



Isle of Wight  
Council


# Domestic Abuse Portfolio Reflections

Nicola Dennis and Sophie Ross


# Definition of “domestic abuse” from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- (2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—
  - (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
  - (b) the behaviour is abusive.
- (3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—
  - (a) physical or sexual abuse;
  - (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
  - (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
  - (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4));
  - (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;
- and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

# Domestic abuse support on the Isle of Wight



Domestic Abuse | Sexual Abuse | Stalking | Training

Donate 



Login

Donate

Hide my tracks

Search...

- [Our services](#)
- [About us](#)
- [Training & consultancy](#)
- [Work with us](#)
- [Evidence & impact](#)
- [New](#)

## Read about our Isle of Wight team

We have been commissioned by the Isle of Wight Council to deliver a range of services to support victims of domestic abuse. This is targeted support for adults and children who are experiencing domestic abuse. The service is commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

## OUR SERVICES

Inspiring change and transforming lives.



# Duties on Local Authorities

- Creation of a new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- To provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- To assess the need for domestic abuse support in the area.
- To work to ensure that all existing policies and new policies are written and carried in such a way as to be inclusive of the new statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling and economic abuse.

# Duties on Local Authorities

- Creation of a new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- To provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- To assess the need for domestic abuse support in the area.
- To work to ensure that all existing policies and new policies are written and carried in such a way as to be inclusive of the new statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling and economic abuse.

# Scoping the work

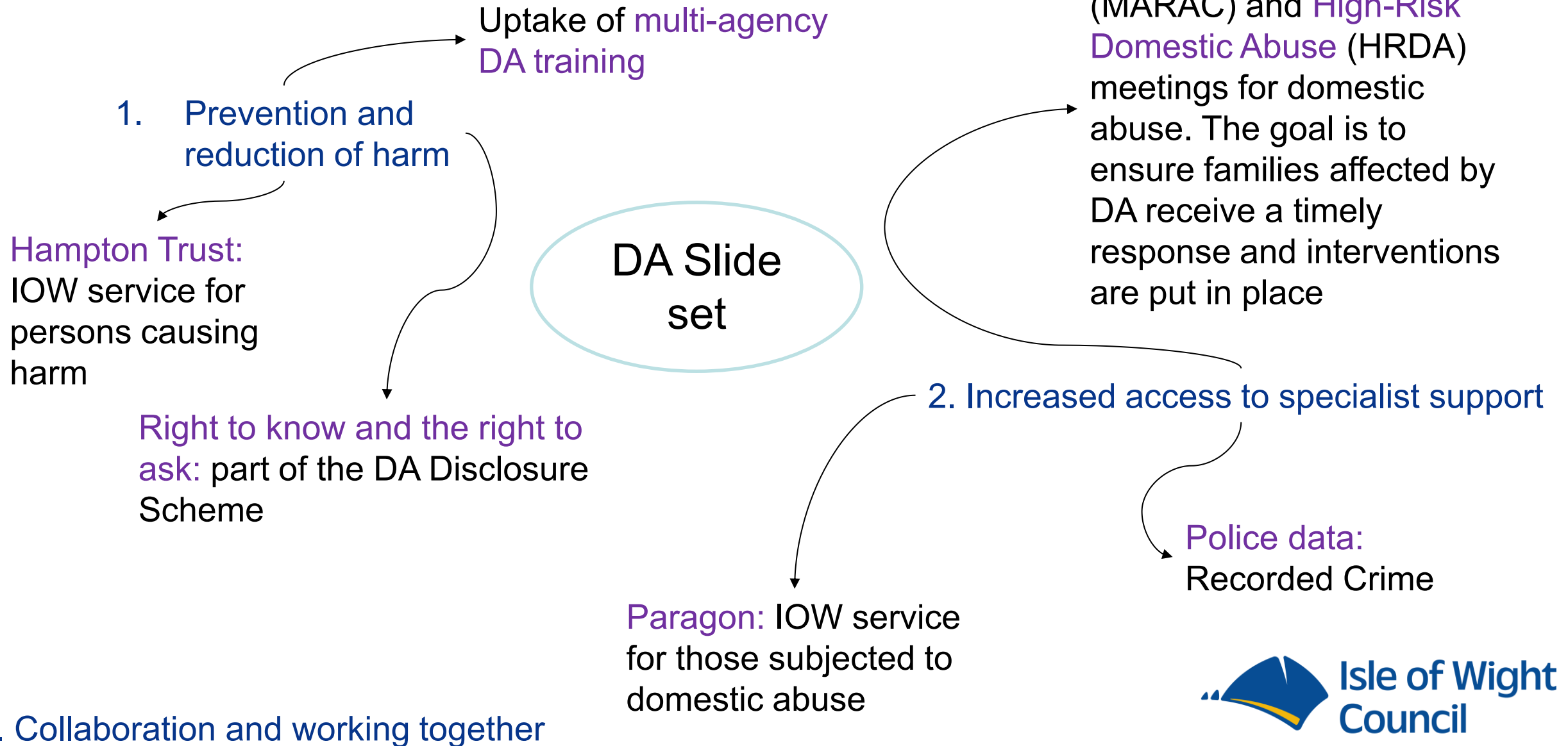
## Understand previous work

- DA Power BI created during the HLOW Public Health Partnership

## Understand the needs of the group

- Attended Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB)
- Power BI became unavailable as an option, leading to a slideset
- A tool that could be used to support the monitoring of progress against the strategy

# Domestic abuse data sources



# Prevention and reduction of harm data

## Hampton Trust: IOW service for persons causing harm

- Quarterly data on referrals that must be aggregated to yearly
- Referral demographics have not be shared with the group
- Not a representative sample of people causing harm

## Uptake of multi-agency DA training

- Help to understand who is attending the training and the reach
- Difficult to understand the denominator

# Prevention and reduction of harm data

## Right to know and right to ask

- Count of applications
- Not all right to ask requests end with a disclosure
- Difficult to understand how Clare's Law is helping to reduce future harm

The **Right to Ask** is a principle that empowers individuals, families, and communities to request information, support, or action from services when they have concerns about safety, wellbeing, or outcomes. Within the context of **Clare's Law (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme)**, the Right to Ask allows a person to make an application to the police if they are concerned that a partner, or someone connected to a friend or family member, may pose a risk.

The **Right to Know** forms the second part of Clare's Law and allows the police to proactively share information with an individual where they identify that someone may be at risk of harm from a partner or former partner. This means that even if no application has been made, the police can make a disclosure where it is considered necessary to protect an individual.

# Increased access to specialist support

## Police recorded crime data

### What sort of analysis is achievable?

- Key fields used in analysis: Type of crime, relationship (those causing harm), date of crime, date crime was recorded, DA flag
- Trend analysis, understanding date of crime compared to recorded crime date, type of crime occurring, relationship dynamics

### Caveats:

- Crimes where the relationship was intimate and the crime was violent yet no DA flag
- DA flag assigned to crimes that would appear to be non-DA related
- This is only recorded crime, the true impact of DA will be higher

# Increased access to specialist support

## Paragon – Local domestic abuse commissioned service

- Supports those subjected to domestic abuse
- Counts of referrals per quarter: risk levels, referral outcome and referral source
- Characteristics of those referred: age, sex, ethnicity, presenting needs -> helps us to understand about the people subjected to DA and referred for help
- Not all those referred will engage with the service but analysis is based on all of those referred
- Unable to analyse differences in those that do and do not engage

# Increased access to specialist support

## HRDA and MARAC

- Records the number of cases presented at MARAC and HRDA meetings
- Allows for identification of trends
- As a stand alone figure difficult to interpret, need the context and trend to this
- Frequency of meetings varies across areas

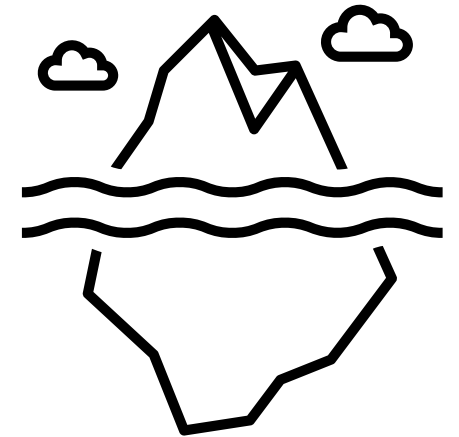
**HRDA meetings:** consider and triage the highest risk domestic abuse incidents.

**MARACs** provide a multi agency response for high-risk domestic abuse victims where up to date risk information is combined with a comprehensive assessment of the victims needs. This enables appropriate services to be put in place for all those involved in the case.

# Reflections of working in the DA portfolio

- Data can only provide so much – it is capturing just the tip of the iceberg
- Number of partners working together
- Specific perspectives
- Lack of data definitions compared to standardised data sources we use regularly
- Different services collecting different data
- Lack of comparator and defined denominators
- Complex statutory responsibilities
- Can be isolated from other PH portfolios

Those reporting DA  
to the police  
Those referred into  
a service for support



# Impact on policy



The Isle of Wight  
domestic abuse  
implementation plan  
2024 to 2029

