

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

2 JUNE 2017

LSCSB UPDATE: DCLG Complex Need Refuge Service Provision

Background

1. In November 2017 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced funding for one year for specialist accommodation based support. A successful joint funding bid for £300k was submitted by Leicestershire County Council's Community Safety Team in partnership with domestic abuse leads from Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland.
2. The fund was open to a range of proposals from local partnerships that demonstrated how the needs of victims could be met through collaborative working across local authority boundaries to provide or support the provision of refuges or other accommodation-based support services with specialist support. It was also open to proposals for services which enabled victims to access this accommodation-based provision.

Partners

3. Leicestershire County Council
 Leicester City Council
 Rutland County Council
 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
 Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd (WALL)
 Panahghar - Specialist BME Partner
 Turning Point - Locally Commissioned Substance Misuse Provider
 Leicestershire Partnership Trust – Locally Commissioned Adult Mental Health Provider (LPT)
 New Dawn New Day.

Needs Assessment

4. Established national research provides strong direction for Local Authority improvement plans aimed at addressing the impact of parental mental health and substance misuse on the care, stability and protective factors for children.
5. Local data shows that percentage of victims who disclose difficulties with their mental health is far higher than in other areas of the country. LLR Safelives Insights data for Quarter 3 2016/17 showed that 22% were recorded as

experiencing mental health issues and 7% were recorded as self-harming or a history of self-harming.

6. Further monitoring figures illustrate that women are turned away from refuge because of their level of need; for the period December 2015 to September 2016, the network received 23 referrals with mental health as a support need and 11 referrals where substance misuse was a support need. Of these, 6 women with mental health needs, and 7 women with substance misuse needs could not be found suitable accommodation, despite the search for accommodation being nationwide.
7. Leicestershire and Rutland Public Health Commissioners are developing a Strategic Action Plan focussing on the cross cutting issues of domestic abuse, mental health and domestic violence. This LLR Action Plan will lay the foundations for longer term collaborative working practices which address these interrelated themes.
8. Furthermore Leicestershire County Council has developed an Action Plan focussing on the “Toxic Trio” of Domestic Abuse, Mental Health and Substance Misuse; this work has been led by Children and Family Services and engages Adult Social Care, Community Safety and Public Health.
9. Local and national Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) findings consistently point to escalating risk experienced by victims from BME communities, victims (and perpetrators) with a history of mental health and substance misuse. Each of these factors has been shown to exacerbate vulnerability and isolation. These complex needs are reflected in data provided by BME Refuge provider Panahghar from 2015/16.

The Funding

10. The DCLG funding will enable:
 - 10.1. A 9 bed complex needs refuge setting offering 24/7 specialist support and clinical assessment and interventions through Women’s Aid Leicester/shire (WALL)
 - 10.2. Extension of the scope and resilience of 12 bed BME Specialist Refuge Provision through Panahghar
 - 10.3. Extension of the scope and accessibility of the existing commissioned refuge services in Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley. The pilot of an innovative ‘trauma informed’ model of 1-2-1 “pre-therapy” work and additional training for staff
 - 10.4. Cross boundary protocols and shared learning across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland sub-region and the East Midlands

Panahghar Support

11. This aspect of the service consists of 12 bed Refuge provision which includes both self-contained and shared accommodation. The service is accessible to BME women who in addition to fleeing from domestic violence and abuse have further complex needs. This includes risk from Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage, Mental Health, Substance Misuse and women with No Recourse to Public Funds.
12. This Service will be staffed from 9.00am – 5.30pm Monday with an out of hour's telephone support provision for residents thereafter (5.30pm – 9.00am) and weekends.
13. The service will work in collaboration with the specialist staff from both Turning Point and LPT to develop and implement an individual support plan for service users.
14. Panahghar will use information relating to the referrals background, history in refuge accommodation and immigration status to carry out additional checks before admission as part of the initial referral assessment.

WALL Support

15. This service comprises a 9 bed Refuge which will be accessed by women fleeing domestic abuse who are additionally vulnerable due to mental health and substance misuse. This service is staffed 24/7.
16. WALL will work alongside Turning Point and LPT to implement an individual support plan for residents.

Turning Point Support

17. Turning Point Recovery Workers will offer substance misuse cover for 3 fixed days per week 9am to 5pm, the allocated workers will be contactable via email and mobile if advice or further support is needed. Workers will deliver 1 to 1 interventions for service users and where required group interventions. These will take place at the refuge.
18. Recovery Workers will sign post to mutual aid other groups available in our city and county hubs. Additionally, support will be offered for those affected by someone else's substance misuse via our family and carers programme.
19. Turning Point also have links with other agencies such as Revolving Doors (housing support), Working Links (support back into employment), Age UK, where their skills and knowledge will be utilised to help individuals. Recovery Workers will have access to these add on services.

LPT Support

20. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust is the secondary care support for people living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who have an identified mental health need that can be treated with psychological support and possible medication.
21. The Band 6 mental health practitioner will be provided from the existing Criminal Justice and Liaison Mental Health Team. They will provide support and cover to women, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays, from 9am until 5pm and be based on those days at the WALL refuge. The worker will spend time between the WALL and Panahghar refuges.
22. The practitioner has skills in undertaking mental health needs and will conduct mental health assessments including risk assessments. Following this they will initiate an appropriate care plan in collaboration with the client; with the aim to improve the women's mental health and associated risks in relation to her current situation. The care plan will focus on the needs of the client and what they want from the intervention.
23. Once a woman has left the refuge it is expected that she will be discharged from the care of the MHPs working in this service, however, if identified and with agreement, women can be referred to main stream mental health services; a handover of care would be arranged. Discharge will be discussed with the patient and the senior practitioner along with the refuge staff, if it is felt that they no longer need MHP input whilst at the refuge. A variety of pathways maybe considered at that time, including the voluntary sector, GP or further secondary services.

New Dawn New Day Therapeutic Support

24. New Dawn New Day is a charity providing holistic and therapeutic support to women who present with complex needs. As a partner in the project New Dawn New Day will provide training to the domestic abuse networks on the trauma-informed system of care. New Dawn New Day will deliver training in the form of workshops for frontline and leadership / management staff to raise awareness of trauma and trauma-informed working as well as support participants to develop a more coherent response to trauma within their organisations.
25. As a provider of specialist domestic abuse counselling, New Dawn New Day will also provide additional therapeutic support to the women at the WALL and Panahghar refuges in the form of 1-2-1 "pre-therapy" sessions. This work will lay the foundation for women to positively engage with the existing specialist services offer.

Sustainability

26. Project Partners are planning to sustain this project beyond March 2018 by facilitating a well evidenced case for future “spend to save” investment by local commissioners. Partners are confident that the model will provide a strong evidence base for strategic commissioners to retain co-location and proactive outreach elements of the model.
27. Public Health Commissioners in the sub-region already show a strong strategic interest in the cross cutting impacts of domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse. Turning Point, Leicestershire Partnership Trust and their public health and CCG commissioners have a proven interest in meeting the needs of the cohort targeted within this project, offering opportunities for additional innovation during the lifetime of the project and beyond.

Recommendations for the Board

That the Board notes the contents of the paper.

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