



# **Evidence synthesis in the context of UK domestic and sexual violence services: involving professional stakeholders**

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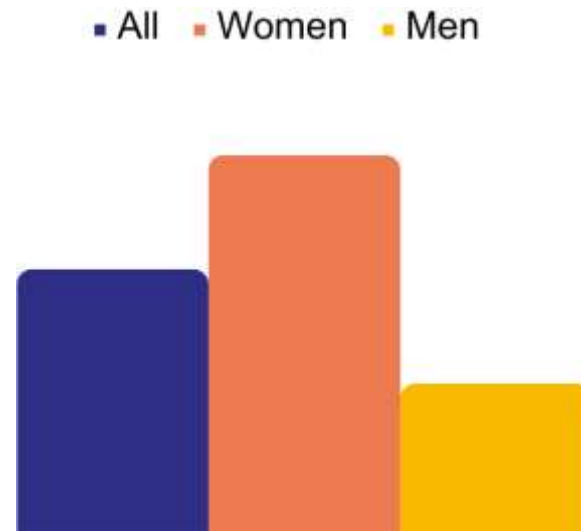


# Background: Domestic and sexual violence and abuse in the UK

In the year ending March 2022...



1 in 20 adults experienced domestic abuse



2.3% of adults (3.3% women and 1.2% men) experienced sexual assault



The victim was female in 74.1% of domestic abuse related crimes



## Background: Support services

- Such as refuges, helplines, IDVAs/ISVAs, advocacy, outreach, referral
- Primarily provided by third sector / non-profit organisations
- Funding is patchy, precarious, and piecemeal



## Background: Support services

- Evidence that they improve outcomes for service users, including:
  - housing interventions improving mental health, perceived safety and stress (Yakubovich et al., 2021)
  - economic interventions reducing levels of domestic violence and increasing empowerment (Kiani et al., 2021)
  - advocacy interventions improving quality of life and depression (Rivas et al., 2016)
  - psychological therapies reducing depression and anxiety (Hameed et al., 2020)



## Background: our evidence synthesis

- Two evidence syntheses: a scoping review and an effectiveness review
  - Scoping review: to assess what outcomes are used in evaluations of support services and interventions - <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2023-074452>
  - Effectiveness review: to assess the effectiveness of support services and interventions in terms of outcomes identified in the scoping review



# Why engage stakeholders?

- Stakeholder engagement adds value to systematic reviews at each step (Shokraneh & Adams 2018)
- There are benefits for researchers (greater understanding and insight), service users (feelings of empowerment and gaining skills), and communities (more knowledgeable) (Brett et al., 2014)
- Other benefits can include:
  - establishing credibility;
  - ensuring transparency;
  - anticipating controversy;
  - improving relevance;
  - enhancing quality;
  - increasing dissemination and uptake (Cottrell et al., 2015; Keown et al., 2008)



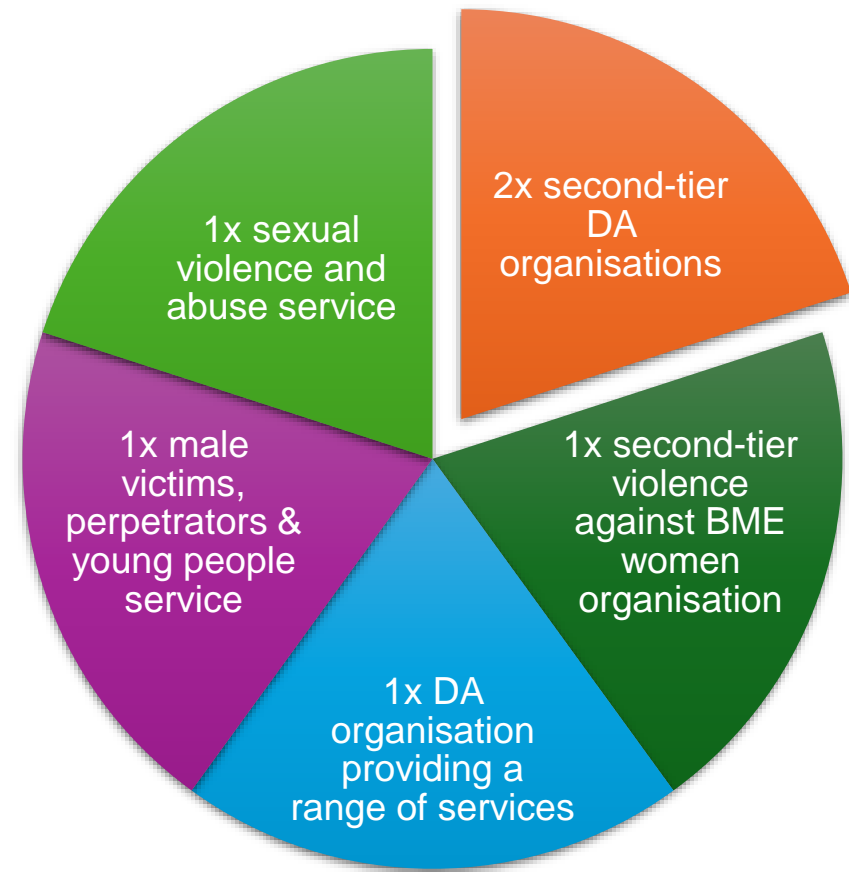
# Methods

## *Stakeholder group recruitment*

- Recruitment to the wider VISION programme of research

## *Stakeholder group members*

- Individuals representing six third-sector organisations in the UK
- Various roles, including head of research and evaluation, CEO, director of insights and partnerships, research analyst, policy lead
- Various types of services / organisations





# Methods

## *Stakeholder workshops*

### Workshop 1:

- 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- Face-to-face
- Invited: 6
- Attended: 3
  - 1x DA organisation providing a range of services
  - 1x second-tier DA organisation
  - 1x sexual violence and abuse service

### Workshop 2:

- 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- Online
- Invited: 8
- Attended: 4
  - 1x DA organisation providing a range of services
  - 2x second-tier DA organisations
  - 1x male victims, perpetrators & young people service





# Methods

## *Stakeholder workshops*

### Workshop 1:

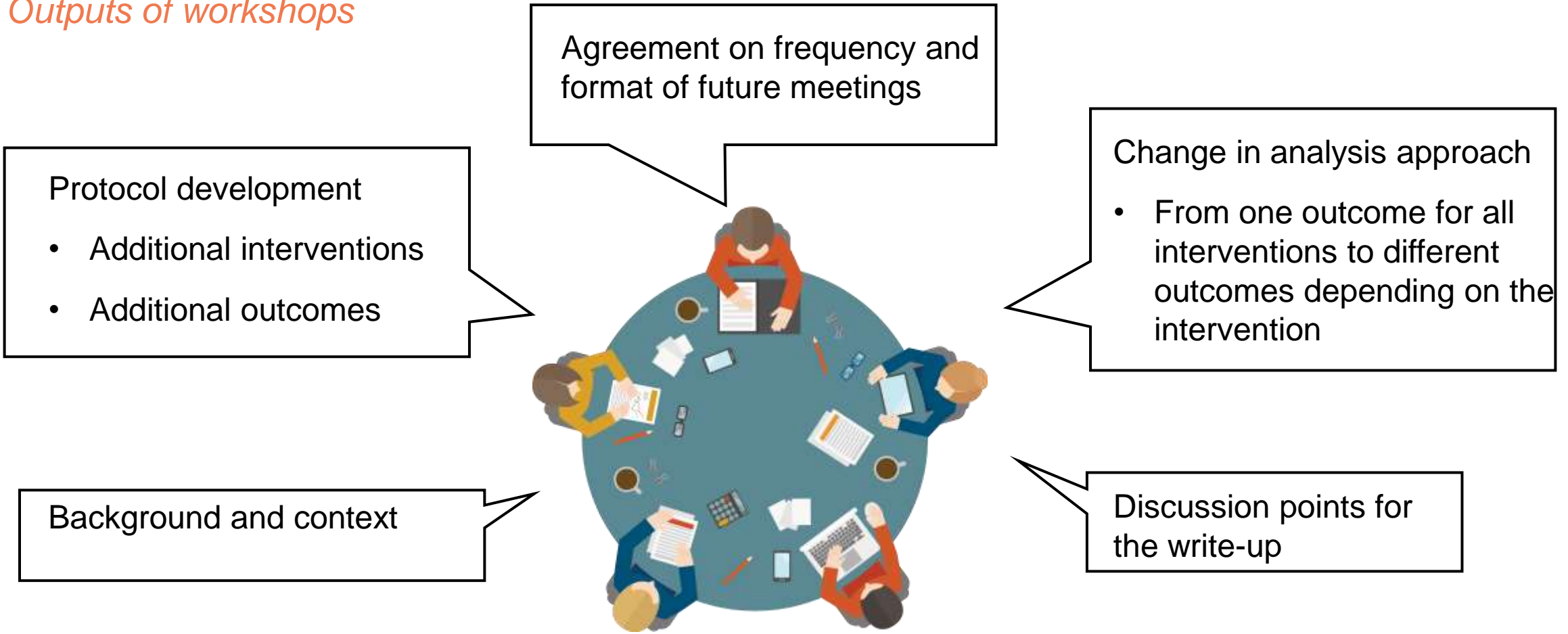
- Training on systematic review methodology
- Talk through and feedback on review protocol first draft
- Discussion on approach to collaboration going forward

### Workshop 2:

- Update on progress and decisions made
- Presentation of preliminary findings
- Discussion on interpretation

# Results

## *Outputs of workshops*





# Reflections

## *Benefits*

- Sensitivity and understanding
  - Increased understanding of issues facing frontline services
  - Increased understanding of funding landscape and how this impacts the evidence
  - Increased understanding of the limitations of the evidence (e.g., by-and-for services underrepresented)
- Increased relevance for service deliverers, commissioners, funders
- Increased rigor and quality



# Reflections

## *Challenges*

- Time
  - Stakeholders' time – busy schedules and competing demands
  - Researchers' time – impact on timelines; investing time to prepare for workshops
- Changing group membership
- Language
- Different backgrounds and priorities
- Mismatches between stakeholder views and the evidence
- Cannot facilitate all stakeholder requests



# Conclusions

- A learning process
- Challenging but worthwhile
- Relationship building across sectors
- What is the most effective approach?

# References



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