

## Data supplement

### Online supplement DS1

#### Service user topic guide

The response of mental health services to domestic violence: an investigation into how mental health services address domestic violence experienced by mental health service users.

#### Introduction

Explain study verbally and check participants' understanding and agreement to participate, including audiotaping of interview. Check whether they would like to have a friend or advocate with them.

#### Preamble

We know many people experience domestic violence (sometimes known as domestic abuse) and we know that they may not be asked about their experience of this abuse or asked about their safety. We would like to ask you some questions about whether mental health professionals have asked you about domestic violence and what this was like for you. I want to be sure we are thinking about similar things – what we mean by domestic violence, sometimes called domestic abuse, is being abused by another person psychologically, physically, sexually, financially or emotionally.

*There is no right or wrong answer to any of my questions.*

(1) What is your understanding of what domestic violence is?

(2) Have you ever been asked about domestic violence by mental healthcare professionals such as psychiatrists, care coordinators, etc.? If yes, what was your experience of this?

*Probe for:*

*By whom?*

*Did they speak to you about it on more than one occasion?*

*How did it make you feel?*

*Nature of the enquiry, e.g. sensitively or insensitively asked.*

*Did you feel comfortable being asked by that person?*

*Did you feel it was a good place to be asked about domestic violence?*

*Were you hoping or wanting to be asked?*

*Did anyone else ask you (any other mental health professionals/ GP, etc.)?*

*Did anyone write down what you said? Who was it?*

*Have you ever felt like you couldn't tell the worker anything? If so why?*

(3) (a) Do you think that staff should ask all clients about domestic violence?

*If not, why not? If yes, why?*

(b) Do you think they should ask only women? Only men? Or women and men?

*How do you think staff should ask about domestic violence?*

(c) Do you think staff should ask people if they have ever been violent?

(4) (a) What has been your own experience of domestic violence?

*Probe for:*

*By whom?*

*For how long?*

*Nature of violence – emotional/physical/sexual/financial/restriction of movement*

(b) Have you ever been hurt by anyone else?

(5) If participant has experienced domestic violence ask:  
Has any health professional ever known that you were experiencing domestic violence?

*Probe for:*

*How did they find out? What did they say or do?*

*Did they offer help?*

*How did you feel about it?*

(6) When you were going through that was there anyone or anything that helped?

(7) If staff know about domestic violence what do you think they should do?

*Probe for:*

*What would you want the worker to do?*

(8) Do you feel mental health professionals have given you adequate choice as to how best to deal with your situation?

(9) Is there anything else you can think of that may help people experiencing domestic violence?

(10) Have you ever come across services for people who are being hurt by domestic violence?

*If yes, what happened?*

*Probe for:*

*What was helpful/unhelpful? Did you meet with them?*

(11) Have you ever been given information about what victims of domestic violence can do or what their rights are?

(12) (a) Have you heard about domestic violence advocates?

*If no: explain advocacy*

*A domestic violence advocate provides advice, information and support to people to help them manage their situation.*

(b) What do you think of the idea of domestic violence advocates?

*Do you think you could talk with this type of worker?*

*Would you go to a domestic violence advocate for help? Why/ why not?*

(13) If such a service was funded, how would you like a domestic violence advocate to work with the community mental health team?

(a) In your mental health team?

(b) In an independent agency? (e.g. Women's Aid)

(c) In a statutory agency (e.g. police, housing office).

(d) In a one-stop shop?

*Probe for:*

*What made you pick that?*

*Which place would be the most comfortable for you?*

(14) In order to set up a study to assess whether domestic violence advocacy is helpful for mental health service users we need to have a way of deciding how helpful advocacy has been.

What do you think are the most meaningful and important ways of deciding whether or not domestic violence advocacy has been helpful?