

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services



NDAS

Supporting all survivors of domestic abuse
in Northumberland



History of NDAS



Formerly 608030 – set up in November 2003

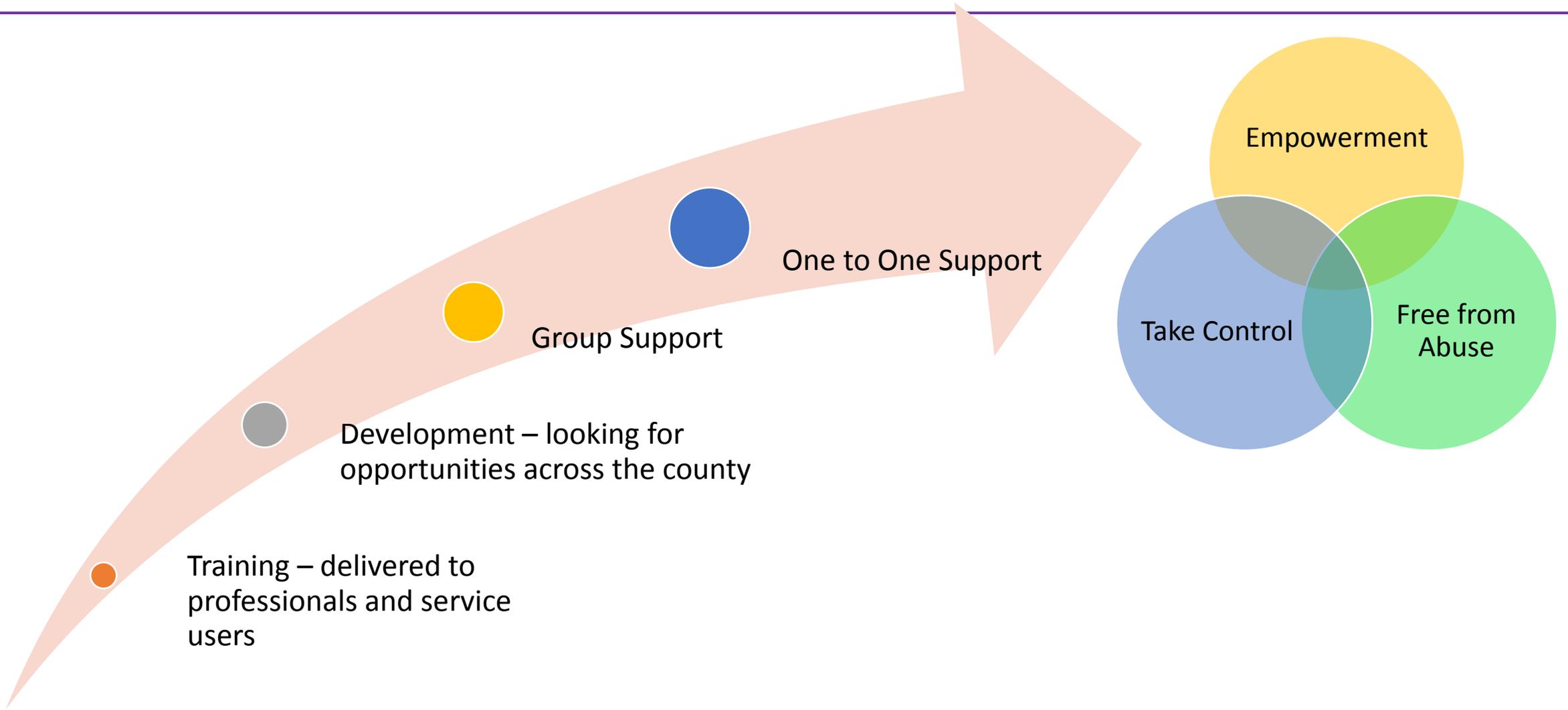
Originally mainly covering the Tyne Valley area, providing counselling to women

Supported over 1700 women in its lifetime

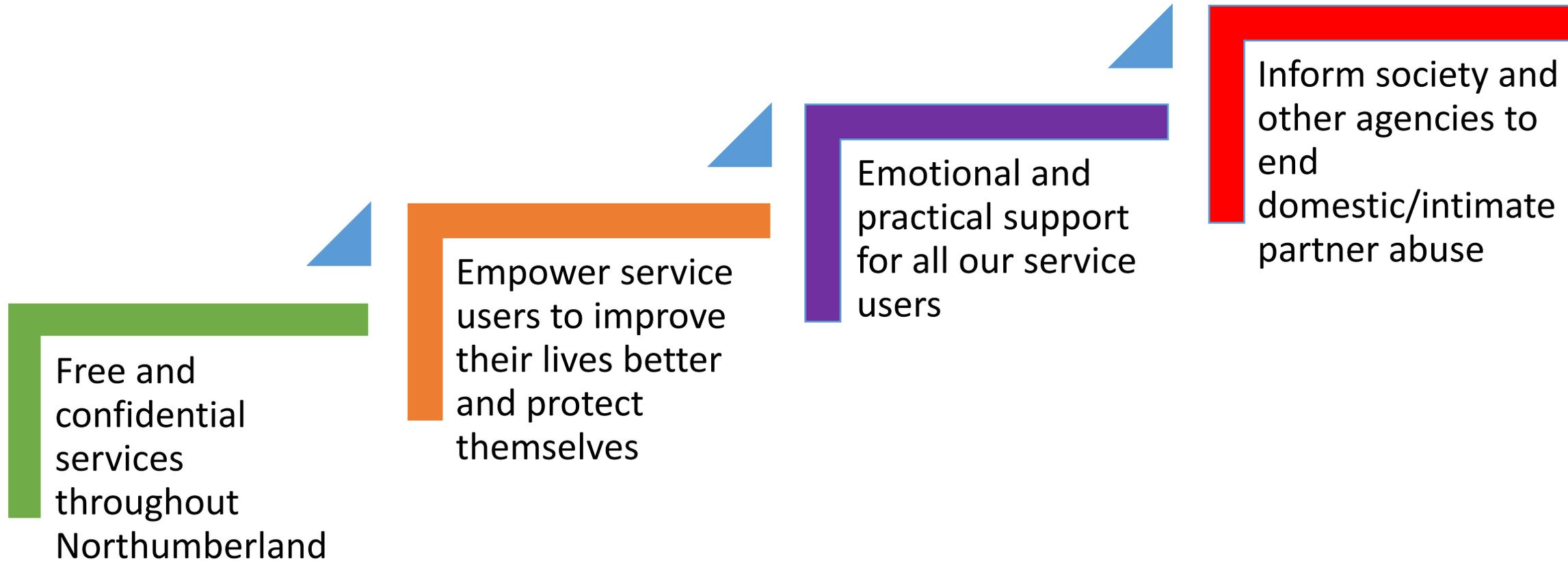
Funded by Northern Rock Foundation, Henry Smith Charity, the Community Foundation plus various other small grants

Became Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services in 2015 and widened scope to become a county wide service supporting anyone who is experiencing or affected by domestic violence/abuse.

What do we do?



How we help service users?



Our Services



- **Outreach services**
 - to ensure people can access services and get the help they need
 - providing advice and information in a local safe environment.
- **Information about domestic violence/abuse**
 - Work with other professional and help identify what abuse is and to notice signs of abuse.
 - Promotion around healthy relationships
- **Practical support**
 - for example as help to apply for housing
 - Creating a safety and/or individual action plan
- **Advice**
 - for example where to get legal or financial advice, or how to make a safety plan work effectively
 - Identifying abuse
 - How to move forward
- **Signposting and working in partnership with other services**
 - when we know we are not the best people to help or other people provide a more specialist service such as; welfare benefits advice, legal services, counselling services etc.
- **Courses**
 - The Freedom Programme
 - Recovery toolkit
- **Emotional Support**
 - a shoulder to lean on, someone to talk to, someone who believes and understands
- **We also provide...**
 - advice on stalking and harassment
 - specialist support for men and older boys (16+)
 - specialist support for children and young people
 - 1-2-1 support
 - structured group work
 - both for awareness raising and to help people in similar situations

We don't...

- Provide a crisis intervention service
- Provide an emergency service
- **Remember RING 999 in an emergency**



NDAS Partnership working

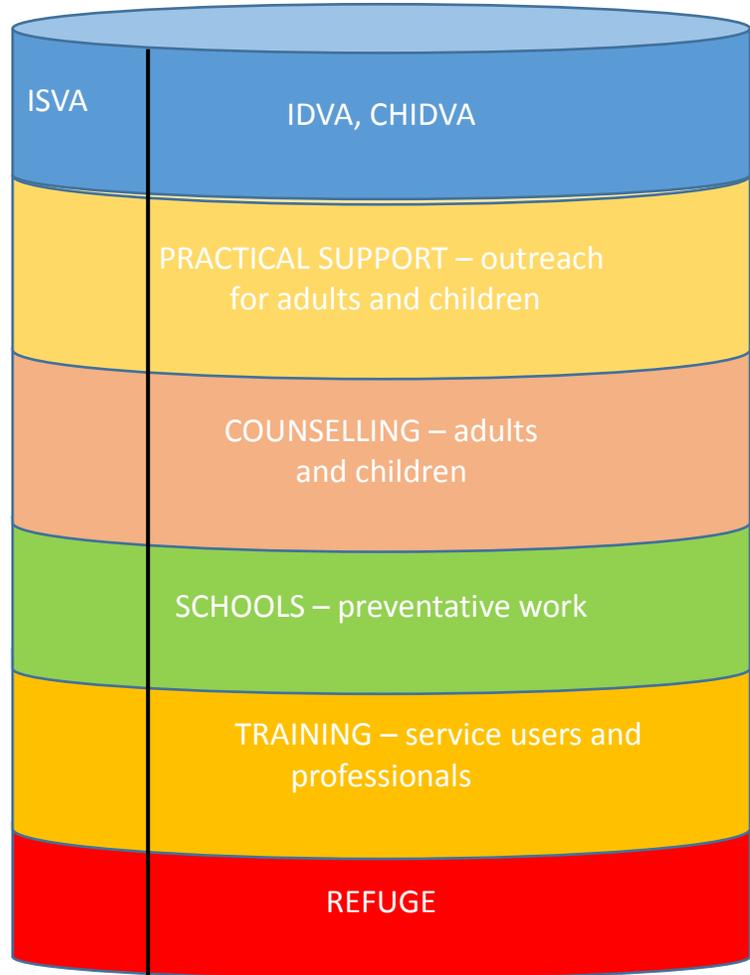


- NDAS works with lots of organisations but is part of **The Lighthouse Partnership**
 - Not a contractual partnership but a way of working to offer a wrap around service across Northumberland.
 - Partners are: NDAS, Cygnus Support, GRACE, and Northumberland Refuge.
 - Aim: to provide county wide support and ensure victims of domestic abuse can access a range of services wherever they live.
 - The partnership aims to:-
 - Share our knowledge and expertise of supporting victims of domestic abuse
 - Standardise the service victims receive
 - Co-ordinate and summarise the impact of our services and the size of the need, on a county-wide basis.

The Lighthouse Partnership – vertical to horizontal specialisation



Grace: Specialism = Sexual Violence



NDAS: Specialism = Domestic Violence, High Risk Victims



NDAS: Specialism = Outreach workers based across the county, women, children, young people and men



Cygnus Support: Specialism = Counselling countywide, use of large number of volunteers



Provided by **all** members of the partnership – dependent on availability and specialist knowledge required.



Stonham: Specialism = Refuge, county wide

Referrals



- Self referral - Anyone affected by or experiencing domestic violence/abuse within the last 12 weeks can contact us and ask for our help
- External Referral pathways limited to Police, Victims First, SureStart, NCC Housing / Homeless Teams, and Lighthouse Partnership members.

NDAS Funders



- Big Lottery – 3 years
- Ballinger Trust – 2 years
- Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner – 1 year
- Comic Relief – 2 years
- Lloyds Bank Foundation – 3 years
- Tudor Trust – 2 years
- Community Foundation – 2 years

What is domestic violence/abuse?

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

- any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:
- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour

- Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour

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

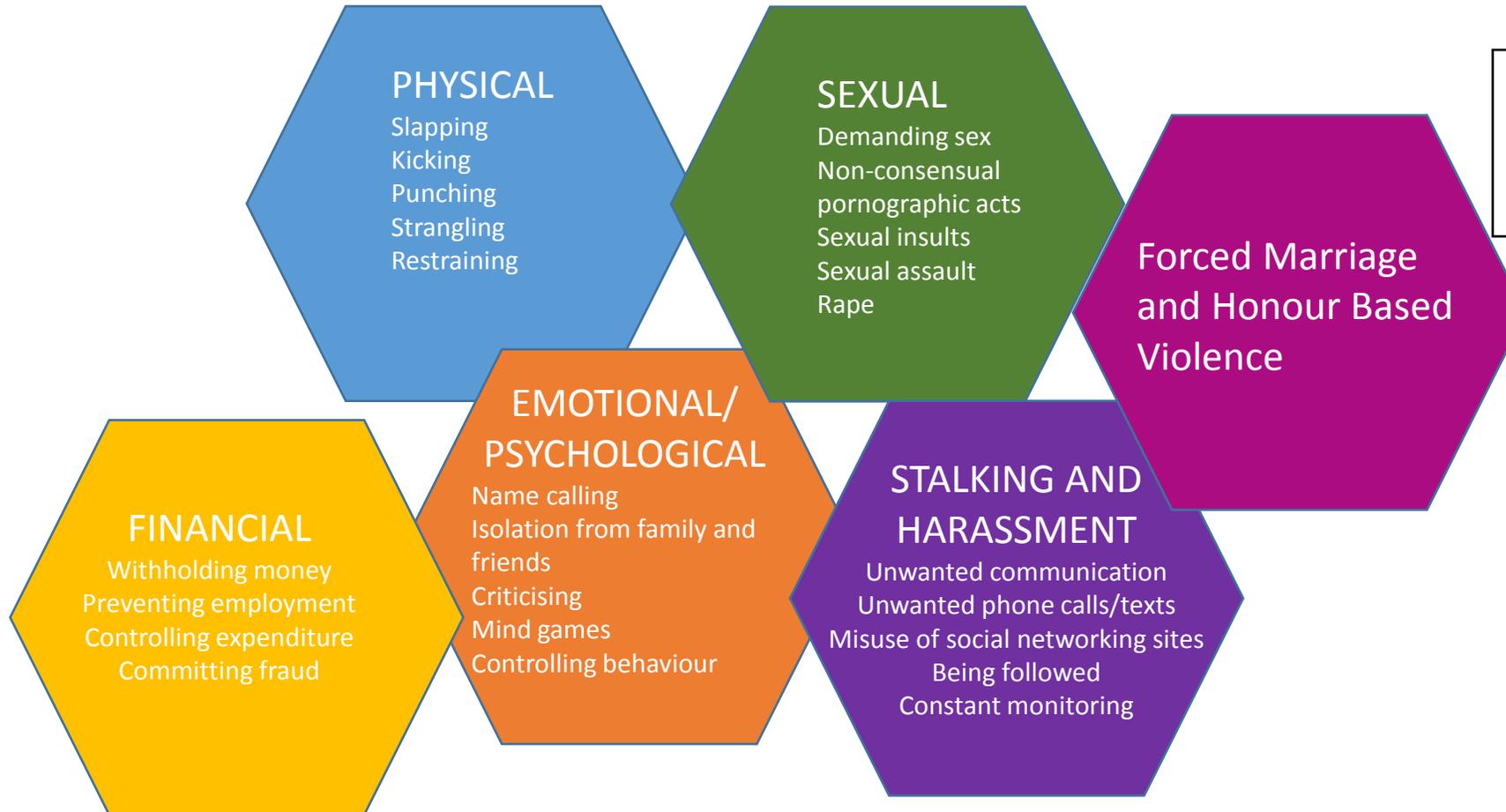
domestic violence/abuse ...



- is NEVER OK and NOT normal
- is not about a loss of control but gaining control
- is about power, NOT poverty, class, religion, gender, sexuality, disability or any other social attributes
- affects women more than men (1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men)
- affects vulnerable men and women (such as people with learning difficulties or homeless people) disproportionately to the wider population
- affects lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people
- affects all age groups
- affects people directly and indirectly
- has a huge impact on children with 90% of recorded incidents within families reporting children in the same room or elsewhere in the household.



Examples of domestic violence/abuse



The Home Office defines forced marriage as "A marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties where duress (emotional pressure) in addition to physical abuse is a factor."

So-called "honour based violence" (HBV) is a collection of practices used to control behaviour within families to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and honour. This abuse can occur if perpetrators believe a relative has shamed the family or community.

The England and Wales Stats (2015)

National

According to the latest published Crime Survey England and Wales (2014) there were:

7.1% of women and 4.4% of men reported having experienced any type of domestic abuse in the last year, equivalent to an estimated 1.2 million female victims and 700,000 male victims.

Overall, 30.0% of women and 16.3% of men had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16, equivalent to an estimated 4.9 million female victims of domestic abuse and 2.7 million male victims.

Men and Boys

- There are problems in gathering reliable data about men who are victims of domestic abuse. In the Scottish population 42% of abused men did not tell anyone as compared to 19% of abused women (2010/2011 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey).
- Men are assumed to be bigger, stronger, or more confident than their partner outside the home or the company of their partner, but this doesn't mean they cannot be experiencing domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse doesn't just happen between partners, husbands or wives.
- NDAS has supported 45 men over the last 12 months who have been victims of Domestic Abuse

Children and young people under 16

- Domestic abuse affects the whole family. That's why NDAS has developed a new service for children and young people under 16, to stop domestic abuse.
- According to national domestic abuse experts, Safer Lives, there are:
 - 130,000 children in the UK living in homes with domestic abuse where there's a high risk of murder or serious injury. Thousands more live with less serious domestic violence every day.
 - Nearly 2 in 3 children (62%) exposed to domestic violence were also directly harmed
 - Children suffer multiple physical and mental health consequences because of living with domestic violence
 - Half of the children involved were previously known to children's social services. However 80% were known to at least one other public agency

People with disabilities



- People with disabilities tend to be more vulnerable than the wider population due to overt and covert discrimination.
- Perpetrators may be the main care provider.
- Victims may be the care provider feeling duty bound to remain at home
- People with learning difficulties are known to be particularly vulnerable to domestic violence/abuse.

“This is about coercive control and women not being free to live their own lives. These women have the least resources in terms of money and social or emotional support, so they’re going to be more vulnerable to domestic violence...There’s play fighting and testing boundaries. The women have to go along with it or, as one said, they’re told ‘You’re a miserable cow’. The perpetrators have health problems and need care themselves, so the women find it difficult to leave.”

Michelle McCarthy, University of Kent, Tizard Centre

Why we need domestic violence/abuse support services



- Specialist domestic abuse services help people rebuild their lives
- Specialist domestic abuse services help people become happier, healthier and lead more meaningful lives
- Specialist domestic abuse services help people gain confidence and improve self esteem.
- Specialist domestic abuse services support people to trust their ability to make their own decisions

In Northumberland NDAS is the only specialist domestic abuse service

Questions?
