



An Analysis of Domestic Violence using a Range of Partnership Data to Support the Establishment of a 'Domestic Abuse Centre' for Cambridgeshire.

AUTHOR:	Leigh Roberts / Michael Soper
CONTACT NO:	01223 718175
DATE:	13/02/2007
PRODUCED FOR:	County Community Safety Strategic Group

CONTENTS

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE
	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
SECTION ONE	PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE	4
	DATA SOURCES	
SECTION TWO	CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY	7
SECTION THREE	OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES	12
SECTION FOUR	SUPPORT & ADVOCACY SERVICES	14
SECTION FIVE	HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES	17
SECTION SIX	HOUSING AGENCIES	21
SECTION SEVEN	DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	23
	APPENDICES	
APPENDIX ONE	DETAILED DEFINITIONS OF PARTNER ABUSE	25

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following organisations for their contribution:

Addenbrooke's NHS Trust, A&E department
Cambridge City Housing department
Cambridge Women's Aid
Cambridgeshire Advocacy Service
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cambridgeshire Probation
Connexions, Cambridgeshire County Council
Crown Prosecution Service, Cambridgeshire
East Cambridgeshire District Council Housing department
Fenland District Council Housing department
Huntingdonshire District Council Housing department
Office of Children & Young People's Service, Cambridgeshire County Council
Research Group, Cambridgeshire County Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council Housing department
Victim Support
Vulnerable Adults Service, Cambridgeshire County Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary aim of this report was to establish the overall size of the client base for a 'domestic abuse centre' for Cambridgeshire. The secondary aims of the report were to assess the overall availability of partnership data on domestic abuse and to make further recommendations for the improvement of the data.

- Overall the availability of information on domestic violence from a range of partnership agencies is good.
- In some cases the information available needs to be refined to enable it to give maximum value in terms of its use for policy planning and more importantly to enable it to be compared to other partnership data. For example:
 - It would be helpful to be able to identify exactly how many unique victims there were of the incidents recorded by the constabulary in the last twelve months.
 - It would be helpful to widen the data received from the County Council's OCYPS so it covered a full years activity rather than just being a snapshot of currently open cases.
- A recommendation for a further piece of work would be to trial casework / client list comparisons between agencies to establish the exact overlap that exists between different partnership data sources.
- The overall population need can be estimated using prevalence rates derived from robust national studies (see section one). Taking the broadest definition of abuse it can be estimated that 18,300 16-59 year olds experience at least one incident of domestic abuse each year in the county (with a much larger group of people experiencing at least one incident during their life time). Given the age range concerned and the fact that other local data identifies domestic abuse victims among the 60+ population then we can cautiously say that this figure, 18,300 represents the minimum size of the client group for the abuse centre. Particularly in terms of broad general services such as information provision.
- Further it can be estimated that 9,800 people experience partner 'threat or force' each year in the County meaning that this sub-group have a higher level of need for a service. Given the expected level of repeat victimisation it is likely that this number of people experience 29,200 incidents per year.
- Beyond this overall population need assessment we can gauge how this need is expressed to local agencies in terms of demand for services. It is at this point that there is a great reduction in the expressed need. It is this contrast between the number of people who experience domestic abuse and the number reporting it to local agencies which is the reason why so much emphasis has been placed on awareness raising and increasing reporting over the last few years.
- Using a range of partnership data and taking into account some caveats it is possible to say that, **at the very least**, 500 victims per year in the County are requiring relatively intensive service input from a least one partner-organisation.
- Added to this are the vulnerable adults identified by the Vulnerable Adult Protection Service experiencing abuse (just over 200 in 2006).
- Information from the constabulary suggests that there is a large group of children within the County who are affected by domestic violence. There were an estimated 3210 incidents where children were involved and given average family size and the level of under reporting many more children than this are likely to be affected.

- It is difficult to precisely estimate the number of children affected per year whose family require intensive service input from a least one partner-organisation. Numbers given in this report are limited by the availability of resources to provide services rather than being a true expression of need. It is only possible to describe the minimum size of the need group and it is **at the very least** 450 children.

SECTION ONE – PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Estimated Prevalence of Partner Domestic Abuse in Cambridgeshire

Using two reports published by the Home Office it is possible to estimate the likely prevalence of domestic abuse within the County committed against part of the population, 16 – 59 year olds¹. These are:

- Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: Findings from the British Crime Survey (2001), Home Office Research Study 276, Walby & Allen, March 2004
- Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: Findings from the 2004/05 British Crime Survey, Home Office Online Report 12/06, Finney, December 2006

Both reports derive their findings from British Crime Surveys. The methodology of these surveys is broadly to interview a representative sample of people from England & Wales (this was 22,463 people for the 2001 survey). As part of the interview the respondent is asked via a computerised self-completion questionnaire, whether they have been subject to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking in their lifetime or in the preceding year.

Data from this part of the questionnaire can then be used to identify the prevalence of domestic abuse experienced within the sample. Resulting prevalence rates can then be applied to the population of Cambridgeshire to provide an estimate of domestic abuse. The caveat in applying any prevalence rate is that in applying the rate we are making an assumption that the population of our research sample share the same characteristics as the population of the County. For example in terms of ethnicity, socio-economic background and so on.

However, because the British Crime Survey prevalence rate is based on all experienced domestic abuse, rather than that reported to agencies, it will give us the best available estimate of the total likely number of incidents in the county. In short it is our best measure of the extent of total need including unreported, un-met need (need currently expressed to local agencies would be counted within the prevalence figure).

Prevalence of 'any partner abuse**' in the last 12 months

	Cambridgeshire Population aged 16-59)**	Prevalence – based on 2004/05 BCS	Rate applied to County population (rounded to nearest 100)
Male	171,453	4.7%	8,000
Female	174,842	5.9%	10,300
Total	346,295	-	18,300

* 'any partner abuse' is defined as non-sexual abuse, sexual assault or stalking. Non-sexual abuse includes a range of things from verbal threat, belittling to physical force and use of weapons. See appendix one for full definitions.

Prevalence of 'partner abuse, threats and force**' in the last 12 months

	Cambridgeshire Population aged 16-59)**	Prevalence – based on 2004/05 BCS	Rate applied to County population (rounded to nearest 100)
Male	171,453	4.1%	7,000
Female	174,842	5.6%	9,800
Total	346,295	-	16,800

* 'Partner abuse, threats and force' is defined as any abuse excluding stalking and sexual assault. This form of abuse includes a range of things from verbal threat, belittling to physical force and use of weapons. See appendix one for full definitions.

¹ Potential abuse suffered by under-16s and 60s and over is dealt with elsewhere in the report.

Prevalence of 'partner threat or force*' in the last 12 months

	Cambridgeshire Population aged 16-59)**	Prevalence – based on 2004/05 BCS	Rate applied to County population (rounded to nearest 100)
Male	171,453	2.1%	3,600
Female	174,842	3.3%	5,800
Total	346,295	-	9,400

* 'Partner threat and force' is defined as any (non sexual) use of threats or force by a partner from frightening someone by threatening to hurt them to the use of weapons.

Prevalence of 'Partner Force **' in the last 12 months

	Cambridgeshire Population aged 16-59)**	Prevalence – based on 2004/05 BCS	Rate applied to County population (rounded to nearest 100)
Male	171,453	2.0%	3,400
Female	174,842	2.7%	4,700
Total	346,295	-	8,100

* 'Partner force' is defined as any use of force from pushing, holding and slapping to use of weapons.

Tables one to four show the range of prevalence for domestic abuse. Table one gives an estimate for the total possible number of people experiencing some form of abuse in the County over the previous 12 months at around 8,000 men and 10,300 women. The other tables use rates based on increasingly specific definitions of abuse and table four estimates that 3,400 men and 4,700 women experienced partner force in the last 12 months (8,100).

It should be noted that reports on research conducted with male respondents to the Scottish Crime Survey 2000 found that men were less likely to have been repeat victims of domestic assault, less likely to be seriously injured and less likely to report feeling fearful in their own homes. The survey retraced a small sample of men who were counted as victims in the Scottish Crime Survey and found that just over half of the men who said that they were victims of domestic violence, were also perpetrators of violence.

It is difficult to identify one specific estimate that would apply as the most likely customer base for a domestic abuse centre. Although, people may feel that table three provides an estimate of those people experiencing threat or force may be the most realistic figure to keep in mind as abuse at this level is more likely to be reported to local agencies than other forms of abuse.

Overall this suggests that the potential users or customers of the centre may be around 3,600 men and 5,800 women in any given twelve month period.

Estimated Incidence of Partner Domestic Abuse in Cambridgeshire

Whilst prevalence can be defined as relating to the number of people who experience domestic abuse, 'incidence' relates to the number of times each person experiences it. The recently published study based on the 2004/05 British Crime Survey does not provide any estimates of incidence so for this we need to refer to the older and more comprehensive study by Walby and Allen.

After accounting for a slightly different definition of 'threat and force' between the two studies it is then possible to apply an incidence rate to our estimated victim population (see table five below).

Estimated Incidence of Partner 'threat or force' for most cases of domestic abuse

	Estimated victims during previous 12 months*	Median** number of incidents experienced in previous 12 months	Estimated number of incidents
Male	3,400	2	6,800
Female	5,600	4	22,400
Total	9,000	-	29,200

* Adjusted from table three to take account of slightly different definitions between the two surveys

** Median is applied due to Walby & Allen identifying a significant gap between mean and median in the 2001 BCS. For women this was mean = 20 incidents, median = 4 – suggesting that whilst most women experience a few incidents there are a few who experience a huge number. The median is one of three measures typically used to represent the average. It is the 'middle value' with fifty percent of cases falling either side of it. The median is less likely to be skewed by a small number of extreme values.

Table five above shows the estimated number of incidents experienced during most cases of domestic abuse as identified by a median derived from the Walby & Allen report. The estimated 6,800 incidents for men and 22,400 for women are a deliberate underestimate. This method of estimating does not take into account the relatively small number of people who experience a huge amount of incidents during a daily campaign of abuse. The gaps between estimates for women based on median 22,400 and on mean 112,000 gives an indication as to how bad this experience is likely to be.

Estimate of likely agency awareness of victims

The Walby and Allen report looks into the level of reporting of incidents to agencies including the police, social services and housing departments. They found that those who suffer many incidents are much more likely to seek help, the implication being that when people do approach an agency they are likely to have already experienced a history of abuse.

The report does publish the results for victims of four or more incidents of domestic violence and these are shown below in table six and applied to our estimated number of victims.

Estimates of reporting of domestic abuse

	Estimated victims during previous 12 months*	% Victims of domestic force of threats whose worst incident became known** by...			Estimate of local victims who agencies may be aware of		
		Police	Social Services	Housing	Police	Social Services	Housing
Male	3,400	8%	1%	-	272	18	-
Female	5,600	23%	2%	1%	1288	112	112
Total	9,000	-	-	-	1560	130	112

* Some of these would be victims of single incidents, less likely to report so final figures are likely to be an over estimate. Particularly for the male group where around 47% only experience one incident.

** Victims of 4 or more incidents who were victims in the past 12 months

Table six above is likely to be an over estimate since we are applying a general rate for victims of four or more incidents to the whole population (although as previously discussed the median number of incidents experienced was 4). However it suggests that within any

given twelve month period the police in the County could be aware of around 272 male victims of domestic abuse and 1288 female victims.

Summary

Using the findings of the British Crime Survey:

- The estimated number of victims each year of partner 'threat or force' is 3,600 men and 5,800 women (9,400 total).
- Excluding the most serious cases it is estimated that the victims of partner 'threat or force' people experience about 29,200 incidents a year (6,800 for men and 22,400 for women).
- In addition to these incidents it is estimated that there are a small number of people experiencing an extremely high number of incidents as part of a daily campaign of abuse
- Reporting to agencies will be low. It is possible that the police could be aware of only 1,560 victims in any twelve-month period (and even this is likely to be an over-estimate).

SECTION TWO - DATA RECORDED BY CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY

Police Recorded Domestic Violence Incidents

One of the main sources of information regarding the level of domestic violence and other forms of domestic abuse within the county is the constabulary's command and control incident recording system. This system records all the 'calls for service' (incidents) that are reported to the force, these are then assessed and a domestic violence 'flag' is added to some incidents in accordance with recording guidelines.

The following information on the long-term trend of incident recording is a summary of information contained within a Cambridgeshire Constabulary 'force problem profile' on domestic violence produced in January of 2007 and some additional analysis of the 2005/06 incidents carried out by the County Council's Research Group. Generally there has been an upward trend in the number of incidents recorded since April 2004 but this is against a background of a general increase in calls for service (see graph below). As a percentage of total calls for service domestic violence incident levels appear to have remained fairly static.

The force problem profile identifies seasonal peaks, for example around Christmas, in relation to calls for service (there were higher levels of calls for service in December 2004 and 2005). Weekends are also identified as times of highest calls for service, with Saturday night / Sunday morning showing a particular peak.

Looking at the data for 2005/06 in detail it shows that there is considerable variation in the level of reported incidents between different CDRP areas. The table below shows that the highest rate of reported incidents are in Fenland and Cambridge City. Overall, Huntingdonshire has the highest number of reported incidents but this is unsurprising as it has the highest population.

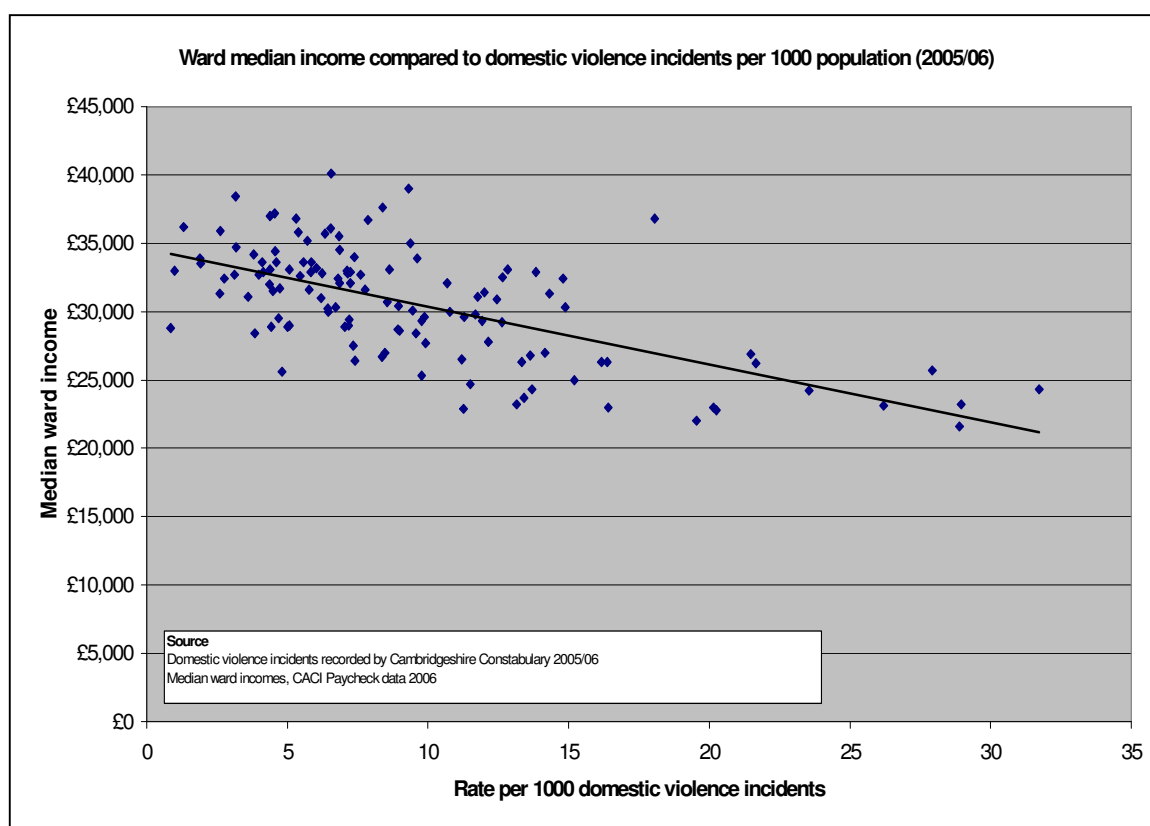
	Total number of incidents 2005/06	Population (2005 estimate)	Rate per 1000 population
Cambridge	1550	111,020	13.96
East Cambridgeshire	565	75,510	7.48
Fenland	1271	87,460	14.53
Huntingdonshire	1545	159,720	9.67
South Cambridgeshire	904	136,460	6.62
Cambridgeshire	5835	570,170	10.23

Overall the total number of incidents recorded by the constabulary can be compared to the total expected based on the prevalence data analysed earlier in this report. The prevalence for 'partner threat or force' was 29,200 incidents per year, which gives a relationship of 5 to 1 between expected and reported incidents.

Domestic Violence Incidents and Income Related Deprivation

It is often hypothesised that there is a relationship between the level of deprivation in an area and the incidence of domestic violence. It is thought that areas of relatively high deprivation experience more incidents than areas of low deprivation. This hypothesis has been tested for Cambridgeshire using household income data² alongside data showing the rate of domestic violence incidents per 1000 population recorded in each ward.

The graph below shows the relationship between domestic violence and income deprivation.



From the trend line it can be seen that there is a definite relationship between the two factors. Further correlation analysis confirms this with a 'Pearson' correlation score of -0.635 ³ indicating a medium to strong inverse relationship. As median ward household income decreases then the rate of domestic violence increases.

The table overleaf shows the twenty wards in Cambridgeshire with the lowest median household income. Within this list are nine out of ten of the wards with the highest rate of domestic violence (and all of the top seven). It should be noted, however that there is not a perfect relationship between the two datasets. In other words there are wards that are the exception to the rule. For example, Ely East ward, which contains the High Barns / New Barns area of Ely has a lower than expected rate of domestic violence incidents given the level of household income whilst Huntingdon West ward has a higher than expected rate, ranked twelfth highest.

² Supplied by CACI Ltd from their 'Paycheck'© dataset.

³ Scores: Where '1' would indicate the two datasets are exactly the same, '0' would indicate absolutely no relationship, and -1 would indicate a perfect inverse relationship.

The twenty wards with the lowest median household income in Cambridgeshire together with the rate of domestic violence incidents.

Ward	Median Household Income,	Rate per 1000 population, domestic violence incidents 2005/06	Rank - median household income	Rank - rate of domestic violence
Waterlees	£21,600	28.88	123	3
Medworth	£22,000	19.55	122	11
Kingsmoor	£22,800	20.24	121	9
Kirkgate	£22,900	11.26	120	38
Hill	£23,000	20.14	118	10
Staithe	£23,000	16.4	118	13
Clarkson	£23,100	26.19	117	5
Roman Bank	£23,200	13.14	115	26
Huntingdon North	£23,200	28.94	115	2
March East	£23,700	13.41	114	24
Lattersey	£24,200	23.55	113	6
King's Hedges	£24,300	31.73	111	1
Littleport West	£24,300	13.7	111	22
Birch	£24,700	11.49	110	36
Elm and Christchurch	£25,000	15.19	109	16
Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary	£25,300	9.77	108	45
Ely East	£25,600	4.8	107	96
Abbey	£25,700	27.93	106	4
East Chesterton	£26,200	21.65	105	7
Cherry Hinton	£26,300	16.17	102	15

Note. The eighth highest ward for domestic violence incidents, Arbury, was ranked 27th highest for median household income.

Of the possible explanations for this variation the most likely is that the picture of socio-economic factors influencing the level of domestic violence is more complicated than a simple relationship with median household income. Further this simple approach does not take into account demographic factors such as the proportion of families and couple households living in each area. (Whilst it is possible to develop a proper regression model of relationships using locally produced data this is beyond the remit of this particular exercise).

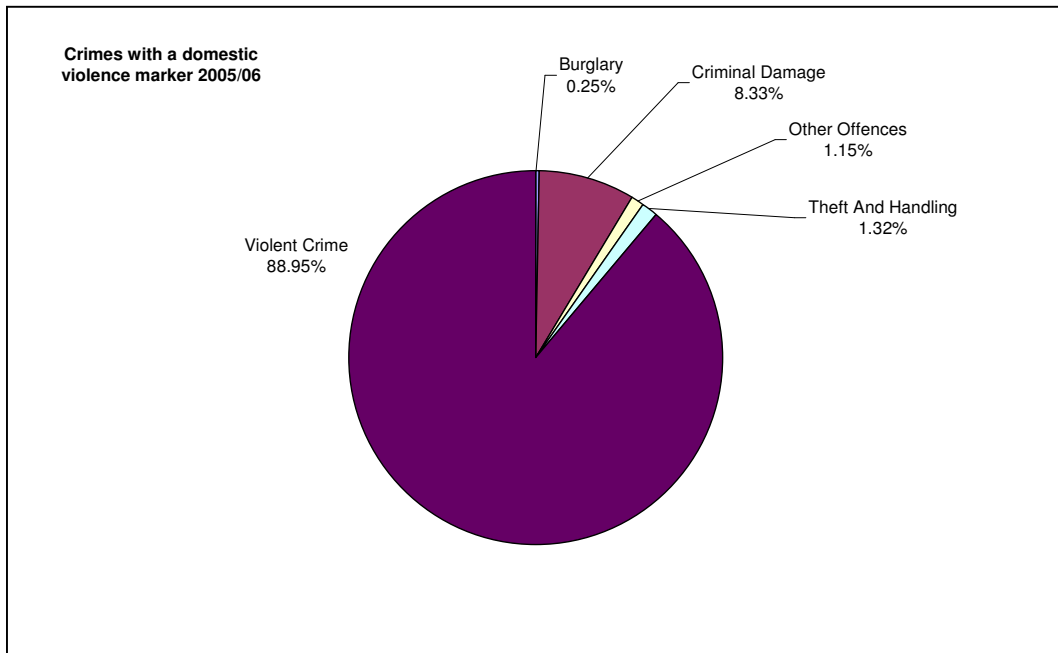
The pattern shown would also be influenced by systematic variations in the reporting of domestic violence across different areas. There is a debate to be had about the extent to which domestic violence is expressed (and therefore comes to the attention of the authorities) in areas of differing socio-economic profile. Victims in more affluent areas may keep a lower profile and may be less willing to come forward and seek help.

Recorded Crimes with a Domestic Violence Marker

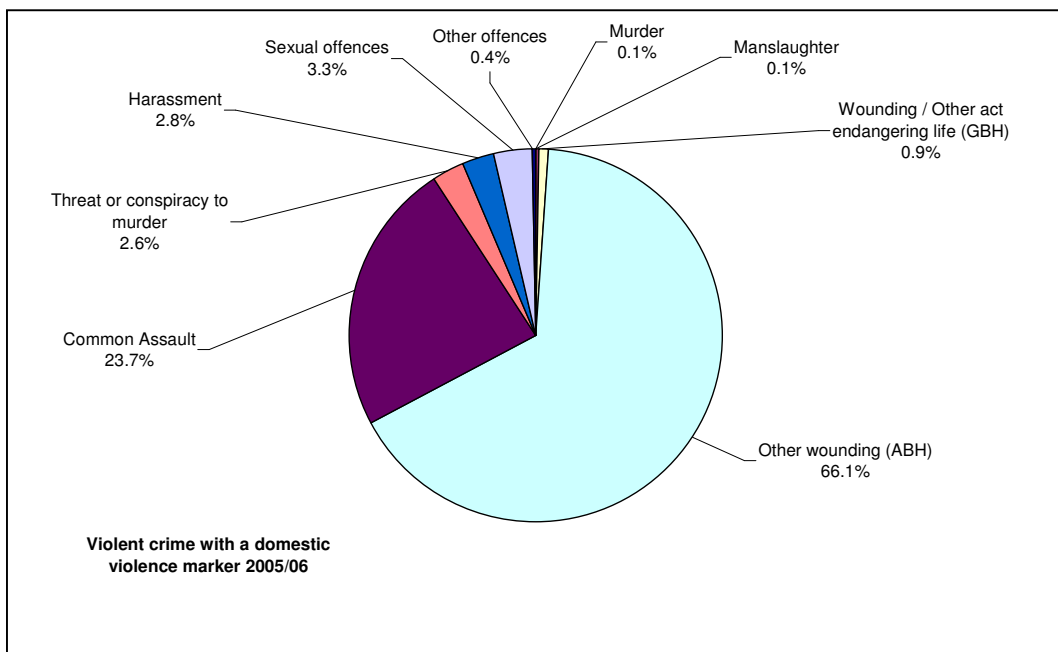
There are other more comprehensive reviews available of crimes committed in Cambridgeshire with a domestic violence marker within such documents as the strategic assessments autumn 2006 and a more recently published constabulary force problem profile. The information given here is intended to provide a brief overview of the main points.

During the financial year 2005/06 there were 1,213 recorded-offences that had a domestic violence marker representing approximately 3% of all recorded crime. The graph below

shows that the vast majority of these crimes were in the category of violent crime. Overall, there were 1,079 violent crime offences that had a domestic violence marker representing approximately 16% of all violent crime.



Looking in more detail at the violent crime offences with a domestic violence marker shows that just over 66% of offences are 'other wounding (ABH)', in other words they involve a physical assault resulting in some form of minor injury. A further 23% involve the more minor offence of common assault. There are also a small proportion of very serious offences such as murder, manslaughter and GBH.



Victim / Offender Analysis

The following information on the victims and offenders involved in domestic violence is a summary of information contained within a Cambridgeshire Constabulary 'force problem profile' on domestic violence produced in January of 2007. Within this profile the following points are made regarding the profile of the victims of domestic violence.

Of the victims of domestic violence incidents recorded on divisional monitoring spreadsheets 87% were female and 13% male. The average age of victims (where recorded) was 34 years of age.

For approximately 55% of incidents children were identified as being present. This is the equivalent of 3210 incidents during 2005/06, or around 270 per month although many of these will be repeat incidents. Measuring repeat victimisation is difficult and there are complications around the interpretation of the figures. For a sample of incidents between April – September 2006 13.8% of incidents reported to the police's central division and 22.3% reported to southern division involved repeat victims (an average of 18.1% overall).

Where recorded, it is shown that approximately 93% of victims of domestic abuse related crimes are white. The remaining 7% were from a variety of backgrounds including Asian, Black and Chinese. Approximately 2.5% of incidents were identified as occurring between homosexual couples.

The majority of the perpetrators of domestic violence are white males, with an average age of 35. From analysis of the Northern Division referral forms, alcohol would appear to be a factor in 8% - 10% of cases; drugs make up a much smaller proportion, between 1% and 2% of cases.

Summary

- Overall, 5,835 incidents of domestic violence were recorded by the police in 2005/06. With the prevalence for 'partner threat or force' being 29,200 incidents per year, this is a relationship of 5 to 1 between expected and reported incidents.
- There is a strong relationship between the rate of domestic violence in a ward and the average household income. As median ward household income decreases then the rate of domestic violence increases.
- There are a few exceptions to this and the most probable explanation for this variation is that the picture of socio-economic factors influencing the level of domestic violence is more complicated than a simple relationship with median household income.
- During the financial year 2005/06 there were 1,213 recorded-offences that had a domestic violence marker representing approximately 3% of all recorded crime. Of these there were 1,079 violent crime offences representing approximately 16% of all violent crime.
- For approximately 55% of incidents children were identified as being present. This is the equivalent of 3210 incidents during 2005/06, or around 270 per month.

SECTION THREE - DATA RECORDED BY OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES

The Crown Prosecution Service

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) conducts an annual snapshot monitoring the performance of how they prosecute domestic violence cases. The first monitoring snapshot was taken in 2002. The snapshot is a count and analysis of cases of domestic violence finalised in the December of each year. The 2006 snapshot results are not yet available. This report includes data from the 2005 and 2004 snapshots, due to more detail being available for the 2004 snapshot. The 2004 snapshot published in June 2005 provides a context for the report, which states that the snapshot is part of an ongoing monitoring process of the CPS's policy and practice of domestic violence cases. The geographic area that Cambridgeshire CPS covers is the county of Cambridgeshire including Peterborough. It was not possible for this report to exclude the Peterborough figures.

Cambridgeshire CPS finalised cases against 33 defendants in December 2004 and 44 defendants in December 2005. The number of victims was 33 in December 2004 and 49 in December 2005. The table below shows the gender breakdown for each year. The data shows that in the majority of cases the defendant was male (over 90% both years) and that the majority of victims were female (approximately 85% of cases).

	December 2004				December 2005			
	Female	Male	Not stated	Total	Female	Male	Not stated	Total
Number of Defendants	3	30	0	33	Unknown	41	Unknown	44
Number of victims	26	6	1	33	41	Unknown	Unknown	49

The table below shows the relation of the victim to the defendant. As seen with the advocacy data (see section four), the majority of cases involved partners/spouses or former partners/spouses.

Victims relationship to defendant	December 2004	December 2005
Spouse/Former Spouse	6 (18%)	12 (24.5%)
Partner/Former Partner	21 (64%)	22 (45%)
Parent/Step parent	0	4 (8%)
Grandparent	0	0
Child/Step child	1 (3%)	11 (22.5%)
Sibling	2 (6%)	0
Member of extended family (incl in-laws)	3 (9%)	0
Total defendants	33	49

The table below shows that for the 33 defendants in December 2004, there were 43 offences. It provides an illustration of the types of offences that are linked to domestic abuse. The largest proportion was common assault; most of the offences were violent crimes.

Offence Type	Number of Offences
Murder	1
Grievous Bodily Harm with intent	1
Actual Bodily Harm	4
Common Assault	19
Indecent Assault	4
Harassment	3
Criminal Damage	7
Other Assault	1
Other	3
Total	43

Probation Service

In 2005 Community Safety Partnerships supported the Cambridgeshire Probation Service in developing the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP), a specific cognitive behaviour course to address domestic violence. Convicted perpetrators receive orders to attend this course targets. Partners of offenders are supported by dedicated Women's Support Workers, who liase with course organisers as well as other key agencies. Its potential effectiveness lies in it being embedded within a wider community framework including agency awareness, policing priority and support for victims/survivors. Agencies offer continuing support.

In Cambridgeshire during 2006, 45 offenders were ordered to complete the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP).

Summary

- The last annual snapshot survey of the local CPS workload showed them finalising 44 cases in December 2005 (the equivalent of 528 per year).
- During 2006 45 offenders undertook the IDAP program managed by Probation.

SECTION FOUR - DATA RECORDED SUPPORT & ADVOCACY SERVICES

Victim Support Services

Victim Support is an independent national charity that helps support people affected by crime. They provide a free and confidential support service whether or not the victim has reported the crime.

In 2006 victim support covering Cambridge and Ely supported 378 victims of domestic violence. 14% of these were men and 86% were women.

Quarter	Female victim	Male victim	Total
Jan-Mar 06	73	15	88
Apr-June 06	81	10	91
July-Sept 06	99	16	115
Oct-Dec 06	71	11	84
Total	324	52	378

Cambridge Women's Aid

Cambridge Women's Aid runs an outreach service, which is funded by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Outreach Project offers support and advice to women living in Cambridge and the surrounding area, including some outside of the county. During 2005/06 over 250 women accessed support through the outreach service. Women's Aid feels that the majority of these women were not being supported by either Victim Support or the Advocacy Service.

Advocacy Service

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Service is an independent service offering crisis support, ongoing support through courts and information to survivors of domestic abuse. The majority of referrals are made via the police, though not all and the advocacy workers will advocate with other agencies on a clients behalf. The service is currently funded through the Local Area Agreement (LAA process).

Each case that has either telephone or face-to-face contact is entered onto a database. Due to the relative volume of cases to the number of advocates, higher risk cases receive priority. The database contains demographic information, such as gender and ethnicity and details of the type of abuse suffered. For each entry onto the database the client's district council area is recorded.

For the period of January to December 2006, there were 329 clients. Of which 21 were male (6%), 302 were female (92%) and 6 did not have their gender recorded (2%).

District Council Area	Total Number	Percentage	Population %	Difference
Cambridge	53	16.1%	19.5%	-3.4%
East Cambridgeshire	46	14.0%	13.2%	+0.8%
Fenland	80	24.3%	15.3%	+9.0%
Huntingdonshire	101	30.7%	28.0%	+2.7%
South Cambridgeshire	43	13.1%	23.9%	-10.8%
Unknown	6	1.8%	-	-
Total	329	100%	100%	-

The table above shows the distribution of cases the Advocacy Service saw within the county, but this should not be used as an indication of levels of prevalence as individuals can self refer to the service and risk level is a factor in the resource allocated to cases.

The table below shows the ethnicity of the individuals seen by the service between January and December 2006. Traveller is not currently an ethnic option within the database. The data show that the largest percentage is for white (all categories) this is in line with the estimated ethnic demographic for Cambridgeshire.

Ethnicity of Victim	Total Number	Percentage
Asian - All	13	4%
Black - All	13	4%
Mixed	3	1%
Other	3	1%
White - All	290	88%
Unknown	7	2%
Total	329	100%

For the clients of the Advocacy Service 48% of cases involved a current partner, with 43% involving an ex-partner.

Relationship to perpetrator	Total Number	Percentage
Partner	158	48.0
Ex-Partner	144	43.8
Intra-Familial	21	6.4
Unknown	6	1.8
Total	329	100.0

For each case, the number of children in the household is recorded. The table below shows 70% of people suffering domestic violence seen by the service had one or more children. A total of 443 children were either directly or indirectly affected by domestic violence for those cases in 2006 where the advocacy service was involved.

Number of Children in family	Number	Percentage	Total Number of Children
None	99	30.1	0
1	89	27.1	89
2	76	23.1	152
3	45	13.7	135
4	10	3.0	40
5 or more	5	1.5	27
Unknown	5	1.5	--
Total	329	100.0	443

The database records the type(s) of abuse the client reports to the advocate. The table below shows a large proportion of victims (61%) report emotional abuse. 43% of clients reported suffering physical abuse. For 18% of the cases no information was recorded on the types of abuse suffered.

Abuse suffered	Number reporting YES	Percentage reporting YES
Emotional Abuse	202	61.4%
Financial Abuse	21	6.4%
Sexual Abuse	6	1.8%
Criminal damage	34	10.3%
Physical Abuse	141	42.9%
Medical Attention required	8	2.4%

Cases were referred from a variety of agencies. The police referred 71% of the caseload for the year, with 3% self-referring and 8% being referred from other agencies including health visitors, victim support and social services. For 18% of cases the source of the referral was unknown or not recorded.

Summary

- Victim Support assisted 378 victims of domestic violence during 2006 of which 14% were male.
- The Domestic Violence Advocacy Service supported 329 clients across the County of which 6% were male. There was a fairly even split in the relationship with perpetrator between 'partner' and 'ex-partner'.
- 70% of people suffering domestic violence seen by the service had one or more children. A total of 443 children were either directly or indirectly affected by domestic violence for those cases in 2006 where the advocacy service was involved.
- The most commonly reported forms of abuse to the service were emotional abuse, physical abuse and damage to property.

SECTION FIVE – HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICES

Addenbrooke's Emergency Department (ED)

Dr A Boyle, based at Addenbrooke's NHS hospital in Cambridge, produced a paper in 2003 that showed that the incidence of patients attending the emergency department due to domestic violence was 1.2% of patients. Further respondents in the study showed a lifetime prevalence of domestic violence of 22.4%. It is worth noting that the sampling process of this study excluded any patient whose companions refused to leave. The study extrapolated that if

“an emergency department that has 55,000 patients of all ages attending a year would see about 500 adult patients a year suffering acute domestic violence.”

Current Addenbrooke's sees around 80,000 patients per year so this would equate to about 730 patients a year (although some of these will be repeat attendees). The study also found a significant association between reported domestic violence and reported deliberate self harm in women.

Data provided for the period January to December 2006 showed that the Emergency Department at Addenbrooke's recorded 27 individuals as disclosing domestic violence. The table below shows the age distribution of those attending Addenbrooke's ED, the patients ranged from 16 to 94 years old. Previous annual estimate for the number of attendees at Addenbrooke's ED relating to domestic violence were higher. There are a number of reasons that this particular period recorded a lower number including a change in recording practices. It is acknowledged that disclosing and recording domestic violence is still under-reported at Emergency departments and therefore the figure does not accurately represent all cases of domestic violence.

Age group	Number of patients
0-15	0
15-24	6
25-34	6
35-59	10
60+	5
Total	27

Primary Care

The availability of data relating to the impact of domestic violence on GP and other primary care services is limited. A study of one large general practice with seven GPs identified only six patients, 5 female and 1 male, presenting following domestic assault. There is no further indication of the likely attendance from the long-term effects of domestic violence such as mental health problems, depression and so on.

Maternity Care

At one maternity hospital in Cambridge over a four-month period a total of 12 women disclosed that they were victims of domestic violence during routine screening processes.

Social Care Data

The data in this section comes from Cambridgeshire County Council and relate to vulnerable groups.

Social Care - Children and Young People

The Office of Children and Young People's Services receives referrals regarding potential children in need⁴ for a variety of internal departments and external agencies. These children are then assessed and if found to be in need and meeting the criteria for a service to be provided then a case is opened and additional support and resources are then put in place for them. It is important to note that OCYPS will come into contact with a much larger group of children who are experiencing or witnessing domestic violence between their carers than the numbers given here. These are just the children who meet the current service criteria given the finite resources available.

The table below shows the number of children in need' for the following reasons, chronic violence between carers and erratic relationship between carers. The current recording method allows a child to be referred for more than one reason; therefore it is possible that a child could be counted in both categories. For this reason the table shows the totals for each category rather than a combined total. Children suffering direct abuse or neglect may also have either of the two categories recorded.

The data below is an extract of all 'open' cases from the SWIFT database at a given time point. It is not possible to extract the total volume of cases for the year from SWIFT.

The data shows that at December 2006 a total of 324 children were recorded as being in need due to a chronic violent relationship between carers in Cambridgeshire. This figure accounts for 13% of all the children registered as in need in the county. A total 378 children in Cambridgeshire were recorded as being in need due to an erratic relationship between carers. The figures are slightly up on December 2005 when 229 children were recorded with an open case that was defined as chronic violence between carers and 347 children with an erratic relationship between carers. Child – Erratic relationship between carers appears to be a wider category than chronic violence between carers. Further there may be recording differences across the districts.

Snapshot of open cases at December 2006

District	Child - Chronic Violence between carers		Child - Erratic relationship between carers		Total children in need
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Cambridge City	38	11%	52	15%	347
East Cambridgeshire	20	11%	18	10%	188
Fenland	61	13%	47	10%	472
Huntingdonshire	131	14%	193	21%	906
South Cambridgeshire	40	16%	33	13%	248
Unknown	34	9%	35	9%	376
Total	324	13%	378	15%	2,537

Social Care - Vulnerable Adults

A Vulnerable Adult Protection Service is co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council and is supported by the No Secrets guidance published by the Home Office and the Department of Health. The guidance defines a vulnerable adult as:

"A person aged 18 years or over, who is in receipt of or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself from significant harm or exploitation." (Department of Health 2000)

⁴ Children in need are those who are disabled or whose vulnerability is such that they are unlikely to reach or maintain a satisfactory level of health and development, or their health and development will be significantly impaired without the provision of services.

The service collects a range of data when referrals are made to the service. Individuals who are the subject of referrals are collated into groups with similar disabilities; these are Learning Disability, Mental Health, Older people (defined as over 65s), Physical disability and Sensory services. The referral includes demographic information such as gender and ethnicity, the known or suspected perpetrator of the abuse and the type of abuse suffered. The type of abuse falls into the following categories; sexual, physical, psychological, neglect/act of omission, financial/material and harm. More recently domestic violence as its own category has been included. The form allows more than one type of abuse to be recorded as appropriate for each case.

The data included in this report was extracted on the following criteria,

- Referral to the service between January and December 2006
- Domestic violence being recorded or the known/suspected perpetrator being recorded as partner, relative or spouse.

It should be noted that the data includes all referrals and that the 2005/06 annual report found that 15% of cases referred with suspected abuse were not proven. 46% were proven cases of abuse, 32% were inconclusive and 7% were still under investigation at the time of reporting. The report also stated that *'of the proven cases almost half, (47%) were perpetrated by a partner, relative or spouse'*.

For the period January - December 2006, 204 cases were referred to the vulnerable adults service. The largest proportion (59%, 121 people) of victims was recorded as older people.

Category of vulnerability	Number	Percentage
Learning Disability	31	15%
Mental Health	22	11%
Older People	121	59%
Physical Disability	30	15%
<i>Total</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>100%</i>

Of the referrals, 67% were female (137 women) and 33% were male (67 men). More women than men were seen in most groups with the exception of learning disabled, where the split was more even. It should be noted that the numbers were low for learning disabled, Mental Health and Physical disability.

Category of vulnerability	Female	Male
Learning Disability	55%	45%
Mental Health	68%	32%
Older People	90%	10%
Physical Disability	64%	36%
<i>Total</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>33%</i>

Of the 204 people referred, 37% (75 people) had more than one type of known or suspected abuse recorded. 44% of people were noted with known or suspected physical abuse. 36% of people were recorded as suffering/ suspected of suffering financial abuse. The number of people referred with domestic violence only is low. This is in part due to the very recent inclusion of this category and due to professionals recording domestic violence and other categories of specific abuse.

Type of Abuse	Number	Percentage
Sexual	7	3%
Psychological	50	25%
Physical	89	44%
Neglect/Act of omission	31	15%
Financial/Material	73	36%
Harm	2	1%
Domestic Violence (unspecified detail)	4	2%

Connexions Service

The connexions service is an advice guidance and support service for all 13-19 year olds - whether at school, in or out of work, in further education or a Sixth Form College - in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area.

For the Cambridgeshire area excluding Peterborough the service worked with 16 young people that reported that they were perpetrators of domestic violence between January and December 2006. For the same period they connexions advisors worked with 41 young people who disclosed being the victim of domestic violence. It should be noted that 4 of the young people documented as perpetrators were also victims of domestic violence. Giving a total of 54 young people worked with in this period who were directly effected by domestic violence. Of the 16 perpetrators, 13 were male and 3 were female. Of the 41 victims 13 were male and 28 were female.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary does not record perpetrators under the age 18 years old; this is due to the Home office definition. Therefore the connexions data in relation to perpetrators is currently unique for Cambridgeshire.

Summary

- Whilst it is possible to get towards assessing the immediate impact of domestic violence on health care services in terms of people needing care for physical injuries it is harder to measure the level of secondary impact such as the effects on general health in Cambridgeshire. Overall the level of disclosure is low.
- Information supplied from OCYPS identified from a December 2006 snap shot identified 324 'children in need' as being in need due to there being chronic violence between carers (note there may also be other needs).
- The information also identified a further 378 children where there was an erratic relationship between carers. There maybe some children who are recorded under both categories and whilst the use of the 'chronic violence' category appears consistent there are variations in the 'erratic relationship' category that suggest that there might be differences in recording practice.
- The information from the 'Vulnerable Adult Protection Service' shows the extent of abuse directed against vulnerable adults with 204 referrals over a twelve-month period.
- During a twelve-month period a total of 41 young people reported to the Connexions Service that they were the victims of domestic violence.

SECTION SIX - HOUSING

District Council Housing

Each district authority provides returns to the Home Office on housing applications each quarter. The five district authorities accepted as eligible for housing a total of 106 households as homeless where the violent breakdown of a relationship was main reason for homelessness during the period January to December 2006.

District	Number of eligible households made homeless due to domestic violence
Cambridge City	15
East Cambridgeshire	32
Fenland	31
Huntingdonshire	17
South Cambridgeshire	11
Total	106

Supporting People

Supporting People is a central government programme, introduced in April 2003 to fund, monitor and review and improve housing-related support services. This is done in partnership with local housing authorities, social care services, health, probation, registered social landlords users and their carers and the voluntary and private sectors. The Supporting People partnership aims to provide housing and housing support to vulnerable young people and adults across the county.

In the financial year 2005/06 Supporting People assisted a total of 1,906 people, of which 186 had recorded either primary or secondary reason of a woman being at risk of domestic violence. 157 cases had being at risk of domestic violence as a primary need.

Service Provider	Number of people supported 2005/06
Cambridge and Peterborough YMCA	<5
Cambridge City Council	16
Cambridge Womens Aid	53
Ferry Project	8
Hereward Housing Association	10
Home Group Limited (Stonham)	<5
Huntingdonshire Housing Partnership	7
Jimmys Night Shelter	<5
King Street Housing Society	<5
Refuge, Fenland	57
Richmond Fellowship	<5
Salvation Army	<5
South Cambridgeshire District Council	<5
Spurgeons Child Care	21
Turning Point	<5
Total	186

Registered Social Landlords (RSL)

The table below shows the numbers of people that left their last settled household due to domestic violence based upon returns to CORE from registered social landlords. CORE (Continuous Recording) is a national information source funded jointly by the Housing Cooperation and the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and managed by the Centre for Housing Research at the University of St Andrews.

District	People who left their last settled home due to domestic violence & are within General Needs Housing		People who left their last settled home due to domestic violence & are within Supported Housing	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cambridge	5	2.3%	53	8.5%
East Cambridgeshire	19	7.1%	5	2.2%
Fenland	2	1.7%	60	46.2%
Huntingdonshire	20	3.5%	29	8.9%
South Cambridgeshire	4	1.8%	3	2.1%
Total	50	-	150	-

Summary

- In the period January to December 2006 the district Councils collectively accepted 106 as being homeless due to domestic violence.
- Data from supporting people identifies 186 people who were supported during 2005/06 who's primary or secondary support needs were domestic violence.
- Information from registered social landlords (via CORE) identify a total of 200 people who had left their last settled home due to domestic violence.
- It should be noted that there maybe considerable overlap between the different data sources given here.

SECTION SEVEN – DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

The initial aim of this report was to establish the overall size of the client base for a 'domestic abuse centre' for Cambridgeshire. With the data that is available locally together with the findings of national research it is possible to do this. One of the further conclusions of this report is that there are some really good data sources available from a range of partners relating to domestic violence although some of this local data would benefit from further refinement in order for us to derive maximum value from it.

The overall population need can be estimated using prevalence rates derived from robust national studies (see section one). Taking the broadest definition of abuse it can be estimated that 18,300 16-59 year olds experience at least one incident of domestic abuse each year in the county (with a much larger group of people experiencing at least one incident during their life time). Given the age range concerned and the fact that other local data identifies domestic abuse victims among the 60+ population then we can cautiously say that this figure, 18,300 represents the minimum size of the client group for the abuse centre. Particularly in terms of broad general services such as information provision. Further it can be estimated that 9,800 people experience partner 'threat or force' each year in the County meaning that this sub-group have a higher level of need for a service. Given the expected level of repeat victimisation it is likely that this number of people experience 29,200 incidents per year.

Beyond this overall population need assessment we can gauge how this need is expressed to local agencies in terms of demand for services. It is at this point that there is a reduction in the expressed need. It is this contrast between the number of people who experience domestic abuse and the number reporting it to local agencies which is reason why so much emphasis has been placed on awareness raising and increasing reporting over the last few years.

Further information from the constabulary shows that they recorded 5,835 incidents of domestic violence during 2005/06 and this report estimates that this probably a ratio of incident recording of around 5 to 1. Given other information on incident reporting this probably represents fairly good performance. Unfortunately it is not possible to say exactly how many individuals this level of incident recording represents due to problems with creating a unique dataset where repeat victims are only counted once. It is recommended that this exercise be carried out.

Other partner data gives information on the range of services that the victims of domestic violence require and is equally strong in terms of establishing the overall size of client group for the domestic abuse centre. At this point we should say that caution should be exercised, as there is no national peer-reviewed methodology for this form of estimation, we are merely stating what seems reasonable. Further there is only very limited information on the relative overlaps between different agency datasets.

Given that within one twelve month period Victim Support assisted 378 people, the Advocacy Service supported 329 victims (based on a full caseload). Then these numbers almost certainly form the absolute bare minimum number of people requiring a more intensive service during the year (and we know that at least one of these services could have supported more people if they had further resources). Information from the housing sector tends to support this conclusion. Realistically, at the very least, 500 victims per year in the County are requiring intensive service input from a least one partner organisation.

Added to this are the vulnerable adults identified by the Vulnerable Adult Protection Service and the children additionally affected by domestic violence. As with the adult victims of domestic violence it is difficult to precisely estimate how many there are but the Advocacy Service figure of 443 again provides the absolute minimum requiring a service. The OCYPS data that identifies 324 children who have a need due to there being chronic violence between their carers appears to compliment this although we have no information on the overlap between the two. Also it is important to be note that these figures are limited by the availability of resources rather than being a true expression of need. Of further benefit would

be the ability to measure the annual volume of children in need within the OCYPS data rather than to just have a snapshot.

So overall we know that across all the partner agencies demand for services for the victims of domestic violence is relatively high and there is further unexpressed need. More importantly it is possible to gauge what we don't know and we are in the position to consider if knowing what we don't know would alter our current policy position.

Appendix One – Detailed definitions of partner abuse (abuse, threats or force)

Abuse	Prevented from having your fair share of household money
	Stopped you from seeing friends
	Repeatedly belittled you so that you felt worthless
Threat	Frightened you by threatening to hurt you / someone close
Force	Pushed you, held you down or slapped you
	Kicked, bit or hit you or thrown something at you
	Choked or tried to strangle you
	Threatened you with a weapon (e.g. stick or knife)
	Threatened to kill you
	Used weapon against you (e.g. stick or knife)
	Used some other kind of force against you