

Area Board	All Area Boards	
Form submitted by (contact for all queries)	<i>Fran Lewis MBE Executive Director</i>	
Name of initiative	Men's Groups	
Brief Description of Initiative	Funding support is sought for 'Respect' accredited work with male perpetrators of domestic abuse, who voluntarily engage with Splitz services in order to change their offending behaviour. Participants are primarily drawn from military/ex-military personnel and undertake 30 weeks of studies across five modules comprising: exploration of physical abuse; sexual respect; emotional abuse; impact on children and rebuilding trust and respect. Complementary work is undertaken with the spouses/partners and children to ensure their safety. The work is predicated on effective military/civilian integration as well as studies on soldiers returning from war zones and the trauma and stresses evident on their return; Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and flashbacks exacerbating issues of coercion and control.	
Please put a cross against the ambition(s) that this initiative will support	Building resilient communities	x
	Improving affordable housing	
	Lives not services	x
	Supporting economic growth	
	Safer communities	x
	Protecting the environment	
	Action for Wiltshire – combating the recession	
	Improving outcomes for Children and young people	x
Amount of funding sought	<i>Total annual project costs £95k + core costs £17k + Capital costs £2.5k = £115K</i> Project matching funding: Lloyds TSB £36k Henry Smith Charitable Trust £12k Porticus UK £23k Plain Action £28,128 Guinness Trust £4K	
	Amount Sought from PRG £41,969	
What will this money be		

spent on?	<i>Project breakdown sheet supplied</i>
Is planning permission required? No	If 'Yes': has it been granted? (Please give details)
Have quotes been obtained? Yes/No	<p>If 'Yes' please give details/attach quotes and indicate which one is your preference and why.</p> <p>If 'No' please give details of why quotes have not yet been obtained.</p>
<p>Note: Bids will only be considered if they help us to achieve our ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire. It is important that initiatives have a positive local impact, and that we are able to show success. In this section you are being asked to provide information about how your project contributes, and how you will measure that success. The level of improvement we expect to see will be proportional to the level of the bid: i.e. the more funding required, the greater the level of impact and improvement that will be necessary.</p>	
<p>Please describe how your initiative will support the ambition(s) indicated above, and summarise the action that will be taken</p>	<p>The project as described will support a number of the LAW Ambitions:</p> <p>Building resilient communities: Situations where people isolate themselves through fear and embarrassment and where neighbours feel unable to intervene cannot be helpful in the development of neighbourhoods and communities who are strengthened and able to assist the Council in tackling issues. Domestic abuse is often described as the 'hidden secret' and creates intense isolation, suffering and hardship often accompanied by escalating mental health and drug and alcohol problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in four women will be affected by domestic abuse in their lifetime • On average, two women in England & Wales are killed every week by current or former partner • An incident of domestic abuse is reported to the police every minute (Wiltshire repeat victimisation rate was 30% in 2008) <p>The Men's groups (and associated and complimentary women's safety work) effectively deal with the expressed concerns and demonstrate and deliver outcomes visible not only to statutory agencies (Social Services, NHS and Police) but also to</p>

schools and the local neighbourhoods. Given the scale of domestic abuse incidents reported to Police (over 3,600 per year Wiltshire 07/08) and the accepted multiplication factor of 5 for those not reported, it is clear that many communities across Wiltshire are aware and affected by the problem.

Lives not services:

Supporting people to make positive choices and ensuring that the right services are available help people to stay in control of their lives.

The Men's Groups have outcomes that allow the group participants as well as their spouses and children to recover and lead fulfilling economically successful lives (minimum cost of domestic abuse in Wiltshire is estimated at £18.5 million per year) ; ensure that the psychological damage, particularly to the children who have witnessed domestic abuse in the home, is tackled at an early stage to prevent long term harm.

Safer communities:

Wiltshire is the second safer county in the Country and people report that 'feeling safe' in their community is important to them. Domestic abuse is recognised as being under reported and, notwithstanding the introduction of the specialised domestic abuse outreach service, provided by Splitz and funded by 'Safer Wiltshire' pooled budget monies, there continues a high risk particularly concerning children and young people who live with, and experience, domestic abuse.

- In Wiltshire domestic abuse accounts for 27% of all violent crime
- Domestic abuse is a major cause of injury to women under 60 years of age and is a major risk factor for psychiatric disorders, chronic physical conditions and substance abuse

The successful engagement of the male perpetrator in the Men's Groups (and the

complimentary women's safety work) will mitigate against repeat offending and the reconstruction of relationships, including the re-integration of the formally abusive partner into the family, providing improved social and economic security and wellbeing.

Improving outcomes for children and young people:

Wiltshire children and young people will be the bedrock of the county's future economic prosperity, particularly when measured against the demographics of an aging population and significant resources are being applied to enhance the learning and training opportunities to enable them to achieve their potential. However, domestic abuse has serious consequences on the capacity of some of Wiltshire' young people achieving that goal

- In England & Wales, at least 750,000 children a year witness domestic abuse and in over three quarters of cases children are in the same or next room .In Wiltshire, 3,700 children were present when incident reported to Police 2008/09).
- The impacts on children witnessing and experiencing domestic abuse include: developmental delay; academic problems leading to diminished educational achievement; a tendency to self-harm and depression; increased tendency to become abusers themselves; a fundamental change to the core self demonstrated by a loss of hope, faith or trust in others.

The successful re-establishment of relationships or ideally, family life arising from the successful completion of the Men's Group programme will enable children and young people to begin in themselves a recovery of lost ground and provide positive encouragement for their futures.

What makes this initiative a local priority (e.g. evidence from research and local

Wiltshire has a comprehensive domestic abuse strategy (2009/2011) which recognises the scale and challenges of

support)

bringing this 'hidden secret' into the open and acknowledges the key part of the provision of support to break the cycle (see strategy forward).

The LAW ambition for Safer Communities, specifically detail a priority action of tackling domestic violence and supporting victims and their children.

This initiative is a local priority in that the Men's Groups seek to address male perpetrator behaviour, primarily with military and ex-military personnel. Wiltshire is a county with 11 military bases and a significant re-settlement of military and ex-military personnel and families in the county. The continuing placement of military forces in areas of conflict has led to returning personnel bringing home their traumatic experiences and not coping with stresses of re-adjustment with families and/or the experiences of removal of a constant alert state, sleep disturbances, flashbacks or potentially PTSD. All can exacerbate issues of domestic abuse. Recent academic research by Bristol University (Williamson 2009) on military families and domestic abuse highlighted the above issues and Splitz own records are currently showing a four month waiting list.

How will you know you have been successful?

Once they start the group the men are seen by the coordinator on a one to one basis at least once each module to ensure that their control logs are being completed correctly and that they link in with their Individual Action Plan. During this meeting any issues can be discussed and they will also sign their end of module report.

At the end of each module the Coordinator, Women's Safety Worker (WSW) and Facilitators meet to discuss each couple and a risk register is completed for each man and woman. If something significant occurs during the module the coordinator will meet with the WSW and reassess risk. **The safety of women and children is paramount.**

The men also complete a 10, 20 & 30 week evaluation/risk assessment. The female partner or ex partner completes a similar evaluation (if she is engaging with the

	<p>WSW). This will help us to determine progress or not as the case maybe. The women are also asked to complete another questionnaire 6 months after their partner (ex) has completed the programme, this help to see how the men are coping. It also helps us to identify the effectiveness of the programme.</p> <p>By attending the Men’s group men are effectively starting on their journey of change – this work is not a “cure” or a Magic Wand; more the beginning of a process. All Men’s Group participants have access to a separate relapse prevention course (RPG), aimed at reinforcing the new learned behavioural changes as well as opportunities to discuss ‘one on one’ with coordinator/facilitators.</p> <p>Success would be measured on the numbers positively completing the course and the limited numbers undertaking the relapse course</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you measure the impact? (may have more than one measure) 	<p>Men’s Groups or working with male perpetrators is a staff intensive operation, with the use of regular and intense re-assessments of risk at regular points and at the scheduled evaluation points at 10, 20 and 30 weeks.</p> <p>The conduct of the activity is accredited by the nationally recognised umbrella organisation ‘Respect’ (www.respect.uk.net) Splitz is one of only four organisations in the UK to achieve that accreditation.</p> <p>We contribute to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Child Protection Conferences, Planning and Action Meetings. We liaise with the police domestic abuse unit, child protection unit, social services, the family intervention project, NSPCC, Action for Children, Barnardo’s, young carers, education welfare service, schools.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your improvement target (s), and when do you expect to achieve 	<p>Difficulties arise, particularly in the military context, where group participants have training/duty assignments or are on operational duties. We measure those who</p>

<p>this/these?</p>	<p>'complete' the course, with others being allowed to 'catch-up' missed elements. Our current 'completers' figure is 77% of referrals (April 2010) and we aim to see level increase to 85% over the course of the 30 weeks programme with ongoing liaison and discussion with Unit Welfare Officers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you ensure that the improvement continues after the end of the initiative? <p><i>(this is one-off funding)</i></p>	<p>Mens Group funding has in the past largely been the result of ongoing series of applications to charitable trusts and foundations in order to secure the money necessary to maintain the work. Whilst recognising that this particular funding stream is one-off funding, the Splitz Mens Group have now secured 'Respect' accreditation and therefore the capacity to access a variety of charitable trust money from funders such as LankellyChase, Porticus, Lloyds TSB etc. which require this national level of accreditation. Splitz is one of only four agencies in the UK which has secured this recognition. The improvement will continue after the end of this funding as such available funding is accessed. In addition, the area manager for The Big Lottery has suggested we apply to Reaching Communities for 3 year funding for this work, and an outline bid is being prepared at the moment. Between the Big Lottery receiving/approving this outline bid and completing the Fat Pack, it takes almost 12 months for money to arrive in the bank. This Performance funding will help towards holding the boat steady until a more secure commitment of funding can be accessed.</p>
<p>Who will benefit from this initiative?</p>	<p>Given that there were over 3,600 reported incidents to the Police in 2008 and that there is an agreed under-reporting factor of 5, there are considerable numbers of people in Wiltshire that could benefit from the initiative. However, given the intensive small group feature of the Men's Group, the requested funding could only be applied directly to 35 men (their spouses/partners =35) and the likely children (2 per family = 70) who experience or witness domestic abuse in the home.</p> <p>We currently have 45 men on our waiting list and our referral patterns show considerable engagement with Army Welfare at the</p>

	Tidworth and Bulford garrisons.
Confirm no unfunded commitments from this initiative	I confirm that there will be no unfunded financial commitments arising from this initiative. This is an ongoing work undertaken by Splitz as funding is achieved. Contract hours will be absorbed in other areas of Splitz's work
Will ongoing maintenance of premises/equipment be necessary?	<i>If 'Yes' please indicate how this will be funded/who is responsible</i>
What are the key risks to success and how will these be managed?	Risks are managed continuously by the programme coordinator throughout the extent of the project, with scheduled evaluation sessions on process as well as operational detail concerning the status of the group participants. Monitoring is undertaken to 'Respect' accreditation standards and variances flagged to the Executive Director and Operational Manager
Who will manage the initiative	Overall management Fran Lewis Executive Director Splitz Support Service