

## Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme: Social Return on Investment Analysis: Executive Summary

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This report documents the Social Return on Investment analysis (SROI) of a voluntary domestic violence and abuse (DVA) perpetrator programme offered in Doncaster, England. The programme was commissioned by Doncaster Council for three years from April 2014 from an organisation called Foundation ([www.foundationdomesticabuse.org](http://www.foundationdomesticabuse.org)). The programme aimed to deliver specialist support to both men and women aged 16 years and over who recognise a need to address their abusive behaviour and, therefore, access the programme voluntarily. Clients were offered personalised and ongoing support through a menu of options including: an awareness workshop; individual sessions or meetings with support worker; an eight-week programme of structured group sessions; and flexible drop in hub on completion of the programme.

**Methods:** The SROI covered an observed period of two and a half years, with benefits forecast for a further two and a half years (i.e. five-year time horizon). The cost for the Local Authority to commission the services over this time period was £382,500. The SROI consisted of six stages: Identify stakeholders; Map the range of inputs, outputs and outcomes; Identify and measure key outcomes; Assess attribution, sustainability and displacement; Value outcomes; Calculate the ratio of attributable benefits to costs and sensitivity analysis.

**Findings:** A large number of outcomes could not be measured. However, five outcomes contributed to calculating the impact of the programme. The following three outcomes provided notable evidence of impact for the programme.

- Reduced substance abuse reported in a selection of case notes and estimated for all clients:

- impact on society and
- impact on the individual quality-adjusted life-year
- Improved parenting evidenced by behaviour questionnaire, interviews and reported in case notes; estimated for all clients.
- Reduced time of social workers reported in case notes as information collection and sharing with social workers.

The following two outcomes, demonstrated small values of impact for the programme:

- Reduced need for accident and emergency health services, assuming that the intervention resulted in 50% of clients reducing their Accident and Emergency attendances down to the national average.
- Reduced need for separate housing (fewer incidents of providing refuge for partners), evidenced from case notes describing improved relationships with co-habiting partners estimated for all clients.

Benefits were forecast over a five-year period and the SROI ratio was calculated using the actual costs for the programme: assuming that funding is ceased beyond the 30 months of the intervention. The SROI ratio was calculated at £2.05, with a net present value of £401,617.93, and a break-even point during the fourth quarter in year three.

**Conclusions:** Future economic evaluations of voluntary domestic violence and abuse perpetrator programmes should consider the difficulties encountered and reported in this study, and seek to identify measures and data collection mechanisms for the outcomes that were identified as important, but could not be measured. Two pervasive problems for evaluations of this type of programme are the loss of clients to follow-up and difficulties in obtaining outcome measures for victims and families. Despite the disadvantages of relying on clients' self-reports it would be useful to further explore the potential for using proxy measures during the window of engagement with the service-user. While some measures have been developed for this study, areas of possible advances are described in detail in this report and in the report for the full evaluation. The analysis allows clear recommendations, including (a) useful approaches for those for collecting and measuring outcomes and (b) where further research may be most valuable.

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An electronic copy of full report and other Project publications are available at: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/snm/research/doncaster>

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