

## **LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**

**1 OCTOBER 2018**

### **LSCSB UPDATE: DOMESTIC ABUSE**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the current Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DA/SV) service, advise of the forward plan for the redesign and recommission of the service post March 2020 and to inform the Board of a bid that has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

#### **Background**

2. A [Sexual and Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland \(LLR\)](#) was completed in 2017. This has been the basis for providing much of the local evidence of need.
3. With a new commitment to establish a sub-regional strategy rather than authority specific approach, a [Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy \(2018-2021\)](#) has been developed.
4. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the prevalence, likelihood and harm of domestic and sexual violence and abuse with particular focus on prevention, early identification, reducing harm and supporting recovery and resilience through a partnership approach. The Strategy is overseen by an Executive Group which has clear reporting lines into the Strategic Partnership Board (a Chief Officer Board chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner).

#### **LLR SV/DA Service**

5. During 2015 a joint commissioning exercise between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Leicester City, Leicestershire County and Rutland County councils was undertaken to commission a single domestic abuse and sexual violence information and support service across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (where much disparate provision previously existed).
6. The service comprises of a Public and Professional's Telephone Helpline, Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs), Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs), Recovery Outreach for those at standard/medium risk (including group work) and Therapeutic Support.

7. The contract (TAN02015) was awarded to a consortium of local specialist providers, United against Violence and Abuse (UAVA), made up of Living without Abuse (LWA), Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd (WALL) and Freeva.
8. information about the UAVA offer and to download guidance and resources visit [www.uava.org.uk](http://www.uava.org.uk)
9. There have been a number of challenges; frequent concerns reported by professionals about inconsistent service and communication, particularly in relation to the reliability of the helpline function have led to the formation of an Improvement Board and Improvement Plan governed through the Joint Commissioning and Assurance Board (JCAB) and chaired by Leicestershire County Council.
10. The Improvement Board has been working to mitigate risk, to understand the difficulties UAVA are having and offer support; significant time and resource has been invested to understand demand and barriers to effective working, additional funds have been invested and the data burden has been lightened by creating a route for raw data to be provided and analysed by the contract management team. This has led to improved outcomes.
11. It is important to note that demand has increased during the contract period; following a policy change by Leicestershire Police there has been a 60% increase in high risk assessments and MARAC referrals by the police; a decision to move to weekly MARACs means IDVA's are having to attend more meetings and there has been a 61% increase in domestic violence crime and a 23% increase in sexual violence crime across the sub region.
12. The 2018 – 2019 Leicestershire and District Overview of UAVA Performance Data for Quarter 1 is attached at Appendix 1.

### **LLR Redesign and Recommissioning**

13. The TAN02015 contract for sexual violence and domestic abuse support services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) is due to end on 31st March 2020, following a one year extension to allow for a robust redesign and recommissioning process.
14. Prior to starting the procurement for new contracts as required under the Public Contract Regulations 2014, a series of workshops are being held to hear views from partners, providers and other key stakeholders on what is working well, where there may be gaps in current provision, and how to ensure our services continue to meet need in the future. These will inform the future structure of services across LLR.
15. Three events are being held, each with the same content, across LLR. Tickets for each workshop must be booked using the links below and with the password LLRSV/DA

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 1.30-4.30pm, The BRITE Centre <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/llr-sexual-and-domestic-violenceabuse-service-redesign-workshop-1-tickets-50433640376>

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 1.30-4.30pm, Rutland County Council – Council Chamber <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/llr-sexual-and-domestic-violenceabuse-service-redesign-workshop-2-tickets-50433732652>

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2-5pm, Leicestershire County Council – County Hall <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/llr-sexual-and-domestic-violenceabuse-service-redesign-workshop-3-tickets-50433828940>

### **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Bid**

16. The proposal, The Hope Project, is for further refuge provision for victims of DA, who have complex needs, have children or are Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER). Partners to the bid, across LLR, include all local authorities, police, OPCC and drug and DA services.
17. If the bid is successful the £882,373 will ensure that more victims and their children are able to access safe accommodation earlier than they are able to currently; furthermore it will enable them to sustain that accommodation and recover from their experience of domestic abuse more effectively through the recognition that enhanced provision is required for those with multiple vulnerabilities. A copy of the LLR submission is attached at Appendix 2.
18. A number of funding opportunities have recently been announced by central government. To ensure the MHCLG bid covered LLR with specific provision within each District and Borough the community safety team manager presented the proposal to the Chief Housing Officers Group (CHOG), following this up with a number of emails to secure local authority Chief Officer agreement to the bid, within extremely tight times scales. A pre formed alliance allowing for a speedy sign off for such submissions with named officers for contact will allow future submissions to be submitted in a timely manner with ease.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the Board notes the contents of the report.
2. That the Board agree to an alliance with named officers to support funding applications as outlined in paragraph 18.

#### **Officer to contact:**

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