

Agenda item:

Meeting: Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety
Decision Meeting

Subject: Domestic abuse review - distance travelled

Date of meeting: 28th January 2015

Report by: Head of Health, Safety and Licensing

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Budget & policy framework decision: No

1 Summary

The Domestic Abuse Commissioning review was completed in 2012 which was subsequently scrutinised by members in 2014. A total of 20 recommendations were made in the final scrutiny report.

2 Purpose of report

To update the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety on the progress made monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the domestic abuse scrutiny report and ongoing demand on resources

3 Recommendations

3.1 To note the progress made.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 For the recommendations that have not been achieved actions are underway for this to happen early in the New Year.

5 Background

5.1 A review of domestic abuse services in Portsmouth was commissioned by the Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP) and the Children's Trust Board (CTB) This was completed in January 2012 and available on the SPP website (http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/priorities/violence-and-hidden-violence/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-commissioning-strategy-for-portsmouth/#.VJGZ_6FFCzk)

5.2 In April 2014 the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny panel published their report on "An assessment of the progress made following Portsmouth's review of Domestic Abuse"
(<http://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=2516&Ver=4>)

5.3 The panel considered 5 strategic themes:

- Strategic community response
- Raise awareness and understanding
- Domestic abuse safeguarding training
- Managing demand in the workplace
- Creating capacity to support medium and standard risk cases

and made 20 recommendations (appendix 1)

5.4 Of the 20 recommendations:

- 6 have been achieved
- 11 are rated amber and
- 3 are rated red

5.5 Of the 3 recommendations rated red:

- Recommendation 6 - Discussions have been held to identify which are the best services to target within the Department for Work and Pensions. An initial meeting has been arranged for 21st January when any training and ongoing support options will be explored.
- Recommendation 14 - The lead Clinical Commissioning Group GP representative for domestic abuse has changed. Having met with her replacement on 3rd December 2014 and they will be liaising with mental health commissioners to discuss how to improve access to mental health provision for victims of domestic abuse.
- Recommendation 19 - Since completion of the scrutiny report Rights for Women (<http://rightsofwomen.org.uk/>) issued a high court challenge against the domestic violence gateways for family law legal aid. This was heard on 5th December with the outcome to be published in early January. The outcome of this will inform what action, if any, is necessary. It is proposed that this is taken to the domestic abuse commissioning group.

5.6 Domestic Abuse attracts significant national attention, both due to specific incidents or government legislation changes (e.g. in December a new domestic abuse offence of 'coercive and controlling behaviour' was announced). This, combined with domestic abuse being both a priority area of need and a significant demand on agencies resources, means there are continual ongoing challenges including a need for flexibility of specialist provision to meet the changing demands. Demands include:

1. Based on population CAADA¹ expects there to be 330 cases discussed at MARAC² and recommends 3.5 IDVA's³. In 2013/14 there were 618

¹ Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse

referrals to MARAC and a recommendation for 6.5 IDVA's based on demand, of which 0.5 is funded until March 2015. This leaves a 2 FTE resource shortfall from April 2015.

2. There has been a 29% (n251) increase in referrals to specialist Domestic Abuse services from 2013 to 2014
3. Contacts with the Joint Action Team where domestic abuse is an issue has continually increased (27% / n733 in quarter 1 2013/14 to 42% / n1,333 in quarter 2 2014/15)
4. In 2013/14 domestic abuse accounts for 32% (n1,047) of all assaults however there has been fall in the number of incidents recorded as crimes (37% / n1348 in 2006/07 to 33% n1,411 in 2013/14)
5. A cessation of financial contribution and the decommissioning of the Integrated Targeted Youth Support Service by Children Social Care towards provision for young people who experience domestic abuse.

5.7 To manage the increased demand:

1. A bid is being submitted to Hampshire's Police Crime Commissioner for increased IDVA provision for the Early Intervention Project and ongoing funding for the helpline and Specialist Domestic Abuse Court support by Aurora New Dawn
2. A bid is being submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government for 2 young people's support workers by Stonham to support young people who live in a home where there is domestic abuse
3. The Early Intervention Project have lowered their minimum age to support young people aged 13+ within an intimate partner abusive relationship and increased support for children social care staff has also been identified to support them with this age group.
4. There is increased provision from April 2015 to support perpetrators of domestic abuse, including the whole family.
5. A group of Portsmouth City councillors are working together to set up a Domestic Abuse awareness and help group across the City.
6. The Safer Portsmouth Partnership will undertake further work in relation to contacts with the Joint Action Team where there is no further action and police outcomes to improve the City coordinated community response to domestic abuse
7. The Early Intervention Project will support other agencies in identifying and supporting victims of domestic abuse (e.g. University of Portsmouth, magistrates court, children's services and Probation)

6. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 6.1 No equality impact assessment has been completed. These will be completed as required by individual agencies.

7. Legal implications

² Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

³ Independent Domestic Violence Advocate

7.1 There are no legal implications with respect to the report in terms of the recommendations and the proposed focus.

8. Head of finance’s comments

8.1 There are no immediate funding implications. However if the bid to the Hampshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is unsuccessful this may cause some funding pressure in 2015/16.

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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 28th January 2015.

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Signed by Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety