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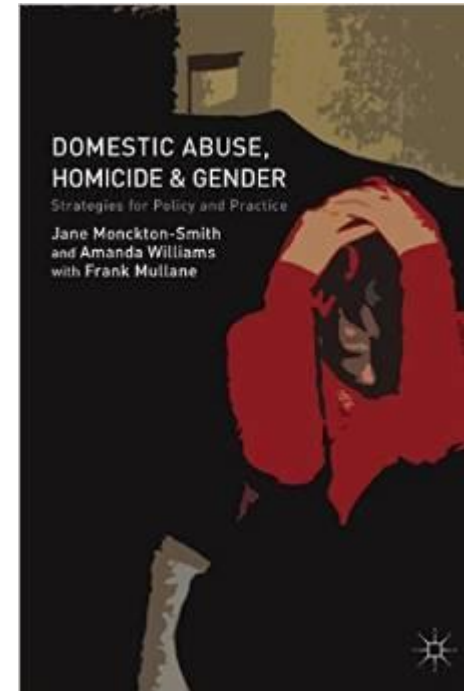
Dr Jane Monckton Smith

 **DART**  
**DOMESTIC ABUSE**  
**REFERENCE TOOL**



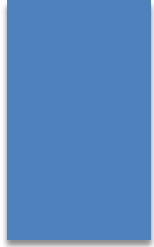
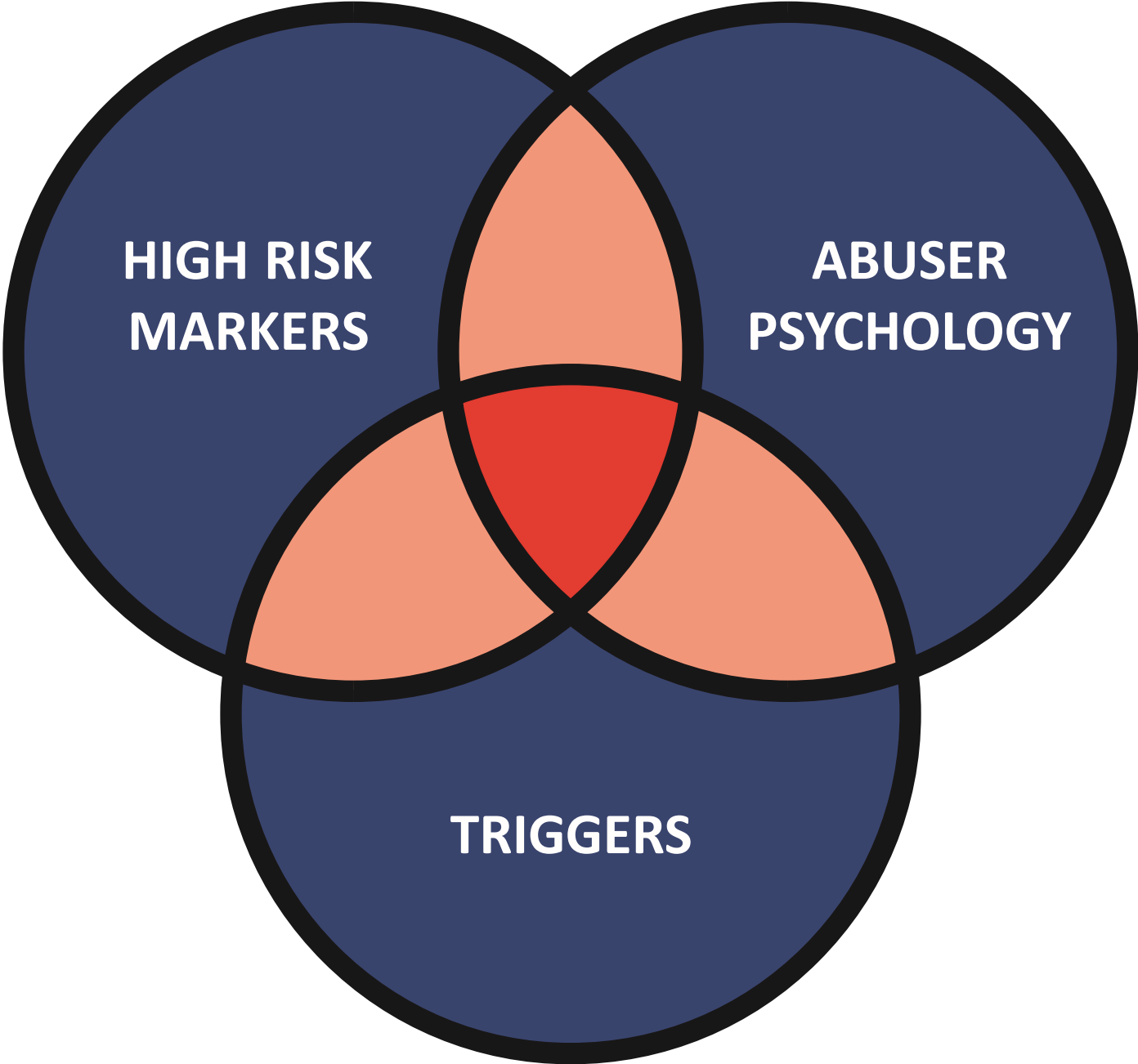
# Research

- ▶ DOMESTIC ABUSE, HOMICIDE AND GENDER: STRATEGIES FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE
- ▶ Monckton Smith, Williams and Mullane Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan



# Why do we need to understand coercive control?

- ▶ Predicts homicide more effectively than violence by six times
- ▶ New definition reflects its importance
- ▶ Emerging findings from Domestic Homicide Reviews support international findings
- ▶ Course of conduct legislation – stalking and coercive control – reflect its importance
- ▶ HMIC inspections 2014 – suggest we don't understand DA
- ▶ Extant research/risk assessment checklists support the centrality of coercive control in domestic homicide and high risk abuse



# Perpetrators

- A recognisable psychology which is 'who they are'
- Deep seated fear of the victim leaving
- Unable to take rejection or challenge
- Obsessive, repetitive, compulsive behaviours

# Victims

- Skilled manager of a dangerous individual
- Someone who has had their ability to make choices taken away
- A life dominated by fear and the needs of the perpetrator

# WHAT DO THEY CONTROL?

- S** SPACE
- T** TIME
- A** ACTION
- R** RESOURCES
- E** EMOTIONS

Through the use of FEAR – violence is not always necessary, but it is effective in creating fear



# HEADLINES FOR RESPONDING

- ▶ REMEMBER THAT THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE VICTIM IS THE ABUSER
- ▶ ABUSERS ARE NOT LOSING CONTROL WHEN THEY ARE VIOLENT OR HOMICIDAL THEY'RE EXERTING CONTROL
- ▶ THE VICTIM IS NOT RECKLESS IN FAILING TO LEAVE, BUT WE MIGHT BE IN EXPECTING THEM TO
- ▶ THE VICTIM HAS A STRATEGY FOR MANAGING THE DANGER – WE SHOULD WORK WITH IT
- ▶ The whole point of coercive control is to stop the victim leaving

# How does DART help?

DART is a response model and app developed from research with professionals, victims and people bereaved by homicide, which helps with:

- ▶ Understanding domestic abuse, stalking and coercive control
- ▶ Understanding perpetrator behaviour
- ▶ Responding to victims
- ▶ Gathering evidence for prosecutions
- ▶ Developing a knowledge of threat assessment
- ▶ Easy access to information via an App and Support centre
- ▶ Bespoke guidance as per force or organisational policy
- ▶ Master classes covering all of the above

# THE DART APP

Coercive  
control

Victim care  
and  
information

Offender  
guide

Evidence  
gathering



FAQs

# Menu

- ▶ Strangulation evidence aid
- ▶ General guidance
- ▶ Interview guide for coercive control/ course of conduct offending

## Strangulation Evidence Aide

- Note changes to the voice
- Does the victim have difficulty swallowing?
- Is there any difficulty breathing?
- Nausea or dizziness?
- Are there any marks on the victim's neck? Note and photograph if possible
- Redness swelling or bruising on the neck?
- Defensive injuries
- Petechiae (tiny red spots) in the eyes or on the neck
- Injury to lungs or fluid in the lungs
- Memory loss
- Loss of consciousness
- Loss of bowel or bladder control
- Follow up photographs when bruising may appear
- How did the victim feel during the assault?
- Did they think they might die?
- What was said by the perpetrator, before, during and after the assault?
- Always consider corroboration

# Victim Care and Information

- ▶ Stalking – high risk characteristics
- ▶ Stalking – advice for the victim
- ▶ Cyber stalking – potential behaviours
- ▶ Cyber stalking – advice for the victim
- ▶ Useful phone numbers
- ▶ Interviewing victims
- ▶ Validation and rapport
- ▶ Male victims

## Cyber Stalking: Advice for the Victim

- Maintain a log of all contact or tracking online
- Evidence can be deleted – take screenshots where you can
- Try to limit or delete personal information available about you online. This includes not publishing on social media
- Be aware that others can 'tag' you or your activities
- Change your passwords regularly and adjust your privacy settings
- Use and update anti-virus software
- Do not accept any options on your computer to remember your passwords or username
- Always clear your search history
- Contact the ISP to inform them of cyberstalking
- Keep any emails and do not forward original emails to anyone else
- Remember everything you post on social media may be seen by the stalker
- Carefully manage what you put online (even privately)
- Consider all advice from Card 8



# Supporting information

- ▶ When you get the card up on your phone you can press each section to receive further more detailed information
- ▶ Information available on other public protection areas like CSE and sexual assault
- ▶ Cards updated with latest information
- ▶ A support centre where you can ask questions or share information

**F**

**Frightened**

Is the victim very frightened?

**E**

**Estrangement or its threat**

Has there been a separation, or is one imagined or planned?

**A**

**Aggression, Control and Violence**

Is there disclosure of aggression, control or violence happening at any time? (including sexual violence)

**R**

**Repeat Abuser**

Has the alleged perpetrator got a history of abuse in this or any other relationship?

**S**

**Stalking /Harassment**

Is there any stalking or harassment occurring?



# DART

## DOMESTIC ABUSE REFERENCE TOOL

