

Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnerships

Write Up for Plan

Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse

Theme:
Domestic and Sexual Violence
and Abuse



Indicator

‘Sexual Violence & Domestic Abuse’, which links to Strategic Priority 2 – “to improve community safety by tackling actual and perceived crime”.

The strategy ‘Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland’ (2016) outlines the following definitions:

- **Domestic Violence and Abuse** is threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner of family member.
- **Sexual Violence and Abuse** is any behaviour (physical, psychological, verbal, virtual/online) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is controlling, coercive, exploitative, harmful or unwanted that is inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability). Coercive, exploitative and harmful behaviour includes taking advantage of an individual’s incapacity to give informed consent.

Crime Statistics

14% of crime in NI was domestic abuse 14,560

- More than twice that of domestic burglary (6,826)
- More than twice that of drug offences (6,502)

48% of all murders in NI had a domestic motivation

Belfast represents 27% of all domestic abuse incidents and 26% of all domestic abuse crimes records (a similar proportion for the last 10 years).

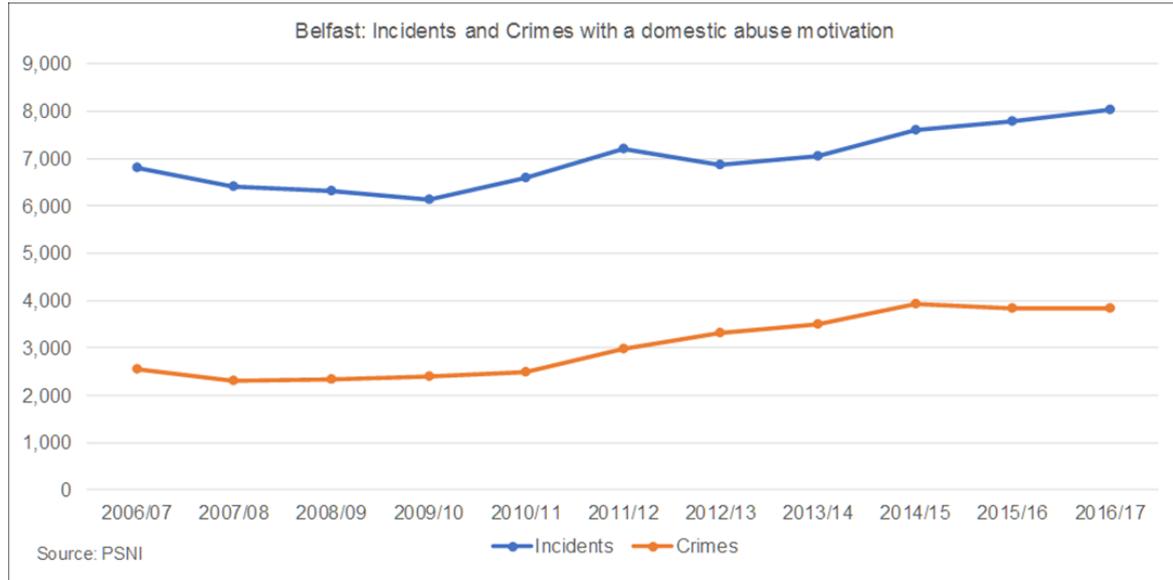
Belfast Figures

In Belfast, there were **8,031** incidents and **3,848** crimes recorded by police as having a domestic abuse motivation in 2017/18.

In Belfast, the largest monthly increases in incidents were seen when comparing the months of July, September and November; 91, 40 and 35 incidents higher than the same months in 2016 respectively.

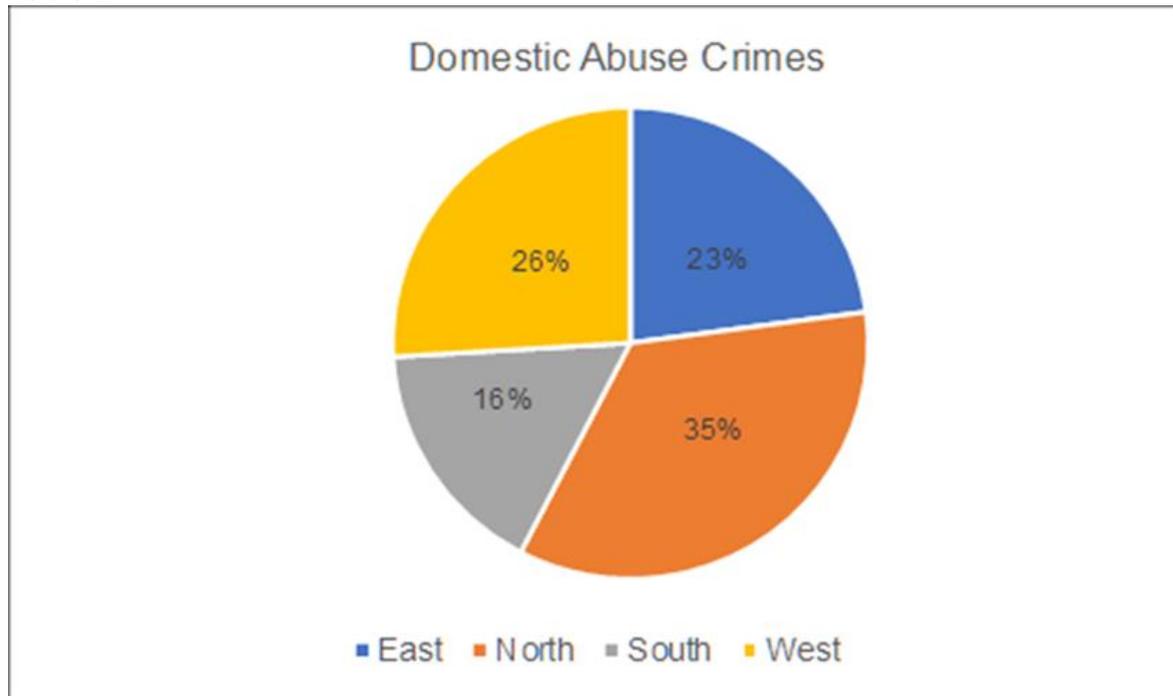
Incidents peak in December, totalling 730 incidents – a 2% increase compared to last year. (Table 1 - Source: PSNI)

Table 1



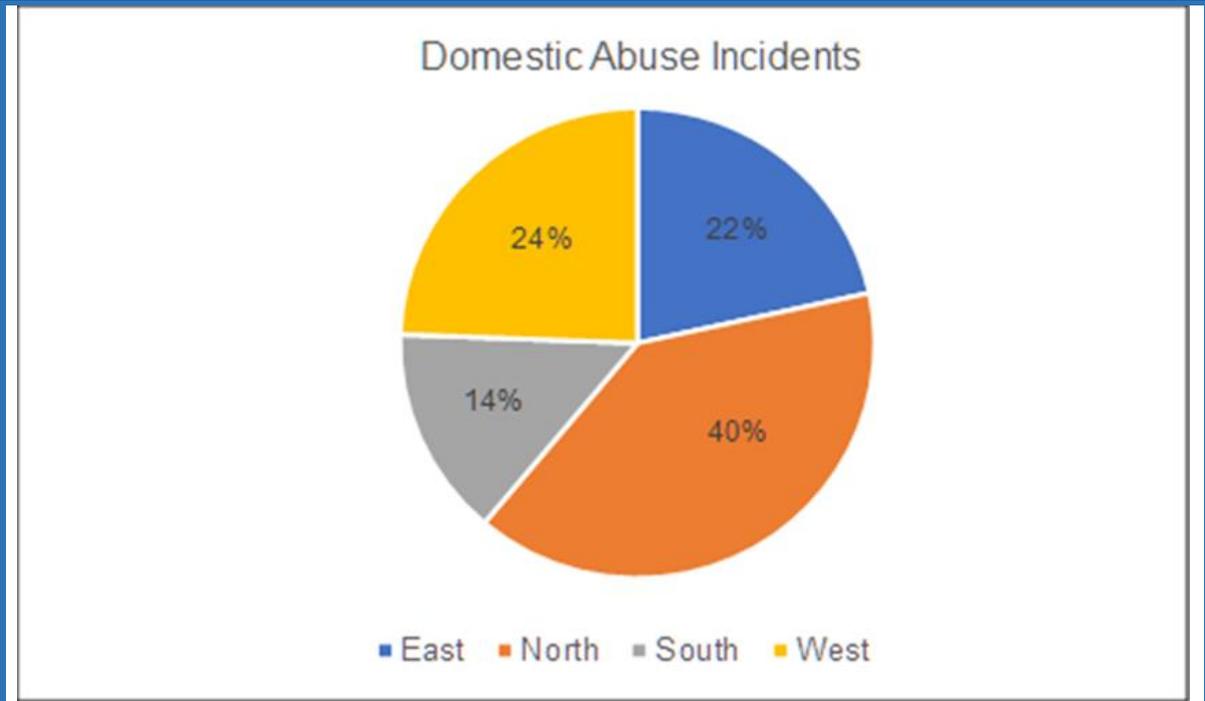
In **2017/2018**; the **8,031** incidents recorded by police as having a domestic abuse motivation in **Belfast** took place in North (35%), West (26%), East 23%) and South Belfast (16%). (Table 2 - Source: PSNI)

Table 2



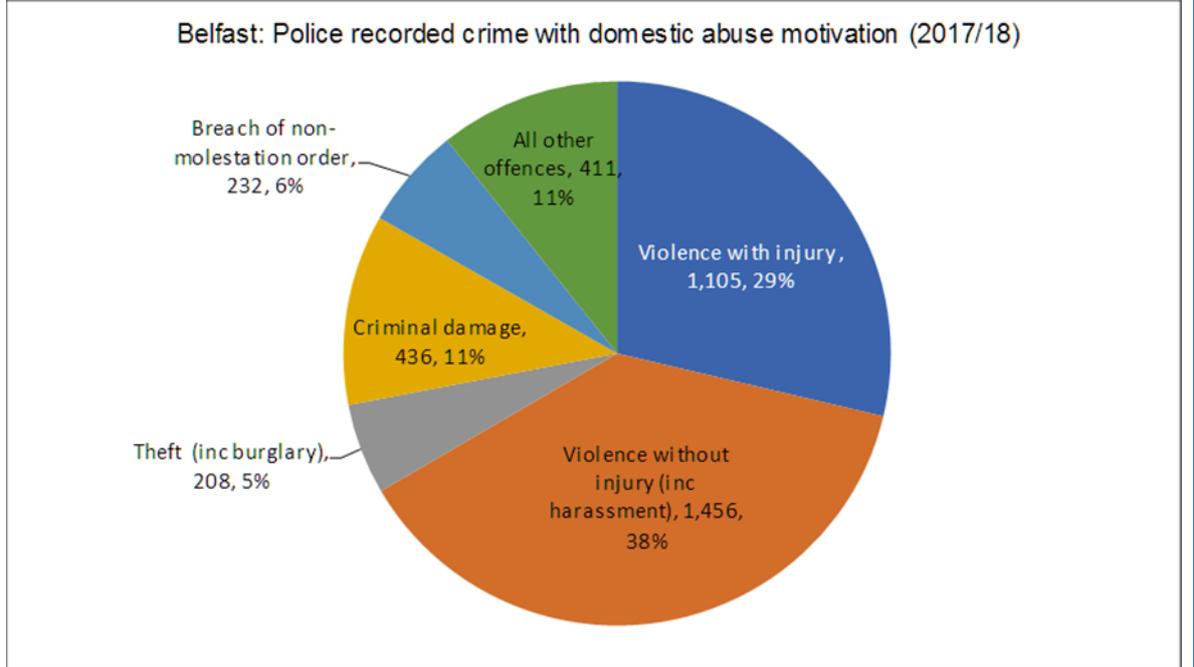
In **2017/2018**; the **3,848** crimes recorded by police as having a domestic abuse motivation in Belfast took place in North (40%), West (24%), East 22%) and South Belfast (14%). (Table 3 - Source: PSNI)

Table 3



29% of recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation in **Belfast** are 'violence with injury'

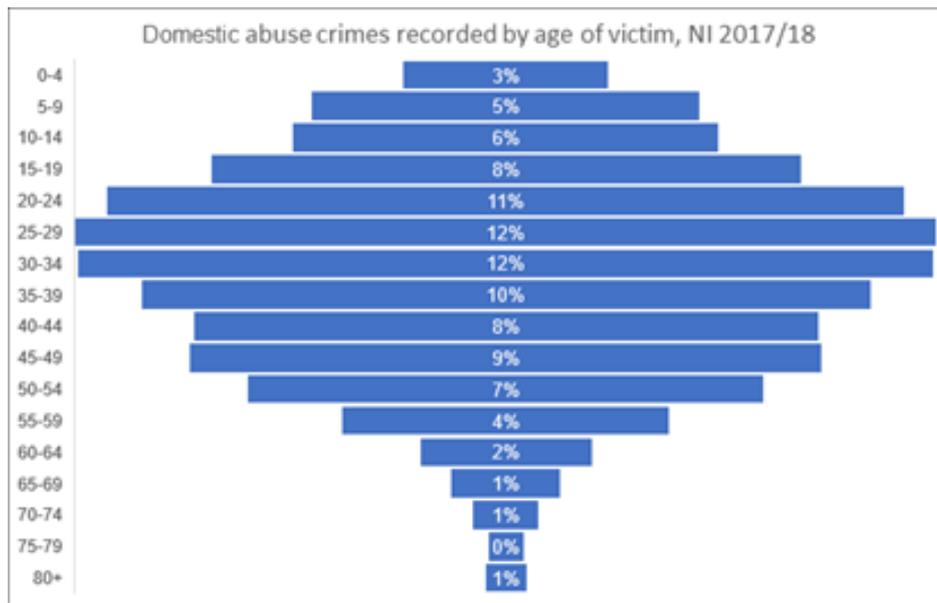
Table 4



Story behind the theme

Victims (recorded crime)

- In 2017/18, 68% of all victims of domestic abuse crimes are female and 32% are male.
- Just over one-third (34%) of all victims of domestic abuse crimes fall within the 25-39 year old age bands.



Offenders (recorded crime)

- Of the 4,107 offenders of domestic abuse detected crimes, 86% were male and 12% female. 93% were aged 18 and over, 5% were aged under 18 (remaining 2% unknown/not recorded)
- The victim / offender relationship is largely spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend relationship – either ex (30%) or current (27%); followed by parent child relationship (24%).

Regional statistics for 2017/18, from Women’s Aid - the domestic violence support organisation in Northern Ireland, indicate a growing demand for support services:

- 26,457 calls managed by the 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline.
- 717 women and 485 children stayed in refuge. 258 women could not access refuge as it was full.
- 6,385 women and 6,784 children accessed outreach support, allowing them to stay in their own homes.
- Pregnant women’s who accessed support services include: Refuge: 43 women and Outreach: 161 women. 10 babies were born to women in refuge.
- A total of 182 black and minority ethnic women stayed in refuge; 30 women from the Travelling community supported in refuge; 63 women and 50 children with no recourse to public funds supported in refuge.
- Support at every stage of life – 16% of women in Women’s Aid services were over 55, 25% of women accessing services were under 25.
- Disability & Complex Needs – 389 women in refuge and 2,184 women in Women’s Aid outreach services identified as having a disability or additional support needs.

Project: Community Awareness Raising and Training

Description

Belfast PCSP will commission an appropriately experienced organisation to develop and deliver awareness raising and training sessions about domestic and sexual violence and abuse across Belfast.

The sessions should include signposting of attendees to local support services addressing some of the underlying issues associated with domestic and sexual violence and abuse including coercive control, drug and alcohol addictions and cyber safety.

They must also outline the process of reporting domestic and sexual violence or abuse and what to expect if you do so.

Service Provider

To be commissioned

Partners who can help us:

Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership

Start & End Date

1st September 2019 - 31 March 2020

Data Development Agenda

Rationale for the Project

The Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland Strategy 2016, Strand 2 – Prevention and Early Intervention, focuses on preventing domestic and sexual violence and abuse, promoting healthy relationships, changing societal behaviours and attitudes towards violence and early intervention for those at risk. This awareness raising and training project will support directly contribute to achieving this priority.

Domestic Violence and Abuse is an issue across the city of Belfast, however it continues to be under reported and this project will improve capacity of community and voluntary sector activists to understand and confidently address the issues of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

Sign posting to local support services should suggest pathways to change for participants and stakeholders.

Previous domestic violence and abuse workshops have shown good results and the PCSP will expect the same from the project:

Project 1; March 2018

- 100% of participants improved knowledge about domestic violence and resources available to tackle it
- 100% of participants were more confident and able to engage people in addressing domestic violence, specifically by encouraging the use of safe places in east and north Belfast; and signposting onto appropriate resources as needed

Training participants reported that they had a better understanding of:

- the principles of advocacy work

- understanding risk assessments and applying appropriate methods
- how to provide a first response
- informed safety planning
- knowledge of other agencies able to support victims of domestic or sexual violence

Performance Measures

How much did we do?

participants

How well did we do it?

#% partners reporting satisfaction with activities

Is anyone better off?

#% participants have improved level of awareness of information, resources and support available

#% participants are more confident in addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse

Project: Talking About Consent

Description

Sexual consent is a difficult issue to address for adults and for young people it can be even more difficult.

A number of recent high profile cases has brought the issue of consent to the fore of public consciousness and informal feedback from a number of our youth workers indicates that there is a need to support young people to work out how to talk about it.

This project proposes to build on the No Grey Zone campaign launched in October as PSNI officers recorded 3,528 reports of sexual offences between September 2017 and August 2018, compared to 3,229 during the previous 12 months, a rise of 9.3%.

However, they are concerned that many sexual assaults go unreported, and have called for all victims to come forward.

This **Talking About Consent** project will support Belfast youth clubs and school groups to have conversations about consent. Key stages include:

- Session resources will be pulled together and PCSP branded
- Initial contact with youth groups and post primary schools in Belfast
- Marketing and ongoing communications with youth groups and post primary schools
- Session delivery
- One mid-term evaluation to include information from 10 months of session delivery

Service Provider
Nexus NI

Partners who can help us:
Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership

Start & End Date
To 31 March 2020

Data Development Agenda

Rationale for the Project

PSNI recorded 3,528 reports of sexual offences between September 2017 and August 2018, compared to 3,229 during the previous 12 months, a rise of 9.3%.

However, they are concerned that many sexual assaults go unreported, and have called for all victims to come forward

The Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland Strategy 2016, Strand 2 – Prevention and Early Intervention, focuses on preventing domestic and sexual violence and abuse, promoting healthy relationships, changing societal behaviours and attitudes towards violence and early intervention for those at risk

This Talking About Consent project will support directly contribute to achieving this priority.

This project proposes to build on the No Grey Zone campaign launched in October 2018.



WITHOUT CONSENT IS A CRIME

All sexual touching without consent is a crime.

nogreyzone.com



NO GREY ZONE

Performance Measures

How much did we do?

- # resources produced
- # participants

How well did we do it?

- #% partners reporting satisfaction with activities

Is anyone better off?

- # participants with improved level of awareness, knowledge and understanding of consent issues
- # participants reported that they were more confident in addressing consent
- # participants more likely to report crimes

Project: Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Crisis Support Project

Description

This project has commissioned CM Works to work closely with the Members of Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership (BADSVAP) and Belfast PCSP to develop a resource pack and associated programme to support women leaving crisis, particularly to improve their parenting skills and confidence.

The contractor will also develop and deliver training and provide mentoring to the staff and volunteers who will deliver the programme in future.

The resource pack will take cognizance of the existing programmes to prevent duplication and ensure complementarity:

- Women's Aid Journey to Freedom
- Women's Aid Helping Hands
- Women's Aid New Beginnings
- Women's Aid You and Me Mum
- Incredible Years Programme
- Strengthening Families Programme
- Parenting NI

Proposed Programme

This course will be a specialised parenting programme that incorporates the services currently delivered by Women's Aid and other relevant organisations.

The programme will run for 8 weeks covering a range of topics including Mother's Well-being, Nutrition, Engaging with Children, Children's Safety, and more.

Each session will be 2 hours in length. The first hour will contain a theory segment with brainstorming sessions, handouts, role-plays, and group work. The second hour will contain an interactive component with activities such as cooking, and interactive play with children.

This course will be designed for women and children who are living in refuge or women who previously lived in refuge seeking practical support to parent. Participants may self-refer or be referred by Social Workers, Doctors, Health Visitors, Family Support Workers, and other health and social care professionals.

Once the pack is developed, it will be trialled by very skilled and experienced facilitators however, if necessary specialists may be invited to deliver specific aspects of the programme.

"Try this at Home" exercises will be included in each session for mothers to try with their children in their free time, and report how it went at the next session. For example, reading a children's book together, or singing a song/nursery rhyme with child, trying a certain healthy snack.

Possible Session Themes with Components:

1.) Emotional Health, Self-esteem & Healthy Relationships (New Beginnings, Mother's Well-being)

Thinking, Feeling, Acting and knowing the difference

How to Promote Self-Confidence
Building Healthy Relationships

2.) Children's Care, Learning, & Development (crash course)

Learn how children learn and grow
Importance of establishing routines—bedtimes, mealtimes, play times, etc.
Importance of providing stimulation—physical, mental, emotional, social
Children's hygiene needs

3.) Engaging with Children

Importance of listening to children
Taking an interest in your child (their likes, hobbies, etc.)
How to interact with children (playing, baking, reading, singing/dancing, sports, outings, talks at meal times, etc.)
Group Activity ex: make playdough with children

4.) Nutrition

Discuss Food Groups & Importance of a balanced diet
The dangers of sugar (obesity, tooth decay, behaviour problems, hyperactivity, etc.)
Group Activity ex: make healthy snacks OR demo cooking a healthy meal, time permitting (bring in outside person?)
Supply Mothers with easy meal recipes (handouts)

5.) ACES, Attachment, & Building Resilience in Children

ACES (crash course). How trauma effects children's areas of development
Secure Attachments and importance of bonding with children
Helping children cope with difficult situations
The power of praise and encouragement for children

6.) Children's Safety

Protective Behaviours—Helping Hands Ex: oh- oh Signs
E-safety
You & Me Mum
Journey to Freedom
Link in with ACEs training

7.) Behaviour Management and Maintaining Boundaries (with conflict resolution component)

How to manage challenging behaviours (possible Conflict Resolution component)
Setting Rules and sticking with consequences
Role Play Scenarios

8.) Wrap Up/ Put it All Together

Service Provider

CM Works

Partners who can help us

Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence
and Abuse Partnership

Start & End Date

To 31 March 2020

Data Development Agenda

Rationale for the Project

The Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland Strategy 2016, Strand 4 – Support, focuses on providing support including educational support, housing support, outreach and advocacy and improving access to more specialist psychological interventions. This crisis support project will directly contribute to achieving this priority.

In 2016/2017 there were:

- 3 935 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in Belfast
- 33 cases of human trafficking in NI
- In Belfast & Lisburn, 303 Women and 225 children accessed refuge
- In Belfast & Lisburn 758 women were supported through outreach
- Women’s Aid runs a number of programmes with the women in refuge.

Women’s Aid volunteers and staff have considered the informal requests for help from the women in refuges. Practical help and confidence to parent well has emerged as a concern.

As such, BADSVAP agreed that a parenting programme would be very valuable, but that it needed to compliment ongoing programmes.

Performance Measures

How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
# participants	#% partners reporting satisfaction with activities
Is anyone better off?	
#% participants have improved level of awareness of information, resources and support available	
#% participants are more confident in addressing the issue	