

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

23 MARCH 2018

LSCSB UPDATE: LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE – DOMESTIC ABUSE

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the board on recent and current activity relating to Domestic Abuse.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

2. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection. In the past year Leicestershire Police has been inspected twice by HMICFRS as part of the Inspectorate's PEEL regime and a follow up visit in relation to Child Protection. Domestic Abuse was in both cases a focus of attention. Both inspections went well and received positive feedback. Pressure on the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) was noted by the Inspectors due to the increased number of high risk cases. The force has responded by increasing resource in the DAIU. Other areas of focus include seeking to improve arrest rates as well as improving charge and conviction rates.
3. Implementation of DA Matters Training. Following the successful pilot of this training programme in 2017, the force has invested in delivering the training to a further 450 officers involved in the initial response and investigation of domestic abuse. The training is co-delivered by SafeLives, Leicestershire Police trainers and representatives from United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA). The programme includes a "train the trainer" element which allows both the police and UAVA representatives to deliver the training in the future without SafeLives. The training is immersive and impactful, focusing on the effect of coercive and controlling behaviour on victims and perpetrators. Feedback from officers attending the training is extremely positive and demonstrates that the training has a direct impact on officer's understanding of behaviours and situations.
4. MARAC Manager. From the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) No More Project Funding a MARAC Manager post has been established to lead a review of MARAC and associated processes to improve the effectiveness of MARAC. The review is reporting to the MARAC Operational Group. One of the main objectives is to achieve a multi-agency daily review of high risk domestic abuse cases, improving the timeliness of partnership working and safeguarding of victims and their families.

5. Integrated Offender Management (IOM) ADAPT Pilot. DCI Paul McKinder (IOM) is leading a pilot project to increase the number of Domestic Abuse Perpetrators managed with IOM. ADAPT stands for Adult Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Team and is team which will work alongside the established IOM team. This positive and progressive move is designed to target domestic abuse perpetrators who currently do not meet the multi-agency IOM criteria, but still present a high risk requiring proactive management. The team have identified a cohort of perpetrators who in the past 12 months have required police attendance on multiple occasions. ADAPT will work in conjunction with MARAC to ensure that high risk perpetrators are identified and managed. Offenders will be managed in accordance with current IOM best practise, utilising identified pathways out of offending and seeking to engage perpetrators in order to create behaviour change.

Coming Year

6. Continued review of MARAC in conjunction with VAWG No More Project Funding. The MARAC Manager will continue to review MARAC and make recommendations on improving processes and effectiveness both internally from the police perspective, but also across the partnership. This post is part funded by the VAWG project and the remainder of the funding is provided by Leicestershire Police. Discussions have commenced with representatives from Adult and Children Social Care, and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and University Hospitals Leicester to develop options for the remaining funding, potentially exploring options around a secondment model. The aim being to create a multi- agency MARAC team that reviews high cases on a daily basis.
7. Development of Safeguarding Hub. Leicestershire Police has commenced a project to develop a Safeguarding Hub. This project will take a phased approach, initially to review and change internal structures in relation to adult vulnerability. This will include MARAC, Domestic Abuse Support Team, Adult Referral Team, PAVE Team and the Mental Health Triage Car. The objective is to better coordinate resources and identify opportunities for partner agencies to engage with this team. In the long term, there may be further opportunities to combine with the Children's Hub and create a combined Safeguarding Hub. The project is also exploring opportunities to improve the links between a centralised hub and locally based problem solving arrangements such as JAGs and Community Safety Partnerships supporting an early intervention approach.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

8. Changes to MARAC. The aim of the MARAC review is to explore opportunities to improve exchange of information and pathways between agencies. This will include the development of a multi-agency team to review and respond to incidents of high risk domestic abuse on a daily basis. There is funding available through the VAWG No More Project, but this will require a change to current working practises and structures for partner agencies.

Recommendations for the Board

9. To note the above update.

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