

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

4 SEPTEMBER 2017

LSCSB UPDATE: DOMESTIC ABUSE

Background

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on developments, challenges and opportunities regarding partnership domestic abuse and sexual violence projects and commissions. This will encompass the United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA) specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence contract, as well as other projects and funding streams overseen by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Joint Commissioning and Assurance Board (JCAB).

Introduction

2. In December 2016, the first LLR commissioned Specialist Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service was launched. The service supports *primary* victims aged 13 and over.
3. The UAVA contract is funded by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Authorities, in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Contract management is fulfilled by Leicester City Council whilst partnership oversight is maintained via the JCAB, attended on a quarterly basis by representatives from each of the Commissioning Partners.
4. The JCAB function ensures that:
 - a. all Commissioners are afforded suitable access to information about the contract (including issues as they arise);
 - b. they have the opportunity to shape dialogue with providers when concerns are identified and
 - c. a forum to coordinate informed decision making is provided.
5. The JCAB is kept abreast of performance issues and trends via the Leicester City Council Contract Management Team. The JCAB now has access to 18 months of LLR service and demand data, which will inform the onward commissioning cycle.
6. The JCAB is also used as a forum to maintain communication between community safety commissioning leads and to plan, prepare and deliver large scale common funding bids to Central Government.

Notable Developments

UAVA Contract Variation

7. In light of increased demand and the overall decrease in local resources available to victims' domestic abuse services, a variation to contract has been agreed by the members of the Joint Commissioning & Assurance Board (JCAB) in conjunction with district council CEOs/lead members across the sub-region.
8. The decision followed a resource analysis of the 20 months before the contract began, which concluded that current conditions impacted heavily on the ability of the service to meet victims' needs.
9. A further increase in demand is anticipated following a policy change on pre-screening referrals from the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) by Leicestershire Police. This change was required in line with formal guidance from Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) following local inspection. Leicestershire Police Domestic Abuse leads have advised that a further 200 MARAC referrals are expected every 6 months. To offer context, the national standard setting organisation, Safe Lives, states the safe maximum case load per Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) should be between 80 -100 per year.
10. Additional Partner contributions agreed for 2017-19 are as follows:

Commissioning Partner	Amount per annum 2017-2019	Agreed usage
OPCC	£111,125.00	200 additional domestic violence 'High Risk' (DASH) cases per year (£27,781.18 for 4 - 50 additional face to face cases multiplied by 4)
OPCC	£16,000	8 additional survivor groups a year @ £3,261.86 each = £26,094.88
Leicestershire County Council	£16,250	
Leicester City Council	£16,864.89	
	£160,239.89	

11. To ensure the implementation of funds is effective, and benefits are seen as swiftly as possible, the JCAB have agreed an additional layer of scrutiny via the monthly Improvement Board. This will run alongside the quarterly JCAB meetings, which oversee the wider contract.
12. Although additional funds provided via the contract variation will have a reduced impact due to the increased flow of referrals from Leicestershire Police, it is anticipated the funds will enable UAVA to return the response time to 48 hours (in line with national guidance).

13. In recognition of growing cost and a limited public purse, JCAB has begun preparations to review and recommission local services with revised services planned to launch in April 2019. Despite difficulties, JCAB officers agree that the advent of the UAVA consortia has been a positive development for the sub region. This has resulted in strong, collaborative arrangements, limiting duplication and promoting a strong victim focus.

UAVA 360 degree review

14. JCAB officers have worked together for the last 18 months to navigate and address issues presented by the UAVA Contract. One of the tools employed has been a “360 degree” review, which enables service users, staff and stakeholders to describe their experience of the UAVA service and share comments and suggestions to shape future delivery.
15. Results from the survey indicate that 65% of stakeholders are satisfied with the service their service users have received. However, comments received suggest that issues have arisen due to concerns about unsatisfactory standards of communication. Demand may be affecting the flow of information across agencies which make up the consortia. In summary, whilst UAVA is delivering quality support, stakeholders and service users have experienced frustrating delays in accessing the service and with communication.
16. The results from this survey will be fed back to the services providers and will help shape any services LLR partners may commission in the future.

UAVA Improvement Board

17. The Improvement Board will provide additional scrutiny of the performance of the UAVA contract, and support the provider to realise improvements in the key areas of business where services are not at satisfactory levels. It will also monitor delivery of the additional capacity funded by the contract variation.
18. The Improvement Board will create, and subsequently monitor, an Improvement Plan. Feedback from County service users, as well as District and Leicestershire County Council Practitioners, has been used to shape the plan. The Domestic Abuse Reduction Coordinator has fed in comments from a variety of forums and sources to ensure representation of County concerns.
19. The monthly Improvement Board provides an opportunity for UAVA directors to meet with representatives for each of the Local Authority Commissioners and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. A key aim is to improve communication between Commissioners and the Provider and, through such efforts, affect more timely and robust improvements.
20. A Leicestershire County Group has been established with representation from each District and Borough; the concerns and issues from this group are fed into JCAB and the Improvement Board by the County Council representative.

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Grant funding bid – Victims with Complex Needs

21. The JCAB remit includes maximising resources available to victims of domestic and sexual abuse across LLR.
22. JCAB representatives consulted with partners to shape and submit a shared bid to the DCLG “**Domestic Abuse Fund for refuges, specialist accommodation based support and service reform**”, which aims to extend the services available to victims of domestic abuse with complex needs.
23. Partners agreed that the focus of the partnership bid should be victims of domestic abuse who also present with mental health or substance misuse needs. This fits in closely with “Trilogy of Risk” agenda championed by Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Boards as well as on a corporate basis.
24. Leicestershire County Councils’ Community Safety Team led this work. The funding bid was successful and LLR have been awarded **£300,000** for a 13 month project, due to conclude in April 2018.
25. The projects aims are:
 - i. To deliver a coordinated response for women fleeing violence and abuse who are additionally vulnerable due to complex needs, including mental health and substance misuse needs, and with no recourse to public funds. The project forms part of a wider national network of refuge resources for survivors of domestic abuse with complex needs, as well as being accessible to residents of LLR;
 - ii. To enhance partnership working between domestic abuse, mental health, substance misuse and Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) No-recourse to public funds specialists, via the development of a co-located multi-disciplinary team;
 - iii. Improve resilience of local services to meet the needs of victims of domestic abuse who are at further risk due to their mental health, substance misuse or immigration status;
 - iv. To coordinate opportunities for skills/knowledge transfer between the specialisms, building a confident and informed pool of practitioners who can champion change and raise awareness within their respective organisations. This will include 1-2-1 coaching and the delivery of group training sessions;
 - v. To introduce trauma informed working principles to project partners and implement trauma informed practice into domestic abuse refuges in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland; and
 - vi. To capture and quantify the social and economic value offered by a model which addresses the needs of a cohort who might otherwise access many

high cost public services and interventions, e.g. police call outs, emergency department (ED) and mental health crisis beds.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Grant Funding Bid –Transformation Fund

26. In February 2017, JCAB partners submitted a successful bid to the Home Office VAWG transformation fund. The bid was planned and constructed by JCAB Officers and local stakeholders, and led by the OPCC.
27. The LLR “VAWG No More” Project received **£600,000** for the period November 2017 to March 2020 (the sixth highest award nationally).
28. The LLR “VAWG No More” Project is a ‘whole system’ approach, encompassing Police, MARAC, Specialist Domestic Abuse Providers and other voluntary sector contributions. It is designed to deliver preventative approaches that contain and de-escalate risk at an earlier stage. It aims to maximise opportunities for early intervention and acknowledge additional barriers victims may experience to access support and safety, including a specific focus on BME victims of domestic abuse.
29. A deliverable of the project is to undertake needs and local profile analyses and build the first LLR VAWG strategy, to shape and co-ordinate existing provision. This is being overseen by senior strategic leads at the LLR Domestic Violence Executive, which was founded in April 2017.

Recommendations for the Board

30. That the Board notes the contents of the report.

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