



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**



**Nottinghamshire**  
**County Council**

# **Violence Against Women and** **Girls Funded programme in** **Nottingham and Nottinghamshire** **Evaluation**

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## **1. Introduction**

Violence against women and girls is a major public health issue and a grave violation of human rights. The United Nations defines violence against women as 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women' (United Nations, 1993). The Crime Survey of England and Wales estimates that between the ages of 16-59, 28.9% (4.8 million) of women have experienced some form of domestic abuse (ONS, 2018) and 20.3% (3.4 million) of women have experienced some form of sexual violence (ONS, 2017), since the age of 16 years. These numbers are continuing to rise every year according to the Office of National Statistics, yet they are still being under reported.

Violence against women can lead to serious short- and long-term consequences on a woman's life. This ranges from immediate physical injury to chronic ill health, as well as ongoing mental health issues, substance and alcohol misuse, self-harm and suicide (Lacey, et al., 2013). It also affects the survivors' children and can lead to high social and economic costs for women, their families and societies (World Health Organisation, 2017).

The Government's approach to this issue is framed in a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy. By 2020, the VAWG strategy aims to reduce the prevalence of all forms of VAWG, as well as increase reporting, police referrals, prosecutions and convictions (HM Government, 2016). This will be done through commitments to work with local authorities, the NHS, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC), the specialist VAWG sector and other local partners to ensure a secure future for a range of support and educational services (Home Office, 2016).

In Nottinghamshire, there has been a City and County joint approach in response to the strategy to tackle VAWG on a local level.

### **1.1 The VAWG proposal**

The VAWG partnership bid was led by the Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP) on behalf of Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (Public Health) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for a 3-year period from 2017 to 2019. The proposal aimed to ensure that domestic abuse initiatives in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are consistent and co-ordinated and provide equal access to high quality services for all. The application focused on awareness raising preventative work with young people, prevention work with emerging perpetrators, and support for survivors with complex needs and those of BMER status, ensuring that the same provision was available across city and county. It was informed by Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs), local strategies, the National Statement of Expectations (NSE) and there was consultation with the local specialist sector.

Nottingham/shire already had robust and longstanding formal partnership arrangements in place regarding the Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse (DSVA) agenda. This involved City and County Councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Nottingham/shire CCGs. The proposal was built on these partnerships to continue to co-commission and expand prevention and early intervention work and to address gaps in the support services.

The delivery services involved and a summary of what was included in the application are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Delivery organisations funded by VAWG bid, service summary and area in the Nottinghamshire who benefit

<b>Delivery organisation</b>	<b>Service summary</b>	<b>Work in City, County or both</b>
Nottingham Sexual Violence Support Services (Notts SVS)	One full time complex needs Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) to support women and girls, caseload of 65, with 20 women actively supported at any one time for up to two years.	Both City and County
Juno Women's Aid, previously known as Women's Aid Integrated Services (WAIS)	Two part time specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs), one part time IDVA for complex needs one part time IDVA for Black, Minority, Ethnic and Refugee (BMER) Caseload of 32 women actively supported at any one time for up to 12 weeks.	Both City and County but with priority focus on City survivors.
Equation	2 x "Equate" packages: 900 students and 100 teachers per year 3 x "Know more" packages: 30 students per year 3 x "Choices" packages: 30 students per year.  Website and social media campaigns	County    Both City and County but with the priority focus on County.

## 1.2 Funding

The Nottinghamshire partnership initially received £445,822 split over three years. In 2018/19 an additional budget of £36,980 was provided by the Home Office to increase provision in year, which created the new budget total of £482,802. The funding was secured to deliver services to address some of the gaps and inconsistencies in support available to women and girls and invest in prevention work. No funding was allocated for evaluation or the management and administration of the fund. The evaluation was completed internally by the Nottinghamshire Public Health Team. The annual allocated funding is detailed with Table 2 including the breakdown of the additional budget of 2018/19 of £36,980(starred).

Table 2: Allocated funding to each delivery organisation

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19*</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Total</b>
Notts SVS - ISVA	£65,457	£66,534 £12,155*	£67,638	£211,784
Juno WA - IDVAs	£39,145	£39,685 £12,163*	£39,891	£130,882
Equation – student training, website and social media	£42,069	£42,488 £12,662*	£42,915	£140,134
<b>Total</b>	<b>£146,671</b>	<b>£185,687</b>	<b>£150,444</b>	<b>£482,802</b>

### **1.3 Commissioner expectations**

To structure and inform the evaluation research interviews with two of the commissioners (City Council and Police and Crime Commissioner) were organised to provide a summary insight to the evaluation. These interviews informed the setting of the evaluation objectives, a summary of the questions and responses are set out below.

#### **Why was the VAWG funding needed?**

- Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) previously funded through Home Office allocations required financing to preserve the established services.
- Demand for these ISVA and IDVA services were increasing, both in terms of the number of referrals and the complexity of the client's situations. These pressures were creating unsafe caseloads.
- IDVA provision in the City was identified as a key service gap, as well as, the recognition that better tailoring of provision to support Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BMER) client's needs was required to achieve equity of service outcome.
- The commissioners recognised these needs but didn't have the statutory local finance to align with the pressing financing timeframes.
- To establish a preventative programme in schools in the County to align with the specialist provision being delivered to City based pupils.
- To improve awareness and understanding of DA issues across the County.

#### **How were the priorities/need for the funding identified?**

- In Nottingham/shire excellent service provision aligning with the VAWG strategy were already established. Gaps, inconsistencies and emerging issues in the support available and prevention work were identified.
- The commissioners took a whole system approach across Nottingham/shire to consider the National Statement of Expectations (NSE) assessing these priorities.

## **2. Evaluation Objectives**

The evaluation was undertaken within Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health Division between August to September 2019. The aims were to:

- Explore the work undertaken by the three delivery organisations; Nottinghamshire SVS Services, Juno and Equation
- To evaluate the objectives of the funding award
- Identify needs and recommendations
- Identify areas for improvement

The evaluation utilised a mixed method approach gathering quantitative data from each service and this was supplemented by qualitative data from semi-structured interviews with service/ project managers. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of this evaluation specifically in relation to structure and the outcomes from the project

### **2.1 Evaluator**

This evaluation has been written by Dr Nabila Bakar, whilst on a 4-month public health medical rotation, whilst sited within Nottinghamshire County Council. This evaluation is a semi objective third party review that was conducted independently, with minimal support provided by the host Public Health team.

The report was reformatted by Rebecca Atchinson and Sue Coleman, Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health.

## **3. PROGRAMME OUTPUTS**

### **3.1 A Summary of the Commissioned Services Provision.**

Nottingham/shire sought to ensure the consistent, co-ordinated and equal provision of high quality specific initiatives. Delivery was through the three identified organisations.

The summary details on each of the programmes/services provided through the VAWG funding are set out below:

### **3.2 Preventative programmes with Young People:**

3.2.1 Targeted programmes were delivered with key secondary schools. This included the following provision and opportunities:

- The Know More, young women's project worked with Year 9 pupils considered vulnerable or at risk of experiencing domestic abuse and/or other forms of abuse or exploitation.
- The Choices young men's projects worked with Year 10 pupils displaying or identified by the school as at risk of displaying abusive attitudes and/or behaviour towards women and girls and/or whom have other vulnerability factors.
- Through the programmes the young people could access an interactive project delivered by specialist trainers over an eight week period, building the young people's self-esteem and confidence within relationships, as well as focusing on positivity and empowerment.
- In total four County Secondary Schools have received this programme through the VAWG funding; two over the course of the three years and two other splitting the offer.

### 3.2.2 Whole School Initiatives improving awareness and understanding with young people.

- The Equate programme worked through a whole school approach to domestic abuse prevention and healthy relationships education. Engaging interactive sessions were delivered to full year groups and complementary training provided to the teaching staff.
- In addition, presentations were given at head teacher meetings, networks and safeguarding lead meetings to promote and raise awareness of this secondary school prevention work.

### **3.3 Campaigns promoting awareness using Social and Traditional Media**

Geographical and community campaigns were developed to raise awareness, identify indicators and promote safe ways to support and sign post survivors.

### **3.4 Improved local public access web resources**

An initiative to develop a website, already in place, to provide Nottinghamshire businesses with support in developing best practice, especially in terms of early intervention and accurate advice and support.

### **3.5 Targeted Support Service Provision**

Victims and survivors of domestic abuse who are at high risk of serious harm or murder are referred to a local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and offered support by an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA). This service is paralleled for victims of sexual abuse in terms of a sexual abuse multi-agency panel and an ISVA. The Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) play a vital role in supporting survivors of sexual violence with reporting to the police and going through the criminal justice system.

The IDVA and ISVA provision was already in place across the area. However the provision of a complex Needs ISVA and a Complex Needs /BMER IDVA would be a new and effective way to support these groups of high risk survivors providing a person centred, trauma-informed approach, and one with awareness on issues affecting victims from BMER communities.

## **4. Research Methods**

The data for the evaluation was collected using a mixed methods approach to ensure both qualitative and quantitative data were used to achieve the evaluation objectives. The qualitative data was collected through semi-structured interviews with the project managers of each delivery service. The quantitative data was provided by each service from the years 2017 to 2019 for retrospective analysis.

## 5. OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

**Quantitative Data.** Each of the services assessed the provision delivered with reference to the deliverables set out in the project proposal. These are detailed in tables 3 – 7.

**Table 3: Nottinghamshire SVS Services**

	April 2017 – March 2018	April 2018 – March 2019	April 2019 – Sept 2019	<b>Total</b>
No of ISVAs posts	2 ISVAs (originally part-time but became full-time in Sept 2017 1 part-time Admin	1 ISVA manager, 1 full-time ISVA, 3 part-time ISVAs	1 ISVA manager, 1 full-time ISVA, 3 part-time ISVAs	5
Number of Clients using service	731	749	520	2000
New referrals to service	473	474	260	1207
Number of Clients supported	284 (Senior ISVA: 93 clients ISVA: 191 clients)	590 Senior ISVA: 61 clients (reduced down to 7 by year-end) F/T ISVA supporting: 198 clients 2 part-time ISVAs (30 hours/week): average of 130 clients each	307 ISVA Manager: 6 clients F/T ISVA: 108 clients 2 P/T ISVA (30 hours/week): average of 75 clients each P/T ISVA (22.5 hours/week): 43 clients	1181
Number of Court cases supported	61	50	16	127
Average number of days per clients supported through the time period.	340	336	247 Additionally, court support only: 2 clients and To Be Allocated/Pending: 23 clients	n/a

Notes:

Sept 2019 (as of 23/09/19). Services are offered at the base in Nottingham, and also at outreach appointments in Mansfield, Newark and Retford



**Trend:**

Nottinghamshire SVS Services also provided data from the years 2011 to 2016, which included number of referrals, number of clients supported and number of court cases ISVAs supported clients through. This was combined with the above data to look at the trend from April 2011 to April 2019.

**Table 4: Juno Women's Aid - Overview of Services Provided Apr 2017 – Sept 2018**

Support Provided	Details of Support	Number
Overall survivors who/whose	were supported for the year	859
	- who were new survivors	472
	risk decreased	338
	safety improved	339
	were supported through the criminal justice system	311
	Were supported through MARAC process	416
Overall number of new survivors	Of BME status	72
	With insecure immigration status	5
	Needing support around Honour Based Violence (HBV) including	13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(including Female Genital Mutation (FGM) and forced marriage)</li> <li>Number of total complex needs survivors</li> </ul>	
		90

Throughout 2017-2018 and first half of 2018-2019 the data was submitted as part of the full CDP monitoring and Juno would pull the information for their report for transformation fund monitoring.

From Quarter 3 (Q3) of 18-19 through to date Juno then started sending a brief overview of the women supported covered by the VAWG funding. Therefore, the data below is different to the data above.

**Table 5 Juno Overview of Services Provided Oct 2018 – March 2019**

Support Provided	Details of Support	2018/19 Q3 – Q4 6 months	2019 Q1 – Q2 6 months
<b>Overall number of BMER women supported</b>	All had a safety and support plan in place.	209	123
<b>Specific areas of support provided included the following:</b>			
<b>Survivors supported:-</b>	Through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC)	33	32
	Through the MARAC	109	103
	Around Honour Based Violence (HBV) including (including FGM and forced marriage)	17	17
	Gang related issues	-	2
	Around Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC)	-	7
	Around other immigration status	-	8
<b>Number of new survivors</b>	With insecure immigration status	9	

Support Provided	Details of Support	2018/19 Q3 – Q4 6 months	2019 Q1 – Q2 6 months
	With no recourse to public funds	18	12
	Who had been trafficked	2	
	Requiring an interpreter	-	21
Survivors identified with complex needs	Safety and support plans in place (ALL)	37	41
	Supported through MARAC process	34	41
	Supported through the criminal justice system	3	7
	Main areas of support overall:	Housing, Health and Finance	Housing, Health and Finance

**Table 6: Equation project offer overview**

(Each of the training Initiatives were individually evaluate by the young people before and after the project. These evaluation Results from Participants, can be found in Appendix B)

	Project	No of Schools	No of Young People	No of Teachers	Session Topics (no of pupils)
2017/2018	Equate (An 8 wk project)	2 Secondary	960	100	Relationships (320) Teen abuse awareness (320) Personal space (320)
	Know More (Young Women)	3 Secondary	12		
	Choices (Young Men)	3 Secondary	12		
2018/2019	Equate	3 Secondary	1536	149	Relationships (360) Teen abuse awareness (360) Personal space (452) Misogyny awareness (364)
	Know More (Young Women)	3 Secondary	12		
	Choices (Young Women)	3 Secondary	12		

**Table 7: Media and Social Marketing Campaigns, ‘Help a Friend’ delivered in Newark & Sherwood (N&S) and Bassetlaw District – Campaign Outputs:**

	Newark & Sherwood	Bassetlaw	Newark & Sherwood	Bassetlaw	Stapleford
	March 2018		March 2019		

	Newark & Sherwood	Bassetlaw	Newark & Sherwood	Bassetlaw	Stapleford
'Help a Friend' Promotional 'giveaway teabags' events (1)	New Ollerton	Worksop	Newark	Worksop	
	1200 Contacts		1,700 Contacts		
Fliers/booklets "How to Respond" targeted delivery to homes	3000 (fliers)		2,300 (booklets)	2,300 (booklets)	
Fliers "How to Respond" to County organisations	1000				
Posters "Warning Signs" delivered to targeted Community venues	100 (including 16 children's centres)		16 (68 posters/380 booklets)	25 (112 posters/560 booklets)	
Bus Posters "Warning Signs"	Inside 6 buses (May)		10 buses Bulkhead adverts	4 bus shelters ads (2 wks)	
Social Media Promoting awareness of warning signs and how to respond.	12,200 Facebook followers reached  Partner packs of posts and Twitter contents shared with partners for social media channels.		Partner packs of posts and Twitter contents shared with partners for social media channels.		
Large scale Social media delivered by Puzzle Agency Results <u>"warning signs" video</u> and <u>"how to respond" blog</u>	Organic social media (Facebook) campaign and Blog.  Reach – 8,400 women Link clicks – 100  Reach – 3,300 women Link clicks - 80		Video View ads Impressions (no of times content displayed) – 126,644 Video views – 39,670 Link clicks – 384  Link click Ads - Reach – 8321 - Impressions – 20,959 - Link Clicks – 340 - Video Views – 1,616		

**Notes:**

**(1). 'Help a Friend' Promotional 'giveaway teabags' events. Event delivered in partnership with Nottinghamshire Women's Aid Limited.**

## **6. Data Analysis**

### **6.1 Analysis of qualitative data**

Semi-structured interviews were undertaken based on a set of eighteen interview questions that were forwarded to the participants prior to the meetings. (Details of these interview questions are outlined in Appendix A.) The information collected from the interviews was analysed and grouped into five recurring themes. The main themes identified were:

- Demand
- Impact
- Partnerships
- Mental Health Support
- Funding

A summary of the discussions and key points within each of these themes is presented below

#### **Demand:**

Both the ISVA and IDVA service have communicated an increased demand for their service over the project term. They both report an increase in the number of referrals into the services and a bigger caseload for each ISVA and IDVA, which has been confirmed in the quantitative data. The services highlight that it has been essential to increase their workforce in response to the increased demand and that the VAWG money has enabled them to do this.

Equation have found that they have created an increased demand for their prevention work. Schools have communicated their valuing of this training provision and also students and teachers overall identifying their need for more support and education opportunities.

#### **Impact:**

It was evident during the interviews that all three services had met the objectives of the VAWG proposal and made a big impact on their service users. With the ISVA and IDVA clients the main effects of the services were on their emotional and mental wellbeing, their safety and also their navigation through the legal system and different support services. Both Nottinghamshire SVS Services and Juno Women's Aid offer a "life saving service", without which there would be drastic long-term consequences for survivors.

With all prevention it is recognised that it is hard to measure the long-term impact. However, the prevention sessions delivered to both students and teachers were met with very positive feedback. Equation reported that schools feel they are now more well equipped to support students affected by domestic abuse and that students now have a healthier mindset regarding women and relationships. The targeted projects have made a very positive impact on at risk students, which could potentially reduce the consequences related to children growing up with domestic abuse. Equation's 'Help a Friend' Campaign has also had a positive response and been successful in raising awareness across more areas and encouraged more people to access support.

#### **Partnerships:**

For all the services, a key part of their success were the partnerships they had built with different agencies and services. They all worked through a multi-agency approach, and whilst this comes with the obvious challenges involved with working with different organisations, all three services identified it as playing a significant role in strengthening their service. Nottinghamshire SVS Services relied on their contacts to get their clients through the Criminal

Justice Process and provide them with the right support services such as for finance, education and housing. Partnerships were the driving factor for Juno Women's Aid in the Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process, which is acknowledged will not work without the involvement of different agencies. Equation relied on the contacts they had with schools to be able to deliver their packages. They were able to have one school that stayed consistent for all three years of the funding, this enabled them to build a positive partnership and have a bigger impact. The 'Help a Friend' campaign also relied heavily on different organisations to ensure they could launch the campaign successfully and utilise their resources.

### **Mental Health Support:**

One of the biggest challenges for the support services was accessing mental health provisions. Survivors of sexual and domestic abuse are at high risk of mental health issues such as depression and suicide. Yet both services found there were no clear pathways into mental health services and the extensive waiting lists were detrimental to a survivors emotional and mental wellbeing. ISVAs and IDVAs are having to take on roles above their qualifications and capacity to provide mental health support for survivors. Although this is making a positive impact on their clients' mental wellbeing, it is beyond their remit and not a long-term support solution. This gap in mental health services also extends to children and young people, who are vulnerable to the effects of growing up with sexual or domestic violence but cannot easily access mental health support.

### **Funding:**

Funding was a recurring theme for all three services. All three felt that there is not enough funding to ensure optimum capacity for the services to meet the demand in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. For Nottinghamshire SVS Services and Juno Women's Aid in particular, insufficient funding means survivors do not get the right quantity or quality of support. It also means that IDVAs and ISVAs are having to work harder and being pushed to their limits. It was highlighted that should funding be downsized further, it would have detrimental effects on their service and on survivors.

Equation also report that there is a clear need and demand for their work, but funding is their biggest obstacle. They feel that as well as support work, prevention work is essential because the cause of the issue needs to be tackled alongside the consequences of it. It is recognised that Schools have limited funding, Equation would like to be able to deliver their packages at the lowest cost possible. Without sustainable funding, Equation believe they will not be able to educate and raise awareness around sexual and domestic violence effectively, and this would leave gaps in young people's knowledge and make support less accessible to those that may need it most.

## **6.2 Analysis of quantitative data**

### **Nottinghamshire SVS Services:**

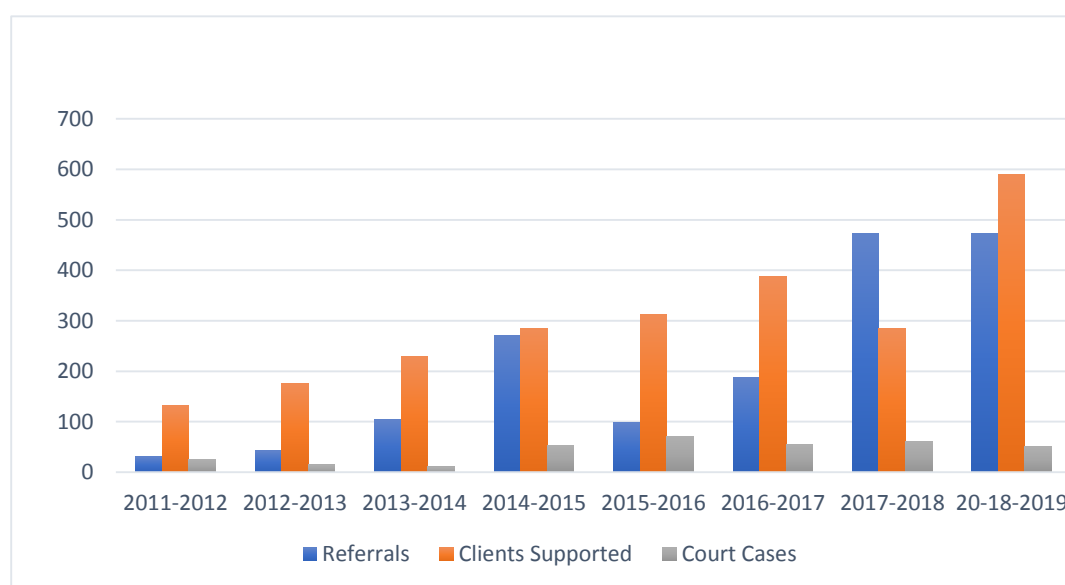
The first year of the data represents a smaller ISVA team. It includes the VAWG funded ISVA, who began working full time in September 2017. When comparing the data from 2017-18 to 2018-19, there was minimal change in the number of new referrals and number of clients coming through the service, however the number of clients supported increased by **52%**. This was largely because there were three more members of the team and therefore a bigger workforce to take on more cases.

The data for the third year of VAWG funding only encompasses the first 6 months, therefore it is more difficult to make direct comparisons with previous years. However, the number of

clients coming through the service, number of new referrals and number of clients supported have already exceeded more than half of the numbers in the second year. If this trend were to carry on for the rest of the year we would expect the number of clients coming through the service to increase by **39%**.

Figure 1 illustrates a clear increase in the number of referrals, clients supported and court cases from 2011 to 2019. This tells us that both the demand for the service and the proportion of clients having access to support have been growing exponentially. Between 2015 to 2017 although the number of court cases and clients supported were rising, there was a large dip in referrals. It is impossible to know the reasons behind this, but very shortly after in 2017-2018 there was a surge in referrals, the most the service has received thus far. This was when the VAWG funding was introduced, which allowed the service to become better established and therefore more people knew about it and were referring into it. As figure 1 demonstrates, over the last year there have been many cases supported and the service has been able to manage its surge in referrals.

Figure 1: Graph showing trend in ISVA service figures from 2011 to 2019



The ISVA service is likely to overachieve again this year. In the original bid, 200 women were forecasted to be supported via the VAWG funds. In year one Nottinghamshire SVS Services supported **206** women and in year two **224** women were supported due to VAWG funds. The 2018-19 performance report states **30%** of these women had complex needs and over **60%** had mental health issues and multiple disadvantage. Moreover, the service reports on average it receives **95%** positive feedback.

The ISVA service continues to be in high demand. VAWG funding has enabled the service to meet this increase in demand and to reduce waiting times for survivors.

## **Juno Women's Aid:**

Comparison of the data from 2017 to 2019 for Juno is difficult to complete due to different timescales and data collection methods. It is not possible to confidently identify the additional impact of the VAWG funding. The information below provides an overview of the information received.

The numbers show that in 2018-19 there were more than double the number of Black and Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BMER) survivors than in 2017-18. However, for 2017-18 the data only states the number of new black and minority ethnic, immigrant and Honour Based Violence (HBV) survivors that came through the service, it does not clarify how many were actually supported and in what way. Also, for 2017-18, the data only mentions the total number of complex needs survivors, it does not distinguish new from existing survivors or how they were supported, so it is again difficult to compare.

In the first two quarters of 2019-20 there are already more than half the number of BMER women and over **10%** more complex needs survivors than there were supported in 2018-19. This suggests that the IDVA service is likely to overachieve again, with more BMER women being supported in the third year of the VAWG funding than previous years.

The data demonstrates how the VAWG funding has enabled many BMER and complex needs survivors to get support which may have otherwise not been possible. There is a growing number of women requiring an interpreter, needing support around HBV, needing support around gang related issues and survivors with an insecure immigration status. These women require additional support and having a separate IDVA that can address their needs is important.

There has been a substantial increase in numbers of survivors being referred through to the Multiagency Risk assessment Conference (MARAC), due to a change in local policy to refer all high-risk cases to the MARAC. The service reports this has led to an increase of up to **20%** in referrals to the IDVA service. This has been managed so far with the help of the VAWG funding but is not sustainable.

## **Equation:**

The work delivered by Equation within schools has achieved the targets as set out in the original bid. The aim was to reach 900 students and 100 teachers per year for the Equate package and 60 students per year for the targeted packages. With the additional funding Equation have overachieved on this target by reaching out to **1,608** young people the last academic year.

The student feedback for the Equate package demonstrates an increase in students' and teachers' knowledge and understanding of the topics discussed. When comparing this from the first to the second year, there is an even larger percentage increase in participants knowledge and understanding, with each area scoring more than **70%** for the second year. A reason for this may be due to more students being reached the second year, and also perhaps the learning from the first year enabled better delivery and facilitator experience for the second year.

For the targeted projects the student feedback is positive and show an improvement in both female and male students ideas around healthy and safe relationships. The comparison between the two years also demonstrates much better student response and learning in the second year, with larger percentage increases and scores of nine and ten in the post course evaluations. The number of students participating were the same for both years, so similarly

for the Equate packages, a reason for the better response could simply be due to experience and refinement of the package using the feedback from the previous year.

Equation have also significantly developed their social media reach this year. For example, they reached **38,385** during the month of March 2018 but by December 2019, they reached **39,892** in one week. As well as this, the average video viewing time increased from **6** seconds to **10** seconds. This additional information was provided in the performance report for Q3 & 4 of 2018-19. The data above also demonstrates an increase in the resources distributed from the first to the second year, therefore reaching more people and raising more awareness. The campaign has met its target for both years by booking 25 venues in each area and meeting target giveaway numbers.

The campaign performance report states that during the period of the first full 'Help A Friend' campaign in Nottingham, calls to the helpline from survivors in Nottingham City were up **42%** compared to the same period in the previous year. The report states the helpline has seen a general year-on-year increase in callers over the past decade, and that there is a marked increase in calls during the period the campaign runs. So overall, additional VAWG funding has enabled much wider reaching for Equations 'Help a Friend' campaign and this has encouraged more people to access the helpline.

## **7. Challenges and Limitations**

This evaluation has required talking to and collecting data from three different services. This has presented challenges regarding the timeline in completing the evaluation and also created a disparity between the data collected.

The VAWG funding bid cannot be seen in isolation of the wider domestic and sexual violence support system in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. There have been other changes in the system (for example the set up of an expanded ISVA service) which have had an impact.

Every service collects and presents data in a different way, so it has been difficult to make comparisons and conclusions with some of the data provided. It was sometimes challenging to piece together relevant data from what was given and clarify where the VAWG funded applies, again because the VAWG funding for ISVA and IDVA were a part of funding for a wider service. Also, survivor feedback from the ISVA and IDVA services would have been useful to illustrate the impact of these services.

However, the data collected has still provided the information needed to meet the objectives of the evaluation and effectively assess the impact of the VAWG funding on these services.

## **8. Findings**

The objectives set out in the VAWG bid have not only been met but also overachieved by all three services. The VAWG funding has enabled Nottinghamshire SVS Services and Juno to optimise their service to meet the increasing demand and provide support for more survivors. It has allowed Equation to deliver key prevention messages to young people and expand their reach for raising awareness about VAWG.

The impact of the work these services have been able to provide is clearly evident in the data. For the support services, the impact simply cannot be measured. Survivors are vulnerable to many of the negative consequences of VAWG, and ISVAs and IDVAs are providing a crucial



role to ensure these women can navigate life after abuse. They are invaluable services that are saving women's lives.

Equation have made an immense positive impact on the young people they have worked with, as well as made support more accessible for more people with their 'Help a friend' campaign. With such a vast issue such as VAWG, it is critical to provide prevention services else a vicious cycle continues to be perpetuated, that is where only support work is being funded to manage the consequences of interpersonal violence.

The key issues raised have been funding and mental health support. The proposal helped the services just about manage their demand, but it was by no means the optimal conditions for the services to flourish. Moreover, access into mental health has remained an enormous barrier.

## **9. Conclusion and Recommendations.**

The evaluation of the VAWG proposal in Nottingham/shire clearly demonstrates its success and the positive impact of the services provided by Nottinghamshire SVS Services, Juno Women's Aid and Equation. The VAWG grant in Nottingham/shire has facilitated the delivery of the following achievements:

- Commissioners securing the complex needs/BMER ISVA and IDVA support services for women and girls.
- Improved outcomes for the sexual abuse survivors in terms of their confidence to stay engaged through the criminal justice process (ISVA), and improved survivor wellbeing (IDVA) having been supported for a longer period.
- Introducing a new preventative educational awareness programme in the County secondary schools including whole year and targeted approaches. The targeted awareness raising programmes included focused work with young men who were identified as at risk of establishing perpetrator behaviour. Young women whose life experiences were recognised to heighten their present and future exposure to intimate partner violence also had the opportunity to engage with a tailored programme as part of the schools' initiative. A quality programme available to three schools (at any point). An initiative which has expanded to other schools too now as the provider, Equation, has secured additional grants from other funds.
- Delivery of a community-based media initiative promoting awareness of domestic abuse as an issue of concern and providing information to empower people to feel able to engage in conversation.

### **Recommendations:**

The VAWG proposal has been successful, highlighting what excellent support and prevention services can be provided if there were enough provisions for it. In order to continue to deliver and improve their work, the Nottingham/shire services all need not just more funding but sustainable funding.

In-light of this assessment this evaluation report concludes in providing four recommendations for consideration by the Home Office and local commissioners;

- Wider recognition of Violence Against Women and Girls as an issue in the community, with more commitment and engagement from the government to address it.
- Sustained and secure funding for support services so delivery can meet local need.
- Recognition of the importance and expansion of prevention services tackling VAWG

- Expansion of mental health services to improve their capacity and clear referral pathways for survivors of sexual and domestic abuse.

## 10. Appendices

### Appendix A - Qualitative Data – Interview format and questions

Prior to the interviews, a set of evaluation questions were developed and sent out to the interviewees for preparation. These questions provided guidance, but the interviews were not formally structured. The evaluation questions used are detailed in table A1.

**Table A1: Interview evaluation questions:**

	The evaluation questions were as follows:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could you please summarise what you are funded to do from the VAWG programme?</li> <li>2. How was the service implemented? Was it implemented correctly?</li> <li>3. How were participants chosen? Were participants reached as intended?</li> <li>4. How was it monitored?</li> <li>5. What preparation was needed?</li> <li>6. How was it quality assured?</li> <li>7. How well did the service work? Did it meet its objectives?</li> <li>8. What were the short/medium- and long-term effects for the participants involved?</li> <li>9. What features in particular made a difference?</li> <li>10. What was the influence of other factors?</li> <li>11. Were there any unintended outcomes?</li> <li>12. What has helped/hindered in meeting the objectives? Were there any obstacles?</li> <li>13. How well has the service worked in conjunction with other initiatives, programmes or services in the area?</li> <li>14. Was the service cost effective? Was it the best use of resources?</li> <li>15. To what extent does the service address an identified need?</li> <li>16. How well does it align with government and public health priorities? Does it represent a legitimate role for the government?</li> <li>17. What would be the implications if the funding was discontinued?</li> <li>18. What are your recommendations/needs moving forward?</li> </ol>

## Appendix B – Equate Training Initiatives - Evaluation Results from Participants.

**Equate:** An evaluation was completed by young people before and after the project.

**Table B1: The Findings from the Evaluation Information for the Equate Programme:**

		2017/2018 (%)	2018/19 (%)
Their understanding of domestic abuse had increased	Percentage of <u>young people</u> who said this were:	55.6	90
They know more about the where to go for help and support		31.8	82
They know more about healthy relationships		57	81
They will think through how their behaviour impacts on relationships		42.8	74
They had an increase in ability to understand and respond to young people experiencing domestic abuse and/or harmful behaviours	Percentage of <u>school staff</u> after their training who said this were:	95	99

**Know more and Choices:** An evaluation was completed by young people at the beginning and end of the 8-week project.

### The Findings from the Evaluation Information for the Know more and Choices Programme:

**Table B2: Know more and Choices 2017-2018**

Know More	Young Women	2017/2018 (%)	2018/19 (%)
They get along with other women	After completing the project the young women attended believed that there was their abilities in these areas increased by the following (%):	40	28
They know what to do when feeling angry		28	
They know how to keep calm when they feel angry or things annoy them			69
They find it easy to speak to a teacher if they have a problem		34	53
They know what they want from a relationship		32	20
They are confident they know what the law says about sex and consent.		19	
They know what their rights over their body are.		22	
They have a lot to offer a relationship			29

**Table B3: Choices programme evaluation outcomes**

Choices	Young Men	2017/2018 (%)	2018/19 (%)
They get along with each other	After completing the project the young men attended believed that there was their abilities in these areas increased by the following (%):	40	
They believe they have control over the choices they make		20	
They know what to do when feeling angry		17	51
They know how to keep calm when things annoy them		27	49
They find it easy to speak to a teacher if they have a problem			48
They know what they want from a relationship			21
They are confident they know what the law says about sex and consent.		9	
That men should show their emotions		17	
They have a lot to offer a relationship			17

At the end of the projects, participants were asked to reflect on their experience and consider the impact the project had on them out of 10, with 10 being the most positive score. Below are the average impact scores recorded.

**Table B4: Know More Programme outcomes**

Know More	Young Women	2017/2018 (%)	2018/19 (%)
Change the way they think about being a woman	After completing the project the young women attending gave the following scores in response to these questions.	40	28
Helped them to know where to go for help and support with unhealthy relationships		28	
Helped them to understand the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship.			69
They find it easy to speak to a teacher if they have a problem		34	53
They know what they want from a relationship		32	20
They are confident they know what the law says about sex and consent.		19	
They know what their rights over their body are.		22	
They have a lot to offer a relationship			29

**2019-2020:**

The projects for this academic year are still ongoing so data could not be provided.

## Appendix C

### References

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