

# **The true cost of domestic violence – the business case for investing to save in these services**

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## Latest cost of domestic violence

	2008
Criminal Justice	£1.3 billion
Health	£1.7 billion
Social Services	£0.28 billion
Housing	£0.2 billion
Civil legal	£0.39 billion
Lost economic output	£1.9 billion
Victim (human, emotional)	£10 billion
Overall cost	£15.7 billion

Source: The Cost of Domestic Violence: Up-date 2009, Sylvia Walby,  
University of Leeds

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# Key issues for local authorities dealing with DV

- Funding cuts are a massive challenge that councils have to manage locally
  - £28m for Government's Violence Against Women Strategy (VAWG)
  - Need to do business differently to maintain, improve services
  - Pool local budgets, identify key services required, work together and prevent
  - Best access, best services, best outcomes as early as possible
  - Possibilities – prevention, tailored services, eliminate duplication, savings
  - Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) expected to take over DV services
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# Benefits and outcomes of investing in DV services

- Less human and emotional cost – happier, more stable families and children
  - Healthier people – less mental and physical injuries
  - Enhanced economic output – less time off work, better performance
  - Lower cost prevention – less intensive, expensive and drastic solutions
  - Applies to criminal justice, health, social services, housing and legal services
  - More resources to use elsewhere
  - **Elected members have an important role**
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# Examples of Benefits & Savings

- Sunderland's HEAD hostel and outreach service for male perpetrators of DV:
    - **covers its annual costs if it prevents 280 DV incidents each year**
    - **each murder would cost at least £1million in money alone**
  - Liverpool – since two DV Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), £80,000 per annum:
    - 6 fewer DV homicides @ cost of £9,000,000
    - 267 fewer cases involving homelessness @ £9,800,000
    - 83% cases not subject to repeat offending @ £5,500,000

**Total savings: £24,300,000**
  - CAADA – “**Invest £1 in the MARAC model to get £6 back**”
  - Lancashire - **independent DV advocates/advisers** can reduce the number of unsuccessful criminal justice outcomes - providing earlier and more effective responses can **save highly expensive, lengthy processes**.
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## Looking ahead – will not get easier...

- PCCs - from May 2012
- Community safety, VAWG and DV funding/responsibilities going to PCCs
- Funding transfers from April 2013 or sooner
- Local resource review – localisation of business rates
- Public/open services reform – payment by results, open markets
- Modernising commissioning – creating a level playing field

**The Local Government Group's Safer & Stronger Communities Board will raise awareness and profile of DV and VAWG locally, e.g.:**

- Local Government First magazine – circulation 20,000
- Community safety conference workshops
- Proactive press and media work
- Engage with the Home Office, including VAWG Inter-Ministerial Group
- Business case for prevention promoted to councils – like today
- Best practice via Community Safety Bulletins and Communities of Practice