

Further evidence Received for the Assessment of the progress made following Portsmouth's review of domestic abuse.

During the course of the review, the panel requested further information from Portsmouth City Council officers, which was then included in the report:

The Troubled Families Coordinator.

The Troubled Families Co-ordinator explained that there are three national criteria for dealing with families under the Troubled Families Programme: worklessness; offending/ anti-social behaviour and poor education outcomes. Portsmouth City Council chose the following additional criteria: where there are children subject to a Child Protection Plan, Children in Need, Domestic Abuse and where there have been multiple interventions without sustained change. Through a process of data sharing 795 families that meet the eligibility criteria were identified (as at 10 February 2014). The commitment is to have identified and have started work with 555 families by March 2015. So far, work has started with 338. These families will either be receiving a Barnardos Family Intervention Service, Multi Systemic Therapy service or have a lead professional from an existing service with a team around the family. It should be noted that the identified families figure is cumulative and it is hoped will be refreshed this year. The nature of the eligibility criteria is such that the families will be known to services and will be receiving targeted or universal provision. There is also a referral pathway open which enables services to refer families to our services which creates a more dynamic way of identifying families. He is confident that the targets will be met but the next six months is critical.

The Senior Commissioning Manager, Adult Social Care, Integrated Commissioning Unit

- As the refuge no longer includes a child support worker, the new support service was tailored to include more work with children as well as the rest of the family as part of a co-ordinated response to help reduce risk and increase safety and independence, health and wellbeing. Specifically an extract from the specification states that the service is to 'include specialist staff support for children (including males under the age of 18) both in a supervisory role to assist the mother during her support sessions or when undertaking statutory obligations; but also in a counselling and behavioural management role recognising children as witnesses to domestic violence incidents and the impact.'
- The number of families able to be accommodated within refuge services has reduced from 19 to 16 units. There were previously 22 bedrooms available but some families occupied more than one bedroom. In addition, there is now more of a focus on preventative services with an additional 70 hours of outreach support available (including to single men or men with children).
- Domestic abuse victims often bring their children with them to the refuge. The service specification states that all males under the age of 18 should be considered. This would be on a case by case basis depending on the individual (i.e. some 13 year old males can be quite intimidating to females, but some 17 year olds are quite placid).

- There can be a lack of suitable move-on accommodation. For refugees this situation is complicated by the fact many people are from out of area and may want to go back to their place of origin.
- An integrated service jointly commissioned by Supporting People, the Community Safety Partnership and Children's Services that delivers security, support, advocacy and guidance to victims/ survivors of domestic abuse and their children as part of a co-ordinated community response to help them achieve reduced risk and increased safety and independence, health and wellbeing amongst other related outcomes.
- The main purpose of the service is to provide client led practical and emotional support to enable victims/survivors of domestic abuse to gain the strength, confidence and skills necessary to allow them to move-on and rebuild their lives. The service will:
 - a. Provide flexible housing related support within a safe environment to both single adults and adults with children who are/have been victims of domestic violence;
 - b. Adopt a non-judgemental 'Think Family' approach, providing a holistic understanding of domestic abuse issues and inter dependencies i.e. employment, housing, support networks, school, education, substance misuse, offending etc;
 - c. Ensure that service users' views shape service delivery by employing various methods of consultation and involvement;
 - d. Demonstrate commitment to explore all future housing options available (not just local authority housing) on a case by case basis to find the 'best fit' for victims/survivors and their children;
 - e. Demonstrate a culture of honesty, openness, continuous improvement and complaints learning;
 - f. Not be anti-male – allowing and encouraging exposure to positive male role models;
 - g. Include staff with skills around good communication and listening, counselling, enabling, legal and housing knowledge as well as an understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse in families and in relationships without children;
 - h. Include specialist staff support for children (including males under the age of 18) both in a supervisory role to assist the mother during her support sessions or when undertaking statutory obligations; but also in a counselling and behavioural management role recognising children as witnesses to domestic violence incidents and their impact.
 - i. Include group work for mothers and children to build confidence, self-esteem empowering survivors to make their own decisions
 - j. Work in partnership with the City's other Domestic Violence services, including Children's Centres, and be represented at the Domestic Abuse Review Project Group (or similar forum) on a regular basis;
 - k. Work in partnership with volunteer support networks and peer support/buddy systems as well as with other providers of domestic abuse services in the area;
 - l. Work with appropriate services to provide co-ordinated resettlement support for service users moving on to other services or accommodation, including returns home which will be specifically risk assessed

The Hidden Violence & Young People Manager

- Although the number of beds at the refuge has recently been reduced from 22 to 16, the refuge now offers 70 hours per week outreach work to support victims to remain in their own homes.
- The Safer Portsmouth Partnership Strategic Assessment shows that 66% of police call outs in 2012/13 to incidents involving domestic abuse were not recorded as a crime and of these 80% led to an arrest and only 55% of these led to a charge.

The Sexual Health Lead/ Teenage Pregnancy Senior Officer

- The teenage pregnancy rate in Portsmouth experienced a downward trend in 2011 and 2012; the conception rate for 2012 was 39.9 per 1,000 women for the under 18s (n¹=134). In 2012, the rate for Southampton the under 18 conception rate was 34.3 per 1,000 (n=129) and for the South East the rate was 23.2 per 1,000 (n=3,617).
- In 2012, the under 18 terminations rate was 17 per 1,000 (n=57). Looking across all age boundaries the highest rate for terminations was in the 20-24 years old with a rate of 25 per 1,000 (n=266). This reflects the focus of work the government has taken for the under 18 conception rate. Abortions continue to be an issue for all women of childbearing years, with this in mind we have to be mindful of promoting choices of contraception and sexual health education to all ages.
- Data for the under 18 conception rate shows that in 2010, with a 42% termination rate, this equates to an estimated 77 births, in 2011 there were an estimated 65 births; and in 2012 the termination rate rose to 51.5% this would equate to an estimated 65 births.
- In light of this, she believes that the number of FNPs is sufficient with respect to the under 18 provision in the city. The FNPs also cover the under 19's provision for which we have no data. Funding should focus both on the preventative agenda of teenage pregnancy as well as support.
- Secondary school refer students who may be vulnerable and at risk of teenage pregnancy to the SORTED Programme², which provides the young person with one to one support and education in order to build aspiration; resilience and confidence so that they can have a future of their choosing.
- From 2010 to 2013 the programme received over 800 referrals from secondary schools across the local authority. It is felt that this programme is the foundation of good sexual health and promotes the delay message with respect to pregnancy.
- The city also has an outreach maternity worker who works with the midwifery team to support vulnerable young pregnant women and teenage parents who

¹ N= actual number.

² <http://www.areyousorted.co.uk/>

choose not to be with a FNP or do not meet the requirements to join the FNP Programme.

- In a 2010 survey carried out by the Teenage Pregnancy Team, the 50 teenage mothers interviewed reported that the main reason for relationship breakdown was domestic abuse. The results of this survey informed the commissioning review of the under 18s conception rate in 2010.

The Third Sector Partnerships and Commissioning Manager, Integrated Commissioning Unit

The service specification is currently being written for the abuse and rape counselling service that will begin at the end of September 2014. This will consist mostly of the services which are currently delivered by PARCS and will include the core service, the outreach service for young people and the mental health counsellor. As with all re-commissioning of services the council will investigate to see what savings may be possible; however until the procurement process is complete and the bidders prices has been assessed this cannot be confirmed.

The Senior Independent Domestic Violence Advocate

- The Butterfly Programme is a 12 week programme that has been run by the EIP since 2008. It looks at all aspects of domestic abuse and how this effects the individuals within the group, offering support to recognise it and move forward into a non-abusive environment.
- There was a gap in delivery due to funding as the original funders were unable to maintain the commitment. The current funding comes from a small pot of community safety money and from the early years services which funds the crèche facility. In September 2012 with assistance from young children's centres and EIP the group restarted and is currently in its third intake. It is hoped that this programme will continue three times a year.
- The feedback from clients has been very positive. Each session starts with 22 participants and normally 18 will complete the programme.
- The EIP aims to continue to provide the Butterfly Programme and to have no more than 15 participants and will review the intake programme to ensure that it is best placed to meet the needs of the clients and a smaller number will allow additional focus and attention on the participants experience and how to move positively forward. If demand continues to increase, the EIP will consider running two groups at a time.