**Domestic Abuse (DA) Needs and Priorities**

Background on trends from recent needs assessments:

* Based on domestic abuse related crime in Cumbria in 2019-20:
* ➢ 9,394 domestic abuse related safeguarding incidents and crimes in Cumbria in 2019-20, a rate of 18.8 per 1,000 population.
* ➢ Victims of domestic abuse related crime in Cumbria in 2019-20 are predominantly White (85.6%; 5,451 crimes).
* 1.1% of crimes (67) involved victims of Asian / Black / Mixed / Other origin. Ethnicity is not known for 13.3% (850) of crimes. This is a smaller proportion than in the general population.
* The most frequently occurring victim nationality (after the UK) is Poland (39 crimes) and Romania (10 crimes).
* Victims of domestic abuse related crimes in 2019-20 are most likely to be aged 25-44 years (51.7%; 3,293 crimes).
* ➢ 72.3% of domestic abuse related crimes in Cumbria in 2019-20 have female / transgender female victims (4,607 crimes).
* The top three abuse types are:

physical abuse (52.3%; 415 of all applications);

emotional abuse (15.9%; 126);

controlling and coercive behaviour (9.3%; 74). These categories make up 77.6% (615) of all applications for support to Cumbria.

* The main support provided is “*follow on support – outreach in community”* (56.5%; 448)
* Recently, increases have been seen in domestic abuse, cruelty & neglect to children & young people, stalking & harassment
* 34.6% increase in Mental Health safeguarding records (Cumbria Constabulary)
* Controlling & coercive behaviour
* Highest categories for DA by type of offence are violence without injury (2020), Violence with injury (1396) Stalking & harassment (1291)
* On average over a 3-year trend, over 2000 children per month will witness or be involved in DA incidents.
* DA support services (Women’s Centres, West Cumbria Domestic Violence Group, The Well) report increases in referrals, demand for support & victims reporting increase in frequency and severity of domestic abuse during Coivd-19 pandemic
* 16.8% increase in online stalking & harassment 2020-21 compared to previous year.
* 31% young people have been followed by someone unknown to them (Young People Serious Violence survey 2021 (Safer Cumbria))
* There are differences across the county in terms of access to immediate support out of hours. There is also limited accommodation for male victims and their children. There are some gaps in provision by district e.g. accommodation which is women only, does not take those with high mental health needs or those with high substance misuse or alcohol abuse problems.

The Police and Crime Plan 2021-25 has priorities related to domestic abuse:

* Continue to support the role of the women’s centres in working with women & YP who have experienced or are involved with domestic abuse or sexual assault
* Develop support for children and young people who witness domestic abuse
* Safer Cumbria and Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership have asked for assurance that there are effective outcomes for children impacted by DA

**References**

Evidence base Report 2021 – Supporting the development of Safer Cumbria priorities: (collaboration police, CCC, 3rd sector & communities

Police & Crime Plan 2021-25

Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment for Safer Cumbria

Safer Cumbria Domestic Abuse Group including its Action Plan

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