

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

28 JUNE 2024

UPDATES FROM RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary and update to the board in relation to Domestic Abuse support as directed through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This report is the first report being provided to the board by Rutland County Council as this is a new arrangement for Rutland to be part of the Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Partnership board meetings.

Strategy and Needs Assessment 2021-2024

2. All of our support services are led by the identified needs from within our strategy and our needs assessment.
3. Our last needs assessment was completed by SafeLives in 2021. We are now due to update our needs assessment and SafeLives have provided a quote for this to be completed. The quote will need to be queried due to this being twice the amount quoted to Leicestershire. The domestic abuse strategy for Rutland is also due for an update and will be updated by October 2024.
4. Below is the identified priorities for Rutland from the strategy and needs assessment.

- **Raising awareness of domestic abuse and the prevalence locally**, which includes ensuring we are professionally curious, exploring potential hidden harm and under reporting of abuse in Rutland to protect and support more victims, and raising local awareness of domestic abuse to enable our community to recognise domestic abuse to support a change in attitude.

- **Safeguarding people at risk and providing support for victims and survivors by working more effectively with agencies** to ensure we listen to the voice of victims and survivors that enables the shaping of services and support, to meet local need, and ensuring victims have the confidence to report incidents of domestic abuse, including young people who in their own relationships can become victims of domestic abuse.

- **Changing behaviours of perpetrators and preventing reoffending** by providing effective perpetrator management programmes, to enable victims and children to remain living in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma.

• **Ensuring all agencies/partners work together to provide a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse**

• **Providing support for victim and survivors in relevant safe accommodation** by providing specific targeted support for victims of domestic abuse that empowers victims and builds confidence, develops resilience and independence, and increases safety.

Overview of roles within Rutland that support domestic abuse support services being implemented.

Rutland domestic abuse services cover both adults and children's services, and this is led by a domestic abuse lead that is within children's services. This role is an add on function to other roles held in Rutland, apart from the domestic abuse project lead. The table below shows the roles and responsibilities that were undertaken over 2023/2024 funding period.

Role 2023/2024	Function
Head of Service for Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement.	To provide strategic leadership and overall budget holder.
Principal Social Worker and Service Manager for Quality Assurance and Standards	Chair of working groups and partnership boards over sees the implementation of the action plans.
Domestic Abuse Project lead 18.5hrs part time	Work alongside partner agencies to provide support and guidance around best practice when supporting domestic abuse survivors and ensure that actions are progressed.

5. In December 2023 the domestic abuse project lead left their post, and this post has been covered by an interim project lead since February 2024. This period has given us the time to reflect on the impact of the previous roles and consider further development opportunities. This means that we have are now progressing with a different role to be added to the domestic abuse support in Rutland.

Role 2024/2025	Function
Head of Service for Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement.	To provide strategic leadership and overall budget holder.
Principal Social Worker and Service Manager for Quality Assurance and Standards	Chair of working groups and partnership boards and over sees the implementation of the action plans.
Practice Development Lead	To provide management oversight and supervision to Advanced Social Work Practitioner
Domestic Abuse Advanced Social Work Practitioner 22hrs fixed term	To provide one to one support across adults and children services to workers where domestic abuse is a concern.

Funding for Domestic Abuse support

6. Rutland's funding over the last three years has remained consistent with this current years funding. This has meant that there has been little growth within the support services.
7. Rutland County Council have secured funding for 2024/2025 from the Domestic Abuse Fund of £63.000 per year plus £40.935 in house funding.
8. £58.000 is spent on commissioning LWA services.
9. £2.500 is spent on MARAC
10. £31.410 was spent on part time domestic abuse project lead.
11. The forward plan is to appoint a Domestic Abuse Advanced Social Work Practitioner, this will be funded from the current budget. The LWA contract is being reviewed in line with LLR contract that is in place.

Working Group Meetings and Partnership Board Meetings

12. Rutland County Council are part of a working group that takes place monthly. The working group is attended by Rutland County Council representatives to support implementation of the support services. Rutland also holds a partnership meeting that is held quarterly, where we have representation from health, police, army welfare, and domestic abuse support services to ensure we are quorate in the meetings. This board allows us to focus on Rutland's needs specifically. We also feedback to Safer Rutland Partnership board quarterly.
13. The meetings are aimed at looking at current data to afford and create solutions and ideas to meet the needs of the local community and surrounding areas.
14. The meetings have allowed us to reflect on our own learning to enable us to identify what our next steps are moving forward. We have identified training with a plan to revisit what our in-house services need with dates in place.
15. Raising awareness is key to supporting the local surrounding areas and allowing the local community and partners to reach out and support victims-survivors and those using harmful behaviours who want to change.

Rutland's Data Analysis for 2023/2024

Adult safeguarding.

16. Contacts where domestic abuse was a factor have increased throughout the year. There is an obvious spike towards the second half of the year from Q3 (Quarter 3), which starts in July moving forward.
17. Within the contacts we have data showing AGE, GENDER and ETHNICITY which helps pinpoint patterns within our data.

Children services

18. Single assessments withing children's services throughout the year also highlight a spike in the second half of the year from July 2023/4. Quarter 1 and 2 (Q1 & Q2) show a similar amount of single assessments completed totaling 86 for the first half of the year, and a significant difference in Q3 and Q4 totaling 130 showing an overall number of assessments for Rutland totaling 216.
19. The number of assessments completed with one or more domestic abuse factors totals 70 with Q3 and Q4 showing the higher figures.
20. Further insight through drilling down shows the proportion of single assessments with Domestic abuse identified throughout the year starts with Q1 at 31% with an increase in Q2 at 34% and a slight decrease in Q3 & Q4 giving an overall percentage of 32%.

Risk Factors in children and family assessment.

21. Our assessments have allowed us to further pinpoint the following areas:
 - Within the risk factors table, concerns about a child subject to Domestic abuse show 9 and 10 percent for the first half of the year Q1 and Q2 and a drop to zero in Q3 leading to an increase to figures shown in the first half of the year.
 - Concerns about a parent/Carer subject to domestic abuse show similar figures in the first half of the year (Q1 & Q2) with an increase in the second half of the year showing Q3 & Q4.
 - Concerns relating to other family member subject to domestic abuse show higher in Q2 and Q3 with little to non in Q1 and Q4.

Summary of the findings from our Data in respect of the data shown.

22. The data shows:
 - The highest age categories across the period are 77-92 years.

- There was an increase in the number of victims in the second half of the year Q3 & Q4 over the age of 28 years old.
- Children 0-5 years account for around half of all child victims. (33.33%)
- There has been a decrease in reports to all agencies except for adult social care.

23. After reviewing some of the areas our numbers in Rutland remain below 10 in respect of referrals and the victims are all white British with the majority being females.

Activities undertaken over 2023/2024 linked to Strategy priorities.

Strategy Priority	Activity Undertaken
Raising awareness of domestic abuse and the prevalence locally	Monthly Comms via social media in relation to DA support services available. Local Safer Communities Team completed leaflet drop in Pubs and Hairdressers around Christmas to support DA raising awareness campaigns. Supported Health to provide training to Army Medics in raising awareness of DA.
Safeguarding people at risk and providing support for victims and survivors by working more effectively with agencies	Training provided: DASH risks assessments, Recognising Elder Abuse. Developed a Reducing Parental Conflict and Domestic Abuse Toolkit for practitioners. Healing Together Trained Practitioners in Family Help provide: Domestic Abuse: Supporting Children and Young People x3 Practitioners trained Domestic Abuse: Parent and Carers. X 2 Practitioners Trained LWA and Freeva provide support services in line with current contract.
Changing behaviours of perpetrators and preventing reoffending	Practitioners in Rutland are now trained in Modus and attend MARAC regularly.
Ensuring all agencies/partners work together to provide a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse	Attend Safer Rutland Partnership Meetings and meet with Safer Communities Manager to review data monthly. Provided support to Girls Group to raise awareness of DA in relationships.

<p>Providing support for victim and survivors in relevant safe accommodation</p>	<p>Housing attend working groups meetings and have links with refuges and support families to move if needed. Working with Women's Aid to ensure support is provided to families who are moved to dispersal units in Rutland.</p>
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Forward Plan for 2024/2025

Action being completed	Action assigned to	Date for Completion
Needs Assessment and DA strategy to be updated	HOS/SM and PDL	31/10/2024
Advanced Social Work Practitioner Post to be advertised	S/M and PDL	28/06/2024
Review of Rutland specific partnership and working groups to prevent duplication.	S/M and PDL	04/07/2024
Training plan to be progressed	PDL	31/07/2024
LWA contract to be reviewed	HOS with LLR partnership	

Conclusion

This is the first report provided to the Board and the aim of this report has been to provide a summary of the last year of domestic abuse support and the forward plan for this year. Future reports provided will focus on actions specifically and provide updates of how work is being progressed. The Board may want to provide feedback on how they would prefer Rutland to present to this group for future Board meetings as this is a new arrangement. Further work is required around the support provided to domestic abuse perpetrators and how to ensure that we are including survivor voice into our plans over the next year.

Officer to contact

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