



Older people and domestic abuse

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SafeLives

Ending domestic abuse

Domestic abuse overview

- Around 2.1 million people suffer from domestic abuse in England and Wales – 1.4 million women (8.5% of the population) and 700,000 men (4.5% of the population).
- Two women a week die at the hands of their partner or ex-partner.
- 85% of victims made five attempts on average to get support from professionals in the year before they accessed effective help to stop the abuse.
- ONS doesn't currently collect statistics for over 60s though this will change this year.
- SafeLives estimates that approximately 120,000 individuals aged 65+ have experienced at least one form of abuse (psychological, physical, sexual or financial).
- Only 3% of victims aged 60 or over are accessing Idva services supported by the Marac model

About Spotlights

- Particular groups are not accessing the **support** they need
- Our data showed us that older people and disabled people are **not being identified** and **accessing support** soon enough.
- Older people and disabled people's **experience of domestic violence** is different to the stereotypical 'victim'
- Domestic violence practitioners or the police may not always be best placed to **identify** these victims sooner
- We need a multi-agency approach to better **identify and support** them.

About Spotlights

- Spotlights was developed to highlight groups that sometimes go **unseen** by support agencies.
- Each Spotlight series runs for 6 weeks and focuses on a different 'unseen' group's **experience of domestic violence**.
- We deliver content from **experts** around the UK in an accessible way.
- At the end of the Spotlight, we bring together our data, and the advice and guidance from **experts** and **survivors**, and develop a policy report.

Spotlight #1

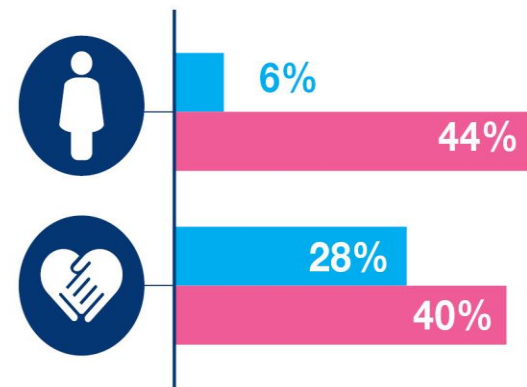
Older people and domestic abuse



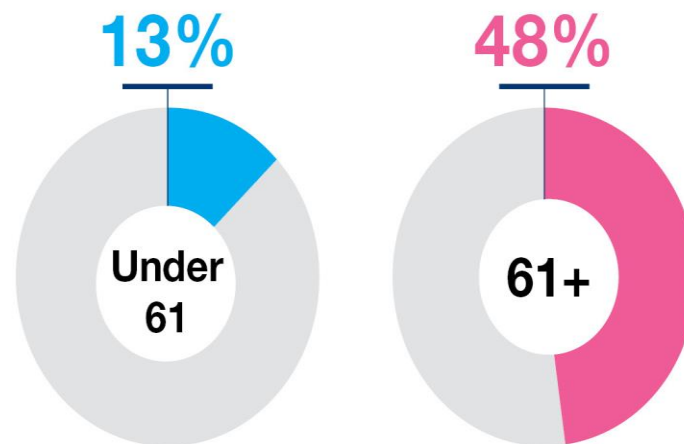
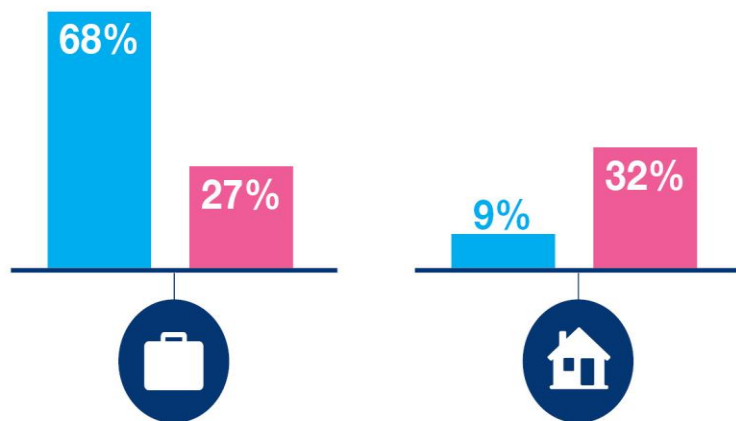
Source: SafeLives Insights, 2015-16

Victims aged 61+ are much more likely to experience abuse from an **adult family member** or **current intimate partner** than those 60 and under

- Victims aged 60 and under
- Victims aged 61+



Older victims are **less likely to attempt to leave** in the year before accessing help, and **more likely to be living with the perpetrator** after getting support



Older victims are significantly **more likely to have a disability** – for a third, this is physical (34%)

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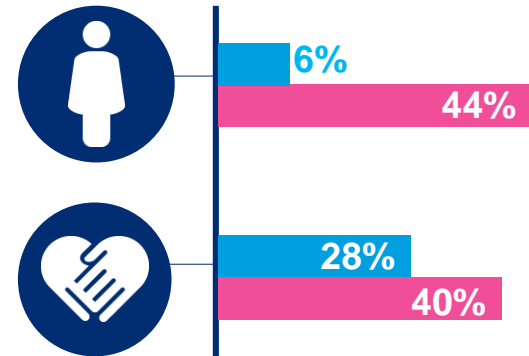
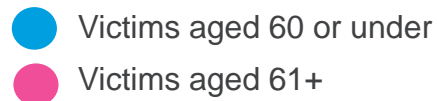
Case Study



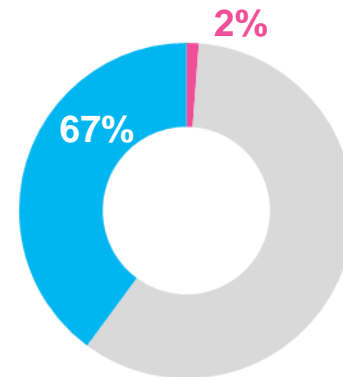
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What our data tells us

Victims aged 61+ are more likely to experience abuse from a **current partner** or **adult family member** than those under 61 years.



67% are **identified by the police** (with only 2% identified by Adult Social Care).



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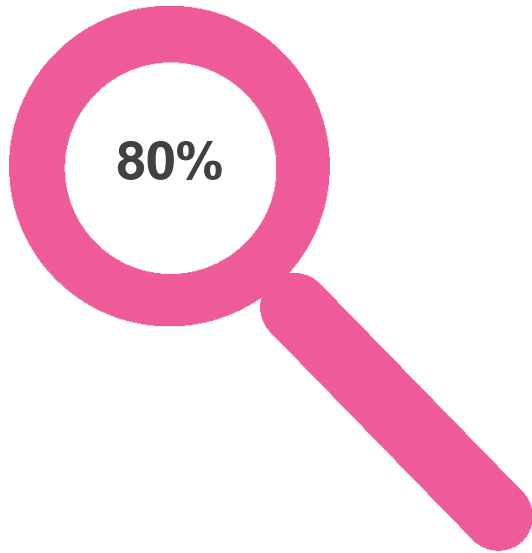
What our data tells us

Victims 61+ endure violence for much longer before accessing support (**6.5 years** vs **3 years**)



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What our data tells us



Percentage of older adults that are **not visible to services,**

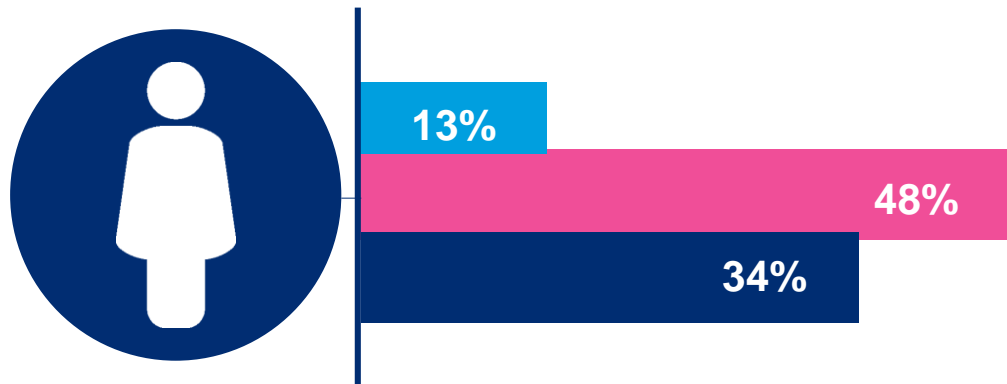


Out of those who are visible, $\frac{1}{4}$ live with abuse for **more than 20 years.**

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What our data tells us

Victims 61+ are **more likely** to have a disability, and for a third this is **physical**.



- Victims aged 60 or under
- Victims aged 61 or over
- Victims aged 61+ with a physical disability

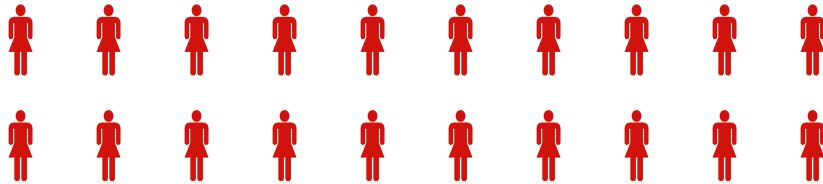
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30 deaths

74 %

Intimate Partner Homicide- 22

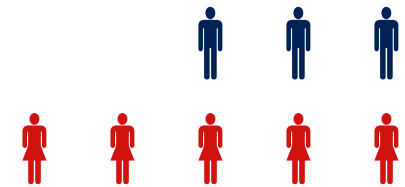
- Intimate partner 14
- Murder-suicide 4
- Partner also carer 4



26 %

Family-Related Homicide-8

- Matricide 5
- Patricide 2
- Fratricide 1



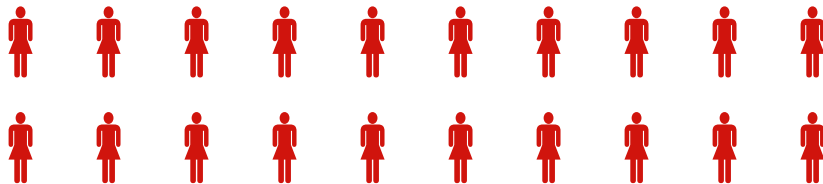
30 deaths

22

Intimate Partner Homicide

82% occurred in the home of the victim

- 3 at the home of the perpetrator
- 1 on the street/stalking

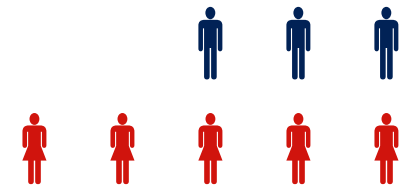


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Family-Related Homicide

All in the home of the victim

Stabbing
Strangulation
Head Injury



What to draw from the data

- Older victims are **not identified** soon enough by services
- Increased abuse from current partners and family members means they are likely to be **isolated and abused by those that they depend** upon for care.
- Increased rates of disability amongst older victims could mean that they are **even more isolated and vulnerable** to coercion and control
- Even after receiving domestic violence support, older victims are still **vulnerable to ongoing abuse** from their current partner.

What the Spotlight Experts told us

Age UK

- Understanding: isolation, retirement, health, caring roles and shame
- Joining up approaches: the abuse of older people requires an Adult Safeguarding Response.

Solace Women's Aid-Silver Project- Over 55 Domestic Abuse Specialists

- Victims may not recognise their experience as abuse
- Reluctance to discuss abuse and think its too late
- Isolation and unsupported - both socially and physically

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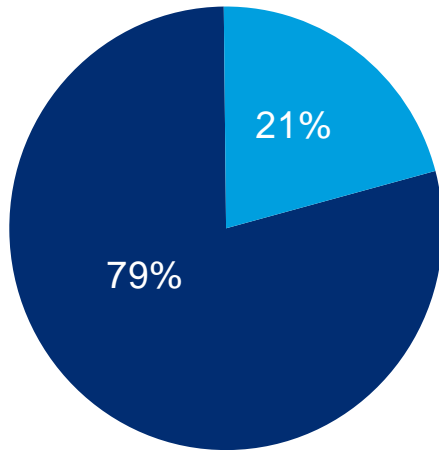
What the Spotlight Experts told us

Marac Scrutiny Panel

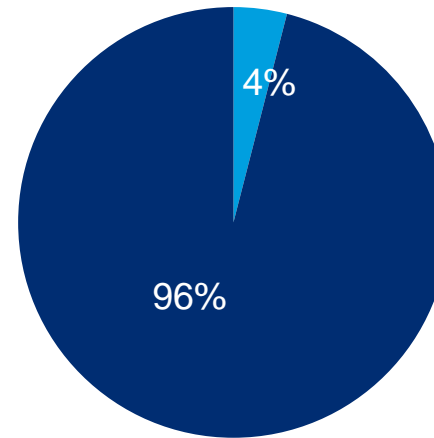
- The introduction of the Care Act 2014 led to adding Adult Social Care to the 8 core agency groups
- ASC needs to play an active role in Marac - research, attendance, follow up actions, flagging and tagging cases
- Active role in safety planning and action planning that is responsive to older person's - using their expertise and influence

Gender profile of clients

Client gender – 61+



Client gender - 60 & under

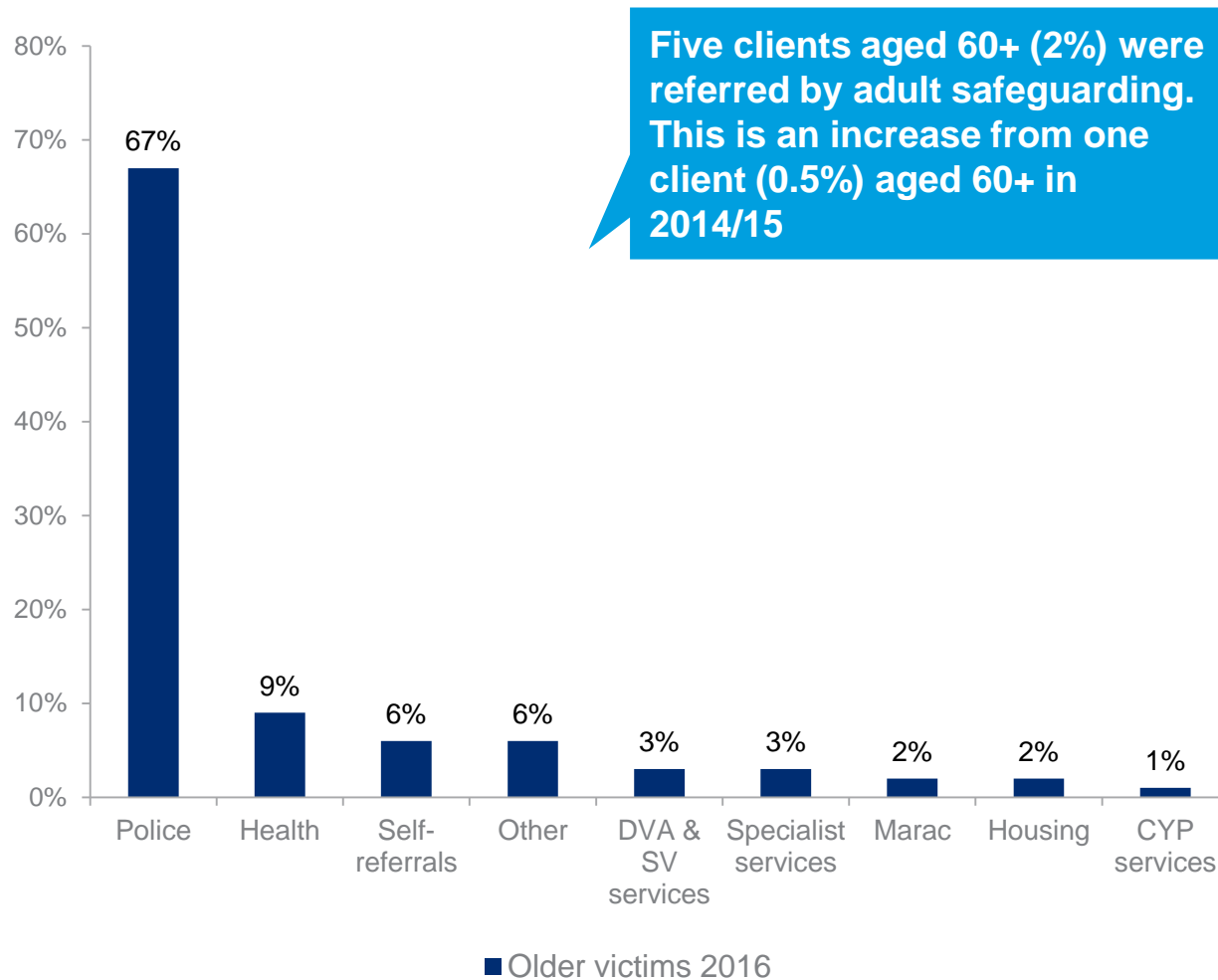


- Female
- Male

While the majority of older clients are female there are much higher proportions of older men also experiencing abuse (21%) compared with those under 60 (4%)

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Insights Data: Most frequent referral routes



Over 61 compared with under 60

Older clients are more likely to be referred through the police (67% compared with 59%)

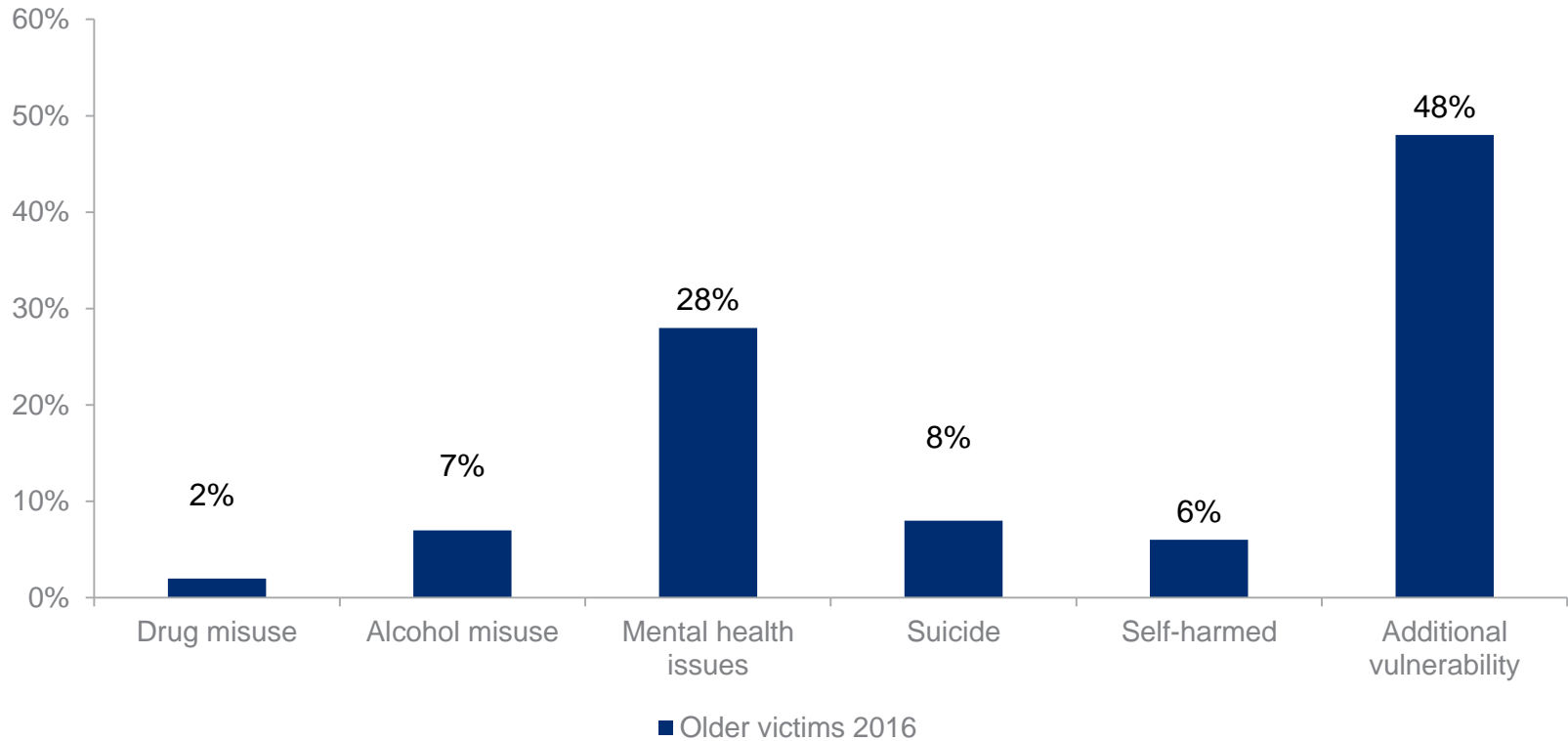
They are also less likely to access services themselves through self-referral routes (6% compared with 14%)

Older clients are a hard to reach group

Clients aged 61+ are underrepresented across services using Insights, meaning they may not be accessing the support they require

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Complex needs



Older clients have a lower level of complex needs in terms of mental health and substance misuse, but are much more likely to have a disability. For a third, this disability is physical (34%).

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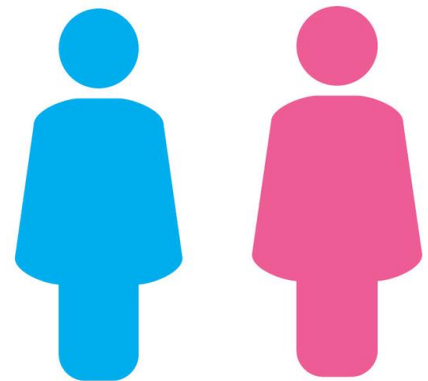
Themis annual data (2015-16)

Comparing the Themis hospital sites to the comparison sites in the same areas.

- Hospital services are significantly more likely to have older people as clients than local Idva services (i.e. all other services, none of them health i.e. IRIS)
- 50+ clients account for 14% of hospital Idva clients but only 10% of local Idva clients. This difference is highly significant.
- 60+ clients account for 5% of hospital Idva clients but only 3% of local Idva clients. This difference is significant.
- 65+ clients account for 4% of hospital Idva clients

Barriers

- Perception by older people that services are for younger people
- Generational/cultural/societal attitudes
- Family dynamics
- Health issues
- Financial
- Housing
- May not recognise their own experience as abuse
- Isolation
- Less likely to call 999
- Identification issues



Policy and Practice Recommendations

- Systematic Invisibility
- Long term abuse and dependency issues
- Generational attitudes about abuse may make it hard to identify
- Increased risk of adult family abuse
- Services are not effectively targeted at older victims, and do not always meet their needs
- Need for greater coordination between services

Policy and Practice Recommendations

- Provide in-depth, face-to-face training for health professionals, social workers, care workers and any council staff who are regularly in contact with older people, accompanied by a Domestic Abuse Champion programme in Adult Services to ensure the learning is continued and new best practice can be communicated.
- Ensure that contracts for provision of domestic abuse support recognise that older victims may need prolonged interventions due to their abuse being sustained over a long period, and potentially a desire not to leave the family home.
- Provision of specialist domestic abuse services in a health setting – Idvas in hospitals/Mental Health Trusts, IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) in primary care.

Policy and Practice Recommendations

- Ensuring there is effective safety planning on the discharge of an older victim or perpetrator from hospital to ensure they aren't returned to an abusive situation
- Raise awareness of domestic abuse among older victims and ensure services are targeted to places older people will see – e.g. GP surgeries, public transport
- Training for domestic abuse professionals on inter-family violence and safeguarding issues around older people.
- Ensure older victims are consulted as part of service re-design such as housing and refuge options.
- Embed Adult Social Care as a core Marac agency to help increase crucial information sharing needed to keep victims safe.
- Adult Safeguarding Boards should monitor referrals of older victims to domestic abuse services and at Marac and action plan accordingly.

Spotlights older people

- 2 webinars
- Podcasts
- Care pathway and guidance
- National scrutiny panel report (older people at Marac)
- Final report - older people and domestic violence (published Dec 2016)
- Guidance for LSAB to link in with Marac
- <http://solacewomensaid.org/the-silver-project/>
- <http://news.camden.gov.uk/know-its-not-too-late>

SafeLives is listening



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