

LLOYDS BANK  
FOUNDATION

England & Wales



Project  
summaries

# Transform

Strengthening policy, infrastructure, and innovation in  
the domestic and sexual abuse sectors



The small and local charities we support at the Foundation are tackling some of society's toughest issues, like domestic and sexual abuse. Day-in, day-out, they're picking up the pieces and helping people to re-build their lives. But the systems they're working in can make providing support to survivors even harder. These charities see where challenges emerge – and often, know how to address them too. Doing so takes resource, all too often on top of a day job where demand for services outstrips supply.

To support the domestic and sexual abuse sectors, we launched the Transform programme to tackle these challenges through influencing others, be that individuals, services or systems. We wanted to give them the capacity to explore new solutions and challenge the structures that make it harder for survivors to access the support they need.

Through our funding, these charities and partnerships have made great strides in strengthening the sector, and I urge you to find out more about their work and look at how you can use it to improve the response to domestic and sexual abuse in your own area.

**Paul Streets**  
CEO, Lloyds Bank Foundation



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# To do things differently

In 2017 Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales established the Transform grants programme with the aim of influencing policy and strengthening infrastructure and innovation in the domestic and sexual abuse sectors. It invested £1.6m to fund 16 projects which all aimed to create social change by influencing others to do things differently. Whilst some were focused on influencing policy (nationally, regionally or locally), others sought to build the evidence base on needs and interventions, to develop and share models and/or to develop more effective partnerships to influence change.

Projects have influenced change across many areas, but there is still more to do to ensure better support to victims/survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. There are plenty of opportunities for the impact of these projects to continue grow, with charities taking new approaches and campaigns to their own services and local areas.

This booklet gives a taster of the work they've developed. It helps you find out what's been going on in different areas – and importantly, helps you to understand where you might be able to learn from the work and influence change in your area too. Whether you want to improve the response to domestic abuse for people with a learning disability, embed a trauma-informed approach in your service, push government for protections for migrant survivors or getting your local area to better respond to child sexual exploitation, the charities and partnerships profiled in this booklet have done the groundwork.

Each page includes details about where you can find out more – we'd encourage you to explore how you could use their work to influence change in your area too.

One size does not fit all; if we need wellies don't make us wear size 12 if we are size 11!

**Young person supported by Ann Craft Trust**

**It made me feel better about myself... I wasn't just this person that got beaten and abused**

## **Ann Craft Trust: disabled young people and domestic abuse**

**Impact**

- **Deeper relationships between practitioners**
- **Greater understanding of support needs**
- **Awareness about the need for Safeguarding Adults Boards and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards to collaborate**
- **Better understanding of needs and good practice**

Young disabled people who experience abuse are often overlooked and not heard. That was one of the findings of 'We Matter Too', research which explored the experiences and needs of young disabled people concerning domestic abuse.

The project — focused on the experiences of disabled young people aged 17-30, practitioners, and managers — shone a light on what young disabled people want from domestic abuse services and other agencies. A training program was developed for practitioners from across both the children's/young people and adults' service sector and domestic abuse services areas of practice bringing them together to reflect on recognition, good practice and joint working.

There is an urgent need to improve the responses to young disabled people who experience abuse. Find out what you can do to improve the response at: [anncrafttrust.org/research/we-matter-too](https://anncrafttrust.org/research/we-matter-too)

## **AVA and Agenda: Domestic and sexual abuse and multiple disadvantage**

**Impact**

- **Reports used to shape the Domestic Abuse Bill and inform the spending review, ensuring that multiple disadvantage is acknowledged by the new Domestic Abuse Commissioner**

What are the wider issues faced by women who experience domestic and sexual violence? And what does this mean for how they interact with services and the support they need? These are some of the questions AVA and Agenda tried to answer through a National Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and Multiple Disadvantage.

Alongside the National Commission, a multi-agency group of practitioners working with women experiencing domestic and sexual abuse and multiple disadvantage was brought together to discuss issues and exchange best practice. The findings led to reports placing survivors at the heart of the work and raised awareness of the experiences of this group of women, and the support they deserve.

AVA and Agenda are now trying to implement the findings across Greater Manchester. Find out how your area and service could use the findings to better respond to domestic and sexual violence and multiple disadvantage at: [avaproject.org.uk](https://avaproject.org.uk)

**Women need to be able to access these services 24/7 without any barriers or any fear**

## Carmarthen Domestic Abuse Services and Carmarthenshire People First: domestic abuse and learning disability

Impact

- Key agencies including Dyfed Powys Police and social services in Carmarthenshire are using the toolkit to better support victims of abuse with a learning disability

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone. It can take up to 35 attempts for people to leave an abusive relationship. But for those with learning disabilities it is more difficult. What does this mean for how services are delivered? Carmarthen Domestic Abuse Services (CDAS) and Carmarthenshire People First found out.

CDAS and Carmarthenshire People First have highlighted where policies, funding and services need to change, raising the profile of this issue within the police, adult safeguarding, health and other agencies. They have developed a toolkit, tested by people with learning disabilities, that can be used by professionals and individuals to communicate about domestic abuse more effectively

Carmarthen Domestic Abuse Service has been able to reassess the way they work with individuals. Other services are invited to use their work to adopt new practices in their own services. Visit [carmdas.org/professional-resources](http://carmdas.org/professional-resources)

# If you get it right for people with a learning disability you get it right for everyone

## Recognise the experiences of LGBT+ victims/survivors of domestic abuse

Galop

Impact

- Draft Domestic Abuse Bill and national VAWG strategy refresh clearly recognise the importance of addressing the needs of LGBT+ survivors.
- £500,000 of Home Office funding secured to further support services to meet the needs of LGBT+ survivors

Galop are leading the way in improving the response to LGBT+ survivors of domestic abuse. By analysing data from the LGBT+ domestic abuse casework service in their Recognise and Respond report, Galop have increased understanding not only of the prevalence of domestic abuse within the LGBT+ community, but also to increase understanding of the support needs of survivors and barriers to accessing support.

Galop have engaged new partners, collaborating with over 20 national and regional domestic abuse and women's services and the criminal justice system to transform services. They set-up the LGBT+ domestic abuse national network and worked closely with policy influencers to ensure that LGBT+ people's needs are clearly visible in national, regional and local policy frameworks.

Join the discussion and find out more about how you can improve services in your own area by accessing the LGBT+ domestic abuse national network: [galop.org.uk](http://galop.org.uk)

# Women shouldn't be criminalised for reporting violence

## Latin American Women's Rights Service: Step Up Migrant Women

Impact

- **Mayor of London calling for a change in immigration policy that supports victims of crime**
- **Home Affairs Joint Committee and Pre-legislative Domestic Abuse Select Committee recommendations for the need for safe reporting**
- **National Police Chiefs Council policy on restricting the sharing of immigration data of crime victims with the Home Office**

Step Up Migrant Women is a campaign speaking up on the rights of migrant survivors of abuse. It's calling for a firewall between reporting abuse and immigration control. The campaign pushes for an end to data-sharing of victims' details between the police and immigration enforcement.

To support the campaign, Latin American Women's Rights Service led new research into the experiences of migrant women. The report, 'Right to be Believed', highlights that half of migrant women feel they would not be believed when they report abuse to the police due to their insecure immigration status. The voices of migrant survivors have helped shift debates alongside the development of the Domestic Abuse Bill.

You can find out more about the campaign and add your support at: [stepupmigrantwomen.org](https://stepupmigrantwomen.org)

## Male Survivors Partnership: Accreditation for male sexual violence services

Impact

- **38 services received/working towards accreditation for quality standards for services**
- **Secured Home Office funding to expand the work**

With the number of male victims/survivors of sexual violence continuing to rise, it is critical that men and boys can access the quality support they need. The Males Survivors Partnership is a membership organisation bringing together multiple agencies. They work with male survivors to improve the consistency and quality of support available for increasing numbers of male victims/survivors of sexual violence.

Working with LimeCulture CIC, they have developed a Quality Standards for Services Supporting Male Victims/Survivors of Sexual Violence. The standards are now available for services to use. They not only help services to understand if they are adopting best practice, but they also provide assurance to those accessing support and those funding it.

See how your service can achieve the quality mark: [malesurvivor.co.uk](https://malesurvivor.co.uk)

# It has united policy leads, commissioners, academics and service providers

## Manchester Action on Street Health, Trafford Rape Crisis and Greater Manchester Rape Crisis

Impact

- Greater Manchester's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime committed to taking the recommendations of Voices of Survivors on board in the new Greater Manchester Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

Devolution can offer many opportunities for local decision-making, but when only 2 boroughs across a city region have specialist sexual violence services for women, how can you ensure everyone across the devolved area can access support?

That is the challenge Manchester Action on Street Health, Trafford Rape Crisis and Greater Manchester Rape Crisis sought to address across Greater Manchester. Created with Manchester Metropolitan University, the "The Voices of Survivors" report highlights the biggest barriers women face to accessing support. The research demonstrates the importance of specialist services, which women identified as far better at meeting needs than other providers.

The report calls for a distinct sexual violence strand to the Greater Manchester Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. You can read the report at: [vosgm.org.uk](https://vosgm.org.uk)

## I didn't know where to go or who to contact

## It keeps women at the centre of our work

### My Sister's Place: implementing, embedding and sustaining trauma-informed practice for services supporting survivors of domestic abuse and trauma

Impact

- Increased access to trauma informed services for survivors of domestic abuse through the delivery of the TIME training to over 250 practitioners from a range of organisations nationally
- The TIME model has been selected to be part of Spring Impact's Scale Accelerator programme to explore how to further grow the model

The impacts of trauma and the long terms effects on women and girls who have experienced abuse is well documented. However, there is a significant shortage of trauma-informed services within the violence against women and girls sector.

TIME (Trauma Informed Model of Empowerment) model and TIME Trauma Training has been developed by My Sister's Place to address this need by increasing access to trauma-informed services for survivors of domestic abuse by increasing knowledge, skills and competencies of practitioners. Feedback from survivors affected by trauma and domestic abuse shows the approach is effective in supporting survivors, enabling services to increase physical and psychological safety at all levels and support recovery.

Following the success of a national pilot, the TIME Training Programme is continuing to support more services to implement, embed and sustain trauma-informed practice. For more, visit: [mysistersplace.org.uk/training](https://mysistersplace.org.uk/training)

**My past defined me for many years but now I feel like I'm worth something**

## **New Pathways: trauma-informed counselling**

**Impact**

- **Survivors' recommendations for support has been embedded into training that reaches approximately 2,000 per year**
- **Level 5 Diploma in Counselling for Trauma is helping practitioners better support survivors – with the first cohort of students impacting on 480 counselling sessions**

Counselling is typically a core element of support to people who experience sexual violence. But how can survivors shape this support so it best meets their needs?

New Pathways conducted research with Swansea University into survivors of sexual violence's experiences of counselling. Their expertise led to the development of a new Diploma in Trauma Counselling. The Diploma teaches counsellors to work more effectively with people who have experienced trauma, such as sexual violence or domestic abuse. They have also developed a programme of group-work tailored to the specific requirements of sexual violence survivors and their family members.

You can find out more about how to access these courses and training, visit: [newpathways.org.uk](http://newpathways.org.uk)

## **Rape Crisis England and Wales: sexual violence policy work**

**Impact**

- **Securing continued central funding for sexual violence services**
- **NHS England and Ministry of Justice announced additional funding**

Rape Crisis England and Wales raises the voices of member services so that they can be heard in decision-making forums where it matters. This means that more specialist charities' front-line expertise is influencing decisions at a national level. Rape Crisis policy work is focused on influencing policymakers around long-term sustainable funding for Rape Crisis Centres, as well as working on creating change in the criminal justice system for rape and sexual abuse survivors.

Rape Crisis England and Wales's push for change has contributed to additional funding for frontline services for victims and survivors of rape, sexual violence and abuse. They have built relationships with parliamentarians interested in championing initiatives around sexual violence and abuse.

Rape Crisis is continuing its work to ensure greater representation and funding. For more, visit: [rapecrisis.org.uk/get-informed](http://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-informed)

**We work closely with the core central government departments that lead on this issue**

## Reducing the Risk: Champions networks

Impact

- Development of 11 local Champions' Networks in different areas, improving the response to victims/survivors across a range of statutory and non-statutory services
- Secured funding from The National Lottery Communities Fund to further expand the network

Research indicates that victims of domestic abuse can go to as many as five professionals before finding appropriate help. Reducing the Risk's Champions Networks improve this response through empowering practitioners from a wide range of agencies and communities to better understand domestic abuse and work together to provide coordinated support to people in their area.

Champions, many within different statutory services, are seen as the lead for domestic abuse issues within their agency/unit. They can advise colleagues on management of individual cases and are linked with Champions in other services to share expertise, plan together, and ensure victims and survivors can access the wrap around support they need. There are now 11 areas with networks and they are continuing to grow.

You can find out how to bring a Champions Network to your area at: [reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://reducingtherisk.org.uk)

## We can't do this single handed, we need to be working together

## Demonstrable improvements in attendees' knowledge and confidence

### Re:Shape: Access to services for sexual offenders

Impact

- 491 people trained so that their services can better support people who have caused, or have the potential to cause, sexual harm

While prosecutions for sexual offences have risen, few services will work with sexual offenders after the end of their sentence.

Re:shape developed and delivered training to support individuals working in frontline organisations to work more effectively with people who have caused, or have the potential to cause, sexual harm.

Through the training, services are able to increase their awareness of the types of sexual offending, build a clearer view of the relevance of desistance theory in the community, develop skills and emotional resilience when working with offenders and increase the ability to understand risk when working with offenders in the community.

This training is now being provided by Taye Training. To find out how you could access it in your service, visit: [tayetraining.org.uk/training-courses](http://tayetraining.org.uk/training-courses)

# Our findings illustrate how the Exceptional Case Funding system is not fit-for-purpose

## Rights of Women and Public Law Project: Access to Exceptional Case Funding

Impact

- Government committed in 2019 to reviewing the Exceptional Case Funding scheme
- Inclusion in an expert stakeholder group, established by the Ministry of Justice, advising the review team

The Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) programme is a critical part of the legal aid scheme that exists to ensure an individual's human rights or EU rights are not breached. Its purpose is to provide a safety net to ensure access to justice. Rights of Women worked with Public Law Project to explore how effective the ECF scheme is for women survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Through action research the partners supported 23 women to make ECF applications. This casework generated a unique evidence-base to understand and critique the current system and make policy recommendations. The findings and recommendations were submitted to the Government's legal aid review in 2018

You can read the report and find out more at: [rightsofwomen.org.uk](https://rightsofwomen.org.uk)

## SARSAS (Somerset & Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support, The Green House, Womankind and Barnardo's): Building a consortium

Impact

- Secured £600,000 to deliver sexual violence support as a consortium across the region
- Joined up services ensure survivors across the area can access the support they need

The Sexual Violence Support Consortium brings together SARSAS, Womankind, The Green House and Barnardo's to ensure survivors across Avon and Somerset can access the right service at the right time for them.

Supported by Voscur, the local infrastructure body, the consortium produced a Sexual Violence Needs Assessment for Avon and Somerset, evidencing the needs of local survivors and designed a 'Navigator Hub' model, building on learning from South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre. Through this work, they have been able to expand their collaborative services and secure new statutory funding. Their role as a strategic partner has also grown, with increased influence in policy and commissioning.

Learn from their approach and find out how you could develop a consortium in your area. Visit: [voscur.org/services](https://voscur.org/services)

# Peer support has been vital for all the members at times when we are trying to do more with less

# Women's Counselling and Therapy Service and Leeds Involving People: A city wide approach to Supporting Adults who have experienced Childhood Sexual Abuse

Impact

- All five Leeds statutory bodies adopted a city-wide policy statement on supporting adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse
- Shifted commissioning to reflect the policy statement
- Featured in an Observer special report on supporting survivors

Specialist services have a critical role in supporting people who have experienced Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA). Women's Counselling and Therapy Service's Visible Project takes a whole-city approach to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for adult survivors of CSA. Through this work, Visible has brought services together at strategic, organisational and frontline levels. It has given staff the awareness, skills and confidence to work more effectively with people who have experienced non-recent CSA.

You can find out more about Visible and how they have been able to implement city-wide systems change at: [visibleproject.org.uk](https://visibleproject.org.uk)

## The experience of survivors influences every aspect of the way we deliver change

Explore our end of programme report and our long-form project summaries on [lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk](https://lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk)

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End of programme  
summary

## Transform

Strengthening policy, infrastructure, and innovation  
in the domestic and sexual abuse sectors

**My past defined me for  
many years but now  
I feel like I'm worth  
something, I feel  
valued for who I am.**

**A client of New Pathways**



Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales partners with small and local charities who help people overcome complex social issues. Through long-term funding, developmental support and influencing policy and practice, the Foundation helps charities make life-changing impact. The Foundation is an independent charitable trust funded by the profits of Lloyds Banking Group as part of their commitment to Helping Britain Prosper.

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