

**Report To:** Safer Portsmouth Partnership  
**Report By:** Lucy Rylatt, PSCB Business Manager  
**Report Date:** 14/12/2017  
**Report Title:** Reductions in referrals to EIP from health



### Recommendation

For Safer Portsmouth Partnership to write jointly with the PSCB to Portsmouth CCG, Solent NHS Trust and Portsmouth Hospitals Trust; asking them to respond to the significant reduction in the number of referrals to EIP from GPs, Adult Mental Health Services and Accident and Emergency Department. To ask that they review the possible reasons for this reduction and develop a robust plan of action to adequately address these.

Domestic abuse is persistent and widespread, and it is the most common factor in situations where children are at risk of serious harm in this country. It can have a detrimental and long-lasting impact on a child's health, development, ability to learn and well-being. Because of this the Board is a member of the Portsmouth Domestic Abuse Review Group. This membership is to ensure that services provided to support adults affected by domestic abuse, take into account the impact on children.

As a member of this group we were presented the Measuring Success report at the meeting in September 2017. In this report it was noted that during 2016-17 there had been an increase in domestic abuse related incidents and crimes since the previous year; yet there had been reductions in referrals to the Early Intervention Project.

It was particularly noticeable that the greatest reduction in referrals had come from health services. The table below demonstrates a year on year decrease in the percentage of referrals to EIP from health professionals, with a decrease of 5.4% of the total number from 2013/14 to 2016/17.

Year	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17	
<b>Total referrals from all</b>	<b>1,119</b>		<b>1,391</b>		<b>1,293</b>		<b>1,111</b>	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
A&E Dept.	7	0.6%	6	0.4%	8	0.6%	3	0.3%
GP	67	6%	109	7.8%	65	5%	45	4.1%
Health other	10	0.9%	12	0.9%	18	1.4%	12	1.1%
Health Visitors	38	3.4%	48	3.5%	56	4.3%	32	2.9%
Maternity	17	1.5%	16	1.2%	12	0.9%	3	0.3%
Mental Health	19	1.7%	12	0.9%	7	0.5%	3	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>8.8%</b>

The Board is aware that following audit and inspection activity both Solent NHS Trust and Portsmouth Hospitals Trust are putting action plans in place to ensure that Health Visitors and Midwives are routinely asking whether domestic abuse has taken place; that appropriate risk assessments are completed; and referrals made to EIP where appropriate.

However, the Board is not aware of any similar action plans, training or initiatives occurring in adult health services or primary care. This is of particular concern as research shows that eighty percent of women in a violent relationship seek help from health services, usually general practice, at least once, and this may be their first or only contact with professionals.

It would appear that the increase in referrals from GPs was linked to them receiving IRIS (identification & referral to improve safety) training and support during April 2013 to March 2016 which was funded by the Safer Portsmouth Partnership and Public Health. Now that the IRIS Service has ended there is a clear indication that this is resulting in GPs referring fewer patients to EIP.

Given that the SPP has domestic abuse as one of its strategic priorities and an aim to develop capacity amongst non-specialist services to identify and respond to victims of domestic abuse; the Board would like your help in influencing Portsmouth CCG, PHT and Solent NHS Trust to ensure that their staff working understand the impact of domestic abuse, receive adequate training to be confident in asking whether their patient is experiencing domestic abuse and in appropriately responding to any disclosures.