

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING	<b>Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development Scrutiny Panel</b>	
MEETING	<b>19<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b>	
TITLE:	<b>Domestic abuse - an update</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
Appendix 1: Domestic Abuse Partnership draft terms of reference		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 To provide an update on work being undertaken to tackle domestic violence and abuse (DVA) in Bath and North East Somerset and to support provided to victims.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Panel receives the report and:
- 2.2 That the Panel continues to receive updates on the cross-partner importance of addressing domestic violence and abuse as one of the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (known as the Responsible Authorities Group) and also working closely with the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC).

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 However there is a funding risk as we have been asked to provide modelling data for a 10% and a 20% potential reduction in PCC funding for 2017 onwards.
- 3.3 Note item 6.2 on resource implications of Domestic Homicide Reviews

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

4.1 This report updates the panel on a number of key Council strategic objectives and responsibilities including Safeguarding for both Children and Adults and Connecting Families and the Crime and Disorder Act.

## **5 THE REPORT**

Since the last report in May 2016 the following have been completed or are planned for completion within 2016:

### **5.1 Review of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Group**

An extensive review has been undertaken of strategic and operational arrangements to address domestic abuse in Bath and North East Somerset. In line with current good practice including NICE guidelines the Director of Public Health has been appointed by Responsible Authority Group to Chair the partnership group which has been renamed as the 'Domestic Abuse Partnership'. The revised terms of reference including a revitalised membership has been approved by the Responsible Authority Group and are attached in appendix 1.

### **5.2 International day for the elimination of violence against women: 25 November 2016**

This high profile day will be fully utilised to promote awareness of domestic violence and abuse. The awareness raising campaign is being planned with B&NES corporate communications team. It will link with the regional Avon and Somerset police campaign and the national 'this is not an excuse' campaign: <http://www.thisisnotanexcuse.org/domestic-abuse/>

- Candlelight walk and placing of candles to remember victims of DVA
- Services providing support for victims and survivors of DVA
- Day in the life profiles of key DVA support workers including the Independent Domestic Violence and Abuse worker and bobby van worker
- A GP doctor's experience of how working within the iris project has changed their practise
- How projects offering peer support freedom/crush projects work (run by Julian House and Voices)
- An item focusing on diversity LGB&T issues/ female genital mutilation (conservative motion standing against FGM to be presented at full council in September 2016).

### **5.3 The Local Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards themed review domestic abuse 7th June 2016**

The review focussed on the concern that domestic abuse is one issue which has a significant impact on the wellbeing of children and on parents' ability to keep children safe from harm. The LSCB agreed to undertake a themed review to explore the issue further and to consider whether there were ways partners could more effectively work together to support children living in household with domestic abuse present. As a result of this review the Director of Pubic Heath

(who has been appointed as the Chair of the revised Domestic Abuse Partnership) has made a commitment to work with LSCB to ensure their strategy and that of domestic abuse partnership are aligned in meeting the needs of children and young people.

#### **5.4 Joint stakeholder day on the 2nd November**

The joint stakeholder day will take place at the Guildhall. The focus of the event will be on the dynamics of domestic abuse within the family and the intergenerational impacts on children and adults with support needs. This will cover all issues of domestic abuse including but not exclusively: elder abuse, sibling abuse, same sex abuse, effects of domestic abuse on colleagues and co-workers, the 'toxic trio' (mental ill health, substance abuse and domestic abuse).

#### **5.5 Domestic abuse awareness in the workplace 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

- Bath and North East Somerset council is a member of the Avon and Somerset wide Violence Against Women and Girls group.
- The training will be delivered by an expert in the field and aimed at businesses to enable them to help and support any employees experiencing domestic abuse at home in a safe and effective way.
- Raise awareness of domestic abuse and workplace issues.
- It will give guidance on developing appropriate policies and procedures and implementing them effectively.
- Those who register will be offered free training, access to a toolkit and draft workplace template policies and procedures.

#### **5.6 Domestic Abuse Commission – Independent Domestic Advisor Service**

During quarter 1 of this year the service dealt with:

- 164 referrals received and 70 cases were carried forward from the previous quarter making a total of 234 cases considered during the quarter.
- 136 cases were closed; in 28 cases the clients did not engage with the service.
- Of the 108 remaining 100% reported feeling more confident and 87% said they felt safer.
- 24% reported they had problems with substance abuse.
- 45% reported they experience mental ill health.
- 79% reported that they had experienced jealousy or controlling behaviour.
- 55% cases involved victims with children living in or regularly visiting the household.
- 3% of the cases dealt with concerned LGB&T clients and 14% BME.
- 67 professionals were trained and 100% reported that are better able to identify and deal with domestic abuse.

## **6 Domestic Homicide Reviews**

- 6.1 The first full Domestic Homicide Review was completed during June 2016. It identified that B&NES does not have a clear multi-agency policy on domestic violence and abuse and violence. This accords with the findings of the review of the Domestic Abuse Partnership group, which was conducted under the leadership of the Director of Public Health who will also chair the new Domestic Abuse Partnership. The Domestic Abuse Partnership's TOR set out that it will develop the B&NES policy and implementation plan and report on outcomes to the RAG on an annual basis.
- 6.2 The average cost of each Domestic Homicide Review is £20,000. The Council needs to consider how to resource DHRs in coming years. Until 2015 the Council did not receive any DHR referrals, however during 2015-16 we received 4 referrals. Two did not meet the criteria. One was completed in June 2016. We are holding the first panel meeting of the second full DHR during September 2016.

## 7 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>See links within the report</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

## **Appendix 1**

### **Bath and North East Somerset Domestic Abuse Partnership**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### **1. Vision**

Our vision is that Bath & North East Somerset is a community free from domestic abuse.

We will ensure a robust, co-ordinated response to domestic abuse to permanently break the cycle of family violence and lead on societal change by providing men, women, and children with essential tools and services needed to eliminate and recover from domestic abuse in their lives.

##### **2. Definitions**

The partnership adopts the Government definitions of domestic violence and abuse.

#### **Domestic abuse is defined as:**

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass but is not limited to:

- ❖ Psychological
- ❖ Physical
- ❖ Sexual
- ❖ Financial
- ❖ Emotional

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim”

(Commons Briefing papers SN06337)

##### **3. Remit**

The Domestic Abuse Partnership is the strategic arm of the Responsible Authorities Group, promoting partnership co-ordination of universal and targeted education about healthy relationships,

protection of victims, provision for survivors and disruption of perpetrators related to adults and children

Drawing on the national refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-20, and domestic violence and abuse NICE guidance and quality standards, the Partnership will introduce a Domestic Abuse Strategy and Implementation Plan, which it will monitor on behalf of the Responsible Authorities Group.

#### **4. Purpose**

- a. Use the baseline assessment tool to evaluate the extent to which local practice and provision is in line with the recommendations in the NICE Public Health guidance on domestic violence and abuse
- b. Map provision and flag gaps to inform commissioning intentions
- c. Ensure robust data collection to inform the local approach
- d. Produce a Domestic Abuse Strategy
- e. Create, implement and monitor a multi-agency Implementation Plan, with prevention at its heart
- f. Feed into the national action plan arising from the Violence against women and Girls Strategy
- g. Promote partnership approaches to ensure complementary work to avoid duplication unless it offers significant choice
- h. Work together to maximise funding opportunities and support independent sector funding bids, including central government funding opportunities
- i. Support ready access to information about all relevant services, mindful of the need to address barriers for particular groups, including those from black and other ethnic minority groups, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender communities, those with complex needs and men
- j. Identify learning from Domestic Homicide Serious Case Reviews and other relevant reviews and enquiries and promote best practice and the sharing of expertise and resources across agencies
- k. Support the development of a skilled workforce, able to address this issue at a level appropriate to role and function
- l. Take every opportunity to champion this agenda, including promoting its inclusion in all relevant strategies and plans
- m. Evaluate the effectiveness of the strategic approach to domestic abuse locally

Consider effectiveness of practice and arrangements for identifying and managing the range of risks of harm to children and young people.

## 5. Governance Arrangements

The Domestic Abuse Partnership has designated responsibility from the Responsible Authorities Group for both strategic oversight and for influencing operational initiatives to address domestic abuse in Bath and North East Somerset.

## 6. Membership

The Partnership will be represented by commissioners and strategic managers from:

Health – Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Public Health
Mental Health – Avon and Wiltshire Partnership (AWP)	Adult Services
Connecting Families	IDVA Services
Police	Supporting People
3 <sup>rd</sup> sector representative	Registered Social Landlords
National Probation Service	Substance Misuse services
Community Rehabilitation Company	Lighthouse
Service user input	MARAC S.G. Chair
OPCC (office for the Police and Crime Commissioner	CPS (crown prosecution service)
Social care	Sexual Violence Service - SARSAS
Designated Nurse	Children’s Services
Youth Offending Team	

All members will have delegated authority to speak for their agency and will send and brief a substitute to meetings that they are unable to attend.

## 7. Chairing

The Domestic Abuse Partnership will be chaired by a strategic lead identified by the Responsible Authorities Group. They will also identify a named deputy.

## 8. Frequency and Servicing

Meetings will be held quarterly. The Council's Community Safety Team will provide administrative support by taking the minutes of each meeting, and circulating agenda and appropriate paperwork.

## **9. Reporting**

The Domestic Abuse Partnership will report annually on the Implementation Plan to the Responsible Authorities Group which will, in turn, be responsible for exception reporting and information sharing with other partnerships including the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, the Local Safeguarding Adults' Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **10. Work Streams**

The MARAC Steering Group has responsibility for ensuring proper accountability on the part of participating agencies in the MARAC to their representatives, to one another and to victims and operates as a standing subgroup of the Domestic Abuse Partnership. Task and finish groups will be established as necessary, to take forward specific pieces of work. Additionally, members of the Domestic Abuse Partnership may take relevant pieces of work forward within their own agency.

As requested by the Responsible Authorities Group, the Domestic Abuse Partnership will identify representatives to join any group set up to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews.

The Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) legislation gives the Chair of the Responsible Authority Group responsibility for establishing whether a homicide is to be subject of a DHR. This decision should be taken in consultation with local partners who have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence. In B&NES, the Domestic Abuse Group will provide this guidance for the Responsibility Authority Group Chair.

## **11. Equalities Impact Assessment**

All Domestic Abuse Partnership policies and strategies will be subject to equalities impact assessments annually, with the support of the B&NES Council Equalities Team.

## **12. Information sharing**

All agencies will participate in data sharing to support monitoring of the Implementation Plan and/or development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

As a strategic group, the Domestic Abuse Partnership will not discuss individual cases and will only reference identifiable cases when they are already in the public domain. In exceptional cases including participation in local Domestic Homicide Reviews, partner agencies will follow the Caldicott principles and the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Adult Board Information Sharing Protocols in relation to information sharing



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