

Briefing document

Introduction/explanation

My article focuses on the issue of domestic violence rehabilitation for offenders. I will be looking closely at the work of the charity Splitz who promote the rehabilitation of offenders as a core aspect of their work. My article will be split into several different pieces. These include an introduction and background to Splitz. I will be looking closely at the statistics that surround domestic abuse. I will examine the program that Splitz run and the upcoming clinical trial they will be helping to deliver. I aim to get perspectives from other organisations as well as political opinions, particularly from Police and Crime Commissioners who often have very close relationships with the charity sector and have to balance assisting perpetrator rehabilitation with victim support.

General stats

2 million adults aged 16-59 experienced domestic abuse in year ending March 2018 – ONS:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018#prevalence-of-domestic-abuse>

Nearly 1.2million domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes were reported to the police in year to March 2018 – ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018#prevalence-of-domestic-abuse>

More than 7% of women and 4% of men have been victims of domestic abuse in the past year – Crime survey 2014

30% of adult women have experienced some form of DA since the age of 16 – crime survey 2014

DA costs the UK at least £66bn a year – Home office 2018: (pg6)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772180/horr107.pdf

2 women a week die as a result of domestic homicide – ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/compendium/focusonviolenceandsexualoffences/yearendingmarch2015/chapter2homicide>

100,000 people are at high risk of being murdered or seriously harmed every year – safelives:

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/policy-evidence/about-domestic-abuse#facts%20and%20stats>

Fewer than 1% of perpetrators receive a specialist intervention to change – safelives

Splitz stats

Of £7m received over 25 years, 99% has been spent on direct support to individuals

Over 17,000 referrals for support have been actioned since 1989

Nearly 1000 referrals for perp programs have been received since 2005

Since 2012, Splitz has provided support for over 3,000 people in Gloucestershire

Since 2006, Splitz has supported over 8,000 people in Wiltshire.

Project Turnaround – Main Splitz offender program – Respect accredited

Project ReProvide

A clinical trial run by Bristol University. A group perpetrator program that combines a structured psychoeducational approach with elements of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). 26-week program, 23 in group sessions with three 1:1's. 2 ¼ hour sessions run by two experienced facilitators (one male and one female). Program is rolling, allowing for new intake of participants every 4-6 weeks. At the end of the program, men are invited to attend a monthly relapse prevention group.

Partners and ex-partners of the men attending the domestic violence prevention program (DVPP) are provided with support from dedicated women's safety worker.

In the pilot study in Bristol, Splitz was the service provider delivering the DVPP. Potential male participants are self-referred or (the majority) referred from agencies, including Respect helplines, children's and social services and drug and alcohol services, local counselling services and legal services. If they consent and are eligible, they are randomised in a 2:1 ratio to receive the intervention or "usual care" (no program).

Full trial will begin later this year, Splitz will run the programs in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Bath and North East Somerset. Barnardos will deliver in Somerset and Phoenix will deliver in Blaenau Gwent

Other projects

Project CARA (Conditional cautioning and relationship abuse): Hampton Trust:

<https://www.hamptontrust.org.uk/our-programmes/cara/>

https://www.hamptontrust.org.uk/files/9114/1537/2778/DAARC_FINAL_VERSION_12_sept_2014.pdf

Interviewees

Fran Lewis – Executive Director, Splitz. As founder and Executive Director of Splitz. Fran offered an expert insight into the process surrounding domestic violence. About how it spirals from minor things into serious and sustained, controlling domestic abuse and violence. She explained the benefits that rehabilitation of offenders can bring and how focusing on offender's behaviour is the only way to ensure there is the possibility of change.

Sally Stockham - Project facilitator. Sally co-delivers the main offender program that Splitz currently provide. She talked about the inner workings of group work and how they function as well talking about the effectiveness of them and rehabilitation in general.

Alex Chalke – MP for Cheltenham. I had a brief email exchange with Alex. I contacted him because he introduced a 10-minute rule bill to strengthen the laws around stalking. He is also set to sit in on a perpetrator program run by Splitz

Likely*

Representatives from both Wiltshire and Gloucestershire PCC's. Both counties have very different approaches to tackling domestic violence rehabilitation. Wiltshire has tended to shun perpetrator programs whilst Gloucestershire has been more enthusiastic and has actively funded programs.

***Gloucestershire PCC interview confirmed for Friday 1st February.**

Dr Karen Morgan – Research fellow at Bristol University (responsible for the monitoring of the ReProvide program). Dr Morgan would offer an academic insight into how this new rehabilitation program was conceived and how it has and will be implemented. Along with this, she will also offer her views on how rehabilitation can affect offenders.

Hopeful*

Victoria Atkins – MP for Louth & Horncastle and Minister for Crime, Safeguarding & Vulnerability & Minister for Women. I would like a point of view from a national government perspective. Whilst this is an issue that is often devolved to more local levels, it would be interesting to gauge the opinion of perpetrator programs, particularly in contrast to the approach shown towards victim support.

Naz Shah – MP for Bradford West and Shadow Minister for Women & Equalities. Similar to the government minister but with an additional look at the different approach (if any) they have to the government.

Tracy Rutherford – Deputy Chief Executive of The Hampton Trust (Delivers Project CARA). Project CARA is another high profile perpetrator program and I would like to know the difference between the two programs, any little details that distinguish the two and how that makes them operate.