



SCRUTINY TASK & FINISH GROUP:	AGENDA ITEM 5.4
<p>DATE OF MEETING: 24th June 2014</p> <p>REPORT OF: Gerry Taylor, Chair Domestic Abuse Strategic Group</p> <p>REPORT AUTHOR: Gerry Taylor</p> <p>SUBJECT: Domestic Abuse Strategic Group</p>	

PURPOSE

1. To provide the Scrutiny Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group with a briefing on the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (DASG) and progress to date on the issues identified in the JSNA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group note the report.

REPORT:

3. The DASG is a partnership group which reports to the Community Safety Executive. It was established to take a strategic and co-ordinated, partnership approach to preventing and identifying domestic abuse and planning and implementing improved outcomes for victims in Luton. The terms of reference are attached at Appendix A.
4. Domestic abuse was highlighted as a priority in the 2011 JSNA and a number of recommendations made. The need to strengthen services to reduce the impact of domestic abuse was also highlighted in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy which followed the JSNA. The DASG has been responsible for delivering these recommendations and provides reports progress to the Health Inequalities Delivery Board of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The detailed action plan set to deliver these is attached at Appendix B. The following provides an update on the progress against JSNA recommendations:

- 5. Increase provision of services for high and medium risk victims to offer a greater degree of support to protect and increase the safety of these victims.**

The number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) working with adult victims of domestic violence in Luton has increased from three (at the time of the JSNA) to five. This includes a dedicated complex health needs IDVA funded through the public health grant.

The PH grant has also funded a services co-ordinator to work in the voluntary sector to improve the co-ordination of services to victims of domestic abuse by promoting referral pathways and supporting collaborative working within the sector. A domestic abuse partnership website has already been launched, providing details of local services to all victims of domestic abuse and it is anticipated that a single, partnership help line will be in operation by the end of the financial year. This will offer victims a single point of contact to obtain information about relevant services.

- 6. There is clear evidence of the need to commission services to support children affected by domestic abuse and to co-ordinate existing provision. The establishment of a Children's IDVA service would provide direct support for identified children and create a means of signposting to existing services.**

Two Children's IDVA posts have been funded by the Stronger Families initiative. These posts have been delivering group work with children experiencing domestic violence within the home and providing one to one support for children most in need. However, funding for this service has not been secured beyond March 2015 and there is a risk this provision will be lost unless alternative funding is identified.

- 7. There are recognised gaps relating to the provision of therapeutic support programme for children experiencing domestic abuse.**

The introduction of the children's IDVA posts above has enabled improved access to a range of services for those children who have been supported by IDVAs. However, there is more to do in this area.

- 8. Investigate the potential to establish voluntary perpetrator programmes to address the behaviour of perpetrators not convicted following criminal proceedings.**

The Public Health Grant has funded a voluntary, community based programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse. Jointly commissioned with Central Bedfordshire, the programme is due to be delivered by Respect accredited providers and will commence in Summer 2014.

- 9. Undertake further analysis into the provision of services for socially excluded groups, including those who use drugs and alcohol and LGBT client groups, to determine if there is sufficient provision and support for these groups.**

The DA Operational Board, Chaired by Cllr Ayub is overseeing a gap and needs analysis of existing services and service users to identify whether there is a need for targeted work or specialist services to ensure minority or excluded groups are able to access local domestic abuse services.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Domestic Abuse Strategic Group Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 - Domestic Abuse Strategic Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

LUTON

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGIC BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Version:	1.0
Approved by:	
Date of approval:	
Name of responsible group:	Community Safety Executive
Review date:	

GENERAL INFORMATION

1	Title	Luton Domestic Abuse Strategic Board
2	Accountable to:	Community Safety Executive
3	How is accountability demonstrated?	Reporting as requested to the Community Safety Executive and other relevant boards as required including the Health and Wellbeing Board
4	Purpose of	To take a strategic and co-ordinated, partnership

	Group	approach to preventing and identifying domestic abuse and planning and implementing improved outcomes for victims in Luton
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5	Terms of Reference	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the multi-agency partnership enables joint effective working across all agencies in relation to domestic abuse. • To test the robustness of financial arrangements and sustainability and to identify and ensure that resources are available and targeted to deliver the Action Plan and Luton Domestic Abuse Strategy. • To review domestic abuse services and deploy resources as necessary to ensure the delivery of the Luton Domestic Abuse Strategy. • To establish and oversee operational sub-groups as required, to ensure the delivery of the domestic abuse strategy. • To undertake tasks delegated from the Community Safety Executive and/or other relevant boards in relation to domestic abuse as required. e.g. the completion of Domestic Homicide Reviews and implementation of DHR Action Plans. • To support the CSE and Health and Wellbeing Board in the delivery of the partnership plan and health and wellbeing strategy and to ensure domestic abuse is appropriately prioritised. • To receive performance monitoring reports on progress against local, regional and national performance indicators and agree remedial actions if required. • To take overall responsibility for ensuring that domestic abuse is given the recognition that it requires in each of the partner agencies

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the work of the Strategic Group is brought to the attention of the wider Community Safety Partnership, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Local Safeguarding Boards, Local Criminal Justice Board and Health and Wellbeing Boards
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6	Membership	<p>Where named individuals listed are unable to attend a meeting, it is the responsibility of the named individual to identify and brief a representative to attend in their place.</p> <p>Where it is no longer possible for the named individual to attend future meetings, this individual or their agency must appoint a new representative and inform the Strategic Group of this change.</p> <p>Any officers nominated to attend this group must have the authority for the agency that they represent to agree strategic proposals.</p>
	Gerry Taylor	Director of Public Health (Chair)
	Karina Thomas	DCI Public Protection, Bedfordshire Police
	Cllr Ayub	Portfolio Holder; Community Safety
	Hilary Griffiths	HOS Integrated Children's Services, LBC
	Maud O'Leary	HOS , Adult Social Care, LBC
	Breege Begley	Chief Executive, asc
	Joy Leighton	IDVA Service Manager, Victim Support
	TBC	CCG
	Nikki Middleton	CSP Manager, LBC

7	Chair of Group	
	Gerry Taylor	Director of Public Health

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8	Vice Chair	
	Cllr Naseem Ayub	Portfolio Holder Community Safety

9	Secretary	
	Nikki Middleton	CSP Manager

10	Quorum	Five members comprising of at least 3 agencies.
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11	Minutes of Meetings	Minutes to be submitted to the Chair for approval within one week of the meeting and distributed to group members within 2 weeks. Agenda to be circulated one week prior to the meeting.
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12	Reports from / to	Community Safety Executive
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13	Frequency of meetings	Quarterly
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14	Life Span of the Group	Standing group of the Community Safety Executive
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Luton Domestic Abuse Strategic Action Plan

2012/15

Priority One: Victims

To ensure the provision of high quality services and support to victims of domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based violence

Priority Two: Children and Young People

To increase the awareness and understanding of children and young people, their parents and those who work with them of the impact on children of domestic abuse and to provide appropriate services to safeguard children from further harm

and address the effects of domestic abuse.

Priority Three: Offender Management

To promote a clear and consistent message that domestic abuse is not acceptable and to ensure that perpetrators are held responsible for their behaviour, and all possible action is taken to bring them to justice.

Priority Four: Community and Partners

To continue to develop the knowledge and awareness of both the local community and professionals working within partner agencies, of the impact and extent of domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based violence and the services available to support victims

	Objective	Outcome	Performance Measures	Lead
1	Ensure a co-ordinated and joined up specialist sector to provide a clear risk based pathway to support – maximise existing resources	<p>Improve access to services for victims.</p> <p>Avoid perceptions of duplication and safeguard services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web traffic • Volume of calls to helpline • Service user focus groups • Professional feedback / awareness 	<p>Nikki Middleton</p> <p>CSP Team</p>
	Activity	Outcome	Progress / Barriers	Lead
a	Employ a VCS co-ordinator	Capacity within VCS to progress collaborative initiatives and access funding	<p>PHG Funding identified to fund a Co-ordinator post.</p> <p>Completed</p>	NM
b	Create and maintain a DV Partnership website	Provision of SPOC for victims and professionals. Improved access to information about services	<p>Website in development – Preferred provider identified</p> <p>CSP Support Officer leading multi-agency task group to develop content</p>	Sara Farr

			Completed	
c	Create and maintain a DV partnership helpline	Provision of SPOC for victims and professionals. Improved access to information about services	To be progresses when VCS Co-ordinator in post	Jenny Bull VS
	Objective	Outcome	Performance Measures	Lead
2	Ensure that domestic abuse services are meeting the needs of victims from all sections of the community.	Increase the safety of victims including those from minority groups by ensuing access to services and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARAC Equality Data • Police Equality Data • Outcome of 2b • Social Care data 	Joy Leighton IDVA
	Activity	Outcome	Progress / Barriers	Lead
a	Commission a victim profile study, focussing on minority groups including those in same sex relationships, those with a disability, male victims etc	Provide an evidence base to inform the discussions and activity of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group and partners.	<p>Initial scoping completed by CSP Analyst – identifies problems with police recording of equalities data based solely on DASH.</p> <p>To be informed by outcome of 2b</p> <p>Work to resume when CSP analyst returns from maternity leave spring 2014</p>	Sophie Langston

b	Develop and utilise a data collection tool to sample cases across a broader range of agencies. Include: Age, gender, disability, mental health, sexual orientation	Provide an evidence base to determine whether minority groups are under represented and to inform decisions about the need to engage in proactive targeting of minority service users.	CSP Support Officer Liaising with partners to develop a data collection template for the DA Delivery Board in Nov 13. Board to determine options for data collection at next meeting.	Gabby McAuley LWA SF
c	Review/ monitor process for police referrals to adult safeguarding regarding victims of domestic violence.	Provide reassurance that vulnerable adults experiencing domestic abuse are being identified and have access to information and support.		TBC
d	Explore joint funding for cases with NRPF	Access to services for vulnerable victims not able to access mainstream public funded services or benefits.	Exploration of funding (NM)	Jenny Bull
e	Involve survivors in the structure of the partnership	Ensure that agencies are accountable to survivors and that service design is fit for purpose.	Update Requested for Ops Board Meeting May 14	JL
	Objective	Outcome	Performance Measures	Lead
3	Develop services for children	Increase the safety of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of referrals to Children services as a result of DV 	Hilary

	and young people to support those experiencing and affected by domestic abuse, and to prevent abuse occurring.	and young people. Challenge young people's acceptance of violence and abuse and prevent abuse occurring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of support offered/ available to children • No of children identified through MARAC • No of children accessing CYP IDVA service and outcome data • % of schools delivering healthy relationship / DV prevention materials 	Griffiths Children's Services
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	Activity	Outcome	Progress / Barriers	Lead
a	Review and develop the risk screening/ assessment process for domestic violence notifications to children's services.	<p>Improve consistency and quality of initial risk screening re DV notifications and improve information sharing between agencies relating to children at risk from DV</p> <p>Evidence of defensible decision making for professionals</p>	<p>Recommendations to fund 2 x screening posts</p> <p>1 x refuge based child worker – would be available April 14 if successful</p> <p>Funding secured – Need to progress recruitment</p>	Keith Hill
b	Map existing services for children and young people, evaluate effectiveness and	Provide an evidence base for commissioning / re-commissioning services.	Update requested for Operation Board May 14	KH

	identify gaps in provision.			
c	Ensure the delivery of preventative activity 'healthy relationships material' in Luton schools	Challenge young people's acceptance of violence and abuse and prevent abuse occurring.	Review and delivery of PHSE programme.	KO'N
d	Maintain the CYP IDVA Service	Reduce risk to children experiencing DV. Improved confidence and outcomes for CYP	Confirmed extension till March 15	JL

	Objective	Outcome	Performance Measures	Lead
4	Review the partnership response to perpetrators.	<p>Improve identification of risk.</p> <p>Hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour</p> <p>Reduce repeat victimisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of perpetrators accessing and completing community based programmes • CJS Data % offences resulting in conviction • Number of incidents reported /% repeat incidents • MARAC repeat data 	<p>John Murphy</p> <p>Beds Police</p> <p>Nikki Middleton</p> <p>CSP Team</p>
	Activity	Outcome	Progress / Barriers	Lead
a	Develop DARO		Barrier- Unclear of status of DARO as of 23/09/13 Beds Police to report at Dec DASG	TBC
b	Establish a voluntary community based perpetrator programme.	Support perpetrators who wish to address their behaviour and reduce repeat victimisation.	<p>PHG funding identified for Community Based Programme</p> <p>Barrier – Impact of TR mean BPT are unable to deliver locally requiring need to identify alternative provider.</p>	NM

			Joint commissioning process underway , led by Central Beds	
	Objective	Outcome	Performance Measures	Lead
5	Continue approach to routine enquiry and develop workers to identify domestic abuse and carry out risk assessment	Increase early identification of domestic violence to increase access to support and reduce risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volume and origin of notifications and referrals to children and adult safeguarding • Volume and origin of MARAC referrals • Training attendance data 	Nikki Middleton CSP Team
	Activity	Outcome	Progress / Barriers	Lead
a	Review existing DV training programme	Improved confidence and ability of professionals to identify and address domestic violence	<p>Review of multi- agency training underway with increased focus on risk and assessment skills.</p> <p>Programme reviewed to avoid duplication between courses.</p> <p>Approaches to AVA re accreditation of courses.</p> <p>Cost per learner for accredited programme £200 approx</p>	Fran Hill
b	Determine current extent of routine enquiry and use of	Identify current practice and highlight areas which require		TBC

	DASH	further action / training to ensure local safeguarding policy is followed.		
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