

30th March 2021

Interventions Alliance chosen to deliver Home Office research study which aims to reduce victims of domestic abuse

A new research study, delivered by Interventions Alliance's Research Unit, will aim to reduce how many people become victims of domestic abuse by helping policymakers and commissioners to better understand the behaviour of perpetrators.

Funded by the Home Office, the research will look at the backgrounds and experiences of perpetrators to explore what the early warning signs are, and whether there are common patterns and predictors that trigger such behaviour and abuse. There will also be consideration about what makes this form of abuse get worse, and conversations will be conducted with individuals about how their future relationships could be impacted by the behavioural triggers that have led them to commit domestic abuse in the past. The learning from the qualitative research will help to build a refreshed knowledge base that will aim to point out new, effective domestic abuse interventions.

Over their lifetime, one in four women, and one in six men, are victims of domestic abuse. Two women die at the hands of a partner or ex-partner every week, and every month the same happens to a man.¹

Understanding why people offend is essential if we are to reduce the devastating impact these crimes have on victims' lives.

Interventions Alliance, Seetec's justice and social care business division, already supports over 19,100 offenders through its probation services, a number of whom are perpetrators of this type of abuse. The service delivers programmes and workforce learning and development that helps prevent crime and tackles the complex and challenging behaviours in the criminal justice system, including domestic abuse.

Dedicated to transforming people's lives and supporting communities, Interventions Alliance's Research Unit focuses on finding ways to improve social care, crime prevention, rehabilitation and recovery work. In the coming months, they will conduct in-depth interviews with repeat domestic abuse perpetrators to learn more about their behaviours and life experiences.

The evidence the Research Unit plans to collect will form the basis of a report to inform future government crime prevention strategies and solutions to end domestic abuse. The study will conclude later this year.

Suki Binning, Executive Director of Justice and Social Care and the Group's lead Social Worker, commented:

"Domestic abuse has devastating, long-term effects on victims, both physically and psychologically. The impact of the pandemic has also seen an increase in cases. Supporting victims of domestic abuse must always be a priority, but to prevent or reduce harm, we must first understand the behaviours that lead to perpetrators committing this crime and how to best address them.

Press Release



“Our society can never be complacent about challenging the behaviours that lead to this form of abuse.

“This Home Office study will aim to provide meaningful insights that can be used to build future interventions that prevent domestic abuse before it happens. With the very welcome Domestic Abuse Bill, it is right that this work starts now so that it can make a full contribution to ensuring the new law is a success. We are delighted to be working with the Home Office to help build a new evidence base.”

“By doing so, there is an opportunity to unlock previously undiscovered ways of preventing abuse from happening or escalating. Using the evidence base our team of experts collect, we can shape best practice, policy development and the design of new interventions to ensure that fewer victims end up suffering at the hands of an abuser.”

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(1) Source: Office for National Statistics - Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2020 (<https://bit.ly/2MH7fPL>)

(2) Formed in 2018, Interventions Alliance’s in-house Research Unit tests, trials and evaluates approaches to tackle offending and the all too common, complex, issues in the criminal justice system. Former academics and probation practitioners work alongside serving probation officers to understand wider patterns associated with people’s behaviour. They learn what interventions work best and help discover new solutions. The evidence-base collected is used to make arguments about system-wide changes. The team has published 13 pieces of research, five of which look at domestic abuse. To find out more about their work, visit our research page: <https://www.interventionsalliance.com/>

Interventions Alliance has also supported 4,890 perpetrators through its domestic abuse programmes and interventions since February 2015. The service was the first in the UK to offer a programme aimed at rehabilitating convicted stalkers. Partner stalking overlaps with a history of physical and sexual violence and coercive control.

About Seetec

Seetec is an employee-owned business group committed to supporting an economic and social recovery from COVID-19 that is built around the principles of inclusion and opportunity. Its vision is to create an inclusive society where individuals, employers and communities across all the regions of the UK and Ireland can thrive and fulfil their potential.

Originally founded in 1984, Seetec is a leading provider of employment, skills, justice and social care services. In 2020, Seetec supported 125,000 people through its Employability and Health, Irish, Justice and Skills business divisions:

- A newly launched division called Interventions Alliance, which works within the criminal justice system and social care sector to deliver evidence-led solutions that aim to help people build better futures and wellbeing.
- Its Employability and Health division is, through Seetec Pluss, a prime provider of the Government's Work and Health Programme and the JETS (Job Entry Targeted Support) scheme which is targeted at helping those who have lost their jobs during the pandemic. Pluss, an award-winning independent Community Interest Company that provides specialist support to inspire people of all abilities to achieve work and a career, forms a key part of this division too. It is a social enterprise working to ensuring nobody is left behind in our society.
- The Skills division offers adult education budget (AEB) opportunities, apprenticeships and traineeships. Through its new strategy, the division aims to provide a wrap-around service in regions to support individuals, communities, sectors and businesses to succeed. Last year the division launched Innovion, backed by leading engineering, manufacturing and technology businesses, to deliver high quality technical training and apprenticeships.
- Seetec Ireland delivers Job Path, the Irish Government's main job activation programme which supports the long-term unemployed to achieve their work ambitions across Dublin, West, North and North West, Midlands and North East regions.

The business group currently holds an Ofsted inspection rating of 'Good', it is B Corp certified and has achieved the Gold Investors in People Award which only the top seven per cent of accredited organisations across the UK receive. With a workforce of over 2,500, it has an Employee Council and an Employee Trustee Director within its employee ownership structure, who support and work with the senior leadership to influence the direction of the business group which is committed to delivering first-class public and related commercial services.

For more information visit www.seetec.co.uk or follow Seetec on Twitter: @SeetecInspire
