

Agenda item: 

**Meeting:** Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety

**Subject:** Provision of Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes

**Date of decision:** 14th November 2014

**Report by:** Head of Health, Safety and Licensing

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Budget & policy framework decision:** No

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## 1 Summary

The Domestic Abuse Commissioning review, completed in 2012, identified a gap in provision for perpetrators of domestic abuse in Portsmouth. After mapping model options and securing funding recruitment began in Autumn 2013 with delivery of the programme starting May 2014.

## 2 Purpose of report

To update the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety on the progress of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme and future delivery options.

## 3 Recommendations

- 3.1 To acknowledge the progress made in the short amount of time.
- 3.2 To approve exploring the benefits of selling the programme to other authorities and agencies.

## 4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 Up2U: Creating Healthy Relationships is an innovative programme developed by Portsmouth City Council for people who use domestically abusive behaviours in their intimate partner relationships. It is one of only a few programmes that have moved away from the "one size fits all" model and in its short timeframe has received interest from other areas.

## 5 Background

- 5.1 While the UK was a world leader in responding to victims of domestic abuse (the first women's refuge opened in 1971), significant levels of outreach support to victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse has only been delivered within the last 15 years.
- 5.2 Research into perpetrators of domestic abuse varies from being a gendered crime committed by men against women with the intention to dominate for reasons of power and control to gender being only one risk factor with more equal distribution across gender in the perpetration of domestic abuse.
- 5.3 In the main, domestic abuse perpetrator programmes are around 30 weeks in length programmes for men targeting their use of tactics of power and control over women following the Duluth Model<sup>1</sup>. These have been offered by the voluntary sector (primarily in London and the North East, but with a local provider in the South) and probation for offenders. Research of these programmes is variable, identify a high non-completion rate and often focus on outputs as opposed to outcomes.
- 5.4 Funding to deliver Portsmouth's programme was secured from the Hampshire Police Crime Commissioner (£30,000) Children's Social Care, Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Group (£10,000 each) and Troubled Families (£15,000). This has employed initially a coordinator to write and deliver the programme and more recently an officer to help deliver the programme. Ongoing funding is continually being sought.
- 5.5 During the research and design period it became clear that other types of programme were being delivered that considered typology of offender including *"intimate partner terrorism where one partner, usually a man in a heterosexual relationship "terrorises" the other, situational couple violence where there is typically an equal spilt between male and female victims and perpetrators (although not necessarily in terms of impact) and violent resistance where the partner of an intimate terrorist will try and defend themselves in a violent way"* (Barran D blog; March 2014 CAADA)<sup>2</sup>
- 5.6 Portsmouth's programme is called Up2U: Creating Healthy Relationships (Up2U). Up2U recognises that people use domestic abuse for different underlying reasons ranging from power and control, learned behaviour, attitudes that promote male dominance, lack of emotional management skills to poor conflict resolution resulting in different typologies of domestic abusers. Up2U is an assessment led intervention programme responding to individual need, risk and responsivity and offers bespoke packages of intervention to both men and women.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.theduluthmodel.org](http://www.theduluthmodel.org)

<sup>2</sup> <http://dianabarran.wordpress.com/2014/03/>

- 5.7 To address the high level of dropout rates and low completion rates of many domestic abuse perpetrator programmes, Up2U uses motivational interviewing techniques to engage individuals, working with their resistance to build strong therapeutic relationships to optimise their commitment to the programme.
- 5.8 Up2U started to engage clients from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Due to capacity and the level of need, clients were identified through strong partnership working and meetings were held with the referrer and client to: a) explain the course, b) an opportunity for the client to recognise their use abusive behaviours towards their partner and want to stop this and c) commit to the programme. If accepted on the programme there is a 6 week assessment process followed by a bespoke package of intervention. Currently only 121 provision is being offered, however in future group provision will also be offered.
- 5.9 To date there are 10 clients signed up to the programme. All are male and all with significant complexities. However, initial feedback extremely positive including improved engagement between the client and statutory services (e.g. no police call outs and decreasing risks to children) and discussions have begun with a local university regarding evaluation.
- 5.10 The programme is also highly flexible to both individual need and typologies and as a result there has been interest from other agencies, authorities and service providers in purchasing Up2U. While this would income generate for the city, there would be an initial "spend to save" requirement to manage this and to ensure Up2U continues to respond to the demands in Portsmouth.

## **6. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

- 6.1 A preliminary EIA has been completed. It identified that a full EIA is not required.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 There are no relevant legal comments associated with the delivery of this programme

## **8. Head of finance's comments**

- 8.1 The programme is being delivered within the current funding levels. It is forecast to remain within budget for 14/15. Funding from other parties is required to run this programme and future funding is being sought. The delivery capacity of the programme is therefore dependent on sourcing future funding. It would seem appropriate to explore any potential selling opportunities in order to generate some additional funds.

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Signed by Head of Health, Safety and Licensing

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
1 Nil	
2	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety on 14th November 2014.

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Signed by Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety