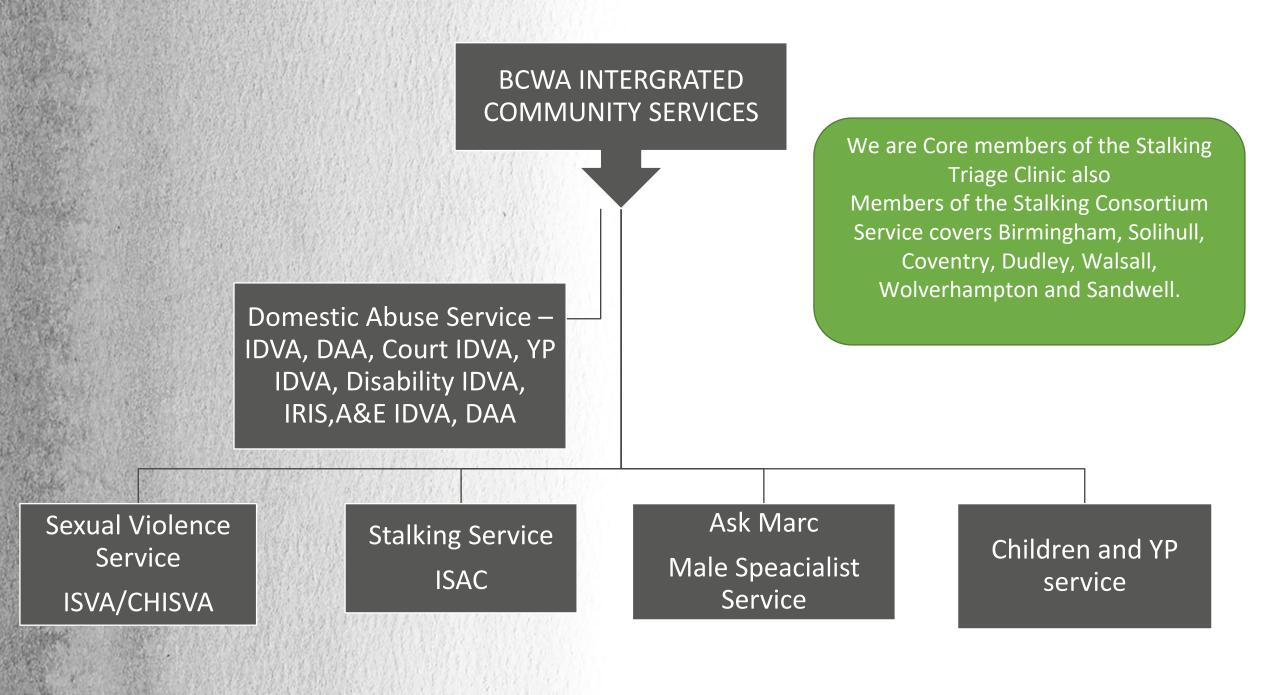


West Midlands Stalking Support Service we listen, we support, we care

Stalking – the role of advocacy.

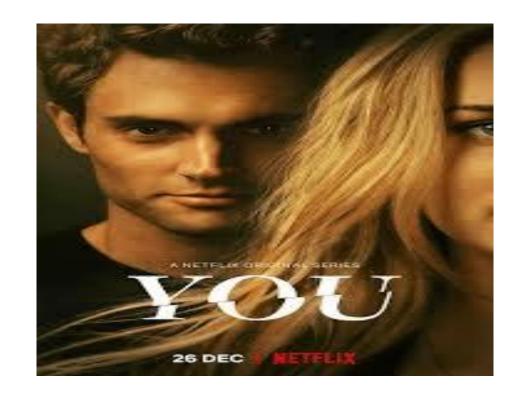
Lorraine Garratley – Operational Manager (Independent Stalking Advocacy Specialist) **BCWA** lead for Stalking





Guess the TV Drama

Synopsis Based on Caroline Kepnes' best-selling novel of the same name, is a 21st century love story that asks, "What would you do for love?"





What is the difference between Stalking or harassment?

- Harassing Behaviour Focused on an issue
- Stalking Behaviour fixated on the person
- Whilst the behaviours may be similar calls, unwanted or intimidating behaviours

Definition

.....A stalker repeatedly intrudes into another person's life where they are not wanted and have no right to be. They are fixated, and persistent. Stalking may not involve physical violence but can escalate in intensity or go on for months or even years, causing unthinkable mental distress.

Alice Ruggels Trust



The Law - 1997 Harassment Act – stalking is a course of conduct offence

2012 amendment

2a – causes alarm and distress

4a − *fear of violence*



What did you do before you left the house today?





Impacts of stalking

As a victim of stalking your life is suspended and controlled by someone else... locked in a cycle of fear and anxiety. I feel like I am living someone else's life'

Psychological and physical impacts

-Exhaustion

Hypervigilance(constant alert)

Fatigue / sleep depravation/stress/ lack of concentration

Physical illness linked to stress – IBS/ Headaches/ exasperation of

long term illness such as asthma/psoriasis ect

PTSD – from long term impacts – feeling suicidal/ suicidal attempts

Feel fear in all situations

Impact on day to day life and relationships.



Stalking Risk Profiles –

Dr Rachel MacKenzie

Prof. Troy McEwan

Prof. Michele Pathé

Dr David James

Prof. James Ogloff

Prof. Paul Mullen

Rejected Stalker – motivation to reconcile a relationship or revenge for rebuttal

Resentful stalker

 Motivation when the stalker feels mistreated or victim of injustice



- Motivation to seek intimacy romantic love
- Seeking short term relationship sexual



Stalking Risk Profile

 Motivation – sexual deviant practices or interests – lead to a sexual assault







-) Single) In a relationship
-) Married
-) Engaged
-) Divorced
- (X) Waiting for a miracle

(X) Waiting for a miracle





Classification for Stalking Typologies Rejected – Incompetent Suitor – Resentful –Intimacy Seeking – Predatory.

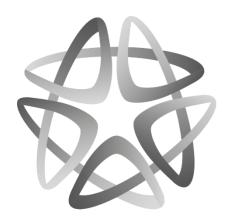




Rejected Stalker – ex-intimate

- Trigger will often be a relationship breakdown
- Motivation Will want the relationship back become resentful and want revenge
- Other triggers may be a change in the life of the person stalking life (when they re-engage in stalking behaviours after a long period of quiet)
- High risk in terms of likely use of violence / psychological harm to the victim
- Often a history of domestic abuse / in particular coercive control and monitoring
- Will often be aware of the victims routines, vulnerabilities, personal information
- Stalking can often be missed use of child contact/ attending the house (if disputed property) use of trackers





West Midlands Stalking Support Service we listen, we support, we care

- Provide support to victims currently being stalked
- All clients are contacted, case work will be offered to clients based on assessment outcomes
- Work with all victims of stalking (not just ex-intimate)
- Funded by OPCC EASI project Early Awareness Stalking Intervention.



We receive on average 900 – 1000 referrals a year

Client cases can averages 4 months- 2 years

8 ISAC's cover – all of the West Midland Region – Coventry/ Birmingham/ Solihull/ Black Country The majority of our cases are rejected stalkers but we support client where there is no prior relationship.



Referrals – are received from all agencies along with self referrals – Police make up around 35% of referrals

The earlier we can speak to victims to identify stalking provide them with the appropriate advice and guidance, this may lead to a more positive outcome

Early Risk and likely profile identification allows us to understand how this effects further risk, likely reoccurrence or longevity. (related to profiles)



What is an ISAC?

Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker



- Licensed to use SASH (Stalking Screening for Stalking or Harassment)
- Trained in the use of Stalking Risk Typology structured assessment tool
- Cyber safety and detailed safety plans
- Liaison with Police and other agencies



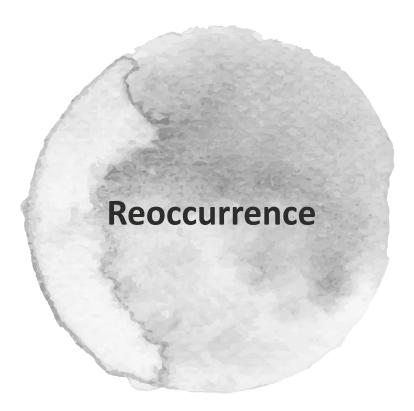
Trigger and Motivation may assist in identifying ...



Listening to the victim



Establish the profile



Analysing the behaviours



What is the most important role we do?

Listen!

Do not judge - people manage many different ways so because their response does not seem rationale, it does not mean they do not feel fear it is the stalking offending not the response we focus on not how the victim is trying to manage it

Safety – what to advice

Mute don't block, document and report all incidents (including how you felt), report all incidents to Police (tell them it is part of a pattern of behaviour), Try not to respond (unless you feel doing so will prevent further risk of harm) – explain this to Police and why you felt this way. In danger call 999

'Whilst I was told to block, I instinctively knew that was not the right thing to do. Nobody knew this person like I did, I'm glad I listened to my instincts. When I was supported by your team, I knew that listening to my instincts was the right thing to do.'



Black Country Women's Aid Stalking Service- Call 0121 553 0090 or Text/WhatsApp on 07384 466 181

24-hour helpline if you need advice or are seeking a refuge place outside of office hours- Call 0121 552 6448

National Stalking Helpline- Call 0808 802 0300

Contact the Samaritans who offer a 24/7 support line- Call 116 123 if you want to talk to someone about how you're feeling at any time.

If you feel unsafe call 999 and ask for the police

If you cannot use a phone you can text REGISTER to 999 and you will receive a text message which tells you what to do next

The National Stalking Helpline (run by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust) can be called on 0808 802 0300.

Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service can be called on 02038664107





Support for women and men affected by stalking across the West Midlands.

Call our 24-hour helpline 0121 552 6448

www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk



