

Early intervention in repeat cases of domestic abuse: An evaluation of Project 360

A randomised control trial of a multi-agency approach to dealing with repeat domestic abuse, where victims that have suffered three or more incidents of reported domestic abuse receive additional social services.

Key details

Status	Complete
Lead institution	University of Leicester
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Police region	East Midlands
Collaboration and partnership	Leicestershire Police
Project start date	October 2014
Date completed	April 2015

Hypothesis

In repeat incidents of domestic abuse, early intervention by trained engagement workers to offer domestic abuse victims and their children with support and information regarding legal options and assistance accessing local services will positively impact a number of outcomes.

These include victim engagement in the criminal justice process, contact with perpetrators, victim and child welfare and health outcomes as well as satisfaction with the police.

Such an intervention will offer greater empowerment to victims to leave abusive relationships and ultimately reduce the cost, to both the public and respective households, of domestic abuse in the UK.

Geographical area

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Target sample size

550 cases in the experimental group, 550 cases in control group.

Participants - inclusion criteria

The subject pool consists of households that (are all of the following):

- report an incidence of domestic abuse to police during the duration of the project
- have had two previously reported incidents over the previous 365 day period
- are not assessed as high risk

Interventions

Control

Services available through current Leicestershire Police procedures.

Treatment

There are two components to the treatment.

1. Victims will be contacted, by phone, by a trained engagement worker (targeting within 24hrs of a report being filed by responding officers). The engagement worker will offer to provide further assistance to the victim and, if assistance is accepted, set up a one-to-one visit with the victim (targeting within 24 hours of the call).
2. If children are in the household, engagement workers will inform a contact person at the child's school that a domestic disturbance has taken place.

Study design

Basic randomisation of a treatment group compared to a control group receiving services available through current procedures.

Summary of findings

[Project 360: An intervention to address victim-police engagement in repeat domestic violence cases](#)