

## ‘Through their eyes’: virtual experience as a help-seeker of domestic violence and abuse

### Summary

Virtual Reality (VR) has been called an “empathy [and] empowerment machine” for its potential in eliciting deeper feelings of emotional identification.

This pilot study worked with partners from criminal justice, health and safeguarding practitioners to evaluate the use of VR to improve the response to victim-survivors of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV).

Utilising VR as a training tool, the immersive nature of VR enabled help-providers to experience a disclosure of abuse ‘through the victim-survivor’s eyes’ and understand how practitioner behaviour influences the nature and direction of help-seeking at different stages in the help-seeking journey.

All practitioners involved in the pilot evaluation commented on the impactful nature of this prototype for training, and on the level of realism and emotional investment in the scenario.

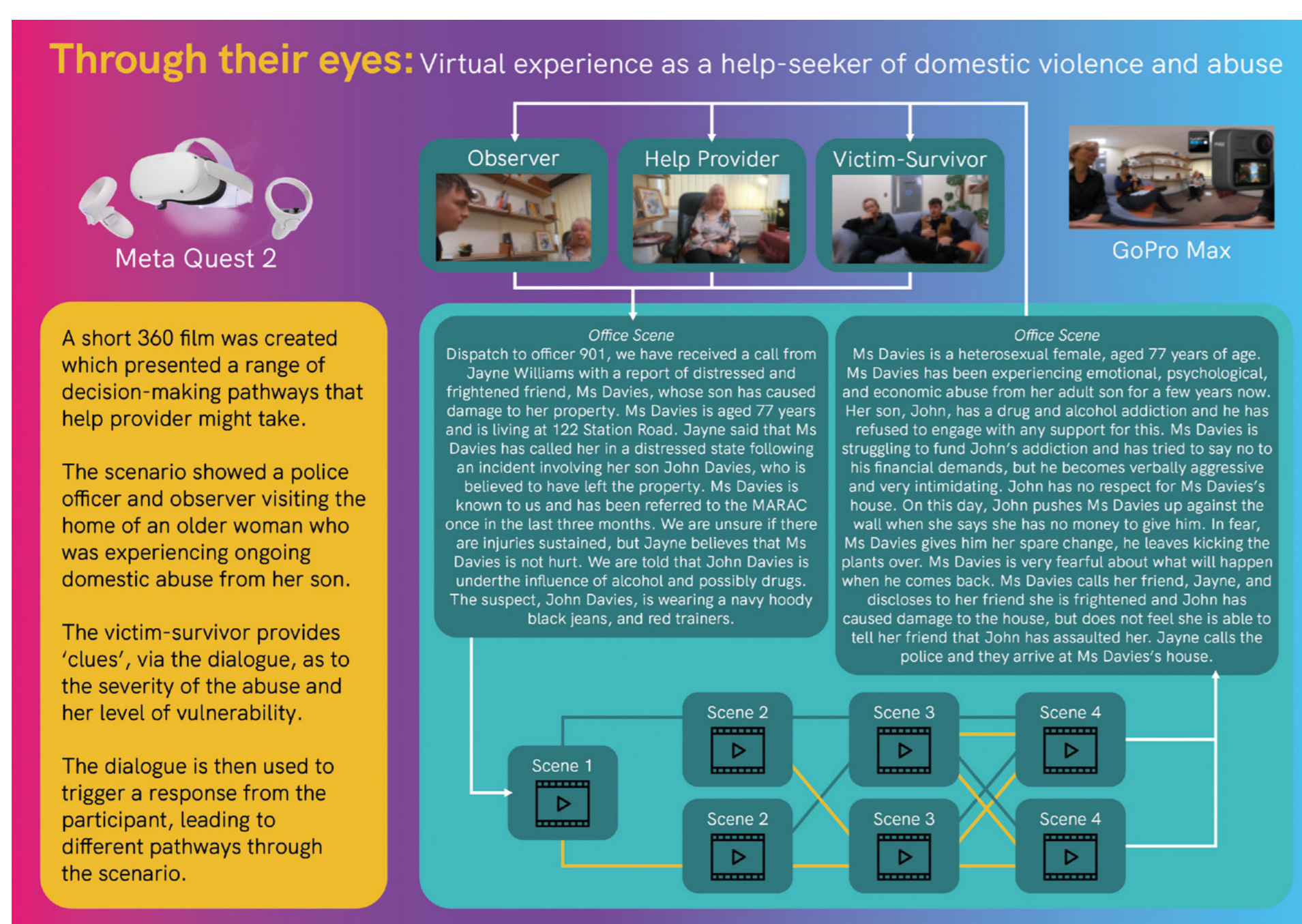
### Benefits

The funding has allowed us to engage with local partners and make a key contribution to a new and more immersive training tool which has wider application across police, criminal justice, health and safeguarding perspectives.

This type of work is unique in the VAWDASV sphere and currently is used to build empathy in health settings.

### Further exploitation/next steps

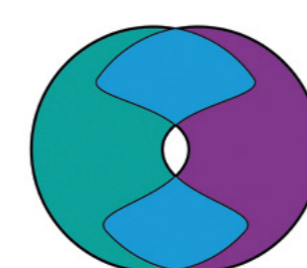
The funding has generated considerable interest and help to secure a buy in of potential funders for the next steps in the development of this innovation.



### Investigators:

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### Project group



Dewis Choice



BUILDING HAPPIER, SAFER & STRONGER LIVES



Dewis Choice, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) in Mid and West Wales and Aberystwyth University