

Our Impact 2022-2023

# Welcome from CEO, Jo Todd CBE

Hi, I’m Jo Todd, CEO at Respect.

The last few years at Respect have seen a great deal of change, and this year has been no different. Perpetrator work is gaining momentum as a key part of the solution to ending domestic abuse and our team continues to work hard to influence the government to ensure this attention translates into safe, effective responses to perpetrators that centre the needs of survivors, including children.

We have worked through a challenging funding period, laying the foundations for a stronger, more robust business development approach, and securing funding for key projects including the [Drive Partnership](https://drivepartnership.org.uk/), [Make a Change](https://www.makeachange.uk.net/) and [Safe & Together](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/147-work-with-safe-together).

We continue to actively embed the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across all areas of our work. We have been busy developing our EDI policy, creating a workplace culture which celebrates diversity and enables everyone to thrive, ensuring equity of opportunity for professional development and setting out the ways Respect will ensure all of our staff can bring their whole selves to work.

We worked with our Drive Partnership colleagues at SafeLives and Social Finance to commission a consortium led by H.O.P.E. Training and Consultancy, which developed and delivered two training courses: one supporting charity leaders to challenge systemic racism, and one focused on supporting staff from Black and minoritised communities to assert and grow their leadership skills. A number of Respect colleagues benefited from the two programmes, and we are seeing the impact of this work, with graduates from the leadership development course accessing further development opportunities within Respect.

Externally, Respect continues to provide strong leadership for the perpetrator sector, acting as the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, and — through the Drive Partnership — providing the secretariat for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Strategic Reference Group on Perpetrators, both of which help us to connect with key changemakers, and advocate for the needs of the sector.

We continue to support our members, using our position as a sector leader to influence and amplify the great work that they do. Our Accredited Members CEOs group meets monthly and gives us all (me included!) a confidential space to share concerns, discuss key sector issues and support each other – and it also ensures that I can take issues raised by our accredited members into our influencing work. One example of this has been our work to influence the Ministry of Justice to restore a domestic abuse perpetrator programme (DAPP) pathway through the family courts since its dissolution in 2022. We held a workshop with our accredited members to understand their concerns and worked closely with MoJ officials as part of the DAPP Steering Group to propose a solution. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Justice has not implemented it, so we have been supporting our members to navigate complexities around service provision.

As Covid restrictions lifted, it has been possible to meet in person more often. In May 2022 we invited friends, colleagues, trustees, and academics to York to celebrate Respect’s 20th anniversary. The event, delayed two years by the pandemic, brought us together to not only celebrate Respect’s achievements over the years, but also to look forward to new challenges and opportunities. October 2022 saw Respect staff come together for the charity’s first in-person away day in two years, a much-needed and much-appreciated opportunity to share ideas and enjoy being together again.

Behind the scenes, we’ve developed (and now launched) [a new Respect strategy for 2023-28,](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/our-strategy) setting out a refreshed vision and mission, focus and values, alongside our ambitious plans for the coming five years.

This Impact Report once again makes me so proud of my brilliant team – they continue to innovate and deliver in challenging circumstances, because they are all so committed to our mission: stopping the harms done by those who perpetrate domestic abuse. I hope that you enjoy reading more about their work, and are inspired, as I am, by their achievements this past year.

# About us

Respect is the UK charity stopping perpetrators of domestic abuse.

The charity was founded to focus on perpetrators, and this, including our vital work with young people who cause harm, is our key priority. We are also known for our specialist work with male victims of domestic abuse, which continues as a distinct project.

# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

This year, we have continued our work to deliver true equity, diversity and inclusion at Respect. This includes our commitment to being an actively anti-racist organisation.

## A shift in how we work

We have made a fundamental change to how we approach inclusion. We are still working to improve the diversity of our team, but we are also focusing on building a culture of inclusion and belonging for those who already work at Respect. We’ve started by changing our policies and processes to reflect that the experience of being a part of the Respect team is as important as the activities we undertake.

We are committed to creating opportunities for staff to have conversations with peers and managers about EDI, their experiences and what matters to them. We have overhauled the data we collect to ensure that we capture data and feedback that is meaningful to us, holds us accountable for our work, and ensures we continue on our path to inclusion.

All of our teams have a commitment to improving EDI in our services and activities. There is exciting work developing culturally competent perpetrator work, understanding the needs of LGBT+ communities, working with neurodivergent young people and supporting disabled people to access our services.

## Understanding where we are

This year we’ve developed a new internal EDI Survey. We know that to improve, we need to know our baseline, so we’ll be working to build a picture of the Respect staff team, the opportunities they have for growth and development, and whether they feel they can bring their authentic selves to work.

## Integrating EDI

We know that to be effective, work around equity, diversity and inclusion cannot exist in isolation: it must be woven into the fabric of Respect. To achieve this, we have:

* embedded EDI into our new five-year strategy, [Stopping the Harm: A Strategy for Change](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/our-strategy)
* developed a new supervision and appraisal policy with a greater focus on our culture and values, the impacts of power and privilege, and the experiences of our team, as well as our practical objectives
* set up an EDI steering group bringing together colleagues from across Respect to share good practice and align our response to EDI
* started work on our new EDI strategy and action plan
* introduced a new value: *Respectful. We live up to our name. We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. We are honest, compassionate and boldly challenge injustice*

# Sector support

Respect offers a sector support programme that engages directly with the perpetrator sector to ensure it has the support it needs to respond to challenges and opportunities.

# Sector support: Membership

Respect’s [Membership programme](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/membership) offers a range of benefits to develop practitioners’ knowledge and skills, helping them improve their practice and giving them the opportunity to be part of a network of organisations sharing similar challenges.

## This year:

* we held eight practice development days for practitioners in Respect-accredited services
* we delivered three webinars to support services undergoing accreditation
* we hosted 12 accredited member forums where members can raise concerns, share expertise, and learn about developments in the sector
* we delivered more than 70 1-1 sessions to support members with specific concerns and issues

## Expert advice for members

This year we started to offer drop-in sessions for accredited members, designed to give them 1-1 support on specific issues or concerns related to their work with either perpetrators or male victims. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and the team has provided over 70 1-1 sessions.

*“Having someone from Respect to be able to speak to is very useful and Emma is helpful, supportive and thorough in her responses.”* **- Respect Accredited Member**

# Sector support: Training

# We’re committed to providing front-line workers with the skills and knowledge they need to support service users safely and effectively.

To achieve this, we deliver a [professional development function](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/training) offering high quality courses and practice development days, as well as other events, such as webinars.

## This year, we:

* trained 368 professionals
* trained 81 professionals as part of the Ascent partnership

*"This training has been very informative and allowed me to gain new techniques for working with people around domestic abuse. It has also increased my confidence for practice- around strategies. Katy was very clear and easy to listen to and provided good examples that makes it relevant to practice"* **- Attendee from Working with Perpetrators Towards Change**

## Creating quality training

Our training team launched six courses this year:

* Sexual respect: confident and effective facilitation
* Dealing with dual allegations
* Integrated Support Service Worker - essential training
* Service Managers’ training (developed in partnership with Safe Lives)
* Engaging with homeless perpetrators
* Risk management in domestic violence perpetrator programmes (this existing training was reviewed and refreshed)

# Sector support: Accreditation

Respect’s quality and safety assurance work includes:

* Setting the standards for the delivery of safe and effective services, using the [Respect Standard](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/respect-standard) for work with perpetrators and the [Respect Male Victims’ Standard](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/respect-male-victims-standard) for work with male victims.
* Assessing services against these standards through a comprehensive and robust assessment process.

## Setting the Standard

This year we published the fourth edition of the [Respect Standard](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/respect-standard). We thoroughly reviewed both the content of the standards and the overall accreditation process.

With this edition we reaffirm the importance of supporting survivors as part of any work with perpetrators; we streamlined the assessment process, so it’s easier for services to understand the requirements and more efficient to assess, whilst retaining its robust nature; and we aligned our standards with the Home Office Perpetrator Standards for Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions.

The new Standard has been [endorsed by a number of key voices across the sector.](https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/respect/file_asset/file/1534/Respect_Standard_4_Endorsements.pdf)

*"The Respect Standard is the go-to guidelines for DA Perpetrator Programmes"* **- DCC Maggie Blyth, NPCC coordinator for tackling VAWG**

*“The Standard is vital in the fight against domestic abuse, and I welcome this updated edition which has been broadened to cover more types of perpetrator interventions.”* **- Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner**

## Accrediting quality services

This year, **seven** services achieved Respect accreditation.

*“Going through the Respect accreditation process as a team and service has enabled us to grow and develop. The support along the way has been invaluable. It is motivating to feel part of a wider, national system building on safe and effective work with perpetrators”* **-** **Foundation, Respect Accredited Member**

“Accreditation has benefitted our agency in multiple ways. As a direct consequence of holding accreditation, we were eligible to a substantial funding stream” **- FICS, Respect Accredited Member**

Sector Support: Research

We work in partnership with academic institutions to grow the evidence base around the perpetration of domestic abuse.

## ‘Tech-abuse’ – University College London research project

Respect has partnered with the Gender and Tech research group at University College London’s Department of Computer Science.

The research project will study tech abuse perpetrators and use the findings to:

* improve the design of digital technologies future-proof UK policies
* address this new risk landscape

The aim is to pre-emptively stop perpetrators from abusing through digital systems, rather than placing the responsibility on victims/survivors to adjust their behaviour reactively.

## Reprovide

Respect is a partner in the Reprovide research project, funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and led by the University of Bristol. The project is testing the effectiveness of a group work intervention for perpetrators via a randomised control trial and concludes in 2023-24.

## What’s next for Sector Support?

* Since this reporting year ended, we have launched a new audit service to support members planning to apply for accreditation.
* 14 services are currently undergoing accreditation, and we look forward to working closely with them to grow our network of accredited services.
* We’re continuing our programme of work to have all our training courses CPD or OCN accredited. We aim to have all our courses accredited by the end of the 2024-25 financial year.
* We’ll be supporting practitioners at our accredited member services to develop their practice at six professional development days, and we will launch practice development days for non-accredited members.

# Our influence

Our Influence team continues to gain momentum, developing relationships with key influencers and pushing for much-needed change.

Our partnerships remain key to this work, and we continue to work with colleagues and organisations from across the domestic abuse sector.

## This year we:

* continued to provide the secretariat for the [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/72-appg-on-perpetrators)
* met with the policy team at 10 Downing Street for the first time, to introduce them to perpetrator issues and flag the need for an enhanced cross government approach
* met with the Safeguarding Minister to highlight our policy asks and discuss delivery of the Domestic Abuse Plan
* worked to influence the Victims and Prisoners Bill, both through our membership of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Community-Based Services Coalition, and in our own right. We have ensured that perpetrator interventions are kept on the agenda, specifically in conversations about the “duty to collaborate” in the Bill
* continued our work to influence the Ministry of Justice to restore a domestic abuse perpetrator programme (DAPP) pathway through the family courts since its dissolution in 2022. We sit on the MoJ-led DAPP Steering Group as part of this work, as well as engaging directly with Ministry of Justice officials

## Telling our story

In 2022/23 we increased our press coverage by 144%, working with more journalists and publications than ever before to raise awareness of Respect and our work with perpetrators, male victims and young people using harm.

Two highlights were articles by [Anna Moore at the Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/may/09/i-had-to-be-broken-to-be-fixed-the-courses-trying-to-change-abusive-men) changing perceptions about perpetrator interventions, and [Alina Martin at Third Sector](https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/jo-todd-its-harder-raise-money-field-donkey-sanctuaries/article/1815750) giving an insight into CEO Jo Todd’s career journey and her hopes for the sector.

## Supporting the sector

We know that many of our members don’t have a dedicated Communications team, so we delivered a workshop to support them to create content for the 16 Days of Activism.

## Celebrating Respect’s belated 20th birthday

Following two years of pandemic-related delays, we were finally able to meet with colleagues and friends to celebrate Respect’s contribution to the perpetrator sector, and shift our gaze to our research, policy and practice goals for the future.

## What’s next?

* With a General Election expected in 2024, we will be asking the next government to change the system, end the postcode lottery, and invest in perpetrator interventions alongside survivor support, in order to achieve a whole system approach to ending domestic abuse.
* The Influence for Change pillar of [our new strategy](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/our-strategy) positions Influence as a key part of Respect’s work, and we’ll be looking to grow our team to ensure our voice is strong and effective in advocating for our work and that of our members.

# Our helplines

Respect runs two helplines: the Men's Advice Line for male victims of domestic abuse and the Respect Phoneline for perpetrators of abuse. Both helplines also support affected family and friends, as well as front-line workers.

To ensure anyone who needs us can access support, we offer an interpreter service and Relay UK compatibility – for anyone who is unable to hear or speak.

# Respect Phoneline

The [Respect Phoneline](https://respectphoneline.org.uk/) is the UK’s only helpline, email, and webchat service for perpetrators of domestic abuse and those supporting them.

Our expert Advisors help perpetrators take the first step towards accountability and change, to prevent further harm and make survivors safer.

We offer confidential advice and information to anyone concerned about their behaviour, and we signpost to Respect-accredited perpetrator programmes.

## This year we responded to:

* 7153 calls
* 1619 emails
* 132 webchats

from perpetrators, concerned family, friends and front-line workers.

## Supporting front-line workers

We are responding to more calls from front-line workers than ever before. Many of them are working with perpetrators, but don’t have access to expert advice or information.

Our team helps colleagues to understand power and control within relationships, and the concept of violent and abusive responses being a choice. We also help them explore appropriate tools, resources and interventions to support their work.

*“Calling the service provided me with space and support to think about my client. I was able to clarify the current situation, which is complex. I left the call with a clear idea of how to move forwards. I felt the advisor took time to really understand the situation. I valued her expertise and guidance.”* **– A professional caller to the Respect Phoneline**

## Praise for the Respect Phoneline

The helpline has consistently received positive feedback from callers this year, with perpetrators talking about the difference it has made to their empathy and their sense of responsibility**. Service user feedback showed 87% of callers understood the next steps to change abusive behaviours and 88% said they would recommend the service to others.**

*“It was important to hear someone essentially remove any doubt from the equation and make me accountable for my abuse. It made me aware of my actions, how impactful they are, and what I should be doing to prevent a repeat”.* ***–* A perpetrator calling the Respect Phoneline**

*“The advisor helped me take responsibility for my actions instead of saying I lost control. She has enabled me to have a conversation with my partner today about my responsibility. Thank you” –* **A perpetrator calling the Respect Phoneline**

# Respect Men's Advice Line

The [Respect Men's Advice Line](https://mensadviceline.org.uk/) is our confidential helpline, email and webchat service for male victims of domestic abuse, and those supporting them.

As many of our callers are talking to someone for the first time about their experiences of abuse, emotional support is a key component of the help we offer. Alongside this, we provide information on the options available to increase their safety, and signpost them to vital services that help keep them and their children safe.

With access to a quality telephone interpreting service, we ensure everyone can access the help they need, whatever language they speak.

## This year we responded to:

* 33,431 calls
* 6,146 emails
* 432 web chats

from male victims, concerned family, friends and front-line workers.

*“I was deeply embarrassed and confused after an incident occurred last week and I was struggling to come to terms with it. I was given this number by a police officer and decided to call just to have someone listen. I felt much better after the call and have clarity in my mind on next steps” -* **A male victim calling the Men's Advice Line**

*“I was at breaking point after the last incident. Things have been getting progressively worse over the years but who's going to believe you that your young daughter would be so violent. The call handler was exactly who I needed to speak to at that exact moment. I was so lucky to find the website!* *-* **A male victim calling the Men's Advice Line**

*“It was wonderful to speak to a kind and caring person, who understands my fears for my son. I have some tools now to help the whole family deal with the situation and more importantly, support my son”* **-A parent calling the Men's Advice Line**

*“I rang about my son who we are extremely worried about. The advisor made me feel that there is a way out of his situation and how we can support him with this. It was so reassuring to know that we are not alone”* ***-* A parent calling the Men's Advice Line**

## The cost-of-living crisis deepens

Financial worries have now become one of the top concerns for male victims calling the helpline. In January-March 2023, we saw a 142% increase in reports of financial abuse compared to the same period in 2022. Male victims have reported impacts including:

* increased levels of domestic abuse
* deterioration of their mental health
* rising debt and financial hardship
* a lack of means to leave their abusive relationship
* employment issues

*“Some men have said they don’t dare leave and get a place to stay (which was undoubtedly the safest option) because they would still have to pay their share of the household bills where the children are and can only see costs going up and up.”* **- Advisor on the Men’s Advice Line**

## Improving the service for male victims

We’re always striving to improve and grow our service for male victims. This year we’ve:

* used insights from research to improve engagement and accessibility on the helpline’s [website](https://mensadviceline.org.uk/)
* launched a new [Information Hub](https://helplines.my.site.com/mensadviceline/s/) to help male victims access support whenever they need it
* worked with Victim Support and Solace Women’s Aid to improve signposting support and referral pathways for male victims in London
* networked with European colleagues who deliver helplines for male victims to share learning and best practice
* agreed a referral pathway with Victim Support’s Ashraya Project, which supports male victims in London who affected by immigration control and male victims facing homelessness
* been accredited by the Helplines Partnership with the [Helplines Standard](https://www.helplines.org/helplines-standard/) certification for a further three years

## Reaching out

We worked with the Home Office to deliver an awareness-raising campaign on social media.

Our campaign resulted in:

* 1950 additional visits to the Men’s Advice Line website
* 72 additional calls to the Men’s Advice Line

## What’s next for the helplines?

* We’re working in partnership with Refuge to deliver a project funded by the Vision Foundation, which will help improve our response to blind and visually impaired male victims contacting the Men’s Advice Line
* Our team of expert advisors are receiving training to better support neurodivergent callers across both helplines
* We have seen an increase in the number of callers self-defining their gender identity. To strengthen our understanding and ensure we are responding with appropriate support, we plan to hold a training session for the team on this subject
* We are taking steps to improve our data capture and recording to ensure we learn more about the needs of our users

# Our work with young people

We know that to end domestic abuse, we need to intervene early. That’s why the Respect Young People's Service focuses on young people using behaviours that harm, whether that’s in a family setting, or in their intimate relationships.

We want to effect change at every level: making life better for young people and families, but also shaping national conversations, influencing decision makers and developing the evidence needed to ensure these young people’s needs and experiences are heard and understood.

## Addressing child/adolescent to parent violence/abuse (CAPVA)

Child or adolescent to parent violence or abuse (CAPVA) is a hidden harm: it’s still misunderstood and underreported, and families experiencing it can struggle to access support.

Our [Respect Young People’s Programme (RYPP)](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/115-rypp) works with young people and their families to stop the abuse and establish respectful ways of managing conflict, difficulty, and intimacy.

## This year:

* the RYPP was delivered in five police districts and in 14 local authorities by 14 voluntary and community organisations
* 201 front-line professionals were trained to deliver the RYPP

## Building our evidence base

We published [impressive early results from the Respect](https://www.respect.uk.net/articles/project-delivering-respect-s-young-people-s-programme-sees-impressive-results) Young People’s Programme, delivered in Cambridge by YMCA Trinity Group. The study found there was a 100% cessation in ‘reported missing’ incidents for the young people who had completed the programme.

## A hub for professionals

We created a [bespoke website](https://www.respectyps.org.uk/) for practitioners working with young people using harm in their close relationships. Since its launch in May, over 1700 practitioners have accessed the website.

## Increasing awareness, growing understanding

We know the RYPP is only one part of addressing CAPVA, so we have built a suite of learning tools providing training to a range of professionals who need a strong understanding of CAPVA e.g. police and professionals from the health, housing and social care sectors.

As part of this work we have delivered CAPVA training to 31 teachers. 100% of those who completed feedback forms said they would recommend the training to other schools.

## Raising awareness of CAPVA

* On Child to Parent Abuse Awareness Day, we took to [Twitter](https://twitter.com/RespectUK/status/1580849220348948480) to raise awareness of CAPVA and the support available. Our thread reached over 5000 people
* Our team shared their expertise around neurodiverse provision on ADHD Awareness Month and Autism Awareness Day, showing how the RYPP can be adapted for young neurodivergent people

## Challenging teenage relationship abuse

Our programme, the [Dating Detox](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/the-dating-detox), challenges abuse and promotes respect in young people’s intimate relationships. This year we developed an improved and updated edition of the toolkit, which is now available on the RYPS website so practitioners have on-demand access to the resources.

*“Great area for the boys in our care. Issues have arisen in discussion previously- I now feel better equipped to deal with the subject“ –* **a Dating Detox training participant**

## What’s next for the Young People’s Service?

* We want to ensure that lived experience and young people’s voices are central to service development, so we’re establishing a young people’s co-production group to formalise this work
* We are engaging with the Department for Education to influence statutory guidance on Relationships and Sex Education resources, so young people can learn about CAPVA at school
* We'll be developing online delivery for the Dating Detox, ensuring we can reach as many young people as possible
* We’re working with colleagues in Durham to create an animation to raise awareness of CAPVA and the support available to families
* We are delighted to be part of a new Home Office funded project to address CAPVA in Norfolk

# Make a Change

[Make a Change](https://www.makeachange.uk.net/for-a-friend-family-or-community-member) is a community-wide, early response to people using harmful behaviour in relationships. It provides expert support for people who are concerned about their behaviour, and their partners and/or ex-partners, as well as training for professionals and support for the wider community.

## This year:

* Make a Change was delivered across five sites
* 83 people participated in ourexpert support behaviour change programme, up by 20%
* 35% of referrals were self-referrals from people wanting to change
* 410 professionals were trained, up 37% from last year
* 100% of participants reported they could now recognise the physical and emotional signs that preceded their abuse
* survivors reported a 28% increase in feeling confident and a 10% increase in feeling safe
* 92% reported they had learned positive techniques for managing feelings and impulses
* 111 survivors were supported, an increase of 25% from last year. Some received support as their partner went through the programme, some continued to receive support despite their partner withdrawing from the programme

## Best in class

Make a Change was referred to as a ‘best in class’ behaviour change programme by the Home Office in their [Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Standards](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-domestic-abuse-perpetrator-interventions/standards-for-domestic-abuse-perpetrator-interventions-accessible), published in January 2023.

## Positioning for change

We published a [policy position paper](https://www.makeachange.uk.net/news/make-a-change-publishes-policy-position-paper) in January 2023, which sets out how Make a Change offers solutions to gaps in existing provision, and lays out our policy recommendations, in January 2023. It was co-signed by our partners Women’s Aid Federation of England and disseminated to the Women’s Aid and Respect memberships. We launched the paper to coincide with the Home Office’s Perpetrator Intervention Fund, and it supported funding discussions in multiple localities. One application to the fund was successful and we continue to see an increased interest from commissioners in Make a Change.

## Big-picture thinking

We know that friends and family are often the first to spot signs of domestic abuse, which is why we’ve expanded our offering to include [Make Change Happen,](https://www.makeachange.uk.net/for-a-friend-family-or-community-member) an intervention package to raise awareness with friends, family, colleagues and neighbours of people using harmful behaviour in relationships.

*“You gave us a safe place to heal and constant support for every problem we encountered along the way.”* **– Survivor**

*“This course was truly transformative for me and it meant I didn't jump into a relationship once I accepted my marriage was over”* ***–* MAC Service User**

## Showcasing impact

This year [Make a Change published its first ever impact report](https://www.makeachange.uk.net/news/make-a-change-gathers-momentum-in-2022/23), reflecting on the project’s achievements in 2022/23.

## What’s next for Make a Change?

* We’ll be adapting the way we measure outcomes for the work we do to support survivors, so we can better measure its impact.
* We’re launching a new site in Newcastle, in partnership with Newcastle Council and Northumbria PCC.

# The Drive Partnership

[The Drive Partnership](https://drivepartnership.org.uk/) is formed of three organisations: Respect, SafeLives and Social Finance. It was initially set up to deliver a three-year pilot intervention working with high harm, serial perpetrators, and has since received funding to expand this work and extend its remit to include public affairs and national systems change work.

* 1149 service users were accepted onto Drive
* Measures were put in place to protect: 1255 victims, and 2492 associated children/young people
* Over 1500 professionals were trained as part of our workforce development training programme.

## Drive’s influence work

This year the Drive communications team:

* grew their Action on Perpetrators network, bringing together over 200 sector professionals for a monthly online call to share good practice
* held a roundtable focused on proposals for the national register for domestic abuse perpetrators
* held a conference attended by over 120 professionals
* continued to lead the Strategic Reference Group, bringing together experts to champion greater cross-government and cross-agency investment and ownership of domestic abuse

## Exploring systemic gaps

Whilst there is a growing evidence base around perpetrator interventions, there is still a gap when it comes to culturally appropriate responses for people from racialised communities. To better understand these gaps, we commissioned colleagues at HOPE Training and Consultancy and the University of Suffolk to undertake [research to explore responses to family and intimate relationship harm within Black and minority ethnic communities.](ding_to_those_who_harm_Survey_findings)

## Nurturing a diverse workforce

The research undertaken by Hope Training and Consultancy and the University of Suffolk emphasised the need for a diverse, inclusive and anti-racist VAWG workforce. To begin the process of addressing this need, and to increase development opportunities available to professionals from Black and minoritised communities, the Drive Partnership commissioned a consortium led by HOPE Training and Consultancy to develop and deliver a workforce and leadership development programme consisting of two strands:

1. The Sector Leaders Course, designed to equip sector leaders to address the issues faced by Black and minoritised staff in relation to professional development and progression within their organisation.
* 85 leaders attended the course
* 99% said the programme was beneficial to them as a VAWG sector leader

*“It opened my eyes about how to engage and become a better, more inclusive leader”* **- Attendee of the Sector Leaders course**

1. The 12-week Leadership Programme supported Black and minoritised staff to build the skills and knowledge to help them increase their confidence in leadership, acknowledge their existing skills, and take effective practice back to their workplace. Four Respect staff members took part in the programme.

*“I used to struggle with the concept of leadership out of concern about not being good enough and the idea of putting myself above others, but the trainers and speakers helped me see that it shouldn’t be about perfection or superiority, and that leadership can actually be about community, challenging yourself, and supporting each other.” –* **– Karima Rahman, Senior Communications and Policy Officer for Make a Change, Respect**

## Restart

[Restart](https://drivepartnership.org.uk/about-us/restart/) is a Drive Partnership pilot working to improve responses to perpetrators of domestic abuse in families supported by Children's Social Care. Restart changes the way domestic abuse is dealt with so that the person who has used abuse is held accountable for the abuse and may be offered accommodation away from the family home.

*"Restart has made me re-learn life the proper way. I feel like I've been given a new perspective and more control over my emotions. I would recommend the programme to people I know in similar situations."* **– Restart service user**

*"For us, it's about focusing on enabling survivors to be able to stay safe within their own home and put the responsibility of leaving on perpetrators."* **- Partner organisation**

The pilot has seen strong results in 2022/23:

* 129 perpetrators, with 229 related children, were referred to Restart from Children’s Social Care teams.
* 30 service users have accessed the housing pathway, which offers accommodation for the person who has used abuse to ensure the family can stay in their house if safe to do so.
* The collaboration between Restart and Respect’s Safe & Together team has gone from strength to strength, with the Safe & Together team training over 400 children’s social care professionals as part of the Restart project.

## What’s next for the Drive Partnership?

* We’ve received funding from the Home Office to deliver and expand the Drive Project in Lancashire, Avon and Somerset, Thames Valley and London. We are also expanding in West Mercia to Shropshire and Telford.
* We’re working with partners to implement our in-prison model of the Drive Project, which brings together South Wales OPCC, His Majesty’s Prison (HMP) Swansea, Probation Service Wales, and Safer Merthyr Tydfil (SMT) to deliver an intervention for high-risk, high-harm perpetrators serving short custodial sentences at HMP Swansea.
* We will piloting an embedded case management model within Childrens Social Care in Cheshire East based on learning from the high harm/high risk intervention.
* With support from a new lottery grant, we will be working with by and for organisations to design culturally competent perpetrator interventions and pilot these.
* We have received funding to develop new models focused on LGBT+ perpetrators of abuse. We will be working with LGBT+ specialists and by and for organisations to help develop this area of our work, design and pilot interventions.
* We are developing an updated ‘Call to Action’ policy publication, to reflect the significant progress made over recent years in the response to perpetrators, but highlighting the need for ongoing cross-sector leadership and collaboration to hold perpetrators to account.
* Since the reporting period ended, Restart have launched their [evaluation for the first year of the project](http://driveproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Restart-final-24-May-23.pdf), and continued funding has been confirmed.

# Change that Lasts: CLEAR

Developed by Respect in partnership with Welsh Women’s Aid, CLEAR is a complementary strand of the [Change that Lasts approach](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/change-that-lasts/#:~:text=Change%20That%20Lasts%20is%20an,and%20resources%20available%20to%20her.). It’s delivered across South Wales by Safer Merthyr Tydfil (SMT) as a short awareness-raising course for men concerned about their behaviour towards women.

## This year:

* there was a 145% increase in CLEAR referrals from last year, with many coming via children’s services
* more survivors were supported than ever before, increasing referrals to the survivor support service by 38%
* 62% of the men who started CLEAR completed it, and 23% of them moved on to a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme
* 1,167 professionals attended events where they learned about CLEAR and the broader suite of perpetrator interventions available in Cardiff and Vale

## Making a difference

Practitioners delivering CLEAR ask the men to complete a wellbeing questionnaire before and after the course. Following the course, there were marked improvements in their scores relating to mental health, intimate relationships, and relationships with their children.

Participants also said the course made them more confident in identifying their own physical cues, negative self-talk, and situations likely to lead to abusive behaviour.

## *“The course has helped me to understand myself better and make better choices”* **– CLEAR Participant**

## Survivor support

As part of the course, survivors are offered separate, specialist, parallel support. In their questionnaires, survivors told us their key areas of improvement were:

* greater confidence asking for help
* feeling safer
* being better able to identify their partner’s abusive behaviour
* developing improved support networks

*“I’m no longer afraid to disagree with my husband, he is much calmer and we talk more”* **- Survivor**

*“I feel safer since my partner attended CLEAR, he is less stressed”* **- Survivor**

## What’s next for CLEAR?

Due to funding constraints, we are sad to announce that Respect will no longer be involved in the day-to-day implementation of the Change that Lasts approach in partnership with Welsh Women’s Aid.

CLEAR as an intervention will continue and is being delivered by our existing delivery partners: we will still be supporting this work on an ad-hoc basis.

Working in partnership with colleagues at Welsh Women’s Aid, and our delivery partners, has not only been a pleasure, but also a valuable opportunity to combine our expertise and knowledge to effect real change for people in Wales. Whilst this may be the end of our current funded partnership, we will continue to work with Welsh Women’s Aid and hope to have a formal funded partnership in the future.

# Our work with Safe & Together

The [Safe & Together](https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/147-work-with-safe-together) model is a training programme designed to help child protection professionals improve their response to domestic abuse.

## What is Safe & Together?

The model is based on three key principles:

* Keeping children Safe & Together with their non-abusive parent, ensuring safety, healing from trauma, stability, and nurturance.
* Partnering with the non-abusive parent as a default position ensuring efficient, effective, and child-centred practice.
* Intervening with the perpetrator to reduce the risk and harm to the child through engagement, accountability, and criminal justice.

At Respect, we are implementing the Safe and Together model via two partnerships: the London Partnership and Restart.

* We continued our implementation work across 11 boroughs.
* 1800 people were trained in the Safe and Together model.
* We delivered 719 practice consultations to social workers.

## The London Partnership

Respect has been a proud Safe & Together partner agency since 2019, and has grown the partnership to cover six boroughs. This landmark ‘systems change’ project is designed to improve the way children’s services and partner agencies respond to domestic abuse and engage with perpetrators, and to provide better support and protection for adult and child survivors.

## Restart

Restart is a project bringing together expertise from Respect, SafeLives, DAHA and Drive to provide early intervention for perpetrators causing harm in families working with Children’s Social Care (CSC), to prevent continued abuse.

As part of this partnership, Respect is providing workforce development through the implementation of the Safe & Together approach in the five participating London Boroughs.

## This year:

* We continued our implementation work across 11 boroughs. This involved delivering the Safe & Together Overview and Core Training, as well as bespoke briefings and workshops, and Respect’s own Working with Perpetrators training in some boroughs.
* Our Implementation Leads continued strategic pieces of work such as reviewing Local Authority guidance around domestic abuse practice; developing case management systems to better highlight how practitioners are partnering with survivors and holding perpetrators accountable; and building Safe & Together practice consultations into pathways such as MARAC and ICPC. The team also continued to build champion networks to ensure future sustainability of the model.

## A hub for professionals

We created a professionals hub on our website to keep them up to date with training opportunities, resources and interventions available in their area. This year the hub was visited by over 1500 professionals.

*“I’ve found the resources for different areas of practice really helpful”* **- Action Learning Set, CSC practitioner**

## What’s next for our work with Safe & Together?

* We’re continuing our role in the Restart project across five London boroughs, offering up to 900 training places for professionals working in children’s social care and continuing our important implementation of the Safe & Together model on both a practice and strategic level.
* We are continuing implementation in our London Safe & Together partnership across six boroughs, offering 900 training places and continuing strategic systems change work.
* We are welcoming two new boroughs, Barnet and Barking & Dagenham, to the partnership!

# Thank You!

We are grateful for the continued support of our trustees, supporters and funders, without whom this vital and lifechanging work would not be possible. A special thank you to:

* Police Crime Commissioners: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, MOPAC National Lottery Community Fund
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* Esmée Fairbairn Trust
* Guinness Trust
* Scottish Government
* Scottish Women’s Aid
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We would also like to thank all of our individual donors and those who purchase our training which provides vital support for our ongoing funding.

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