



Safer Somerset
Partnership

Feel Safe, Be Safe

Domestic Abuse Coercion and Control Within Relationships



Learning Outcomes

- To understand current findings in relation to the prevalence and nature of domestic abuse between two people in a relationship.
- To consider common attitudes held by people towards domestic abuse and how to engage and challenge.
- To explore some of the reasons why it is difficult for people to recognise and disclose abuse in relationships.
- To understand some of the ways in which people may behave in response to abuse.
- To understand the importance of risk assessment and safety planning.
- To understand the importance of child protection and safeguarding measures and of working with other relevant agencies.



Definition of Domestic Abuse

The Safer Somerset Partnership has adopted the HM Government definition of domestic abuse (March 2013) which is:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional



Coercive Control NEW Legislation

From 29th December 2015, a new offence of “controlling and coercive behaviour” in an intimate or familial relationships came into effect (in England and Wales).

Offence carries a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment, a fine or both.

It applies, when:

The controlling or coercive behaviour takes place “repeatedly or continuously”.

The pattern of behaviour has to have a “serious effect” on the victim
The perpetrator and victim have to be personally connected when the incidents took place - if not, the Stalking and Harassment legislation may apply.

Media – “We were a normal family.....”

...his wife Claire, 50, and daughter Charlotte, 19. Hart shot the pair
...shotgun in a swimming pool car park before turning the weapon

...ing in 2016.

...ended staff training and a public awareness campaign.

...d Ryan, said there were “potential opportunities” for GPs and other

...ed days after Mrs Hart had left the family home following a
...uple’s marriage.

...s not known to professionals or understood by members of his
...id.

...BC: “No one knew what to look for... unfortunately it was missed by

...d: “We were living a personal hell and our father was dangerous.”



Definition of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse isn't always physical. Coercive control is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

This controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour

Coercive control creates invisible chains and a sense of fear that pervades all elements of a victim's life. It works to limit their human rights by depriving them of their liberty and reducing their ability for action.

Experts like Evan Stark liken coercive control to being taken hostage. As he says: "the victim becomes captive in an unreal world created by the abuser, entrapped in a world of confusion, contradiction and fear."



Common Examples of Coercive Behaviour



- Isolating victim from friends and family
- Depriving them of basic needs, such as food
- Monitoring their time
- Monitoring them via online communication tools or spyware
- Taking control over aspects of their everyday life, such as where they can go, who they can see, what they can wear and when they can sleep
- Depriving them access to support services, such as medical services or care
- Repeatedly putting them down, such as saying they're worthless
- Humiliating, degrading or dehumanising them
- Controlling finances
- Making threats or intimidating them



Most Recent Media – “We were a normal family……”

Lance Hart, 57, killed his wife Claire, 50, and daughter Charlotte, 19, Hart shot the pair with a single-barrel shotgun in a swimming pool car park before turning the weapon on himself.

It happened in Spalding in 2016.

A DHR has recommended staff training and a public awareness campaign.

Hart's sons, Luke and Ryan, said there were "potential opportunities" for GPs and other agencies "to step in".

The murders happened days after Mrs Hart had left the family home following a breakdown in the couple's marriage.

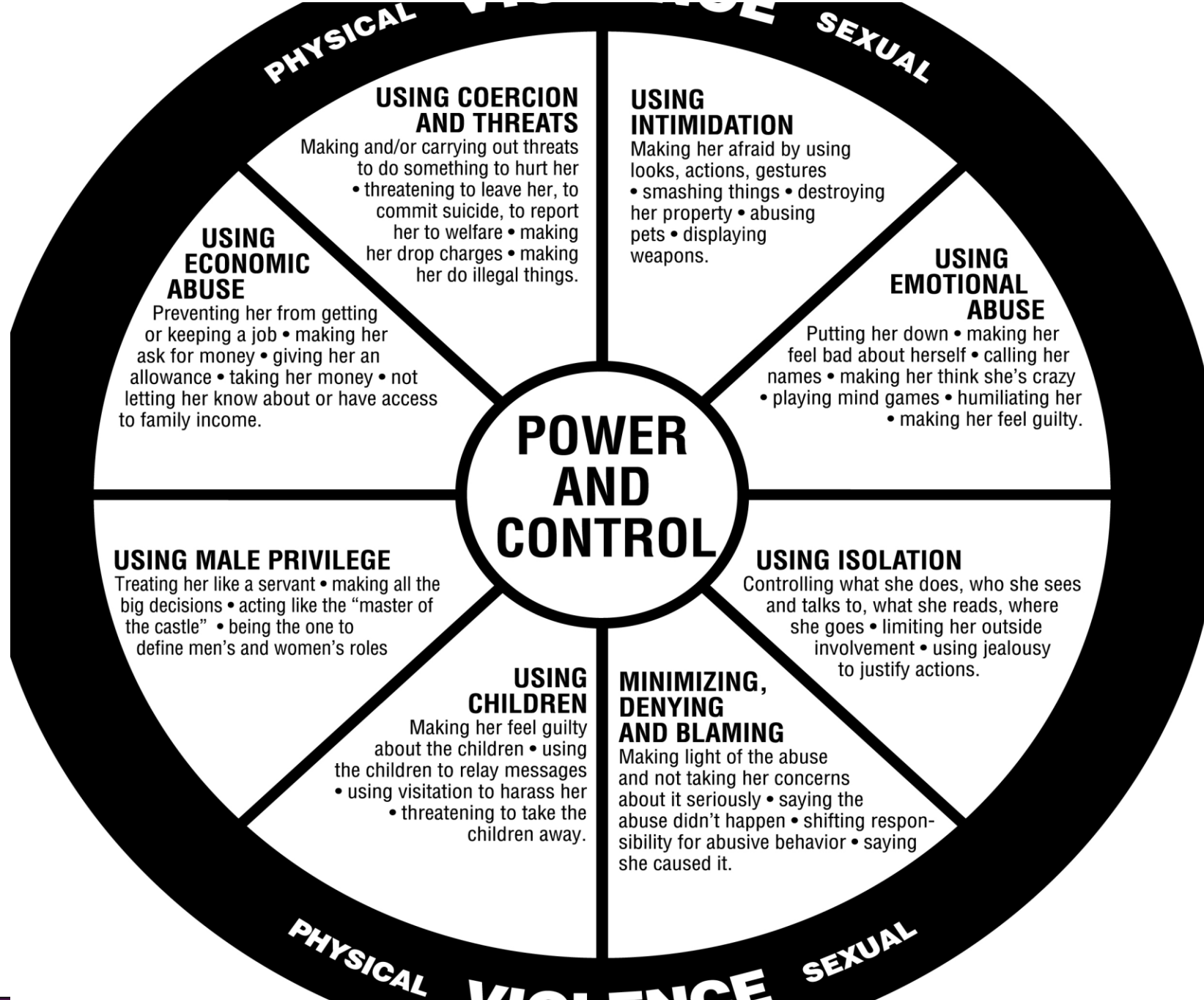
Hart's behaviour was not known to professionals or understood by members of his family, the report said.

Ryan Hart told the BBC: "No one knew what to look for... unfortunately it was missed by us and we lived it."

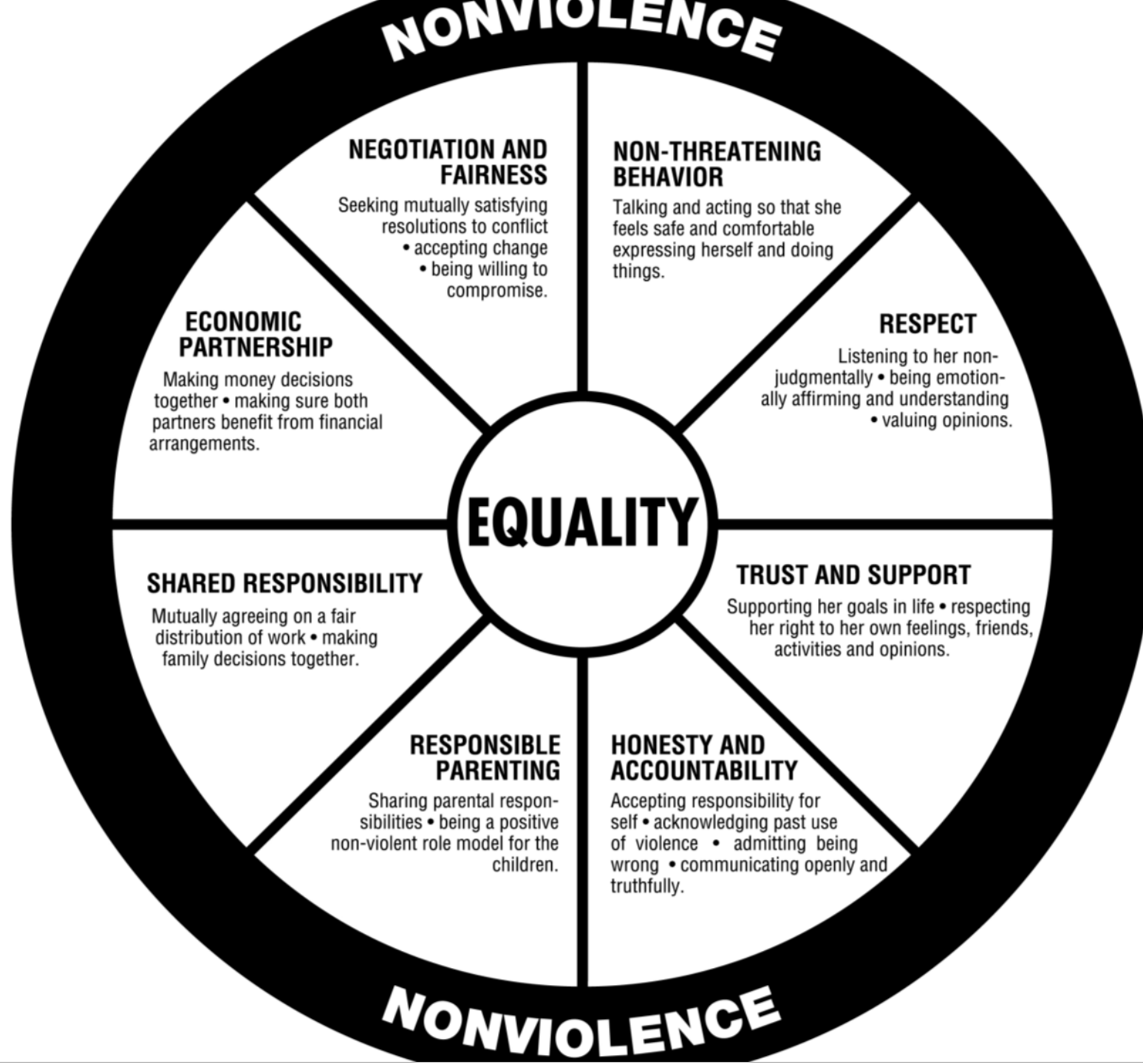
His brother Luke said: "We were living a personal hell and our father was dangerous."



Abusive Relationship Behaviours



Non-Abusive Relationship Behaviours



Coping Mechanisms

- Drugs and alcohol
- Denial
- Self-harm
- Cognitive dissonance
- Flashbacks/nightmares
- Mental health problems
- Minimization
- Eating disorders
- Suicide
- Shock and dissociation
- Violence

If a person you are supporting is displaying any of these please don't forget to ask them about their relationships!



Prevalence - Overview

Age of SIDAS New Engaged Clients		
	2017-18	2016-17
51 to 60	97	104
61 to 70	20	20
71 +	8	24
Aged under 50 years old	960	934
Total New Engaged Clients	1085	1082

Domestic Homicide Reviews

In Somerset:

25 notifications considered by Safer Somerset Partnership

3 of those included victims aged over 70 years.

Nationally:

“Standing Together” (charity) conducted a review in 2016 of selected sample of DHRs, and found over a quarter were aged 58 years or older.

The Home Office conducted a review of a selected sample of DHRs and of those 9 were for victims aged over 51 years.



Case Study (SW)

Barriers and challenges, why she was invisible lost in ASC assessments



What Signs Would A Carer or Professional See?

- In your groups can you discuss signs you may see which might indicate that a person you are working with could be in a controlling /abusive relationship

To help understand what a healthy relationship looks like, its useful to explore behaviours and attitudes in couples/families you visit.

Healthy relationship	Unhealthy relationship	Abusive relationship
<p>Healthy relationships are based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Respect▪ Trust▪ Responsibility▪ Honesty▪ Communication	<p>Unhealthy relationships are attempts to control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Unclear▪ Dishonesty▪ Pressure▪ Inconsiderate behaviour	<p>Abusive relationships are based on power and control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manipulation▪ Isolation▪ Blame games▪ Accusations▪ Physical violence



Using the ACPO DASH Checklist

Whenever a person discloses abuse within an intimate relationship the risk of harm needs to be measured and immediate safety plans put into place.

- Why use a ACPO DASH checklist?
- How do each of the risk factors pose as issues for people?
- Download a DASH from www.somerset survivors.org.uk



The Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service – Accessing Support



Support For People At Risk

- Safety planning
- Regular risk assessment
- Activities to support their understanding of relationship abuse
- Advise and guidance – unique to each persons own situation
- No pressure or judgment
- Representation at MARAC and any meeting's if required
- Emotional support
- Referral to other agencies when agreed
- Support to access refuge or safe housing if needed
- Support to attend related appointments as needed
- Multi-agency cooperation



How To Access Support

- Complete SIDAS Intake-referral form and ACPO DASH – send to here.tohelp@knightstone.cjsm.net or via secure email- heretohelp@livewest.co.uk
- Forms can be found on the SIDAS page link at www.somerset survivors.org.uk
- Self referrals can be taken on DAFFS line 0800 69 49 999
- Advice and guidance for professionals can also be sought from DAFFS line – please don't hesitate to contact us.



Thank you

Any Questions?



Resources

- Somerset domestic abuse information – www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk
- Somerset sexual violence/abuse support – www.survivorpathway.org.uk
- MARAC toolkits and help – www.safelives.org.uk
- Somerset domestic abuse helpline – email heretohelp@knightstone.co.uk (general non personalised information) or here.tohelp@knightstone.cjsm.net (secure personalised information) OR telephone 0800 69 49 999

