

Section A		
Institution: The University of Manchester		
Unit of Assessment: 18 (Law)		
Title of case study: Shaping Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2011-2020		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name: Prof. David Gadd	Role(s) (e.g. job title): Prof. of Criminology	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: 01/01/11-
Period when the claimed impact occurred: August 2013 – December 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		
Section B		
1. Summary of the impact		
<p>Research on domestic violence and abuse, undertaken by Professor David Gadd, has had significant impact on UK and international responses to domestic abuse, in three key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving practice through the development of school-based preventative strategies for domestic abuse in the UK and three other European countries. 2. Developing interventions for men who use violence against partners 3. Influencing domestic abuse policy at national and local level, accreditation standards in the UK and the UK government's <i>This is Abuse</i> social marketing campaign. 		
2. Underpinning research		
<p>The <i>From Boys to Men Project</i> [A], funded by the ESRC and conducted from 2011-2013, explored why some boys become domestic abuse perpetrators, whereas others do not. It established what more could be done to reduce the number of young men who become perpetrators. The research revealed the importance of methods [1] – both for research and intervening with perpetrators and prospective perpetrators - that can surmount the defensiveness that harsh 'challenging' responses can elicit from young men, and the need to avoid replicating the macho discourse of 'teaching bad men a lesson' in political pronouncements, in favour of more responsive approaches that acknowledge the meaning of violence and controlling behaviours as much as their damaging effects [2].</p> <p>The research demonstrated that most young people think that it is wrong to hit a partner, but many can think of exceptions to this rule, most typically when a partner has hit them first or cheated on them. The study revealed that boys were significantly more likely than girls to endorse these sorts of exemptions, but also that most people who condone such exceptions require further rationalizations to condone violence, especially violence against girls. All stages of the project demonstrated that young people rarely see controlling behaviour or 'put downs' as domestic abuse. It showed how some young men refer, not to domestic abuse, but to 'fights' between themselves, partners and/or other family members: fights caused by peculiarly stressful circumstances, such as personal crises or the provocative behaviour of a difficult or uncaring partner; fights which they needed to 'win' [3]. Sexual infidelity by partners is a circumstance many young men worry about. Most can understand how their own fears of betrayal generate controlling behaviour, which can be construed as necessary and hence justifiable in some circumstances, even if generally 'wrong'. The research revealed how pervasive concerns about trust explain apparent contradictions in many young men's attitudes towards domestic abuse, including the willingness to excuse particular instances of violence that would ordinarily be condemned in the abstract.</p>		

The majority of young men interviewed struggled to realize that controlling a partner is unlikely to increase feelings of security and respect in intimate relationships. Young men who were criminalized 'perpetrators' typically had good reasons to struggle with trust, negotiating conflict peacefully and being empathic towards partners. Many had experiences of institutional care, and most had grown up in homes where there were problems with crime, domestic abuse, mental health issues and drug use, and/or had one parent who had limited contact with them. The project's life-history interviews showed how some young men find it necessary to become skilled in the capacity to mount a credible threat of physical force. For many, experiences of vulnerability and trauma as infants had shaped a desire to 'look after' themselves and others in physically 'tough' ways while at the same time distancing themselves from 'real' perpetrators who were often defined as 'mad', through class-based and racialized forms of stereotyping, and/or who were known to them as fathers and stepfathers [3, 4].

The From Boys to Men Project findings were synthesized with an EU DAPHNE III project – REaDAPt [B] - which developed teaching resources utilised in schools in Spain, France and Malta in 2013, as well as in North Staffordshire, along with an animation – *Through A Child's Eyes* – which explores responses to the behaviour of a boy living with a father who abuses his mother [5]. Methodological lessons regarding the need for approaches that probe beyond defensiveness and rationalisation in research with abusive men were taken forward in the NIHR ADVANCE project [C]. This project, undertaken with collaborators at Kings College London and Edinburgh University, has revealed the particular challenges in intervening with men who have substance use problems and the dynamics that occur when victims and perpetrators are co-dependent on illicit drugs and/or alcohol [6].

3. References to the research

- [1] **Gadd, D.** and Corr, M-L. (2015) 'Psychosocial Criminology: Making Sense of Senseless Violence' in Miller, J. and Palacios, W. (eds) *Advances in Criminological Theory*, pp. 69-84, Piscataway, NJ: Transaction Publishers.
- [2] **Gadd, D.** and Corr, M-L. (2017) 'Beyond Typologies: Foregrounding Meaning and Motive in Domestic Violence Perpetration', *Deviant Behavior*, 38(7): 781-791. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2016.1197685>
- [3] **Gadd, D.**, Fox, C., Corr, M-L., Butler, I. and Alger, S. (2015) *Young Men and Domestic Abuse*, London: Routledge.
- [4] **Gadd, D.**, Corr, M-L., Fox, C.L. and Butler, I. (2016) 'Like Father, Like Son?' in Hydén, M., Gadd, D. and Wade, A. (eds) *The Response Based Approach to Interpersonal Violence*, pp. 19-35, Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- [5] **Gadd, D.**, Fox, C. and Hale, R. (2014) Preliminary steps towards a more preventative approach to eliminating violence against women in Europe, *European Journal of Criminology*, 11(4): 464–480. [doi: 10.1177/14773708135059553](https://doi.org/10.1177/14773708135059553)
- [6] **Gadd, D.**, Henderson, J, Radcliffe, P., Stephenson-Lewis, D., Johnson, A. and Gilchrist, G. (2019) 'The Dynamics of Domestic Abuse and Drug and Alcohol Dependency' *British Journal of Criminology*, 59(5): 1035-53. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azz011>

Related grants: [i] David Gadd (PI), Claire Fox, (Co-I), Ian Butler (Co-I), 'From Boys to Men: Precluding the Proclivity to Perpetrate', Economic and Social Research Council, GBP310,000 (01.01.11-30.09.13); [ii] 'Relationship Education and Domestic Abuse Prevention Tuition (REaDAPt) European Commission DAPHNE III' (01.03.11-28.02.13); [iii] 'Advancing aetiologies and treatment approaches for males in substance misuse treatment who perpetrate intimate partner violence (Programme ADVANCE)', NIHR, GBP2,000,000 (David Gadd – Co-I

and lead on Qualitative and Theory Stream, with Gilchrist and others), EUR390,000. (01.10.16-30.9.21)

Evidence of research quality: *Young Men and Domestic Abuse* [3] is included in the REF outputs submission. Articles have been published in peer reviewed journals, as above. Output [6] was the 5th most downloaded article in the journal in 2020.

4. Details of the impact

The research findings had a significant impact on: (i) the development and efficacy of preventative strategies against domestic abuse targeted at young men in the UK and in other European countries; (ii) therapeutic interventions targeted at people who have been abusive; and (iii) UK domestic abuse policy, government campaigns and accreditation standards.

(i) **Shaping the development of preventative strategies against domestic abuse**

The schools-based relationship education programme delivered by ARCH North Staffs, a domestic abuse charity (renamed Glow in 2019) and partner in the research [A], was evaluated and refined following the Boys to Men project. Pupils reported statistically significant increased awareness of domestic abuse and how to access help and support. A majority indicated that they would seek support if they knew someone was suffering domestic abuse [A]. The project provided the charity with the tools it needed to undertake its own evaluations in the future and to extend its work to schools in Derbyshire, Cheshire and Shropshire [A].

An educational toolkit based on this evaluation was further developed as part of the EU REaDAPt project and was used in schools in Spain, France and Malta [A]. In 2016 the REaDAPt resources were approved by the Maltese Commission on Domestic Violence to become part of the national curriculum [A]. The research was also appraised by NICE in their draft guidance on domestic abuse [B]. Following presentations to ministers and civil servants, the From Boys to Men research findings were also acknowledged by the Westminster Parliament, House of Lords and the Scottish government as evidencing the need to teach young people about domestic abuse [C]. In 2017, written and video resources deriving from the From the Boys to Men project were developed with the charity SafeLives, for its Spotlight series, which aims to improve practitioners' awareness of the issues facing young people [D].

(ii) **Improving practice through the development of interventions for men who use violence against partners**

Gadd's research has informed numerous interventions for offenders and training programmes for professionals working with them. From Boys to Men project findings [1-4] were used by Mentoring West Midlands (MWM) to develop an intensive, 24-hour mentoring scheme for high risk offenders, which has proved both clinically and cost effective. In 2015 the practice team were able to show that their intervention secured a 77% reduction in violence among the prolific offenders mentored, with a saving of GBP493,588 in terms of reduced demands on emergency, offender management and victim services [E].

Gadd's research [1-4] fed directly into programme content on the RESPECT Young Peoples' toolkit, which constitutes a core part of the training for practitioners who are working with young people at risk of becoming domestic abuse perpetrators. This has enabled trainees to develop a greater insight into how unaddressed trauma influences the risk of abusive behaviour in later life. The research findings have impacted upon around 200 new youth practitioners since 2016. [F].

Gadd and Corr's (2017) paper [2], which uses data from the From Boys to Men Project to identify the complexity of motives that underlie domestic abuse, was converted into a two-part training video on the Drive Project's Portal for Professionals who work with high-harm, high-risk perpetrators [A].

Gadd's methodology in the From Boys to Men project was used to conduct further interviews that informed a bespoke intervention for Programme ADVANCE in 2019. Gadd trained a team to undertake interviews with couples where domestic abuse is complicated by substance dependency. The transcripts have informed the scripts of six evocative videos [A] that are the centrepiece of a new 12 week intervention for perpetrators. This intervention was subject to a feasibility study in anticipation of a randomized control trial designed to evaluate its effectiveness, but in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic NIHR requested that this be paused while a new online blended learning model be road-tested.

During the pandemic, Gadd provided a training programme to 70 Samaritans listeners in Eire, adapting research materials to help listeners respond to the increased volume of domestic abuse-related calls. A total of 72% of respondents reported increased confidence in dealing with such calls after the training [G].

(iii) **Influencing domestic abuse policy, government campaigns and accreditation standards in the UK**

Gadd's research is considered highly significant to the development of policy in government. Thangam Debonnaire MP, former Director of Research at Respect and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Abuse Perpetrators took up a placement at the University of Manchester to identify the practice and policy implications of the From Boys to Men project. Funded by an ESRC IAA award, Debonnaire worked with Gadd and Dr Rose Broad to translate project findings into guidance on working with young perpetrators and men who present as victims for Respect. Debonnaire states that "*Since the fellowship, Respect has further developed its accreditation standard - designed to ensure safe, effective, accountable work with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse - which is now better informed by research partly as a result of the fellowship and connected work*" [H]. Gadd advised on the need for support structures for practitioners undertaking the emotionally demanding work of engaging with perpetrators. The accreditation standard bears on all accredited programmes operated in the community by the NGO sector throughout the UK.

Debonnaire's fellowship at Manchester and her role as chair of the APPG on domestic violence perpetrators has ensured that Gadd's research "*is linking directly into national legislative processes and policy making and to national practice*" [H]. Further, the NSPCC AVA project, Tender project and Barnados, whose representatives attended presentations of the From Boys to Men project, cited Gadd's research findings in reports that influenced parliamentary debates on the value of sex and relationship education [I]. The research was submitted as written evidence to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry into Violence against Women and Girls (2014) and is cited in the *House of Lords House of Commons Joint Committee on Human Rights: Violence against women and girls, Sixth Report of Session 2014–15* [C]. Gadd was subsequently invited to comment on the 2018 parliamentary PostNote on 'Sex and Relationship Education' [C] and signed the cross-sector call for a 'Perpetrator

Strategy' to be included in the 2020 Domestic Abuse Bill. The REaDAPt Toolkit and recommendations were also endorsed by Liz Lynne, MEP.

The Home Office also sought Gadd's advice on the development of its social marketing campaign targeted at young men at risk of being abusive. As a result of his intervention, the Government extended their campaign so that the films included an evolving narrative rather than simply a singular scene of abuse. In December 2013 the resultant campaign, 'This is Abuse', was run in partnership with Channel 4 and MTV and generated nearly 5 million hits on its constituent YouTube videos. As Karen Bradley, MP, Under-Secretary for State at the Home Department, said in the Commons, "*Our 'This is Abuse' campaign ... is an approach informed by research into what works in changing boys' behaviour, like the Boys to Men project of Professor Gadd at Manchester University... We must engage credible voices that young people will listen to*" [C].

In October 2020, Gadd, because of his research on the From Boys to Men Project, was invited by Greater Manchester's Deputy Mayor's Office to lead a team to write the 2021-2031 *Greater Manchester Gender Based Abuse Strategy* [J]. The strategy, which will launch in Spring 2021, implements interventions that are both responsive to the diversity of needs to be found among offenders and accountable to victims and survivors. The strategy develops a 'whole system' approach to addressing abuse by engaging with over 2,000 organisations; implementing schools-based training; significant investment in public engagement to reach the 2.8 million residents of Greater Manchester; multi-agency service commissioning and evaluation; and the creation of systems for organisational learning.

5. Sources to corroborate the impact

- [A] Project resources: <http://www.boystomenproject.com/> ; <https://www.readapt.eu/> ; <https://blogs.kcl.ac.uk/advance/outline-of-advance-blog/>
- [B] NICE Draft Guidance, Domestic Violence and Abuse <https://bit.ly/32PLXVN>
- [C] Citations in Parliament: Joint Committee on Human Rights, 'Violence against women and girls', Sixth report of sessions 2014-15. <https://bit.ly/39jQlrU>; [Scottish Parliament Cross Party Working Group on Men's Violence against Women and Children](#); Westminster Hall Debate, 'Preventing Violence Against Women: Role of Men', 4 February 2016 <https://bit.ly/2OS174w>; Houses of Parliament POST Note No. 576. 'Relationships and Sex Education' <https://bit.ly/2WOUzNp>
- [D] SafeLives *Understanding Young People who Harm* <https://safelives.org.uk/node/1019>
- [E] Mentoring West Midlands <https://www.mentoringwestmidlands.co.uk/> ; Report - High Risk Mentoring: Serial Domestic Abuse Perpetrators – delivered by Mentoring West Midlands CIC in partnership with Coventry Community Safety Partnership/Police & Crime Board.
- [F] Testimonial from Respect UK, July 2020
- [G] Samaritan Training Programme Feedback Results
- [H] Testimonial from Thangam Debonnaire MP, 14 July 2020
- [I] Citations in reports: AVA Project – Final Evaluation Report, "Empowering young people to address domestic and sexual violence", <https://bit.ly/2ZPV9HW>; Barnardo's - 'What works in responding to child sexual exploitation', <https://bit.ly/39ntHnP>; NSPCC – 'Standing on my own two feet'
- [J] Testimonial from Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, 4 March 2021