

Domestic Abuse Steering Group

A meeting of Domestic Abuse Steering Group was held on Tuesday 11 April 2017.

Present: Martin Gray (SBC) (Chair),

Councillor Jim Beall (SBC), Robin Bonas (DTVCR), Barry Coppinger (PCC), Steven Hume (SBC), Caren Barnfather (sub for Lesley Gibson) (Harbour), Gordon Bentley (sub for Barbara Potter) (CCG), Sandra Clement (sub for Rosana Roy) (NPS) Stuart Harper-Reynolds (NTFT), Deborah Newman (sub for David Brown) (TEWV), Emma Champley (SBC), Councillor Ann McCoy (SBC), Councillor Steve Nelson (SBC), Steve Rose (Catalyst),

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

Apologies: DCI Helen Barker (Cleveland Police), David Brown (TEWV), Lesley Gibson, (Harbour), Rosana Roy (NPS), Barbara Potter (Hartlepool and Stockton CCG), Callum Titley (SBC),

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

The Steering Group was provided with an update on the Transformation Bid - Whole System Approach to Domestic Abuse and noted that clarification of some aspects of the bid were awaited from the Home Office.

There was a suggestion that the Schools element of the Transformation Fund was to be cut but this had not been clarified. It was explained that more information was likely to be available at the Group's next meeting.

Members agreed that the voluntary sector would have an important role in contributing to initiatives associated with the whole system approach being pursued via the bid.

3 Minutes of the Domestic Abuse Operational/Tactical Group Meeting – 2 March 2017

Members received the minutes of the Domestic Abuse Operational/Tactical Group meeting held on 2 March 2017.

The Chairman of the Group, Steven Hume, highlighted some of the areas of discussion that had taken place at the meeting. These included:

- Incidents of Domestic Abuse had increased in Stockton and Hartlepool during the period October – December 2016. Incidents in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland had reduced over the same period and this anomaly would need to be monitored.
- The police were changing the way repeat incident rates were recorded and the change should provide a clearer picture.

- Social Landlords were reporting more incidents of domestic abuse and the Group would be reviewing this to understand the reason.
- Some 'dip sampling' of young adults, aged 16 – 18 years, had been undertaken that revealed an undercurrent of young males, as victims and perpetrators. The sampling highlighted that young people, attending hospital as victims of Domestic Abuse, were not consistently being referred to services.
- GP referrals were very low and it was agreed that this should be raised with the Health and Wellbeing Board as an issue. Members noted that GP practices' Care Co-ordinators had been given the opportunity to attend Domestic Abuse training and this should be followed up. It was suggested that there was a range of views within the GP community around their role in highlighting Domestic Abuse.
- It would be important for the Integrated Urgent care centre to be sensitive to potential cases of DA, to help with early detection.
- There was a discussion on Universal Credit and the potential for coercive control. This would be an area that the Operational Group would monitor as incidents may increase.
- Noted that the Tees Valley was an outlier for DA, above the national comparator and the Operational group did look at figures to try and understand reasons for this.
- It was explained that, at a recent MARAC review meeting, the Police had put forward proposals that included daily MARAC meetings, linked in to Hubs to share information and triage cases. It had been agreed that rather than going to a daily MARAC, attempts would be made to streamline the current MARAC arrangements and move to more regular meetings. There had also been proposals to have a Tees MARAC, but a North /South split seemed more appropriate/achievable. It was suggested the proposals could be provided to the Steering Group, at its next meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes and discussion be noted/actioned as appropriate.

Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan

The Steering Group received a draft Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan, together with consultation responses.

In response to comments made, as part of the consultation, the Steering Group agreed a number of amendments:

- Appropriate visual representations of data could be provided.
- Reference to the Adults Safeguarding Board would be strengthened.
- Under-reporting of incidents associated with older people and BME

would be emphasised.

- Conduct disorders in young people would be referenced, as this was a risk factor for future perpetrators of abuse.
- Sexual violence within a domestic abuse context needed to be part of the strategy. Sexual Violence outside of domestic abuse needed to be picked up in another forum and this could be discussed outside this meeting.

The Group considered the action plan and agreed that all actions could not be achieved in year 1, some would need to be picked up in future years. Consideration turned to which areas should be prioritised for 2017/18:

Culture change:

- activities in schools
- raising awareness in organisations and the whole community (utilising the VCSE).
- Training for frontline staff.

Early Help:

- referral and assessment of risk, MARAC and MATAAC.
- approach to relationship support for parents.

Perpetrators:

- work with young perpetrators and the youth offending team.
- work around coercion and control with young people.
- improve completion of perpetrator programme and look at more tailored programmes.
- IOM perpetrator work by the police.

Victims:

- Health care actions
- MARAC and MATAAC
- Vulnerable adults.
- voice of the victims.

It was agreed that the action ‘...ensure meaningful consequences for perpetrators’, to be moved to perpetrators theme.

Children and Young People

- understanding of impact of DA on Children
- Op Encompass – specific reference to it needed

Working Together:

- All were a priority – every partner had given a commitment to fully participating in the Steering Group, delivering the strategy and implementing in their organisations.

Other issues raised during discussion of priorities

It was noted that each identified lead had a responsibility to make sure work was being undertaken and reporting progress back to the Steering Group but they may not be responsible for undertaking that work.

It was agreed that the Operational Group be tasked to undertake some area based work to test the strategy and action plan.

Issues around Stockton being an outlier in terms of the number of male perpetrators would be dealt with in the action plan under the victims theme.

It was agreed that the revised strategy and action plan, taking account of identified priorities and other comments, would be circulated to the Steering Group for comment, ahead of presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Members felt the pyramid infographic wouldn't be helpful for a number of reasons but, particularly, there was concern that it could lead people to believe that the whole purpose of the strategy, action plan and partners' activity was to increase the number of convictions. Members agreed that the data in the pyramid was very pertinent but its presentation in this format would not be used.

RESOLVED that the Strategy and Action Plan be amended, as per discussions detailed above, and be circulated to members of the Steering Group, prior to presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4 DCLG – Successful funding bid to support victims of DA

Members were provided with a report that referred to a joint bid between Stockton-on-Tees, Redcar & Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Darlington and Durham along with the specialist services. This bid was successful securing £720,000 across the six local authority areas involved. The aim was to better address the identified needs of victims who were particularly vulnerable or sometimes excluded from current refuge provision; specifically women with complex needs, and victims from BME backgrounds, including those with no recourse to public funds.

Members agreed that the project need to be complimentary to other activity and the Project Management Board (PMB) would need to be sensitive to this.

5 RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Domestic Abuse and Adult Safeguarding Conference – 4 May 2017

Members were provided with details of the above conference and noted that feedback from the event would be provided at the Group's next meeting.

Details of registration arrangements would be circulated to members.

5 Forward Plan

Members noted the Forward Plan.

- Updates around the Transformation Fund Bid would be provided
- Final action plan.

- Detail of launch taking account of the Board's comments in this regard