

**Putting
Victims
First**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY

**STOP
VIOLENCE**
against women
and girls



VERA BAIRD QC
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



RON HOGG
DURHAM POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

INTRODUCTION

Home Office Innovation Project

‘Tackling the most harmful and serial Domestic Abuse Perpetrators’

Detective Chief Inspector Deborah Alderson
Safeguarding Department
Northumbria Police

Statistics

Domestic Abuse incidents in Northumbria Police area (Newcastle, Sunderland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Northumberland and Gateshead):

In 2016 – 30,902 Average per day - 85

Incidents with children present:

In 2016 – 11,560 Average per day – 32

(January to May 2017 - 12,906	Average per day – 85
With children present - 5,075	Average per day – 34)

Drivers for change

- HMIC Inspection – Everyone's Business; lack of consistency nationally in tackling DA perpetrators
- Formulation of a regional Violence Against Women Girls Strategy; Northumbria, Cleveland and Durham
- Focus on vulnerability – driven by PCC and Chief Constable, at the centre of all policing activity

Project Intended outcomes

- Tackling the cause of the problem – perpetrators
- Prevent domestic abuse related offending
- Improve victim safety
- Improve criminal justice outcomes
- Improve partnership engagement
- Improve offender behaviour

Project overview

- Identification of most harmful perpetrators - 'Recency, Frequency, Gravity' analysis; additional mechanism for any partnership referral
- MATAC process - Multi-agency tasking and coordination
- Domestic abuse toolkit
- DA proximity notification system - GPS tagging units
- Force wide availability of voluntary domestic violence perpetrator programmes (DVPPs)
- Work with housing providers to focus on DA perpetrators

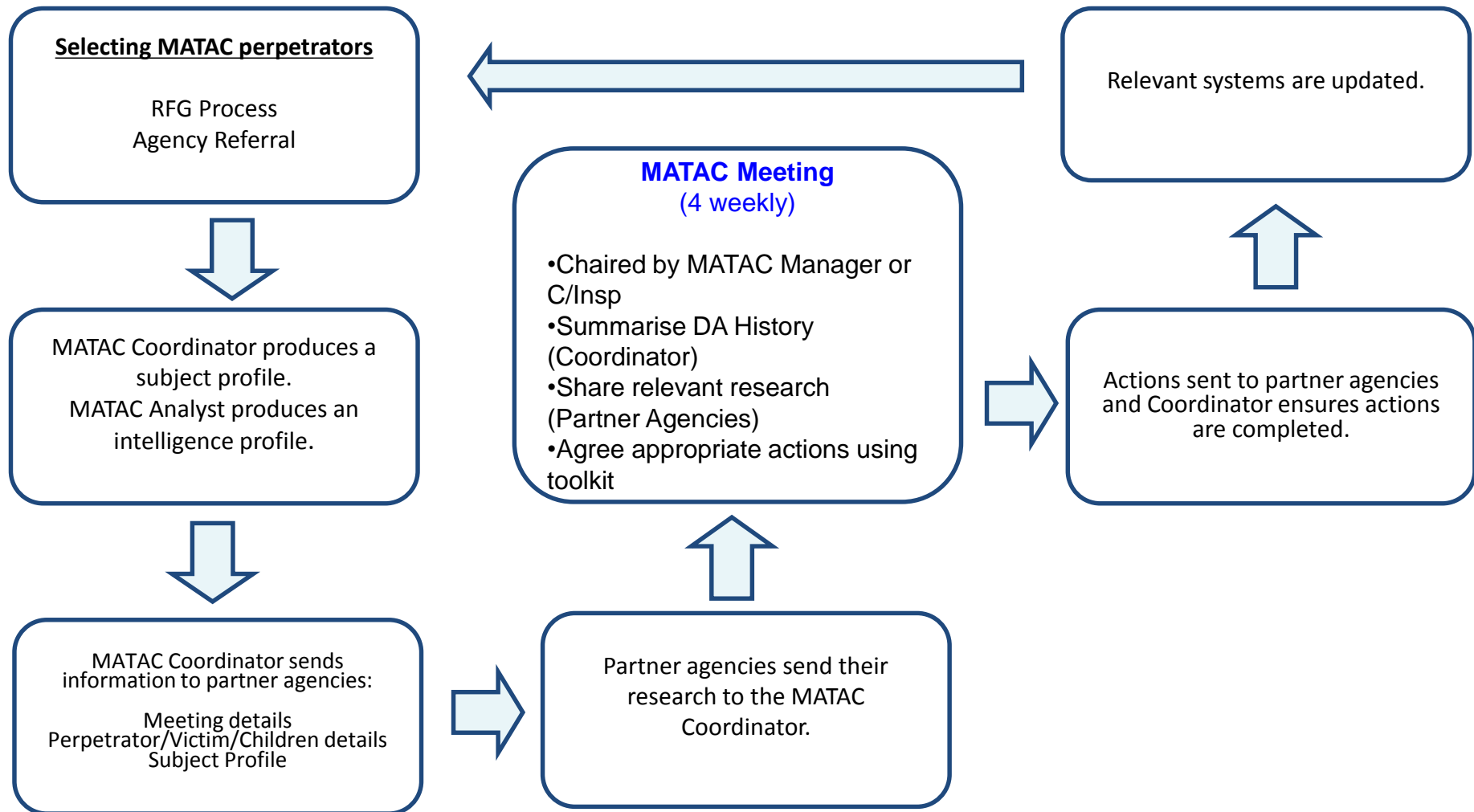
‘Recency, Frequency, Gravity’ analysis

- Data extraction from police systems relating to DA perpetrators
- Score configured, weighted according to recency, frequency and gravity of offending
- Takes account of serial offending, higher weighting for multiple victims
- Production of an ‘RFG’ list identifying those highest scoring as most harmful

MATAC process

- Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination
- Perpetrator targeting through multi-agency interventions – cohort of partners
- 4 weekly meeting for each of the three new police area commands
- Links to MARAC and MAPPA
- Those targeted based on RFG data with additional mechanism for partner agency referral**

MATAC WORKFLOW CHART



Domestic Abuse Toolkit

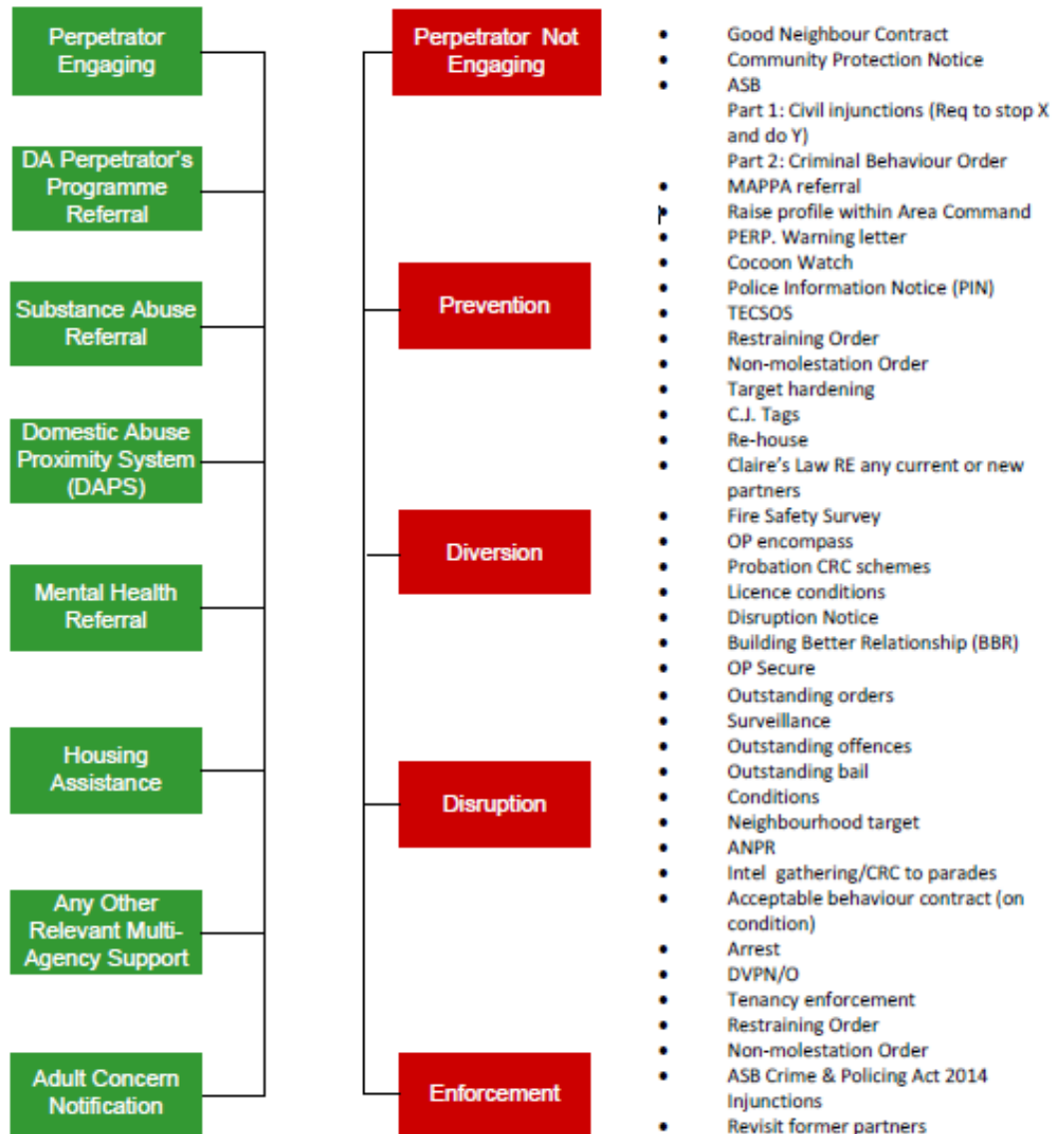
- Multi agency intervention
- Prevention, diversion, disruption and enforcement
- Assessment of engaging/non engaging perpetrator
- Overall aim of protecting families by achieving behaviour change and preventing re offending

MATAC Toolkit

Safeguarding Objectives

Adopt a multi-agency approach to:

- Reduce re-offending of domestic abuse perpetrators
- Safeguarding adults and children at risk of domestic abuse



MATAC Warning Letter

To:

Address:

This is to inform you that Northumbria Police have identified you as a Domestic Abuse Serial Perpetrator.

That is to say that our records confirm that you are over the age of 16, and have had more than one

Domestic Abuse incident against two or more different victims in the last three years.

Domestic Abuse is categorised as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass behaviour that amounts to;

Psychological, Physical, Sexual, Financial or Emotional abuse.

The Recency, Frequency and Gravity of your offending also place's your behaviour in the most harmful category likely to pose a risk to victims.

Northumbria police and its partners take Domestic Abuse very seriously and will not tolerate such abuse within its communities.

We recognise that there may be external factors which contribute towards your conduct and we have resources available to us that may help you understand why you behave in such a way. These resources consist of Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programmes, Substance Abuse Referral, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Programmes, Mental Health Referral and Housing Assistance.

You may approach these agencies and partners yourself or ask us to assist you with this.

If you feel you would benefit from any of these resources and would like us to make a referral please contact us on the details below.

If you refuse or won't accept that your behaviour needs to change for the better then you should be aware that in order to safeguard adults and children at risk of domestic abuse by you, each relevant agency will use whatever means are available to them to either prevent your future offending or disrupt your offending through enforcement.

Served by:

Date:

Contact Details:

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes

- Commissioned services of Barnardos and Impact family services partnership across the force area
- Additional partnership with Gentoo in Sunderland – BIG programme
- Added Childrens work availability to each programme

DA Proximity Notification System

- Unique two piece GPS system
- Victim focused to improve victim safety and confidence
- Spanish model – in place since 2009, no domestic homicides whilst utilised
- 10 units purchased for period of the pilot

Work with housing providers

- Commissioned services of Gentoo/DAHA to work with housing providers across force area
- Promoting work with DA perpetrators to keep victims and families safe
- Offering training to housing staff
- Strategies to identify and tackle perpetrators
- Production of housing provider toolkit

MATAC Cohort of partners

- All partners have signed up to an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA)
- Cohorts for each of the 6 local authority areas
- Capacity issues for some agencies in attending meetings

Central MATAC

Gateshead

1. The Gateshead Housing Company
2. ISOS Housing (Social Housing)
3. Basis@360 (Oasis Aquila Housing)
4. Riverside Housing (Social Housing)
5. Domestic Violence Coordinator (Council)
6. Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)
7. Children's Services
8. Youth offending Team
9. Gateshead Education
10. Serial Victim's Worker – Gateshead MASH
11. Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
12. Gateshead Evolve – Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
13. Fulfilling Lives
14. Barnardo's
15. Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Safeguarding
16. Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addiction (NERAF)

Newcastle

1. Your Homes Newcastle
2. ISOS Housing (Social Housing)
3. Children's Services
4. Safeguarding Adults
5. Youth Offending Team
6. Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
7. Angelou Centre (BME Women's Service)
8. Fulfilling Lives
9. Barnardo's
10. Places for People Women's Aid
11. Newcastle Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS) Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)
12. Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addiction (NERAF)



Northern MATAC

Northumberland

1. Northumberland Council Housing
2. Bernicia Housing (Social Housing)
3. ISOS Housing (Social Housing)
4. Children's Services
5. Domestic Violence Coordinator (Council)
6. Safeguarding adults
7. Youth Offending Team
8. Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
9. Wellbeing and Community health Services, Family Recovery Programme (NHS)
10. Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS)
11. Barnardo's
12. NHS Safeguarding
13. Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group
14. Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addiction (NERAF)

North Tyneside

1. North Tyneside Council Safer Estates
2. Domestic Violence Coordinator (Council)
3. Adult Social Care
4. Children's Services
5. Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
6. Youth Offending Team
7. Barnardo's
8. North Tyneside Recovery Programme
9. NHS Safeguarding
10. Harbour Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)
11. Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addiction (NERAF)

NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL



North Tyneside Council



Northumbria
Community Rehabilitation Company



NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE



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Southern MATAAC

Sunderland

1. Gentoo (Social Housing)
2. ISOS Housing (Social Housing)
3. Access to Housing
4. Children's Services
5. Safeguarding Adults
6. Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety/Domestic Violence Coordinator (Council)
7. Antisocial Behaviour/Enforcement (Council)
8. Community Rehabilitation Company
9. Wearside Women In Need (WWIN)
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)
10. Barnardo's
11. Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
12. Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addiction (NERAF)

South Tyneside

1. ISOS Housing (Social Housing)
2. South Tyneside Homes
3. Places for People Women's Aid
4. Children's Services
5. Safeguarding Adults
6. Domestic Violence Coordinator (Council)
7. Young Person's Violence Advisor
8. Community Rehabilitation Company
9. Options/Impact Family Services
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)
10. Barnardo's
11. Northern Engagement into Recovery from Addiction (NERAF)



South Tyneside Council



Northumbria
Community Rehabilitation Company



NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE



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MATAC data

- Process live since November 2015
- 202 perpetrators targeted
- 78 meetings
- Average 3 different victims and 14 incidents in past 2 years per perpetrator
- 162 perpetrators (80%) removed from the process to date.

MATAC data

- Independent evaluation by Department of Social Sciences, Northumbria University
- Challenging environment; non statutory process and all partners experiencing austerity measures and organisational re-structure
- Despite this have achieved important successes
- Focus on perpetrators fills a major gap in previous DA service provision

MATAC data

- Data analysis so far shows average 61 % reduction in overall offending of perpetrators after MATAC intervention and a 65% reduction in domestic abuse related offending
- Social return on investment study indicates a return of £14.09 social value per £1 invested, a high percentage of this from victim outcomes
- The project stage has now ended; the MATAC has been adopted as core business

Next Steps

- 'What works' document will be published on the College of Policing website
- 13 other forces in the UK have so far indicated adoption of the MATAC approach, along with Swedish Police
- Home Office Police Transformation Project funding applied for to adopt a regional MATAC approach which includes Cleveland, Durham, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Humberside

Evaluation

Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC):

Tackling perpetrators of domestic abuse

Dr Pamela Davies
Paul Biddle
Department of Social Sciences
Northumbria University



Objectives

- Prevent further domestic abuse related offending
- Improve victim safety
- Improve Criminal Justice Service outcomes
- Improve partnership engagement
- Improve offender behaviour

Methodology

Ethics

Approved by the University Ethics Committee

Research Design: A mixed-methods approach



Methodology

- **Analysis of perpetrator statistical data** including RFG scores
- **Perpetrator case studies**
- **An online partner agency survey**

Methodology

- **Semi-structured interviews**
 - Interviews with perpetrators participating in DVPPs
 - Interviews with perpetrators partners

Kelly, L. and Westmarland, N. (2015) *Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes: Steps towards change. Project Mirabal Final Report*. London and Durham: London Metropolitan University and Durham University.

- Interviews (n-18) with representatives of organisations managing, delivering and participating in the project
- **Validation Workshop**

Number and Percentage of perpetrators whose RFG scores declined following MATAC interventions

	No. of Perpetrators	No. Showing Decline in RFG Score	% Showing Decrease in RFG Score
SOUTH TYNESIDE	32	23	71.8%
SUNDERLAND	31	22	70.9%
NORTH'LAND	42	28	66.6%
GATESHEAD	30	19	63.3%
NEWCASTLE	31	17	54.8%
NORTH TYNESIDE	33	18	54.5%
FORCEWIDE	192	136	70.8%

Domestic abuse Offences Committed by Perpetrators pre-and-post MATAC interventions

	Pre MATAC	Post MATAC	% Reduction
SUNDERLAND	118	10	92%
SOUTH TYNESIDE	131	23	82%
NORTHUMBERLAND	121	23	81%
GATESHEAD	89	19	79%
NORTH TYNESIDE	96	22	77%
NEWCASTLE	97	24	75%
FORCEWIDE	624	113	82%

Findings

“The Neighbourhood Teams will have put some safeguarding around the victims, will have ensured there are Non-Molestation Orders and Restraining Orders in Place. We apply for the Clare’s Law, we go for the DVPN. Ultimately, the victims need to be safeguarded”.

Northumbria Police

Perpetrator Findings

“First reason was just to get my children back. Do this programme and prove to them that I was no threat to my children and I’ll get to see them, but further down the line on the programme, it did open up a lot of old wounds and it did change me for the better doing the programme...whilst I was on the programme I changed my mind, it wasn’t for my children it was actually for myself”.

“The assessments were quite difficult because they’re asking you questions that you would never normally associate with yourself. You know, like do you think you’re violent and stuff like that you know. Obviously you don’t think you’re violent, you’re in denial at the beginning of the course”.

“About two or three weeks into it, it hit home and then I started to think, not just the physical violence...and I was seeing a lot more of myself in aspects of the programme. I realised the one of my voice, the way I talk, my stature, swearing a lot, showing signs of aggression...so to them I am showing aggression. That part really hit home for me”.

Partner Findings

“We used to argue, we used to shout at each other, now we wait until the kids are in bed and we’ll sit down and we’ll talk through things. Rather than talking over each other, we’ll actually listen which never really happened before”.

“I was on anti-depressants when this was going on. I’m not on them anymore and I’ve got bags of confidence”.

“He’s a lot more tolerant and understanding. He sees both sides, not just his and he doesn’t always have to be right. He talks a lot more to me. He’s more my friend, rather than just the partner that I was scared of”.

Overall Findings

Reducing domestic abuse offending

A reduction of 82% in domestic abuse related offending by those perpetrators subject to MATAC interventions.

A reduction in average offences per perpetrator.

Improving victim safety

A cohort of potential and actual victims are now known to services and are better protected and supported than previously

A decline in RFG scores for over 70% of perpetrators with an average decline of 8.8% per perpetrator.

Improving criminal justice outcomes

The MATAC toolkit is ensuring that the full range of criminal justice interventions are being utilised and that serial perpetrators are in receipt of the most appropriate criminal justice interventions at the most appropriate point in time.

Improving partnership working

Evidence of agencies working together successfully to focus on perpetrators via criminal justice and therapeutic interventions which simultaneously safeguard victims.

Improving offender behaviour

A reduction in RFG scores

A reduction in **all** offending

The potential of DVPPs to change perpetrator attitudes and behaviours and their valuable role within the toolkit

Operationalising a Co-ordinated Community Response

How to be successful?

'partnership is the bumpiest ship you will ever sail in'

It's hard graft – hard work

- Stakeholder Commitment
- Leadership (PCC, CC, Project Lead and Co-ordination Team)
- Consultation from the outset and (incessant ongoing) communication
- Problem-solving approach
- Evaluation – joint working, evidence base, sensitivities to difference in MATAC areas - the local matters

A Co-ordinated Community Response to Prevent and Safeguard from Domestic Abuse

- (Blame) and Responsibilise the Perpetrator- Focus on Perpetrator
- Safeguard from abuse – prevent and protect:
The *prevent* strand of such a strategy sits, and is operationalised, alongside the support and service provision or *protect* strand. The former and the latter are designed to do two things simultaneously - tackle perpetrators and support victims. This 'holistic' strategy can present challenges for domestic violence partnership work and this was evident in the MATAC partnership.

Our conclusion is that:

partnership working remains important in the shifting economic and political context in which local agenda setting and commissioning is occurring. The local still matters, and is as challenging as it ever was, in ensuring victim safety.

(Davies and Biddle forthcoming).

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