

Thematic Review of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Mid and West Wales

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Aims

- To enhance understanding of the themes and learning from DHRs conducted in the region
- To inform the development and implementation of the Regional VAWDASV Delivery Plan

Domestic Homicide Reviews – the changing legislative and policy landscape

- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Publication and review of Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
 - Duty on Relevant Authorities to Prevent, Protect and Support
 - National Training Framework
 - Ask and Act
- Offence of Coercive and Controlling Behaviour
- Introduction of protection orders in respect of Domestic Abuse and Stalking
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
 - Statutory definition of Domestic Abuse
 - Children recognised as victims of Domestic Abuse
 - Creation of new offence of non-fatal strangulation
 - Extension of existing offences e.g. coercive and controlling behaviour

Context for this Thematic Review

- Mid and West Wales Regional VAWDASV Strategy
- Consultation on legislative changes to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Review of the Home Office Statutory DHR Guidance
- Launch of Home Office DHR Online Library
- Proposed introduction of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (Wales)

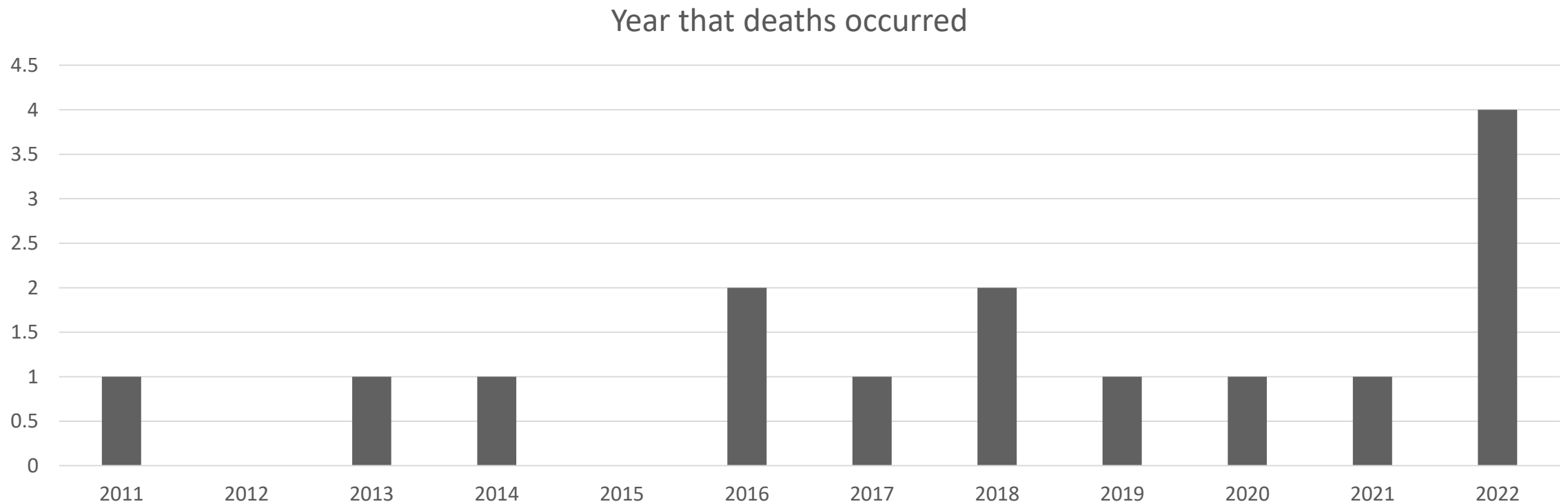
Methodology

- Request sent to the 4 Community Safety Partnerships for access to all completed Domestic Homicide Reviews (published or otherwise)
- Requested baseline data for all ongoing DHRs
- Reviewed all DHRs and data to identify key themes and learning

Overview of DHRs in Mid and West Wales

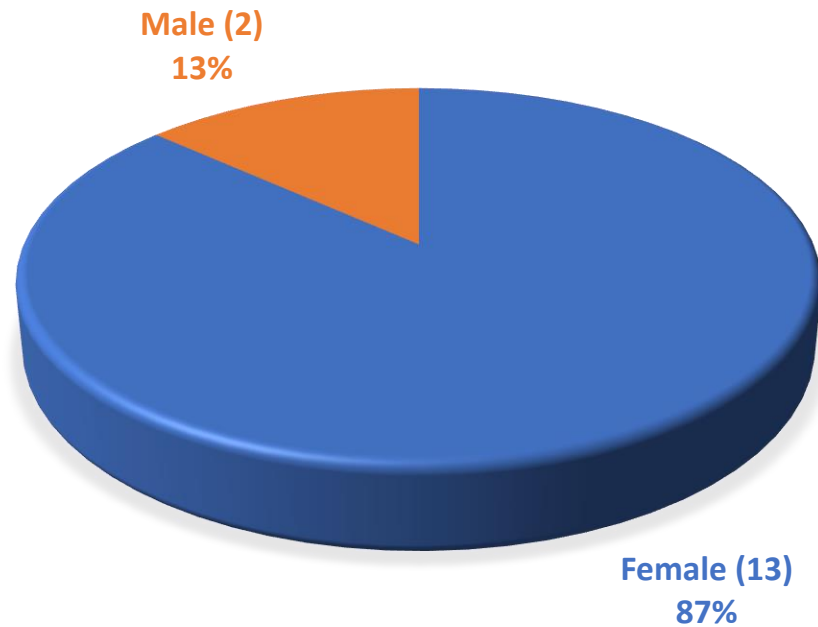
Community Safety Partnership	DHRs Completed	DHRs Published	DHRs Ongoing	Notifications awaiting Decision
Carmarthenshire	2	1	2	0
Ceredigion	1	1	2	0
Pembrokeshire	4	3	0	0
Powys	1	1	3	1
Total	8	6	7	1

When did deaths occur?

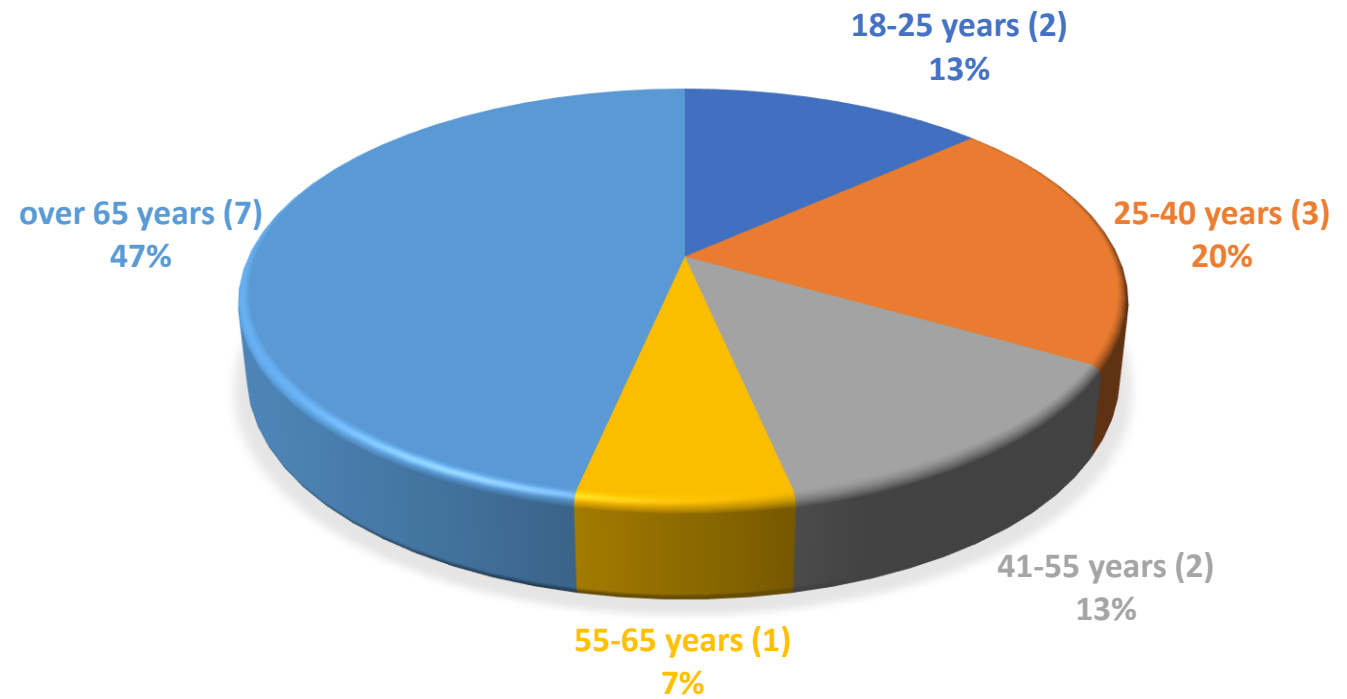


Who are the victims?

SEX OF THE VICTIM



AGE OF THE VICTIM



Ethnicity

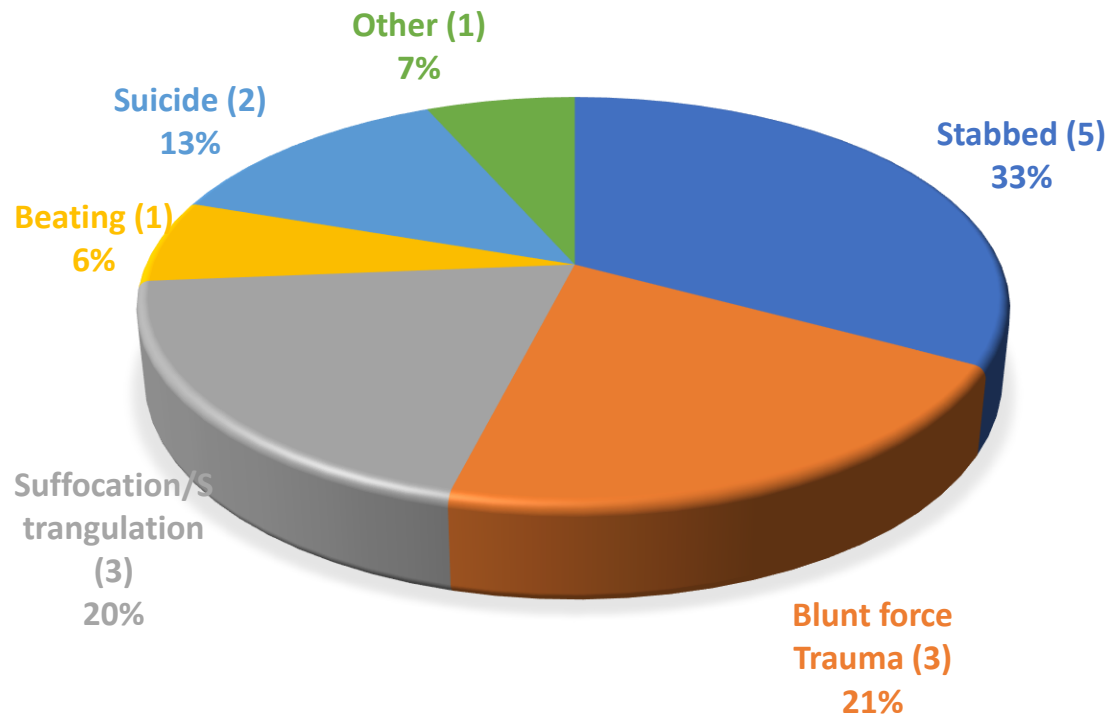
Where noted 100% of victims were White
Welsh/British

Children

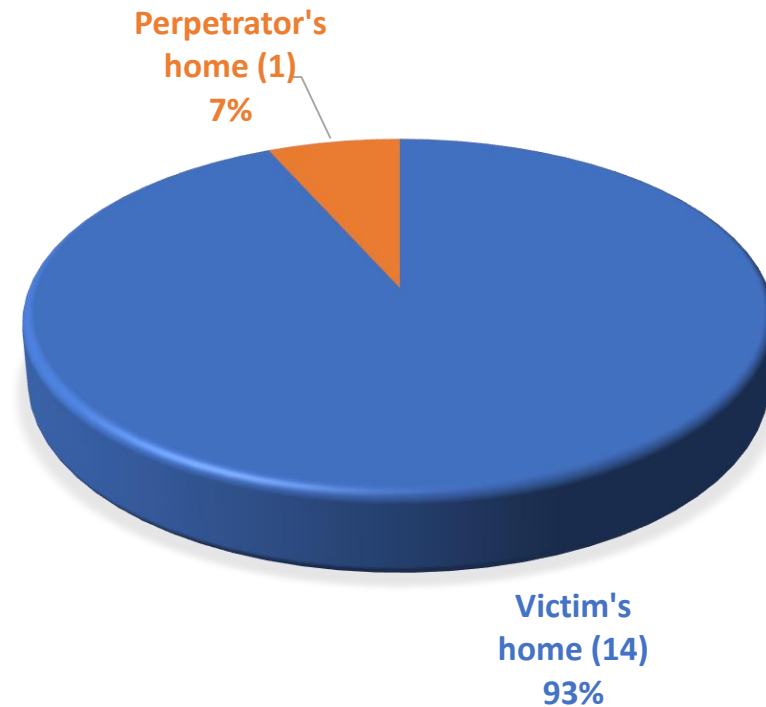
There were a total of 8 children in 5
Reviews

How and where the deaths occurred

METHOD OF KILLING

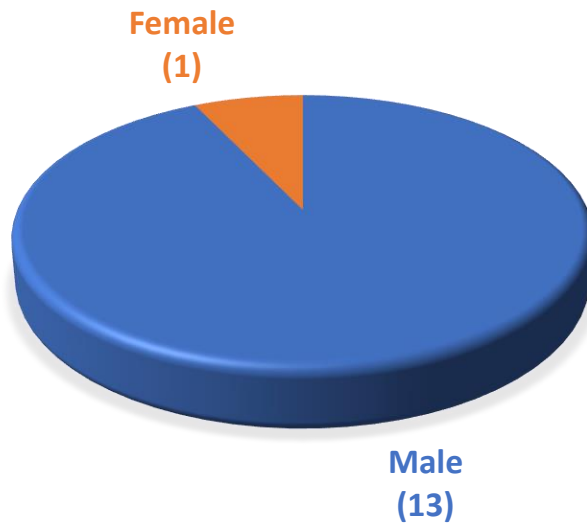


LOCATION OF DEATH

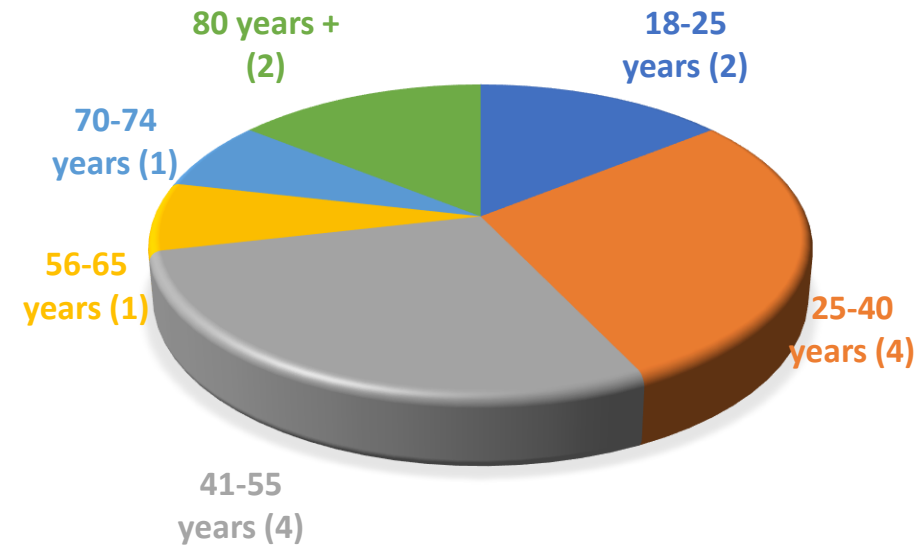


Perpetrators

SEX OF THE PERPETRATOR



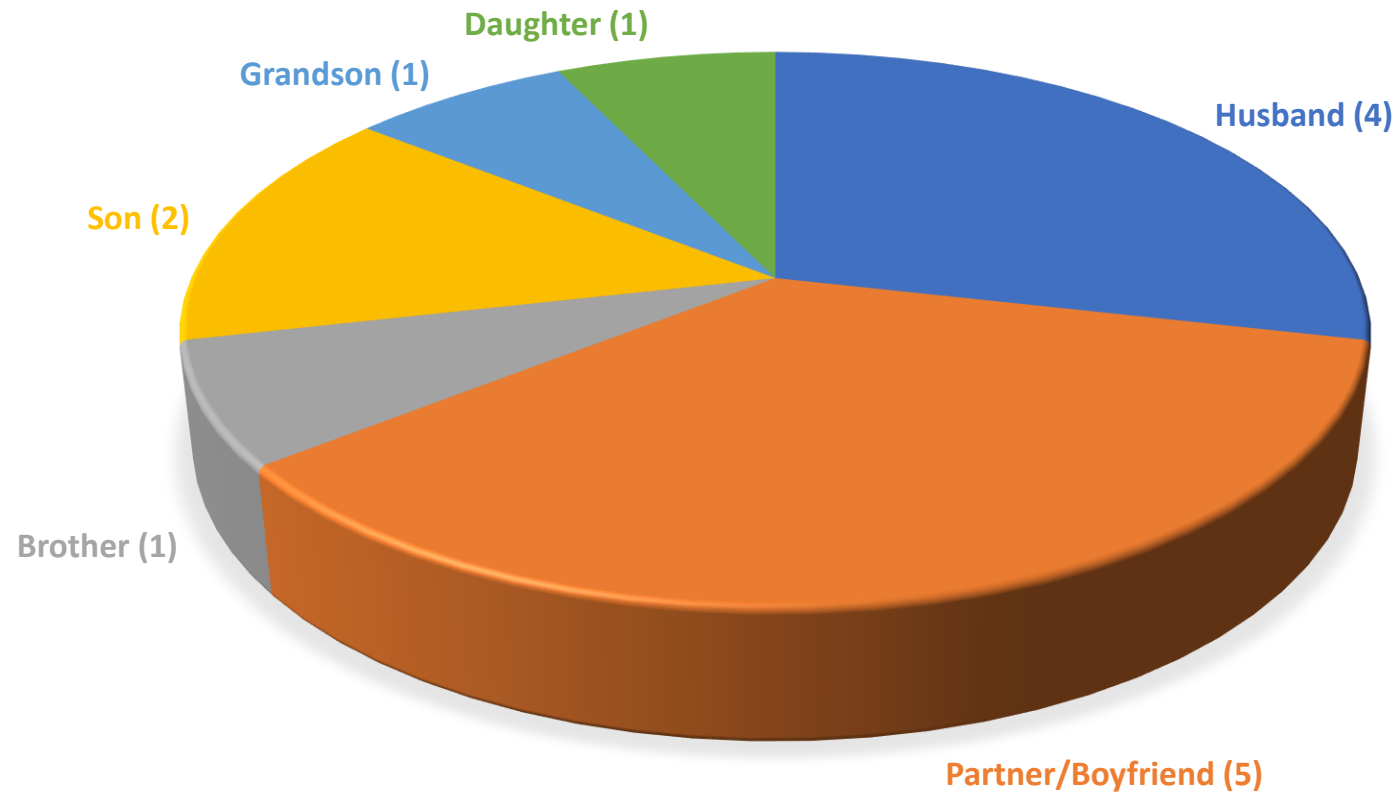
AGE OF THE PERPETRATOR



Ethnicity

Where noted 100% of
perpetrators were White
Welsh/British

Relationship to the victim



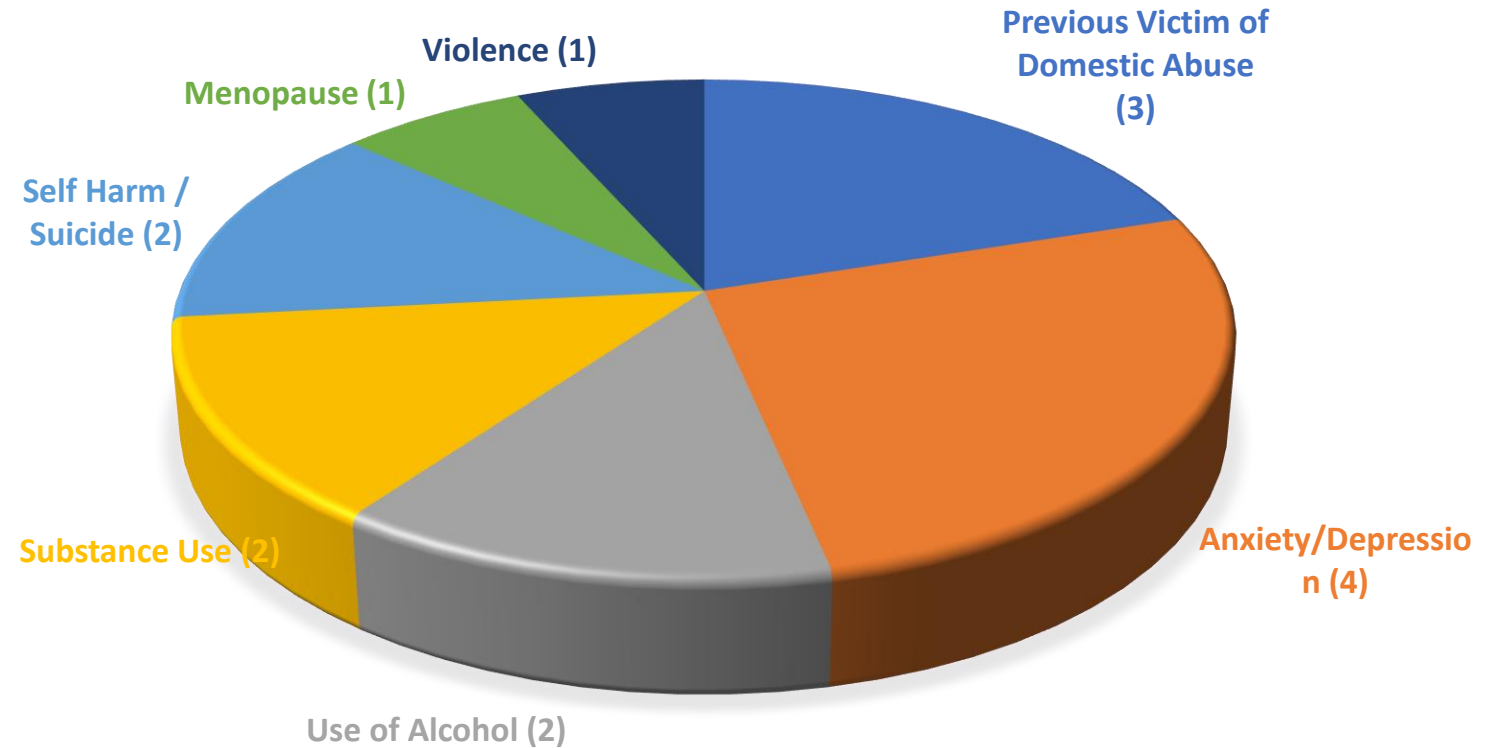
Criminal Justice Outcomes

Guilty of Murder	7	Life sentences with minimum terms ranging from 11 – 25 years
Guilty of Manslaughter	3	1 prison sentence of 3 years and 4 months 2 individuals detained indefinitely in accordance with the Mental Health Act
Acquitted	1	
No Criminal Justice Outcome	4	2 suicides 2 cases where the perpetrators took their own lives after killing the victim

Victim Vulnerabilities

Intersectionality

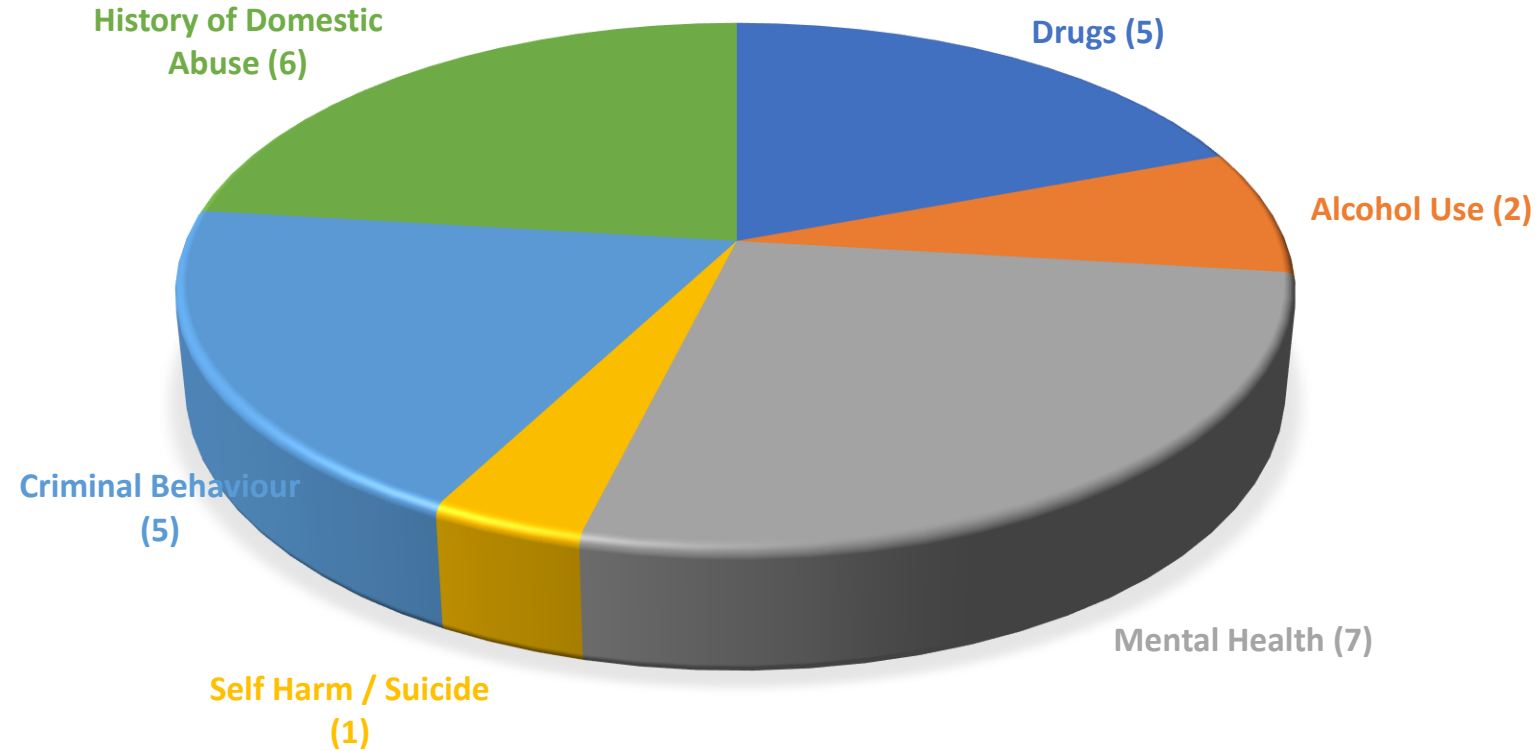
A need to better understand where a victims' multiple vulnerabilities can create disadvantages to seeking and accessing help



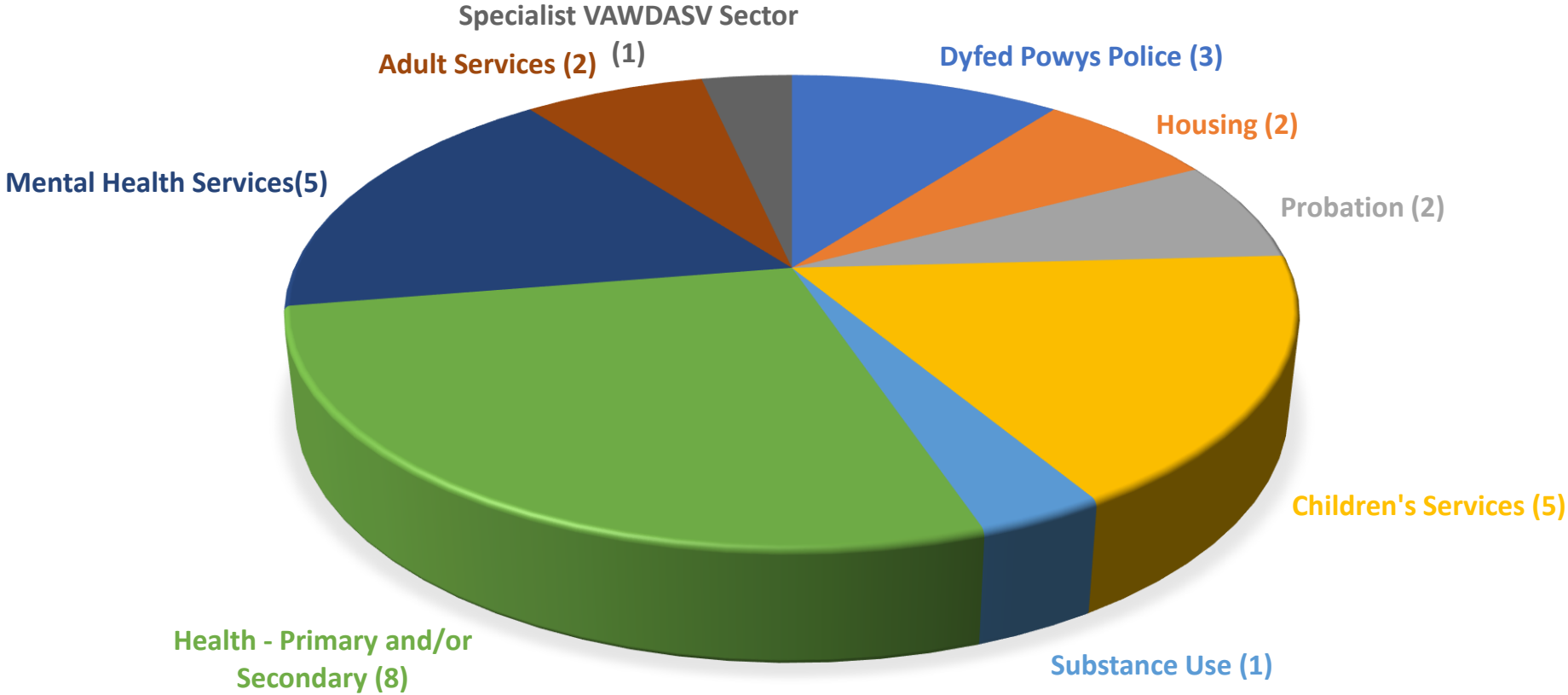
Factors identified relating to the perpetrators of homicides

Where there was a history of behaviours that were identified as domestic abuse these included

- Convictions for assaults against mother/previous partner
- Threats to family members
- Controlling and coercive behaviours towards mother and previous partners
- Behaviours towards women - in the family and the workplace



Agency Contact with Subjects of the Review



Themes

- Coercive and Controlling behaviours
- Older People's experiences of abuse
- Familial Abuse
- Adult to Parent Violence
- Care Dynamics
- Sexuality
- Children as victims of Domestic Abuse
- Critical role of Health in identifying and responding to domestic abuse

Multi Agency Risk
Assessment
Conference
(MARAC)

In the 13 cases where this information is known – none of the victims had been discussed at MARAC

Only one of the victims had been assessed as High Risk and this had been in relation to a previous partner

Themes cont'd

- Covid 19
- Friends and Family
- Community Based Responses
- Relocating/moving to Mid and West Wales
- Suicide
- Knowledge and Understanding of Domestic Abuse
- Information Sharing

Learning and Recommendations relevant to the 'here and now'

- Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding
- Critical role of Health in identifying and responding to VAWDASV
- Older People
- Children and Young People
- Community-based responses

Awareness, Knowledge and Understanding

Community

- Increase awareness and understanding of how different groups experience VAWDASV e.g. older people, LGBTQ+, familial abuse
- Increase knowledge of how to access information and support

Practitioners

- Role of the National Training Framework
- Areas to enhance knowledge and understanding e.g. older people, LGBTQ+, familial abuse, adult to parent violence, coercive and control behaviours
- Expansion of the National Training Framework to non relevant authorities
- Workplace policies

Critical Role of Health in identifying and responding to VAWDASV

Recommendations

- Increase compliance of GPs with Ask and Act – training and implementation
- Piloting and embedding Routine Enquiry
- Compliance auditing and monitoring arrangements
- Implement and evaluate IRISi

Progress to date

- Provision of alternative ways for GP practices to access Act and Ask training
- Piloting of IRISi and HARK within a GP Cluster in Carmarthenshire
- Appointment of a Domestic Abuse Support Worker at Bronglais Hospital

Older People

Recommendations

- Raise public awareness of older people's experiences of domestic abuse and the help and support available
- Improve practitioners' knowledge and understanding of older people's experiences of both interpersonal and familial abuse and pathways to support
- Ensure that there is a consistent service offer across the region to meet the needs of older people
- Increase safe accommodation options for older people experiencing violence and abuse.

Progress to date

- Developed learning resources relating to older people's experiences of domestic abuse
- Worked with survivors to co-design an awareness campaign targeted at older people
- Participated in campaigns targeting practitioners working with older people GetHelpStaySafe and YouAreNotAlone
- Partnership initiative with Bro Myrddin Housing, Dewis Choice and survivors to co-design a safe accommodation model for older people
- Priority group in the Mid and West Wales VAWDASV Strategy
- Regional funding for Dewis Choice

Community based responses

Recommendations

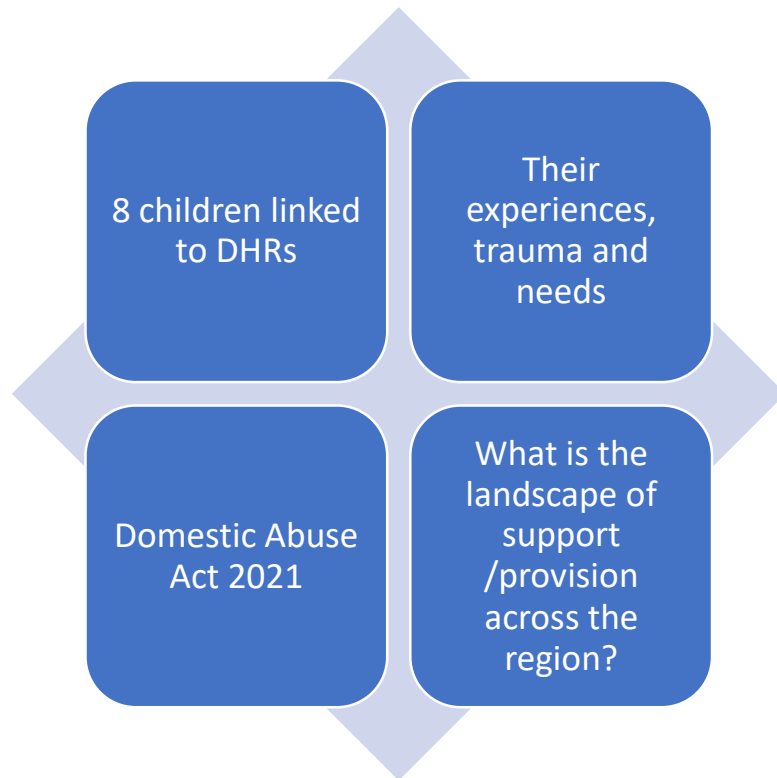
- Raise public awareness of VAWDASV and the help and support available
- A need for a Quality Assurance Framework in respect of Safe Space Initiatives

Progress to date

- Pilot of 'Ask Me' in Powys
- Examples of organisations adopting Safe Spaces e.g. Ask ANI initiative
- Regional Community Ambassador programme working with the Health and Beauty sector
- Aberystwyth University Bystander initiative

Children as victims of Domestic Abuse

To consider



Progress to date

- Children and Young People identified as a priority group within the regional VAWDASV Strategy
- Commissioned a scoping exercise of preventative and support services for Children and Young People experiencing VAWDASV in Mid and West Wales

Further considerations

Suicide

- Identify opportunities to improve professionals' knowledge of the links between experiences of VAWDASV and suicide
- Referral pathways to specialist support
- Improve identification of suicides where domestic abuse is a factor to enable referrals for Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Work with Regional Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Co-ordinator to improve links across regional strategies and forums

Role of Housing Providers

- Opportunities to enhance information sharing in respect of domestic abuse

Role of Employers

- Workplace Policies
- Regional protocol for responding to domestic abuse in the workplace
- Training offer wider than 'relevant authorities'

Opportunities

- Learning wider than VAWDASV
- Informing Delivery Plans and Strategies
- Preventing future harm and deaths

Any questions?