

Children and Young People Select Committee

Task and Finish Review Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children

January 2020

Children and Young People Select Committee
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
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Task and Finish Group – Membership

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Scope

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

This review is relevant to all of the Council's Policy Principles but in particular:

- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention
- Developing strong and healthy communities through the provision of mainstream and preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them.

Council Plan 2019-22 objectives - Children and Young People:

- Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable children, backed up by outstanding social work practice

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) Vision:

- Every child in Hartlepool and Stockton feels safe, secure and is protected from harm; enabling them to reach their full potential

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

Children and young people are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse. They are affected both as witnesses to abuse which might be directed at a relative, as victims of the emotional damage this causes, and as direct victims of domestic abuse themselves. Interventions need to be planned to take account of the fact that, where children are involved, their best interests will be paramount. Children and young people can also be perpetrators of domestic abuse on their parents or in their own relationships.

DA does not only lead to children and young people being referred to safeguarding and some children placed in our care, but also impacts on what we call 'children in need'.

The impact for our children and young people can be significant but there is also a significant impact on resources: our own resources, commissioned DA services, health, police etc.

A Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017- 2022 has been developed which aims to improve physical, psychological and social outcomes. By promoting preventative measures, alongside early intervention, support and protection, the Strategy aims to reduce the effects of harmful behaviour for victims and their families.

The overall aim of this review is to better understand the impact of domestic abuse on children and the effectiveness of interventions to inform the Domestic Abuse Strategy and future commissioning decisions.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- What is domestic abuse?
- What is the impact of domestic abuse on children?
- How is the incidence of domestic abuse recorded? What is the prevalence in Stockton? Is

<p>this an accurate picture?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do referrals operate? How is risk identified and managed? What are the numbers of repeat referrals and what does this tell us? • What sort of needs assessment underpins our actions on domestic abuse? • Do we have a clear understanding of the demographics of domestic abuse? • How was the Domestic Abuse Strategy developed and what are the local priorities? • How is coercion and control reflected in the Strategy? • What services are available locally for victims and perpetrators, how are they commissioned and their impact assessed? Do we have a clear picture of what works? • What specialist support is provided for children and young people (including the management of physical and mental impact)? Do we have a clear picture of what works? • How are services funded? Have cost-benefit analyses been carried out on interventions? • What examples are there of innovative practice, locally and nationally? • How confident are we that professionals are trained to watch out for the signs of domestic violence and abuse? • What is Operation Encompass and how effective has this been? • How well do Adults' and Children's Services work together on this issue? • Who are the key partners, what role do they play and how well are they working together? • How are the needs of marginalised groups recognised and met? 	
<p>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Cabinet, key partners</p>	
<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>5 months with a report to Cabinet in January 2020</p>	
<p>What information do we need?</p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017 – 2022 and Action Plan</p> <p>Consultation and data analysis</p> <p>Summary of services available in Stockton</p> <p>Evaluation of Operation Encompass</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Bill 2019</p> <p>The economic and social costs of domestic abuse. Research Report 107 January 2019. Home Office</p> <p>Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Relevant sections)</p>	
<p>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</p> <p>SBC Children's Services</p>	<p>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</p> <p>Contextual presentation (local and national</p>

picture); definition of DA; role of the social worker, Assessment Teams, Domestic Abuse Worker and the Family Group Conference Team

SBC Public Health

How need is assessed, how services are commissioned

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Tees Wide Work and impact

Police

Prevention and support services
Operation Encompass background and progress

Harbour

Support to individuals and families in Stockton and the impact
Feedback from victims/ perpetrators

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report presents the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse and its impact on children. The overall aim of the review was to better understand the impact of domestic abuse on children and the effectiveness of interventions to inform the Domestic Abuse Strategy and future commissioning decisions.

1.2 The Committee discussed a potential focus on the following issues:

- What is domestic abuse?
- What is the impact of domestic abuse on children?
- How is the incidence of domestic abuse recorded? What is the prevalence in Stockton? Is this an accurate picture?
- How do referrals operate? How is risk identified and managed? What are the numbers of repeat referrals and what does this tell us?
- What sort of needs assessment underpins our actions on domestic abuse?
- Do we have a clear understanding of the demographics of domestic abuse?
- How was the Domestic Abuse Strategy developed and what are the local priorities?
- How is coercion and control reflected in the Strategy?
- What services are available locally for victims and perpetrators, how are they commissioned and their impact assessed? Do we have a clear picture of what works?
- What specialist support is provided for children and young people (including the management of physical and mental impact)? Do we have a clear picture of what works?
- How are services funded? Have cost-benefit analyses been carried out on interventions?
- What examples are there of innovative practice, locally and nationally?
- How confident are we that professionals are trained to watch out for the signs of domestic violence and abuse?
- What is Operation Encompass and how effective has this been?
- How well do Adults' and Children's Services work together on this issue?
- Who are the key partners, what role do they play and how well are they working together?
- How are the needs of marginalised groups recognised and met?

1.3 Given the potentially wide scope of the issues around domestic abuse and in recognition of the complexity of the issues and the limited time frame for a task and finish approach, the review has been focused on those areas which are of most direct relevance to the impact of domestic abuse on children and families, and especially the links to children's social care functions. Therefore a wholesale review of the DA strategy and how it was developed, for example, has not been undertaken in this review, to do so would be beyond the remit of this specific task and finish group. In agreeing this focus the Committee remained mindful of the need to ensure that the wider context of work with victims and perpetrators was taken into account.

1.4 The Committee has taken evidence from Children's Services, Harbour, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cleveland Police.

2.0 Evidence

BACKGROUND

What is domestic abuse?

2.1 According to the LGA, domestic abuse, family conflict and drink and drug abuse are the biggest drivers of a 53% rise in child protection cases in England over the past decade. Its councillor survey found that more than 80% identified domestic abuse and substance misuse as being behind the increased numbers in their areas.

2.2 In 2013, the UK government defined Domestic Abuse as:

‘Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

2.3 Controlling behaviour is defined as a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

2.4 Coercive behaviour is defined as an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim.’

2.5 The national definition of domestic violence and abuse is comprehensive. Examples of the different types of abuse are given below; this is not an exhaustive list.

- **Psychological:** someone blaming you for their behaviour; checking up on you constantly
- **Physical:** someone threatening to hurt you or hurting you
- **Sexual:** being forced to take part in unwanted, unsafe or degrading sexual activity
- **Financial:** someone restricting your access to money or work
- **Emotional:** being criticised, humiliated, your feelings being ignored or your confidence being affected

2.6 This definition recognises that domestic abuse is experienced by men and women and in same-sex, heterosexual and familial relationships.

2.7 Child to parent abuse is becoming a behaviour seen by many services both locally and nationally. This fits the government’s definition of abuse and is seen as the child intending to gain power and control over a parent/ carer and the abuse can be any of those detailed in 2.5 above.

How are children involved?

2.8 In relationships where there is domestic violence and abuse, children witness about three-quarters of the abusive incidents. About half the children in such families have themselves been badly hit or beaten. Sexual and emotional abuse are also more likely to happen in these families.

Who is involved?

2.9 Abusers may be male or female. Abuse can happen in any class, religion, ethnic group, occupation or age. It may occur in all types of relationships, including same sex relationships. Children may also experience domestic violence and abuse, or, if they are older, be domestically violent and abusive.

2.10 People often think that alcohol and mental illness can cause person to be violent. Alcohol does not cause domestic violence and abuse, but there is evidence that where domestic violence and abuse exists, alcohol is often present. Most people who are mentally ill are not violent. Mental ill-health, alcohol and substance abuse are indicators of increased risk and are referred to as the toxic trio.

2.11 Children of any age are affected by domestic violence and abuse. At no age will they be unaffected by what is happening, even when they are in the womb.

The impact of domestic abuse on children

2.12 Domestic abuse impacts on children in a number of ways. Children are at increased risk of physical injury during an incident, either by accident or when they attempt to intervene. Even when not directly injured, children are greatly distressed by witnessing the physical and emotional suffering of their parent. Domestic abuse also affects children because it impacts on parenting capacity. The exposure to physical, psychological and emotional abuse has profound negative effects on mental health that can result in a loss of confidence, depression, feelings of degradation, problems with sleep, isolation and increased use of medication and alcohol. These are some of the factors that can restrict the parents' capacity to meet the development needs of the child.

2.13 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is the term used to describe all types of abuse, neglect, and other potentially traumatic experiences that occur to people under the age of 18. The traumatic experiences can include witnessing domestic abuse, experiencing a family member who is depressed or diagnosed with a mental illness or addicted to alcohol or substances. The presence of ACEs does not mean that a child will experience poor outcomes. However, children's positive experiences or protective factors can prevent children from experiencing adversity and can protect against many of the negative health and life outcomes even after adversity has occurred.

2.14 Obviously, it is very upsetting for children to see one of their parents (or partners) abusing, attacking or controlling the other. Younger children may become anxious. They may complain of tummy-aches or start to wet their bed. They may find it difficult to sleep, have temper tantrums and start to behave as if they are much younger than they are. They may also find it difficult to separate from their abused parent when they start nursery or school.

2.15 Older children react differently. Boys seem to express their distress much more outwardly, for example by becoming aggressive and disobedient. Sometimes, they start to use violence to try and solve problems, and may copy the behaviour they see within the family. Older boys may play truant and start to use alcohol or drugs (both of which are a common way of trying to block out disturbing experiences and memories).

2.16 Girls are more likely to keep their distress inside. They may become withdrawn from other people, and become anxious or depressed. They may think badly of themselves and complain of vague physical symptoms. They are more likely to have an eating disorder, or to harm themselves by taking overdoses or cutting themselves. They are also more likely to choose an abusive partner themselves.

2.17 Children of any age can develop symptoms of what is called 'Post-traumatic Stress Disorder'. They may get nightmares, flashbacks, become very jumpy, and have headaches and physical pains. Children dealing with domestic violence and abuse often do badly at school. Their frightening experiences at home make it difficult to concentrate in school, and if they are worried about their abused parent, they may refuse to go to school.

Long term effects

2.18 As adults, children who have witnessed violence and abuse are more likely to become involved in a violent and abusive relationship themselves. Children tend to copy the behaviour of their parents. However, children don't always repeat the same pattern when they grow up. Many children don't like what they see, and try very hard not to make the same mistakes as their parents. Even so, children from violent and abusive families may grow up feeling anxious and depressed, and find it difficult to get on with other people.

Prevalence of domestic abuse

2.19 The national data suggests that from the year ending March 2018, the estimated victims of domestic abuse aged between 16-59 years old is 2,000,000. The estimated amount of females

from this figure is 65% (1,300,000) and 35% of males (695,000).

The graph below shows data from the year ending March 2017 compared to the year ending March 2018- giving a National, Regional and local view of domestic abuse related incidents:

	National			North East			Cleveland		
	Year Ending March 2017	Year Ending March 2018	Variance	Year Ending March 2017	Year Ending March 2018	Variance	Year Ending March 2017	Year Ending March 2018	Variance
No. of DA Incidents and Crimes	1,068,020	1,198,094	130,074	70,511	80,487	9,976	15,535	16,329	794
DA Incidents and Crimes per 1,000 Population	18	20	2	27	30	3	28	29	1
No. of DA Related Crimes	488,049	599,549	111,500	28,824	38,874	10,050	6,658	7,294	636
DA Related Crimes per 1,000 Population	8	10	2	11	15	4	12	13	1

2.20 Within Stockton on Tees, between April 2018 and March 2019, the amount of domestic abuse related incidents were 5,883; an increase of 16.8 % from the same period in the previous year.

2.21 Not all victims of domestic abuse report to the police, information is therefore gathered from a range of partner organisations data to gain a wider picture of what is happening locally in relation to domestic abuse.

Between April 2018 and December 2018:

- 230 individuals have approached Housing Options for a domestic violence related reason
- Just over one in ten of all referrals to Children’s Services were domestic violence related
- 17% of all adult safeguarding concerns were recorded with the primary category of Domestic Abuse
- Thirteen housing had 31 Referrals to Tenancy Support for the reason of Domestic Abuse

2.22 From a multi-agency perspective domestic abuse remains a significant concern and between April 2018 and March 2019 the Police have received over 19,000 reports of domestic abuse across Cleveland, just under 6,000 relate specifically to incidents occurring in Stockton. Whilst the rolling 12 month repeat rate has remained static it is still too high at 47.2% for 2018/19 compared to 47.0% for 2017/18. There have been over 800 social care cases that include domestic abuse as a primary concern out of over 7,000 referrals into Stockton Borough Council. We know that many incidents will continue to go un-reported.

Domestic Abuse Bill

2.23 A Domestic Abuse Bill has been debated in Parliament. The Bill failed to complete its passage through Parliament before Dissolution. However, a carry-over motion was passed meaning that the Bill can continue its passage through Parliament in the next Parliamentary session.

2.24 The Domestic Abuse Bill contains provisions to:

- Define domestic abuse in law to underpin other measures in the Bill
- Establish a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of local authorities, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse

- Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order create a new domestic abuse offence in Northern Ireland to criminalise controlling or coercive behaviour
- Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link)
- Enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme on a statutory footing
- Ensure that where a Local Authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy
- Extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences

Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

2.25 The JSNA estimates that there are over 3,500 people experiencing domestic abuse in Stockton on Tees per year, that victims are living with domestic abuse for 2-3 years before seeking help and that on average, 85% of victims sought help five times from professionals in the year before they got effective help to stop the abuse. It is also estimated that at least 300 children will go on to become abusive or victims of abuse per year. Stockton on Tees has a higher rate of domestic abuse crimes than the national average.

2.26 The following actions were identified:

- Raising awareness to increase early intervention and reduce the impact of abuse (preventing missed opportunities)
- Delivering a co-ordinated community response to DA ensuring services work collaboratively and are co-located where possible
- Raising awareness of support that is available and increase involvement with services in more affluent areas
- Ensuring partners work towards 'Domestic abuse is Everyone's Business'
- Education and awareness raising amongst children and young people around healthy relationships and self esteem
- Ensuring specialist services provide early intervention and support to children and young people exposed to domestic abuse or displaying signs of abusive behaviours
- Ensuring specialist services provide early intervention support for victims and encourage behaviour change in perpetrators to reduce the repeat rate
- Changing the culture of acceptance - domestic abuse is socially unacceptable. Raise expectations of a life free from abuse and encourage healthy relationships
- Designing and evaluate services based on evidence base and identified need
- Continuing to consult with service users and stakeholders on service development and monitor national pilot programmes to ensure good practice is followed
- Reviewing commissioned services where needed

Funding and commissioning of services

2.27 The commissioned service contract consists of funding from across Children's services (approx. £38,000), Safer Stockton Partnership (£43,000), Adult Services (£130,000) and Public Health (£150,000). Harbour also bring in additional funding from various other sources. For example, the Navigator Project (collaborative work with 5 other Local Authority areas) was funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

2.28 A full service review, including service user feedback, was completed in 2016 to inform the development of the service specification for the SBC commissioned Domestic Abuse Service to be delivered from April 2018 onwards. Whilst developing the current specialist domestic abuse contract, evidence and good practice was considered from national specialist work and incorporated into the interventions offered as part of this current contract. For example, following emerging awareness of fathering as a motivator for stopping abuse, the current service provides the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Caring Dads programme which is aimed at improving the safety and well-being of children by working with fathers who have been violent and abusive in their families. Also, the service provides the NSPCC Domestic Abuse Recovering Together programme and Me and You Mum to encourage recovery together and support for those young people experiencing or using aggressive or abusive behaviours in early relationships and within the family environment.

Stockton Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-2022

Vision:

We can achieve real, sustainable progress to tackle domestic abuse by working together as local partners, agencies, and communities to prevent individuals from becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

Ambition:

All children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives' and 'all residents to live free from the fear of crime.

Priorities:

1. Cultural change: a means to prevention

We will use a combination of evidence-based approaches simultaneously and relentlessly in a variety of settings to change our culture and strengthen our efforts to prevent domestic abuse including a focus on healthy relationships.

2. Early Intervention: avoiding crisis

We will intervene early, and respond efficiently and effectively, to support, protect and safeguard individuals and families who are affected by domestic abuse.

3. Perpetration of domestic abuse

We will seek to understand, and intervene to reduce, the cycle of repeat perpetration of domestic abuse.

4. Victims of domestic abuse

We will seek to identify, understand, and support repeat victims of domestic abuse

5. Reducing the impact on children, young people and families

We will reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children, young people and families by working restoratively with families

6. Working together

We will work together to educate, inform and challenge ourselves and our communities in the delivery of our vision.

The role of the Children's Hub (CHUB)

2.29 Children are referred to Children's Social Care via the Children's Hub in Hartlepool.

2.30 Agencies in the Children's Hub share information to help the Social Workers in the Hub to decide whether the concerns warrant a Single Assessment by a Social Worker in Children's Social Care.

2.31 Some referrals into the Children's Hub identify domestic abuse as an issue at this point, in other cases, it becomes apparent that domestic abuse is an issue during the assessment process.

2.32 The Single Assessment will identify what, if any, further support is necessary. If longer term Social Work support is needed, a Care Plan will be produced.

2.33 There are three levels of intervention:

- Child in Need (CIN)
- Child Protection
- Children in Our Care

2.34 In relation to children's social care, between 01 April 2018 and 31 March 2019:

- 2703 Single Assessments were completed
- 1080 (40%) of the completed Assessments identified Domestic Abuse as a risk factor
- 494 child protection plans were made in the period
- 286 (57.9%) of the child protection plans were from Assessments where DA was identified as a risk factor
- 216 children were brought into our care in the period

2.35 Re-referrals where threshold was not met for compulsory intervention are a particular struggle. Training for social workers to deliver some intervention might be beneficial in these cases.

2.36 A Harbour Worker has been based within the CHUB covering Stockton and Hartlepool (23 hours funded by Stockton and 17.5 hours funded by Hartlepool). This worker is seeking to increase knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse, providing advice, guidance and support at the earliest opportunity and ensuring effective referral management. This role is contributing to the reduced waiting times for children and their families where domestic abuse is highlighted.

EVIDENCE FROM HARBOUR

2.37 Harbour, the commissioned specialist domestic abuse provider for Stockton on Tees, works across the North East operating with a single phone number. Over time Harbour have moved to a more family focused and holistic approach and have updated their assessment processes to reflect this. A lead practitioner is allocated to each family. They also operate a "trauma informed" approach.

2.38 Demand has been increasing and, as a result, a weekly drop in session has been introduced. This helps to assess client needs as quickly as possible. Engagement levels have also increased.

2.39 Services provided by Harbour include:

- The Harbour refuge in Stockton which has seven flats for women in crisis
- Three dispersed properties for males, families in crisis or where there are complex needs

- Community services for victims
- Empowerment programmes including group work and peer support
- Specialist services for children and young people including an Emotional Wellbeing Group. Recognising that this could be daunting for some children and young people, weekly “Getting to know You” sessions have been introduced and this has in turn led to increased attendance at the group sessions
- The Respect accredited Programme is a six month behaviour change programme for perpetrators; the Alter Programme is being trialled and is aimed at perpetrators who do not acknowledge their abusive behaviour; Caring Dads is aimed at encouraging positive parenting
- The DART (DA Recovering Together) programme is aimed at mums and children aged 7+needing to rebuild relationships
- Navigator roles to address complex needs and female offenders has been introduced with additional Government funding. The joint bid has provided 70 hours of intensive support in Stockton. The funding is in place until March 2020
- A PCC bid has resulted in funding to support vulnerable women at risk of offending. This ran with probation and the police. Funding is also due to end in March 2020
- Three link workers based in Early Help, the Safeguarding Team and the CHUB
- A Recovery Service funded by the Big Lottery also benefits Stockton. This provides longer term therapeutic and emotional support for women and a weekly survivors group. The longer-term support helps to reduce repeat referrals

2.40 Following Harbour interventions, 76% of clients reported reduced physical abuse, 83% reported feeling safer and 74% reported feeling more confident. The outcomes cannot be triangulated with police data but the professional judgement of staff is exercised and the results correlated with perpetrator feedback.

2.41 Examples of innovation include the introduction of drop in sessions at three GP surgeries in Stockton between March and September 2019. This had been introduced owing to the very low numbers of referrals from GPs. As a result of this visible presence, 38 contacts had been made and this had resulted in 18 referrals and engagement with 17 clients. The sessions also helped staff develop their own knowledge and awareness. Learning from Serious Case Reviews revealed that warning signs had often been missed in these settings.

2.42 The Council’s records show that Harbour received the following referrals between April 2018- March 2019:

- 1146 clients were referred to the Lead Practitioner
- 9 clients were referred to dispersed properties
- 1332 clients were referred to the Outreach Service
- 436 clients were referred to the Empowerment Service
- 309 clients were referred to an IDVA
- 208 clients were referred to DAPS
- 560 clients were referred to the Children Young Peoples Service
- 277 clients were referred to the Counselling Service

Domestic abuse data analysis – Harbour referrals

2.43 As part of the review, the Council’s planning and performance team carried out an analysis of referral data from Harbour. The key findings are as follows:

- The source data requires further clarity to better understand referral measures. A deep dive analysis from the commissioned provider will allow further learning to inform a response
- It is always difficult to monitor domestic abuse on statistical outcomes alone and further work should be carried out to monitor more qualitative data that would highlight the successful interventions put in place by the commissioned domestic abuse services

- Although there are some gaps in demographic information, it is clear that most referrals are female and White British
- The majority of referrals are for those aged 26 – 35 years
- Most referrals come via the Police and are people who either privately rent or are tenants of local social landlords
- Where a vulnerability has been recorded, it is mostly mental health concerns
- Where services have been discontinued it has for the most part been due to clients disengaging
- A large number of referrals present with children, some of whom are a Child in Need or have a Child Protection Plan
- Most referrals who present with children have more than one child

THE ROLE OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Joint working initiative between Harbour Domestic Abuse Services and Children's Social Care in Stockton

2.44 In early 2018, discussions were carried out between Harbour Domestic Abuse Service and Stockton Borough Council regarding how the partnership between the two organisations could be further developed. This resulted in an agreement that Harbour would second a worker into Stockton Children's Services in order to help the Social Work teams within Stirling House. The remit of this role was to attempt to improve take up of, and engagement with, Harbour services. This would include the Harbour Link Worker visiting family members and carrying out motivational work to try and get service users to attend Harbour for assessments/interventions. Agreements were also reached that the Harbour worker could carry out some pieces of one to one work with particularly difficult to engage service users where several attempts had been made to attempt to get them to attend Harbour previously and those who had already attended but required some further work.

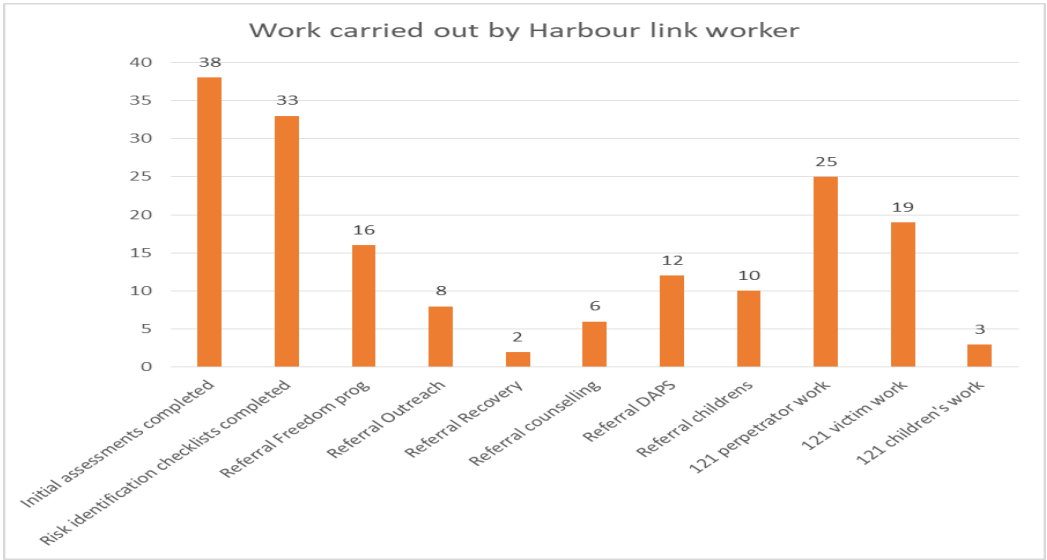
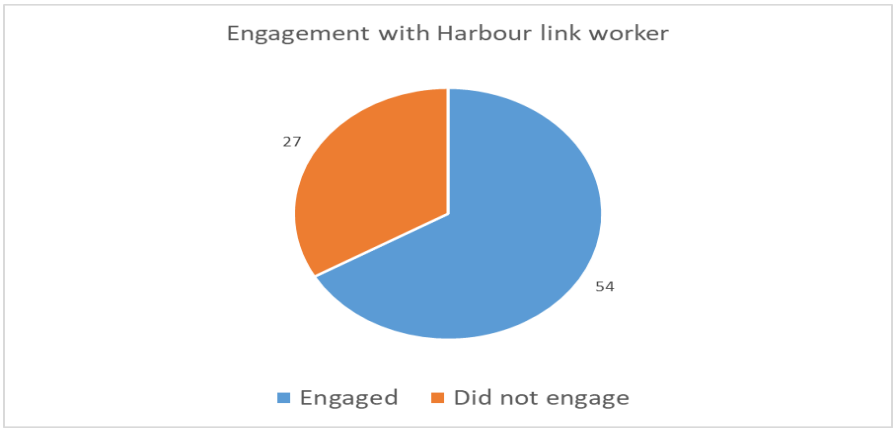
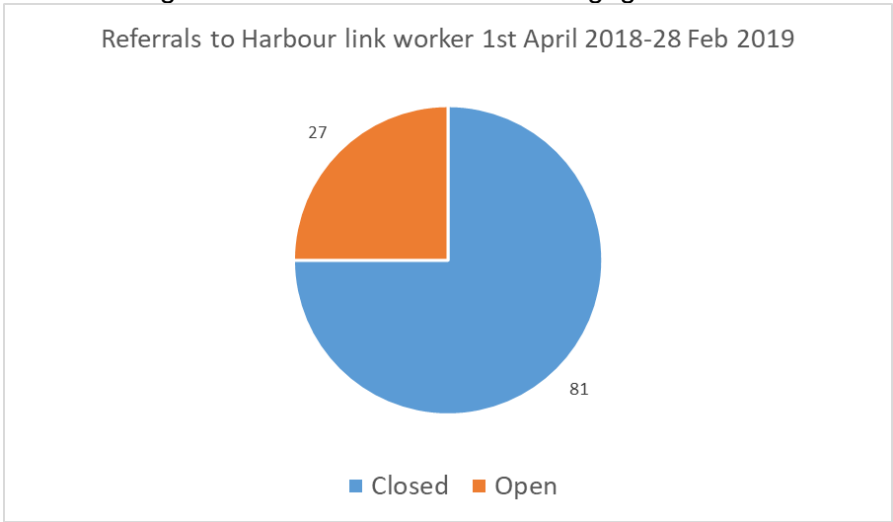
2.45 It was also decided that the worker would be placed within the Family Group Conference Service in order to maintain independence from the social work teams and that the FGC Manager would process the referrals for the worker. The seconded worker started in early April 2018.

2.46 To date there have been 130 referrals for the Harbour link worker. Of the closed cases 81 families engaged with the worker and 42 did not. This is very positive given that these are the most difficult to engage families. Many of the families referred have since been referred into Harbour services for further work and one to one work has also been carried out with a significant number of families. Following discussion between the FGC Manager and Harbour, the Council will be identifying 10 suitable families to attend the pilot of the new DART programme.

2.47 Service Managers for Harbour, have been working closely with FGC Manager in order to 'iron out' any issues experienced by Stockton Social Workers and Harbour Services and it has been particularly useful to open up an honest and open dialogue between the two services.

2.48 This joint venture between Harbour and Stockton Children's Services has been a great example of the benefits of close partnership working and could be used as a model upon which to build. Also, the success of this role has been very much dependent upon the enthusiasm and commitment of the Harbour Link Worker and Harbour's trust of the FGC Team Manager to supervise their member of staff.

The following charts illustrate the levels of engagement.



What has worked particularly well?

- Social Workers having quick access to Harbour updates via the Link Worker
- Working with the whole family, seeing the bigger picture, resulting in being more able to monitor risk effectively
- Being able to identify escalation and quickly feed this back to the Social Worker to help inform safeguarding decision making

- Being placed within the FGC team has provided the independence required and has also helped families to see a distinction between the Link Worker and the Social Worker. She has also provided the FGC team with some excellent advice regarding running family meetings where domestic abuse is an issue
- Feedback: The FGC Team Manager receives frequent and extremely positive
- Feedback regarding the work being carried out by the Link Worker
- Carrying out bespoke pieces of work with families – one size does not fit all
- Becoming well known to the social work teams and well respected too
- Being able to work with older young people (16 and 17 year olds) who are too young to access the freedom programme or preventions service within Harbour
- Being in the same building as the Social Workers results in a much better flow of information

2.49 Some challenges/difficulties have included:

- Volume of work and the complexity of assessment paperwork
- Waiting list at Harbour: a large part of the Link Worker's role is to motivate people to attend Harbour and encourage them to engage. This work is being carried out, however some families are then being referred over to Harbour and are having to wait for a service. This issue is being addressed between the FGC Manager and Harbour
- Lack of consistency about when Social Workers should involve the Link Worker or refer direct to Harbour. Again this is being monitored and addressed by the FGC Manager

RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE WITHIN EARLY HELP

2.50 Early Help Services are committed to responding to the strategy and offer support and interventions at the earliest opportunity.

2.51 The development within Early Help and the approach taken to respond to domestic abuse continues to evolve. The changes so far enable a more effective and appropriate response that recognises the importance of a multi-agency approach. Domestic abuse is an area of key focus and remains a golden thread within Early Help services.

2.52 All staff within Children's Services (by the end of summer 2019) will have been trained in Restorative Practice. This training forms the basis of a relationship approach that will be used with all who access early help. It will provide high challenge and high support to families and services users that will improve and build resilience in communities. Whilst not the aim this approach will allow early identification of domestic abuse and the ability to support from the earliest opportunity. Further training will be required to ensure that a clear understanding and consistent approach is applied. There is a gap in training in terms of completing the risk identification checklist and frontline practitioners ideally need to complete this.

2.53 System improvements have been made within Early Services to accurately record and recognise domestic abuse. From January 2019 domestic abuse can be highlighted within the CAPITA system. This means that domestic abuse is now being recorded, but we know that it is rare that domestic abuse will be presented as the only issue. Further work is still required to progress with a more sophisticated system that will allow intelligence to be extracted alongside other issues that the family face, that will identify primary concerns and more detailed analysis. The information that is being extracted is only a snapshot of the true picture of those living with domestic abuse that come into contact with Early Help Services through the Community Offer.

2.54 It is important to recognition and respond to domestic abuse across all of Early Help services with signposting from all from universal and universal plus to the targeted responses. Work will continue to develop the response from Family Action Services who are likely to receive direct disclosure around domestic abuse. We continue to learn from the tools that are used across Early Help that raise awareness, and the recognition of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse remains

a hidden and underreported issue for families and it is rare that it will be the only issue families are asking for help and support with. This must also be read with consideration to the victim's choice to disclose.

2.55 The upskilling of the workforce continues and most recently with awareness and recognition of domestic abuse through the 'How to Argue Better' launch. The primary focus for this initiative is to reduce conflict in the home that prevents parent(s) from gaining employment. The general approach is to encourage response by applying low level intervention for low level intensity cases. The relevance here is that recognising domestic and abuse and how to respond has also been applied.

Joint working initiative between Harbour Domestic Abuse Services and Early Help

2.56 Primary referrals from Early Help Support to Harbour have slightly reduced when compared to the previous financial year with 183 referrals from 184 different people in 2017/18 to 184 referrals from 180 different people in 2018/19. However there has been an increase in secondary referrals to Harbour from Early Help Support with 183 referrals from 165 different people in 2017/18 to 213 referrals from 181 different people in 2018/19. The biggest age range for secondary referrals was from 26-35 years (30%) followed by 19-25 years (18%). The biggest need for secondary services was for children and young people (35% of all referrals) and the second highest was for group work (29%).

2.57 The Harbour Specialist Domestic Abuse Worker within the Early Help Assessment Team commenced post in November 2018 and has contributed to the reduced number of children waiting for Harbour Services. This specialist practitioner has completed home visits to families, and provides 121 and family member support at the earliest opportunity where appropriate with children. The role actively encourages families to engage in support work with Harbour where more specialist support would be of more benefit. Equally the having a link worker sitting within the team provides knowledge and guidance around domestic abuse to the staff within the team and the wider children's work to recognise and respond to domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity.

2.58 In Quarter 1 of April 2019- June 2019 75 121 sessions were delivered. Over the last financial year 215 direct sessions with 48 families were recorded within the Special Projects Work area. The impact that this worker has for children can be better understood through case study examples.

Early Help Case Study

One case was a 13 year old boy who was referred into Early Help for his abusive behaviour toward his mum which resulted in her trying to commit suicide. An assessment took place using a whole family approach with his mum and his sister were it was established he needed a specific and targeted work for the abuse he had been conflicting on his mum. The Specialist DA Practitioner offered this and work could be started immediately. This approach meant that at the time of working he avoided the potential waiting time of up to 4 months (if he went through the normal harbour referral). This avoided a potential result of the abuse escalating at home for the family. Work was completed with the child, and the worker was effective in developing a good relationship with both him and his mum. The work took eight weeks. Within those weeks there was regular contact with mum which was highly beneficial in building their relationship and they were able to have open and honest conversations with each other about what had been upsetting them both. Learning from this and other case study work supports that timing is everything especially with families as situations also carry a risk that they can escalate very quickly. The positive outcome for this family was that it promoted better relationships at home, proving a direct impact on their lives resulting in the child displaying improved behaviour at school.

2.59 In line with the Restorative approach the Early Help Services have a key focus in relationship based practice. This essentially links to wider elements of relationship work within Children's Services and Public Health that is being developed for schools. From September 2020 all schools are required to deliver statutory relationships and health education for primary and relationships, sex and health education for secondary. As part of a whole school approach this will include working with parents. As a first step to respond there are plans to develop networks that will encourage evidence based practice and sharing of both schools and communities working alongside Public Health. This approach will link elements of responses to specialist services one of which is domestic abuse.

Empowering Parents in Conflict (EPIC)

2.60 The Empowering Parents in Conflict (EPIC) Programme is designed to provide staff in Children's Services and Partner Agencies with

- A greater understanding of the impact of parental conflict on children and young people
- Skills and tools to help reduce parental conflict through evidence based training
- Expert support and supervision when managing cases which feature parental conflict

2.61 The success of this Programme will support a collaborative multi-agency response all aiming to reduce parental conflict that will promote the following outcomes:-

- A reduction in reported relationship distress
- Improved educational attainment for children and young people
- Reduction in unemployment across the Borough
- Improved emotional resilience in families
- Expertise across and within all agencies

2.62 There is a completion and progression of the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Maturity Matrix (planning tool) that will underpin this training. It is envisaged that this training will develop a robust and sustainable strategy and commissioning approach.

How well do Adults' and Children's Services work together?

2.63 Both adults and children's services sit on both the Domestic Abuse Operational meetings and Domestic Abuse Steering Group supporting the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy. On an operational level, a clear pathway for engagement when both adults and children's services are involved with a family would be beneficial to ensure communication and information sharing.

EVIDENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (OPCC) AND CLEVELAND POLICE

2.64 The Police and Crime Plan 2019 – 2020 has an objective relating to 'A better deal for victims and witnesses'. Within this there are specific actions relating to:

- Provide a whole system approach to domestic abuse – working in partnership with the seven forces in the northern region to share best practice, take account of the independent evaluation and seek sustainable solutions
- Promote Domestic and Sexual Abuse Champions Scheme
- Further embed Operation Encompass – an initiative to provide support to young victims of Domestic Abuse via their school, expanding to include nurseries and health professionals

Domestic abuse whole system approach

2.65 The Domestic Abuse Whole System Approach (WSA) was a pilot project led by Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner following a successful bid to the Home Office Police Transformation Fund. The project involved three central strands including:

- Boosting police training about coercive control, effective development of strong court files to aid prosecution and close partnership working with the Criminal Justice System
- Improving information sharing and victim support across the criminal, civil and family courts to avoid cases from falling through the gaps and any risk of vulnerable victims being failed by lack of supporting resource in non-criminal courts
- Multi-agency victim support and strong and innovative perpetrator management, ensuring significant consequences for perpetrators

2.66 Some specific updates relating to work progressed in Cleveland:

- The commissioning of coercive controlling behaviour training for front line officers and key partners through an innovative theatre based training company – Open Clasp. The effectiveness of this training is currently being examined to understand the true impact it has had on frontline response to supporting victims and pursuing perpetrators
- Introduction of Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination process that identifies and targets the most harmful and serious perpetrators of domestic abuse across the Cleveland area
- Development of family court and legal proceeding leaflet to ensure any victims of domestic abuse are more informed about what to expect during family court proceeding, the support and legal advice available and how the police can help
- Commissioned perpetrator interventions to prevent and intervene early in cases of domestic abuse and a Changing Relationship Change Programme through Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- Introduction of a Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel made up of specialist services providers who scrutinise the way in which police have dealt with domestic abuse cases

2.67 Although the above programme ended in March 2019, the OPCC were able to maintain a number of key elements of the project including perpetrator interventions and Criminal Justice Liaison Officers to enable the Force to consider and understand how learning and recommendations from the project can be built into the future vulnerability agenda. A further project was commissioned by the Home Office entitled DAWSA next steps which is focuses on how the MATAC process referred to above can be mainstreamed and embedded into police process in the future.

Domestic abuse strategic response

2.68 Cleveland has one of the highest rates of Domestic Abuse related incidents across the country which is continuing to increase and the highest rate of repeat victimisation; over the last 12 months there have been six domestic homicides. As a result of reduced finances there is an increasing challenge for officers and staff in all agencies to protect and support some of our most vulnerable members of the community. This can only be achieved effectively through a whole system partnership approach that provides:

- Clear governance structures
- Effective decision making and risk management arrangements
- Identification of strategic priorities that will benefit from a countywide approach
- Needs led commissioning / co-commissioning approaches that deliver the best value
- Robust scrutiny that take into account individual and multiple agency processes

2.69 Discussion began with a strategic event on 30 September 2019 to understand and build on what currently works and identifying areas where partners can improve. The session was co-facilitated between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cleveland Police and was aimed at senior decision makers within partnership organisations. The aim of the event was to problem solve the issues faced collectively across Cleveland in terms of Domestic Abuse, with a solution focused approach.

2.70 In advance of the sessions a piece of mapping work had been completed that looked at current structures, priorities and action planning arrangements. Through this work partners were identified across Cleveland to work towards the same outcomes areas and there are a number of emerging opportunities to become more efficient and effective. The discussions from this event will inform future working arrangements.

2.71 In addition to the above, the PCC, through his Scrutiny, Delivery and Performance meetings, continues to hold the Force to account on their work in this area.

Commissioning

2.72 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner works closely with Local Authority colleagues to understand needs, gaps and pathways relating to domestic abuse. Specifically the OPCC funds an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) in each of the four Local Authority areas. The role of the IDVA is to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children.

2.73 Serving as a victim's primary contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans. Also, as referred to above the OPCC commissions a Cleveland Wide perpetrator service. This service currently comes to an end in March 2020 and discussions are taking place with partners to consider opportunities for co-commissioning in the future.

Domestic Abuse Champions

2.74 Domestic Abuse is Everyone's business and employers should be at the heart of tackling domestic abuse. Therefore the four Local Authorities, Cleveland Police and the OPCC are currently working with Hestia and their Everyone's Business project that offers free, necessary and bespoke tools to recognise the signs and play an active role in domestic abuse prevention.

2.75 Businesses and organisations across Cleveland will be encouraged to develop / implement a Domestic Abuse and Workplace Policy to protect and support any staff affected by domestic abuse and also identify domestic abuse champions whose role it would be to raise awareness of and promote specialist services within their organisation. Harbour host the Domestic Abuse Champions network which consists of varied workplaces including private, Local Authority, voluntary and community and school staff who meet quarterly to learn more about domestic abuse and ensure champions are equipped with knowledge and updates on domestic abuse.

2.76 The role of the domestic abuse champion across the workplace is to try and ensure that all staff are safe and supported in the workplace and that a strong zero tolerance message is sent to those who commit abuse.

How is the incidence of domestic abuse recorded? What is the prevalence in Stockton? Is this an accurate picture?

2.77 Calls to the police come into the control room where they are graded using a system to identify the Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement (THRIVE) of a person or situation. They will be further assessed usually by the attendance of an officer to establish if a crime has taken place. Police will also take reports from third parties and record these as crimes if

required.

2.78 It is nationally recognised that Domestic Abuse is under reported for a number of reasons and Cleveland and Stockton are no different in this respect. Cleveland Police actively work with multi agencies to raise awareness and confidence of the people of the Cleveland to encourage them to report to the most appropriate agency and a number of information sharing forums and protocols exist to ensure that as many victims as possible are identified and safeguarded and supported.

2.79 Calls that are designated “domestic abuse” are given a code and work is carried out to exclude duplicated events. Incidents are recorded against the date that they are reported. Crimes also go through a validation process.

2.80 Providing an accurate picture relies on the appropriate designation and validation process being carried out and if this is retrospectively changed the figures may vary.

2.81 There were 5,613 DA incidents recorded in the 12 months ending September 2019. A similar number were recorded in the previous 12 month period (+1.3%). There has been an increase of 4.7% in the DA incidents across the Force as a whole.

2.82 This compares with a large increase in DA crimes, up 27.3% to 3,644. Meaning the crime to incident ratio has increased from 52 to 65. The Force has also seen a large increase in DA crimes, up 29.8%.

2.83 Stockton has a domestic abuse crime rate of 18 per 1,000 population which compares to the Force-wide rate of 22. The national rate for 2018/19 was 12.

How do referrals operate? How is risk identified and managed? What are the numbers of repeat referrals and what does this tell us?

2.84 Referrals into the police can come from members of the public, victims and support agencies, they are received, recorded and the most appropriate actions taken. The police will refer to multiple agencies depending on the wishes of the victim and the level of safeguarded perceived to be required. For high risk victims a referral is automatically sent to the appropriate DA Support Agency. Initial risk is identified by THRIVE and then a DASH risk assessment is carried out when the victim is spoken to. Ongoing risk management may be dealt with by the OIC if a crime is involved, by a Multi-agency forum or by referring that victim to another agency

2.85 Of the 5,613 incidents, 2,445 involved a repeat victim (has been victim at least twice in a 12 month period), this equates to a repeat rate of 43.5% which is lower than the Force-wide repeat rate of 47.2%; and is lower than the repeat rate in Stockton for the previous 12 month period (46.7%).

2.86 Repeat referrals are not captured specifically by police however where we have a repeat victim there is likely to be a repeat referral.

2.87 THRIVE and DASH would be the starting point for a DA victim. Depending on the circumstance there may be a further victim needs assessment or child/vulnerable person’s assessment conducted either by single agency or jointly in the form of a strategy meeting.

Examples of innovative practice, locally and nationally

2.88 Through the Eyes of the Child is a recent initiative that is being taken up nationally.

2.89 The work of the Whole System Approach project is innovative, the focus on Perpetrators, the MATAC, adults in the CHUB environment is something that is being done nationally and is

being driven by Police to begin in Cleveland.

2.90 A more frequent MARAC process – daily MARAC to be held in conjunction with a MASH is proving to be successful in other force areas.

2.91 The DA car service is bringing benefits to victims but at the moment only reaching out to small numbers, this is also linked in with DA Support workers in the control room.

What is Operation Encompass and how effective has this been?

2.92 Operation Encompass is a national scheme and has established a key partnership between Cleveland Police, Local Authorities and nominated safeguarding leads in educational facilities. The main purpose of the scheme is to ensure educational establishments are notified of domestic abuse incidents, when a child or young person they work with has been exposed to abuse, and who may then need additional support and understanding.

2.93 Cleveland Police has two Operation Encompass officers, one covering North and one South. Daily they review every domestic incident where a child between the ages of 0-18 years has been present/witnessed or involved. The Operation Encompass officer will then contact the nursery/school/college via telephone and speak with the designated safeguarding lead and share the relevant information to ensure there is appropriate support for the child and family. Additionally the Operation Encompass officer shares appropriate Public Protection Notices with Children's Services. The information provided to the school is pivotal to the care of the child and can be a relief that secrets are no longer being kept. The information sharing allows professionals to understand the needs of the child and to apply the appropriate wrap around care for them. When the information is shared there is an expectation that the relevant education/care setting will provide support although there is rarely any updates to police. Currently there are approximately 90 referrals a month made to schools in Stockton.

2.94 Following preliminary feedback from the May HMICFRS inspection, the PCC immediately sought an update from the Force about how the Force were dealing with victims and vulnerability and safeguarding. As part of this scrutiny, and as a result of funding provided to Cleveland Police for Operation Encompass, the PCC asked how the scheme was being supported and managed in Cleveland. It was noted that:

- The issues of recruitment and retention of staff had been resolved and new officers were in post
- The provision of more meaningful performance data was being progressed through a task and finish group
- There had been a temporary uplift of staff to assist with backlog across Protecting Vulnerable People which included Operation Encompass

2.95 The Assistant Chief Executive of the OPCC is reviewing the service through strategic planning and feedback will be sought from partners.

3.0 Key Findings and Conclusions

- The true extent of domestic abuse is not known. It is estimated that victims are living with domestic abuse for 2-3 years before seeking help. On average, 85% of victims seek help five times from professionals in the year before they get effective help to stop the abuse
- As well as the risk of physical injury, the exposure to abuse has profound negative effects on children's mental health; perpetrators have often had abusive experiences themselves
- Reporting of incidents is on the increase. In Stockton between April 2018 and March 2019 there were 5,883 DA related incidents; an increase of 16.8% from the same period in the

previous year. Stockton on Tees has a higher rate of domestic abuse crimes than the national average

- More work is needed to understand the effectiveness of interventions including cost/ benefit analysis
- Greater clarity around the referral data from Harbour would assist further analysis and understanding. Statistical evidence for outcomes as well as subjective opinion/ qualitative data based evidence from clients would allow better insight of the effectiveness of interventions
- Demand for Harbour Services has been increasing and they have introduced new ways of working to cope with increasing demand. Changes to services will be monitored and need to be constantly evaluated to ensure that demands are being met. All partner agencies should be kept informed to ensure that where capacity is reached, a planned approach can be sought. For example, contingency plans need to be in place when refuge space reaches full capacity
- Where Harbour services have been discontinued it has for the most part been due to clients disengaging
- The development within Early Help and the approach taken to respond to domestic abuse continues to evolve. The changes so far enable a more effective and appropriate response that recognises the importance of a multi-agency approach. Domestic abuse is an area of key focus and remains a golden thread within Early Help services
- Joint working between Harbour and Stockton Children's Services has been an example of the benefits of close partnership working and could be used as a model upon which to build
- Consent can be an issue and can become a barrier to services intervening where a child protection plan was not in place
- Domestic abuse is not a recording category as part of the Child Protection Plan process; details would be recorded in the narrative. Other recording systems could be revised to facilitate more accurate recording
- Improved recording would also help to better understand the effectiveness of interventions
- Referrals from schools and the health sector remain low; most referrals come via the Police Early contact through universal services such as Midwives and Health Visitors could be invaluable
- Harbour are contracted to carry out awareness raising in every primary school in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool annually. Often children approached the Harbour workers after these sessions to seek help. They are currently not contracted to provide these services in Stockton
- On an operational level, a clear pathway for engagement when both adults and children's services are involved with a family would be beneficial to ensure communication and information sharing
- From a Police perspective, domestic abuse is challenging from an investigative perspective – victims are often reluctant to press charges
- Operation Encompass was first implemented in 2015 in Hartlepool, and is now fully in place and well embedded across all boroughs in Cleveland. This includes state and independent nurseries, schools, academies, alternative education providers and children's community health support services, such as school nurses and health visitors

Recommendations

- (1) That the following areas be considered as part of the current training mapping exercise being led by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group:
 - (a) Harbour to train the Link Worker in Children's Services in the ALTER programme to assist Children's Services to work with those deeply entrenched perpetrators who will not complete the full perpetrators programme.

- (b) Relevant Domestic Abuse training for social workers and other professionals, including identifying risk using the most appropriate tools as part of the ongoing training mapping process through the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.
 - (c) Domestic Abuse Awareness Sessions for all Councillors.
 - (d) Awareness raising with all key agencies on the need to make referrals into the Children's Hub.
 - (e) Education and awareness raising programmes in schools and that the ongoing work to prepare schools for the statutory duty to provide relationships education should ensure that there is an appropriate focus on coercive and controlling behaviour.
- (2) That, as part of the contract monitoring process for the domestic abuse service:
- (a) There should be an ongoing analysis and reporting of the effectiveness of the early help and children's social care link workers and the impact of Domestic Abuse services.
 - (b) Consideration should be given to the establishment of trigger points requiring Harbour to advise when they have a backlog of assessments and how this is to be managed and that any ongoing issues with unmet demand be addressed during the review of the contract.
- (3) That, where consent is not given and/or clients do not meet the criteria for early help or social care intervention, the referrals by professionals are to go back to the referrer to do some brief intervention/awareness and support work (this will require specific training across key agencies).
- (4) That clear communication pathways be established between adults' and children's services to ensure a joined up approach when working with families.
- (5) That the Domestic Abuse Steering Group be requested to seek further feedback on the effectiveness of Operation Encompass and specifically the length of time between the Police being made aware of a problem and the school being notified.
- (6) That, recognising that domestic abuse is not a recording category as part of the Child Protection Plan process, other recording systems be revised to facilitate more accurate recording of its prevalence which will, in turn, help to better understand the effectiveness of interventions.
- (7) That consideration be given to appropriate forms of collaboration and joint working across the relevant partnerships across the Tees Local Authority areas to identify areas of potential further collaboration.

GLOSSARY

ACEs Adverse Childhood Experiences
AHT Against Human Trafficking
CGL Change Grow Live
CHUB Children's Hub
CIN Child in Need
CRC Community Rehabilitation Service
DA Domestic Abuse
DAPS Domestic Abuse Preventions Service
DART Domestic Abuse Recovering Together
DASH Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment
DAWSA Domestic Abuse A Whole System Approach
DSL Designated Safeguarding Lead
EPIC Empowering Parents in Conflict
FGC Family Group Conference
HMICFRS Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services
HSSP Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children's Partnership
IDVA Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
JSNA Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LGA Local Government Association
MARAC Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
MATAC Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination
NFA No Further Action
NSPCC National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children
OIC Officer in Command
OPCC Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC Police and Crime Commissioner
RPC Reducing Parental Conflict
SBC Stockton on Tees Borough Council
SENCo Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
THRIVE Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, Engagement
WSA Whole System Approach