

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**28 JANUARY 2015**

### **DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress regarding the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership.
2. The Safer Communities Strategy Board has oversight of delivery of the Leicestershire Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy. The Domestic Abuse Partnership delivers this strategy and will report on a regular basis to the Board on progress, risks and issues with regard to Domestic Abuse.

#### **Prevention**

3. The partnership continues its work to embed awareness raising and early identification of domestic abuse to assist prevention. In conjunction with the City Domestic Violence Delivery Group and funded through the Ministry of Justice competed fund the Partnership has launched a 'How Many Times' awareness campaign regarding domestic abuse and sexual violence.
4. The campaign was developed through engagement work with survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and the 'How Many Times' theme will continue to the end of March 2015.
5. Embedding the use of the CAADA DASH (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment) risk assessment was included as a recommendation in both Domestic Homicide Reviews published in 2014. A programme of training for partner agencies to support implementation has been organised by the County Council and funded by the Safeguarding Board and the County Council.
6. To the end of December 2014 13 DASH sessions have been run, resulting in 331 frontline workers and managers trained to understand and complete DASH Risk assessments in their setting. A further 5 DASH for frontline workers sessions are planned for the remainder of the financial year.
7. This training includes train the trainer sessions to support the sustainable approach to use of DASH within organisations, and a support network for partner agency DASH trainers is being explored.
8. The Partnership is continuing to develop support pathways for children & young people, to ensure there is a clear and consistent approach across agencies to responding to young people directly affected by domestic abuse. The

development work is considering how the response links in with social care and early help services and processes, including links with the approach to Child Sexual Exploitation. Mapping of journeys for high risk young victims of domestic abuse is currently being carried out to inform this.

9. An approach to sharing information on domestic abuse incidents with schools (Operation Encompass) has been agreed by the Safeguarding Boards. This will involve details of incidents being shared from the police with First Response, who will then share with schools.
10. Implementation of Operation Encompass in the County is likely to commence by April 2015, pending changes to roles in First Response. Implementation will include provision of information and guidance for schools and will be reviewed later in the year to assess the cost and effectiveness of the approach and consider further roll-out to early-years settings.
11. The Police Domestic Abuse Support team are working alongside project 360 (see below) and on a daily basis carrying out reviews of all domestic incidents and crimes where we have had three repeats in a year, they complete a master working sheet and make recommendations to local officers. An area of improvement is the pathway for these victims to be shared at local JAGs as often the household have a number of issues that need to be addressed.
12. The application and gatekeeping processes for the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) to inform people of abusive pasts of current partners is embedded.
13. Across the police area to date there have been 89 DVDS requests, the majority of which have resulted in the person at risk being supplied with relevant information.

### **Engagement**

14. The partnership is piloting new approaches to engage people in support, particularly to support early intervention.
15. Project 360 funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner through Ministry of Justice funding following a successful partnership funding bid has now been operating for around 3 months. As previously reported the project is trialling an enhanced service for some repeat victims of domestic abuse to support their engagement in support and the criminal justice system to improve outcomes for them and their families.
16. Victim Engagement workers from specialist domestic abuse service backgrounds are co-located with the police domestic abuse team. The workers follow up repeat victims of domestic abuse within 24 hours of a report to the police, making contact with the victim to offer information, advice and support to encourage them to engage with the police, CPS and local support services.
17. The project is funded to run until the end of March 2015, although opportunities to extend it are being explored. It includes a full research evaluation being carried

out by the University of Leicester, which is attracting international interest as one of the largest research studies regarding domestic abuse.

18. Early findings from the project indicate more positive outcomes for those receiving the enhanced early intervention service, however this is based upon very small numbers.
19. A pilot of IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) in A&E has been running for several months now, this has been resourced by City and County IDVA services from within their current capacity. The pilot has been supported by A&E staff and a number of victims have been identified and appropriate referrals made, with an increase to the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference). A full evaluation now needs to take place to establish benefits against cost and capacity.
20. A police Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence prevention and engagement officer role is being considered at this time, to support engaging partners both statutory and voluntary sector across Force area, raising awareness of DV and SV, and raising awareness of services available.

### **Enforcement**

21. Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) are now well established processes across the Force area with good support from the Court Services. To date we have had 58 DVPO requests, there has been a 100% success rate with granting the DVPO's and 7 of the orders have been breached.

### **Commissioning**

22. Following the report to the last meeting the review of VCS funding in the Children & Families department in Leicestershire County Council has identified no reduction in funding to domestic abuse (and sexual violence).
23. The Council has been developing its commissioning in line with the Commissioning Framework endorsed by the Board at its last meeting.
24. In order to build resilience, address increasing demand, develop flexibility in service delivery, incorporating learning from schemes such as Project 360 the County Council is working with Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to commission joint sexual violence and domestic abuse support services for adults across the area, to be in place from October 2015. This commissioning process will be led by the City Council.
25. Leicestershire County Council will be also be commissioning the following services on a Leicestershire County basis on the same timetable:
  - Domestic abuse refuge provision
  - Domestic abuse family support

26. The proposal regarding family support is to commission a single family support service linked to Early Help provision. This would prioritise families with 0-2 year olds, provide some direct delivery of support to families and prevention education, but also have a capacity building and consultancy role to integrate and embed domestic abuse support within early help provision.
27. A joint consultation with stakeholders on this approach is being led by the City Council and will run from around the 21st January to the start of March.
28. Further work will be carried out with districts regarding the need and options for enhancing services locally. Transition arrangements are being put in place to ensure minimum disruption between April and September 2015, where contracts end in March 2015.
29. A more detailed summary can be found at Appendix 1.
30. SARC commissioning is on-going at this time NHS England are being very supportive and we are looking at various premises in which we can move the SARC from, currently based at Juniper Lodge but with no opportunities to expand facilities to improve services to victims. A regional SARC meeting is planned for March with paediatricians from across the region looking at how we can improve paediatric services.
31. Crisis workers that will support rape victims have now been funded by NHS England; Crisis workers will support victims in the first few hours of a report through the medical stage before an ISVA is assigned. The Police are working with NHS England on job description and the HR process.

### **City & County Delivery Groups**

32. With greater alignment of approaches, as seen through the campaign work and developing joint services the County Domestic Abuse Partnership is looking at aligning meetings with the City Domestic Violence Delivery Group, the intention is to run the meeting with three sections, a City section, City & County section and a County section. In addition a joint group considering the approach to sexual violence will be set up.
33. This structure will be put in place from February 2015. The Domestic Abuse Partnership will remain a sub-group of this Board and continue to report on a regular basis.

### **Key Risks**

34. As reported in the performance paper the number of referrals to domestic abuse services has increased slightly. This increase in referrals has meant that support services remain stretched, despite some increases in resources for 2014-15 only, and individual services reviewing working arrangements. Work is underway to understand the potential service gaps in the new service arrangements from October 2015 and in the transitional period.

35. The commissioning arrangements will represent significant changes in service provision across the sub-region. There is a risk for disruption of services and pathways from this change. We will be working with partners and providers to manage this change and any transfer of service that occurs as a result of this broad re-commissioning.

### **Recommendations**

36. It is recommended that:

- (a) The Board notes the progress of the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership;
- (b) The Board notes the key risks with regard to domestic abuse at this time.

### **Officer to contact**

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## **Appendix 1 – District & CSP update – Domestic Abuse Commissioning 15 Jan 2015**

### **Summary**

In order to respond to increased demand for service, build resilience, develop flexibility in service delivery and incorporate learning from schemes such as Project 360 Leicestershire County Council is working with Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to commission joint sexual violence and domestic abuse support services for adults across the area, to be in place from October 2015. This commissioning process will be led by the City Council.

Leicestershire County Council will be also be commissioning the following services on a Leicestershire County basis on the same timetable:

- Domestic abuse refuge provision
- Domestic abuse family support

A joint consultation with stakeholders on this approach will be led by the City Council and will run from around the 21<sup>st</sup> January to the start of March.

Further work will be carried out with districts regarding the need and options for enhancing services locally.

Transition arrangements are being put in place to ensure minimum disruption between April and September, where contracts end in March.

### **Background**

In response to increasing demand for services and changing funding situations, including the new role of the Police and Crime Commissioner in commissioning victim and witness support services, Leicestershire County Council has been working in partnership with other commissioners to develop a framework for commissioning domestic abuse support services and review service provision.

A number of elements of current domestic abuse and sexual violence support provision come to an end in or around September 2015 and The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner also has a commitment to commission support services for those affected by sexual and domestic violence across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland from October 2015.

This presents an opportunity to work together to make the most of the resource we collectively have available and to share our learning from previous contract management, stakeholder engagement and service user feedback.

The changes, coupled with funding reviews has led to an uncertain and changing picture for these services and the commissioning of these, as potential approaches become more or less viable as things change.

## **Current plan**

With the resolution of some of these processes the approach to commissioning of domestic abuse and sexual violence services in the areas has now become clearer.

Leicestershire County Council is working with Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to commission joint sexual violence and domestic abuse support services for adults across the area, to be in place from October 2015.

The commissioning of this will be led by the City Council.

This joint approach would include the following core activities:

- a 24-hour helpline service
- Face to face support
- Support for third parties (friends, family members, colleagues)
- Information on options available, including for those concerned about own behaviour or local practitioners
- Safety planning and risk assessment (CAADA DASH)
- Support planning, key working and support co-ordination
- Advocacy
- Individual and group support
- Appropriate therapeutic support
- Attendance at MARAC, the Specialist Domestic Violence Court
- Neighbourhood profile/ networking
- Gendered provision

These sexual and domestic violence service activities could be provided within one 'lot' (contract) or be divided into different elements. It could be all inclusive for sexual violence and domestic violence or keep the two separate. It could include therapeutic support or again keep this separate. However the more divisions or 'specialisms' retained, the less realistic the model may become both in terms of finance and positive service user experience of support across all needs.

Leicestershire County Council will be also be commissioning the following services on a Leicestershire County basis:

- Domestic abuse refuge provision
- Domestic abuse family support

The proposal regarding family support is to commission a single family support service linked to Early Help provision. This would prioritise families with 0-2 year olds, provide some direct delivery of support to families and prevention education, but also have a capacity building and consultancy role to integrate and embed domestic abuse support within early help provision.

## **Consultation**

Leicestershire County Council's public consultation on the Early Intervention & Prevention approach and funding to the Voluntary & Community Sector has encompassed domestic abuse and sexual violence support services.

A joint consultation with stakeholders on this approach will be led by the City Council and will run from around the 21<sup>st</sup> January to the start of March. There will also be consultation with service users in this time.

## **Service capacity**

At this time we know the single Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland service will be able to cover the current capacity of support funded through the County Council as well as offer increased flexibility and opportunities to roll out new ways of working such as the current victim engagement Project 360. Some more work is required to identify whether the service would be able to cover the capacity currently funded through other sources, particularly district councils and Community Safety Partnerships. This will not be known for certain, until potential providers have identified what they will be able to deliver as part of the commissioning process, however we are working on estimated capacity to support the way forward.

This may mean that local areas identify a need to enhance provision locally. If that is the case three options to allow for this to happen within a cohesive framework and pathway for support are outlined below:

**Option A:** Include an option in the single service contract for districts to buy-in greater support capacity in their district.

**Option B:** All districts contribute a proportionate amount to the service (to be determined) to ensure there is sufficient capacity to address needs.

**Option C:** All district agencies sign up to the framework and pathways for support, and requiring this of any funded/commissioned service.

These options will be discussed further with district colleagues, as will key characteristics of the service and requirements districts would like to see in the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland service.

## **Transition arrangements**

For April to September 2015 a bridging contract for family support across the county and adult outreach support in Harborough, Melton and Oadby & Wigston will be set up.

County Community Safety Funding for domestic abuse support will be devolved to other districts in order to continue current arrangements.

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner is looking at transition funding for key services that currently end in March 2015.