

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

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

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.

Recommendation 1:	<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>
Responsibility:	Education Improvement Service
Date:	October 2020
Agreed Action:	<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) Identify 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) Deliver Domestic Abuse Awareness Sessions for all Councillors.</p>

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	<p>(d) Continually raise awareness with key agencies on the need to make referrals into the Children’s Hub.</p> <p>(e) Develop education and awareness raising programmes in schools and provide support to prepare schools for the statutory duty to provide relationships education ensuring that there is an appropriate focus on coercive and controlling behaviour.</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Key personnel have an awareness of domestic abuse</p> <p>Ensure children and young people are receiving the appropriate information, advice and support</p>
Evidence of Progress (June 2022):	<p>Recommendation 1 (a) was reported as fully achieved in the 2021 update to Select Committee</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (b) is now fully achieved. Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (HSSCP) arranged a Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group to explore training options. After exploring a number of training programmes and risk identification tools, the Group recommended that consideration should be given to the implementation of the Safe and Together model which is a child-centred model that derives its name from the concept that children and young people are best served when the system works collectively towards keeping them safe and together with their non-offending parent. The Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group is now considering this as part of it’s development of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (c) has been fully achieved. A training session was developed and offered to all councillors in October 2020 and is available as an online learning resource Training Events - SBC Intranet (stockton.gov.uk)</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (d) is fully achieved. The work to raise awareness with key partners to referral into the Children’s Hub is ongoing and will continually evolve.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 (e) has been fully achieved. The whole school approach to Health, Well-being and Resilience has been created and launched with schools during Summer 2021 as a Healthy Schools toolkit and incorporates a focus on the delivery of relationship education. Personal Development Networks and Personal Development Briefings are in place for education leaders on a half termly basis and are held virtually to maximise reach. There continues to be a virtual offer of training sessions for governors and wider school staff.</p>
Assessment of Progress (June 2022): (include explanation if required)	<p>Recommendation 1 (a) – Fully Achieved Recommendation 1(b) – Fully Achieved Recommendation 1(c) – Fully Achieved Recommendation 1 (d) – Fully Achieved Recommendation 1 (e) – Fully Achieved</p>

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Evidence of Impact (June 2022):	<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> <p>A range of primary, secondary and special schools are implementing the Healthy Schools Toolkit. Personal Development Networks and Briefings are ensuring that education leaders are supported in their statutory duty to provide relationship education.</p>
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Recommendation 2:	<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 to be undertaken annually.</p> <p>Mechanism in place for Harbour to alert Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council as the commissioner of the service when they have a backlog of assessments and provide assurance on how this will be managed.</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	<p>Delivering services at the right time to encourage continued engagement</p> <p>Accurate reporting mechanisms in place that can influence change.</p>
Evidence of Progress (June 2022):	<p>Recommendation 2 (a) has been fully achieved. The impact of the social care link worker and the working relationship between Harbour and Children’s Services is reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Service Lead – Strategy, Quality and Improvement.</p> <p>Recommendation 2(b) was reported as fully achieved in the 2021 report to Select Committee. This confirmed that when there are delays to the delivery of Harbour services, including assessments and interventions, this is escalated to Stockton on Tees Borough Council Procurement team as the contract managers for this commissioned service who work with the service to develop a remedial action plan.</p>
Assessment of Progress	Recommendation 2(a) - Fully Achieved

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(June 2022): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 2(b) – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (June 2022):	<p>The Harbour Link Workers in Children’s Social Care and Help and Support continue to offer a positive impact. Social Workers, Child Protection Conference Chairs 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> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is informed swiftly of any pressures on Harbour Services which may lead to waiting times or delays in delivery of services.</p>

Recommendation 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).
Responsibility:	Rachel Batey
Date:	August 2020
Agreed Action:	Undertake 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"> • Obtain a coordinated approach to domestic abuse training • Strive to have a tiered approach to domestic abuse training to ensure the right level of training is delivered dependent on role/ organisation • Good quality, specialist domestic abuse training readily available
Evidence of Progress (June 2022):	Recommendation 3 is on-track. As referenced in recommendation 1 (b), Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (HSSCP) arranged a Domestic Abuse Task and Finish Group to explore training options. After exploring a number of training programmes and risk identification tools, the Group recommended that consideration should be given to the implementation of Safe and Together - a child-centred model that derives its name from the concept that children and young people are best served when the system works collectively towards keeping them safe and together with their non-offending parent. The Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group is now considering this as part of the development of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy and work is on-track for completion by the end of 2022.
Assessment of Progress (June 2022): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 3 – On-track
Evidence of Impact (June 2022):	An approach to domestic abuse training will be embedded within the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-2028.

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Recommendation 4:	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:	Domestic Abuse Coordinator to identify most appropriate liaison routes in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Operational group
Agreed Success Measure:	Cases will have a holistic response taking a whole family approach
Evidence of Progress (June 2022):	This recommendation has not been achieved as originally planned. However, the new Domestic Abuse strategy 2023-2028 is being developed by a multi-agency partnership from Children's and Adults Services alongside health providers and the voluntary sector to ensure a joined up strategic approach which focuses on families.
Assessment of Progress (June 2022): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 4 – Being implemented as part of new Domestic Abuse Strategy.
Evidence of Impact (June 2022):	

Recommendation 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.
Responsibility:	Claire Sills
Date:	June 2020
Agreed Action:	The Domestic Abuse Steering Group to receive update reports on the effectiveness of Operation Encompass and the timeliness of notifications made to schools
Agreed Success Measure:	Children receive support in a timely manner
Evidence of Progress (June 2022):	The Domestic Abuse Steering Group now receives regular feedback from Cleveland Police and Education Leads on the effectiveness of Operation Encompass and this has been in place from February 2020. Notifications are being made to schools in a timely way – approx. 2 working days currently and again this will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Steering Group.
Assessment of Progress (June 2022): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 5 - fully achieved.

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Evidence of Impact (June 2022):	The Domestic Abuse Steering Group monitors the effectiveness of Operation Encompass. Schools are receiving timely notification of domestic abuse incidents.
Recommendation 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.
Responsibility:	Maria Murrell
Date:	August 2020
Agreed Action:	Recording on ICS system to automatically pull data from secondary categories. Training to be provided to Child Protection Chairs around correctly categorising.
Agreed Success Measure:	Data will be more accurate which will support future identification of needs and services
Evidence of Progress (June 2022):	<p>This recommendation is fully achieved. It is now possible to record whether domestic abuse is a risk factor when a child protection plan is made. Whilst the four primary child protection categories continue to be: Neglect, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse and Sexual Abuse, a secondary category of Domestic Abuse is now available for Child Protection Conference Chairs to select.</p> <p>Training has been provided for child protection conference chairs and ongoing awareness raising is undertaken through team meetings and supervision to ensure that all conference chairs are aware of their ability to record this secondary category if appropriate.</p>
Assessment of Progress (June 2022): (include explanation if required)	Recommendation 6 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (June 2022):	It is now possible to report on all single assessments that have identified domestic abuse as a risk factor.

Recommendation 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.
Responsibility:	Domestic Abuse Steering Group
Date:	TBD
Agreed Action:	<p>Development of Cleveland Domestic Abuse needs assessment and strategy</p> <p>Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) will coordinate a piece of work to examine what benefits there may be from greater collaboration across Tees authorities and with Cleveland Police on tackling domestic abuse.</p>
Agreed Success Measure:	To offer a more streamlined, clear pathways to services across the Tees

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Evidence of Progress (June 2022)	<p>This priority has been fully achieved, however it is acknowledged that this work is continuous and opportunities to work together across the Tees/Tees Valley footprint will always be considered where appropriate. As referenced in the agreed actions:</p> <p>The Cleveland Domestic Abuse needs assessment and strategy was presented to Stockton’s Domestic Abuse Steering Group.</p> <p>OPCC commissioned research work from SAFE Lives. The findings from this have been presented to the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and will influence the development of Stockton’s Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-2028. OPCC and the four Tees Local Authorities have collaborated on increasing treatment pathways for perpetrators of domestic abuse with Stockton contributing £15,000 towards this programme.</p> <p>The Tees Valley Combined Authorities worked together to consult with those impacted by domestic abuse. The information and experiences shared have helped to shape the domestic abuse needs assessment which will in turn influence broader strategy and service design.</p>
Assessment of Progress (June 2022): <small>(include explanation if required)</small>	Recommendation 7 – fully achieved
Evidence of Impact (June 2022):	Opportunities for collaboration and joint working have been considered across the Tees/Tees Valley footprint. Collaboration has brought greater insight and understanding of those impacted by domestic abuse and has directly contributed to an increase in treatment pathways for perpetrators.

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