

Overview of the Domestic Abuse agenda in Wiltshire

Purpose of report

- 1. This report provides a brief overview of the domestic abuse reduction agenda in Wiltshire and the current developments.

Background

- 2. Domestic abuse is a complex issue that presents a major public health issue, cross cutting geographic and cultural groups. Rarely an isolated incident, domestic abuse is a pattern of sustained behaviours that violate human rights, significantly impacting on population’s health and well-being. The impact on those living with its effects are long lasting and devastating. To effectively tackle this agenda requires a sensitive, multi-disciplinary approach. The current response to domestic abuse in Wiltshire is governed within a multi-agency context (figure 1).

Figure 1



Prevalence of domestic abuse in Wiltshire

- 3. The levels of domestic abuse continue to increase across Wiltshire, with reports (police) in excess of 3,300 incidences in 2015-16 and increases recorded in all community areas (except Pewsey and Westbury), as well as across all Wiltshire DA support services. Wiltshire recorded a rate of 17.7 incidences of DA per 1000 population, compared against a south west range of 20.9 (high) to 13 (low).

Joint Area Inspection Team (JAIT)

- 4. Wiltshire undertook a joint area inspection by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation between 31 October and 4 November 2016, focusing on the response of children living with domestic abuse. The overall findings were favourable of the multi-agency (MASH) arrangements established in Wiltshire to safeguard children and victims.

Partners remain committed to drive the agenda forward and implement actions identified to ensure continuous learning and improvement is achieved in the safeguarding of Wiltshire's vulnerable populations.

Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

5. To support Wiltshire's understanding of the current prevalence of domestic abuse, it has commissioned a needs assessment, aiming to enhance knowledge of the volume and demand for local services, as well as identify gaps and emerging best practice. The needs assessment has been developed through a multi-agency task and finish group of the Wiltshire DA sub group and work is now underway to finalise the report.

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20

6. The current strategy expires March 2017; the domestic abuse needs assessment will inform future local strategic priorities, shaping the next strategy document. This will be governed through the Wiltshire DA Sub group. There will be a consultation period, which will provide opportunity for comment and participation in early spring 2017.

Domestic Abuse Service Procurement

7. The DA contracts for support services expire 30 September 2017; current commissioned provision includes a focus on 'crisis intervention' including outreach and high risk victims (16yrs+), as well as support for children living with the effects of DA (level 3-4 - CiN/CP).
8. There is now a timely opportunity to re-commission services and re-align into a single contract, to go out for competitive tender.
9. The proposed new domestic abuse service model will offer an integrated service approach to tackling domestic abuse, focusing on earlier intervention and prevention, to include targeted support for adults and children living with the effects of domestic abuse and address service user needs for supported accommodation
10. The proposed new procurement model has been shaped and informed by the emerging findings of the DA needs assessment. The work has been developed through a task and finish group of the Wiltshire DA sub group. This work will commence early Spring 2017, with the intention to award the contract by the end of May 2017, to manage the transition stage and ensure continuity of service.

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