DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

Presentation by Ms Lauren Agius
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Foundation For Social Welfare Services
for the 20th WAVE Conference

The Importance of Women's Specialist Services Tackling Violence Against Women

22nd -24th October 2018





DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

- From Abuse to Respect through Awareness and Responsibility
- Collaboration between women's specialist services and working with perpetrators' programmes





A brief history

- Origin of the Perpetrators' Service
- The first Group Programme
- Referrals to the group programme
- Development of the Service
- Focus on the Safety of Women and Children





Challenges and way forward

- The original programme was too brief to bring about change and to leave a lasting effect
- A new programme was produced and put into effect for the first time in 2017.
- The current programme consists of 28 sessions, each session lasting 3 hours. The closed group is typically made up of 8-12 members.





A collaborative approach

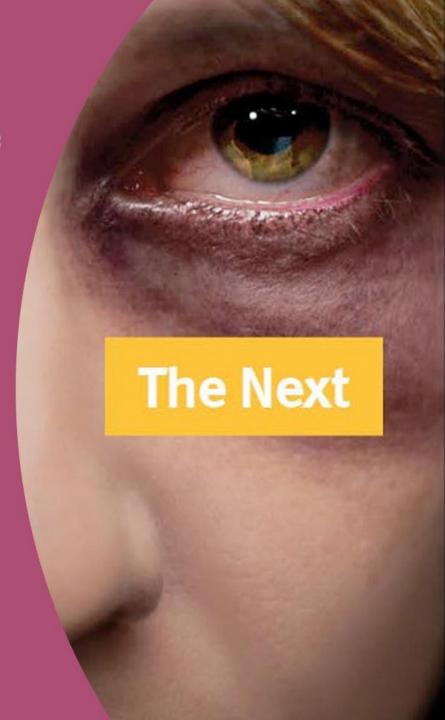
- Feedback and constant contact with women's services.
- Most perpetrators were evasive, manipulative, blamed the victim, took little if any responsibility for their abuse and presented as victims.





A collaborative approach (cont..)

- At intake, the perpetrator is informed of the limits of confidentiality.
- If the victim is not known to the victim service, contact is made.





A collaborative approach (cont..)

- Feedback is obtained regularly and consistently through the domestic violence unit.
- Feedback can be used for confrontation purposes only with the victim's consent and when it is considered safe to do so.
- Any threat to the victim's safety is immediately communicated to the victim's social worker.





Continued collaboration throughout

 At the end of the group programme, a final evaluation report with recommendations is made by the group facilitators.

Subsequent plan for a way forward





Continued collaboration throughout

 Meeting between the couple and their respective social workers.

- Recommendations
- From intake to termination of service, the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programme works with the Domestic Violence Unit with the primary focus on safety for women and children.





THANK YOU





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