

Exploring the place of violence within the lives of women who are domestically violent: how do support services communicate with female perpetrators within West Yorkshire?



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Summery

- Background
- The Research
- Harmful Repercussions: overcoming the potential impacts upon research participants
- Conclusion: creating policy relevant data

‘I always thought it was most of the women who got the violence, like it always says on the telly. People always think it’s women that get badly beaten up, it isn’t, it’s men as well, ‘cos I’ve done it actually to [my husband]. You don’t realise that ‘till you go through it yourself. They always think the men are the bad ones, but it’s half and half’.

(Taken from MA dissertation, interview with participant April 2006)

Background

- Interpersonal violence is widespread, effecting approximately one third of the population at some time in their lives (Mirrlees-Black & Byron, 1999).
- It is estimated that one in five women and one in ten men have been victims of domestic violence in their lifetime (Walby & Allen, 2004).
- In today's society men are conventionally seen as 'perpetrators', women as 'victims'. Domestic violence is widely recognised as a gendered phenomenon; abuse, power and control are conceptualised as 'male' (see Miller & Meloy, 2006).
- The voices of violent women have been systematically silenced and misinterpreted.
- Women's experiences are ignored and distorted in the courtroom, the media and public mind. Public representations of battered men and aggressive women are trivialised, caricatured and mocked.

BISH!

EastEnders hardman Ross battered by his MISSUS



Ross & Rebekah

BASH!



Alison & Steve

EastEnders hardman Steve battered by HIS ex-Doris

BOSH!

Are the EastEnders hardmen just a pair of big girls' blouses?



Steve & Ross

By JEFF EDWARDS
EASTENDERS hardmen Ross Kemp and Steve McFadden yesterday took a real life pasting...from their women.

Kemp, 41 - who plays bullet-headed Grant Mitchell - nursed a cut lip after a bust-up with his wife, Sun editor Rebekah Wade. Wade, 37, was arrested and held for eight hours before being freed without charge.

Hours later McFadden, 46, who plays Grant's "bruv" Phil, was punched in the face by former lover Angela Hootock, 29, at his old home in North London.

The double whammy left TV rivals mocking the Mitchells. One scriptwriter said: "These are supposed to be TV's toughest guys. At least it proves they're acting."

WOULD YOU ADAM & EVE IT! SEE PAGES 4 & 5

TROUBLE 'N' STRIFE

The Daily Mirror (Friday November 4, 2005) p.4 & 5



FURCHED Steve McFadden smiles alongside ex-wife Angela Bostock, who hit him



HOW IT MIGHT HAVE LOOKED..
Bostock and Ross spurs up in our Queen Vic take-off

BISH! EastEnders' Ross calls 999 after his wife 'splits his lip'

BASH! Five take her to the cops arrive and station at 4am

BOSH! Hours later TV brother McFadden is punched in face by ex

TV's toughest brothers lost their street cred yesterday when both were walloped by their real-life "Doris".

SMACK! EastEnders' hardman Ross Kemp, who plays inebriate-jacked Grant Mitchell, ended with a cut lip after being hit by his wife, film editor Rosemary Kemp.

He called police who arrested Wade for alleged assault, and was later sent home from hospital because he was so "driven".

BANG! Steve McFadden, who plays Kamp's screen brother Phil, was punched in the face by his former girlfriend Angela Bostock in a slugging match in front of police outside the home they used to share.

Angela, 38 - mother of McFadden's two children - was arrested and cautioned.

The drama came a week after the brothers returned to the soap with the immortal greeting to their mother Peggy "Hello mum".

But yesterday there was no Peggy helpfully taking their side. Instead the boys were ridiculed for making a mockery of their mother's screen image.

A reader's web correspondent said: "If we wrote this story people would laugh at us. It doesn't look that great, does it? There are supposed to be the toughest tough guys of the small screen. At least it proves they're acting."

Five officers dashed to 41-year-old Kemp's home in Battersea, South West London, after he called them at about 3am.

By ROY DOUGLASS and STEPHEN MOYER

Officers to Wandsworth police station where she was held for eight hours before being released. No further action will be taken.

Father: It is believed she met disgraced former Cabinet minister David Blunkett - who resigned as Work and Pensions Secretary - for

a couple of drinks - like their alleged a vodka and cigar party hosted by FBI guru Matthew Freud before dinner at a fashionable London restaurant.

After being freed from police custody yesterday she failed to attend a Women of the Year lunch at London's O2 Arena.

It is understood that bullet-headed Kemp turned up for filming yesterday for his

R&B action movie Ultimate Force. But he was so upset he was sent home. Wade, Kemp and The Boss - which has campaigned against domestic violence - did not comment.

Wade and Kemp met at a golf tournament 12 years ago. They became engaged the following year, but called it off 18 months later.

They eventually married at a quiet Lee Vague ceremony in June 2002. A month later,

they held a post-wedding party for 40 guests, including leading politicians and celebrities, at London's exclusive Four Seasons nightclub.

Hours after yesterday's early morning drama it was McFadden's turn to be on the receiving end of a woman's fury as he sat home in East Princeside North London.

Angela still lives in the house, but McFadden, 45, is not allowed in the hallway

instead, he had access to the garage where he stores some of his belongings.

On Tuesday, the couple allegedly had a shouting row after the sight of Angela's modelling through his window.

McFadden "charged" the garage lock. On Wednesday Angela reportedly charged Davis again. Yesterday McFadden asked the police to escort him to the house as he could

Angela install new locks. A slugging match broke out between the couple which ended in Angela punching her former lover in the face.

She was arrested and taken to a police station where she admitted the attack, agreed to a caution, and was freed.

Answering the door of her home, she said: "I'm Angela Bostock, what did you expect - I usually leave? I haven't got anything to say."

A police source said: "Apparently there's a history of argument and dispute between the pair."

McFadden warned he was unwilling to live in a house where his former lover had a lock on a garage. He wanted to have his house searched for evidence. While he was there his former partner never left.

The feud got so bad another row was staged almost two weeks ago when McFadden failed to return to the stage at the Royal Variety Show, and McFadden, 48, decided to



Mum, Shattit. It was a Doris.. she's one of the Wapping gang

ROSS: The Queen. He's all doing fine. Peggy is cleaning glasses. Grant usually through door, must get into it.

PEGGY: Grant darling? What's wrong?

ROSS: I've been rough tonight.

PEGGY: You've been rough tonight?

ROSS: I said leave it.

PEGGY: Back in the Square I've mistakes and you've already settling scores.

ROSS: It won't be like that, OK?

PEGGY: He's a better and come round here looking for revenge too.

ROSS: HE won't come back for no one.

EPISODE WRITTEN BY SIMON BRADY

PHIL: Oh my God. You've only gone and killed him tonight!

GRANT: Mum, listen.

PHIL: I know one day all that R&B treating would push you too far and you'd rip a tank apart.

GRANT: (Shouting back at her) Mum, Shattit. It was a Doris.

PHIL: (Pointing back at her) Doris. Oh my God.

GRANT: But it's OK. The Bill's called 'er.

PHIL: You want a woman to tell you, and she's a

You left Walford as the Krays.. you've come back as The Beverley Sisters

still walking? You've brought shame on the Mitchell name.

GRANT: Mum, you don't know her. She's one of the Wapping gang. Where you from?

PHIL: (You gonna rip her head off and stick it where the Sun don't shine)

GRANT: This ain't right.

PHIL: You see how you don't know how to treat up a friend?

GRANT: (You gonna rip her head off and stick it where the Sun don't shine)

PHIL: (You gonna rip her head off and stick it where the Sun don't shine)

GRANT: Any chance of a farewell drink?

PHIL: There's two. But you come on up. Pink

PHIL: Leave it, alright.

PHIL: Well at least I know you ain't been hit by no Doris.

PHIL: Oh God, I've cracked a pair of corners. Right that's it. You're back, mate! The Square.

PHIL: AND GRANT? But we've just come back.

PHIL: (To the girls) You lot, Walford as the Krays. You've come back as The Beverley Sisters. How wonderful.



McFadden told Angela at a party in 1998. After Angela gave birth to Thomas the other night, McFadden began a relationship with her. He was not arrested but will not comment.

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Current Interpersonal Violence Research

- Our understanding of domestic violence has relied on a wide variety of evidence from clinical observations to narrative accounts of victims and batterers, the experiences of advocates and quantitative data gleaned from police and medical sources (see Kimmel 2002 for a review of the literature).
- However, accurate, reliable data on violent women is fragmentary and difficult to examine. The hidden, complex nature of domestic violence has meant that statistics are unreliable and incomplete (see Walby & Allen, 2004).
- Expanding upon the current limited knowledge base, my research endeavours to comprehend the motivations and context of violence within the lives of women who perpetrate both physical and psychological abuse towards their intimate partners. The role of support services within West Yorkshire and the factors that contribute to the perpetration of abuse will be analysed.



Research Methods

- As a result of working with a Leeds based women's anger management counselling centre for my MA research, I have formed a close relationship with the centre, and will be able to use this association in order to gain the consensus and support of other local projects, charities and support services.
- Despite obtaining a partial understanding of interpersonal violence, close collaboration with West Yorkshire support services, purposive and snowball sampling will allow me to gain access to female perpetrators who would have otherwise remained out of reach.
- Qualitative depth interviews, visual research methods and self-help group observations will be combined, and a standpoint feminist approach employed to allow for a deep-level contextualised analysis, and to afford a voice for deviant women who are socially marginalised.
- In focusing upon the small-scale, this sample will add to existing knowledge by supplying an intensive, richer understanding of intimate partner violence.

Harmful Repercussions: overcoming the potential impacts upon research participants

- Despite the best intentions, there is always the danger that research findings will be misconstrued or deliberately used against vulnerable populations, even when every effort is made to protect and inform participants.
- I have little control over the use of findings once in the public domain. With such a great media interest surrounding the issue of female violence, the collective interests of women, not merely individual interests are at risk.
- Ethics will form a central, ongoing role throughout, as participants will be guaranteed full confidentiality during the research process. Asking women to participate in such a study when many would have been maltreated, abused and exploited in the past will mean that I have to approach participants with great sensitivity and care.
- All depth interviews and observations will be conducted at the counselling centre. In addition to lowering the cost of the study, this will allow intimacy and privacy throughout the research process, as interviews will take place in a safe environment, away from the domestic sphere.

Creating Policy Relevant Data

- Current intervention policies take a ‘one size fits all’ approach to perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Specific, marginalised groups of perpetrators are not catered for; current programmes experience low or intermittent funding, and struggle to assist same sex couples, women from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, women of varying ages and those with disabilities.
- It is hoped that this presentation of new policy-relevant data will be used as the basis for further research in the field, and will benefit the academic community, policymakers and intervention services.
- It is imperative to give validity to marginalised, deviant women whose voices are not heard elsewhere.
- Increased understanding of perpetrators is needed in order to promote and guarantee the safety of those in danger of violence. By neglecting to recognise or assist female offenders, feelings of self-blame, self-hatred, mistrust and fear will be perpetuated.

Participatory Research

- If research is to be accurate and effective in conscious raising and policy making then it is imperative that the researched are involved in the research process.