

South Ayrshire Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2015

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Appendix 17 Barriers Faced by People in Marginal Groups when Fleeing or At Risk of Domestic Abuse

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Barriers Faced by People in Marginal Groups when Fleeing or At Risk of Domestic Abuse

Black or Ethnic Minority Groups

- Racial harassment
- Discriminatory employment practices
- Prejudice/stereotyping (eg compliant Asian woman, strong Afro-Caribbean woman, abuse being more acceptable in some communities, confusion between arranged and forced marriages)
- A feeling of responsibility to protect a community which is already subject to a racism as well as wanting to avoid reinforcing stereotypes of black men as being violent or dangerous
- Visibility in white communities
- Complexity of immigration legislation
- Poverty

Disabled Women

- Discrimination / oppression
- Threats from carers in own home / residential establishments (eg withdrawal of care, losing the children)
- Labelling
- Isolation
- Lack of access to support/information
- Lack of practical access to facilities
- Organisational and structural barriers
- Not being perceived as a “credible witness”
- Effects of abuse being interpreted as signs of mental illness
- Attitudes, skills and knowledge of workers
- Financial

Older Women

- Assumptions / ageist attitudes
- Difficulty in disclosing abuse to family members
- Abuse may be taking place within a residential establishments or may be from sons, lodgers etc

Lesbians

- Homophobic attitudes
- Collusion to force them to deny their sexuality
- Some lesbians who are married are abused by husbands and ex-partners
- Fear of their sexuality being used against them if abuse is reported
- Fear of losing their children
- Difficulty of asking for assistance
- The threat of exposure and possible consequences

Working Class Women

- Lack of access to employment and educational attitudes
- Lower expectations of working class women (eg in relation to parenting skills and their ability to manage money)
- Poverty
- Childcare
- Poor Housing
- Health Issues

Women Living in Rural Areas

- Lack of access to services
- Lack of information about what is available
- Increased social and family pressures to stay within a marriage
- Social attitudes of close rural communities to domestic abuse
- Confidentiality issues within small communities
- Limited public and private transport
- Difficulty contacting or visiting service providers
- Increased risk to safety from high visibility in community, lack of neighbours, delayed policy response
- Weapons on farms and estates
- Attachment to the area and way of life

Gypsy Traveller Women

- Access to appropriate information
- Accessing appropriate accommodation
- When leaving a partner, a woman leaves her whole community
- If a woman leaves she may jeopardise the marriage prospects of her daughters
- They may view their emotional needs as less important due to other pressures in their lives
- Lack of access to a phone
- Lack of cultural awareness of service providers and hence offering inappropriate and inaccessible services

Women working as prostitutes

- Men who exploit and abuse them to recruit them into prostitution
- Financial pressures
- A lack of family support
- A history of ill-treatment and abuse
- Fear of her children being taken into care
- Attitudes of workers