

What we know about domestic abuse in Wirral (2019-20)

**2,037 women
& 749 men**

were the victim of a domestic abuse crime in Wirral

There were
997 high risk referrals
to the Multi Agency Risk
Assessment Conference
(MARAC)

There were 275
perpetrators with
**multiple
victims**

In only 20.2% of cases did the
victim & perpetrator
live at the same postcode

2,780 children
referred to Children's Services
because of domestic abuse

In almost 50% of
domestic abuse crimes the
**perpetrator was
an ex-partner**

Outcomes for children
living with domestic abuse
were 31-34% lower
than their peers at
Key Stage 4

834 individuals
were the victim of
**more than one
domestic abuse crime**

**Repeat
Victimisation Rate**
was 29% in Wirral
and 31% Nationally

**705 women &
2,128 men**
were recorded as perpetrators
of domestic abuse

What we know about domestic abuse in Wirral (2023-24)

**2,373 women
& 938 men**
were the victim of a
domestic abuse crime in Wirral

There were
953 high risk referrals
to the Multi Agency Risk
Assessment Conference
(MARAC)

There were 316
perpetrators with
**multiple
victims**

Postcode data not known

4,649 contacts
to Children's Services
because of domestic abuse
*unable to compare to 19-20

In almost 50% of
domestic abuse crimes,
the **perpetrator was
an ex-partner**

Outcomes for children
living with domestic abuse
were 31-34% lower
than their peers at
Key Stage 4

867 individuals
were the victim of
**more than one
domestic abuse crime**

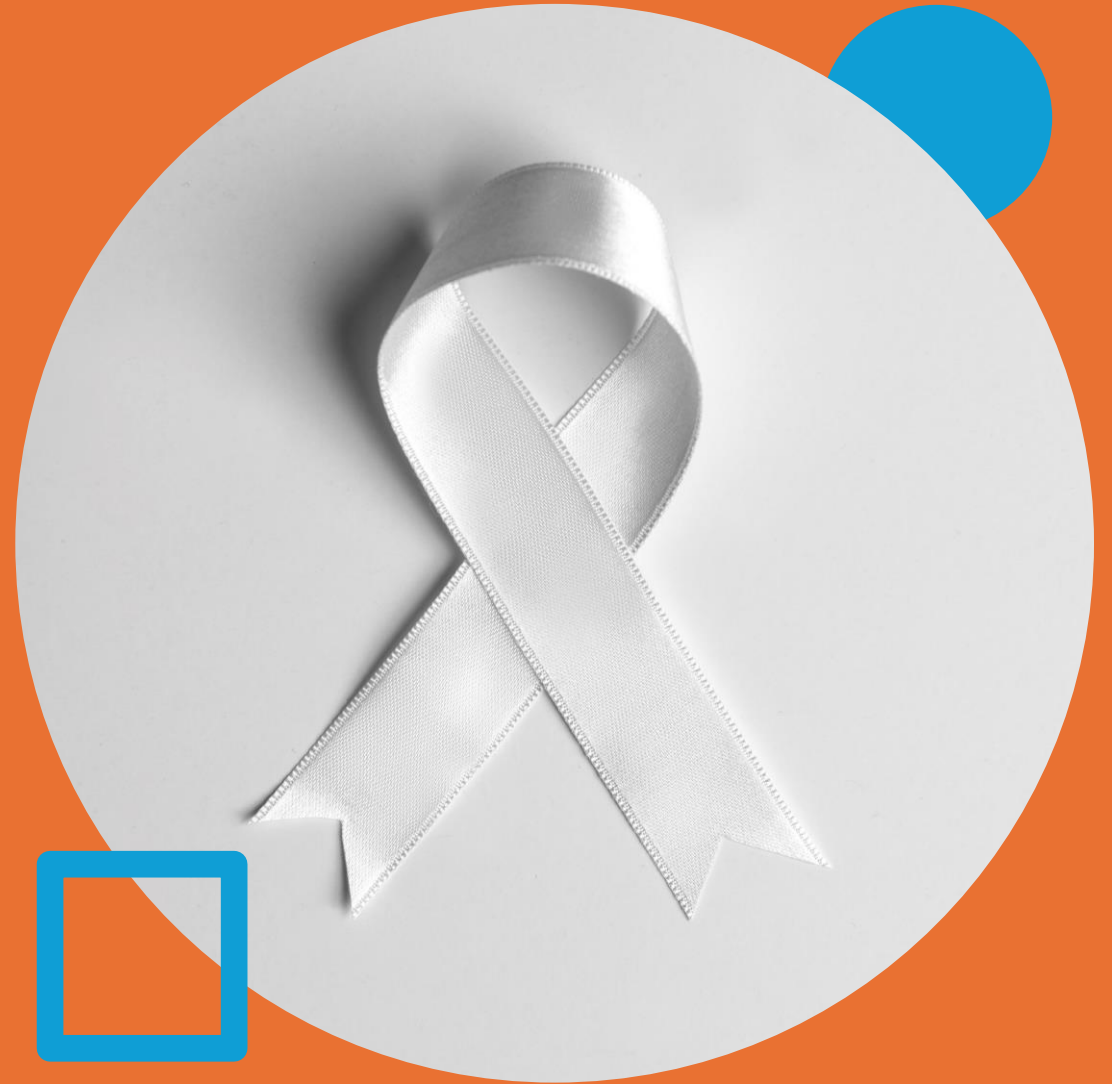
**Repeat
Victimisation Rate**
was 36% in Wirral
and 32% Nationally

**1,016 women
& 2,561 men**
were recorded as perpetrators
of domestic abuse



Wirral Domestic Abuse Strategy Workshop

Wednesday 4th December 2024



Welcome


- Fire drill
- Toilets
- Lunch and break times
 - 10:45
 - 12:15
 - 15:15

Warm Up

Describe the domestic abuse response in Wirral in one word

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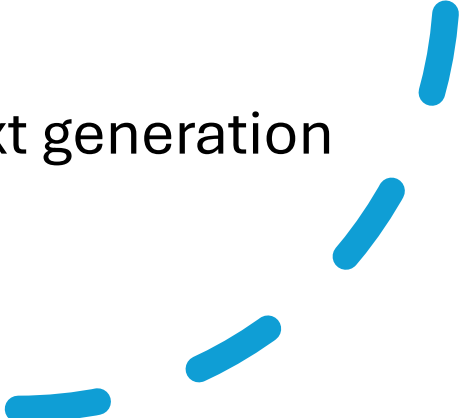
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Domestic Abuse No Excuse 2020-2025

What have we
achieved?
What is
missing?

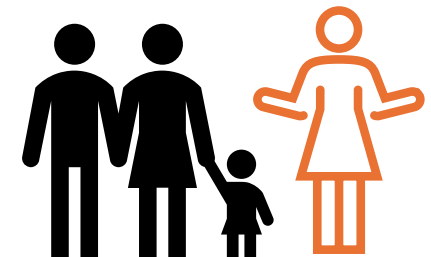
In tables think about what we have achieved under each of the Priority headings.

15 minutes per heading

1. Be there when needed
 2. Increase safety for those at risk, without adding to their trauma
 3. Reduce opportunities for perpetrators to abuse
 4. Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs
 5. A brighter, kinder future for the next generation
- 
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Being there when we are needed means:

- We will work together to provide help no matter who you are or what your circumstances might be, whether this is the first time it's happened or the twentieth, whether it happened today or months ago, whether you want to speak with someone face-to-face or anonymously
- We will introduce a 'no wrong door' approach across services and organisations in Wirral so that no matter who you ask for help you get it and are treated with respect and understanding
- We will work together to give you places to go and people to speak to who know what you're going through
- We will make greater efforts to wrap around children who have been affected by domestic abuse to ensure they can attend education, take part, learn and socialise, as well as get the emotional support they need for good mental wellbeing
- We will look harder and listen closer to those people who may be at an increased risk of abuse but are unable to speak out, including older people who may be abused by adult children or their care-givers



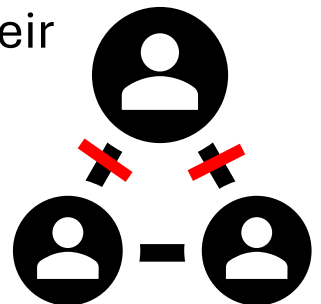
Increasing safety for those at risk, without adding to their trauma means:

- We will involve those of you who wish to share your experience in the training of workers and wherever possible, the delivery of services
- We will work together to ensure that victims have the choice to stay at home or move, and where they wish to stay at home they are supported to do so safely
- We will establish a support network for your friends and family (victims, survivors and perpetrators) so that they can be there for you now and in the future
- We will provide specialist advice/advocacy and target hardening measures, such as new locks, to victims who believe it will help to make them safer
- We will work with all services in Wirral to ensure they have a domestic abuse champion in their team who can work with you to complete a risk assessment and safety plan



Reducing opportunities for perpetrators to abuse means:

- We will improve the lives of victims, and their children if they have them, by introducing an evidence-based programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse, available to anyone who wants help to stop abusing their partner (current or ex)
- We will work together to strengthen our offender management approach and keep you safe
- We will help your voice to be heard by the Criminal Justice System and Family Courts, by working alongside national organisations like Victim Support and Child and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS) 4
- We will help you to know your rights and access support as described in The Victim's Code, helping you get Peer Support to help you through legal processes, and use schemes like Clare's Law
- We will listen to, and act on, the wishes and feelings of children and young people on their contact arrangements with parents





Break

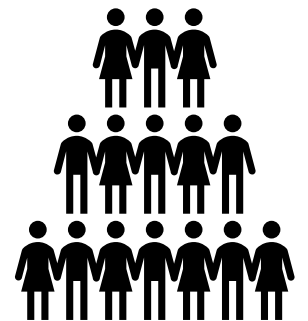
Supporting people to live the lives they want after harms occurs means:

- We will invest more in peer support and peer mentoring for all of you- victims, survivors, perpetrators, children and young people, friends and family
- We will work together to make sure where you have to 'start over' you are well supported to get the things you need for your home, your family and normal day to-day life
- We will work with our partners to provide you with tailored opportunities for lifelong learning and employment
- We will work together as a partnership to increase access to recovery programmes and counselling in a variety of ways and locations
- We will be grateful to learn from your experience and involve you in volunteering, supporting others, and/or contributing to service development



Creating a brighter, kinder future for the next generation means:

- We will work with ambition to remove the stigma attached to being a victim of domestic abuse
- We will use your experience and voices of local people to raise awareness, encourage people to talk about domestic abuse and to get help
- We will co-ordinate education programmes and learning for children, from pre-school to adulthood, on healthy relationships, kindness and respect
- We will invite our local communities to work alongside us to understand domestic abuse and support our campaign to create a future free from violence and abuse
- We will provide learning opportunities for workers, services, organisations and partners to help them to better help you and future generations



What's going on in the world outside?

An estimated 24% of domestic abuse crime is reported to the police. The police receive a domestic abuse-related call every 30 seconds.

3 women a week die by suicide as a result of domestic abuse

41% of girls aged 14-17 experienced some form of sexual violence from their partner


Often survivors did not have enough money to pay for essentials needed for them and/or their children and needed to access foodbanks (79%).

49% of organisations reported they ran an area of their service without dedicated funding,

20% of children have lived with an adult perpetrating domestic abuse

Where do we want to be in 2030?

- Horizon Scanning Activity
 - Work together in table groups. Capture the opportunities and challenges you see for your organisations and/or the domestic abuse response in Wirral (2025-2030)
 - Think about social, technological, environmental, economic, political, legal, regulatory changes



Focus on the
outside world for
this activity



Lunch

Have needs changed?

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Thinking points:
Post COVID
Technology advancements
Social change



DOMESTIC ABUSE **NO EXCUSE.**

Wirral 2020-25

Priority 1: Be there when we're needed

What we are achieving

- Older People – In hospital, increase 80+ women (?)
- Schools are supported with DA
- Voice of the child listened too.
- Teachers aware and responsive.
- Early years and schools.
- **Operation Blackbird (Police Station) Victims engaging better, evidence gathering etc. due to Op BB, DSLs have been trained to respond to notifications of domestic abuse.**
- **One single point access in the DA Hub**
- Housing more alert to safeguarding. – **Housing Options and DA Hub working together to ensure quicker response**
- “Do you feel what I feel” under 5 ‘s.
- DART programme in schools. Collaboration with other LA’s and new referrals coming in.
- **Disclosures discussed at pre birth.**
- **Its Never ok website.**
- **Healthy Relationships covered in schools.**
- **A willing Alliance – good partnership – listen to needs. Refuge, Lighthouse, DA Hub, Paul Lavelle, TWW.**
- No Wrong door
- **Expanding Housing Capacity. - HOT specialist team.**
- Good DA Services – for all victims.
- Specialist Advocates.
- Midwives and health visitors.
- People are put first.

What is missing?

- When no children involved – fight to get support.
- **LGBTQ+**
- **Women / Men/ Complex needs – not enough specialist accommodation**
- **More Housing Capacity**
- **More support for children**
- **Male – underreported and under supported**
- Feel no data used at safeguarding board at higher level in comparison.
- Doesn’t have quality assurance , own platform. Relies on other aspects.
- Accountability? Reporting? Boards ?
- **Risk Assessment not designed for all. Doesn’t cover age range / minorities , too generic.**
- Who doing assessment can delay support.
- Over reliance on scoring on DASH. And not always professional judgement.
- One referral will signpost – shared – one front door needed.
- Advertise DA Hub location, children & Adults.
- **Evenings & Weekends?**
- Awareness – social care, teachers, Police, Job centre.
- Inconsistency across services.
- Lack of communication between services.
- Triage process could be improved.
- **Training and education.**
- **Perp Accountability.**

Priority 2: Increase safety for those at risk, without adding to their trauma

What we are achieving

- **Police markers on houses.**
- Job Centre Plus – can support through payments on housing when moving to new property.
- **Target Hardening works well, helps to stay in home. (Not in core budget)**
- Lighthouse Centre – links to safety organisations like DA Hub.
- Courses to support us to stay safe. **Partnership working to increase accessibility to budgets for target hardening**
- Drop in services – There when we need it – open door.
- **Level 2 DA Training**
- Trauma – Informed practice.
- **TA Offered immediately**
- **Increased DA champions – developing across services**
- Social Housing Increased Checks (Where does perp live before moving?)
- **In some circumstances DA protection notice order (DVPO/DVPN) issued for 28 days where perpetrator has to leave the home for safety – Police legislation.**
- Violence or threat of violence.
- Empowerment.
- Evidence led – can go ahead with prosecution.
- Outreach workers can give support.
- Those with children.
- Flag on system for those known to system.
- Friends Birkenhead take pets.

What is missing?

- Need to know this – not advertised
- **Housing capacity impacting on people not moving people quickly enough.**
- **More training** – Schools & SC. Identify who perpetrator is. More education on what signs are – What's on DASH RIC. **CSC Level 2 DA Training mandatory for SWs**
- Education of wider support systems / families.
- Legal system needs training on how DA works in relationships and how the legal / courts systems can be used by perpetrators to continue abuse.
- Systems need more education on coercive controls.
- **Legal aid more accessible for non mols & contact orders. Not accessible when asset rich. Barriers to accessing legal aid prevent orders**
- **Believe children – court judges making contact orders, should put child safeguarding above abusive parents PR (right to see children)**
- Court not listening to CAFCASS recommendations. **Family court system access to DA training and champions**
- Professionals (Social workers / teachers / etc) understand not to contact / speak to abusive parent about what abusive parent has done / said to child that the child has disclosed as puts child at risk.
- Systems like LADO not followed up.
- Social workers / teachers / professional wont challenge perpetrator parents – need training on management of perpetrators & Support, victim / survivors to keep safe boundaries with perpetrator.
- **Lack of long-term grant funding – current interventions not core funded (quarter 4, have we got money?)**

Priority 3: Reduce opportunities for perpetrators to abuse

What we are achieving

- Support can be made available when required.
- Evidence led prosecution used when someone lacks capacity.
- Child Social Care better at advocacy services for LD / Suspected LD.
- Improving referrals.
- **Ask for Angela / Dots / Nail Varnish campaigns.**
- Asking routine enquiry questions to offer help / ascertain.
- Built into enquiry – over 16. Steps to build in consults. Opportunity for disclosure reduces opportunity for abuse. (IT, EARLY STEPS)
- TAF opportunities if child – early years.
- Hospital has read access to liquid logic.
- **Caring Dads – DA Hub prioritises unborns so pre-birth can refer in for 1-1 work prior to birth**
- **Paul Lavelle healthy relationships. And other prevention work**
- RSE Curriculum.
- Operation Blackbird.
- Knowledge building courses – empowerment
- Organisational Buy – In
- **TWW – Young women**
- **Learning from DRIVE....Caring dads**
- Lighthouse centre – helps to identify & teach service users how to stay safe with safety planning & education including boundaries.
- **Safety planning across agencies and direct safety planning with children through CMIW and children's intervention commission.**

What is missing?

- Increase cultural understanding.
- Trauma work with perpetrators – understand ACE's
- Lack of immigration support.
- Police response times.
- Family court not protective.
- Inconsistent communication.
- **More education around Claires Law and what it includes – Schools.**
- More education around voice of the child / looking at behaviours in Children , not just words that are said. (Including how to capture world of children with delayed speech / communication)
- More support given to schools / nursery's about writing quality reports especially when for court.
- Faster approach to reports being written / including ensuring important details being used. (Court will only go off what's presented to them). So reports should be robust and timely.
- Society attitudes on perpetrator behaviours – Make everyone outraged by this behaviour – campaign on how bad this is – not acceptable.
- Social media too easy for perpetrators to make contact.
- Police response times in moment & follow up needs to be quicker.
- Social workers need training to manage perpetrator behaviours – hold them to account, especially when perps using the social care system & court system to continue the abuse.
- More education around DA. Its ok to put boundaries in with perpetrators & systems need to support this. Social Care / Courts/ legal / Police.

Priority 3: Reduce opportunities for perpetrators to abuse - CONTINUED

What we are achieving

- Support can be made available when required.
- Evidence led prosecution used when someone lacks capacity.
- Child Social Care better at advocacy services for LD / Suspected LD.
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- **Ask for Angela / Dots / Nail Varnish campaigns.**
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What is missing?

- No easy read leaflets – difficulties / visual / how to get help /rights.
- Lacking capacity is harder to gather evidence / reliant on witnesses, marks etc. Timely / Successful convictions.
- Lack of training – coercive control – young people / ethnic minorities older people.
- “Class” can present issues.
- Police rep needed at alliance.
- Re traumatised by family court , proceedings etc.
- Lack of cultural resources.
- **Men that don't have children, group work for female perps**
- **No female perp programme if not open to probation.**
- Honour based abuse – other places involved – cultural religion. Professional curiosity.
- Minimisations – the norm.
- Not all workplaces aware of campaigns. So support not identified.
- Scoring can determine support.
- **More youth work needed.**
- Parent / Adult child.
- Out of Borough – 3 months timeframe to take over case.
- Systems don't talk to each other Liquid Logic – Child to Adult. Different systems don't link together.
- Lost DRIVE – Gap in programmes – criteria for Caring Dads .
- Active challenge to central government.

Priority 4: Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs

What we are achieving

- Gateway & **DART** Programmes G2R
- **Number of interventions offered across partnership for adults and children**
- Networking opportunities - early help.
- Groups will meet in neutral places – tomorrows women)
- Multi – Cultural training is available.
- Legal framework facilities support.
- Hidden apps.
- Move to daily MARAC.
- Pockets of good practice.
- Named GP / Safeguarding.
- Work based related policies / Procedures / Disclosures.
- Had leapfrog – but funding cut.
- Had DRIVE – But funding cut.
- ZiLLO, Hatch, Branch.
- Lighthouse.
- Wide range across Merseyside / Wirral.
- Good health practice.
- # Its Never Ok.
- Refuge linking with DWP
- Organisations like Paul Lavelle & n Lighthouse give info on all organisations,
- TWW , Refuge, DA Hub.
- Opportunities to come together as a community – lighthouse centre peer support groups and pal Lavelle peer support groups.
- **Specialist Counselling**

What is missing?

- **Ongoing targeted support for children and survivors**
- 24 hour support / peer support / wrap around support.
- Important if lived experience
- Long term support
- Level of support.
- **Trauma Informed approach not universal.**
- Rescind reporting / prosecution.
- Training in 3rd sector.
- Inconsistent support in schools.
- Is there an advocate / peer support from 1 person right from 1st disclosure / report incident to reduce fear / anxiety , (safe person) not introvert / shy etc.
- Access to GP's.
- Greater awareness in childrens / if child involved than in adults.
- Mens network ? Support groups ?
- Fear of cultural rejection if seeks support.
- EAL groups.
- Focus around Birkenhead area – need additional locations.
- Knowledge of hidden apps.
- Social class barriers.
- Resources / Money / Provision cut. – to meet legislative response.
- **Funding inconsistent – could we have planned better for funding ending.**
- No standard Wirral approach to support / Fund / Resource – to start again or pathway of support.

Priority 4: Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs (Continued 1)

What we are achieving

- **Gateway & DART Programmes G2R**
- **Number of interventions offered across partnership for adults and children**
- Networking opportunities - early help.
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What is missing?

- Support pending release date / injunction / date end.
- Crisis support pathway. Housing / Support / Counselling / Benefit. Front door offer.
- Support for staff – Confident decision making.
- Gaps in low level – increases risk, and presenting crisis.
- Pragmatic.
- Awareness of pathway of referrals.
- Mobile phone / Police / Remain safe / Replacement.
- LADO needs to support victims more to hold professional perpetrators to account. Knowing where to get the support.
- One stop shops for all information.
- More funding for recovery access to housing.
- Recovery programmes for adults & children need to be longer – more funding. - recovery takes a long time, support needs to be longer.
- Linked counselling / programmes due to funding and waiting list are SO long – counselling expensive – More funding.
- Need to be education around what counselling is needed.
- Limited housing.
- Support on what to say to our children about the DA without being told “we are talking inappropriately to my children”. Professionals need a consistent message on this.
- DATA – No evidenced.
- More support for young people & children – programmes and counselling.
- Slow processes – Housing , CPS, Mental health.
- Courts and court orders need to put safeguarding children above abusive parents PR and “Rights” to see their children as this is an opportunity for them to continue DA through legal systems. Listen to children of all ages & non abusive parents & help them to put boundaries in with perpetrators.
- Police / Social care more holding perpetrators to account & support victims / survivors to have boundaries etc – e.g. – protective orders, help manage behaviours.

Priority 5: Create a brighter, kinder future for the next generation

What we are achieving

- Variety of partners in the Alliance.
- Survivors in the alliance.
- **This is being taught in schools – Healthy relationships – Consent.**
- Survivor stories utilised.
- Family hubs – support available in communities.
- Championing 0-5 years.
- Passion for change.
- Multi agency working together
- Children / Adult services work together.
- **Can walk into a childrens centre or family hub (Children)**
- Organisations are good once you know about it but its getting to know what's out there.
- Foundations are there – needs publicity & linking together.
- RSE in schools
- Workers care.
- Prevention focus in services
- Family tool box
- **Recovery Programmes**
- **Continue to co-produce rolling DA programme, strategy, peer mentor group (G2R)**
- “That Guy “ Campaign
- Focused programmes of work.

Gaps

- Lack of education in the DA Alliance – Primary - Secondary – Post 16 – Higher education.
- Technology – reduces “ Normal” stigma. Glamorising. Hear it all the time – How do we get ahead of emerging themes. To recognise risk / harm etc.
- Images taken - distribution of images – Law – criminal offenses and repercussions.
- Easy Read information , advice and guidance.
- Reduce amount of multiple referrals.
- Link I to the integrated Front Door offer.
- **Education for coercion / Control.**
- **Education and learning programmes – funding and capacity**
- Healthy relationships training adults
- **Where can you walk in as an adult ? – Advertisements.**
- Borough wide campaigns – Buses etc – White ribbon.
- One Stop Shops ?? All services under one roof (MDT approach) Walk in and walk out solutions.
- Emphasis placed on victims to change and not perpetrators.
- Jargon used – gaslighting etc
- **Social class – Taboo / access / LGBTQ+++ / Ethnic minority**
- Local successful prosecutions to raise awareness and confidence.
- **Mental Health Support.**
- Gang based support / cultural
- Links between GP’s – DA Alliance- Harm outside harm.
- Systems need to talk to each other – Liquid Logic Adults and childrens.
- CERNER

Priority 5: Create a brighter, kinder future for the next generation Continued 1)

What we are achieving

- Variety of partners in the Alliance.
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Gaps

- Police systems
- School interventions
- Education – Universal
- Awareness of support
- Recovery programmes for children protection of children in courts.
- Training.
- Joined up approach to know where to go.
- Where to go and where is safe,
- Continuity of support – too many professionals.
- Realistic objectives – more reporting , earlier. Clear understanding of impact.
- Statutory obligation on education from very early on.
- Redirect focus and mind set.
- Consistently – not just a tick box once a year / term.
- All support for A is reliant on charitable funding / limited public funding – All services for DA needs consistent funding streams & more.
- More recovery programmes – with check ins
- Teach children to identify perpetrators
- Society attitudes change towards rolling out abusive behaviours.
- Promotional campaigns to stop stigma.
- Courts need to make safe decisions around contact with abusive parents – safeguarding trumps PR !! - Training for Judges.
- Access to online pornography / AI
- Reality V’s Unrealistic expectations.
- Better housing
- Increase access to work , education
- Lack of long term funding.
- Prevention services – more away from crisis
- Increase parents involvements.
- Lack of wrap around.
- Vote for 16 year olds.



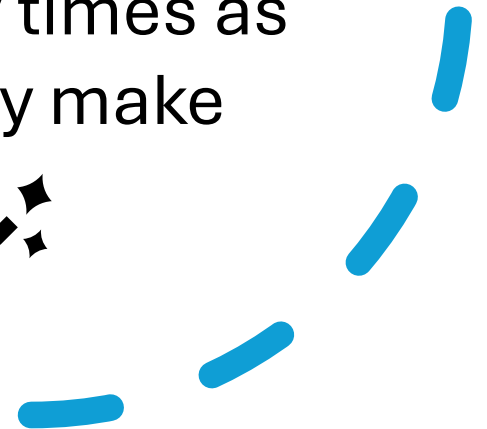
Afternoon Break

Wouldn't it
be fantastic
if....

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Complete the statement, as many times as
you like, with things we could really make
happen (no magic wands here!)



....How are we going to do it?



We know where we want to be, where we are and what we have to work with, but how are we going to do that?

Eliminate	Raise
If anything, what can be removed without impacting service or experience?	What do we need more of?
Change	Create
If anything, what can be changed without impacting service or experience?	What do we need to implement or create that has never been offered before?

Thank you



If there is any feedback you would like to give following this workshop, please email this to emmagraham2@wirral.gov.uk