

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

17 SEPTEMBER 2015

DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE

Introduction

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

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Commissioning

3. Leicestershire County Council has been 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. As part of the partnership agreement in place for this, Leicester City Council are leading the procurement and contract management.
4. Having run the tender exercise we are now progressing to award to United Against Violence and Abuse Limited (UAVA Ltd), with the service set to commence on the 1st December 2015. We are still going through the final stages of contract award with some final due diligence still required.
5. UAVA Ltd are a consortium organisation of established local providers of sexual and domestic violence services (Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd (WALL), Living Without Abuse (LWA) and FreeVA (Free from Violence & Abuse)) and their proposal involves a wider array of specialist service providers from the local area.
6. We are confident that both incoming and outgoing providers will work together in the best interests of those affected by sexual and domestic violence. As joint commissioners we will be supporting UAVA Ltd to successfully implement this project, which we are very excited will mean a simplified, flexible and accountable high quality specialist service for anyone affected by these issues across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
7. We are planning to continue use of existing domestic violence helpline numbers, which are widely known, and also expect to have ownership of a freephone (0800 80) number for that line.
8. We will be communicating further details in due course as the implementation of this service progresses.

9. The County Council Community Safety Team will bring together district and other commissioning colleagues to discuss capacity of the service and elements of implementation, such as co-location.

Support for Children affected by domestic abuse

10. Leicestershire County Council are finalising their approach to use of funding for support for Child secondary victims regarding domestic abuse.
11. The Council has been working toward a strategic approach that is based upon the growing recognition that domestic abuse is a child welfare and safeguarding issue and a key part of children's services business.
12. The Council's intention is to have a specialist team within Children's Services whose role includes some direct support for children, but with a greater focus on upskilling and building the confidence of the Children's workforce broadly, across partners with regard to domestic abuse and embedding interventions regarding domestic abuse within the children's workforce approach.

Delivery Plans

13. The Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland combined Domestic Violence Delivery has developed its delivery plan – the final draft is attached at Appendix 1. This plan is based upon discussion and input from all partners and incorporates key areas of work across the areas, and aims to make the best use of bringing together approaches and resources.
14. A joint Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Sexual Violence Delivery Group has also been set up and has developed a delivery plan across the areas. This is attached at Appendix 2.

Delivery updates

15. Project 360 is a project working to support engagement of repeat victims of domestic abuse in support and the criminal justice process, through specialist engagement workers co-located with the police. This was previously funded by the Ministry of Justice to the end of March 2015, which included a research evaluation being carried out by Leicester University.
16. The first preliminary report of the scheme is out and shows some positive early outcomes from the project. The summary of this report is attached at Appendix 3, the full preliminary report is available on request. The final research evaluation reports will be produced when longer term outcomes information is available. This is likely to be in 2017 although further interim reports will be produced before then.
17. This Project is being funded to continue for the remainder of this year by the Police & Crime Commissioner, and further funding for this approach for 2016/17 is being considered.

18. Operation Encompass is a scheme to share police information on reports of domestic abuse with schools, where children of school age are in the household. This commenced in Leicestershire County in September 2015 with a review and evaluation plan in place.

Key Risks

19. The number of referrals to domestic abuse services has continued to increase. This increase in referrals has meant that support services remain stretched.

20. 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. Partners will be working together, with providers to manage this change and any transfer of service that occurs as a result of this broad re-commissioning.

Recommendations

21. It is recommended that:

- (a) The Board notes the progress of commissioning regarding domestic abuse;
- (b) The Board notes the Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Delivery Groups action plans and updates on delivery;
- (c) The Board notes the key risks with regard to domestic abuse at this time.

Officers to contact

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Appendix 1 - Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland DVA Action Plan 2015-2016 (FINAL DRAFT v7 04/09/15)

Priority Area	Action	Lead	Additional area specific detail
<i>Strategic Priorities</i>	<i>The key actions for the current year to achieve the priority area</i>	<i>To co-ordinate others where necessary</i>	<i>Any additional or specific areas of focus across the region</i>
1. Increase the number of people accessing specialist services	1. Deliver a Communications Strategy to launch the new specialist services for the City, County & Rutland	S McBurney	
	2. Deliver a campaign to target DV perpetrators	L. Sharman	Rutland – MOD base
	3. Encourage reporting by victims and third parties across all protected characteristic groups and other identified under-served populations	(TBC)	County – Polish City – Disabled People (HMT social media), LLR – 16-18 year olds LLR – Forced Marriage
2. Improve support for victims and their families	4. Ensure that the roll out of Victim First and Project 360 (from RTC) integrate positively	S Down	Rutland – MARAC roll out pilot
	5. Pilot IRIS/HERMES in GP surgeries	M Bhavsar	
	6. Pilot DV worker in Leicester Royal Infirmary	M Clayton	
	7. Improve health and well-being outcomes for victims	M Bhavsar	
3. Improve safety of victims	8. Agree a share anonymous data set for repeat/non-repeat victims to identify if there are particular circumstances related to this group or sections within it	J.Starbuck	
	9. Identify issues which relate to victims not being eligible for or able to receive a service (including establishing a data set)	J Fox	
	10. Map and check efficacy of pathways for adult and child safeguarding in relation to domestic violence	J Starbuck	
4. Effectively manage perpetrators to reduce harm caused	11. Reduce the offending of DV perpetrators through IOM	J Starbuck	
	12. Agree a shared data set for adult DV perpetrators	J Starbuck	
	13. Increase number of families where perpetrator and victim are both engaged in intervention/support to change	(TBC)	
	14. Develop a Police Innovation Fund application	D Pancholi	
5. Improve confidence within communities and satisfaction of service users	15. Increase understanding of what impacts on positive CJS outcomes	L English	
	16. Increase understanding of barriers to help seeking	S McBurney	
	17. Plan a conference (to take place April 2016) to highlight local practice and encourage involvement in partnership work	S McBurney	
6. A strategic and co-ordinated response	18. Develop the local workforce	J Young	
	19. Sign off the Inter-Agency Strategy	J Fox	
	20. Identify University support for research into a new identified area of need	S McBurney	

Appendix 2 - Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Sexual Violence Action Plan 2015-2016

Priority Area	Action
1. Build on learning and impact from Ministry of Justice Competed Fund SV Projects	• Develop additional website content.
	• Expand work in Rutland.
	• Agree consistent validated outcome measures for therapeutic services.
2. Promote services across LLR combining campaigns	• Building on events and campaigns, including photo shoot involving sports teams.
	• New media and traditional media maximised.
	• Improve engagement to increase BME reporting across agencies.
	• Ensure all activity reflects the diversity of our communities across LLR.
3. Open a new SARC	• Recruit and embed crisis workers into response
	• Develop clear pathways with Victim First and SV/DV providers.
	• Identify a data system for SARC.
4. Improve understanding of sexual violence victim and perpetrator profiles	• Identify opportunities for involvement and feedback of consultation for service users.
	• Increase number of agencies collecting data, in line with Commissioning data.
	• Develop an agreed data set.
5. Joint Commissioning	• New services procured.
	• Communication strategy.
	• Ensure joint working protocols are in place.