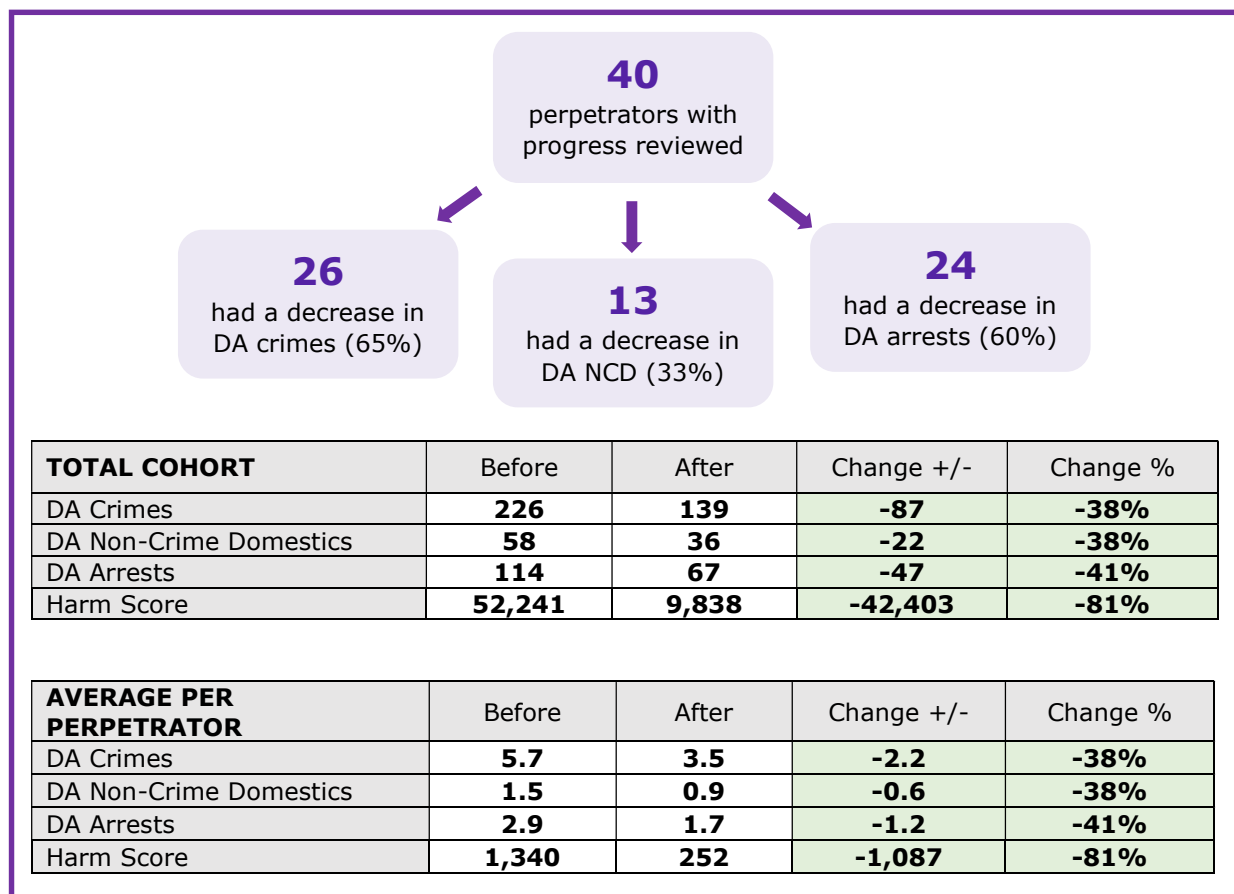
Levels of engagement with police offender managers are low. Perpetrators are used to being arrested by police and victims have had negative experiences with police officers who dealt with past incidents of domestic abuse that influences the relationships that police can build. Whilst in the short term these levels of engagement are unlikely to change, the police offender manager role is vital for information sharing, risk assessment and pursuing and enforcing where required. It is apparent that there is room for improvement in levels of engagement by police with victims in support of pursue plans where appropriate.

Majority of engaged participants are also showing commitment to improve substance abuse and mental health. For cases where engagement has been inconsistent, comments indicate that engagement levels would improve if there was more face-to-face contact, due to the ease in avoiding phone contact/messaging. Additionally, substance abuse and

mental health issues are contributing to lack of engagement and poor, deteriorating lifestyle, highlighting the importance of the partner contributions to successful outcomes. Some participants refuse engagement due to being “anti-Police,” however plain clothed officers and vehicles helped to ease those perceptions.

Despite volatile levels of perpetrator engagement, offending has been reduced for recorded crimes and arrests compared to before enrolling into the programme.

The following performance information was sourced for the cohort assessment, using data from Niche and Power BI. The aim was to determine the effectiveness of the programme in reducing domestic abuse crimes, non-court disposals and arrests.



Out of 48 perpetrators, 40 had their progress reviewed. The remaining 8 were too early into the programme to receive a progress evaluation.

For the overall cohort, domestic abuse crimes decreased from 226 to 139 compared to the previous rolling year, a decrease of 87 crimes (-38%). The average crimes per perpetrator have decreased from 5.7 to 3.5. Domestic abuse non-crime domestics (NCDs) also decreased by 38%, a total of 22 less than the previous rolling year. The average per perpetrator has shifted from 1.5 to 0.9.

Domestic abuse arrests decreased by 41%, with 47 less arrests by Sussex Police. This is an average of 1.2 crimes per perpetrator.

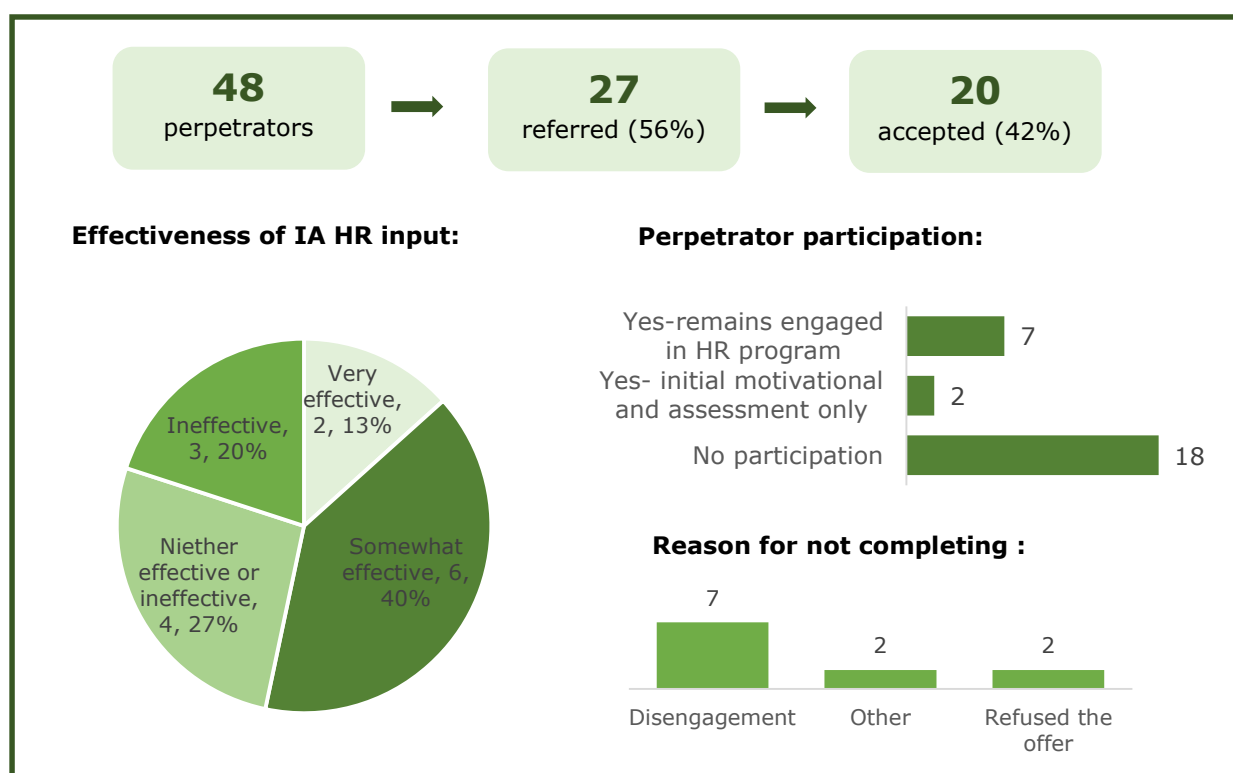
Harm scores have decreased overall by 42,403, a decrease of 81%. The average harm score per perpetrator is now 252 from 1,340.

The total decrease of 87 crimes and 22 NCDs has not only prevented victim and child harm but has saved at least 240 policing hours and approximately £46k in operational costs (based on an average of 2.2³ hours and £420 per incident⁴).

Another additional 52 policing hours have been saved due to a reduction of 47 arrests (average arrest time 67 minutes per domestic incident).

Healthy Relationship Intervention

The Healthy Relationship (HR) intervention delivered by Interventions Alliance (IA), uses cognitive behavioural therapy to enable perpetrators to have better relationships and reduce the risk to current or future victims.



Of the 48 perpetrators, 27 (56%) were referred to IA HR and 20 were accepted (42%).

Where specified, the service was deemed either very effective or somewhat effective for 8 participants (56%). A total of 9 participants engaged with support in some capacity (45%). For those that engaged, abusive behaviours have been acknowledged and attendance has been good. Positively, at least 2 participants made a self-referral to the service.

For the intervention, completion levels are low. The intention to refer all clients to this intervention, with the objective of most of them completing support has proved unrealistic. Despite best efforts and some considerable flexibility around the intervention from the provider, this has been a consistent challenge for the last 18 months, with reasons difficult to define. It is clear the particular cohort selected may not be suited to the requirements of the Healthy Relationships offer. Many perpetrators are unwilling to accept responsibility

³ Sussex Police Power BI Demand Dashboard

⁴ Sussex Victim Impact Report, Cost Benefit Analysis

for their offences and refuse the offer of healthy relationships input. Many of those who ask for help and are initially willing to undertake this work are assessed as unsuitable or fail to complete the work required of them to encourage behaviour change and decrease the harm they pose to their partners. It is possible that the high harm cohort are mostly too fragile to take on the responsibility and accountability that this programme requires of them. However, there are benefits of the programme and there is potential to adjust the referral process. Facilitating a link between the work of strand 2 of the overall programme and how better to support the different perpetrators. This would widen the offer to those men who have a problem, are ready to accept responsibility, and whose risk is too great for strand 2, but not sufficient enough to be considered high harm.

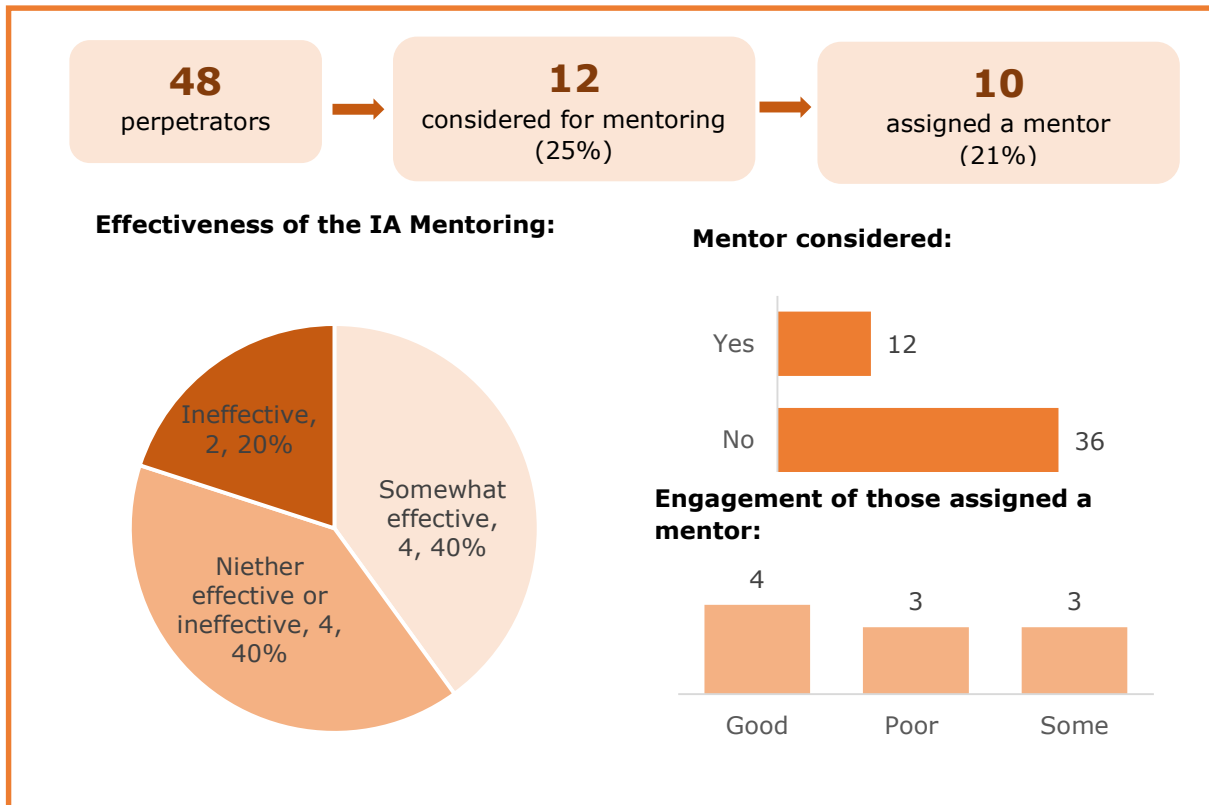
The intervention has identified that the multi-agency structure is working well. The intervention is able to identify multiple complex needs and assist perpetrators with support/onward referrals to other services in the Unit. IA HR has assisted a number of perpetrators to secure housing and those with learning difficulties, substance misuse and mental health issues to access support. The link between HR and mentoring has enabled an enhanced service for participants, providing general support alongside the intervention.

For some perpetrators, there has been engagement in initial discussions, but barriers seem to form for those who deny abuse, fail to acknowledge their behaviour and when suggestions for improvements are made. This has led to disengagement and difficulty in contact. Additionally, multiple complex needs, as well as complications involving other agencies such as Children's Services, interrupt the intervention.

Suggestions for improvement include: inclusion of social worker at point of referral to manage expectations and to improve information sharing, multi-agency sequenced engagement discussions and access to an interpreter when required.

Mentoring Scheme

The Mentoring scheme provided by Interventions Alliance (IA) works with participants to improve areas of their life that have been identified as problematic. Examples of this include: supporting emotional wellbeing, support in building new social networks that can support desistance from offending and assisting with acquiring skills and training to secure employment and manage their home.



Of a cohort of 48 perpetrators, 12 (25%) were considered for mentoring and 10 (21%) were assigned a mentor. Of the 10 participants, 7 engaged well or in some capacity (70%). In terms of effectiveness, the service was somewhat effective in 4 cases (40%).

The deployment of IA Volunteer Mentors has had some success but sustaining ongoing contact, co-operation and co-ordination between client and volunteer has proved challenging. This has been most effective when there is a particular need of a client to achieve something tangible, like applying for housing or opening a bank account, which has proved useful. There has been some tendency for the clients to lose motivation and volunteers have a finite amount of time and endeavour to commit to one sided communication.

For those who engaged, there have been good levels of contact and improvements have been made regarding lifestyle changes. Some participants reduced substance/alcohol use, were able to manage their homes, secured employment, had support in managing personal finances and were able to have some engagement with their children.

Where contact has been inconsistent or the relationship has ended, engagement and intervention has been more difficult to achieve. The utilisation of the Police Offender Management Team has assisted with signs of threatening or violent behaviour. There is

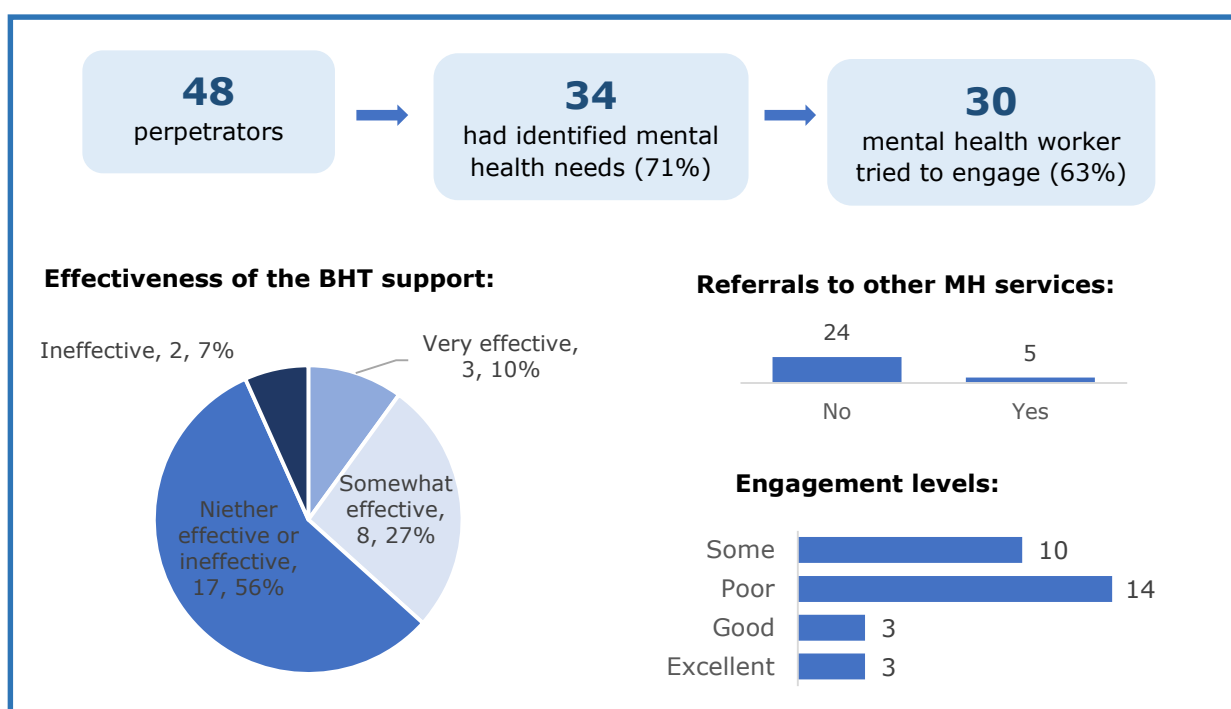
also a common trend of inconsistent contact when the participant decides they no longer require the support, despite a differing professional opinion on the situation.

As beneficial as the multi-agency approach is, in some cases there was overlap from professionals, which frequently changed the list of priorities on the mentoring plans.

Suggestions for improvement include: other involved professionals to utilise the mentor and encourage participant to utilise mentor support and increased face to face appointments where appropriate to improve engagement and willingness to remain in contact.

Mental Health Support

BHT Sussex delivers several services providing specialist support, accommodation, drop-ins and counselling to adults experiencing mental health issues. The involvement of BHT helps to address mental health issues, destabilising factors that can impact an abusive relationship and delay recovery.



Of a cohort of 48 perpetrators, 34 (71%) had identified mental health needs and 30 (63%) were pursued for engagement by mental health worker. A total of 16 (53%) had excellent, good or some engagement and 5 (17%) were referred to other services for additional support. Where effectiveness was ranked, the service was very or somewhat effective in 11 cases (37%).

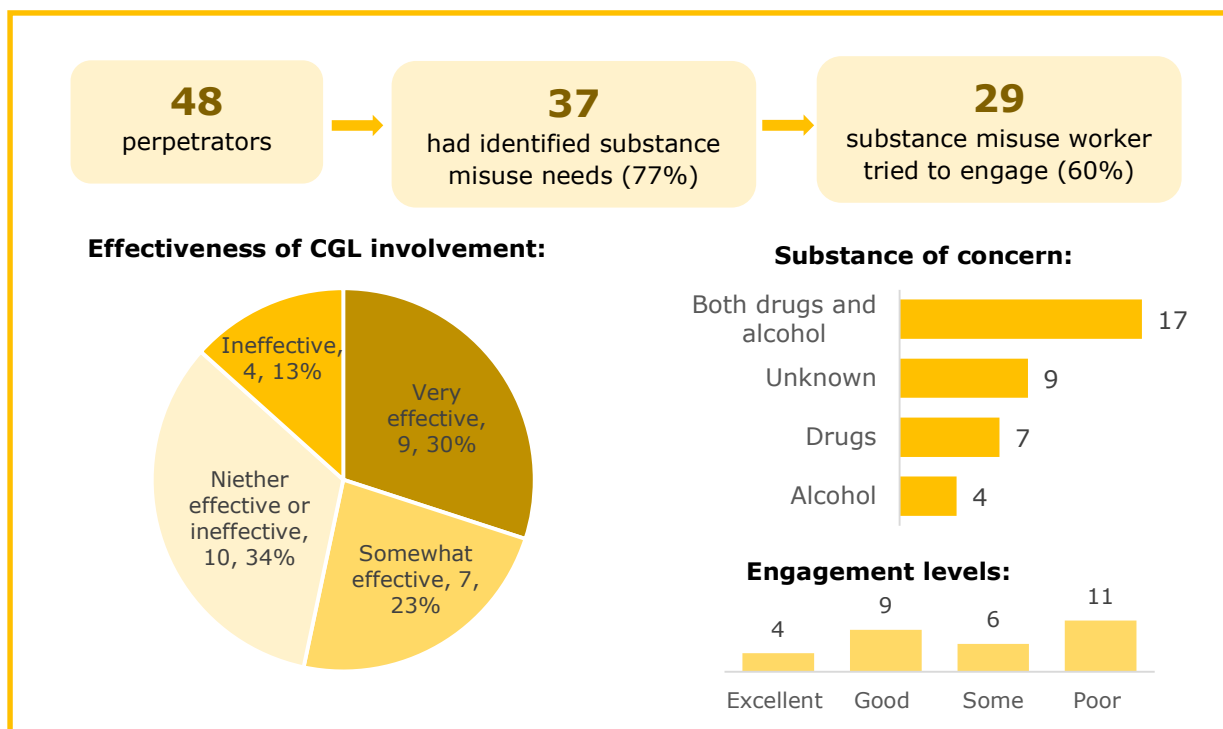
The mental health worker has done some excellent work with clients and has found good engagement in the early stages of support with clients, who are often willing to recognise their own mental health issues and keen to engage. Many have maintained the support for some significant mental health work with the team, and that has helped to stabilise, reconnect them with local existing services, update their medication regimes and generally support them through difficult times. Frequently, client engagement changes depending

on their volatile mood and attendance at appointments is intermittent, resulting in depletion in capacity of the worker.

There are at least 2 highly vulnerable participants who have self-harmed/attempted suicide and involvement in the programme has enabled safeguarding of these individuals. The service has also been able to recognise perpetrators who have been victims in the relationship or in the past. Those who engaged with both mental health and substance misuse support are showing signs of understanding the link between mental health and addiction.

Substance Misuse Service

The Substance Misuse Service supports participants who have an addiction to alcohol, drugs or both. This is provided in Sussex by CGL. The aim is to reduce use of harmful substances to improve health and stabilise the lifestyle of both perpetrator and victim.



Of the 48 perpetrators, 37 (77%) had identified substance misuse needs and 29 (60%) were pursued for active engagement by BHT. Of the 29 perpetrators, 19 (63%) had either excellent, good or some engagement. The substances of concern included 59% both drugs and alcohol, 24% drugs only and 14% alcohol only. Where effectiveness has been evaluated, 16 cases (53%) were either very or somewhat effective.

The substance misuse worker has managed intermittent engagement, but there are many strong examples of overcoming initial reluctance to address substance misuse issues. At point of referral acceptance, clients are willing to seek and accept help for their substance misuse issues. These are frequently productive interactions which stabilise clients around substance misuse, however the breadth of support CGL are able to provide is often practical benefits, often implemented as issues: employment support, referrals to other agencies and follow up meeting attendance.

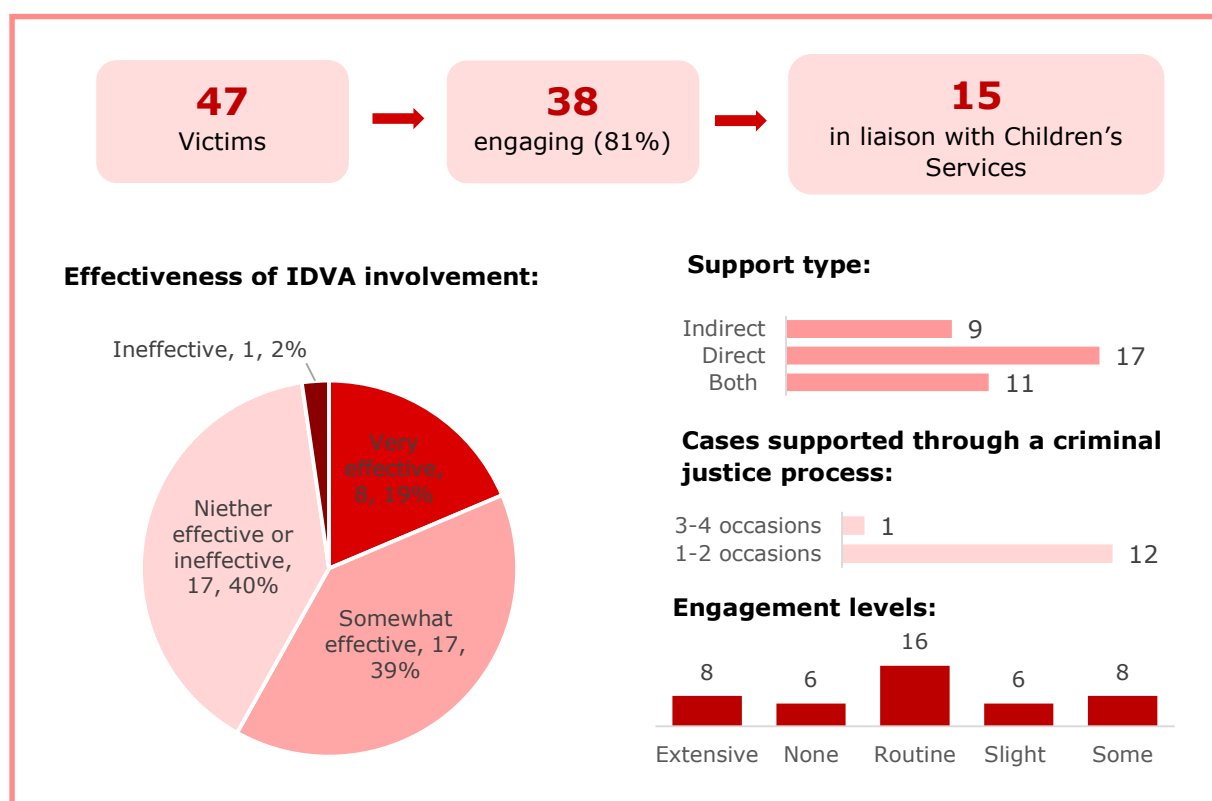
The multi-agency structure has been crucial in managing risk and complex needs, particularly work with Sussex Police, IDVA and BHT. The police information regarding offending has been helpful to assess and manage risk. Information sharing has helped to prevent vulnerable clients from risk such as cuckooing and harm. The work between CGL and BHT has been successful in encouraging medication uptake and joint sessions are helpful in diagnosis. The benefit of having multiple CGL hubs across county to meet has enabled ease of meeting facilitation. For those who engaged, 1:1 meetings and group sessions have had healthy uptake.

Difficulties have arisen in having one worker to manage all risk in Sussex, which impacts clients and recovery. There has been some difficulty in face-to-face meetings due to COVID risk and intoxication makes engagement difficult at times. Mental health needs mean unpredictable behaviour and highlights the need for multi-agency meetings. No mobile phone or repeated loss of phone has made contact difficult at times and rehab is needed for several clients.

Suggestions for improvement include: establish relationship with a professional within the rehab space to plan addressing this with the participant, increased support for those with learning difficulties/disabilities and another caseworker required to manage cases.

IDVA Involvement for Victims

The role of the IDVA provided by Worth Services is to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners and ex-partners. The IDVA helps to secure their safety and the safety of their children, as well as helping them to rebuild their life, navigate the Criminal Justice process and access support of other agencies.



There were 47 victims supported by the IDVA service, in which 38 (81%) are engaging in some capacity. There were also 15 cases (32%) which involved liaison with Children's Services. In total, 36% of cases were supported directly 23% indirectly and 19% combination of both direct and indirect. Additionally, at least 13 victims (28%) were supported through criminal justice processes. Where effectiveness has been evaluated, 25 cases (58%) were deemed very or somewhat effective.

The IDVA attempts to contact all victims of perpetrators on this programme, with various levels of success and cooperation from their victim. The IDVA a variety of different means of support, and where the victim is already supported by a social worker or other domestic abuse case worker they liaise and support them indirectly ensuring good information sharing and coordination of effort with other professionals involved with those victims. The IDVA also directly supports participants with phone calls, visits, and support through the Criminal Justice System when perpetrators are arrested. Engagement is also an issue with victims in this project, and often with fellow professionals assigned to our victims. The frequency in which domestic abuse incidents are reported in this cohort means most victims are experienced in dealing with professionals and often minimise their abuse, ignoring calls through fear or mistrust and generally avoiding progress. These barriers are very difficult and time consuming to overcome.

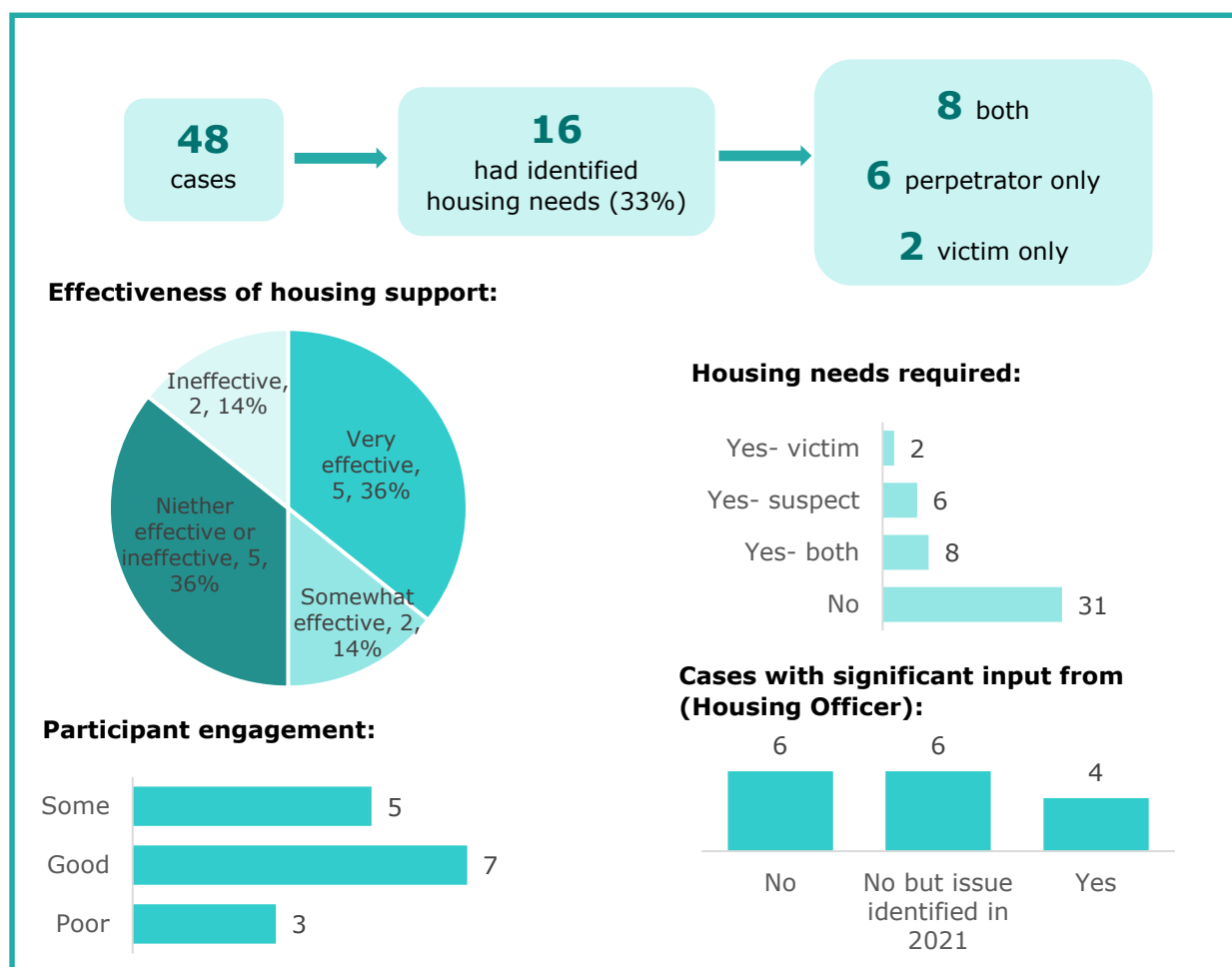
The IDVA has proven to assist victims with multiple complex needs, utilising the professionals in the Unit for support. Face to face meetings have been crucial in building trust and working relationship, allowing victims to disclose further abuse or contact with perpetrator. Where specified, at least 13 victims have ended the abusive relationship since IDVA support, and at least 3 are supporting police action. Another benefit of the IDVA is identification of where perpetrator is a victim so support can be offered.

Challenges have included: being able to build relationship and trust due to victim either living with perpetrator or spending time with them and victim ending abusive relationship but getting into another shortly after.

Suggestions for improvement include: increased contact with other professionals for support (especially regarding safe times to contact victim), ongoing professional meetings to establish roles in intervention, engage perpetrators in support to allow victims to speak privately with IDVA, expand support options for male victims, more involvement required from social worker, separate IDVA for each victim in complicated cases, multi-agency continuity, group support for applicable participants, establish professional links with specialist groups for participants with concerns and needs relating to culture, such as traveller community and those at risk of honour based violence.

Housing Support

The housing support provided by BHT seeks to assist participants who are unhoused or insecurely housed. The securing of stable housing is a key stabilising factor in combatting abuse and multiple complex needs.



Of the cohort, 16 cases (33%) had identified housing needs: 50% for both victim and perpetrator, 38% perpetrator only and 12% victim only. The effectiveness of the service has been very effective or somewhat effective in 50% of cases and 12 participants (80%) engaged with the process.

Housing issues are frequently problematic and dependent upon the housing stock, local council procedures and priorities but there has been some success in engaging clients and resolving insecure housing. This is highly useful in giving couples space from each other and should be a priority in improving this ability. Surprisingly, many clients on the verge of eviction are still reluctant to engage with forward planning on housing issues.

The multi-agency structure has made identification of housing needs and proactivity in securing housing for participants much smoother and efficient. The involvement of the Housing Officer has made an impact in securing accommodation for participants where possible, contributing to a more stabilising lifestyle.

Conclusion

Successes and Progress

Whilst the cohort evaluated is relatively small (40 perpetrators), the signs of positive impact are evident. Daily ad hoc interactions and exchanges, supported and supplemented by monthly multi-agency case management meetings, have ensured that all stakeholders can contribute a broad range of ideas and information to influence decisions and activity in support of perpetrators, victims and the other external agencies. The enhanced service this provided has supported the management of complex family situations within the cohort, which has benefitted all through information sharing and co-ordination of effort. Team morale and communication are key positive factors and interoperability has been employed and well supported by the operational use of a joint case management system.

In terms of recognised achievements, in early 2022 the team won a Silver "Community Focus" IESE innovation award for implementing the concept of a multi-agency perpetrator programme, designed to support and change behaviour in perpetrators of domestic abuse through a co-ordinated approach.

Successes highlighted in the report that show good progress:

7. 65% show **reduction in DA crimes** – average of 5.7 down to 3.5
8. 33% show **reduction on DA NCD** – 1.5 down to 0.9 (this figure is likely somewhat adversely affected by increased reporting that intervention often brings)
9. 60% **reduction in arrests** – average of 2.9 down to 1.7
10. Hugely **reduced harm scores** on Power BI – average 1,340 down to 252
11. The principles and benefits of multi-agency working to stabilise perpetrators and support victims have proved to be as effective as the pilot theory suggested
12. There are many individual cases that indicate significant improvement in the situation of perpetrator, victim, or both that indicate a reduction in risk of harm

In the case of individual agency progress:

- The healthy relationships intervention has engaged very effectively with 2 perpetrators and work is still ongoing with 7 others – this is significant considering the multiple complex needs of these individuals
- Of the 10 clients referred for mentors, 4 have engaged positively and benefitted from the input
- Of the 30 clients referred to the Mental Health Worker, 16 have engaged positively with that support to some extent, and 6 of them to good or excellent effect
- Of the 29 clients the Substance Misuse Worker tried to engage, 19 benefitted overall, with 13 to a good or excellent level
- 47 victims of the perpetrators were referred to the designated IDVA and 38 engaged to an extent, either directly or indirectly. Engagement levels have varied over the course of involvement but around 60% of those victims have received some tangible and effective service from the team IDVA. It is noteworthy that the high level of multiple complex needs within the perpetrator cohort is replicated in their victims and children. The families require intensive efforts to engage, liaise with partners and help, either directly or indirectly

- A handful of individuals have been effectively supported with their housing needs, but this remains important given the national and local housing situation, plus the complexities for individuals with multiple complex needs

This cohort is made-up of complex individuals, with complex needs and in difficult situations. The highly volatile relationships lead to frequent domestic abuse incidents, forming a pattern of behaviours established over entire lifetimes. There are no instant solutions in this space, however the reduction in arrests, crimes and incidents is a symbolic and positive result of this pilot. However, the figures used to measure progress do not fully reflect the benefits of the work undertaken by the team. Case studies have been drafted and these better inform the methodology in support of perpetrators and victims who have benefitted from participation (See Appendix 1 for these).

Additionally, an area which is difficult to measure is the team's contribution to wider safeguarding issues for families, which are predominantly led by other agencies. This includes children and adult social care, as well as local substance misuse services. All workers are frequently involved in child protection discussions and safeguarding forums led by other agencies. These meetings are supported by police information and actions relating to perpetrators, victims and their children. This is highly time consuming but an essential part of the work to deliver a sustainable, coordinated and productive service for these families who have deeply entrenched problems, leading to domestic abuse.

Challenges and Limitations

Engagement

Engagement is undoubtedly the most challenging aspect of the project. This was difficult to quantify in the planning stages of this pilot, and the problem includes both perpetrator and victim engagement. By selecting perpetrators who fit the criteria of "recency, frequency and severity" of offending, the resulting cohort have extremely high levels of multiple complex needs on both sides of the relationship.

Figures highlighted in the report that demonstrate the levels of multiple complex needs within the cohort:

- 58% of the perpetrators in the cohort have **children open to social care** in the last 18 months
- 71% of the perpetrators in the cohort have identified **mental health** needs
- 77% of the perpetrators in cohort have identified **substance misuse** needs

There are also similar levels of mental health and substance misuse issues in those victims supported by the project. These complications are informative around the nature of the cohort, suggesting long term and deeply entrenched behaviours. This can negatively impact willingness and ability to engage with professionals or to sustain any programme of behaviour change in a "coalition of the willing" required to best tackle issues of domestic abuse in their relationships.

Most participants of this high harm programme are used to averting professionals and having intermittent interventions, plus they also have multiple setbacks and frustrations with the systems around them. The issues that are prevalent among these clients lead to chaotic and unregulated lifestyles, where engaging with professionals is particularly

challenging. Phone contact, meeting attendance and engagement in sensitive conversations have been challenging for the team and difficult to maintain.

Amidst low levels of engagement, there has still been positive change as a result of intervention, as demonstrated by the reduction in committed crimes and arrests. This has been achieved by having high thresholds for non-cooperation, demonstrating high levels of flexibility and having support workers with an abundance of commitment and persistence in the face of adversity.

Figures from the report that demonstrate levels of engagement:

- Police offender manager effective engagement with **38%** of perpetrators and similar levels with victims
- Healthy Relationships programme completion: only **2** clients to date but with **7** good prospects in progress at the time of the audit
- Mentoring engagement was effective in **40%** of those assigned a mentor
- Mental health work interventions had effective engagement with **37%** of those contacted
- Substance Misuse work had effective engagement with **53%** of those clients contacted
- The team IDVA worker has secured effective engagement in **58%** of her clients
- Housing support worker has effectively engaged and supported around **50%** of clients referred

Geography and Capacity

Sussex is a large area for one worker per discipline to cover with poor strategic internal transport links, irrespective of where workers are based. Under normal circumstances much of this geographical breadth of cover could be catered for by good planning by the relevant workers. However, given the nature of the cohort and the difficulties experienced in obtaining and maintaining consistent engagement there is a very high rate of clients failing to attend face to face appointments, often after extensive periods of travel by the workers, mentors or officers.

Given the multiple complex needs of clients, face to face meetings are much more effective than telephone engagements and very few clients are managed via video call. The combination of these factors presents a problem in managing capacity with a small team. Positively influencing the situation depends on ability to quickly react to the events related to clients. An example of this includes: if a perpetrator is arrested, the team attend custody and speak to that perpetrator to begin building a relationship. They also try to facilitate a visit to the victim in order to support and increase the chances of co-operation in investigation or offer other practical support. Whilst the police element has capacity to respond instantly to opportunities, the limited number of case workers per discipline and geography conspire to make potentially crucial spontaneous joint visits a rarity.

Operations commenced in March 2021, at the height of COVID disruption, which has caused some complications and had a limiting factor on capacity and effectiveness in the first half of the pilot.

Operating Pan-Sussex also presents challenges in different operating structures, local councils, local authorities, different organisations dealing with domestic abuse locally, and complex varied mental health provision across the county. An example of this includes:

the IDVA from Worth Services who understands and is connected to the structures, databases and working practises around domestic abuse in West Sussex. However, the people, services and working practises of Brighton and East Sussex are different and more complicated to access, form working relationships with and work efficiently. This issue also affects the Mental Health Support Worker who currently works for Brighton Housing Trust and has no connection to any other databases around mental health.

A notable exception to this is the substance misuse worker, who works for CGL and has Pan-Sussex access. As a result, she is often the best-informed person at meetings. It also gives her access to structure, support and provision of local facilities to meet clients and communicate with her colleagues who are already involved within her service. It is often through her that other colleagues are able to book a meeting room local to the client and have face to face meetings, outside of a police station. This emphasises the potential benefits of having more locally based, dedicated resource involved in this programme. Having one worker in each discipline limits capacity in more ways than just the number of hours in a day they can commit.

Targeting of Non-Engaging Perpetrators

One foundation of this pilot was to reduce the harm posed by perpetrators by offering support and practical assistance, but in the event of refusal to engage with the programme they should be pursued through the Criminal Justice System. Whilst some in the cohort have refused to engage, most have accepted some involvement but failed to engage consistently. This is largely caused by their innate vulnerability as opposed to deliberate avoidance. Most clients agree to some level of engagement, and often partake in the offer, but then their complex situations then mean that they disengage. Throughout the process, proactive policing tactics have been applied to non-engaging perpetrators who are still committing offences and continue to pose a risk in criminality. There has been some success by supporting and pursuing investigations, supporting victims, highlighting clients to local police and assisting completion of civil orders.

Ability to target non-engaging clients through their other criminality is limited as too few of them are committing sufficiently serious and frequent offences to reach a threshold required to be effectively targeted. This indicates that efforts should be focused on greater, more proactive support of victims to bring a swifter end to relationships or greater chance of success in the Criminal Justice System. The increased capacity of the Police Offender Managers and the IDVA to physically attend appointments with victims, spearheading the team effort to provide better support and safety packages to build trust and confidence over time, would increase effectiveness in this regard.

Conclusion

In summary, efforts have overcome many of the challenges involved in dealing with a complex cohort, and the team are making progress in many cases. Meetings are characterised by discussions around challenging scenarios that require flexibility and persistence to support perpetrators and victims in their turbulent day-to-day lives, but they are punctuated with small successes and signs of progress in many cases. This enforces the belief that the programme is working and achieving small wins. The overall figures showing reduction in harm support this positivity and merit the continued efforts in this difficult area. Recommendations have been made, for future consideration and to improve effectiveness in progression.

Recommendations

The evaluation findings indicate there has been success in reducing crimes, arrests and non-crime incidents for domestic abuse in more than half of the cohort, crediting efforts of the broad-based multi-agency, coordinated team.

There are 6 recommendations which have emerged from the findings, split between programme changes and wider work with other agencies and teams. Some recommendations are dependent on funding, capacity and engagement but there are also changes that can be made in integrating learning and practices within the domestic abuse support space.

Programme Recommendations

1. Reconsider best use of the Healthy Relationships intervention. Whilst this should inform the high harm offer, an exploration of ways to support and facilitate implementation for those individuals willing to partake should be explored, especially those who do not fulfil the high harm criteria, but are too risky for the strand 2 wider offer
2. Consider restructure and funding to take advantage of the infrastructure and Pan-Sussex breath of cover provided by the drug and alcohol service for other parts of the unit such as victim support and mental health
3. Seek ways to increase number of support workers for substance misuse, mental health and IDVA provision that increases Sussex wide capacity and effectiveness. More caseworkers will bring more effectiveness in the High Harm arena with broader long-term benefits
4. Sussex Police to commit to longer term employment of the Police element: one administrator and 2 PC posts on the Complex Domestic Abuse and Stalking Unit

Other Recommendations

5. Present at Pan-Sussex strategic domestic abuse and VAWG forums to encourage mainstreaming the High Harm Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme so it becomes independent of Home Office/PCC funding, and agencies can adjust internal structures to facilitate
6. Sussex Police to consider all high harm offenders arrested for domestic abuse to be managed by Safeguarding Investigations Unit as per high-risk cases, for improved investigative response

Closing Statement

It is evident the programme has positively impacted participants and reduced harm. Despite the complexity of the cohort, success and progress has been made. It is expected that the findings presented within this report will form the foundations for further development in this challenging space. Risk of funding reduction remains a consideration and whilst the future cannot be entirely planned for, there is a responsibility for all involved to remain responsive, resilient, and aware of the current implications and challenges detailed in this report, in order to continue reducing risk and harm in the domestic abuse space.

Appendix

1: Data from the project

What is the comparable rate of DA offending before and after DAPP intervention ?	Participant	DA CRIMES			DA NCD			DA ARRESTS		
		Before DAPP: DA crimes 12 months before	Since DAPP: DA crimes in Last 12 months	Change	Before DAPP: DA NCD 12 months before	Since DAPP: DA NCD in last 12 months	Change	Before DAPP: Arrests for DA in the 12 months before	Since DAPP: Arrests for DA in last 12 months	Change
Less DA since involvement	1	5	0	-5	0	0	0	3	0	-3
	2	20	7	-13	4	3	-1	12	4	-8
	3	3	0	-3	0	0	0	3	0	-3
	4	12	6	-6	5	2	-3	5	4	-1
	5	4	0	-4	3	0	-3	1	0	-1
	6	6	5	-1	1	2	1	5	2	-3
	7	10	7	-3	1	1	0	4	1	-3
	8	7	5	-2	4	1	-3	0	2	2
	9	20	12	-8	9	1	-8	7	6	-1
	10	9	2	-7	2	0	-2	4	1	-3
	11	9	8	-1	2	2	0	5	1	-4
	12	15	12	-3	3	6	3	6	3	-3
	13	6	5	-1	0	0	0	4	2	-2
	14	1	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
	15	10	1	-9	6	1	-5	3	0	-3
	16	11	8	-3	3	2	-1	5	5	0
	17	14	12	-2	5	8	3	5	4	-1
	18	3	0	-3	0	0	0	3	0	-3
	19	5	0	-5	0	0	0	4	0	-4
	20	3	1	-2	0	0	0	1	0	-1
	21	8	3	-5	2	0	-2	5	2	-3
	22	2	1	-1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
	23	3	2	-1	1	0	-1	2	1	-1
	24	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	25	3	1	-2	1	1	0	1	0	-1
	26	3	1	-2	1	0	-1	1	1	0
Similar DA rate before and since	27	3	3	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
	28	4	5	1	0	2	2	3	2	-1
	29	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	30	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	31	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	32	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	33	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
	34	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
	35	4	4	0	1	1	0	3	3	0
	36	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
	37	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
More DA, despite involvement	38	7	10	3	2	1	-1	5	8	3
	39	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	2	1
	40	3	4	1	0	0	0	1	2	1
Can't say / too early	41			0			0			0
	42	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
	43	7	5	-2	2	0	-2	5	4	-1
	44	15	17	2	3	4	1	9	9	0
	45	6	6	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
	46	12		-12	2		-2	8		-8
	47	26		-26	9		-9	14		-14
	48	4		-4	4		-4	0		0
Total (excluding cases too early to say)		226	139	-87	58	36	-22	114	67	-47

2. Case Studies from the project

IDVA Intervention

Case led by the IDVA, in support of a victim from the traveller community who had been in a relationship for over 20 years with the perpetrator in this case. During this period domestic abuse has been endemic resulting in dozens of police incidents and prison terms for the perpetrator and where initial levels of resistance to engagement with police and other agencies was very high in both parties. For the first year or so numerous efforts were made by the police officers and the IDVA to engage with X and Y who were usually together, so a joint approach had to be taken as it was not possible to contact Y separately from X. Developments in the past six months or so have seen some separation between them that we have been able to use to engineer meetings with the Y, for example when X was in custody for an offence we have managed a fast time joint visits with the OM and IDVA so that quality victim care could be provided in the absence of the perpetrator. We are now in a position where the victim is separated from the perpetrator, they've not been together for some months and she is cooperating with agencies supported by the IDVA and in a constructive manner trying to plan her future without X. This is in support of a stalking prevention order police are currently going through the courts (supported by Y) to prevent X from further harassment of our victim. This has been one of those cases that proves persistent and long-term efforts to engage can bear fruit where attitudes and circumstances of victims change and someone supportive is there and familiar at that critical time when Y's need support and are open to action.

Drug and Alcohol Support

This is a case of a young man with multiple complex needs but isolated from family and services due to the difficulties in he has in engaging with services in any meaningful fashion. The drug and alcohol support worker supported this perpetrator to change his life and behaviours and stop coming to the attention of police for domestic abuse on various partners and other criminal matters. After some initial reluctance to engage a joint visit with police and the worker was facilitated whilst the perpetrator was visited in his cell in custody and from here a relationship was built that has led to the worker being able to find him some housing with support, get a bank account so that he can receive proper benefits. After extensive referrals/liaison with adult social services support is now beginning for him from Adult Social Care to address his learning difficulties, mental health and substance misuse issues. This has been a real success in terms of linking a troubled young man, who was frequently abusing partners and involved in criminal activity, and accessing him to the possibility of living something like a normal life where relationships can be more stable, he can receive adequate support for his issues and represents a significant turnaround from where he was street homeless and effectively fighting for his own survival, which often led to him lashing out of those around him. This is an excellent example of what can be done with long term time scales and persistence of effort from a worker who is well supported by a team and who is given the time to tackle the complexities of some of our cohort. Exactly how this perpetrator will respond is yet to be seen but we have given him a chance to live his life differently, that he definitely would not have had without the unit's involvement.

Mental Health Support

This case is a young man with a young child who was separated from his partner and frustrated with social services involvement and his access to his child. Good work from the mental health support worker helped him start to address his paranoia and frustrations around this situation and identified that some adjustments were required to his medication. Her work helped implement those adjustments by re referral to local

psychiatrist. The perpetrator began to do much better whilst on his medication and the referral was successfully made to the substance misuse worker and a period of joint working helped make real progress in the lives of this family. Successfully linking the perpetrators' mental health and cannabis use have contributed to an effective reduction in his domestic abuse reports and whilst engagement has tailed off, we have certainly addressed the high harm elements by supporting this offender at a critical period of his life.

Housing Support

This case is in relation to an older couple who were often at loggerheads around accommodation quality, shared alcohol abuse and the use of a shared bank account in the victim's name which was receiving the perpetrators benefits. The long-term housing issue has been a running theme of our work with this perpetrator, and we still struggle to make headway in that area due to the intrinsic complexities of their housing situation. However, the mentor has been successfully employed and engaged with the perpetrator and has had significant successes in achieving the objectives that were set. The mentor has helped the perpetrator engage with alcohol misuse services, has supported liaison with landlords and local housing authority to secure some cooperation to address fundamental quality of the housing they are currently residing in and to successfully apply for a birth certificate as part of an ongoing plan to secure the perpetrator his own bank account and simplify some of the financial issues within the relationship. The on / off nature of engagement has elongated the achievement of these objectives, but the achievements are significant, nonetheless.

Healthy Relationship Intervention

This client started the programme voluntarily and has shown good motivation and engagement with its content in an honest and open fashion, and in a way that is likely to result in long term behaviour change. The substance misuse worker is supporting the client in that area. The team IDVA is well engaged with the victim and accompanying social services meeting cycle around the couple's children. Flexibility has been shown to cater for adjustments required of the programme to cater for the client's employment and adjust to his support needs and suspend elements of the programme where required. The client is also engaged with volunteer mentor for general support and positive modelling. There is good evidence to demonstrate that the team's involvement in this situation is providing support and assistance that will manage domestic abuse harm down.

Police Offender Manager

This case involves a couple who are heavily involved with social services due to serious domestic violence incident in the summer of 2021 that could not be pursued due to evidential difficulties. In the early stages both the perpetrator and victim were complicit in disguised compliance with social worker leading to poorly informed risk assessments around child protection and domestic abuse in the household. The perpetrator demonstrated some reluctance to engage, after initial willingness, but the offender manager was able to liaise with local officers in order to begin generating an intelligence picture around the movements of the suspect that very much suggested that his presence in the household, contrary to the child protection plan, was ongoing and jeopardising the relationship between victim and social care. The offender manager has, over a period of time been able to provide social services with good information around the risk the suspect presents by being in the house and by sheer persistence and communication skills has developed a good working relationship with the victim, whereby we do now consider that, despite her initial reservations, in the event of an elevated risk reports to police would be more forthcoming and substantial. We are still in discussions with the perpetrator of this

in this relationship and he is somewhat warmer to the prospect of engaging than previously was the case. While success in this complicated context is difficult to measure, the victim is safer after months of consistent support from the offender manager and the wider team, should risk elevate and the level of domestic abuse in this relationship has eased significantly.

This couple are based in Selsey, which is a particularly remote part of the county and resourcing visits by the wider members of the team, particularly at short notice, has proved challenging.