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Measuring the impact of cuts in public expenditure on the provision of services to prevent violence against women and girls

**By Jude Towers and Sylvia Walby
UNESCO Chair in Gender Research Group
Lancaster University**

**Report for Northern Rock Foundation and Trust for London
30 January 2012**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report by Professor Sylvia Walby, UNESCO Chair in Gender Research, and Jude Towers at Lancaster University, considers the evidence on cuts in budgets and services to prevent violence against women and girls. It collects together the data as to where the cuts have been falling drawn from around 20 published and previously unpublished sources.

Key Findings

- Substantial reductions in national budgets are leading to cuts in local services to prevent and protect against gender-based violence against women and girls. These cuts in service provision are expected to lead to increases in this violence.
- The effect on local services is both dramatic and uneven across localities.
- Thirty-one percent of the funding to the domestic violence and sexual abuse sector from local authorities was cut between 2010/11 to 2011/12, a reduction from £7.8 million to £5.4 million. (Data obtained using Freedom of Information Act requests by the False Economy project, and analysed by the research team).
- The organisations with smaller budgets from the local authorities had more substantial budget cuts than larger ones: among those with local authority funding of less than £20,000 the average cut was 70% as compared with 29% for those receiving over £100,000, between 2010/11 and 2011/12. (Data obtained using Freedom of Information Act requests by the False Economy project, and analysed by the research team).
- 230 women, just under 9% of those seeking refuge, were turned away by Women's Aid on a typical day in 2011 due to lack of space. (Data from surveys conducted annually by Women's Aid of their affiliated organisations, analysed by the research team).
- The number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) has been reduced: in 2011 among 8 major IDVA service providers supporting 13,180 clients, 2 faced funding cuts of 100%, 3 cuts of 50%, 3 of 40% and 2 of 25%.

(Data from a poll carried out by Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse - CAADA).

- IMKAAN, who run services for women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, report the closing of two of their six specialist refuges and cuts to local authority funding for two more. (Data from IMKAAN).
- RESPECT services working to reform male perpetrators of domestic violence suffered budget cuts so that between 2010 and 2011 78% of services reduced the number of clients they were able to assist. (Data from RESPECT London).
- Statutory provision, including those police and court services that involve specialised expertise, has also been reduced following funding cuts. This includes cuts in the operating levels of Domestic Abuse Officers, a unit on female genital mutilation and domestic violence courts. (Data from Home Office and Ministry for Justice).

Concluding Points

All agree that the ending of violence against women is an important goal of public policy. The Home Secretary, Theresa May, declares:

'No level of violence against women and girls is acceptable in modern Britain or anywhere else in the world. . . . As women and as a society we have made great strides but we need to do more to ensure that women and future generations are not held back. My ambition is nothing less than ending violence against women and girls.' (Home Office 2011)

However, cutbacks in national budgets have led to reductions in the provision of local services and the loss of specialised expertise, despite the introduction of some new national funding streams.

Services to protect against and to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls are largely provided at local level, where the need is based, but the budgets to fund the services and the nature of the commissioning process are largely set at national level. There are large variations between localities in the cuts to services.

There is serious concern that the reductions in services following from cuts to budgets will lead to an increase in the amount of violence against women and girls.

There is a need for better collection of data so as to ensure changes in service forms and levels and in their effects on levels of violence against women and girls can be effectively monitored and analysed.

The full effect of public sector funding cuts resulting from the Comprehensive Spending Review and other changes in government policy and practice will not be realised immediately; rather the full impact of these changes for the violence against women and girls (VAWG) service sector and for the women and children it supports will take some time to become clear. It is important that the collection of data provided by this report is understood to be only the beginning of the monitoring and analysis needed.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence against women wrecks lives, causing pain and misery. It is a crime, destroys health, is a violation of women's human rights, a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and a cost to economy and society. All agree that the ending of violence against women is an important goal of public policy.

'No level of violence against women and girls is acceptable in modern Britain or anywhere else in the world. . . . As women and as a society we have made great strides but we need to do more to ensure that women and future generations are not held back. My ambition is nothing less than ending violence against women and girls.' Theresa May, Home Secretary (Home Office 2011).

Yet budget reductions are leading to cuts in the services to support women facing gender-based violence. These cuts in service provision are likely to lead to increases in violence against women (VAW). How are cuts in expenditure affecting the services concerning violence against women?

The report reviews the data available on VAW services relevant to measuring the extent of the cuts. It then sets out an account of the cuts in VAW services, using the best available data. This data on the cuts in the budgets of VAW service providers is analysed and summarised in two ways: an account of the different funding mechanisms through which budgets are being reduced; and a grid showing the different ways this data is collected.

2 WHERE IS DATA ON VAW SERVICES AND THE CUTS BEING COLLECTED?

Introduction

This section provides a list of agencies and organisations that provide information about VAW services and related services. These are potentially relevant to an understanding of where cuts in VAW related services are taking place. Information relevant to the cuts is being gathered in several different ways. Most service providers have some data on the changes in their ability to offer services. For example, most organisations will hold information about their own activities, such as the size of their budget, how many services they run, and many will know how many people they helped. Data on cuts is also collected by other organisations, which have an interest in analysis of the cuts. Sometimes these data are in the public domain (e.g. on web-sites); sometimes held by organisations in data bases to which access is more restricted. Information is presented in alphabetical order.

The report largely provides data on domestic violence services; this reflects the paucity of data available on other types of gender-based violence against women, such as harmful practices, sexual violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, so-called honour-based violence and trafficking.

Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) Project

AVA offers a number of resources on its web-site (www.avaproject.org.uk/). One tool kit is the Coordinated Community Response Model to Domestic Violence (CCRM) (<http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-resources/the-ccrm-online-toolkit/about-the-coordinated-community-response-model-to-domestic-violence.aspx>) which offers assistance in the comprehensive mapping of services (<http://www.ccrm.org.uk/>).

Children England

Children England (<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/index.php?pageID=398>) reported on cuts in children's services in March 2011 (Counting the Cuts: The impact of public sector spending cuts on children's charities <http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/CountingTheCutsFinalforPDF.pdf>). The report is based on a survey conducted by Children England between 7-21 March 2011 of its members to gain a snapshot impression of the challenges currently facing the children, young people and families' voluntary sector. 70% of Children England members participated in some way. The survey was available online and telephone follow-ups were also conducted. Respondents to the survey have a combined annual turnover of more than £800 million, which represents a significant proportion of the children's charity sector.

Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA)

CAADA has information on the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) service and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) (www.caada.org.uk). Publically available data on the CAADA site on MARACs include: the number of MARACs submitting data; the number of cases seen at participating MARACs; the total number of children in these families; the percentage of repeat cases; the percentage of non-police referrals; and the percentage of cases with a Black and minority ethnic background (in all cases the publically available data is the total for all the MARACs returning data; the data are not broken down by individual MARAC). In addition, CAADA conducted a poll of eight IDVA services in 2011 about cuts in services (reported in Children & Young People Now, March 2011 http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Social_Care/article/1058437/Domestic-violence-victims-children-risk-support-services-cut/).

Coventry Women's Voices

A local case study approach to the public sector spending cuts on the voluntary sector was carried out in Coventry in a joint project by Coventry Women's Voices (CWV) and Warwick University's Centre for Human Rights in Practice (CHRP); the results were published in a report, *Unravelling Equality? A Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment of the Public Spending Cuts on Women in Coventry*, in May 2011 (a copy of the report is available at http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/chrp/projectss/humanrightsimpactassessment/cwv/report/127948_cwv-chrp_report.pdf). CWV is an independent group of women's organisations that are working together to ensure women's voices in Coventry are heard and to improve the lives of women living in Coventry (<http://www.vacoventry.org.uk/voluntary-action-coventry>). CHRP is a centre within Warwick University Law School (<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/chrp/>). The report uses an equality and human rights impact assessment (EHRIA) approach, focusing specifically on women, to public sector cuts to voluntary sector organisations in the Coventry area. There is a section on VAW services. One of the main service providers, Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC), is discussed and some information about cuts is provided.

Eaves

Eaves (www.eavesforwomen.org.uk/) reports on demand for its services for advice, support and housing, including the Poppy Project (for trafficked women http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/POPPY_Project/POPPY_Project.php). Data from Eaves is also included within Women's Aid (England) Annual Surveys.

End Violence Against Women (EVAW)

The Map of Gaps (MoG) published by EVAW provides a map of the provision of a wide range of VAW services. MoG was devised in order to document gaps in VAW service provision in the UK by locality and region. The project has conducted two sweeps and produced two reports (Maddie Coy, Liz Kelly, Jo Foord, 2007, *Map of Gaps: the postcode lottery of violence against women support services*, London, EVAW & EHRC) and (Maddie Coy, Liz Kelly, Jo Foord, 2009, *Map of Gaps 2: the postcode lottery of violence against women support services*, London, EVAW & EHRC), both available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/map-of-gaps/> The MoG project was commissioned by End Violence Against Women (EVAW) (www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) (www.equalityhumanrights.com). A further ongoing project is 'The Map of Needs'.

Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

The EHRC (<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>) has funded several projects relevant to cuts in VAW services. Where these have led to published reports, they have usually been reported here in the context of the organisation that conducted the research (e.g. Map of Gaps). There are on-going projects, including one on the way in which local authorities took spending decisions on local authority domestic violence services cuts. These findings are not yet in the public domain.

False Economy

False Economy maps the public sector spending cuts in the UK by locality and sector (<http://falseeconomy.org.uk/>). One of the data sets on its web-site has a section on domestic violence and sexual abuse, and is based on Freedom of Information (Fol) Requests to Local Authorities. There is a second data set based on invitations to the public to provide details of the cuts in their area or to their organisation, but although divided by sector it does not currently separately specify VAW services, so it is not further discussed here. False Economy is sponsored by the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

The Fol data set includes cuts to domestic violence and sexual abuse services if they are charities that have received funding from local authorities and had at least a 5% cut in their local authority funding. The data on cuts are available in an Excel spreadsheet and is disaggregated by charity sector (21 sectors, including; adult care, amenities, arts, CAB, children & young people, community, crime, disability, domestic violence and sexual abuse, economic, education, elderly, environment, equality, health, homelessness and housing, information, advice and counselling, other, sport, transport, and volunteering), which enables domestic violence and sexual abuse services to be separately identified. These data are further disaggregated by; region, local authority, charity category, what the charity does, funding cut (details), notes, funding cut overall (in £'s), percentage cut (2011/12). By

local authority, the data are organised by; local authority, region, 2011/12 cuts (details), 2011/12 increases (details), other/future years, total net change (in £'s), date data collected. The dataset enables separate identification of 264 local authority areas. The data was collected between March and July 2011. The data include the amount of income per charity in 2010/11, the funding cut in 2011/12 (in £'s) and the percentage cut (2011/12) per charity. (Information on any charity receiving new funding or an increase in funding from the local authority is also included). Further calculations could be made, for example comparing the impact of the cuts on different sectors.

The information was gained by sending Freedom of Information (FoI) Act requests to each of the 353 local authorities in England (27 county councils, 201 district councils, 33 London boroughs, 36 metropolitan districts, 55 unitary authorities and the Isles of Scilly); 264 local authorities responded to the request for data, so there are some gaps, for example for Leeds, Manchester, Hampshire and Westminster.

The False Economy project based at the TUC is an example of collaboration with organisations beyond the usual VAW sector. It shows the potential, as well as limitations, of using 'Freedom of Information' requests as an innovative method of gathering systematic data on cuts.

IMKAAN

IMKAAN (<http://www.imkaan.org.uk/>) produced a 'vital statistics' report in 2010 detailing the experiences of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic & Refugee women & children facing violence & abuse (Ravi K. Thiara and Sumanta Roy, 2010, *Vital Statistics: The experiences of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic & Refugee women & children facing violence & abuse*, London, Imkaan http://www.imkaan.org.uk/index_html_files/Vital%20Statistics%202010.pdf). The report is the result of a project run between 2008 and 2009 with the Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAMER) VAWG sector to develop and pilot a shared system of data collection. The project worked with 10 BAMER VAWG organisations across the UK for three months collecting information on 124 BAMER women who had accessed refuge, advice and outreach services. Many of the organisations within the IMKAAN network are also included within the Women's Aid (England) surveys (including their Annual Surveys) and may also be listed on the UK Refuges Online database UKROL.

Legal Aid

The Ministry of Justice have set forth a series of proposed revisions to the system of legal aid (proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales are available from <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/consultations/legal-aid-reform-consultation.pdf>). There are a number of organisations monitoring cuts to legal aid. These include Rights of Women (www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/); Justice for All (<http://www.justice-for-all.org.uk/>), and AVA (Against Violence and Abuse

<http://www.avaproject.org.uk/>). Rights of Women have conducted three surveys on legal aid and access to justice from December 2010 to January 2011. Coventry Women's Voices and Warwick University's Centre for Human Rights in Practice produced a report in 2011 (*Unravelling Equality? A Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment of the Public Spending Cuts on Women in Coventry*, in May 2011 (a copy of the report is available at http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/chrp/projectss/humanrightsimpactassessment/cwv/report/127948_cwv-chrp_report.pdf), which identified other effects on availability of legal advice funding cuts beyond those proposed for legal aid.

London Voluntary Services Council (LVSC)

The Big Squeeze campaign is run by supporting London's 60,000 voluntary and community organisations (<http://www.lvsc.org.uk/campaign/big-squeeze.aspx>). LVSC surveyed its members for the Big Squeeze campaign about closures.

Rape Crisis (England and Wales)

Rape Crisis (England and Wales) has information about current member Rape Crisis Centres available as an interactive map on its website (www.rapecrisis.org.uk/). Rape Crisis will be surveying local services in the New Year (2012) to assess the impact of the two funding streams: Rape Support Fund and the Victim and Witness General Fund.

Refuge

Refuge provides some information on its web-site (www.refuge.org.uk). It reports on a 'service snapshot' produced in 2008 (http://refuge.org.uk/cms_content_refuge/attachments/Refuge%20service_snapshot%20_web%202008.pdf). This reports that on Thursday 16 October, Refuge was supporting: 218 women in accommodation based services: 146 women through floating support and community outreach services (including women using Sanctuary Schemes); 220 women through independent domestic violence advocacy services. The refuges and other services run by Refuge are included in the Women's Aid coordinated data set in their Annual Survey.

RESPECT

RESPECT reports on accredited domestic violence perpetrator programmes and associated support services. RESPECT a dataset called REDAMOS and also Cuts Watch Survey data. It reports its findings on cuts on its web-site (www.respect.uk.net/).

A subgroup of RESPECT, Respect London Member Organisations (RLMO), collates a dataset of the number of referrals to perpetrator and linked partner support services across five programmes for one financial year (1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010). The programmes are: [Families without Fear](#); [Domestic Violence Intervention Project \(DVIP\)](#); [The TRYangle Project](#); Positive Change Programme; and [Men's Centre](#). The dataset is disaggregated by; borough; ethnicity; gender; sexuality; and

age. The disaggregated datasets are available at <http://www.respect.uk.net/pages/respect-london-members.html>.

Scottish Women's Aid (SWA)

SWA publishes service user statistics for the 39 SWA network members (but not for the 7 non-affiliated groups in Scotland) from 2002-2007.

(http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/general/SWA_Annual_Stats_06-07.pdf) It also reports on an annual census day. On 24 September 2009 SWA took part in a 24hour census day to identify how many women, children and young people were supported on that day, in refuge or through outreach services (<http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/general/SWA%20census%20leaflet.pdf>).

SWA have developed an innovative Finance Survey in 2011 that asks their network members about the funding they receive.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)

SARCs are specialist services for people who have been raped or sexually assaulted. They are open 24 hours a day, every day, and aim to be one-stop services, providing medical care and forensic examination following assault/rape, counselling and – in some locations – sexual health services. SARCs are mostly able to assist in the immediate aftermath of an assault but do not offer long term services that are provided by Rape Crisis Centres. There are currently 24 SARCs (www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/isva-funding?view=Binary).

Standing Together

Standing Together reports on the number of domestic violence co-ordinators.

http://www.standingtogether.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/standingUpload/DVCN/IMG_response.pdf

Welsh Women's Aid (WWA)

Welsh Women's Aid has a dataset of the monthly number of calls to the Welsh Domestic Abuse helpline between 2005/06 and 2008/09 (Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline monthly call volume 2005-2009

<http://www.welshwomensaid.org/publications/index.html?cat=20494>). WWA

publishes its Annual Reports from 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 on the website (<http://www.welshwomensaid.org/publications/index.html?cat=10052>), these provide information on service use. Financial data are also published showing the sources of income for the year for WWA. WWA is reporting on its monitoring of the cuts in Wales.

Women's Aid Federation of England

Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid) (www.womensaid.org.uk) coordinates the collection of data about the provision and use of refuge accommodation and specialist outreach and advocacy services in relation to domestic and sexual violence throughout England in its Annual Surveys of its members and other associated organisations. It also undertakes additional special surveys from time to time (see below).

The data for the Women's Aid Annual Surveys are gathered by a survey of the service provider organisations on an annual basis since at least 2004 for the purposes of providing information about the domestic violence services available, the number of women and children supported by services and organisation under the Women's Aid national network, and to give a detailed snap shot of those using domestic violence services on a specific designated day (known as the 'Day to Count').

In addition, in most years since 2006, Women's Aid has collected further information on a sample of women service users on the same "Census Day" (Residents' and Service Users surveys).

In addition to the Annual Surveys, Women's Aid also undertakes additional surveys from time to time. One such special survey was conducted in March 2011 (and had responses from 85 organisations in the Women's Aid network running a combined total of 420 refuge and outreach services). This survey focuses specifically on information about funding. Follow up surveys later 2011 and in 2012 are planned for when the impact of financial cuts, in terms of changes in staffing, opening hours, and numbers of survivors supported, will start to show, as well as actual or threatened closure of services becoming evident. Results from the special survey in March 2011 are available on-line (<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-press-information.asp?itemid=2599&itemTitle=Women%92s+Aid%92s+survey+reveals+feature+that+over+half+of+refuge+and+outreach+services+could+face+closure§ion=0001000100150001§ionTitle=Press+releases>).

The Women's Aid data from the Annual Survey and other surveys provide a robust data base of services provided and the number of women and children using these specialist refuge outreach services throughout England. This data-set could be used to source information on the changes in the provision and usage of refuges and related services over time. Women's Aid has provided the questionnaires and accounts of the methodology behind their annual survey, including definitions to the Project. This data set is highly significant for the intended research. Discussions are ongoing as to how to devise appropriate research protocols to ensure the appropriate protection of the data.

Women's Aid also co-ordinates UK Refuges Online (UKROL), which is a UK-wide online information system, providing domestic violence agencies with up-to-date information on vacancies in refuge accommodation and the availability of other domestic violence services such as outreach and advocacy projects. Services can also give permission for a sub-set of this information to be included in the UK Gold Book which is currently published every two years, and is available for general purchase. The UKROL project as a whole is managed by the 'Project Partners', namely: Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland; Scottish Women's Aid; Welsh Women's Aid; and Women's Aid Federation of England. Each partner 'owns' and is responsible for the data and information collected within its remit.

Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland: <http://www.womensaidni.org/> the lead voluntary organisation challenging domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

Women's Aid (Republic of Ireland): (<http://www.womensaid.ie/> a leading national organisation that has been working to address the issue of domestic violence in Ireland for more than 35 years.

Women's Budget Group

Women's Budget Group have produced a gendered analysis of the Comprehensive Spending Review demonstrating the disproportional impacts of cuts to public sector spending and welfare payments on women (Women's Budget Group, 2010, The Impact on Women of the Coalition Spending Review 2010, p.2 from http://www.wbg.org.uk/RRB_Reports_4_1653541019.pdf).

Women's Resource Centre

Women's Resource Centre have produced work about women's organisations and their funding (Women's Resource Centre, 2010, *Assessing the Financial Vulnerability of Charities Serving Women*, London, Women's Resource Centre http://www.wrc.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2011/a/assessing_the_financial_vulnerability_of_charities_serving_women.pdf).

3 CUTS IN VAW BUDGET AND SERVICES

Introduction

This section provides an account of the available information on the public sector spending cuts that affect violence against women (VAW) services. The focus is on services to women who have suffered violence, but it also includes some information about cuts in generic services where these affect violence against women and girls.

While there are many ways in which information on the cuts is offered by these agencies, where possible, this has been classified into four types:

- Change to number/percentage of services/organisations;
- Change to the number/percentage of clients assisted;
- Reduction in the number/percentage of staff;
- Sum/percentages of money cut from services.

In addition, data on demonstrated and/or changes in need is also recorded.

The ease availability of the data varies. In some cases it is on publicly available websites; in some it has been provided by the organisation to the research team; in others the research team has provided an analysis of the raw data offered by the agency. A reference to the source of the data is provided in each case.

The information is presented in relation to the organisation providing the service or offering the data, listed in alphabetical order:

Children England
Coventry Women's Voices
Crown Prosecution Service,
CAADA
Eaves
False Economy
Forced marriage
IMKAAN
Legal aid
Local Authority Domestic Violence Coordinators
London Voluntary Services Council
Map of Gaps
National Council for Voluntary Organisations
Other central government services
Rape Crisis
Refuge
RESPECT
Sanctuary Schemes
Supporting People
Women's Aid VAWG roundtable review

Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)
Scottish Women's Aid
Welsh Women's Aid
Women's National Commission
Women's Resource Centre

Children England

Service closure: 14 reports of service closure to date.

Staff: 40% of organisations anticipate staff cuts in the first six months of 2011: 66% of organisations anticipate staff cuts by the end of 2011.

Funding: 71% will experience funding cuts in 2011/12: 80% of organisations with local authority funding have experienced funding cuts in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11: 47% of organisations with national government funding have experienced funding cuts in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11.

Data source: Children England, 2011, *Counting the Cuts: The impact of public sector spending cuts on children's charities*

<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/CountingTheCutsFinalforPDF.pdf>

Coventry Women's Voices

Staff: Cut of six (from eight to two) specialist domestic abuse officer posts from West Midlands Police and One Coventry Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) post run by the Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, with funding for the second IDVA post only secured until 2012.

Funding: Central grant cut to Coventry City Council budget of £38 million: Cuts to West Midland Police of £40 million in 2011/12 and £38 million in 2012/13: Budget cut of £5 million to Coventry Primary Care Trust (PCT), which is likely to be disbanded by 2013. In the Coventry survey, between October and December 2010, 60% of voluntary organisations reported funding cuts: 56% expect further funding cuts over the next three years.

Data source: Mary-Ann Stephenson and James Harrison, 2011, *Unravelling Equality? A Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment of the Public Spending Cuts on Women in Coventry*, Coventry Women's Voices and Warwick University Centre for Human Rights in Practice:

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/chrp/projectss/humanrightsimpactassessment/cwv/report/127948_cwv-chrp_report.pdf

Criminal Justice System

Service closure: 23 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) are due to close as part of the planned closure of 142 courts by the Ministry of Justice over the next three years. Responsibility to oversee transition of provision from closing SDVC courthouses to alternative accredited and non-accredited courthouses rests with the local partnership bodies such as the Community Safety Partnership. Local resources are expected to ensure the reduced SDVC service is still effectively linked to local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), Multi-Agency Public

Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) and Child Safeguarding Boards and that local IDVA services (subject to funding cuts themselves) transform to work across boundaries and deal with capacity issues.

Staff: There will be a loss of an estimated 16,000 police officers by 2015 and an estimated loss of 1800 Crown Prosecution Service staff by 2015.

Funding: The police are subject to a 20% funding cut (£1 billion) between 2010/11 and 2014/15.

The Crown Prosecution Service nationally is subject to a 25% budget cut (£118 million) between 2010/11 and 2014/15.

In the UK, it is estimated that up to 24,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM)¹. Financial cuts have resulted in reduced capacity in the Metropolitan Police project 'Azure', which deal with cases of female genital mutilation (FGM).

IDVA services: The Home Office announced funding for IDVA and MARAC services of £3.3 million per year from 2011. However, the funds are restricted: a maximum of £20,000 per IDVA post and a maximum of £15,000 per MARAC coordinator are allowable: A maximum of one bid (one post) for IDVA per local authority area is allowable, no matter how many current IDVA posts a local authority area have running up to 2011.

A CAADA poll in 2011 of eight IDVA services, collectively supporting 13180 clients, found reductions in council grants mean two of the services face 100% funding cuts; three face 50% cuts; three face 40% cuts; two face 25% cuts.

Data source: Crown Prosecution Service: evaluation of the national domestic violence training programme:

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/evaluation_of_national_domestic_violence_training_programme.html

Department for Constitutional Affairs, 2004, *Domestic Violence: A Guide to Civil Remedies and Criminal Sanctions*, London, Department for Constitutional Affairs
Home Office, 2006, *Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme: Resource Manual*, London, Home Office

Multi agency SDVC review: HM Court Service, Home Office & Criminal Justice Service, 2008, *Justice with Safety: Special Domestic Violence Courts Review 2007-08*, London

Children & Young People Now, March 2011:

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Social_Care/article/1058437/Domestic-violence-victims-children-risk-support-services-cut/

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/fgm/>

The f-word May 2011:

http://www.thefword.org.uk/blog/2011/05/domestic_violence_courts_face_closure

¹ Foreign and Commonwealth Office: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/fgm/>

The Home Office: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/funding-eligibility-guidance>

Eaves

Service closure: Eaves has closed 39 bed spaces (from 54 to 15: a reduction of 72%) at the Poppy Project² following the reallocation of the Ministry of Justice contract to the Salvation Army in 2011.

Funding: The loss of the government contract for the Poppy Project represented a 95% cut in funding for Eaves.

Eaves report new funding from a leading alternative investment management business, Man Group, in the Poppy Project: £300,000 over three years. This donation enables the Poppy Project to continue to provide safe house accommodation for 15 victims of trafficking and to support a further 72 victims per year in outreach services.

Service need: Eaves report demand for their services has increased from 366 referrals for advice and support in 2009-10 to 548 in 2010-11; a 50% rise on the previous year.

Data source: www.eavesforwomen.org.uk/

<http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/Resources/News.php> 19/10/2011

http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/POPPY_Project/POPPY_Project.php 02/08/2011

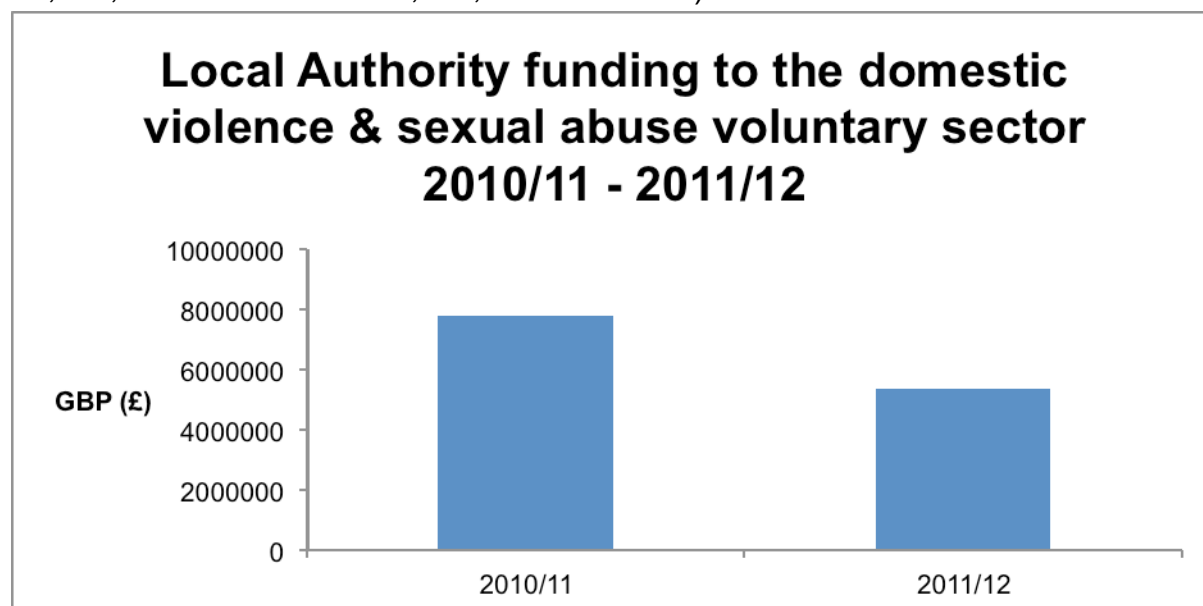
False Economy

Funding: The False Economy project has collected data on changes to local authority funding to domestic violence and sexual abuse services between 2010/11 and 2011/12 in England, focusing on those organisations where there has been a change in funding that is at least 5% of funding to that organisation from the Local Authorities (LAs). The data is gathered from Freedom of Information (Fol) Act requests and includes only those LAs that responded (264 out of 353)). There were 63 organisations³ in the sector that had experienced reduction in their LA funding

² The Poppy project provides accommodation and support to women who have been trafficked into prostitution or domestic servitude and works to improve the safety and wellbeing of women from all over the UK who have been trafficked and who are in need of short-term support and advocacy: http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/POPPY_Project/POPPY_Project.php 14/10/2011

³ False Economy Domestic Violence and sexual assault sector local authority funding cuts: Loughborough Women's Aid outreach services cut by £11511 (39%); Nene Valley Christian Family Refuge cut by £20400 (100%); Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Forum cut by £5000 (100%); Northamptonshire WAs ethnic worker cut by £14340 (100%); Broxtowe Women's Project information & advice cut by £7000 (32%); Nottinghamshire Incest & Sexual Survivors Group counselling services cut by £5205 (25%); Midland WAs cut by £4375 (15%); Newark WAs cut by £9125 (23%); NNIDAS cut by £16395 (20%); Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre cut by £5100 (16%); Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum cut by £3360 (18%); Nottinghamshire WAs cut by £4910 (10%); Roshni Nottingham Asian Women's Aid cut by £10000 (50%); Nottinghamshire WAs cut by £2000 (7%); Central Bedfordshire Christian Family Care cut by £10250 (100%); Bromley WAs cut by £79837 (20%); Hackney Nia Project (4 IDVAs) cut by £89824 (100%); Hackney Standing Together evaluation & advice cut by £2837 (100%); Harrow Victim Support 2 IDVAs and community engagement cut by £3918.93 (7%);

between 2010/11 and 2011/12 that was greater than 5%. The total amount of LA funding lost to the domestic violence and sexual abuse sector in England recorded by the False Economy data collection project is just under two and a half million pounds (£2,435,061): this represents a 31% funding cut to the sector (from £7,803,307 in 2010/11 to £5,368,247 in 2011/12).



The percentage of funding cut from organisations is greater among organisations that received smaller amounts of money than those that received larger amounts. The average funding cut, between 2010/11 and 2011/12, for the 12 organisations with local authority funding of £20,000 or less is 70%; for the 21 organisations with local authority funding between £20,001 and £50,000 it is 42%; for the 12 organisations with local authority funding between £50,001 and £100,000 is 41%;

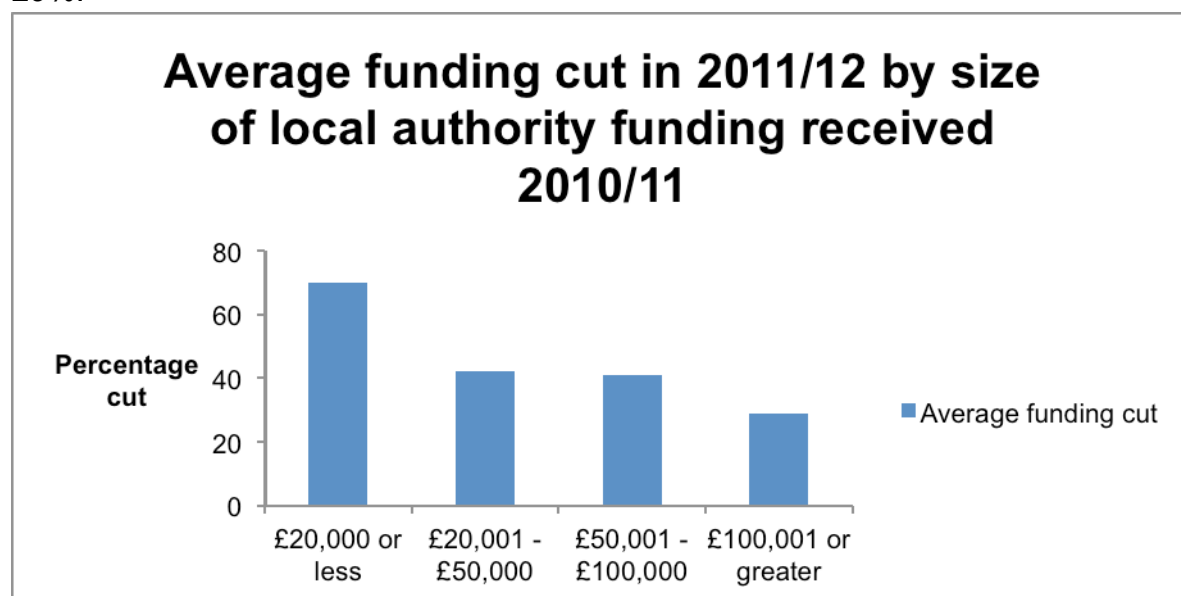
London Councils Ashiana Network children & yp cut by £11876.88 (63%); London Councils Barnardos children & yp sexual exploitation cut by £101138.13 (63%); Brook London children & yp support cut by £50805 (63%);

London Councils DV intervention project for children & yp cut by £22563.75 (63%); London Councils ELBWO advice, drop-in, etc cut by £39703.59 (63%); London Councils Family Matters cut by £15905.63 (63%);

London Councils Immigrant Counselling & psychotherapy cut by £28397.68 (63%); London Councils Mosaic children & yp sexual abuse service cut by £32552.97 (35%); London Councils PACE children & yp sexual exploitation cut by £23861.88 (18%); SBS cut by £25448.13 (20%); London Councils Step Up children & yp sexual abuse cut by £25274.06 (63%); London Councils Nia project children & yp witnessing DV cut by £19815 (14%); London Councils Welcare Community project children & yp witnessing DV cut by £45119.38 (63%);

London Councils Women's & Girls network counselling and psychotherapy cut by £49211.88 (21%); Redbridge Action against Domestic Abuse temp accommodation & advocacy cut by £6701 (12%); Redbridge Step Up sexually abused children cut by £4678 (12%); Waltham Forest Ashiana project cut by £96500 (95%); Redcar & Cleveland Emerging from Domestic Abuse cut by £41306 (13%); Blackburn with Darwen WAs cut by £97003 (46%); Bolton Fortalice children witnessing DV cut by £9000 (14%); Oldham Domestic Abuse Partnership Unit cut by £41000 (35%); Pendle Independent Domestic Violence Initiative cut by £6960 (100%); Rochdale Inter Agency DV Forum cut by £61257 (42%); Rochdale Women's Refuge cut by £49064 (15%); Rochdale Women's Housing Action Group cut by £125720 (24%); St Helens NSPCC children's worker cut by £40000 (78%); Portsmouth Area Rape Crisis cut by £16500 (15%); Surrey Chapter 1 DA outreach cut by £21198 (49%); East Surrey DA service cut by £26021 (64%); Walton & Weybridge CAB DA outreach cut by £23041 (51%)

and for the 19 organisations with local authority funding of more than £100,001 is 29%.



In the domestic violence and sexual abuse sector, eight organisations were subject to a 100% cut in local authority funding in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11; five of these organisations (62.5%) received £20,000 or less in 2010/11; two (25%) received £20,001 - £50,000 in 2010/11 and one (12.5%) received £50,001 - £100,000. No organisation with local authority funding over £100,001 in 2010/11 was subject to a 100% funding cut in 2011/12.

Organisations providing domestic violence and sexual abuse services with the lowest level of funding from local authorities in 2010/11 are, on average, subject to greater cuts in 2011/12 as compared with organisations with higher levels of LA funding in 2010/11.

The False Economy data shows a 31% reduction in funding from local authorities to domestic violence and sexual abuse services between 2010/11 and 2011/12, these cuts have fallen most heavily on organisations receiving less than £20,000 a year.

Data source: False Economy Excel spreadsheets based on data collected through Freedom of Information (Fol) requests to all Local Authorities in England:

<http://falseeconomy.org.uk/blog/exclusive-more-than-2000-charities-and-community-groups-face-cuts>

Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office jointly run the Forced Marriage Unit initiative.

Clients: In 2010 there were 1735 instances where the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage. There were 70 instances involving those with

disabilities (50 with learning disabilities, 17 with physical disabilities and 3 with both), and 36 instances involving victims who identified themselves as LGBT. Of the 1735 instances, 86 per cent were female and 14 per cent male.

Funding: The Domestic Programme Fund (DPF) provides funding to charities for small projects in the UK that deliver against the FMU's objectives. In 2011/12 the DPF is £100,000.

Data source: Forced Marriage Unit: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/>

Domestic Programme Fund: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/domestic-prog-fund/>

IMKAAN

Service closure: Two specialist Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) refuge services by one local authority (out of five).

Funding: Of the remaining four specialist BAMER refuges, two have had funding cuts.

Data Source: Ravi K. Thiara and Sumanta Roy, 2010, *Vital Statistics: The experiences of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic & Refugee women & children facing violence & abuse*, London, Imkaan

http://www.imkaan.org.uk/index_html_files/Vital%20Statistics%202010.pdf

Legal Aid

The impacts listed below refer to the proposed changes under The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, due to be debated in parliament at the end of October 2011.

Service closure: Whilst legal aid will still be available in domestic violence cases for family law issues, proposed changes to legal aid will cut a number of currently offered services and areas of work, including: Debt advice (except where a person's home is immediately at risk): Welfare benefit advice, including appeals against Government decisions e.g. on Employment Support Allowance: Education advice e.g. special needs assessment outcomes, etc: Employment advice in all cases except discrimination: Housing advice, to only cover homelessness or serious disrepair threatening health or eviction: Medical negligence advice. Family Law advice will be cut in all cases except domestic violence: However, domestic violence for the purposes of legally aided advice has a much narrower definition than the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) standard which includes physical, psychological, emotional, financial or sexual abuse; domestic violence for legally aided advice originally only included physical violence until July 2011 when the definition was widened to include psychological violence. Ministers also want "objective" proof by reference to judicial, police or social services process in which domestic violence was certified to have happened in legally aided advice claims. The narrower definition and requirement of "objective proof" will exclude many women experiencing GB-violence, for example women not disclosing to statutory services.

There is additionally a proposal to cut face-to-face advice services and to replace these with a central telephone advice line.

Clients: Increased conditionality in eligibility for legally aided advice, for example the removal of automatic entitlement from pensioners and people claiming benefits, means less people will be able to access remaining services. Stephen Cobb QC, chairman of the Family Law Bar Association, estimates: 600,000 less people will be eligible for legal aid; 68,000 children will be affected by the removal of legal aid in family law cases; 54,000 less people will have representation in the family courts every year; women and children in domestic violence cases will be increasingly subject to cross-examination by the alleged perpetrator⁴.

Staff: A reduction in the fee paid to lawyers for legally aided advice of 10% and a freeze at that level until 2015.

Funding: Legal Aid reforms aim to save the Ministry of Justice £350 million.

Service need: In terms of the proposed changes to legal aid, it is estimated⁵ that overall 57% of the changes will impact on women as more women than men apply for legally aid advice. Further, that in some sectors the disproportionate impact on women will be even higher: Women account for 65% of legally assisted family law cases: Women account for 60% of legally aided housing cases: Women account for 73% of legally aided education cases.

Three Rights of Women surveys conducted between December 2010 and January 2011 on legal aid and access to justice demonstrate that the need for legally aided advice in cases of domestic violence extends beyond advice in applying for injunctions: 24% of women also needed advice on children; 33% on divorce; and 24% on housing. 97% of legal professionals expressed their perception of need for legally aided advice for fair access to justice for women experiencing violence by saying they did not think women experiencing violence would be able to adequately represent themselves, especially in family and immigration matters. 91% of legal professions demonstrated the need for face-to-face service provision by arguing that it is extremely important that vulnerable clients meet their legal advisor face-to-face. Further, if legally aided advice becomes increasingly difficult to access because the eligibility criteria change, then respondents to a Rights of Women survey would alternatively access services from a Law Centre (60%); Citizen Advice Bureaux (85%); a specialist VAW service organisation (70%); and Rights of Women (56%), thus increasing demand on other services/service providers.

Data sources: Rights of Women: <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk> 03/08/2011

Ava: www.avaproject.org.uk 05/08/2011

Mary-Ann Stephenson and James Harrison, 2011, *Unravelling Equality? A Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment of the Public Spending Cuts on Women in*

⁴ The Guardian, 24 October 2011: Legal aid cuts will put domestic abuse victims at risk warn law group: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/oct/24/domestic-violence-manifesto-family-justice?newsfeed=true>

⁵ Mary-Ann Stephenson and James Harrison, 2011, *Unravelling Equality? A Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment of the Public Spending Cuts on Women in Coventry*, Coventry, Coventry Women's Voices & Warwick University

Coventry, Coventry Women's Voices and Warwick University Centre for Human Rights in Practice:

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/chrp/projectss/humanrightsimpactassessment/cwv/report/127948_cwv-chrp_report.pdf

Justice for All, 2011, *Saving Justice: Where next for legal aid? Views from the responses to the Ministry of Justice Green paper consultation Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales*: <http://www.justice-for-all.org.uk/Publications>

The Guardian, 24 October 2011, Legal aid cuts will put domestic abuse victims at risk warn law group: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/oct/24/domestic-violence-manifesto-family-justice?newsfeed=true>

Local Authority Domestic Violence Coordinators

Staff: Between 2010 and 2011, the number of members of the Local Authority Domestic Violence Coordinators Network has fallen by 30 (from 109 to 79): 26 of these 30 are no longer in post and 4 were not given the budget to renew their membership.

Data source: Standing Together Against Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence Coordinators – evidence of change:

http://www.standingtogether.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/standingUpload/DVCN/IMG_response.pdf

London Voluntary Services Council (LVSC): The Big Squeeze Campaign

Service closure: The LVSC campaign 'The Big Squeeze' reports that 51% of organisations in the London Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) have closed some services in 2010/11: 54% expect closures next year.

Service need: 81% of organisations in the London voluntary and community sector report increasing demand for services.

Data source: LVSCS: <http://www.lvcs.org.uk/campaign/big-squeeze.aspx>

National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)

Service closure: At the start of the review period, the VCS had over 900,000 organisations, including 170,000 registered charities: There is no further information to date on the number of VCS organisations, but these figures may make a useful baseline for future comparative analysis.

Staff: Currently the voluntary and community sector employs over 790,000 people in the UK. To date there are no comparative figures on employment, and no breakdown by sector, but the figure may provide a useful future baseline for comparison.

Funding: Prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review, government funding of the VCS had been increasing, from £8 billion in 2000/01 to £12.8 billion in 2007/08 (£9.1 billion for service contracts and £3.7 billion for grants: non-direct state support also includes statutory rate relief and Gift Aid reclaims): VCS funding represented approximately 2% of central government spend. NCVO is predicting a fall in public expenditure to the VCS of 3% (£20 billion) between 2010/11 and 2015/16. In six months, the www.voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk site recorded £76 million worth of cuts

from over 500 organisations. Over half the local authorities in England are making disproportionate cuts to the VCS.

In addition NCVO reports giving levels (i.e. private donations) have fallen by 10% since the start of the recession.

Service need: NCVO recognises that in a time of recession, high unemployment and slow economic growth demand for services increase. Of particular relevance in this period is the public sector service cuts, which are comparatively larger in local authority areas with higher deprivation scores; the VCS play an essential role in providing preventative services as state provision is withdrawn. NCVO has recorded a 17% increase in demand for services.

Data source: David Kane & James Allen, 2011, *Counting the Cuts: The impact of spending cuts on the UK voluntary and community sector*, NCVO.

Data collection site on impact of the cuts on the VCS:

www.voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk

Other Central Government Services

Funding: There are 60% funding cuts to advice services for newly arrived asylum seekers from March 2011, including for advice on housing and asylum support. Closure of the service which provided free English as a second language classes for immigrants claiming benefits.

The Government is planning to replace out of work and in work benefits with a new 'Universal Credit', in couples this will be paid as a single payment to one partner. The Women's Budget Group has expressed concerns that this will increase women's financial dependency on their male partners and reduce women's independent access to economic resources.

Data sources: Justice for All: <http://www.justice-for-all.org.uk/>

Refugee Council: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news>

Mary-Ann Stephenson, Oct 2011, *Unravelling Equality?: A toolkit for carrying out a human rights and equality impact assessment of the spending cuts on women*, TUC and Coventry Women's Voices.

Rape Crisis

Funding: The Rape Support Fund and The Victim and Witness General Fund, £10.5 million, was made available for all Rape Support Services from the Ministry of Justice over the next three years (to 2013).

Service need: Following the rape storyline in Coronation Street in September 2011, the Rape Crisis helpline experienced an 800% increase in calls, demonstrating the level of potential service need in the population. Currently the helpline is only able to answer a quarter of all calls to the helpline, because of a lack of any dedicated funding.

Data source: www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Rape Crisis: www.rapecrisis.org.uk/news_show.php?id=58 27/09/2011

Refuge

Funding: Refuge report cuts to 50% of their contracts.

Service need: Refuge provides baseline figures for 2008 in their 'snapshot' report, with 218 women in accommodation-based services: 146 women in floating support and community outreach services: and 220 women using IDVA services.

Data source: Refuge: www.refuge.org.uk

Refuge 'Service Snapshot' 16 October 2008:

(http://refuge.org.uk/cms_content_refuge/attachments/Refuge%20service_snapshot20_web%202008.pdf)

RESPECT

Service closure: 44% of services have lost specific projects: 16.7% of services are at risk of closure due to financial cuts.

Clients: 2009/10 RESPECT worked with 1001 men and women in five RESPECT London Member Organisations. 78% of services affiliated to RESPECT have reduced the number of clients they are able to assist.

Staff: 89% of services have lost staff through redundancies

Funding: 57% of RESPECT services report being less financially secure in 2011 than in 2010: 75% have experienced significant funding cuts in the past year: 100% of RESPECT services have experienced some level of local authority funding cut.

Data source: RESPECT: www.respect.uk.net/

RESPECT London Member Organisations: <http://www.respect.uk.net/pages/respect-london-members.html>

Sanctuary Schemes

Service closure: In 2007⁶ there were 171 local authority councils (out of 354) operating some form of Sanctuary Scheme, however, there is no up-to-date publically available information on the current number of local authorities running Sanctuary Schemes⁷.

Clients: According to the Women's Aid (England) survey of women in refuge accommodation in 2008/09, 2% of women approaching the local authority for housing advice were offered protection via a sanctuary scheme. Of women using Women's Aid (England) outreach services, who had approached the local authority about housing, 7% were offered a sanctuary scheme.

Service need: The numbers of homeless applications due to violent breakup of a relationship have increased between 2009/10 and 2010/11: There were 40,020

⁶⁶ Reported in: Anwen Jones, Joanne Bretherton, Roger Bowles and Karen Croucher, 2010, *The effectiveness of schemes to enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their homes*, Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York for the Department for Communities and Local Government

⁷ Anwen Jones, Joanne Bretherton, Roger Bowles and Karen Croucher, 2010, *Sanctuary Schemes for Households at Risk of Domestic Violence Practice Guide for Agencies Developing and Delivering Sanctuary Schemes*, Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York for the Department for Communities and Local Government comments: 'there are no current national figures on the number of Sanctuary Schemes in England'

applications accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need in 2009/10, increasing to 44,160 in 2010/11: Violent relationship breakdown with a partner was accepted as the cause of unintentional priority need homelessness in 5,620 cases in 2009/10 and 5,930 cases in 2010/11.⁸

Data sources: Anwen Jones, Joanne Bretherton, Roger Bowles and Karen Croucher, 2010, *The effectiveness of schemes to enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain in their homes*, Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York for the Department for Communities and Local Government
Anwen Jones, Joanne Bretherton, Roger Bowles and Karen Croucher, 2010, *Sanctuary Schemes for Households at Risk of Domestic Violence Practice Guide for Agencies Developing and Delivering Sanctuary Schemes*, Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York for the Department for Communities and Local Government
The Department for Communities and Local Government site provides details of numbers of households dealt with under the homelessness legislation in England:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/livetables/> 09/10/2011

Supporting People

Funding: Supporting People, one of the most important sources of funding for the VAW service sector, is subject to an 11.5% budget cut between 2011 and 2014. A survey of over 130 providers found 73% had been warned to expect disproportionate cuts to their budgets by their local authority as Supporting People monies continue to be de-ring fenced. Except in Wales, where Supporting People monies are still ring fenced, but cuts are expected in the region of: 1.48% in 2011/12; 1.51% in 2012/13; and 2.3% in 2013/14.

On average, over half of VAW service providers annual income comes through LAs via SP monies: Three quarters of refuge providers' income comes from just two sources – Supporting People contracts and rental income.

Of 2007/08 Supporting People spending on domestic violence services: First stage refuge accommodation 81%; Second stage refuge accommodation 6%; Floating support 12%; Other community services 1% e.g. Sanctuary Schemes.

Data source: House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee, *The Supporting People Programme, Thirteenth Report of Session 2008–09 Volume I Report, together with formal minutes Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 13 October 2009*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmcomloc/649/649i.pdf>
Department for Communities and Local Government:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/supportgrant/>

⁸ The Department for Communities and Local Government site provides details of numbers of households dealt with under the homelessness legislation in England:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/livetables/> 09/10/2011

Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)

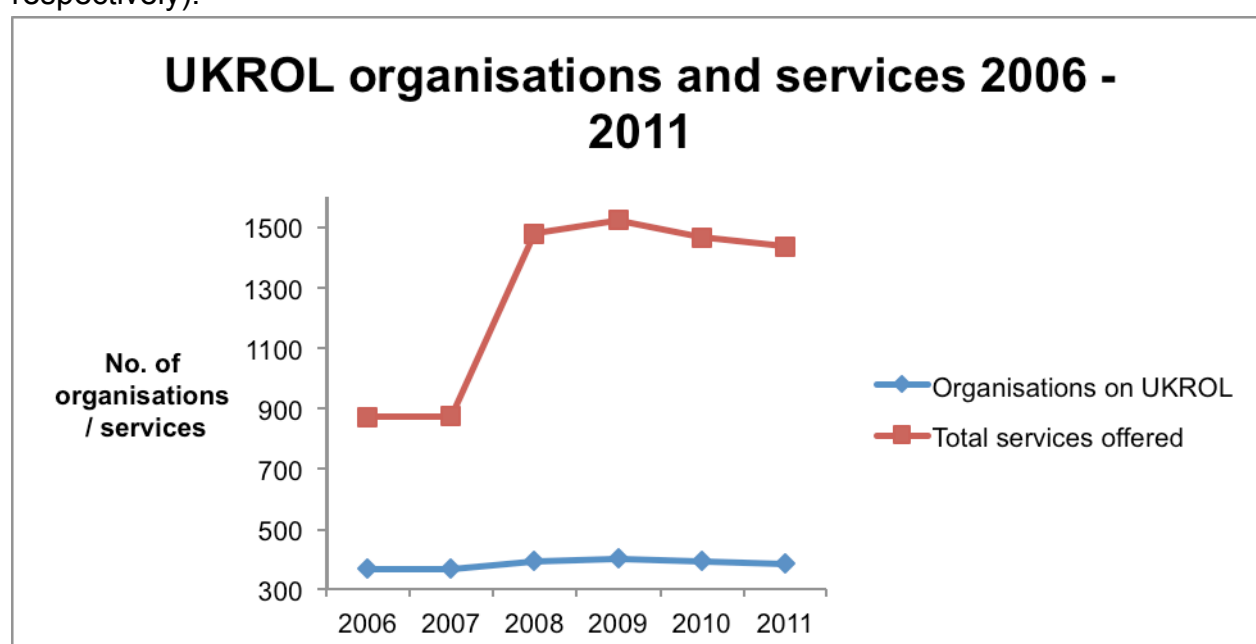
<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=00010001001000020002>

Women's Resource Centre, August 2007, *Funding of London Women's Refuges report for London Councils*

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/crime/publications/womensrefugereport.htm>

UK Refuges on Line (UKROL)

Service closure: Data from UKROL⁹ shows an increase in the number of recorded organisations and services from 2006 to a high of 405 and 1523 respectively in 2009. Both the number of organisations and the number of services decrease in 2010 and again in 2011 to 387 organisations and 1426 services (a 4% and 6% decrease respectively).



The data also demonstrates a divergent relationship between the number of recorded organisations and the number of services provided: From 2008 to 2011, on average, the number of services provided by organisations is greater than between 2006 and 2007: 2006 to 2007, the average number of services per organisation was 2.4: 2008 to 2011, the average number of services per organisation increases to 3.7.

The UKROL data shows decreasing provision of refuge, floating support and outreach services between 2006 and 2011: In all cases provision was at its highest in 2009.

⁹ Cleaned data from 2006 – 2011 has been kindly supplied by UKROL for the purpose of the project

Year	Organisation	Services	Refuge	Floating support	Outreach
2006	367	871	297	140	199
2007	369	873	297	140	199
2008	394	1479	298	141	196
2009	405	1523	304	146	203
2010	396	1465	296	137	194
2011	387	1436	292	120	196

By contrast, IDVA and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA) numbers (recorded since 2008) have both increased to 2011: There are 21 additional IDVA services (from 84 to 105) and eight additional ISVA services (from 12 to 21).

The Women's Aid VAWG Roundtable Review¹⁰

Service closure: The roundtable report 32 domestic violence organisations in England having currently closed at least one of their services: 35% of these services are supporting children and young people. Services for children and young people appear to be particularly affected: For example, the Phoenix Project is closing. In one local authority two (out of five) specialist BAMER refuges have been decommissioned and closed. At least one domestic violence perpetrator programme has closed: 16.7% report they are at risk of closure due to financial cuts.

Funding: In the local authority which has closed two specialist BAMER refuges, two of the remaining four are subject to funding cuts by the local authority. IDVA services in general are experiencing cuts of 10-20% despite £28 million for IDVA, ISVA and MARAC services from central government (the Home Office) over the next four years (to 2014/15): Some IDVA services have experienced much greater cuts to funding; Portsmouth; Nottingham; Devon; East Berkshire; Blackburn and several London services. 75% of domestic violence prevention projects for perpetrators have experienced significant funding cuts in 2010/11: 57% of these services report being less financially secure than one year ago. Delays in decision making by funders, particularly local authorities, are exacerbating funding difficulties for VAW service providers. The Women's Aid special survey 2011 demonstrated that 39 domestic violence service providers under their umbrella are still awaiting confirmation of funding cuts: 6 are currently involved in tendering processes: and 19 have funding reviews before the end of 2011.

Concern over re-commissioning and the focus on price may mean specialist VAW service providers are unable to compete for service delivery contracts as generic large-scale housing associations, for example, can deliver a number of services whilst centralising administration and management and thus reducing costs. The potential loss of specialist knowledge, skills and experience in delivering VAW

¹⁰ Includes: Southall Black Sisters; IMKAAN; Eaves; Standing Together; RESPECT; SOLACE; Women's Aid; Refuge; CAADA; Survivor's Trust; Forward

services is of real concern, as well as the potential loss of specialist VAW service providers if they fail to compete for contracts.

Service need: The need for VAW services is rising: there are reports of a 50% increase in demand and Solace Women's Aid reports an increase of 90%.

Data Source: The data for the Roundtable has been provided by the participating organisations (see footnote 1). This project has extracted data from the report delivered to a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic and Sexual violence at the House of Commons March 2011, in which the information from the numerous VAW organisations involved was compiled and presented.

Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)

Service closure: There is data available through a succession of Women's Aid annual surveys which can be used to demonstrate changes in provision over time.

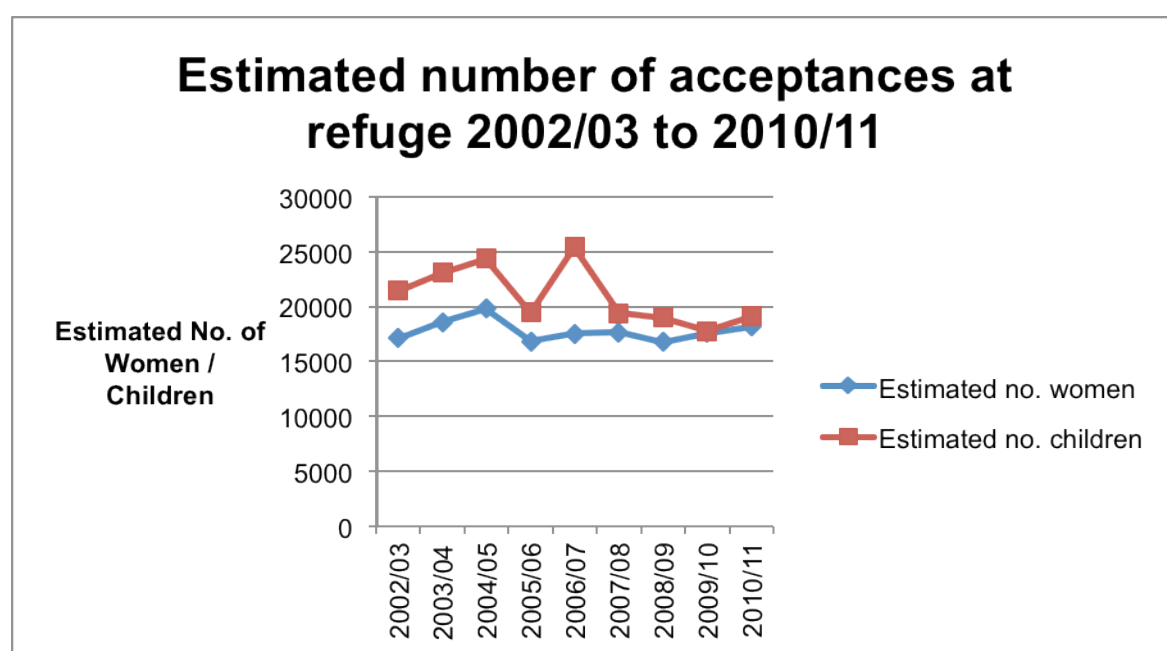
The number of organisations in the Women's Aid network providing specialist domestic violence services in England varies from year to year, mostly due to smaller organisations merging with each other, or being absorbed within a larger organisations; and occasionally to new organisations starting up. So for example, in 2008/09 there were 337 relevant organisations in the Women's Aid network¹¹, 77% of which provided refuge accommodation, 75% providing other non-refuge based services, and 52% providing both. In 2009/10 there were 341 relevant organisations in the Women's Aid network, an increase of four on the previous year; and in 2010/11, there was a reduction to 330 separate relevant organisations, 85% of which provided refuge accommodation, 85% provided outreach services, 50% ran a local or regional helpline and 34% provided all three kinds of services.

Change in the number of separate organisations is not necessarily reflected in a change in the number of services provided. For example, in 2009/10 there was an estimated 690 separate refuges providing around 3890 units for women and children. In 2010/11, this had increased to an estimated 920 separate refuge houses in England, providing at least 4,090 separate family spaces in total. Overall, between 2005/06 and 2010/11 the total number of separate refuge houses has increased (from 550 to 920). The number of families that could be accommodated also increased since 2005/06 (from 3530 to 4090) but has decreased from a high of 6,000 in 2007/08 – probably mainly due to the conversion of large refuge houses with communal facilities into self contained flats.

The number of separate non-refuge services is harder to estimate, as many organisations provide more than one kind of specialist service; however in 2010/11, it was in excess of 280 separate services.

¹¹ The overall Women's Aid (England) annual survey response rate is approximately 65-70%. However, the response rate from bigger organisations (82% in 2009/10), which generally have greater resources and provide more services, is better than that for smaller organisations; this may skew the extrapolated findings and readers should be aware of this when utilising the data.

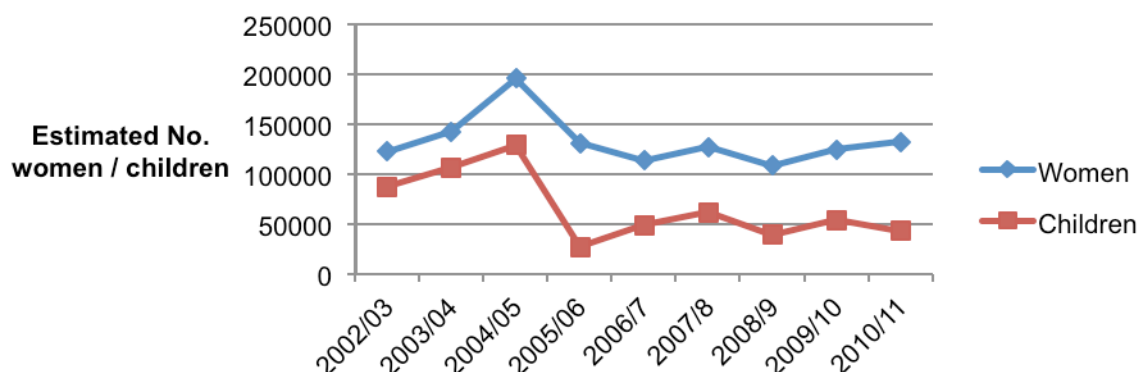
Clients: In 2009/10 there were an estimated 17,615 women and 17,785 children in refuge accommodation in England: and an estimated 107,280 women and 36,585 children receiving direct non-refuge based support services: (totals of 124,895 women and 54,370 children using all types of services). By 2010/11, preliminary analysis indicates that the numbers of women and children in refuge accommodation, and women supported in outreach services has risen slightly; but the numbers of children supported in outreach services had fallen: An estimated 18,170 women and 19,100 children were supported in refuges, and 114,100 women and 24,150 children and young people used non-refuge support services during 2010/11.



From the Day to Count in 2010, and extrapolating from figures provided by responding organisations, (66% of total number of organisations), Women's Aid estimates there are 3268 women and 3536 children typically accommodated in refuge accommodation on any one day: between 2006 and 2010 the number of women and children typically accommodated on any one day has fluctuated slightly, but has remained fairly constant: for example, 3,236 women and 3,749 children were supported on one day in 2006.

The estimated numbers of women supported in at least one domestic violence service has fluctuated between 2005/06 and 2010/11 (from 131,245 in 2005/6 to 132,270 in 2010/11, but dropping to a low of 108,690 in 2008/9). During the same period, the number of children and young people given support has fluctuated even more: in 2005/6, the numbers of children using refuges was around 350 more than in 2010/11; but those using non-refuge services was particularly low, and has risen to more than three times that total in the intervening years.

Total estimated number supported by domestic violence provision 2005/06 to 2010/11



Women's Aid has compared the results of their Special Survey in March 2011 with previous Women's Aid annual survey results and estimated that nationally the number of clients assisted is likely to decrease significantly in future years: if predicted cuts were implemented, 70,000 women and their children might not have access to a service after April 2011.

Funding: The Women's Aid Special Survey 2011 found that: 60% of refuges have no agreed funding from 1 April 2011: 72% of outreach services have no agreed funding from 1 April 2011: and disproportionate impacts on domestic violence services in some local authority budgeting decisions, for example Devon Council has cut the domestic violence services budget by 42% from 1 April 2011 within an overall budget reduction of 27%. Services for children and young people are particularly hard hit: only 20% of responding organisations that had funding for children and young people's support services in their refuges had had funding confirmed for the following year (one with a reduced level of funding), and a further three had funding beyond March 2012. Of the 12 organisations that receive funding for non-refuge-based CYP services, only four (33%) have funding until March 2012, and a further four have no information.

Service need: Women's Aid's annual surveys demonstrate the continuing need and demand for refuge accommodation and associated support services. Numbers of women and children resident in refuge accommodation has fluctuated slightly from year to year, but remains around 18,000 – 19,000 women and around 20,000 children annually since the annual surveys began in 2002/3. The figures from the Day to Count show broadly the same picture.

Certainly there is very little available space in refuges for the women and children who are seeking emergency shelter each day. On one typical day in 2011, around 9% of women seeking refuge were turned away (320 women – the majority of these because lack of space.. The same picture is evident from previous years: Women's

Aid estimates from 2011 figures that each year, at least 40,000 women and their children per year cannot be accommodated in refuge due to lack of space, and a further 18,000 cannot be accepted for other reasons, such as having no recourse to public funds, or multiple support needs which the organisation cannot meet due to insufficient resources.

Between 2008/09 and 2009/10 there was a rise of 39% in the number of women accessing refuge with no recourse to public funds, probably due, at least in part, to the Sojourner Project which has been extended to the end of April 2012, with the Home Secretary also confirming an agreement between the Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions to provide a permanent solution to this issue to be implemented in April 2012¹². In 2009/10, of women turned away from refuge, 3% were turned away because they had no recourse to public funds.

Data source: Women's Aid conducts an annual survey of its national network of service providers in order to obtain the level of use of domestic violence services in England. For most of the past few years this has also included a Day to Count (on November 2nd each year in 2006 and 2007 and in the second week of June in 2009, 2010 and 2011).

For most years from 2006, Women's Aid has also undertaken a Residents' survey to provide additional socio-demographic information about a sample of women residents within refuge services on the census day. In 2009 and 2010 this also included a survey of users of other services such as floating support, outreach and advocacy.

The data for 2004-2008/09 is available on the Women's Aid website:

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-articles.asp?itemid=2691&itemTitle=Women%27s+Aid+Annual+Survey§ion=00010001002200210002§ionTitle=Articles%3A+refuges> 18/10/2011

In March 2011 a Special Survey was conducted by Women's Aid of its network service providers to ask specifically about the scale and impact of the cuts. There were 85 participant organisations, which jointly run 420 outreach and refuge services: <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-press-information.asp?itemid=2599&itemTitle=Women%92s+Aid%92s+survey+reveals+fear+that+over+half+of+refuge+and+outreach+services+could+face+closure§ion=0001000100150001§ionTitle=Press+releases>

¹² The Home Office: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-violence-rule/> 20/10/2011

Scottish Women's Aid

Service closure: 21% of groups have cut services as a result of reduced funding: last year it was 13% of groups. 21% of groups have reduced the level of service provision. Community outreach services have been decreased: Counselling services have been reduced: One-to-one support has been reduced: Activities and visits for children have been reduced.

Clients: Changes to service provision include: Reducing the time allocated to supporting women moving to a new tenancy.

Staff: Less than half of the groups were able to pay their staff a cost of living increase: 61% did this in 2010 and 98% in 2009. 13% of groups have made redundancies or frozen posts. Staff training budgets have been cut.

Funding: All Scottish Women's Aid groups receive funding from their local authority: Women's Aid groups receive the majority (56%) of their funding from Local Authority sources: The proportion of funding from LAs in 2011 fell from 60% to 56%: 16% of groups received a decrease in LA funding (on average 3%): 16% received an increase (on average 2%): 68% received the same level of funding (in effect a decrease because no inflationary uplift for increasing costs). In real terms 84% of groups received a cut or standstill budget.

55% of groups receive funding from the Violence Against Women fund from the Scottish Government: 90% of groups receive funding from the Children's Services Women's Aid fund from the Scottish Government: These two funding streams from the Scottish Government make up, on average, 40% of Women's Aid group budgets: the future of these funds is uncertain beyond 2012. 84% of groups also have alternative sources of funding such as lottery, trusts, donations etc: These account for about 18% of funds.

84% of Women's Aid groups are operating on either a reduced or standstill budget in 2011, compared to 61% in 2010. One quarter of groups reported a funding deficit in the last financial year: one third have transferred monies from reserves to survive in the short-term.

Service need: Scottish Women's Aid published statistics for refuge: Between 2002 and 2007 the number of women admitted to refuge decreased from 5783 to 5373: Of those women applying for refuge who do not get a place, 68% are unsuccessful due to lack of space.

On 24 September 2009 Scottish Women's Aid took part in a 24hour census count: 365 women and 360 children were supported on that day in a Women's Aid refuge: 642 women and 307 children were supported by a Women's Aid group: 101 women contacted Women's Aid for the first time: 47 women requested refuge: 12 women were denied access to refuge due to lack of space.

Data source: Scottish Women's Aid website:

http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/general/SWA_AnnualStats_06-07.pdf

<http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/general/SWA%20census%20leaflet.pdf>

2011 Scottish Women's Aid Funding Survey published in July/August 2011 from an online questionnaire covering 1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011:

http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/research_reports/SWA%20Funding%20Survey%20Report%202011.pdf

Welsh Women's Aid

Service need: Welsh Women's Aid statistics demonstrate an increase demand for services, with calls to the Welsh National Helpline increasing by 3593 between 2005/06 and 2007/08 (from 13568 to 17161). In 2005/06 130 women called the WWA helpline requiring emergency refuge accommodation: 48% of callers were experiencing abuse: 44% were survivors: 7% were concerned others: 15 were other agencies: <1% were perpetrators. 26% of callers had children.

On 14 February 2011, 211 women were living in WWA refuges, with a total of 167 dependent children: 56 women with 43 children contacted WWA groups requiring refuge accommodation. WWA groups were unable to provide refuge to 44 women. WWA member groups supported 1063 women, with a further 152 on waiting lists for community support: WWA member groups supported 897 children and young people directly, and 30 children and young people indirectly, with a further 94 on waiting lists for community support.

80 women accessed WWA member group's drop-in services, and 225 telephoned for support.

Between April 2009 and March 2010, the Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline managed a total of 26,014 calls: The number of calls made represents an 18% increase on the calls made for the same period in 2008-09: In March 2010 the Helpline received 1976 incoming calls.

Data source: Welsh Women's Aid website:

www.welshwomensaid.org/publications/index.html?cat=20494

Welsh Women's Aid annual report:

www.welshwomensaid.org/publications/index.html?cat=10052

Welsh Women's Aid snapshot survey 14 February 2011:

<http://www.welshwomensaid.org/statistics/index.html>

Women's National Commission

Service closure: Women's National Commission abolished December 2010.

Women's Resource Centre

Service closure: Women's Resource Centre research¹³ finds that 52% of women's organisations believe funding cuts will restrict service provision: One in five women's organisations have closed: 25% of women's organisations believe funding cuts will lead to the closure of their organisation: By 2008, 50% of BAMER specialist women's organisations had closed compared to 2003.

¹³ Factsheet: Women and the Cuts June 2011 and Briefing: Statistics about Women in UK October 2010

Funding: 95% of women's organisations face funding cuts / funding crisis in 2011/12.

Data source: Women's Resource Centre, June 2011, *Factsheet: Women and the Cuts*:

http://www.wrc.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2011/f/factsheet_women_and_the_cuts.pdf 04/08/2011

Women's Resource Centre, October 2010, *Statistics about Women in the UK*:

http://www.wrc.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2010/s/1_statistics_about_women_in_the_uk_2009_25_5_10_latest_nn_sr1.pdf 04/08/2011

Women's Resource Centre, 2010, *Assessing the Financial Vulnerability of Charities Serving Women*:

http://www.wrc.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2011/a/assessing_the_financial_vulnerability_of_charities_serving_women.pdf

4 SUMMARY OF CUTS TO VAW SERVICES

Service closure	Clients	Staff	Funding (£)	Service need
<p>Children England: 14 services closed</p> <p>Criminal Justice System (CJS): 23 SDVCs due to close</p> <p>IMKAAN: 2 specialist BAMER refugees closed</p> <p>Eaves: 39 bed spaces at the Poppy project closed</p> <p>Legal aid: Access to a range of legal aid services proposed to close, including legally aided advice in a number of areas of</p>	<p>Legal aid: Stephen Cobb QC estimates 600,000 less people would have access to legal aid under the new legal aid, sentencing and punishment of offenders bill: 68,000 children would be affected by removal of legal aid from family law: 54,000 less people would have representation in family court</p> <p>RESPECT: 78% of services have reduced the number of clients they work with</p>	<p>Children England: 40% of organisations anticipate staff cuts in early 2011: 66% anticipate staff cuts by end of 2011</p> <p>Coventry case study: six domestic abuse officers lost from West Midlands police: One IDVA post lost in Coventry</p> <p>Local Authority Domestic Violence Coordinators network: Membership reduced from 109 to 79 in 2010 to 2011; 87% of these are no longer in post</p>	<p>Children England: 71% of organisations face cuts in 2011/12: 80% of organisations with LAs have had funding cuts: 47% of organisations with central government funding have had funding cuts</p> <p>Coventry case study: Central grant to Coventry City Council cut by £38 million: West Midlands police cut of £40 million in 2011/12 and £38 million in 2012/13: 60% of voluntary organisations have had funding cuts: 56% expect further cuts in next three years</p> <p>CJS: Police cuts of £1 billion (20%) to 2014/15: CPS cuts of £118 million (25%) to 2014/15: New criteria for HO IDVA</p>	<p>Eaves: 50% rise in service need between 2009/10 and 2010/11</p> <p>Legal Aid: 57% of changes will impact on women: and women bring: 65% of legally aided family law case; 60% of legally aided housing cases; 73% of legally aided education cases</p> <p>NCVO: 17% increase in demand for services in 2011</p> <p>Homelessness: Accepted applications for unintentional</p>

<p>law and face-to-face advice services</p> <p>Other government services: Free English as a second language classes to immigrants on benefits service closed</p> <p>RESPECT: 44% of services closed specific projects: 16.7% of services at risk of closing</p> <p>UKROL: 2009 – 2011 4% reduction in organisations: 6% reduction in services registered</p> <p>VAWG roundtable: 32 DV organisations</p>	<p>Women's Aid Federation of England Special Survey 2011: Estimates 70,000 women and children might not have access to DV services after April 2011</p>	<p>RESPECT: 89% of services have lost staff through redundancies</p> <p>Scottish WA: Less than half the groups in the network were able to pay staff a cost of living raise in 2011: in 2009 98% managed this: in 2010 61% managed this</p>	<p>funding; max bid per IDVA £20,000 and only one bid per LA area: New criteria for MARAC coordinator HO funding; max bid £15,000: 2011 CAADA survey of eight IDVA services: two face 100% cut: three face 50% cut: three face 40% cut: two face 25% cut: IDVA services averaging 10-20% cuts</p> <p>Eaves: Contract for Poppy project lost is a 95% funding cut</p> <p>False Economy: DV and sexual abuse sector loss of £2,435,061 in LA funds between 2010/11 and 2011/12: Organisations with the smallest LA funds in 2010/11 subject to the greatest proportional cuts in 2011/12</p>	<p>homelessness in priority need due to breakup of a violent relationship increased from 40,020 in 2009/10 to 44,160 in 2010/11</p> <p>Solace WA: reports increase in service demand of 90%</p> <p>Welsh WA: 18% increase in helpline calls between 2008/09 and 2009/10</p>
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<p>closed at least one service</p> <p>Scottish WA: In 2011 8% more groups (21%) cut services compared to 2010</p> <p>WRC: 53% of women's organisations believe funding cuts will restrict service provision: one in five women's organisations closed</p>			<p>IMKAAN: two out of four (in one local authority) BAMER refugees face funding cuts</p> <p>Legal Aid: proposals to change legal aid to save £350 million</p> <p>NCVO: community and voluntary sector predicted to lose £20 billion 2010/11 to 2015/16: In six months www.voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk recorded £76 million cuts from over 500 organisations</p> <p>Other government services: 60% funding cut to advice for newly arrived asylum seekers</p> <p>Refuge: cuts to 50% of services</p> <p>RESPECT: 57% of services less financially secure in 2011 than in 2010: 75% of services have been subject to significant cuts: 100% of services have</p>	
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			<p>had some level of LA funding cut</p> <p>Supporting People: 11.5% cut in real terms</p> <p>Women' s Aid Federation of England: 60% of refuges and 72% of outreach services no agreed funding after 1 April 2011</p> <p>Scottish WA: Proportion of funding from LAs fell from 60% to 56% 2010/2011: In real terms in 2011 84% of groups have reduced or standstill budgets compared to 61% in 2010</p> <p>WRC: 95% of women's organisations face funding cuts</p>	
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5 MECHANISMS CONNECTING BUDGET CUTS TO SERVICE REDUCTIONS

There have been and continue to be significant cuts in the funds for VAW services and services used in relation to VAW. There is a strong relationship between cuts in budgets decided at the national level and the experience of cuts in the funds provided to local services, although this is not simple or direct. One exception to the pattern of cuts is the provision of national funding directly to specified VAW services. This section identifies the major funding streams supporting VAW services; reports on estimates on the cuts in relevant budgets; and discusses the mechanisms through which reductions in budgets are leading to reductions in funding to VAW services.

Funding Streams

- *Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG)*: The CLG is a key source of funding for VAW services because it provides Supporting People monies and central grants to local authorities (the Revenue Support grant and the pooled National Non-domestic Rates grant). The CLG is subject to a 25% budget saving between 2010/11 and 2014/15, which is a reduction of £8.4 billion¹⁴.

Domestic violence Supporting People contracts are the single most important source of funding for refuge providers, accounting for, on average, over half of providers' annual income¹⁵. Supporting People monies are also the primary source of funding for many floating support services. The Supporting People programme was launched on 1 April 2003. The main aim of the programme is to help end social exclusion and to enable vulnerable people to maintain or to achieve independence through the provision of housing-related support. Supporting People is a grant programme which is administered through all 152 top tier local authorities, in partnership with housing, health, adult social care services and probation.

The Revenue Support and the pooled National Non-domestic Rates grants account for 75% of local government expenditure. The level of grant payment to each individual local authority is calculated centrally: allocation is differential across local authorities.

- *Home Office*: The Home Office is a second key source of funding for specialist VAW services, providing set up funds for Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA), Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Rape Crisis services; the Sojourner project (no recourse to public funds); and in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth

¹⁴ BBC, 20 October 2010, *Spending review: Cuts watch department-by-department*: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10924719>

¹⁵ Women's Resource Centre, August 2007, *Funding of London Women's Refuges report for London Councils* <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/crime/publications/womensrefugereport.htm>

Office, the Forced Marriage Unit. In addition the Home Office funds police forces, many of whom provide specialist VAW services or support, such as domestic violence officers or personal protection units.

The Home Office is subject to a 25% budget saving between 2010/11 and 2014/15, which is a reduction of £2.55 billion¹⁶.

- *Department of Justice:* Provides a number of directly and indirectly related VAW services, including the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs), which include; specially trained staff, special in-court arrangements, such as safe waiting areas, and links with local IDVA services to support victims of violence through the criminal justice system.

The Department of Justice is subject to a 25% budget saving between 2010/11 and 2014/15, which is a reduction of £2.43 billion¹⁷.

- *Foreign and Commonwealth Office:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office support specialist VAW services in conjunction with the Home Office through the Forced Marriage Unit. The Domestic Programme fund administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office funds voluntary sector organisations working to end forced marriage.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is subject to a 25% budget saving between 2010/11 and 2014/15, which is a reduction of £550 million¹⁸.

- *Department of Work and Pensions:* The Department of Work and Pensions is a key source of funding for refuges. Refuges receive rent payments from residents, which is usually paid by residents' entitlement to Housing benefit, accounting for approximately 22% of refuge income¹⁹.

The Department for Work and Pensions is working with the Home Office to replace the Sojourner Project in 2012 with a sustainable solution to temporary / emergency accommodation access for victims of violence with no recourse to public funds.

Indirectly, the Department for Work and Pensions is one of the key department's for impacting on women's financial and economic autonomy, being the key department charged with welfare benefit distribution and reform. The Department of Work and Pensions is introducing the Universal Credit which will replace all in work and out of work benefits from 2013.

¹⁶ BBC, 20 October 2010, *Spending review: Cuts watch department-by-department:*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10924719>

¹⁷ BBC, 20 October 2010, *Spending review: Cuts watch department-by-department:*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10924719>

¹⁸ BBC, 20 October 2010, *Spending review: Cuts watch department-by-department:*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10924719>

¹⁹ Women's Resource Centre, August 2007, *Funding of London Women's Refuges report for London Councils*
<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/policylobbying/crime/publications/womensrefugereport.htm>

The Department of Work and Pensions is subject to a 25% budget saving between 2010/11 and 2014/15, which is a reduction of £2.25 billion²⁰.

- *HM Treasury*: The Treasury has an indirect impact on VAW by providing child benefit; removing the universal assumption of child benefit; and implementing a public sector pay freeze.

HM Treasury is subject to a 25% budget saving between 2010/11 and 2014/15, which is a reduction of £1.1 billion²¹.

- *Department of Health*: The Department of Health is a key partner in many VAW services and directly contributes to VAW service provision via; public health work; primary care; Emergency Department treatment; and obstetrics and gynaecology.

The English NHS has been told to find savings of £20 billion by 2014 by the Chancellor²².

- *Local Authority Council Tax*: Council Tax revenue accounts for approximately 25% of local authority funding. Significant proportions of Council Tax revenue spend are stipulated by central government in the form of statutory provision. However, Council Tax revenue can also be used by local authorities to fund local services, which may include VAW services. This discretionary spend is usually decided by elected members in each authority through the annual budget process.

Cuts to national and local budgets

There have been cuts to many of the national budgets that ultimately fund many local services. These cuts are significantly due to the reduction in public expenditure, although there are also changes in the approach to funding which pre-date these reductions. There are several ways in which the size and locations of these cuts have been reported.

Department for Communities and Local Government: There has been a cut in the Supporting People monies of 11.5% ²³²⁴ in real terms over the course of the spending review period (2011-2015). In addition, because Supporting People monies

²⁰ BBC, 20 October 2010, *Spending review: Cuts watch department-by-department*: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10924719>

²¹ BBC, 20 October 2010, *Spending review: Cuts watch department-by-department*: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10924719>

²² BBC, 20 October 2010, *Spending review: Cuts watch department-by-department*: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-10924719>

²³ Inside Housing, 20 October 2010, *Supporting People budget reduced*, <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/care-and-support/supporting-people-budget-reduced/6512140.article>

²⁴ Progressive London, 10 February 2011, *Politically motivated housing cuts*, <http://www.progressivelondon.org.uk/conference/politically-motivated-housing-cuts.html>

are not ring-fenced, local authorities are free to distribute funds according to their own budgeting priorities.

The CLG has abolished the Area Based grant; funding from central government to local authorities in areas with the highest levels of deprivation.

The CLG distributes the central grant funding from central to local government. On average local authority settlements have been cut by central government by 7.1%. However, this is not evenly distributed across all local authorities; some authorities are subject to greater cuts than this. For example, in central government monies, South Tyneside local authority has lost £110 per head. On average councils lost £49 a head, other areas, such as the wealthy authorities of Windsor and Maidenhead lost £5 per head of population²⁵.

Home Office: IDVA services are facing funding cuts of between 23% and 100%²⁶. The Home Office has a funding stream of £3.3 million per annum available for IDVA and MARAC coordinator bids: New criteria has been applied to this funding stream for IDVA and MARAC coordinator posts of a maximum bid of £20,000 for an IDVA and £15,000 for a MARAC coordinator. In addition, only one IDVA bid per local authority area is now allowed; areas with numerous IDVA services prior to the change in eligibility criteria cannot apply for funding to support all their current services.

The Home Office has a funding stream of £1.7 million per annum for ISVAs in the voluntary sector and SARCs to 2014/15, which is supporting 59 ISVAs and 24 SARCs. However, priority was given to those bids which could demonstrate match and / or long-term sustainable funding outside of this Home Office funding stream post 2015. SARC funding requires partnership bids, often including; police; primary care trusts; local authorities; and the voluntary sector.²⁷²⁸

Department of Justice: 23 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs) are due to close as part of the planned closure of 142 courthouses by the Ministry of Justice over the next three years from 2011.

Department of Work and Pensions: The level of Housing Benefit is set to drop from April 2011: The maximum £15 weekly excess that some people were entitled to is

²⁵ The Guardian, 25 October 2011, *Councils should not take the flak for cuts*, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/oct/25/cuts-councils-should-not-take-flak?INTCMP=SRCH>

²⁶ Information from a sample of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) services, which collectively support over 13,000 victims, almost 3000 of which are deemed at high risk of harm, show services are facing funding cuts of between 23% and 100% : CAADA, 5 March 2011, *The perfect storm: funding cuts to domestic abuse charities and other public services will leave thousands of victims at risk of severe harm*, <http://www.caada.org.uk/news/news.html> ,

²⁷ CAADA guide to SARCs: http://www.caada.org.uk/practitioner_resources/sarcs-getting-started.pdf

²⁸ SARC and ISVA funding: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhaff/732/732we03.htm>

being abolished: A limit is being introduced so that Local Housing Allowance does not exceed: £250 a week for a one bedroom property (including shared accommodation): £290 a week for a two bedroom property: £340 a week for a three bedroom property: £400 a week for a four bedroom property: The maximum rate of Housing Benefit will be limited to the rate for a four bedroom property. Deductions made from Housing Benefit will be gradually increased if there is an adult living in the household who does not claim benefit. The shared accommodation rate currently applying to single people under the age of 25 living in accommodation that they rent from a private landlord will be extended to people aged under 35: This means that single people under 35 will no longer receive Housing Benefit based on one bedroom self-contained accommodation. Housing Benefit will be restricted for some people who are living in a property that is larger than their household size. This will apply to working-age people renting from a social landlord. Local Housing Allowance rates will be uprated in line with the Consumer Price Index, rather than the Retail Price Index which was used prior to these changes.²⁹ Changes to Housing Benefit payments are likely to have impacts on refuge services. Women's access to refuge accommodation is typically funded through Supporting People monies and Housing Benefit payments: The new £500 cap on local housing allowance may not be sufficient to cover the cost of a place in a refuge.

The Department of Work and Pensions is responsible for introducing Universal Credit from 2013. This is an integrated working-age credit that will provide a basic allowance with additional elements for children, disability, housing and caring. It will support people both in and out of work, replacing Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and income-related Employment and Support Allowance. Universal Credit will merge out-of-work benefits and in-work support. The system includes strengthened conditionality and a new system of financial sanctions.³⁰ The proposal to pay Universal Credit to one person in the household has implications for women's independent access to economic resources and may have implications for women's ability to access VAW services such as refuge.

Cuts to and changes in construction of and access to public sector service provision and welfare benefits are potentially relevant in two ways: in reducing women's economic autonomy they may reduce women's resilience to gender-based violence: and in reducing public expenditure by local authorities they may reduce service provision in the VAW sector. There are potentially indirect implications of cuts in other forms of public spending cuts on public sector services and on welfare benefits for VAW. The increase in gender inequality noted by the Women's Budget Group "...an immense reduction in the standard of living of millions of women and a

²⁹ Direct Gov: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_192415

³⁰ Department of Work and Pensions, 2011, Universal Credit: *Welfare that works: Executive Summary*, <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/universal-credit-executive-summary.pdf>

reversal in progress made towards gender equality³¹ is likely to have implications for the level of VAW by reducing women's autonomy and thus resilience to VAW as well as on the ability of the VAW sector to meet the needs of women experiencing gender-based violence.

There are reductions in funds for VAW services from charitable trusts, as competition for these funding sources increases and available funds decrease because of diminishing returns on investments.

The False Economy project has documented nearly £2.5 million cut from the domestic violence and sexual assault sector in local authority monies between 2010/11 and 2011/12³².

New Philanthropy Capital³³ and the Charity Finance Directors Group³⁴ have estimated that between £1 and £5 billion will be cut from community and voluntary sector services in 2011/12.

Women's organisations, including VAW service sector organisations, are disproportionately (compared to community and voluntary organisations serving alternative sectors) reliant on central and local government funding and are consequently particularly vulnerable to cuts and re-structuring of such funds³⁵³⁶.

Development of national funding streams for selected services

One exception to the general pattern of cuts to budgets that are used for VAW services has been that of the development of national funding streams from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice for specified VAW services, in particular, Rape Crisis Centres, MARACs, IDVAs, ISVAs and SARCs (Home Office 2011). For these services, £28 million has been allocated to be spent over four years, 2011-5. This provides: £1.72 million a year for ISVAs or SARCs; £3.3 million a year for IDVAs and MARACs; £900,000 a year for national helplines for domestic violence and stalking; up to £3.3 million a year for Rape Crisis Centres, including at least £30,000 a year to

³¹ Women' Budget Group, 2010, *The Impact on Women of the Coalition Spending Review 2010*, http://www.wbg.org.uk/RRB_Reports_4_1653541019.pdf

³² False Economy: <http://falseeconomy.org.uk/>

³³ New Philanthropy Capital: http://www.philanthropycapital.org/publications/improving_the_sector/grantmaking/preparing_for_cuts.aspx

³⁴ Charity Finance Directors Group: <http://www.cfdg.org.uk/news/press-releases/2010/december/charities-fear-£1bn-of-statutory-funding-could-disappear-over-the-next-year.aspx>

³⁵ Women's Resource Centre, 2010, *Assessing the Financial Vulnerability of Charities Serving Women*, London, Women's Resource Centre http://www.wrc.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2011/a/assessing_the_financial_vulnerability_of_charities_serving_women.pdf

³⁶ Lucy Heady, Kail, Angela & Clare Yeowart, 2009, *Understanding the Stability and Sustainability of the Violence Against Women Voluntary Sector*, London, Government Equalities Office. Independent research commissioned by the Equalities Office and conducted by New Philanthropy Capital between January and September 2009: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/research/violence-against-women?view=Binary>

each eligible centre. In addition, the Sojourner Project is to develop funding solutions for victims of domestic violence without recourse to public funds. These are significant new funding streams provided from national-level budgets.

Pathways to Cuts

There are several pathways through funding along which the cuts are occurring. Cuts in national budgets may directly and proportionately be passed on as cuts to local authorities and to service providers. Alternatively they may be mediated by a series of processes that mean that they are unevenly applied.

There is some evidence that the patterning of cuts to the community and voluntary sector, including the VAW service sector, is not evenly distributed across the country³⁷: There are disproportional cuts in some central government funding sources to indirect service providers, for example; the Home Office with a 25% budget cut and the Crown Prosecution Service with a 25% budget cut, in an overall central budget reduction of 12%. On average local authority budgets have been cut by central government by 7.1%, but cuts to local authorities are disproportionate: Analysis suggests that local authorities with higher deprivation scores have received disproportionately harsher cuts from central government³⁸³⁹⁴⁰. And, local authorities are distributing their funding cuts to the community and voluntary sector unevenly, for example, Devon Council has cut the domestic violence services budget by 42% within an overall budget reduction of 27%⁴¹, whereas other local authorities, such as Coventry, have pledged to protect VAW services as far as possible⁴².

The de-ring fencing of VAW funds, in particular, the Supporting People funds (from 2009) has potential implications for the proportion of these funds that are spent on VAW services. With the ending of the Area Based grant from 31 March 2011 and the introduction of the Local Services Support Grant which is allocated directly to local authorities as additional revenue funding to areas according to specific local policy criteria rather than general formulae. Local Services Support Grants will be paid as unringfenced funding under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, as such there are no terms and conditions attached to its payment and councils have the

³⁷ Mary-Ann Stephenson, Oct 2011, *Unravelling Equality?: A toolkit for carrying out a human rights and equality impact assessment of the spending cuts on women*, TUC and Coventry Women's Voices, pp.5-6 DRAFT

³⁸ David Taylor-Robinson, 4 April 2011, 'Bigger cuts to local authority budgets in the most deprived areas are likely to widen health inequalities' on British Politics and Policy at the LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science) Blog <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/2011/04/04/bigger-cuts-to-most-deprived-local-authorities-widen-health-inequalities/>

³⁹ The Guardian, 28 October 2010, Spending cuts: bigger and faster than expected in deprived areas: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/patrick-butler-cuts-blog/2010/oct/28/cuts-worse-deprived-areas>

⁴⁰ BBC Mark Easton's UK, 9 February 2011, Fair's Fair: http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/markeaston/2011/02/fairs_fair.html

⁴¹ Women's Aid Federation of England, 2011, Special Survey

⁴² Mary-Ann Stephenson & James Harrison, 2011, *Unravelling Equality? A Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment of the Public Spending Cuts on Women in Coventry*, Coventry Women's Voices and Warwick University Centre for Human Rights in Practice

freedom to use it to meet their locally identified priorities. De-ring fencing of VAW funds and the prioritisation of VAW services is shifting to local decision makers and away from central government national prioritisation. For example, local authorities and (when introduced) GP Consortia and Police and Crime Commissioners will be free to decide their own local priorities for funding public services. It is as yet unclear whether these new mechanisms will retain existing priorities; but some fear that VAW services will not be among them.

Commissioning of local services through competitive tendering processes has been increasing in recent years. There is concern that pressures to reduce the costs presented in the tender will lead to a reduction in the quality of the services provided and in the loss of contributions to the reduction in VAW that are as yet hard to measure. There is concern that this may lead to an underestimation of the importance of specialist, experienced, expert organisations running VAW services, leading to their replacement by generic providers who may not have the expert knowledge and experience required to deliver an effective service to women experiencing or having experienced violence, and the inability of small-scale providers of important specialist services (for example, to ethnic and religious minorities) to compete with larger scale generic service providers for contracts, thus the loss of these services and / or service providers altogether. In addition, there is concern that the newly constructed commissioning bodies such as the PCCs and GP Consortia, may lack the expertise in the field of VAW that is necessary for good judgements in deciding on the most effective service mix to reduce VAW.

While most of the funding that is distributed at a local level relevant to VAW services is being reduced, there has at the same time been the development of new national streams for a selected range of VAW services. These new national funding streams from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice supporting particular services, offer an alternative mode of funding strategy. However, they do not offer support for the full range of VAW service provision.

The reductions in VAW services are likely to have effects on the level of violence against women and girls, with implications for their cost⁴³ to economy and society.

⁴³ See Walby (2004) for an analysis of the cost of domestic violence.

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Women's Aid (Wales): <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/index.html> is the national umbrella organisation representing local Women's Aid Groups situated throughout Wales. Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline monthly call volume 2005-2009: <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/publications/index.html?cat=20494> WWA Annual Report 2005/06: <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/publications/index.html?cat=10052> : Welsh Women's Aid snapshot survey 14 February 2011: <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/statistics/index.html>

Women's Budget Group: www.wbg.org.uk is an independent organisation bringing together individuals from academia, non-governmental organisations and trades

unions to promote gender equality through appropriate economic policy. Women's Budget Group, 2010, *The Impact on Women of the Coalition Spending Review 2010*: http://www.wbg.org.uk/RRB_Reports_4_1653541019.pdf reports on the disproportional impacts of the Comprehensive Spending Review on women.

Women's Resource Centre: www.wrc.org.uk is a charity which supports women's organisations to be more effective and sustainable. Women's Resource Centre, 2010, *Assessing the Financial Vulnerability of Charities Serving Women*, London, Women's Resource Centre
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This is a summary of the full evaluation report by Jude Towers and Sylvia Walby UNESCO Chair in Gender Research Group Lancaster University. You can download this report from www.trustforlondon.org.uk or www.nr-foundation.org.uk or request copies from the Trust on 020 7606 6145 or Northern Rock Foundation on 0191 284 8412.



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 Lancaster University is a major UK University, placed in the top 1% of Universities worldwide. The UNESCO Chair in Gender Research was established at Lancaster University by UNESCO in 2008. The founding Chair holder is Professor Sylvia Walby OBE, who directs a group focused on international policy-relevant research. Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YT.

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 t: +44 (0)191 284 8412
 The Old Chapel, Woodbine Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1DD
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