**Call for Evidence on impact of specialised services**

As a result of funding through the [UK Prevention Research Partnership](https://ukprp.org/) (UKPRP), the [Violence, Health and Society Consortium](https://researchcentres.city.ac.uk/violence-and-society/opportunities-with-us) (VISION) are carrying out research that aims to reduce violence. As part of this work, King’s College London, in collaboration with City, University of London and the University of Bristol, are conducting a systematic review of evidence regarding the impact of specialised services for domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse on a range of outcomes. As part of this, we are collecting third sector and government service evaluations that focus on or include the impact of specialised services. We are asking a range of third sector, second tier and charitable organisations, violence and abuse networks and other relevant bodies to share any evaluations on the impact of their services to inform the systematic review. I would be grateful if you could send me any resources that might be relevant.

**Purpose of the systematic review:** We will systematically evaluate the overall of specialised services in the UK. We will not identify individual service users, however if you provide reports the name of the organisation and/or service may appear in the review. We will sift through the reports provided to evaluate the type(s) of service(s) or combination of services intended to support victim-survivors and reduce revictimization.

**The research question we are seeking to answer through this review**: What is the impact of specialised services in the United Kingdom for domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse on the safety, empowerment and wellbeing of victim-survivors?

**Definitions**: For the purposes of this review, we are defining “specialised service” as any service providers, specific services or intervention where entry is determined by the experience of domestic or sexual violence. The service should either be designed by and delivered for the users it aims to serve, should aim to tackle domestic/sexual violence or abuse, and/or be provided by expert staff with in-depth knowledge of domestic/sexual violence or abuse. Multi-agency services are relevant if at least one party involved in the delivery, provision or commissioning is a specialised service provider.

Domestic violence includes violence from a current or former partner, as well as violence from other family members and relatives. We are adopting the [2013 cross-government definition](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-government-domestic-violence-and-abuse-definition/circular-0032013-new-government-domestic-violence-and-abuse-definition) of domestic violence and abuse. This definition includes psychological, physical, sexual (both within and outside of an intimate relationship), financial and emotional violence or abuse, as well as controlling and coercive behaviour. It also includes ‘honour’-based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Definitions of sexual violence include those provided by the [Istanbul Convention (Article 36)](https://rm.coe.int/168008482e#:~:text=violence%20such%20as%20domestic%20violence,obstacle%20to%20the%20achievement%20of), the [World Health Organisation (page 149)](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42495/9241545615_eng.pdf?sequence=1) and the [Rome Statute of the International criminal Court’s Elements of Crimes (Article 7 (1) (g)-6)](https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/Publications/Elements-of-Crimes.pdf). For the purposes of this review, we are also extending the definition of sexual violence to include sexual exploitation. We are interested in services provided to women and/or to men that address any one or any combination of these forms of domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse.

**What we need for the systematic review**: Have you produced, or are you aware of service evaluations that have not been published in scientific journals, but which provide information about interventions or services that aim to support victim-survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence? This includes any service or intervention aimed specifically at people who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence/abuse (such as peer support groups, accommodation support, advocacy, sexual violence referral centres, counselling services, multi-component services, and other types). ***To be included, evaluations must include one or more of the following outcomes:***

* Safety (e.g., type/severity/frequency of violence, feeling safer, no longer living with perpetrators, ongoing contact with perpetrator, no longer living in insecure tenure)
* Empowerment (e.g., feelings of empowerment/self-confidence/self-reliance, knowledge of support services, confidence in seeking support)
* Wellbeing (e.g., general wellbeing, quality of life, employment, physical health, isolation, stress, anxiety, depression, quality of relationships)

Additionally, the evaluations need to:

* Have measured the above outcome(s) at two time-points (e.g., at entry to the service and after using the service) **AND/OR**
* Have included a control/comparative group (such as a group who received no services, or a different type of service)

All evidence submitted will be treated as confidential and any quotes included in the paper will be anonymised.

**If you have any questions or wish to discuss this Call for Evidence:** Please email me, Sophie, at Sophie.r.carlisle@kcl.ac.uk. I am happy to discuss the Call and research further.

**To send information:** Please send any material, reports or links to publications you think might qualify for our review by **June 10th** to me at Sophie.r.carlisle@kcl.ac.uk. *Please ensure that any materials that you send us conform to GDPR rules and do not contain any identifiable information of individual service users.* All organisations replying will receive a copy of the review via email once it is published.

**VISION Consortium e-newsletter:** If you would like to join our mailing list to receive newsletters about the progress of the wider consortium project, information about future conferences we will be holding, and to be informed of further opportunities to contribute to our research, please email violenceandsociety@city.ac.uk and include SUBSCRIBE in the header or body of the email.

With thanks and best wishes,

Sophie Carlisle