

Domestic Abuse Steering Group

A meeting of Domestic Abuse Steering Group was held on Tuesday, 2 August 2016.

Present: Councillor Jim Beall (SBC), Dominic Gardner (TEWV)(Sub for David Brown), Emma Champley (SBC), Lesley Gibson (Harbour), Martin Gray (SBC), Rachelle Kipling (OPCC) (Sub for Barry Coppinger), Councillor Ann McCoy (SBC), Councillor Steve Nelson (SBC), Barbara Potter (CCG), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Sharon Barnett (NPS), Callum Titley (SBC)

Also in attendance: Michael Henderson, Peter Kelly (SBC)

Apologies: T/DCI Helen Barker (Cleveland Police)

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Rules of Procedure

Members considered a draft Rules of Procedure and agreed the following changes:

- Quorum should be in line with HWB i.e. one third of the membership
- Only named representatives should attend as a substitute for a member.
- Rules of Procedure and Terms of Reference would be reviewed in 1 year.

Members agreed that, in line with the Rules of Procedure, the Council's representative from Children's Services (Martin Gray) be appointed as Chair for a 12 month period.

Members were reminded that the Steering Group had been established by the Health and Wellbeing Board and it would report directly to the Board, via its minutes and any other means considered necessary.

It was agreed that part of the role of members of the Group was to challenge all agencies on their contribution to tackling Domestic Abuse.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Rules of procedure be agreed subject to the amendments requested.
2. the Council's representative from Children's Services (Martin Gray) be appointed as Chair for a 12 month period.

3 Terms of Reference

Consideration was given to a draft Terms of Reference and the following issues were raised:

- there needed to be some SMART targets associated with meeting the

aims and objectives of the Group. The Group would need to develop a performance framework and receive relevant data to help assess effectiveness.

- The Prevalence of Domestic Abuse, in Stockton, was not fully understood. Members were all aware that increased reported incidents may indicate that awareness/confidence had been raised amongst victims and others, but further scrutiny of this was necessary.
- The Group would monitor the Domestic Abuse Action Plan and drive the refresh of the Strategy
- Other bodies had agreed to relinquish their role on Domestic Abuse and the focus on DA now lay entirely with the Steering Group. However, update reports would be provided to relevant bodies e.g, HWB, SLSCB, SSP, TVAB.
- Reducing prevalence of Domestic Abuse was an important aim/objective of the group
- Members would oversee the work of the Repeat Victims' Group and Domestic Abuse Operational Group. It was suggested that the minutes of these be presented to the Steering Group. The Chair of the groups would highlight any important issues.
- It was noted that the Steering Group could establish other groups to undertake work associated with its remit, if it wished.
- Cultural factors prevalent in Stockton may be an area the Steering Group would want to do work in.

RESOLVED that

1. the terms of reference be agreed subject to amendment detailed above.
2. minutes of Repeat Victims' Group and Domestic Operational Group be reported to the Steering Group as appropriate.
3. consideration be given to developing a performance framework

4 Domestic Abuse Strategy

The Group was provided with the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014 – 17.

Members discussed the process for refreshing the Strategy and it was suggested that a note detailing a timeline and necessary action be prepared for consideration by the Steering Group.

RESOLVED that the note described above be prepared and circulated.

5 Domestic Abuse Action Plan

Members would be focusing on the 17/18 Action Plan and it was agreed that actions needed to be SMART.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

6 Harbour Review

Members noted that the Harbour contract would come to an end on 31st March 2017, with an option to extend for 12 months.

A review of the service was ongoing to determine how well, qualitatively and quantitatively Harbour had delivered. A decision on the extension would be taken soon.

Members raised a number of issues and it was noted that

- the service was commissioned on a gender neutral basis.
- work to establish what other DA related services were available in Stockton, and not just what Harbour provided, was ongoing.

RESOLVED that the information and discussion be noted.

7 New Approaches

Members discussed the need to identify new approaches/best practice :-

- Contextual information and research which would come out of the Harbour Service Review.
- The Group needed to be brave and try to influence the culture, particularly in terms of young people.
- Members were asked to consider this further, outside the meeting, and feed in any best practice or innovative approaches.

RESOLVED that the information and discussion be noted and members consider potential new approaches.

8 Bid to Innovation Fund

Members were provided with details of a bid, for funding, that had been submitted to the Department for Education. The bid involved the Council, Cleveland Police, Hartlepool BC, CCG and North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust. The proposal related to an approach which combined early intervention, prevention and an integrated focus on victims, perpetrators and children.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

11 Domestic Abuse Focus Event

Members were reminded of the Domestic Abuse Focus Event and were encouraged to attend. Outcomes of the event would be reported to this Group in due course.