

Title of meeting: Safety in the Community Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 20th September 2022

Subject: Additional funding to support victims of domestic abuse

Report by: Bruce Marr; Head of Service Partnership and Planning

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 For the Cabinet Member for the Safety in the Community portfolio to confirm the allocation of the additional funding of £28,000 for 2022/23 for victims of domestic abuse

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for the Safety in the Community portfolio to confirm the allocation of the additional funding of £28,000 for victims of domestic abuse to purchase Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) training and supervision for four new members of staff, in the Family Safeguarding Service, who work with families and children where there is domestic abuse in the home to support ongoing interventions.

3. Background

- 3.1 Cabinet have identified a further £28,000 for 2022/23 to support victims of domestic abuse. Previously cabinet identified additional one off funding of £28,000 per year for 2020/21 and 2021/22 to support victims of domestic abuse. At the time it was decided that this additional funding was used to provide additional capacity to Stop Domestic Abuse, Portsmouth City Councils commissioned domestic abuse provider, to manage an increase of referrals for victims of domestic abuse assessed at medium risk. There had been an increase due to a change in police processes and medium risk referrals increased from 541 in 2018/19 to 946 in 2020/21. Following review the police have changed their process and referral numbers have returned to the expected level. Therefore there is no longer a need for Stop Domestic Abuse to receive additional resource.
- 3.2 Currently, with other government grants, Stop Domestic Abuse are receiving additional funding to increase support options to victims of domestic abuse. This

includes increased funding to meet the new statutory duty to provide safe accommodation and increased support to families experiencing child and adolescent to parent violence.

- 3.3 There has consistently been high numbers of families referred to Children Social Care where there has been domestic abuse in the home¹. In September 2020 the cabinet member for Community Safety agreed an annual budget transfer of £39,500 to the Children and Families Portfolio to recruit an additional domestic abuse practitioner for the Family Safeguarding Service² as domestic abuse has consistently been the highest presenting parental issue in the home for families supported³
- 3.4 Increasing the number of trained staff in the Family Safeguarding Service to deliver DDP will increase capacity to support children and their families, where there is a history of domestic abuse, to change parental unhealthy and abusive behaviours; this will support children and young people to manage the trauma experienced and reduce risks of poor outcomes in the future.

What is DDP?

- 3.5 DDP is designed to support children and young people alongside their families to explore emotions and thoughts where early trauma experiences may have impacted on social and emotional development. This exploration aims to support the intersubjective relationship between parent and carer, encouraging them to work alongside one another to share and identify thoughts and emotions and enable progress.
- 3.6 The aim is that this will encourage improved social and emotional skills in an environment whereby the young person feels able to explore their emotions openly; increasing their sense of acceptance, empathy from their caregivers and promoting a positive and nurturing environment. In terms of risks to the child, these positive changes will reduce push factors as the young person will feel a greater sense of belonging, acceptance and empathy from caregivers within the home.
- 3.7 DDP will support parents to develop more positive communication methods and the young person will develop skills to share their thoughts and feelings to create a more positive environment. The intervention aims to promote curiosity between young people and their parents to understand better what is driving their behaviour, to identify need and implement appropriate support which will lead to a reduction in the trauma experienced by the child or young person and improved outcomes for them.
- 3.8 There are 2 levels of training; DDP level 1, where practitioners use the principles in practice followed by DDP level 2, where practitioners use DDP informed practice. Once the Practicum is completed the practitioner has certified DDP practitioner

¹ In 2021/22 Children Social Care received 13,978 contacts. Of the 3,699 that met the threshold for CSC intervention of which domestic abuse was a factor in 2,335 (63%) of these.

² <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=487&MIId=4569>

³ In quarter 4 2021/22 DA was a factor in 75% of families supported by the Family Safeguarding Service, 58% of families had Mental Health as a presenting factor and 51% had substance misuse as a factor

status. Across the partnership there are currently 9 staff trained at level 2 and 21 at level 1. It is proposed this funding will support four staff who work in the Family Safeguarding Service to be trained, receive 121 supervision and contribute to group supervision for 18 trained members of staff.

Costs

- 3.9 To achieve the Practicum takes on average 12 - 18 months and requires more intense individual supervision whilst this is in progress. Each level of training is delivered over 4 days with at least a 6 month gap in order to have time to develop the skills that are taught. Supervision is a requirement of the training; this funding will support 121 supervision for those being trained and group for everyone trained or being trained to date. Therefore it is proposed that this funding is committed to March 2024.
- 3.10 The total cost is £28,760 with the breakdown of training and supervision in the table below. The additional £760 will come from cash limit domestic abuse funding.

Provision	Cost per item	Frequency	Total
DDP level 1 training for 4 staff	£850 pp	Once	£3,400
DDP level 2 training for 4 staff	£850 pp	Once	£3,400
Monthly individual supervision for newly trained staff	£240 (£120/hr for 2 hours per worker)	Monthly per worker for 15 months (Jan 23 to Mar 24)	£14,400
Group supervision for 3 cohorts (due to maximum numbers per session)	£360 (£120/hr for 3 hours each group supervision)	21 sessions in total (7 sessions bimonthly per group - Jan 23 to Mar 24)	£7,560

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 This will increase response options to support children and families where there is domestic abuse. Tackling violent crime, including a focus on domestic abuse, has been a priority for the Safer Portsmouth Partnership for several years. To improve the response to victims on 1st July 2021 a new contract began that combined three separate services into to one. The commissioned provider for this is Stop Domestic Abuse and with additional funding they have increased response options more widely.
- 4.2 However the vast majority of referrals to Stop Domestic Abuse are from the police, which means someone has contacted the police as an emergency at a time of crises. By training more staff in DDP it is hoped that this will provide earlier intervention therefore reducing risks of victims needing to contact the police in crises and by improving the response in Children Social Care will hopefully increase safety for children in their own homes resulting in fewer young people becoming Looked After.

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a significant positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

6. Legal implications

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The report provides clear justification for the need to train additional staff in order to support the families experiencing domestic abuse.

6.2 As the DDP training and subsequent supervision will be commissioned externally, there is a need to ensure compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules when procuring these services.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 Financial comments and implications are included in the body of the report.

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Signed by: Hayden Ginns, Assistant Director, Children, Families & Education.

Appendices: None

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

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: