

Understanding Prevalence, Need and Risk

Data sources:

- [Crime Statistics, Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences](#), ONS, February 2016 (Extrapolated estimates)
- [Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Domestic Violence and Abuse 2014](#), April 2014
- [Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Sexual Abuse 2014](#), September 2014
- [Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Needs Assessment 2015](#), Nottinghamshire OPCC, December 2015

Note: This document supports and underpins the Framework for Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse in Nottinghamshire 2016-2020

What do we mean by domestic and sexual abuse?

Domestic violence and abuse is defined¹ as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This includes, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. The definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

Sexual violence is defined² as any sexual act, attempted sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, acts to traffic, or acts directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim. This includes but is not limited to acts committed at home or work, sexual assault, rape, sexual coercion and sexual bullying³.

Key Messages

- Domestic and sexual abuse is estimated to directly affect over 27,000 and 7,500 Nottinghamshire residents respectively each year
- Women and young people aged 16 to 24 are amongst those most disproportionately affected by both domestic and sexual abuse
- While the relationship between alcohol and abuse is complex, alcohol remains a significant cross-cutting risk factor in relation to domestic and sexual offending
- Our understanding of forced marriage, so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation, human trafficking and abuse affecting children and older people remains limited
- The economic cost of domestic abuse alone in Nottinghamshire is estimated to exceed £79 million each year, in addition to the human and emotional costs
- Only 21% of domestic abuse cases and 15% of sexual violence cases are estimated to be reported to the police, although there is evidence to suggest that confidence to report is increasing.

¹ Government definition - www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse

² World Health Organisation, World report on violence and health (Geneva: World Health Organisation, 2002)

³ Protecting People Promoting Health, Department of Health 2012

Who is at risk of domestic and sexual abuse?

Domestic and sexual abuse can affect anyone, irrespective of their demographic profile or socio-economic status. Local and national research studies have, however, identified higher than average levels of victimisation amongst certain groups. These include:-

Fig 2. Factors most commonly linked to victimisation⁴

Domestic Abuse	Sexual Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Women</u>⁵ account for the majority of domestic abuse (68%) and stalking (67%) victims • <u>Young people aged 16 to 19</u> are more than twice as likely to experience abuse than the general population • Those that are <u>separated or divorced</u> are almost 2 and a half times more likely to be victims of domestic abuse • <u>Long term illness or disability</u> – who are more than twice as likely to be victims of family abuse • <u>Alcohol</u>⁶ – with risk of partner abuse being significantly higher amongst those reporting frequent drunkenness. The relationship between alcohol and abuse, however, is complex and should never be regarded as a causal factor or excuse for offending • <u>Areas within the 20% most deprived</u> – where risk of abuse is between 20% and 36% higher than average 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Women</u>⁷ account for the majority of sexual assault victims (80%) and rape victims (93%) in particular • <u>Young people aged 16 to 24</u> are more than twice as likely to be victims than the general population • <u>Students</u> – both males and females – who are more than three times more likely to be victims • <u>Single people</u> (both men and women) are around twice as likely to become victims • <u>Alcohol and substance misuse</u> with risk highest amongst those that frequently visit night clubs. 21% of reported adult female rapes are alcohol-related • <u>Children missing or absent</u> from school⁸ remains a key indicator for risk of sexual exploitation. 36% of all police recorded survivors of rape are also children

Other cohorts display more specific profiles of risk based on demographic and socio-economic factors including, for example:-

- Vulnerabilities such as mental health needs, drug or alcohol misuse and wider issues of social exclusion which can place some young people at greater risk of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Communities of Somali, Sudanese and Sierra Leonean / West African descent, who are more predominantly affected by the practice of female genital mutilation
- Women involved in prostitution, who are exposed to greater risk of sexual abuse victimisation
- Pregnancy – with 30% of domestic violence starting during pregnancy and up to 9% of women thought to be abused during pregnancy or after giving birth⁹

⁴ Crime Statistics, Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, ONS, February 2016 - Extrapolated estimates

⁵ Supported by the National Institute of Health & Care Excellence (NICE) and World Health Organisation (WHO)

⁶ Gil-Gonzalez D et al (2006) European Journal of Public Health *Alcohol and intimate partner violence* – identified that alcohol use is associated with a four-fold risk of violence from a partner

⁷ Supported by findings from 2012 report 'Protecting People Promoting Health', the Department of Health

⁸ Greater risk of sexual exploitation - Out of Mind, Out of Sight, CEOP 2011

⁹ Lewis and Drife (2001, 2005); McWilliams and McKiernan (1993), Taft (2002) cited in Home Affairs Committee Domestic violence, forced marriage and 'honour'-based violence, 2008

How prevalent is domestic and sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire?

Extrapolations based on the Crime Survey for England and Wales⁴ indicate that around 27,350 Nottinghamshire residents are likely to experience some form of domestic abuse each year, while over 7,700 are likely to experience a sexual assault and over 16,500 are likely to experience stalking.

Fig 1. Number of adults aged 16 to 59 in Nottinghamshire estimated⁴ to have experienced intimate violence

		Since the age of 16			In the last year		
		Men	Women	All	Men	Women	All
Domestic abuse	Partner abuse (non-sexual)	19,263	46,841	66,103	5,708	13,185	18,893
	Family abuse (non-sexual)	10,183	16,905	27,089	3,190	4,898	8,088
	Sexual assault by partner/family	1,875	15,877	17,753	147	1,191	1,337
	Stalking by partner/family	9,264	26,817	36,081	1,417	4,751	6,168
	Any domestic abuse	29,694	61,333	91,027	8,880	18,463	27,343
Sexual assault including attempts	Serious sexual assault	927	12,436	13,363	205	1,536	1,741
	Rape	615	10,961	11,576	86	1,173	1,259
	Less serious sexual assault	8,216	40,947	49,164	1,410	5,378	6,788
	Sexual assault by a partner	1,378	11,994	13,372	124	1,066	1,190
	Sexual assault by a family member	498	3,883	4,381	23	125	148
	Any sexual assault	8,571	43,031	51,602	1,570	6,143	7,713
Stalking	Stalking by a partner	6,299	20,311	26,610	924	3,522	4,447
	Stalking by a family member	2,965	6,505	9,470	493	1,229	1,721
	Any Stalking	21,990	45,620	67,610	5,448	11,076	16,524

There are no reliable indicators of long term trends in domestic and sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire, however, the Crime Survey for England and Wales has reported no significant change in self-reported experience of sexual assault over the previous ten years and a 9% reduction¹⁰ in self-reported experience of domestic abuse in 2014/15 – reaching the lowest prevalence rate on record with 6.1% experiencing domestic abuse in the last year.

There are no reliable estimates of the levels of forced marriage, so called ‘honour’ based violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), human trafficking and domestic and sexual abuse affecting children and young people and older people in Nottinghamshire.

Extrapolations taken from national research⁴ indicates that children are likely to directly see or hear the abuse occurring¹¹ in over 1,900 cases of partner abuse per year in the area. For children, the impact of witnessing domestic abuse can have long term damaging effects, including a greater risk of those individuals perpetrating domestic abuse in later life¹². Other studies¹³ indicate that 62% of children living with domestic abuse are also directly harmed by the perpetrator.

¹⁰ An academic review by S. Walby et al. highlighted methodological limitations to these findings on account of a cap on the number of repeat crimes recorded per survivor. In any case, binary measures of domestic violence can be misleading on account of what can be long term patterns of controlling and coercive behaviour

¹¹ CSEW March 2015 – children were present in 46% of self-reported partner abuse cases and of these, directly saw or heard what happened in 20% of cases. 20,858 cases of partner abuse estimated locally (4.6% pop).

¹² WHO, ‘World Report on Violence and Health’, ed. By Krug, Etienne G., et al., Geneva, 2002

¹³ Caada (2014), In Plain Sight: Effective help for children exposed to domestic abuse. Bristol: Caada

Impact and Cost of Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Offences involving domestic and sexual violence and abuse can have a deeply traumatic impact on victims and witnesses, while incidents can often result in survivors being physically and psychologically violated and, in some cases, seriously injured.

In cases of partner abuse, around 61% of survivors nationally report experiencing non-physical abuse, including threats (41%), while around 32% experience force and 6% experience sexual assault. The effects of partner abuse can include mental or emotional problems (42%), minor bruising (17%), severe bruising or bleeding (4%) and risk of attempted suicide (4%) amongst those that experience it. The non-physical effects of abuse can also be particularly acute amongst women survivors and those with mental health needs or disabilities¹⁴.

A relatively high proportion of those experiencing domestic abuse experience repeated incidents (30%) over the space of a year, with around 16% experiencing three or more incidents. Around 60% of all incidents are experienced by repeat victims. While less common, partner abuse involving sexual assault is less likely to occur in isolation, with between 41% and 46% of victims reporting that that experienced this form of abuse more than once.

Fig 3. Estimated costs of domestic abuse

Category of cost	£m
physical and mental healthcare costs	23.7
criminal justice	17.2
social services	3.9
housing and refuges	2.9
civil legal	5.3
lost economic output	26.3
Total	79.3

Domestic abuse in Nottinghamshire is estimated¹ to bear an annual cost of over £79 million to local service providers – which increases further when the full human and emotional costs are taken into account.

Research by the Audit Commission (2011) estimated that the cost of a typical domestic abuse case to exceed £20,000 - incurring costs on the Criminal Justice System (£9,500), Police (£7,570), health services (£2,467) and on housing providers (£432).

Women's Aid have also highlighted that every £1 spent on early intervention and support can save £8 to statutory services, while every £1 spent on MARACs can lead to at least £6 of public money being saved¹⁵.

National research¹⁶ indicates that around a fifth of those experiencing partner abuse live with their abusive partner, and of these fewer than half go on to leave the shared accommodation. The reasons for this can be complex and often involve the presence of children (54%), still having feelings for an abusive partner (36%), having nowhere to go (24%) or simply not considering leaving (32%).

¹⁴ Women with disabilities who experience partner abuse who are significantly more likely to experience mental or emotional problems, difficulty in other relationships or trying to commit suicide as a consequence of the abuse (CSEW February 2016).

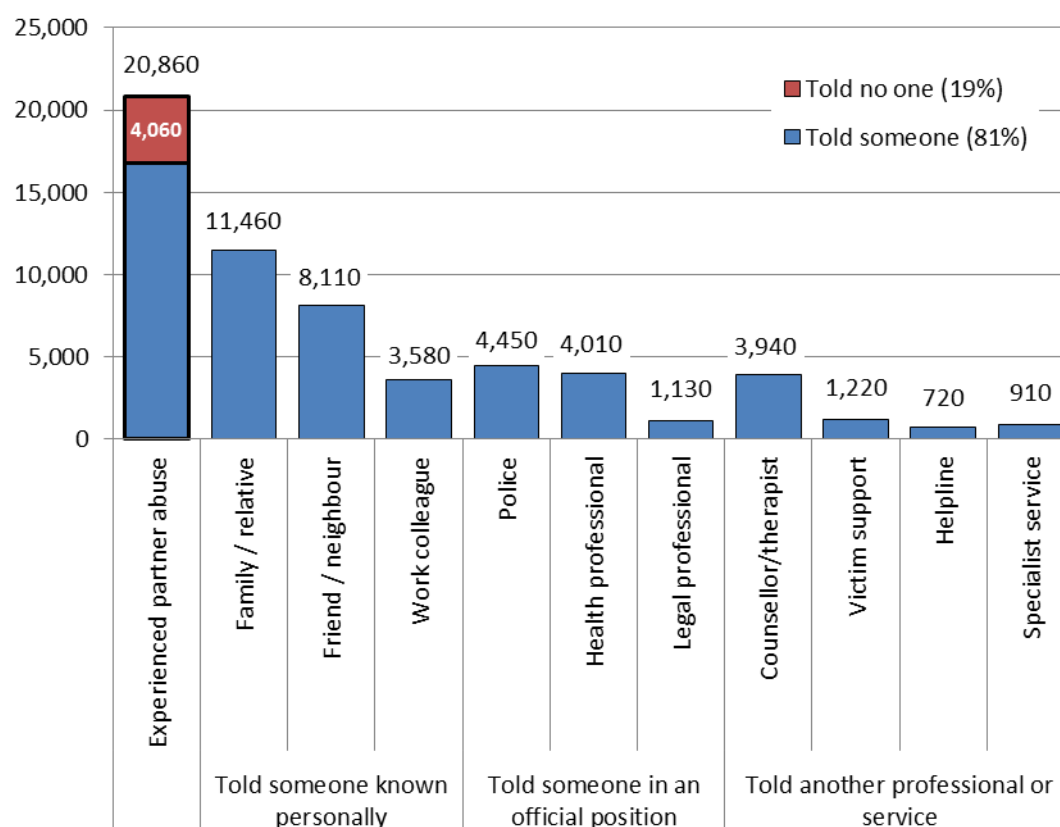
¹⁵ www.safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Saving_lives_saving_money_FINAL_VERSION.pdf

¹⁶ CSEW Year ending March 2015

Hidden Harm - Reporting domestic and sexual abuse

A significant proportion of domestic and sexual violence and abuse is estimated to go unreported to statutory and non-statutory service providers in Nottinghamshire. National research⁴ indicates that survivors of partner abuse, for example, are most likely to report their victimisation to someone they know personally (73%) such as a relative, friend or neighbour. Only 37% are likely to tell someone in an official position such as the police (21%) or a health care professional (19%), while 27% are likely to tell another professional or service provider such as a counsellor or therapist.

Fig 4. Adult disclosure of partner abuse in Nottinghamshire – Extrapolated estimates



Young women aged 16 to 24, in particular, are significantly less likely to report their experiences of partner abuse to someone in an official position (28%) or a support professional / organisation (24%) than other survivors, but remain one of the most heavily victimised groups.

The reasons for survivors not wishing to report domestic abuse to the police can be many and varied, but often include feeling that the incident was too trivial (43%), was a private/family matter (37%) or not feeling that the police could help (25%). Local research¹⁷ has also identified that the 'threat' of social services involvement can also be a deterrent to reporting abuse.

Cases involving forced marriage and so called 'honour' based violence can be linked to communities that do not always have confidence in reporting crimes to the police. Furthermore, cases of abuse

¹⁷ Victims' Views: Support services for survivors of domestic abuse, Opinion Research Services, June 2014

involving female genital mutilation are most likely to be identified as a result of medical complications, indicating that the true extent of victimisation is likely to be significantly higher.

Research¹⁸ has also shown that only around 15% of those experiencing sexual violence and 11% of those that experience rape report the offences to the police. There are, however, clear indications that reporting of current and historic sexual abuse being has increased markedly since 2012. Levels of reporting have been influenced in part by the profile of national investigations such as Operation Yewtree¹⁹ leading to greater confidence to report victimisation, agencies identify and respond to these issues such as CSE²⁰ and improvements in compliance with national crime recording standards.

Most notably, 2014/15 saw increases in the number of child protection-related crimes²¹ recorded by the Nottinghamshire police, the number of children subject of a Child Protection Plans (CPP) (+83%)²², the level of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Female Genital Mutilation identified by the police and other agencies and the number of contacts made nationally in relation to sexual abuse via Childline²³ (+8%).

Personally-directed cyber-enabled offending such as on-line stalking, harassment, grooming and exploitation represent one of the fastest growing areas of public protection risk at both a local and national level. While there are no reliable estimates of the prevalence of offences committed on-line or via social media, the introduction of 'malicious communications', 'engaging in sexual communication with a child' and 'revenge porn' as notifiable offences in 2015 has led to improvements in the local and national intelligence picture.

The increase in both current and historic domestic and sexual abuse-related cases being identified, investigated and dealt with by local agencies continues to place increasing pressures on local service providers, including the police, victim services and Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels.

Our understanding of prevalence, need and risk in relation to domestic and sexual abuse across Nottinghamshire will be kept under continual review informed by:

- Routine updates to the Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Annual updates to Police and partnership assessment products; and
- New requirements to publish data on levels of local need introduced by the Government's revised Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020

¹⁸ Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales – January 2013, ONS

¹⁹ The 'Yewtree Effect' in the wake of investigations connected to Jimmy Saville (HMIC's 2013 report 'Mistakes were made')

²⁰ Chief Constable Simon Bailey, the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) lead for child protection

²¹ Between 50% and two thirds of child protection related crimes relate to domestic violence NSPCC (1997) - 55%; Farmer and Owen (1995) - 52%. The NSPCC estimate that over 50% of known adult domestic violence cases involve children who are also directly abused

²² Child protection Plans increased from 374 to 685 between March 2013 and July 2014

²³ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/annual-reports/childline-annual-review-always-there-2014-2015.pdf>