

Name of Project: Domestic Abuse Project (DAP)

Lead partner: Galop

Borough: Islington

Daniel

The case below is an example of one of a growing number of cases that involve supporting a victim/survivor of domestic abuse, where the perpetrator has been using 'chems' (crystal meth' and 'G). Galop has seen an increase in either/both the victim and alleged perpetrator approaching Galop for support where there is problematic use of these substances, where chems' use results in deterioration in mental/physical health, homelessness/destitution, along with an escalation in domestic abuse and increase in the risk of domestic homicide¹.

Daniel is a gay male victim of domestic abuse who self-referred to the Galop via our website. He was married to a partner for 5 years. The couple moved outside of London after a number of years but the partner became increasingly involved in the 'chem-sex' scene, leading to crystal-meth addiction. Daniel's partner became increasingly abusive and violent towards Daniel and the situation deteriorated during the first 'lockdown' where an incident resulted in an ambulance being called and Daniel fleeing their home to stay with a friend. Daniel's partner continued to threaten and harass Daniel via phone and social media, Daniel was too frightened to return home. Local police took limited action and did not pursue the case as Daniel had fled the local area and did not want to report the abuse due to concerns on the impact it might have on his career.

Galop's advocate carried out risk assessment and did some safety planning with him. The case was referred to MARAC² due to the high and ongoing risk and Galop advocated on behalf on Daniel to ensure that appropriate actions was flagged and taken, including special schemes on the temporary address. Galop's advocate assisted Daniel by making a third party report of the abuse to the police by liaising with the police MARAC representative. He also assisted Daniel to obtain a non-molestation and occupational order so that he could return to the address and work out a financial settlement with his partner. Galop also arranged for a MARAC to MARAC transfer and liaised with the local IDVA.

Consent given.

¹ <https://londonfriend.org.uk/what-is-chemsex/>

² MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference