

An investigation into the needs of men experiencing domestic abuse and current service provision (Wales)

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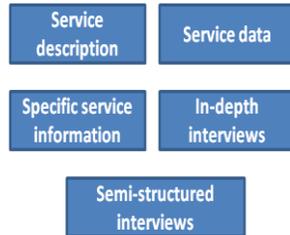
Background - Our knowledge of men experiencing domestic abuse is limited due to the sparse amount of research and available literature that explores men's experiences and perspectives. Furthermore, there is no explicit resource available that provides information on the number of specialist services that support men and the type of support provided. In Wales, Robinson & Rowlands (2006) identified a distinct lack of available services/provision of support for men. More recently, a review of domestic abuse services in Wales identified a need for more research with survivors and recent service users to understand their evaluations of services (Berry *et al*, 2014). The review recognised a failure to match provision to need for specific groups which included male victims.

Aims - To identify the needs of men who experience domestic abuse from an intimate partner and determine whether current services in Wales have the provision to meet those needs.

Research Design and Methods

A mixed method multi-strand design via three phases of data collection.

- **Phase one:** Distribution of 'Service description and data questionnaire'
- **Phase two:** Distribution of 'Specific service information questionnaire'. In-depth interviews with men analysed using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA).
- **Phase three:** Semi-structured interviews with service managers and practitioners – interim data from phase one and two informed the semi-structured interview guide. Analysis of semi-structured interviews using thematic analysis.



Support for data collection was sought and secured from Mr. Leighton Andrews, the Violence Against Women Team at Welsh Government, Welsh Women's Aid and all four Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales.

Ethics - Ethical approval via the University of South Wales Ethics Committee. Following guidance provided by ADSS Cymru, Directors and Heads of Social Services within each of the 22 local authorities in Wales were contacted to seek their permission to approach domestic abuse services within their local authority area.

References

Berry, V., Stanley, N., Radford, L., McCarty, M., & Larkins, C. (2014). *Building Effective Responses: An Independent Review of Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Wales*. University of Llantwit Major, Welsh Government. Available: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/carcw/research/2114/140519-violence-against-women-domestic-abuse-sexual-violence-services-en.pdf>. (Accessed 4th June 2014).

Robinson, A. & Rowlands, J. (2006). *The Dyn Project: Supporting Men Experiencing Domestic Abuse: Final Evaluation Report*. Available: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socs/resources/Dyn_Final_Evaluation_Report.pdf. (Accessed 3rd March 2014).

Results

Analysis is on-going. Once complete, triangulation across all data-sets via use of meta-matrix will occur.

Service data - Service data has informed the development of a unique service map of Wales. The map provides service information including; contact details, type of support provided and opening hours. Emerging results from quantitative analysis suggest a lack of consistency in the provision of services to men and data collection across Wales.

Themes from in-depth interviews



Themes from semi-structured interviews



Stemming from a lack of recognition of men as victims of domestic abuse, a perpetuating cycle is created resulting in low numbers of men seeking help and subsequent limited provision.

Conclusion

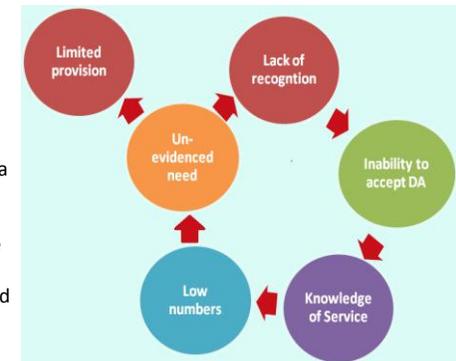
There appears to be no consistent approach to data collection within domestic abuse services across Wales. Data collected is determined by funders.

Men experiencing domestic abuse are bound by established gender norms and perceptions that domestic abuse only affects women. Ingrained constructs of domestic abuse where men are abusers not victims, continue to dominate and prevent a genuine acknowledgment of the existence of male victims. Men are not readily accepted as victims and the notion of male domestic abuse remains inconsequential. Raising awareness for male victims and preventing abuse for all regardless of gender, requires a challenge to the prevailing gendered approach in which domestic abuse is positioned

Service map of Wales



The perpetuating cycle of lack of recognition & provision



Further information
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