



Course: BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care
Module: Independent Project (BMHP6020_LON)

Component 1: Element 1 - Project Proposal
The Role of Health and Social Care Professionals in Supporting
Women Victims of Domestic Abuse

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Element 1 - Project Proposal

My project title: The Role of Health and Social Care Professionals in Supporting Women Victims of Domestic Abuse

1) Aim:

The project aims to explore how health and social care professionals can support women who are victims of domestic abuse by identifying abuse signs, providing emotional and practical support, safeguarding victims, collaborating with agencies, and facilitating access to services to enhance their safety, wellbeing, and independence.

2) Objectives:

- To identify the main forms, signs and impacts of domestic abuse experienced by women.
- To explore how health and social care professionals recognise, respond to and safeguard women experiencing abuse.
- To examine emotional, practical and multi-agency support available for women victims.
- To consider barriers to seeking help and suggest improvements to safety, access and support services.

3) Background/Rationale: Recognising Risk and Supporting Women's Safety and Wellbeing

Domestic abuse is a serious health and social care issue because it directly affects women's safety, mental health and independence. Women experiencing domestic abuse may present to health and social care services with injuries, anxiety, depression, fear, isolation or reduced control over daily decisions (NICE, 2016; (2026 THE ANNUAL AUDIT, n.d.). The issue is specific to practice because professionals may be the first people to notice signs of abuse during appointments, care assessments or safeguarding concerns. Therefore, staff need to recognise warning signs, respond sensitively, record concerns accurately and make appropriate safeguarding referrals.

This is important because poor identification or delayed action can leave women at continued risk of harm, while effective support can improve safety, access to services and long-term wellbeing (ONS, 2024; Home Office, 2022; NHS England, 2026).

4) Methods:

- This project will use secondary research to explore how professionals support women victims of domestic abuse.
- Reliable sources will include government guidance, NHS documents, ONS reports, books, journals and support organisations.
- Sources from 2016 to 2026 will ensure current information.
- Key words include safeguarding, emotional support, disclosure barriers, referrals and multi-agency working.

Inclusion Criteria

- Sources published between 2016–2026.
- Government, NHS, ONS, academic journals, books, and recognised support organisation sources.
- Sources focused on women victims of domestic abuse in health and social care settings.
- Sources covering safeguarding, emotional support, referrals, disclosure barriers, and multi-agency working.

Exclusion Criteria

- Sources published before 2016.
- Blogs, opinion pieces, and unreliable websites.
- Sources not related to domestic abuse, women victims, or health and social care practice.
- Non-English sources or sources without clear evidence/reference details.

5) Resources:

- Government guidance and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 will explain legal duties and professional responsibilities.
- NHS safeguarding documents and ONS reports will show referral processes and the scale of abuse.
- Academic sources from 2016 to 2026, using ProQuest Central and Google Scholar, will provide reliable evidence.
- Women's Aid/Refuge websites, a laptop, internet, Word/Google Docs and Harvard guidance will be used.

6) Timescale:

Type of work	24.07.2026	18.08.2026	12.09.26	16.10.26	28.11.26
Chapter 1: Introduction					
Chapter 2: Background					
Chapter 3: Methods					
Chapter 4: Results and decisions					
Chapter 5: Recommendations and conclusion- proofreading					

7) Self-reflection as researcher (any strengths or challenges):

Strengths as a researcher	Challenges as a researcher
I am interested in health and social care issues that affect vulnerable people, especially women experiencing domestic abuse.	Domestic abuse is a sensitive topic, so some information may be emotionally difficult to read and analyse.
I can use reliable secondary sources, including government guidance, NHS documents, ONS reports, academic journals and support organisations.	It may be difficult to find enough recent sources that directly focus on health and social care professionals' roles.

I understand the importance of safeguarding, confidentiality and professional responsibility when researching this topic.	I need to make sure my writing remains respectful, non-judgemental and evidence based.
I can use clear keywords such as safeguarding, emotional support, disclosure barriers, referrals and multi-agency working to guide my research.	I may need to manage my time carefully to complete each chapter according to the project timescale.

References:

Home Office (2022) *Domestic Abuse Act 2021: Statutory guidance*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021> (Accessed: 15 June 2026).

NHS England (2026) *Safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk in the NHS: Safeguarding accountability and assurance framework*. Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/safeguarding-children-young-people-and-adults-at-risk-in-the-nhs/> (Accessed: 15 June 2026).

NICE (2016) *Domestic violence and abuse*. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs116> (Accessed: 5 July 2026).

Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2024) *Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2024*. Available at:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2024> (Accessed: 15 June 2026).

Women's Aid (2026) *The Annual Audit 2026*. Available at:
<https://womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Annual-Audit-2026-Web.pdf>
(Accessed: 5 July 2026).