



## London Funders Domestic Violence network Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm-5pm

**Venue:** London Funders, 314 - 320 Grays Inn Road, London, WC1X 8DP

**Chair:** James Banks, London Funders

### Attendees:

Jessica	<b>Donnellan</b>	Comic Relief
Nikki	<b>Wimborne</b>	Cripplegate Foundation
Tamsin	<b>Baxter</b>	Greater London Fund For The Blind
Jessica	<b>Stewart</b>	Henry Smith Charity
Emma	<b>Cockerell</b>	London Borough of Sutton
Marsha	<b>Henry</b>	London Councils
Grace	<b>Perry</b>	London Funders
Juliette	<b>Kelvin</b>	National Lottery Community Fund
Lucy	<b>Robson</b>	Oak Philanthropy (UK) Limited
Jon	<b>Vincent</b>	St Mungo's
Steven	<b>Baynes</b>	The Royal British Legion
Sarah	<b>Davidge</b>	Women's Aid

### Apologies:

Bel	<b>Crewe</b>	BBC Children in Need
Samantha	<b>Rennie</b>	Rosa UK

## Notes

### Welcome

James Banks (Chair) welcomed attendees and introduced the topic of 'How funders can best support people who have been affected by Domestic Violence'.

There have been many reports over the last few years looking at how we work and think differently and in collaboration. London Funders & IVARs report ['The possible, not the perfect'](#) looks at this. And more focused is the University of Birmingham's research [on 'women who are experiencing domestic abuse are nearly three times as likely to develop mental illness'](#)



## Presentation

### Sarah Davidge (Research, Evaluation and Development Office, Women's Aid)

Women's Aid have been using resources and research which can support commissioners and services London by showing how data can be collected well to inform policy and practice in domestic abuse support.

- Routes to Support VAWG service directories (enabling survivors and providers to locate a suitable service)
- London Refuges Data Dashboard (enabling London stakeholders to understand how domestic abuse services are used)
- On Track (integrated case management and outcomes monitoring system including the largest national dataset on women experiencing domestic abuse)

**Routes to Support** VAWG service directories which enable survivors and providers to locate a suitable domestic abuse support services in the UK.

- The directory acts as a referral tool for specialist services including national and regional helplines.
- As well as being detailed the information is constantly kept up to date. Services update their information in a detailed questionnaire and interview every year carried out by staff at WAFE as well as advising us of any changes to crucial information in the interim.
- Different service for professionals (GoldBook Online) and survivors (free online directory of services)

**London Refuges Data Dashboard** working with London Councils, have developed the London Refuges Data Dashboard. This is available to stakeholders in the capital and forms part of a programme of work to improve policy and practice including data analysis and presentations. The dashboard provides:

- Information on domestic abuse service provision in London
- Information on women placed in refuges
- Detail on unsuccessful instances of referral for vacancies
- Information on women moving on from refuge

**On Track** is about using data to improve services for survivors. It is based on the need to understand the impact of services, and the needs and experiences of survivors. The idea came from feedback from our membership about their struggles to collect data – we then worked with survivors, member services, academics and commissioners to develop On Track. There are 4 keys parts to On Track:

- A national outcomes framework
- In partnership with IT works (case management experts) we developed a bespoke, online case management and outcomes monitoring system.
- We offer consultancy and capacity building for participating services from identifying what data they need to collect to using the data to 'prove and improve' and a programme of workshops.
- We also collect a national set of anonymised data through the programme



Questions to Sarah and other members of the group:

- Q.** Do you know the outer London women are coming in from? – And is that because there isn't provision where they are?
- Some services are more condensed in London i.e. BAME
  - More prevalent services
  - Women will normally move from urban to urban areas when fleeing
  - Health related issues – near major hospitals etc.
  - Family connections
- Q.** Are specialist providers more apprehensive to share?
- A.** No. They are only sharing anonymously; the data isn't being passed on. We are aware of the need for sensitivity when using data. On track data are completely anonymous and we are a trusted founded organisation.
- Q.** How can funders best support, is it to have better relationships with government and local authorities?
- A.** In the long term we can do more local damage by not supporting the local authorities to follow their statutory duties i.e. when seen small contracts lost and charities stepped into fill the gap with short term funding pots.

### Member discussions

- Women's Aid are trying to support dedicated, specialist DA services, not those who dip in and out. Empowering the sector to be competitive giving them the tools that normally only large charities have. About proving the value of what we do as a specialist service we know we do it better
- Older women under represented. Women's Aid do collect data for women over 60, but they are present in relatively small numbers. Older women may feel services aren't for them. Decades of abuse for some older women – issue that needs to be worked on
- As a group of funders – we constantly root cause analyse why these needs are presenting. Where in an ideal world, prosecution would happen and refuges wouldn't exist
- Across the sector we need to understand where and how to support. But advice support services need to develop a safe place to disclose. But are we asking services of people without the qualifications i.e. trauma services, gender informed services.
- For funders right now, it feels more important now to think about advocacy role. What can we give beyond the money? And do our bit to be shining a light on the trends as a collective and putting pressure on where needed to see change, as small independent groups struggle to convene and steer away from political advocacy. All this monitoring data what are we doing with it? There is a role to raise awareness that we should be filling.
- Some charities are worried about being honest with funders. If they are struggling, then you will view them as risky and won't fund them in the future.
- Survivor of domestic abuse said (to an organisation) – 'fund services for children who have witnessed and seen things, I as an adult have choices, my kids have none.'
- Refuge provision shouldn't exist without dedicated children's provision.
  - Really obvious when austerity kicked in that children's services began to drop



- Children don't witness domestic abuse they experience it.
- Best practice is wrap around support for children.
- Children in refuge are often wary of talking about their experiences feeling this would protect the mother.
- We do have the answer in coordinated community response but had to fund. Vast amounts of money needed. We need to shift our mind set to look at a who systems approach.
- Funder collaboration has always existed, but had sat with the organisations. We need to look at funders collaborating before they get to organisations.

## Resources

Women's Aid - <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/national-quality-standards/>

IVAR - ['The possible, not the perfect'](#)

University of Birmingham - <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2019/06/domestic-abuse-mental-illness-birmingham.aspx>