

# Domestic Abuse Steering Group

A meeting of Domestic Abuse Steering Group was held on Wednesday 8 February 2017.

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

Councillor Jim Beall (SBC), T/DCI Helen Barker (Cleveland Police) , Emma Champley (SBC), Lesley Gibson, (Harbour), Councillor Ann McCoy (SBC), Councillor Steve Nelson (SBC), Angela Connor (sub for Callum Titley)

**Also in attendance:** Michael Henderson, Mandy Mackinnon (SBC)

**Apologies:** Robin Bonas (DTVCR), Stuart Harper (NTFT), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Rosana Roy (NPS), Steven Hume (SBC), Barbara Potter (Hartlepool and Stockton CCG), Callum Titley (SBC), Barry Copping (PCC)

## 1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

## 3 Transformational Fund (Domestic Abuse)

Members received a presentation relating to the Domestic Abuse Transformational Fund Bid, provided by Sharon Caddell, Project Manager.

It was noted that a lot of detail on the bid had been provided to the Steering Group's previous meeting.

The following provides a summary of those matters specifically raised by group members:

- Work with schools would encourage the completion of Early Help Assessments, where appropriate.
- It was clarified that, with regard to Operation Encompass, the Police notified the Children's Hub of any relevant incidents and the Hub contacted the school. Referrals would be made into assessment teams or early help.
- There was a discussion about the posts of School Safeguarding Liaison Officer, which would be created. It was commented that this job title may be misleading in terms of the Officers' role, which would specifically relate to dealing with issues created by Domestic Abuse. Further consideration of the posts' job titles may be appropriate.
- it was highlighted that some initiatives, within the bid, would create increases in referrals to other services, which would be positive, however it needed to be noted that those services would not be receiving any additional resources from this bid.

- there would be differing areas of focus throughout the six forces, as each force had a different starting point, in each project area. Learning and expertise would be shared across all six forces.
- There was a discussion around the charge made by GPs to provide evidence of Domestic Abuse to the legal aid board. It was suggested that the matter could be raised with the GP Federation, via its representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub models were very resource intensive but this needed to be set against costs associated with Domestic Homicide reviews, safeguarding and support.
- It was important that there were strong links between MARAC and MATAC and there was some potential to essentially merge the groups at some point.
- there would be an evaluation of the Whole System approach and it was suggested that it would be useful to try and evaluate the impact on other agencies e.g. health and social care spend, changes in activity at A and E, GPs etc. It was noted that this would be built into monitoring of the project.
- It was noted that health organisations were meeting to discuss what their input into Domestic Abuse would be, partially because there had not been any specific funding identified in their commissioning plans. As there were no health representatives at this meeting, this could not be discussed in this forum, at this time, but would be discussed elsewhere. Members voiced their concerns about the lack of representation of key health partners at this meeting and asked that this be recorded. It was explained that data on costs to health services, attributable to Domestic Abuse had been provided to health partners.
- It was highlighted that any work in schools, through the bid, should involve officers from the Council's Children's and Public Health Services (Diane McConnell and Jane Smith). The Early Help Partnership would be a good forum to look at any planned school activity in Stockton. It was agreed that close working was essential in order to plan efficiently and avoid duplication

RESOLVED that the presentation and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.

### **Domestic Abuse Strategy**

It was explained that the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy had been updated following previous discussions by the Group and further work by officers.

It had been intended to hold an interactive discussion, with break out groups, focusing on some of the themes, followed by a plenary discussion to prioritise areas of work. It was agreed that there were not enough members present to do this effectively, so a more general discussion was held about the Strategy as a whole:

- the Strategy was a high level direction of travel document and, how the various elements of the strategy would be delivered, would be detailed in the annual action plan.
- there was a query about some of the figures in the national/local context sections of the Strategy, relating to the gender of victims. These sections would be reviewed by officers. It was also suggested that information around the gender of homicide victims be included.
- Influencing national policy and maximising funding should be referred to in the Strategy.
- The current reference, in the Strategy, relating to Female Genital Mutilation needed to be reviewed and links to children's safeguarding highlighted.
- Alcohol and drugs should be identified in the list of priorities. Additionally, it would be important to have an action, in the action plan, to look at the probable under recording of alcohol and drugs use, by Police Officers, attending incidents of Domestic Abuse.

Members were satisfied with the direction of the strategy but it was agreed that it would be updated and circulated to all members of the Steering Group, for endorsement, before it went to other groups/partnerships for consultation. Following consultation the Strategy would be presented to the Steering Group's April meeting and later the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Strategy be updated and circulated to Steering Group members, for endorsement, prior to consultation commencing.
2. the Strategy be submitted to the Steering Group's April meeting with details of consultation feedback.

#### **4 Victims Charter**

Members were provided with a copy of Cleveland Police's victim's charter and were asked to comment at the meeting or direct to DCI Helen Barker.

Members noted that the Police would continuously monitor whether it was meeting the pledges within the Charter.

RESOLVED that the Charter be noted and members provide any comments to DCI Barker.

#### **5 Forward Plan**

Members noted the Forward Plan.

Updates around the Transformation Fund Bid would be provided when

appropriate.