

# **Partner perspectives of DVPP programme success:**

How might they inform and help  
shape the work of Integrated  
Support Services (ISS)?

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# Agenda

- Summary of Mirabal research findings
- Current Respect Service Standards relating to ISS areas of work
- Discussion - worksheet

# Mirabal Research Findings

- Based on 6 measures of success identified from a pilot study (Westmarland et al 2010)
- Interviews with staff, service users, stakeholders
- Telephone survey
- DVPP programme data
- [www.dur.ac.uk/criva/projectmirabal](http://www.dur.ac.uk/criva/projectmirabal)

# Six Measures of Success

1. Respectful communication
2. Expanded space for action
3. Safety & freedom from violence
4. Safe, positive & shared parenting
5. Awareness of the self & others (impact of violence & abuse)
6. Safer healthier childhoods

# Measure One: Respectful Communication

Analysed whether DVP partners were able to...

- a. respect and hear the woman's views;
- b. engage with disagreements;
- c. de-escalation;
- d. negotiate shared interaction rules.

- All of the measures showed improvement
- The most frequently mentioned desired changes for women whose partners were on a DVPP were to be able to talk about difficult issues, negotiate, talk about feelings & to be listened to and have their voices heard (Mirabal Final Report, p.6)

## Measure Two: Expanded space for action

- Draws explicitly on the understanding that safety is insufficient to undo the harms of abuse, women need to have the freedom restored that abuse restricts.
- 12 indicators were used – empowering / restoring voice / improve well-being.
- All indicators showed reductions from baseline to 12 months ('tries to use money/finances to control me' reduction of only 3%).
- Qualitative interviews revealed that women often related change more to actions they personally had taken to establish boundaries and having confidence to make decisions

## Measure Three: Safety & freedom from violence & abuse

- Used 18 indicators to assess change - all showed dramatic and significant reduction.
- In terms of violence and abuse the survey data showed large decreases in violence, with smaller but still significant decreases in abuse
- Whilst three women did assess men's abusive behaviour as worse, the oft quoted contention that DVPPs make men more manipulative abusers was not supported.

## Measure Four: Shared parenting

- Used five indicators to assess change – safe, positive and shared parenting - all showed improvements at 12 months after starting the programme.
- Many DVP's noted how powerful sessions were when asked to put themselves in the position of children living with domestic violence.
- Research showed the significant role that DVPPs have in relation to men as fathers/custodial rights – and the critical importance of contact with women about the intersection of abuse and parenting and the changes that are/are not taking place.

## Measure Five: Awareness of self & others

- Used six indicators – enhanced awareness of self and others...including an understanding of the impact of domestic violence on partners & children.
- All indicators showed improvements.
- Blaming women & excusing behaviour still remains strong at 12 months after starting the DVPP, *suggesting more work remains to be done on men taking responsibility for their behaviour.* (p.25)

## Measure Six: Safer, healthier childhoods

- Used eight indicators to assess change for children - safer, healthier childhoods in which they feel heard and cared about.
- All but two showed improvements and change was minimal for several.
- The expanded concept of violence which DVPPs enable in men extended, for the most part, to understandings of how children are affected. *Change here was less strong, however, than for some of the other measures signalling the potential for practice developments in DVPPs.* (p.33)

# Mirabel Findings: Women's Integrated Support Services

- 959 referrals
- 884 were successfully contacted
- support accepted by 732  
*(Over the 12 months)*

Women were also encouraged to access additional support, with 17 possible pathways identified.

Much of the support was by telephone

- Developing support plans (508)
- Safety plans (302)
- Seen face to face (209)
- Group work (80).

# Summary of Mirabal Findings

- In each of the six measures there was **clearly an improvement in women's lives** because of the men's participation in the programme.
- ISS services are critical but the quality is currently variable.
- Women need information about the programme content and tools.
- DVPPs do not work in isolation to change men's behaviour – they function best as a part of a multi-agency approach focused on holding offenders accountable (while maximizing women's safety)

# Current Respect Standards (Handout)

Handout - Current Respect Standards that refer to ISS work  
*(selected from the full standards document and re-arranged into new categories for workshop purposes)*

- Rationale for ISS
- Summary of the role of ISS

## Areas of work:

- i. Contact/caseload
- ii. Direct Services
- iii. Internal Risk Management/Communication
- iv. External Risk Management/Communication

# Discussion (worksheet)

Consider your current experience as an ISS provider.

- i. Obstacles to meeting current standards
- ii. Women's unmet needs
- iii. New Standard(s)
- iv. Potential obstacles