

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

25 SEPTEMBER 2014

DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress regarding the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership.
2. The Safer Communities Strategy Board has oversight of delivery of the Leicestershire Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy. The Domestic Abuse Partnership delivers this strategy and will report on a regular basis to the Board on progress, risks and issues with regard to Domestic Abuse.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

3. One domestic homicide review was published for Leicestershire in August.
4. Individual agency actions within the single Action Plan arising from Domestic Homicide reviews are all on track, although updates are outstanding from some agencies, including agencies plans for implementing the DASH (Domestic Abuse Stalking & Harassment) risk assessment.
5. Some actions within the multi-agency part of the Action Plan have been delayed due to capacity in the county community safety team. However, all should be completed by the end of the financial year.

Support Service Developments and Capacity

6. As noted in the performance paper specialist support services remain stretched. There may be more significant risks next year, when changes to many funding streams come into place, but analysis of these is being considered in more detail by the Domestic Abuse Partnership at its next meeting.
7. Additional resources have been made available to support services through the Ministry of Justice funded 'Project 360'. This project is piloting an alternative response to repeat victims of domestic abuse, with early contact following a report to the Police, and intensive work to support engagement in support and criminal justice processes. The additional resources for support services are to provide for the additional demand expected to be created from the Project.
8. Project 360 is due to commence in October and will end in March 2015. Whilst it is a short-term pilot, Leicester University are engaged in supporting the

evaluation of this to ensure learning from this approach can be used to inform future commissioning and service design.

Children & Young People & Domestic Abuse

9. A number of areas of work are progressing with regard to children and young people and domestic abuse.
10. The Safeguarding Boards are resourcing a piece of work to identify the most appropriate way to run an 'Operation Encompass' scheme in Leicestershire. Operation Encompass was initially run in Plymouth and looks to improve support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The scheme operates through sharing information with schools regarding domestic abuse incidents that have happened alongside provision of resources for schools to support their effective response and support for affected children and young people.
11. Partners are in the very early stages of considering a support pathway for young people directly affected by domestic abuse in line with national work by CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse).
12. Pilot work with families affected by 'Child on Parent abuse' is underway through the Youth Offending Service, and opportunities to expand this beyond the Youth Offending Service are being investigated.

Commissioning

13. In accordance with the County Council's agreed MTFs, the Children and Family Services Department proposes to undertake a consultation on the proposed savings (£800,000) with the voluntary and community sector (VCS). As the VCS provide many of the domestic abuse support services on behalf of the County Council, the outcome of this consultation may affect how such services are commissioned in the future.
14. At a time of diminishing resources it is important to ensure that all activity is focussed on improving outcomes within an identified commissioning framework that is based on need and knowledge of which services have the most positive impact. A strategic approach to commissioning is therefore proposed that would allow for better targeting, greater emphasis on evidenced based interventions and a clearer identification of risk.
15. An improved framework for specifically addressing domestic abuse and a more co-ordinated approach to commissioning services to support this as efficiently and effectively as possible is needed. A consideration within this could be a joining-up of County Council funding for domestic abuse support services which is currently commissioned separately through Adults and Communities, Community Safety and Children's Locality Partnerships.
16. A Multi-Agency Commissioning Framework for domestic abuse for Leicestershire is in development and it is intended that this will provide a

framework for identifying how resources should be allocated and how services regarding domestic abuse should be commissioned across partners. Stakeholders views on this proposed new framework will be sought over the next few months, alongside the consultation detailed in paragraph 13 above which is expected to run between 22 September and 30 November.

Recommendations

17. It is recommended that:
- (a) The Board notes the progress of the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership;
 - (b) The Board supports the development of a Multi-Agency commissioning approach to domestic abuse;
 - (c) That Board members be included in the consultation with stakeholders regarding the Multi-Agency Commissioning Framework as detailed in paragraph 16.

Officer to contact

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