

Client Group: People Fleeing Domestic Abuse

Needs Analysis
(Refreshed December 2008)

'Supporting you to build an independent life'

Introduction

This client group includes people at risk of domestic abuse who have left their home or who are having difficulty in keeping their home and establishing their personal safety and security.

Domestic abuse is, “any incident of threatening behaviour, abuse or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship together, or between family members, regardless of gender or sexuality”¹.

Domestic abuse is rarely a one off incident, instead continuing into a pattern of abuse. It spans society regardless of age, gender, sexuality, wealth and geography, and therefore, services provided need to reflect the social diversity to this problem. At a national level, figures show domestic abuse accounts for 15% of all violent crime, is mainly carried out by men against women, claims the lives of two women each week and 30 men per year, and will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime².

¹ Home Office (2006) <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/domestic-abuse/?version=1>

² Home Office (2006) *Crime in England & Wales 05/06 Report*

SUPPLY

Current Supporting People Position

Current Supporting People Spend (2008/09)	£451,658 4.44% of total SP pot
Summary of services funded by Supporting People:	
Accommodation Based:	19 units
Floating Support:	60 units
Total number of people supported:	79

Table 1; Supporting People Provision, Breakdown by District/Borough:

District	Floating Support			Accommodation based		
	% of total max. client group spend	No. of units	% of units	% of total max. client group spend	No. of units	% of units
North Warwickshire BC	9.12%	12	15.38%	4.45%	2	2.56%
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	9.12%	12	15.38%	27.97%	8	10.26%
Rugby BC	9.12%	12	15.38%	10.73%	3	3.85%
Stratford-on-Avon DC	9.12%	12	15.38%	11.27%	5	6.41%
Warwick DC	9.12%	12	15.38%	0.00%	0	0.00%

Average utilisation of services in 2007/8:	
Floating support:	118.12%
Accommodation based:	78.95%

Information from Sectorial Overview

- Supporting People has five services delivered by two providers with a current contract value totalling £451,658. All services provide short-term support and accept single women, women with children, and people between 16 and 64. Three services accept people over 65.
- All services exclude couples. Two services exclude women with dependent males over a specific age, serious offenders and people who misuse drugs and alcohol. In addition to these exclusions, one service also excludes people at risk of self-harm, people with arson convictions, challenging behaviour, multiple disabilities, and pets.
- There is currently no countywide free telephone service for victims despite user feedback identifying this as a needed service.
- There are currently no services for male victims of domestic abuse funded by SP. To provide this type of service specialist training would be required and this may need a worker specifically for male victims rather than staff working with both male and female victims.

Waiting List

Table 2: Waiting list for people fleeing domestic abuse client group on 30th June 07

Service Type	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
Floating Support	-	-	-	-	-	0

Source: Supporting People

CURRENT POSITION WITHIN WARWICKSHIRE

Figures suggest that in Warwickshire domestic abuse accounts for approximately 15% of all violent crime, similar to the figure for England and Wales. Information on domestic abuse has been collected by a range of agencies across the County, including the Police, Warwickshire Domestic Abuse Support Service (WDVSS), and the Stratford-on-Avon Outreach Project (StOP). However, domestic abuse still goes largely unreported and the data available and statistics presented are likely to be an underestimation of the problem.

There are some 221,900² women living in Warwickshire, and if national trends were assumed to be occurring in Warwickshire, 1 in 4 of these women will be a victim of domestic abuse at some point in their lifetime.³ This would suggest that approximately 55,475 women living in Warwickshire will suffer domestic abuse at some stage in their lives. For a breakdown of estimated prevalence by District refer to Table 3. A research study undertaken by consultants estimated that, “eight percent of the female population in Warwickshire, or

² Office of National Statistics 2007 Mid Year Estimates (women aged 15+)

³ Home Office (2006) Crime in England & Wales 05/06 Report

12,400 women, experience domestic abuse in any one year and that there are approximately 61,320 incidents per year”⁴.

Table 3: Estimate of the number of women in Warwickshire who will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lifetime

District	Number of women 15+*	Estimated victim of domestic abuse in lifetime
North Warwickshire	26,400	6,600
Nuneaton & Bedworth	50,500	12,625
Rugby	37,500	9,375
Stratford on Avon	50,600	12,650
Warwick	57,200	14,300
Warwickshire	221,900	55,475

*Using ONS 2007 mid year estimates

N.B. Totals do not exactly equal totals above due to rounding of figures by ONS to nearest 1,000

In addition, in line with national trends, it could be assumed that 1 in 6 men are expected to be victims of domestic abuse within their lifetime, amounting to some 35,650 men in Warwickshire.

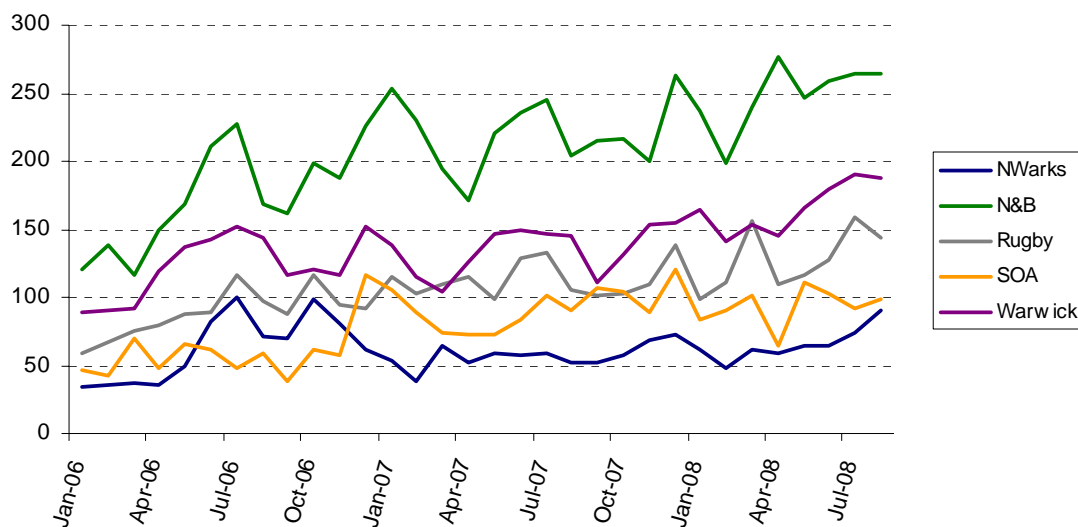
Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident of threatening behaviour, abuse or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Domestic abuse is therefore not limited to physical abuse and incidents can include, for example, harassment, criminal damage and burglary.

Media campaigns, increasing the awareness and reporting of domestic abuse, go some way to explaining the rise in incidents identified in the chart. However, domestic abuse is still underreported and as a result of a recently launched countywide media campaign and a Domestic Abuse Strategy it is generally expected that further increases will occur in 2008/09.

⁴ Broadhurst, K; Keats, G; and Owen, K (2005) A Review of the Links Between Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse in Warwickshire. Perpetuity Research & Consultancy International (PRCI) Ltd.

Figure 1: Domestic Abuse Incidents Reported to Police, Jan 2006 – Aug 2008



Between August 2007 and July 2008 there were 7,985 recorded incidents that were flagged as ‘domestic related’. This equates to an average of 665 incidents per month or 22 incidents per day.

Table 4: “Domestic related” incidents reported August 2007 to July 2008

District/Borough	Aug 07 – Jul 08	Monthly Average	Incidents per ‘000 residents
North Warwickshire	737	61	12
Nuneaton & Bedworth	2,820	235	23
Rugby	1,437	120	16
Stratford upon Avon	1,156	96	10
Warwick	1,835	153	14
Warwickshire	7,985	665	

Source: Warwickshire Police

As indicated in the above table, Nuneaton & Bedworth not only has the highest level of incidents in the 12 months to 31st July 2008, but also the highest rate, with 23 incidents occurring for every 1,000 residents who live in the borough.

The number of incidents has been increasing in all five districts/boroughs:

Table 5: “Domestic related incidents reported January 2006 to June 2008

District/Borough	Jan 06 to Jun 06	Monthly Average	Jan 07 to Jun 07	Monthly Average	Jan 08 to Jun 08	Monthly Average
North Warwickshire	274	46	325	54	361	60
Nuneaton & Bedworth	907	151	1304	217	1459	243
Rugby	456	76	671	112	720	120
Stratford upon Avon	334	56	496	83	553	92
Warwick	671	112	779	130	950	158
Total	2642	440	3575	596	4043	674

It is important to recognise that domestic abuse can occur anywhere and involve anyone. However the main town centres of the County feature as being areas where domestic abuse is most prevalent. There is also a traditional link with areas of deprivation and this is partly confirmed when looking at ‘hot spots’ over the 12 months to 31st July 2008. In North Warwickshire, Hartshill has been identified as a particular problem area, but Bar Pool in

Nuneaton, Brownsover South in Rugby and the areas of Brunswick and Lillington in Leamington Spa are also hot spots.

Table 6: People Referred to WDVSS April 2007 to March 2008.

WDVSS Office	Number of People Referred	Per 1000 women 15+
North Warwickshire	157	5.9
Nuneaton/Bedworth	661	13.0
Rugby	396	10.5
Stratford	196	3.8
Warwick	366	6.3
Total	1776	8.0

Source: WDVSS

Another indicator of domestic abuse is the number of clients received by WDVSS. Not all clients that use WDVSS will have reported incidents to the Police, so this is a useful gauge of some of the unreported domestic abuse incidents that take place across the County (refer to Table 6).

Only 513 referrals to WDVSS were identified in the last Needs Analysis produced in 2007, whereas WDVSS received 1,776 referrals for the period April 2007 to March 2008. WDVSS report that they now receive all police referrals where women have indicated that they would like some support whereas this was not the case when the figures were compiled in 2007. In addition WDVSS have improved the way in which they collect data. It is unclear whether these two factors account for all of the increase but they clearly indicate a high level of need.

Table 7: Service used, by District/Region in which the new client was residing at time of referral, 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008

LA of Origin	Stratford Refuge	Ashram	Rugby Refuge	Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Refuge	Floating Support - Countywide	Other	Total
North Warwickshire	0	0	0	12	19	0	31
Nuneaton & Bedworth	1	2	0	7	73	0	83
Rugby	1	0	5	1	33	1	41
Stratford on Avon	6	0	0	0	55	1	62
Warwick	4	0	3	0	48	2	57
Warwickshire	12	2	8	20	228	4	274
Outside of County	7	14	7	1	2	0	31
Total	19	16	15	21	230	4	305

Source: Supporting People (2008)

Table 7 provides a breakdown of the refuge attended, or floating support received, by women starting a service between 1st April 2007 and 30th September 2008, and the District the women were residing in the previous night:

- The highest number of new clients (83) to start a service between the above dates had been residing in Nuneaton & Bedworth before being referred, with the lowest number (31) located in North Warwickshire.
- Some 31 women originated from outside the county.

Almost all women from outside the county used the Ashram refuge (14), the Stratford refuge (7) and the Rugby Refuge (7).

Table 8; Woman's Ethnic Group, by District/Region in which residing at time of referral, 2nd April 2007 to 6 April 2008

LA of Origin	Ethnic Group						Total
	White	Asian & Asian British	Black & Black British	Chinese or other ethnic group	Mixed	Refused	
North Warwickshire	31	-	-	-	-	-	31
Nuneaton & Bedworth	79	4	-	-	-	-	83
Rugby	34	2	-	-	2	3	41
Stratford on Avon	59	-	2	-	1	-	62
Warwick	51	2	1	1	1	1	57
Warwickshire	254	8	3	1	4	4	274
Outside of County	14	9	3	2	3	-	31
Total	268	17	6	3	7	4	305

Source: Supporting People (2008)

Table 8 shows the ethnic group of women who started using a refuge, or floating support, in or outside of Warwickshire between 2nd April 2007 and 6th April 2008:

- Some 87.8% of the women were 'White', 5.5% were 'Asian & Asian British', 2.2% of 'mixed' ethnic origin, 1.9% 'Black & Black British'.
- Some 23.5% (4) of the 'Asian & Asian British' women using one of the services in Warwickshire had been residing in Nuneaton & Bedworth prior to using the service and 52.9% (9) women) were referred from outside of Warwickshire.

Victim Profile^{4 5}

Research conducted by consultants in 2005 estimated that:

- The typical age of victims reporting domestic abuse in Warwickshire ranges between 31 and 40 years.
- Some 84% of reporting victims are female.
- On average they will have two children, usually under the age of five years.
- Some 90% of victims are white British, 6.3% Asian and 1.4% African Caribbean.
- The research also found that the Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Team (DAMAT) data consisted of a high percentage of disabled survivors of domestic abuse who may experience greater problems in trying to escape the abuse and access the services.

⁴ Broadhurst, K; Keats, G; and Owen, K (2005) A Review of the Links Between Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse in Warwickshire. Perpetuity Research & Consultancy International (PRCI) Ltd.

⁵ Data mainly from DAMAT data sources. Caution needs to be exercised when approaching this data because a number of datasets were missing, and the total number of cases relatively small.

- Some of the victims had substance misuse problems - 11% of the victims in Warwick, 5% in Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire, and 6% in Stratford (there was no information for Rugby). Substance misuse among victims across the county was 7%.
- Where information about employment status was available, approximately half of victims were unemployed.
- On average, 45% of victims lived in council accommodation and 41% in owner occupied housing.
- Some 15% of all homeless applications are related to domestic abuse.
- Some 58% of victims were abused by their husband or current partner
- Some 26% of victims were separated, divorced or in the process of getting divorced.
- Approximately 80% of victims (3,532 incidents) had children, with 87% (2,826) of these children witnessing or experiencing domestic abuse.

Local Perspectives

- All Homelessness Strategies across the county identify victims of domestic abuse fleeing abusive relationships as one of the main reasons for homelessness. For example:
 - In North Warwickshire, violent relationship breakdown accounted for 12% of homelessness reasons for housing need. They report that victims of domestic abuse are 10 times more likely to lose their tenancy in the future than any household
 - Rugby identify that there were 10 cases of homelessness due to violent relationship breakdown out of the total of 211 ie 5%, but indicated that this issue was also one of the main reasons for homelessness for families
 - Stratford reported this issue as also a main reason for homelessness

Repeat DV Victims

- Nationally, 50% of women returned to their perpetrators from refuges. In 2004, some 36% of women from the Rugby refuge returned to the perpetrator, and in 2005, 38% returned to the perpetrator.¹
- Very few women sought help immediately after their first experience of abuse – on average it took 21 incidents.
- There are three clear areas where repeat domestic abuse victims are living:
 - Nuneaton – victims spread widely across the town
 - Leamington – most victims appear to live in the south of the town
 - Rugby – victims spread widely across the town.

¹ Domestic Abuse Refuge Project Group

Supporting People Client Database Information

During 2007/08 there were 305 new services users who had their primary need group assessed as at 'risk of domestic abuse' and provided with housing support under the Supporting People programme. 76% were provided with floating support, 23% were placed in a women's refuge.

Table 9: New Supporting People service users in 2007/08 whose primary need had been assessed as "at risk of domestic Abuse" (305 clients in total)

Client Ethnicity						
White	Asian & Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or other ethnic group	Mixed	Refused	Unknown
268	17	6	3	7	4	-

Provider				
Bromford Carinthia Housing Association	FCH Housing and Care	Heart of England Housing Association	Salvation Army	WDVSS
2	16	1	1	285

Client Age									
Under 18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	unknown
2	15	36	56	110	67	6	6	1	6

Service Type				
Direct Access	Floating Support	Resettlement service	Supported Housing	Womens' Refuge
1	233	-	-	71

Client sex	
Female	Unknown
299	6

Source: Supporting People Client Database 2007/08

The age of service users covered a broad range. However 36% were aged between 30 to 39, followed by 30% in the 20 to 29 age bracket. The majority of the women were White (87%) with 55% being 'Asian and Asian British'.

P1E Homeless Returns

P1E data contains detailed information on those households presenting themselves as homeless to a Local Authority. This dataset is updated quarterly. The following analysis uses data between April 2007 and March 2008. From Table 10, during 2007/08, Stratford

had the most applicants accepted because their primary need was being considered vulnerable as a result of fleeing domestic abuse.

P1E figures for Rugby were only available for quarters 1,2 and 4. The figures have been adjusted on the assumption that the figures for quarter 3 were equal to the average figure for the other three quarters.

Table 10: Household applicants eligible for assistance and unintentionally homeless, 2007/08, whose priority need category was assessed as 'vulnerable as a result of fleeing their home because of domestic abuse'

Priority Need Category	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
Primary need	0	2	0	4	1	7
Secondary need	0	4	1	0	8	13

Source: P1E Data 2007/08

Due to the ranking of priority need categories the main reasons for leaving their home are not necessarily reflected in the stated priority need category, and this is shown in Table 11. For example, women with children may have 'dependent children in the household' recorded as their priority need category even though it was the abuse that resulted in their having to leave home.

Table 11: Main reason for loss of last settled home for applicant households found to be eligible 2007/08

Reason	North Warwickshire	Nuneaton & Bedworth	Rugby	Stratford on Avon	Warwick	Total
Violent breakdown of a relationship	0	8	7	14	12	41

Source: P1E Data 2007/08

BVPI 225

Assesses overall local authority effectiveness of services to help survivors of domestic abuse

Table 12; BVPI 225

BVPI	Year	NW	N & B	Rugby	Stratford	Warwick
225	2007/08	45.4%	54.5%	63.6%	63.6%	
	2006/07	36.4%	36.4%	45.4%	63.6%	
	2005/06	36.4%	36.4%	9.1%	36.4%	

QUALITATIVE INFORMATION

Table 13: Services available in Warwickshire for people fleeing domestic Abuse

Service Name	Service Type	No. of Places	Funding body	District / Borough
Victim Support	Advise and support victims and through court process and signpost to additional services	N/A. Respond to referral level. Receiving approx 100 referrals per month	Home Office	County wide provision
Visual Evidence for Victims	Visual Evidence for Victims (VEV) collect photographic evidence of injuries at time of incident to support future police investigation	As required	South Warwickshire CDRP	Stratford and Warwick districts
W.D.V.S.S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floating support service and refuge accommodation. - Provide services to women victims only. -Referrals/outreach worker taking all referrals for victims from the police and the Domestic Abuse Referral Point, and allocate to relevant support services 	<p>As of September 2008</p> <p>Floating support: Capacity: 60 service users</p> <p>- Stratford refuge: 5 units</p> <p>- Rugby Refuge: 3 units</p> <p>- Nuneaton and North Warks 7 units</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting People - WCC - North Warwickshire Borough Council - External funding bodies 	County wide provision, however, provision differs throughout the county
D.A.C.S. (Domestic Abuse Counselling Service)	One to one counselling to all victims of DV and DV perpetrators	Unknown. Long term, one to one counselling service	WCC External funding bodies	Victim work delivered county wide, Perpetrator work accepts countywide referrals delivered out of base in Nuneaton
Ashram Asian Women's Hostel	Refuge accommodation for all BMER women & children fleeing domestic Abuse	4 units	FCH Care and Housing	Located in Nuneaton & Bedworth providing a service for victims throughout the county
Sanctuary Scheme	To enable victims who have left the perpetrator to remain in their home through installing security measures.	Unknown	Area Based Grant	Countywide

Swanswell Trust - Alcohol Treatment Programme	Alcohol treatment to perpetrators arrested for domestic Abuse & victims using alcohol.	Unknown	WCC	Nuneaton & Bedworth
Specialist Domestic Abuse Sessions in Courts	Launched in Autumn 2007. To cluster together domestic abuse cases to be heard by specialist magistrates and provide specialist support to victims	Over 400 convictions in past year	Funding being sought from Home Office	Stratford, Rugby & Nuneaton
Domestic Abuse Referral Point	Freephone referral point for anyone concerned about an abusive relationship. Can take victim details and pass on to Referrals Worker		WCC funded.	Countywide

Assumptions of Need

- In view of high numbers of recorded incidents (now reaching 674 per month), services seem to be reaching a small number of users. However, action taken to encourage victims from a range of socio economic backgrounds to report domestic abuse incidents, may result in an increase in demand for services.
- The data on recorded police incidents and service users would suggest that the demand and uptake of service provision is greater in Nuneaton & Bedworth than in the other four Districts. However, this demand is not necessarily a corresponding reflection of the need in each of the Districts. An increase in the awareness of the services available and the encouragement for victims to come forward and seek help may result in the gap in reporting levels between the Districts narrowing.
- Provision of safe secured accommodation, either as respite, or as a stepping-stone to re-housing.
- Provision may also need to be made for the children that may accompany a woman who is seeking assistance and accommodation.
- Feedback from victims of domestic abuse suggests victims want to remain in the vicinity of their support network, keep their children in school, and do not want to go to a strange area where they feel unfamiliar with their surroundings. Unfamiliar surroundings and limited support are frequently cited reasons for victims of domestic abuse returning to their perpetrators.

Implications of Service Unavailability

- Victims remain trapped, living in fear and suffering on many levels, including health, housing and education.

Specific Omissions in Provision

- Lack of service provision for male victims, same sex victims and inter generational abuse.
- Provision of service choice for those victims facing potential homelessness who may wish to remain in their own home.

Feedback from Supporting People Big Event and the Partnership Day

- At the Supporting People Big Event, 7% of the total money allocated to client groups using the 'post box' exercise was received by the client group 'People Fleeing Domestic Abuse'. However, those people who attended in a professional capacity allocated 6.5% of their total funds to this client group compared with 8% by those people who attended in a non professional capacity.
- At the Partnership Day, using the same 'post box' exercise, 'People Fleeing Domestic Abuse' received 3% of the total money allocated.

Strategic Context

- The SP 5-year strategy lists additional accommodation and support for services for women escaping domestic abuse as one of the priorities of services for commissioning over the next five years. SP funded services will also help to deliver the aim of the Warwickshire Domestic Abuse strategy to prevent and reduce incidences of domestic abuse, to reduce victimisation, and protect victims and their children from abuse.
- The Local Authority Best Performance Indicator 225 (April 2005) recommends a ratio of 1 refuge place per 10,000 population, and Warwickshire is currently below this at only 19 units of provision and would need an additional 33 units to comply.