

PRG bid -Splitz Support Service- Summary of bid

Splitz Support Service is seeking funding of £41,169 from the PRG programme 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.

The Project links to LAA ambitions of Safer Communities, Building Resilient Communities, Lives not Services and Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People.

Splitz views this initiative as 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.

The successful engagement of the male perpetrator in the Men's Groups (and the complimentary women's safety work) is aimed to 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.

The current 'completers' figure is 77% of referrals (April 2010) and Splitz aims to see levels increase to 85% over the course of the 30 weeks programme.

The annual costs of the project are £115k.

Project matching funding Lloyds TSB £36k, Henry Smith Charitable Trust £12k, Porticus UK £23k, Plain Action £28,128, Guinness Trust £4K.