

# DAVSS

HENU CUMMINS



# Objectives of today

- ▶ **Introduction to DAVSS**
- ▶ **Support and services DAVSS provides**
- ▶ **Understand the term ‘domestic abuse’**
- ▶ **Understand the term ‘coercive control’**
- ▶ **Indicators of Abuse**

# **DAVSS** Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service

- ▶ **DAVSS are a Community based Charity founded in 2011.**
- ▶ **We use a cost effective volunteer based model where the community meets its own needs.**
- ▶ **DAVSS works across Sevenoaks District, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council areas.**
- ▶ **Supports men and women who are experiencing DA, assisting them to break the cycle of abuse.**
- ▶ **We provide advice, information and advocacy services, we provide courses to empower victims and aid them in their journey to recovery and healing**
- ▶ **We are on Doris – to enable referrals from the health care sector**

# What Do We Do?

- ▶ Helpline providing immediate safety advice.
- ▶ Face to face meetings.
- ▶ Risk assessments to national standards.
- ▶ MARAC.
- ▶ Sign posting to partner agencies and voluntary organisations.
- ▶ Pro bono legal advice.
- ▶ Support to court.
- ▶ Raising public awareness.
- ▶ Co-ordinating and co-facilitating FREEDOM programmes & RTK.
- ▶ One Stop Shop.
- ▶ Bespoke support for as long as client requires.
- ▶ DAY programme Domestic Abuse youth awareness programme

# What do we know?

**1. Domestic Abuse accounts for what % of all reported violent crime?**

- a) 2%      b) 16%      c) 25%**

# What do we know?

**2. In Britain a woman is killed by a violent partner or former partner every**

- a) 3 days      b) week      c) 2 weeks**

# What do we know?

**3. What % of women experience domestic abuse in their lifetime?**

- a) 2%      b) 10%      c) 25%**

# What do we know?

**4. How many times on average is a woman assaulted before she seeks help?**

- a) 5      b) 15      c) 35**

# What do we know?

**5. On average, one man is killed by their female partner or former partner every ... weeks?**

- a) 2    b) 4    c) 5**

# What do we know?

**6. On average, how many women a year are killed by their male partner or former partner?**

**a) 22**

**b) 52**

**c) 112**

# What do we know?

**7. How likely is a woman in an abusive relationship, to be assaulted when pregnant?**

**a) less    b) just as    c) more**

# What do we know?

**8. In Britain a woman is assaulted in her home every?**

**a) 6 seconds**

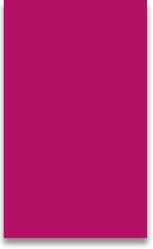
**b) 60 seconds**

**c) 6 minutes**

# Statistics

- **26% of women and 15% of men have experienced DA since the age of 16**
- **In 2017-2018 an estimated 1.2 million women and 713,00 of men have experienced DA**
- **Every day 30 women attempt suicide as a result of experiencing DA**
- **Every day 3 women take their own life**

- 
- **2 women are killed every week by current or former partners**
  - **Domestic Abuse has the highest repeat victimisation than any other crime**
  - **A women is assaulted on average 35 times before her first call to the police**
  - **1 in 5 teenagers have been physically abused by their boyfriend or girlfriend (boys much more likely to be perpetrators)**
  - **A significantly high proportion of teenagers believe physical abuse is justified in many instances.**

- 
- **20% of children in the UK have lived with an adult perpetrating domestic violence**
  - **62% of children in households where domestic violence is happening are also directly harmed**
  - **An estimated 39,000 babies under one year of age live with domestic violence in the UK**
  - **Experiencing domestic abuse as a child leads to long lasting life changing negative implications resulting in adverse childhood experiences.**
  - **This has a direct impact on physical and mental health, causes anxiety and depression and a range of lasting physical health conditions**



- **Domestic abuse costs the NHS 1.73 billion that's not inclusive of the costs to the mental health services. If DA were to be responded to before the point of crisis, wider and more detrimental costs later on could be minimized.**
- **The social and economic cost for victims of domestic abuse in year ending March 2017 in England and Wales is estimated £66 billion**
- **Annually just over £2,050 per victim in health service use more specifically £68 in GP practice per victim.**

- 
- **46% of individuals who access specialist services have reported having visited their GP an average of 5 times as a result of domestic abuse– the cost implications of those visits speak for themselves.**
  - **88% of those experiencing DA have visited their GP for a reason other than domestic abuse**
  - **Domestic abuse isn't just about the broken arm or the black eye we must be mindful of this overarching theme in almost every abuse case is this issue of coercion and control.**
  - **Just over half of our clients have reported they just wanted someone to ask them and they may have disclosed to their GP if their doctor had asked them.**

# Types Of Relationships

**Domestic abuse can occur between those who are:**

- **Intimate Partners or ex-partners regardless of sexuality**
- **Familial – family members including adolescent to parent**
- **Honour based violence HBV**
- **There is a significant rise in adult children abusing their parents.**

# What is Domestic Abuse (1)

**Any incident or pattern of incidents of;**

- **controlling, coercive, 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**

# What is Domestic Abuse (2)

**The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:**

- **physical**
- **psychological**
- **emotional**
- **sexual**
- **financial**

# What is Domestic Abuse (3)

**Also includes – ‘so called honour-based violence’**

- **Female Genital Mutilation**
- **Forced Marriage**

**Victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group**

# What is Domestic Abuse (4)

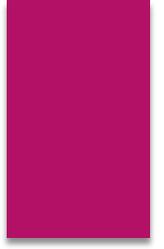
**Coercive behaviour** is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

**Controlling behaviour** is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent

# What is Coercive Control?

- **Isolating you from your friends and family**
- **Controlling how much money you have and how you spend it**
- **Monitoring your activities and your movements**
- **Repeatedly putting you down, calling you names or telling you that you are worthless**
- **Threatening to harm or kill you or your child**
- **Threatening to publish information about you or to report you to the police or the authorities**
- **Damaging your property or household goods**
- **forcing you to take part in criminal activity or child abuse**

**Coercive  
control?**



# Indicators

- **Unexplained injuries**
- **Personality changes**
- **Constantly checking with partner**
- **Alcohol misuse**
- **Drug Misuse**
- **Repeated visits to their health care provider**

# ASKING THAT HARD QUESTION?

**Is someone at home or someone you know making you feel unsafe?**

**Is something happening at home that you are unhappy about?**

**(Dont shy away from asking because you might be wrong/or you might offend someone, Their an adult they will get over it, but by asking you might just have saved a life)**

# DHR

**A multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves (this now includes suicides in households where DA is or has been a feature)**

**Kent has commissioned a significantly high number of reviews – at circa 36 now.**

**Learning:**

**Share information**

**Don't be afraid to ask those tough questions**

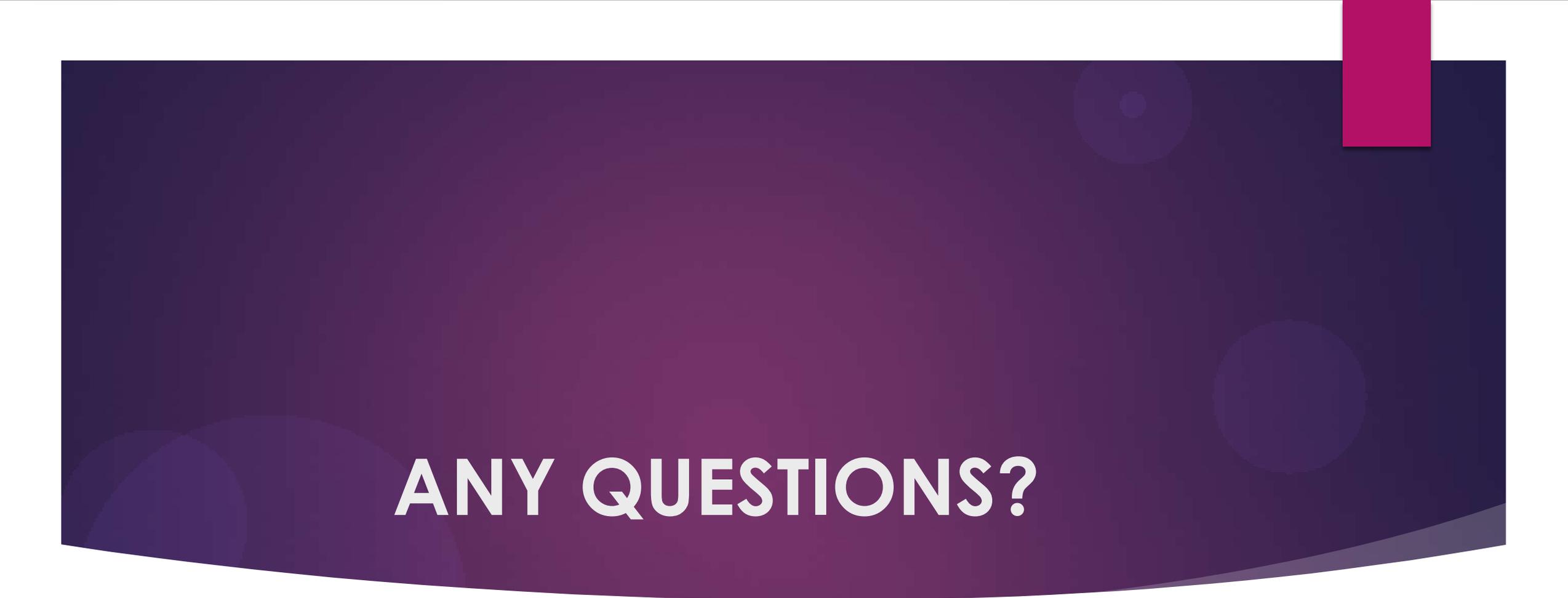
**Revert to professional curiosity**

**Increase knowledge and training**

**Be aware of culture/religion/age**

# What can we do as a society?

- ▶ We must keep lines of communication open
- ▶ We must create a culture where individuals experiencing domestic abuse feel comfortable enough to come forward and access life changing help and support
- ▶ Domestic abuse is everyone's problem, safeguarding is everyone's problem
- ▶ We have to work together to help ensure it doesn't remain a 'hidden issue'
- ▶ Together we must break down barriers and myths – understand that it can and does happen to anyone regardless of what walk of life they come from.



**ANY QUESTIONS?**

Henu Cummins - DAVSS