

Domestic Violence Center

Support and co-operation during the legal process

2018-06-13



Agenda

- 14:15 – 15:00 presentation
- 15:00 – 15:20 quick tour and coffee break
- 15:20 – 15:50 case discussion in groups
- 15:50 – 16:30 (at the latest) conclusions

Domestic Violence Center

- Domestic Violence Center (RVC) is a support center for people aged over 18 years who have been subject to domestic violence or honor related violence. They have made a police report which is being investigated at Västerortspolisen
- RVC is a co-operation between:
 - Social services in six districts/municipalities
 - The police
 - The regional public prosecution office
- Trained social workers with special competence in the area of domestic violence and honor related violence
- Our clients are (mostly) women, men and people in same-sex relationships

The social service in Sweden

- Each district/municipality has its own social service office
- The utmost social safety for citizens
- Different areas of responsibility: Economical support, alcohol/drug addiction, mental ill-health, exposed children, questions of custody, domestic violence etc.
- The social service is obliged to help people subjected to domestic violence with sheltered housing, counseling etc.
- Free for citizens – financed by taxes
- Educated social workers work at the social service office

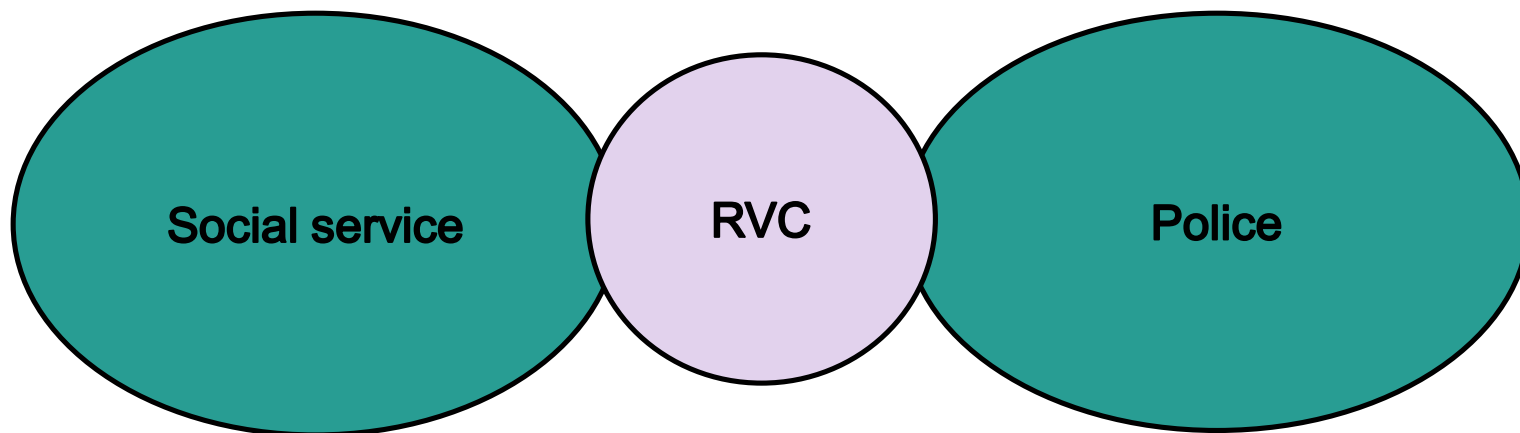
Some historic facts

- In 2007 the legislation that controls support to victims of domestic violence was strengthened (Socialtjänstlagen 5 kap 11§)
- High estimated number of unknown cases of domestic violence
- Lack of co-operation between the police and the social service
- Many victims didn't want or dare to participate in the police investigation
- Victims without children are harder for the social service to discover
- Investment from the government – RVC was founded in 2007

RVC was founded to...

- Give more professional support to people who have made police reports about domestic violence or honor related violence in the police district of Västerort
- Ensure that the victims get knowledge about the legal process and the support they need during it
- Improve the co-operation between the police and the social service

The authorities different areas of responsibility



How does RVC get in contact with clients?

- Most commonly from police working at the field, investigators and police working with victims support
- The police ask the victim about consent for RVC to contact her/him
- RVC calls the client and offers a meeting
- Clients can also come to RVC from the social service or take direct contact with RVC themselves

The clients are offered

- Conversational support: Motivational Interviewing, counseling, crisis counseling, conversation about security
- Information about the police investigation and the legal process/trial
- Support before/during/after interrogations and trial
- Help to contact other supporting centers/social service after the legal process is finished

Method of working

- Motivational Interviewing
- Create understanding for the victim – understand the violence and reduce the feelings of shame and guilt
- Take a stand against domestic violence
- Information about civil and legal rights
- Work to strengthen the victims own will and independency

Aspects to consider

- Not all victims live in heterosexual relationships
- It's important that clients feel comfortable in the meeting
- No interrogation
- Obligation to observe silence/professional confidentiality (social service/police)
- Vulnerable groups
- Consequences for professionals when working with violence

Different processes

Process of violence (e.g. physical/psychological/sexual)

Legal process - RVC

Breaking-up process

Co-operation between authorities

- The importance of regular meetings to strengthen the co-operation
- Colocation simplifies the work around clients
- Clients feel safe
- Difficulties due to different legislations
- Relocation of RVC from august 2018

Results RVC

- RVC has been evaluated a number of times
- Content partners of co-operation
- Increased co-operation between the police and the social service
- A better and more efficient care for victims of domestic violence
- RVC offers support and information - police and social service can focus on other parts
- 2007-2012: the numbers of prosecution went from 24 % to 40 % (not evaluated since then)
- 2013 RVC won the European Crime Prevention Award

Thank you for listening!

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