

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

17 MARCH 2016

SEXUAL VIOLENCE DELIVERY GROUP REPORT

Introduction

1. The Sexual Violence Delivery Group brings agencies together across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland to address Sexual Violence. The Police have been working with NHS England to commission a new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in line with NHS guidance.

Notable developments and challenges 2015/16

2. In the past year we have seen an increase in numbers of reports of serious sexual offences being reported to Police and SARC. Alongside this there has been an increase in the number of mental health issues that are being highlighted.
3. The SARC opened on 4th March 2016 following significant work to ensure that the SARC is in line with the NHS operating standard. This required relocation of the SARC to ensure it provided excellent facilities for victims of sexual assaults and to ensure the continued and developing service it provides.
4. The new Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support service commenced on 1st December. This brings together the helpline and support approaches for those affected by sexual violence across the sub-region. It puts support services for those affected by sexual violence on a stronger footing.

Plans for 2016/17

5. The draft plan of the SVDG was updated at the group's development day on 15th February. This is attached at Appendix 1.
6. As well as the key development actions in this plan, particularly relating to raising awareness of sexual violence and the new service, there are some key challenges regarding the SARC in the coming year.
7. The Police and NHS with partners will be working to ensure that the new SARC, which has now been relocated, provides the very best service to victims of serious sexual crime. A key part of this is developing the provision of Crisis Workers for out of hours. Whilst there is provision in place, this has proved a

challenge and there is further development of this required, as this is a recommendation of the NHS guidelines.

8. There is a gap in emotional support services for under 13s affected by sexual violence. Options are being considered linked to the provision of forensic examinations for children currently based in Northampton.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that:
 - a) the Board note the update from the Sexual Violence Delivery Group
 - b) the Board comment on forward plans and challenges regarding sexual violence.

Officer to Contact

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