

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023-24



The Domestic Abuse Co-Ordination Team (DACT) are a small team that sit within Public Health & Integrated Commissioning at Sheffield City Council. We work closely with lots of other teams in the council and have many valued partners across the city. We work on behalf of the Safer Sheffield Partnership to:

- Commission support services for all survivors, victims and young people**
- Commission safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse**
- Conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews & Serious Incident Reviews**
- Develop local strategies to help end domestic and sexual abuse, and all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)**

Our annual impact report sets out some of the successes and challenges encountered in Sheffield in 2023-24 whilst working to end domestic and sexual abuse, and all forms of VAWG. The report summarises the activities of the Domestic Abuse Co-Ordination Team (DACT), and our partners in these main areas:

Support for victims and survivors	Sexual Violence
Support for children & young people	Culture Change
MARAC	DHRs

PREVALENCE IN THE CITY

85,355

people have been a victim of domestic abuse since the age of 16



18,358

adult victims of domestic abuse in 2023/24 (aged 16 -74)

23,865

children & young people affected by domestic abuse in 2023/24



69,261

people have been a victim of sexual assault since the age of 16



8,762

victims of sexual assaults (including attempted offences) in 2023/24

20,862

victims of sexual harassment in 2023/24

10,383

16–24-year-old women experienced sexual harassment in 2023/24

25,700

estimated number of perpetrators of domestic abuse in 2023/24 based on MARAC data

All figures are estimates & based on the Crime Survey of England & Wales as this is the only national data set in relation to domestic and sexual abuse. However, these figures are likely to only represent the tip of the iceberg as the Crime Survey Of England And Wales is increasingly recognised as limited. The data, which is likely an underestimate, shows a stark picture of the scale of these issues in Sheffield.

COMMISSIONED SUPPORT IN SHEFFIELD

The DACT team commission support services for victims & survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. In 2023/24, 10 commissioned services were available to support people and this page summarises some of the key facts and figures relating to those services.



92%

of people accessing the community domestic abuse support service were women

8%

of people accessing the community domestic abuse support service were men

57%

increase in calls to the Domestic Abuse helpline over the last 5 years



Cranstoun deliver a 24 week behaviour change programme called Inspire to Change. It is nationally accredited by Respect. In 2023/24 there were:

- 144 referrals to the programme
- 44 perpetrators who engaged with the programme
- 12 perpetrators who dropped out of the programme
- 25 perpetrators who completed the 24-week programme

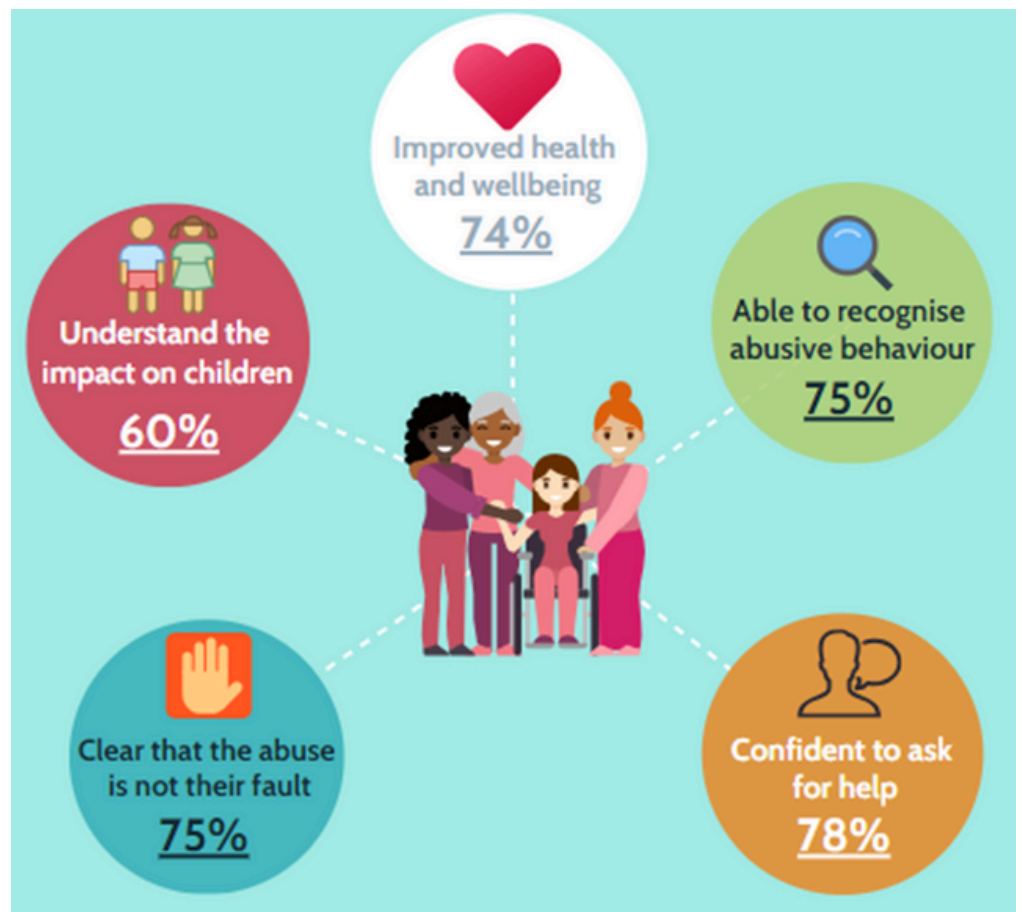
COMMISSIONED SUPPORT IN SHEFFIELD



IDAS is the specialist charity in Sheffield supporting people affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. In 2023/24 IDAS had:

- 6171 total calls to the Helpline
- 5534 referrals received during the year
- 55% referrals to IDAS came from the police
- Excluding the police and self-referrals, 38% of the remainder of referrals were from health agencies
- 38% of all referrals were at high risk of serious harm or homicide
- 73% of users had a planned exit from the service
- 53% of all exits had a reduced risk or no higher risk at exit from support
- 15 structured group work programmes were offered during the year and 76% of attendees completed the programmes

Community
Domestic
Abuse
Service
Outcomes



THE WORK OF COMPLEX NEEDS IDVAS

Complex case Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) continue to help make changes to the most vulnerable clients referred to IDAS. The team support clients who experience multiple disadvantage. This definition includes care leavers, substance users, sex workers, those with physical and/or learning disabilities; those with poor mental health; those with offending needs and those who have historically been hard to reach. Working with this clientele requires creative and flexible work approaches to secure engagement.

Over 2023/24, IDAS' Complex Needs IDVAs worked with 81 adults and 27 young People.

Multiagency work is also crucial to the role, and the IDVAs work to ensure that clients' complexities are not a barrier to clients accessing services. For example, when working with clients who struggle with engagement, the IDVAs have requested that other professionals be patient and not penalise the client for missing appointments. This has resulted in long-term successful engagement as the client feels understood by the service.

The benefit of IDVAS forming relationships with the other professionals supporting the client aids the client in not having to retell information over and over. The IDVAs work as an information source for agencies rather than the client themselves. This then can avoid the possibility of retraumatisation, as this has been evidenced as a barrier in engagement to clients who are supported by multiple agencies. Multiagency work can also be used to facilitate that initial engagement with a client and to ensure that they are accessing all of the appropriate support available.

These IDVAs have smaller caseloads than their community IDVA colleagues, enabling them to work in more intensive and responsive ways with their client group. The work undertaken is paced to meet the person's needs and is tailored around their specific complexities.

SAFE ACCOMMODATION IN SHEFFIELD

There is always a very high demand in Sheffield for domestic abuse safe accommodation. Different types of accommodation are available: refuges, SafeZones dispersed accommodation and sanctuary scheme measures.

Women's Refuges



- 49 families supported, with
- 82 children, plus
- 44 women without children
- 97% of women who have exited refuges reported an improvement in their mental health
- 95% of women who have used the refuges say they feel safer
- 90% of women who have used the refuges feel they are better at recognising abusive behaviours
- 96% of women feel better able to manage their finances
- 100% of children who accessed support from a counsellor in refuges reported an improvement in wellbeing

Safe Zones Dispersed Accommodation



- 19 families supported, with
- 33 children, plus
- 44 women and 1 man without children
- 54% of those who have used Safezones report feeling safer
- 100% of children who have lived in Safezones are registered with a nursery or school provider
- 28% of people feel as though they have been supported to access a strong and resilient support network
- 86% of residents have a positive move on from Safezones and when visited by Safezones staff two weeks after leaving, 56% of residents reported an overall improvement in their wellbeing

SAFE ACCOMMODATION IN SHEFFIELD

Sheffield City Council Temporary Accommodation with specialist domestic abuse support (provided by IDAS). In 2023/24, 36 adults & 73 children were supported.



Sanctuary Scheme

Sanctuary scheme measures are sometimes known as target hardening. They are provided as part of the Domestic Abuse Community Support contract delivered by IDAS, and they enable people to stay safe in their own homes:

- People living in 603 properties were provided with Sanctuary Scheme measures
- 100% of Sanctuary measures were provided within three weeks of referral (most common intervention: window alarms and lock changes)
- 533 adults and 922 children were provided with support in properties where Sanctuary measures have been provided

Young Womens Housing Project

This project provides specialist safe accommodation and therapeutic support services for young women, girls and their children affected by sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse in Sheffield. They provide support to 16–25-year-olds. In 2023/24 the following people were supported:

- 5 families including
- 5 children, plus
- 32 women without children



Everyone supported at YWHP has a unique support plan in place. These plans outline different goals people want to work towards. In 2023/24, the young women were working towards a variety of outcomes:

- 100% had a goal towards making a positive contribution
- 91% had a goal towards improving their economic wellbeing
- 89% had a goal towards staying safe
- 87% had a goal towards enjoying and achieving
- 86% had a goal towards being healthy
- 85% had a goal towards obtaining and maintaining accommodation

COMMISSIONED SUPPORT FOR ADULTS

Mind offers Safe Space counselling for adults in safe accommodation due to domestic abuse.



41 people received counselling in 2023/24 & 100% of users said counselling had helped them "a lot" or "in some ways"

Women with children under nursery school age can find it impossible to access therapy. As a service, MIND had 5 women on their waiting list who could not attend therapy due to lack of childcare, so they decided to meet this need and use an underspend on a childcare pilot to allow some of these women to access art therapy sessions with a qualified onsite childcare provider. The pilot project had fantastic results.



268 people received support against a target of 125

336 users had support with benefits and tax credits

100 users had support to manage debts

citizens
advice

Income maximisation

£101,426 of positive outcomes and financial gains for victims / survivors due to benefits claims and grants.

Debt relief

£47,932 in debts written off during the same period- this is mainly debt relief orders.



55 residents and staff & volunteers received housing and homelessness advice

28 staff consultations with Sheffield Women's Aid and IDAS helping staff to best support victim / survivors.

Shelter also delivered DIY focused workshops to the residents of refuges to help people transition to independent living.



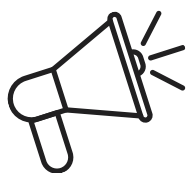
SURVIVORS VOICE & EXPERIENCE

Recommissioning of community-based support



During 2023/24, the DACT team recommissioned the community based domestic abuse support service for the new contract to start in April 2024. Commissioning this service involved extensive planning, as the service must meet the needs of all domestic abuse survivors in Sheffield. To ensure that the commissioned service was designed in a way that met the needs of all survivors, the DACT team worked alongside Changing Futures Co-production Associates. These were individuals who had experienced domestic abuse in their lives.

The Changing Futures Co-production Associates helped to plan all consultation activities – they fed into how the consultations took place, how views were sought, designed the consultation questions and attended consultation sessions. All the feedback and ideas the Associates and DACT team gathered then fed into the service specification. When bids for the commissioned contract were received, Associates also played a role in deciding where the contract was awarded, by reviewing the applications and awarding points based on the answers provided.



Sheffield has an active Violence Against Women and Girls Forum that meets bimonthly. It is an open forum for all women in the city (including trans women and those with non-binary gender identities). The purpose of the VAWG forum is to enable discussion and consultation with people in the city around what matters to them. The Forum met 6 times during 23/24 and a wide variety of topics were discussed including: sexual harassment in schools and criminal justice system blockages. Members of the forum also fed into a wide variety of public consultations, highlighting the voice and needs of survivors in the City.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SRASAC

597

referrals received by Sheffield Independent Sexual Violence Advisory Service (delivered by Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre

304

people received counselling from Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre in 2023/24

98%

of those who received counselling at Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre said it helped them a lot or in some ways



This scheme supports licensed premises to assist anyone who is being harassed or feeling unsafe on a night out. 5 premises and organisations received training and implemented policies in 2023/24.

Launched in December 2023, Safe Square: Sheffield is a temporary space made up of a medical treatment unit trailer and a heated tent that offers free welfare and medical services to anyone on a night out in Sheffield City Centre. This was initiated by Community Safety in partnership with local businesses. It helped ensure people felt safe and supported if experiencing harassment, violence, or aggression on a night out.



Challenges and issues in this area

Crown court backlogs are a significant challenge for victims / survivors of sexual abuse, and the services that support them. When they do get to court, cases can be cancelled at the last-minute leading to further delays and increased risk of victims / survivors withdrawing from the process. South Yorkshire has a higher number of trials rearranged on the day in comparison to the national average:

National: 23%

South Yorkshire: 37%

HOW YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED

In 2023/24 DACT commissioned 7 providers supporting children and young people under the age of 18 which included:

specialist
therapeutic
support

IDVAS for 16–
17 year olds

behaviour
change
interventions for
young people
causing harm

specialist
domestic
abuse
counselling

supported
housing for
young women
and their
families

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE

A shift in the culture and practice of the children's workforce through the implementation of the Safe & Together model, so that they are better equipped to partner with survivors and intervene more effectively with perpetrators of abuse in a family context. In 2023/24, over 200 Sheffield professionals were trained in Safe & Together.

Recognition that behaving abusively towards a child's mother is a parenting choice. Since 2018, the council has been offering a 17 weeklong parenting intervention specifically for fathers, called Caring Dads. Approximately 71 children are helped by fathers attending Caring Dads per calendar year.

Up to **874** children were helped this year by services commissioned by a range of partners. But we recognise that the overall estimate is over 23,000 children affected in Sheffield each year.

Whilst there were good outcomes for children supported one to one, there is nowhere near enough capacity in the system and wait times can be very long to access support.

Haven supported **168** children one to one.

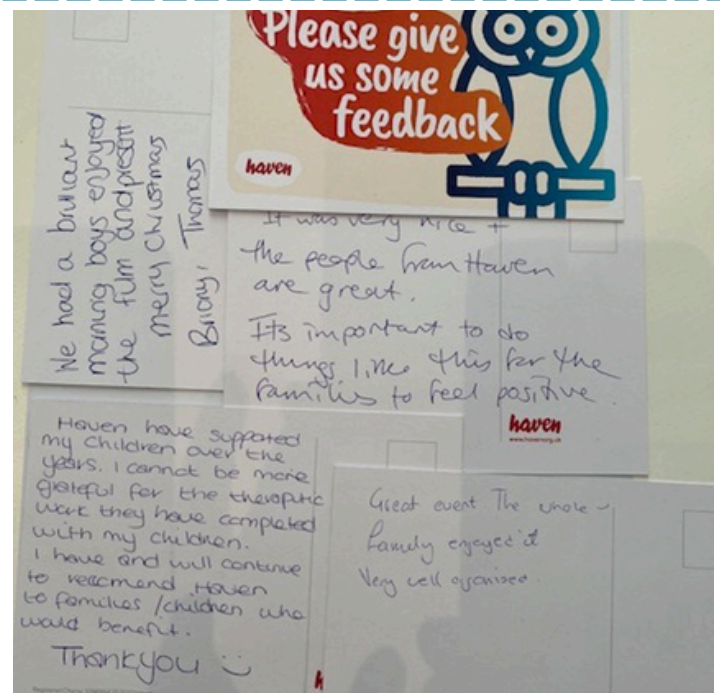


Door 43 Domestic Abuse counsellors supported **48** children.

Haven Case Study

10 year old Chloe was referred to Haven following domestic abuse in her home. Chloe needed some support with mood swings, outbursts and aggression. Over the course of 12 sessions, the Haven practitioner explored with Chloe emotions and regulation, healthy and unhealthy relationships, safety planning, worries, anger, confidence building and self-esteem. After completing these sessions it was observed that Chloe had had an opportunity to learn how to have conversations about worries that she may be able to replicate with other safe adults. Nan felt that the sessions had had a positive impact on Chloe, helping her to understand the impact of domestic abuse on her.

"My daughter became more confident about sharing her feelings and worries with another adult and not just me."



WHAT WE'VE DONE TO PROMOTE CULTURE CHANGE IN THE CITY

Staff training plays an important role in promoting culture change across our City. The DACT team commission free courses through IDAS and SRASAC for Sheffield professionals. They cover a wide variety of topics: coercive control, supporting people with disabilities, the trio of vulnerabilities, and supporting older people.

In 2023/24, IDAS trained over 1,000 Sheffield workers.

100% of attendees rated the courses as good or excellent.

SRASAC delivered their Believe, Listen, Respect training to 134 people across Sheffield.

SRASAC



White Ribbon is the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls. This charity's aim is to prevent violence against women and girls by addressing its root causes. Sheffield City Council is White Ribbon Accredited – which means that we demonstrated our commitment to work towards transformational culture change in staff culture, systems and communities. In October 2023, the council's action plan was approved, and work on it has started.

Schools Conference on Violence Against Women and Girls

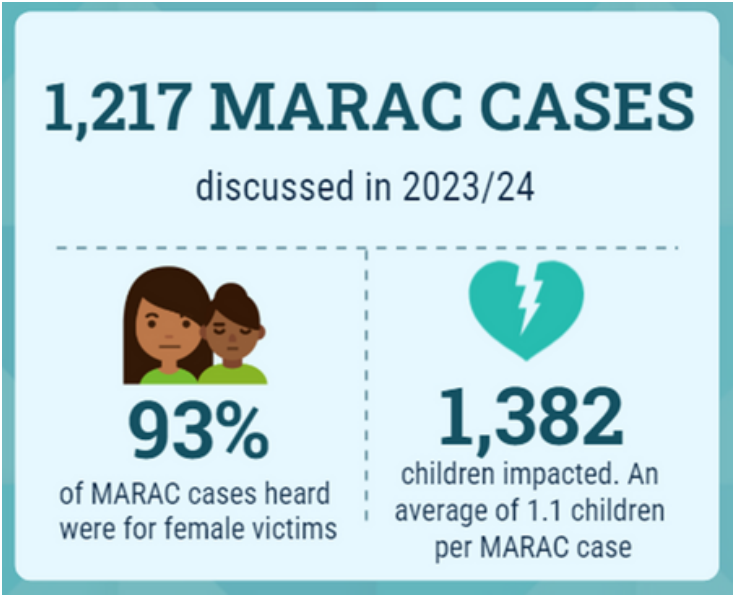
In October 2024, 60 members of staff working specifically for schools and in education attended a conference. The White Ribbon CEO Anthea Sully spoke at the event, alongside Learn Sheffield and a survivor of domestic abuse Ryan Hart, whose mother and sister were murdered by his father. Speakers from local schools – Meadowhead, Newfield Green and Astrea Academy - and Sheffield College shared good practice examples, plus local agencies Haven, Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre and IDAS spoke about their services. Operation Encompass was also promoted.

MULTI AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES

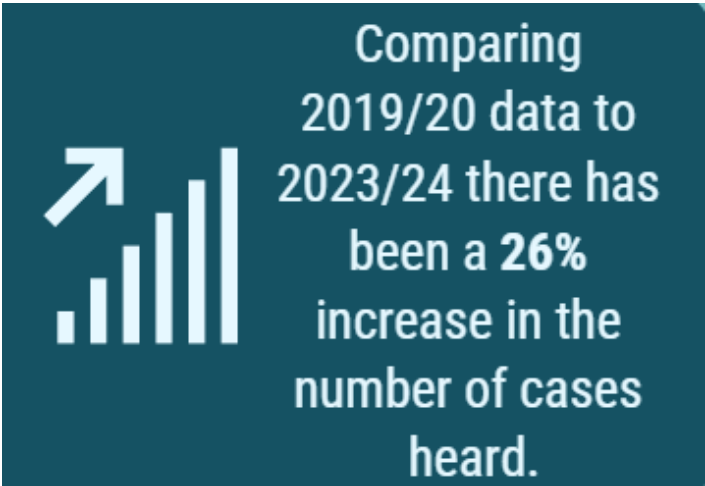


Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) are meetings in which professionals come together to discuss people at high risk of serious harm or homicide as a result of domestic abuse. It usually meets 3 times a month to discuss 30 cases per meeting. Police, Social Care (adults and children's), Health, Probation, Housing, Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and other voluntary sector services share information and work together to develop safety plans for victims/ survivors and their children.

What worked well at MARAC in 2023/24: Sheffield was identified as exceptional by SafeLives around addressing the unique needs of victims with protected characteristics. We also have good quality administration and support for MARAC processes with a high level of local agency involvement.



Issues MARAC faced in 23/24 and what we've done to try to resolve them: The rise in MARAC cases has also placed a burden on the administrative capacity of the service which resulted in a backlog of cases to be heard and of minutes shared. These issues are being addressed through additional administrative capacity – put in place in the last quarter of 2023/24.



DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

These are commonly known as DHRs

The purpose of a DHR is to consider the circumstances that led to the death and to identify where responses to the situation could be improved in the future. Lessons learned from the reviews help agencies to improve their response to domestic abuse and to work better together to prevent such tragedies from occurring again.

21

DHR reviews involving 22 adults have been started or undertaken by Sheffield since DHRs became a statutory duty in April 2011

18 of the victims were female and 4 were male.

18 of the perpetrators were male and 3 female.

15 homicide cases.

6 suicide cases have been reviewed as DHRS, all of whom were females.

In 2023/24, the DACT team along with our partners worked to publish and promote the learning from:

[DHR T - Imran](#)
[Learning briefing](#)

[DHR Kristen](#)
[Learning briefing](#)

What themes are seen in the DHR data?

Sheffield DHR cases demonstrate that:

Domestic homicides are gendered - many more women than men are victims of both murders and suicides.

Over 75% of cases were intimate partner relationships.

Compared to the Sheffield population, victims were disproportionately from non white British backgrounds.

Suicide cases have risen since 2019 so that in the last 5 years, 6 out of 10 of the cases have been suicides rather than homicides. This does not mean that more suicides are happening, but agencies are now recognising that domestic abuse has played a part in the suicide.



Domestic & Sexual Abuse income

Sheffield City Council	£1,104,330
Integrated Care Board (NHS)	£48,794
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	£171,937
Sheffield Safer Communities Partnership	£30,000
South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit	£10,000
Home Office	£25,000
Ministry of Justice	£279,864
DLUHC safe accommodation funding	£1,381,721
Total income	£3,031,616

Domestic & Sexual Abuse Expenditure

Commissioned contracts & grants	£2,952,222
Publicity / Awareness raising materials	3,300
Contribution to commissioning costs	78,180
Total	£3,033,802

PRIORITIES FOR 2024 - 2025

We have many plans for 2024-25 and here are some of the key priorities:

1. Hear from as many victims / survivors as possible across the City so that our new strategy is fully informed by their views
2. Publish our new 'From Surviving to Safety' - Sheffield's Strategy to End Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
3. Promote learning across Sheffield with Homicide Timeline training delivered by Professor Jane Monkton Smith and a conference on DHRs and Safeguarding Adults Review



Acknowledgements

This report celebrates the commitment of individuals, local communities, charities and organisations helping to create a culture in Sheffield where violence against women and girls is not tolerated.