

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD:
1 DECEMBER 2017

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE UPDATE

Purpose and Background

1. This report details the structures in place and significant workstreams being undertaken with regard to Domestic Violence and Abuse across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. In the main this relates to multi-agency work and is not locality based.

Domestic Sexual Violence and Abuse Executive Board

2. This Board, which is chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Rob Nixon, was established in April 2017. Its objective is:

To prevent harm and reduce the risk of Domestic Violence and Abuse including Sexual Violence and Abuse within Domestic Incidents. To promote the wellbeing of victims and families, by providing Governance and Coordination across multi-agency, commissioned and voluntary services.

3. The group is attended by senior managers from Local Authority Children and Adult social care departments, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authority Public Health departments, Local Authority Community Safety departments and Leicestershire Police. It has commissioned a Domestic Abuse Strategic Needs Assessment that is currently in draft form and has been circulated to members of the Executive. This document is extremely comprehensive and draws upon information from statutory, commissioned and voluntary agencies. The Executive has a working strategy but the longer term strategy is to be drawn up as a result of the completed Strategic Needs Assessment.

Domestic Sexual Violence and Abuse Operations Group

4. The Abuse Operations Group reports into the Abuse Executive Board. A decision was recently made to hold both closed meetings and open meetings of the Group, both bi-monthly. The closed meeting has members from the same organisations as the Executive, but at a middle management level. The open group has the same members as the closed, but with the addition of representatives from commissioned services and the Third sector.
5. The Operations Groups has a development plan which is mature and progressing well. It is considering themes such as communications strategy, perpetrator management and diversion and victim and family support. The

Operations Group will be responsible for formulating the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse strategy from the Needs Assessment and proposing it to the Executive Board for approval.

Violence Against Womens and Girls (VAWG) Fund Project Board

6. The Partnership, led by the the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, was successful in bidding for funding from the Government VAWG fund and was awarded £600k. The Project Board is responsible for delivering the strands of the project, such as half a post MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) manager, 3 partnership posts to join the Domestic Abuse Support Team, assertive outreach for victims, mentoring and community champions and therapeutic and support coordination. Finally, University research is being undertaken to establish what support and counselling works best. The VAWG Project Board reports to the Domestic Sexual Violence and Abuse Executive Group.

Marac Operations Group (MOG)

7. This group reports to the Domestic Sexual Violence and Abuse Operations Group. It has been re-invigorated and is seeking to improve the outcomes as a result of couples being referred to MARAC. Currently, it has been assessed independently that local MARAC arrangements sufficiently address the guidance set nationally by Safelives. However, it is the aspiration to create a structure which is able to undertake daily MARACs. Currently all aspects of MARAC are funded by the Police. This is at odds with other areas in the East Midlands region. Initially the VAWG fund will assist to support this funding gap.

Joint Commissioning and Assurance Board (JCAB)

8. The JCAB oversees the UAVA contract which provides a number of support functions to Domestic Abuse and sexual abuse victims including the 24/7 helpline and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA). The group is made up of the the organisations which fund the contracts.

Domestic Abuse (DA) Health group

9. The DA Health group was set up originally to resolve recommendations arising from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and other non-statutory reviews. The terms of reference and the continuation of the group are currently being considered.

Summary

10. Domestic Abuse causes significant harm to individuals and communities. Its prevalence is endemic; Leicestershire Police alone are called to over 14000 incidents per year. The impact on families and in particular children can not be underestimated. A recent LLR Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) review concluded that, on average, 2 children per year die in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland with the modifiable factor being Domestic Abuse. This is in

addition to many people, mainly women, being murdered as a direct result of Domestic Abuse.

11. The creation of a single structure to coordinate the multi-agency response to Domestic abuse is intended to ensure that as a partnership we provide the best level of service to reduce the harm domestic abuse causes.

Recommendations for the Board

12. That the board note the contents of the report.

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