

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

9 February 2017

Subject: Domestic Abuse

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the domestic abuse reduction agenda in Wiltshire and the current developments.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board notes the report and the implications for partners in the delivery of their services.

Reason for Proposal

A domestic abuse needs assessment is close to completion and there is the opportunity to develop a new domestic abuse service model that offers 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. Formal consultation on a new domestic abuse strategy will commence in spring 2017.

**Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director
Wiltshire Council**

Subject: Domestic Abuse

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 both domestic abuse incidents and crimes have continue to increase across Wiltshire, with reports (to 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). In 2015-16, there were 652 children identified and recorded in the

household of the highest risk domestic abuse cases discussed in the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC).

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)

4. Between 31 October and 4 November 2016, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary (HMIC) and HMI Probation (HMI Probation) undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Wiltshire. This inspection included a 'deep dive' focus on the response to children living with domestic abuse.
5. The overall findings were positive with inspectorates reporting that "organisations across Wiltshire have worked together well to overcome issues that have been raised in inspections conducted by the different inspectorates over the last few years. Significant progress has been made in all areas to ensure that children and families receive a well-coordinated and helpful response when difficulties are identified. This is clearly evident in the work undertaken to support children who are experiencing domestic abuse.
6. Key multi-agency strengths identified included:
 - A strong and committed partnership dedicated to improving outcomes for vulnerable children, including those experiencing domestic abuse
 - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) arrangements
 - Management oversight in agencies and challenge between partners
 - Wiltshire Safeguarding Children Board and the domestic abuse sub-group promote, coordinate and prioritise the work of statutory partners effectively in relation to domestic abuse.
 - 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

7. To support Wiltshire's understanding of the current prevalence of domestic abuse, the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership 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 the report will be completed by March 2017.

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20

8. 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

9. The contracts for DA 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).
10. There is now a timely opportunity to re-commission services and re-align into a single contract, to go out for competitive tender.
11. 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
12. The proposed new procurement model has been shaped and informed by the emerging findings of the DA needs assessment. The commissioning activity is being led by a multi-agency 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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