

## PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children

<b>SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE</b>	
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children</b>
<b>Link Officer/s:</b>	<b>Jon Doyle/ Mel Douglas</b>
<b>Action Plan Agreed:</b>	<b>August 2020</b>

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

<b>Recommendation 1:</b>	<p>That the following areas be considered as part of the current training mapping exercise being led by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(c) Domestic Abuse Awareness Sessions for all Councillors.</p> <p>(d) Awareness raising with all key agencies on the need to make referrals into the Children’s Hub.</p> <p>(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.</p>
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Education Improvement Service
<b>Date:</b>	October 2020
<b>Agreed Action:</b>	<p>Provide updates of implementation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellence in Inclusion CPD</li> <li>• Excellence in Inclusion Reviews</li> <li>• Excellence in Inclusion Consultation</li> </ul> <p>Whole school approach Health Wellbeing &amp; Resilience Framework (HWBRF) created &amp; shared with schools.</p> <p>Pilot schools recruited Feb 2020</p>

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	<p>Pilot phase 1 - received feedback on framework May 2020</p> <p>Version 2 HWBRF shared with pilot schools June 2020 with revised timeline due to Covid-19. Completion of self-assessment now due Oct 2020</p> <p>Provide updates of evaluation of impact from key stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headteacher</li> <li>• SENCOs</li> <li>• Governors</li> </ul> <p>T&amp;F group established But evaluation of impact delayed due to Covid-19</p> <p>Provide updates on action taken to support schools to work towards statutory RSE and Health.</p> <p>Personal Development Networks half –termly commenced Oct 2019 and now continue virtually</p> <p>Persona Development Briefing are in place to support SLT with strategic implementation of RSHE. Termly</p> <p>Plans to combine PDN and PDB to maximise reach and impact</p> <p>Bespoke support continues virtually</p> <p>Provide updates on dissemination of quality assured, evidence-based resources and CPD for school staff.</p> <p>Face to face CPD sessions delivered to governors, school staff. Virtual offer of training sessions from Autumn Term</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	Ensure children and young people are receiving the appropriate information, advice and support
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	<p>Recommendation 1 (a) has been completed. The Harbour Link Worker attached to Children’s Social Care is trained in the ALTER programme and has been delivering this intervention with perpetrators of domestic abuse who have been assessed by Harbour as being appropriate for this level of intervention rather than the full Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP). If during delivery of the ALTER programme, the Link Worker believes that the perpetrator of domestic abuse needs to complete the full DAPP, this referral is made.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (b) has slipped but is progressing. Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (HSSCP) has arranged a Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group to explore training options. The following steps are being progressed:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) Training is going to be promoted with attendance being encouraged across all partner agencies of the HSSCP.</li> <li>• The Chair of the Task and Finish Group is going to meet with Sunderland, Safe and Together and RESPECT regarding the new 'Safe and Together' model to gather more information</li> <li>• The Chair of the Task and Finish Group is going to meet with Cumbria County Council to gain feedback on their implementation of the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment for Children (DARAC)</li> <li>• A Cleveland Police representative is going to attempt to liaise with Coventry Police regarding their use of the DARAC to understand how they use it, where it sits, how they avoid it being duplicated when other agencies also use it</li> <li>• The Task and Finish Group is meeting again on 30<sup>th</sup> September to compare the DARAC and new Safe and Together model.</li> <li>• A proposal for the HSSCP Executive will be drafted to consider funding for 'train the trainer' for whichever model is agreed upon.</li> <li>• The Task and Finish Group will discuss what might be included in a Domestic Abuse Conference in Late 2021/Early 2022.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendation 1 (c) has not been achieved and needs to be progressed.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (d) is an ongoing piece of work which is monitored by the Children's Hub. When issues are identified by the Children's Hub in relation to referrals that could have been made in a more timely way, this is escalated to leaders within those organisations to address with their front line staff.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (e) is on track. The whole school approach Health, Well-being and Resilience (HWBRF) has been created and shared with schools.</p> <p>31 pilot schools were recruited in February 2020 with feedback from the pilot phase 1 received in May 2020.</p> <p>Version2 of the HWBRF was shared with pilot schools in June 2020 with a revised timeline due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The final version of the Healthy Schools Toolkit (HWBRF during the pilot phases) has been produced based on feedback from Pilot 1 and 2.</p> <p>The Healthy Schools toolkit was launched to all schools and colleges during the Summer Term 2021.</p> <p>Personal Development Networks (PDNs) and Personal Development Briefings (PDBs) are now combined to maximise teach and impact. This continues to be virtual and held half termly.</p> <p>There continues to be a virtual offer of training sessions for governors and school staff.</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (September 2021): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>Recommendation 1 (a) – Fully Achieved                  Recommendation 1(b) – Slipped                  Recommendation 1(c) – Not yet achieved</p>

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	<p>Recommendation 1 (d) – On Track Recommendation 1 (e) – On Track</p>
Evidence of Impact (September 2021):	<p>Families have benefited from the provision of the ALTER programme which has been delivered by Harbour’s Link Worker in Children’s Social Care. Had this provision not been available, there is a risk that the perpetrators of abuse who engaged in the ALTER programme may not have any intervention at all.</p>

<b>Recommendation 2:</b>	<p>That, as part of the contract monitoring process for the domestic abuse service:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p>
Responsibility:	Debbie Peel/ Claire Sills
Date:	August 2020
Agreed Action:	<p>Social care link worker review completed March 2019 by Debbie Peel: further review will be undertaken in March 2020.</p> <p>Formal report not yet completed for social care link worker due to COVID but arrangement is still working well.</p> <p>Early Help reports were reviewed and revised and DA was included. At the time of writing a copy of the latest DA Operational Report has not been circulated so I cannot directly confirm if the information is included. However, all data is accessible through Planning and Performance.</p> <p>Progress being made/ongoing. Harbour reporting now to Children’s Services. Further work to be done regarding what action to take when there is a backlog</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Accurate reporting mechanisms in place that can influence change.</p> <p>Delivering services at the right time to encourage continued engagement.</p>
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	<p>Recommendation 2 (a) has slipped. Debbie Peel, former Family Group Conference Team Manager has previously completed reviews into the work carried out by the Social Care Link Worker but Debbie has now secured employment outside of the Council. The post that Debbie left is under review as part of the wider Children’s Services Review and has not been recruited too. It is likely that when the review has been concluded and new appointments made, this work will be picked up again.</p> <p>In relation to the Early Help Link Worker, the previous team manager did not carry out an analysis and report into the effectiveness of the provision. A new</p>

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	<p>team manager has recently been appointed into role and this piece of work is now going to be progressed.</p> <p>Harbour have provided feedback and from their perspective, both of the roles have been extremely useful. The link workers have assisted with attendance at Child Protection Strategy Meetings, they have been able to share relevant information with other professionals and have encouraged referrals and involvement into the core service.</p> <p>Both the Children’s Social Care and Early Help link workers have been facilitating group work, completing 1:1 support and carrying out assessments. They have proven to be valuable when exploring complex cases and co-ordinating support and sharing information with social workers.</p> <p>Social Workers have provided positive feedback on the benefits of having access to information and advice within their teams.</p> <p>Recommendation 2(b) has been achieved. There is currently no waiting list for access to Harbour for assessment. All referrals are prioritised based on risk which is assessed by Harbour’s first contact workers at the point of referral. There are contractually agreed response times depending on the level of risk. Both the Children’s Social Care and Early Help link workers have access to Harbour’s assessment calendar so that they can book a client straight into assessment if they are not carrying out the assessment themselves.</p> <p>During the assessment, safety advice is provided and all risk actions are completed before the referral is allocated to a support worker in the core service for ongoing support to complete the support plan actions (if required). Harbour do operate a waiting list for this allocation but all immediate actions will have been completed. If other family members are referred on for children’s work, counselling or perpetrator work, they are added to a waiting list for ongoing pieces of work.</p> <p>If a further police report was to be received while waiting for intervention or if risk circumstances change, this is reviewed and actioned as appropriate.</p> <p>If there are any significant struggles in terms of waiting lists, Harbour will inform Stockton Council’s Commissioners.</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (September 2021): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>Recommendation 2(a) - Slipped</p> <p>Recommendation 2(b) – Fully Achieved</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (September 2021):</p>	<p>The Harbour Link Workers in Children’s Social Care and Help and Support continue to offer a positive impact. Social Workers and Family Workers have direct access to these workers to gain updates on cases, to have case discussions, to seek advice and guidance and to refer families directly into the service.</p>

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<b>Recommendation 3:</b>	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).
Responsibility:	Rachel Batey
Date:	August 2020
Agreed Action:	Rachel Batey is leading on a mapping exercise of domestic abuse training across Stockton on Tees to identify gaps. Lack of specialist domestic abuse training has been identified via several routes including this review, recent multi agency development session and the Stockton on Tees JSNA.
Agreed Success Measure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain a coordinated approach to domestic abuse training</li> <li>• Strive to have a tiered approach to domestic abuse training to ensure the right level of training is delivered dependent on role/ organisation</li> <li>• Good quality, specialist domestic abuse training readily available</li> </ul>
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	<p>This recommendation has slipped due to COVID-19 pressures, the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator not being in work for some time and the service attempting three rounds of recruitment all of which have been unsuccessful.</p> <p>A training needs assessment has been completed with 119 responses across the Local Authority and Thirteen Group.</p> <p>This recommendation will ultimately be captured within the work being carried out by the Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group detailed in response to Recommendation 1 (b) above.</p>
Assessment of Progress (September 2021): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 3 – Slipped.
Evidence of Impact (September 2021):	

<b>Recommendation 4:</b>	That clear communication pathways be established between adults' and children's services to ensure a joined-up approach when working with families.
Responsibility:	Rachel Batey/ Domestic Abuse Operational Group
Date:	TBD
Agreed Action:	Rachel Batey currently making enquiries regarding most appropriate liaison Domestic Abuse Operational group is also contributing towards this
Agreed Success Measure:	Cases will have a holistic response. Taking the whole family approach
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	This recommendation has slipped due to the Domestic Abuse Operational Group having been stood down in the absence of the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator. However, the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has

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	resulted in the introduction of a post to work on the identification of children who are living in households where there are people living with domestic abuse.
Assessment of Progress (September 2021): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 4 – Slipped.
Evidence of Impact (September 2021):	

<b>Recommendation 5:</b>	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.
Responsibility:	Claire Sills
Date:	June 2020
Agreed Action:	<p>A report will be presented at the DA Steering Group on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This will detail an overview of the current process, newly adopted change of notifying schools electronically. This will be reviewed in 6 months.</p> <p>Since February 2020 the timescales for information via Operation Encompass have improved with the <b>longest time</b> now being a couple of days. This is an improvement but when this rare delay occurs it does have an impact on the school leaving their effectiveness in the process inhibited, ie a child receives a reprimand for non-completion of homework or for being on their phone in class. However, the majority of children are not attending school due to the COVID pandemic. Additionally, Police continue to develop resilience further by the introduction of an automated e-mail system. There is no implementation date yet police systems are manually updated each time there are personnel changes within schools. I continue to be the SBC contact point for Op Encompass and will advise on any further developments.</p> <p>We are looking to trial the recording of Op Encompass through the six-week holidays through the use of the SPOCs in Stockton and this information will inform the Vulnerable Child Database. This essentially means that for the first time after the six-week break schools will be aware of the children referred through the holidays, and how many referrals have been made.</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	Children receive support in a timely manner
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	<p>Cleveland Police have been sending timely emails to schools to advise them that a domestic abuse incident has taken place. The emails are sent during school holidays as well as in term time. Receiving the emails during school holidays means that schools are aware of incidents that have happened while they have been closed.</p> <p>Feedback from the Children’s Hub is that the new email system is working well from the perspective of the school receiving timely notification in almost all</p>

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cases. There will inevitably be very occasional delays due to operational issues.

The SPOCs in Stockton were not ultimately used to trial recording of Operation Encompass referrals in the school holidays due to the decision to inform the schools directly via email.

Schools continue to raise a number of concerns in relation to Operation Encompass due primarily to the lack of information shared by Cleveland Police.

This is an example of an Operation Encompass notification:

### OPERATION ENCOMPASS



██████████ and ██████████ has been present/witness/involved or normally resident at an address where an incident of Domestic Abuse has been attended by Cleveland Police. This incident took place on the – ██████████

There is no expectation from Cleveland Police that you do anything other than follow your standard safeguarding procedure.

Cleveland police will not share any further details of this incident.

Any concerns should be raised through your normal safeguarding procedures.

Some of the concerns from schools include:

- Not knowing if the child was present at or aware of the incident
- If the family is split, they do not know which parent the incident is about

Essentially, schools are aware that something has happened but they don't know enough, in their view, to be able to effectively support the child.

There are plans to extend Operation Encompass as planned at the initial launch with colleagues from Health. Cleveland Police have been in discussion with the CCG to provide this, considering the most appropriate way to share information. GPs have been considered and whilst the benefits of sharing that information around the victim is recognised, there are issues with lack of consent where adults are concerned.

The wider vision is to improve education in schools around the awareness of domestic abuse from an earlier age. In response, Cleveland Police have presented and reminded all schools of Operation Encompass through the Designated Safeguarding Lead's Forum.

Assessment of Progress (September 2021):

Recommendation 5 – On-track. This assessment is based on the notifications being received but now being of limited value to schools due to the lack of



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(include explanation if required)	information being shared. If more information can be shared then this recommendation could be fully achieved.
Evidence of Impact (September 2021):	Schools are receiving timely notification of domestic abuse incidents.
<b>Recommendation 6:</b>	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.
Responsibility:	Maria Murrell
Date:	August 2020
Agreed Action:	Recording on ICS system to automatically pull data from secondary categories. Further training to Child Protection Chairs around correctly categorising. Kim Staff to advise of best way to proceed with this action.  Agenda points in team meetings and Development Days
Agreed Success Measure:	Data will be more accurate which will support future identification of needs and services
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	<p>This recommendation is on track for completion. It is now possible to record whether domestic abuse is a primary risk factor when a child protection plan is made.</p> <p>The four primary child protection categories continue to be: Neglect, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Sexual Abuse but a secondary category of Domestic Abuse is now available for Child Protection Conference Chairs to select.</p> <p>There has been significant change within the Review Unit over the past 12 months and an awareness raising exercise is being carried out to ensure that all Child Protection Conference Chairs are aware of their ability to record this secondary category if appropriate.</p> <p>Following this technical development, management reports can now be developed to highlight those Child Protection Plans where domestic abuse has been recorded as a secondary category.</p> <p>A new management report has also been developed to highlight those children where domestic abuse has been recorded as a risk factor at the end of their Single Assessment. This will be beneficial to identify those children who do not progress to a Child Protection Conference but where domestic abuse has been identified as a risk factor.</p>
Assessment of Progress (September 2021): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 6 – On track. When all Child Protection Conference Chairs are confidently recording secondary child protection categories this recommendation will be fully achieved.

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Evidence of Impact (September 2021):	It is now possible to report on all single assessments that have identified domestic abuse as a risk factor.
<b>Recommendation 7:</b>	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.
Responsibility:	Domestic Abuse Steering Group
Date:	TBD
Agreed Action:	<p>The Cleveland Domestic Abuse needs assessment and strategy development featured on the agenda at the Domestic Abuse Steering group on 13.02.20.</p> <p>OPCC are coordinating some work to examine what benefits there may be from greater collaboration across Tees Authorities and with Cleveland Police on tackling domestic abuse. The intention is that this involves some deep dive activity with a view to potentially piloting additional interventions whilst exploring options for joint commissioning</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	To offer a more streamlined, clear pathways to services across the Tees
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	<p>Our priority during the pandemic has been that the service is run. Domestic Abuse Services were one of the critical services corporately.</p> <p>The OPCC commissioned work and the provider SAFE Lives have presented their findings to date. We are awaiting a final report.</p> <p>The OPCC and Tees Authorities are collaborating on increasing treatment pathways for perpetrators of domestic abuse. Stockton have committed £15000 towards this programme.</p> <p>There has been recent consultation for the Tees Valley Combined Authorities with Middlesbrough Council as lead. The aim was to receive information and comments from anyone impacted by domestic abuse. The consultation process ran over a 4-week period and 111 responses were received which will help to update the domestic abuse needs assessment.</p>
Assessment of Progress (September 2021): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 7 – slipped but progressing.
Evidence of Impact (September 2021):	

<b>Assessment of Progress Gradings:</b>	<b>1</b> Fully Achieved	<b>2</b> On-Track	<b>3</b> Slipped	<b>4</b> Not Achieved
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