

# Plymouth City Council Approach



*Supporting parents and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse*

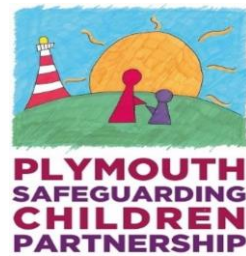
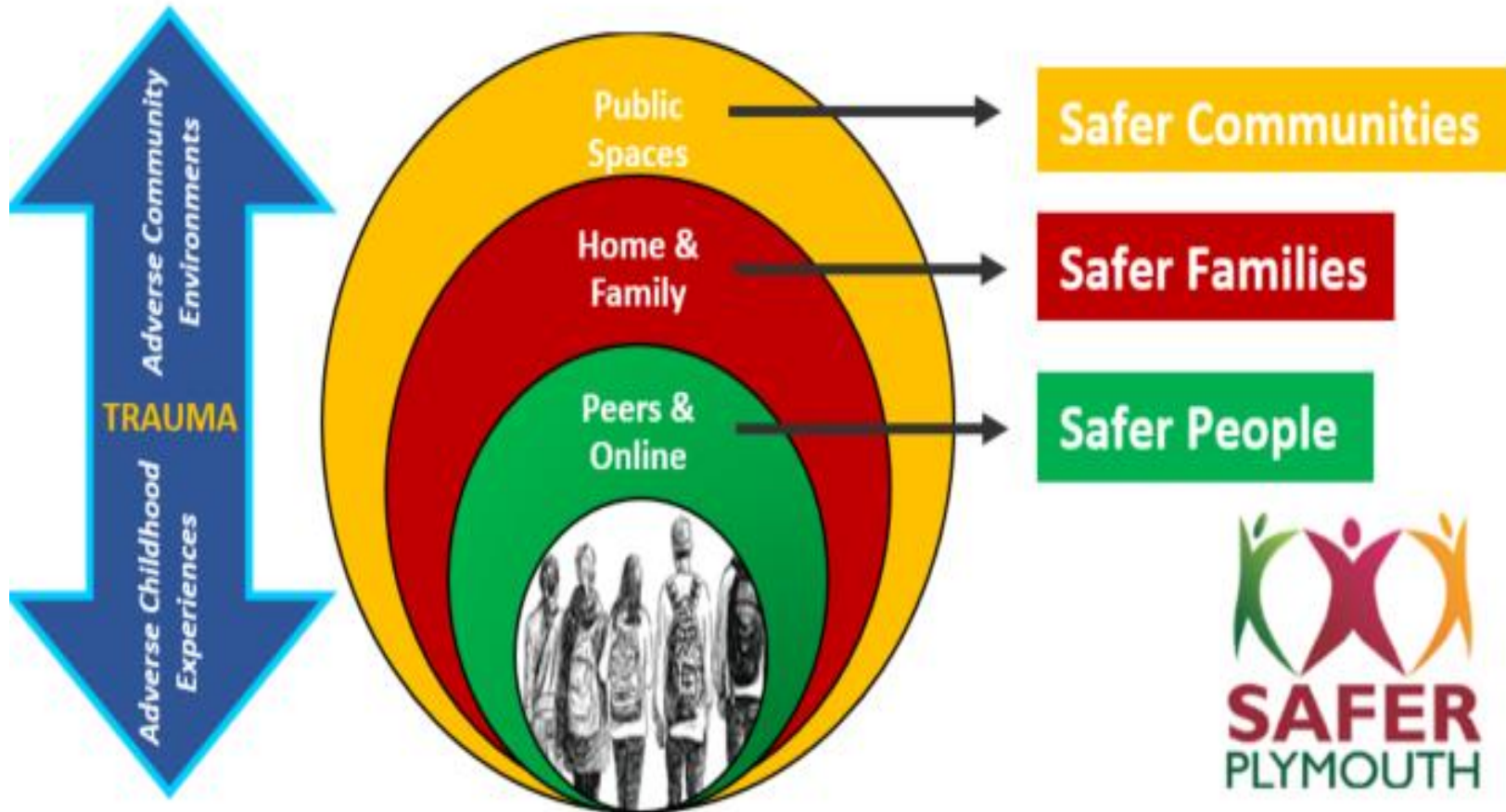
*Anna Moss – Technical Lead for Community Safety and Director of the Trauma Informed Plymouth Network*

# How we do things here



- **Partnership** Issues relating to DVA embedded in all our Safer Plymouth work:
- DASV partnership has over 50 members
- Peninsula approach to domestic abuse (EOS, Joint Posts)
- **Voice of lived experience** is a prioritised and shapes our understanding and response and is key to addressing violence against women and girls
- **Trauma informed** lens – strong representation from, and with, the Trauma Informed Plymouth Network – recognising the impact of adverse life experiences and trauma and ensuring our responses are not re-traumatising
- **A public health approach** to preventing and reducing violence – that recognises gender inequalities and considers the wider determinants of violence
- **Responsive** growing concerns about online behaviours including radicalisation and pornography and the links to domestic abuse led to a cybercrime group is being established

# Community Safety using a Trauma Lens



# Plymouth Domestic Abuse System Leadership



In January 2019, 35 people from 18 different organisations came together and shared leadership concerns about the way we were working together to tackle domestic abuse:

- There are multiple touch points where people talk and disclose domestic abuse (not just CJS, can be schools, health settings) but we don't always notice this as we are not listening in the right way
- We currently match the person to service rather than fit the service to the person and their needs
- The solution is longer term but we go for short term fixes
- We are not sure how to measure risk collectively or the impact we are looking for
- Perpetrators are very much part of the conversations and if we don't involve them we are just fixing problems
- Domestic abuse can happen to anyone but we don't act as if we believe this!
- We all have our own processes and they vary across different services which just adds to the confusion (Hester 3 Planets Model)
- There is a tension between organisational aims and systems aims which pulls us in different directions

# Appreciative Inquiry and voice of lived experience



In 2019 we listened to 150+ people with lived experience of domestic abuse, children and young people, people displaying harmful behaviour and staff working in services:

- Informal non-structured conversations, some groups; some 1:1
- Developed stories and personas and carried out extensive story telling circles
- Take time for sense making: What is this telling us about the experience of parents and children and the system? How does this make us feel?
- Shapes our response including the design of services
- Focuses our partnership activity
- Informs our challenge regarding attitudes, language and behaviour
- AI is an iterative approach which we will prioritise as a partnership when COVID allows

# What have parents and children have told us so far.....



- Not listened to
- Not believed
- Would not report to police
- Victim blaming language by 'professionals'/statutory agencies
- I'm not the right kind of victim
- Harmful media narratives
- Feel afraid, scared and ashamed
- Worry our children will be taken away
- Told our situation isn't as bad as others
- We get diagnosed with conditions and given medication
- We have to move and give up everything
- Children and young people feeling unheard and talked down to

# Examples of Delivery



- Commissioned DA service PDAS has a specialist CYP worker
- Together For Childhood – healthy relationships work in schools
- Safer Streets:
  - Bystander programmes and campaigns that engage boys and men to address gender inequalities, cultural norms and dominant views of masculinity
  - School based programmes that challenge gender inequalities and other social norms such as bullying and consent and build social and emotional life skills
- PAUSE programme
- Children’s Centres work (Real Man project joint PCC/VCSE, Recovery Toolkit Barnardo’s, Lived Experience Feedback)
- Family hubs 0-19 are an opportunity for embedding prevention and early intervention approaches
- New Safe Accommodation Strategy (DA Act 2021) recognises that:
- “Children and young people will be recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right and given access to appropriate, trauma informed support at the earliest opportunity”

# What are we worried about?



- Hidden Harms – including peer to peer abuse not classed as DA and intrafamilial abuse such as child to parent or sibling violence (many people view DA as being the same as intimate partner violence)
- Achieving quality and consistency of schools work on RSE
- Views and behaviours that align to ‘Incel culture’ and the impact this may have on serious violence and domestic abuse
- Criminal Justice processes – delays, culture, wouldn’t report – concerned that this is also seen as the main response