

# Domestic Abuse Steering Group

A meeting of Domestic Abuse Steering Group was held on Thursday 20 October 2016.

**Present:** Martin Gray (SBC) (Chairman),

Councillor Jim Beall (SBC), T/DCI Helen Barker (Cleveland Police) , Dominic Gardner (TEWV)(Sub for David Brown), Barbara Gill (CRC), Emma Champley (SBC), Lesley Gibson (Harbour), Councillor Ann McCoy (SBC), Councillor Steve Nelson (SBC), Barbara Potter (CCG), Steve Rose (Catalyst), (NPS),

**Also in attendance:** Michael Henderson (SBC), Caren Barnfather (Harbour), Liz Ward (NECSU),

**Apologies:** Callum Titley (SBC), Barry Coppinger (PCC), Robin Bonas (CRC), David Brown (TEWV),

## 1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

- It be highlighted that the Council's representative from Children's Services (Martin Gray) be appointed, as Chair for a 12 month period (this complied with the Steering Group's Rules of Procedure, which were agreed at the Group's meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> August).
- It be highlighted that the Steering Group had been established by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Steering Group would report directly to the Board, via its minutes and any other means considered necessary.
- It be highlighted that the Group's role would include challenging all agencies on their contribution to tackling Domestic Abuse. It was suggested that this should be explicit in the Terms of Reference

It was noted that the Group had undertaken to provide an Annual Report , highlighting its work, to a number of other Groups, It was agreed that consideration of the timing of this report would need to be undertaken

## 3 Domestic Abuse Operational/Tactical Meeting

Members considered the minutes of the Domestic Abuse Operational/Tactical meeting held on 24 August 2016.

Steve Hume , who Chaired the Tactical Meeting, presented the minutes, and highlighted a number of issues

- There had been concern around the increases in self referrals to Harbour and the Tactical Meeting would be undertaking a review of some of these and looking at the process of referral by agencies and by individual professionals.

- There had been discussions with the Police relating to the development of an Integrated Offender Management (IOM) type approach for Domestic Abuse cases. It was noted that there was an example of this model operating in Nottingham and a visit had been arranged by the Police.
- It was suggested that the work around IOM would form part of the Tactical Group's work, initially, but it may be necessary to establish other arrangements.
- Members discussed the Repeat Victim Group's work and focus on the top 10 cases, just below the MARAC, and noted the difficulties relating to collating relevant information. It was suggested that the focus should be broader than the top 10 cases and Steve Hume and Helen would discuss this further, outside this meeting.
- A definition of 'incidents' and 'crime', in the context of Domestic Abuse, was requested for the next meeting.
- Data from Operation Encompass indicated that between April and June, out of 193 domestic abuse incidents 185 were not open to social care/ Early Help. It was noted that engagement with parents was difficult. It was important to understand what was happening with regard to the incidents and what was being offered. Updates from the Tactical Group in this regard would feed into this Group. It was noted that the Council had an Early Help worker in the Children's Hub; in addition, Harbour, had a Domestic Abuse link worker located there. All data coming from Encompass must be used effectively and an update on this would come to the Steering Group.
- It was queried if schools understood what was getting referred to them through Operation Encompass in terms of low level/serious incidents etc. This needed to be clarified.

RESOLVED that

1. the minutes and the discussion be noted.
2. a definition of 'incidents' and 'crime' be provided to members of the group.
3. an update on data coming from Operation Encompass and how it might be used effectively be considered by the group.

#### **4 Domestic Abuse Data Profile**

Members received a report that provided an overview on research and analysis conducted on a number of data sets, linked to domestic abuse within Stockton Borough.

Areas highlighted and discussed could be summarised as follows:

- issues relating to Harbour not receiving timely listings of cases had been raised with the Local Criminal Justice Board. Issues relating to a video link would be raised by Steve Hume at the next PCC Scrutiny Panel.
- it was explained that Stockton's Pupil Survey 2016 had provided some very useful data and it was agreed that it would be presented to a future meeting of this Group.
- Domestic Abuse related crime was increasing. There were increases in sibling on sibling, child on parents and older people victims.
- there had been reductions in referrals to Harbour and this needed to be investigated and understood.
- Domestic Violence, as a proportion of violent crime within Stockton, had been 36 – 38% for a number of years, so it was considered that this was an accurate baseline.
- it was stated that Stockton's 'repeat' rate was high and this was a major challenge.
- arrest rates associated with DA were low and well below the arrest rate for overall crime. It was explained that changes to arrest criteria had affected the arrest rates, but the Police were dealing with all incidents appropriately.
- Members asked that, where appropriate/possible, and taking account of capacity issues, national, or other comparator information be provided with the local data.
- Referrals to Harbour from GPs were very low.
- DA offences committed 'under the influence of alcohol/drugs' were likely to be significantly more than recorded data suggested. Members agreed that in the case of alcohol a focus on its availability, pricing etc. may help with DA but accurate data around this was needed.
- Stockton had the lowest crime rate per thousand people in the Tees Valley but had one of the highest rates for DA related crime.
- in addition to the data sets in the report, there was lots of other information that could be pulled together and this would help indicate where activity needed to be focused and assist in the development of the strategy. At future meetings there would be attempts to present data in different ways, to make it come alive and create greater interaction with it.
- Members were asked to consider what indicators may be helpful to include in any Performance Management Framework to help guide the Group's focus. This would be considered further, outside the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.
2. the Pupil's Survey be reported to a future meeting of the group.
3. Consideration be given to providing comparator information for some data.
4. consideration be given to what indicators might be included in the Performance Management Framework.

#### **4 Domestic Abuse Review**

The Group was provided with a report that presented the findings of a review of the Domestic Abuse Support Service in Stockton, which was provided by Harbour.

It was explained that it had been agreed to implement an option to extend the current contract for one financial year until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

The review produced a number of recommendations around DA and this group had been asked to look at these.

It was noted that the extension to the current contract would give this Group an opportunity to look at what may be needed in the future.

There was a discussion around the 'Safe Relationship Programme' which had operated in Hartlepool for a number of years and was an example of preventative work in schools. This Steering Group would look at this and other prevention initiatives. It was noted that the Pupil Survey had asked a number of questions that would help in terms of understanding young people's attitudes surrounding DA, and what was acceptable/ unacceptable behaviour. This survey would be repeated and, therefore, may be helpful in terms of assessing the effectiveness of any prevention work carried out in the future.

The Group agreed that it needed to understand what interventions worked to help inform the strategy.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

#### **5 Feedback from Domestic Abuse Event**

Members considered a report that provided a summary of key points and areas for development that came from a Domestic Abuse event, attended by a range of partners, in October 2016. The report also included details of presentations provided at the event and some of the discussion.

The Steering Group discussed the focus and funding on CSE services, which to an extent, had been driven nationally, and the funding of Domestic Abuse

services. It was agreed that it would be useful to understand the spending and volumes in these areas.

It was noted that the DA event had raised issues relating to people not completing the perpetrator programme. Harbour indicated that it was looking at this in detail and would report back.

Members highlighted the low referral rate of GPs and discussed how this might be addressed. The Group was reminded that its reporting/accountability line was direct to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board membership included the Chief Executive of Hartlepool and Stockton Health, which was the local GP Federation and this issue, could be raised via that route.

It was explained that future meeting of the Steering Group would include a 'front line view', which may include inviting a social worker, GP etc. to try and understand issues/obstacles.

RESOLVED that

1. the report be noted.
2. issues relating to GP referrals be highlighted with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **6 Promising/ new / innovative approaches**

Members were provided with a report, produced by the Council's Children's Services, relating to three initiatives they were currently looking at:

- Calderdale Council: Domestic Abuse Hub
- Doncaster Children's Trust: Targeting families at risk
- Drive model – Safe Lives, Respect and Social Finance (Essex, South Wales, West Sussex): Intensive focus on perpetrators

Harbour representatives:

- described a pilot initiative that it had undertaken in Durham County, which had just been extended. The initiative involved a Domestic Abuse Specialist seconded from Harbour and placed in each of Durham's 10 Family First teams. The Specialists would engage with victims and perpetrators at a much earlier stage and undertake one to one work. The pilot had seen beneficial outcomes.
- referred to working with perpetrators and the establishment of a perpetrator group and the need to look at mechanisms to ensure attendance.
- suggested Safe Places for DA - encourage people to talk.

Harbour also reminded the Steering Group of the need to provide services for people without children.

The Probation Service would review what it had in place around its perpetrator group and would feed this into the Steering Group.

It was noted that the identification of new approaches and initiatives was ongoing and each member of the Steering Group had a role in undertaking research and bringing ideas to meetings. A process for how any potential new approaches might be reviewed/assessed needed to be considered further.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted.

## **7 Outline of the DA strategy timescale -**

Members were provided with a timeline for the development of the DA Strategy and noted that the Steering Group's Forward Plan had been drafted in line with this.

In terms of consultation around the DA Strategy it had been suggested that there be two in-depth key areas of consultations around need. Work was planned to take place with

- perpetrators in social care services who were not engaging.
- probation perpetrator group.
- with LAC around impact and what could have happened earlier.

RESOLVED that the timeline and consultation information be noted.

## **8 Forward Plan**

Members noted the Forward Plan.