

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND
WELLBEING BOARD

27 JANUARY 2021

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Domestic Abuse within Stockton-on Tees, April – September 2020**1. Summary**

Acknowledgement: This report is largely drawn from the *Safer Stockton Partnership's Domestic Abuse Operational Group's multi-agency data report* compiled by Arron Bendelow, Planning & Performance, Stockton Borough Council.

1.1. Nationally, there has been no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse estimated by the National Crime Survey against the previous year, however the number of crimes recorded has increased as has the number of prosecutions leading to convictions. This indicates a higher proportion of reporting, prosecution and conviction of perpetration.

1.2. The national picture bears out in Stockton-on-Tees (see Table 1, below)
Table 1 Domestic Abuse statistics in Stockton-on-Tees

Stockton Statistics	April 2019 – Sept 2019	April 2020 – Sept 2020	Variance
Domestic Abuse Related Incidents	2,812	2,877	+2.3% points
Domestic Abuse Related Crimes	1,766	1,916	+8.5% points
Domestic Abuse Related Violent Crimes	1,242	1,382	+11.3% points
% of Offences Involving Repeat Victims	38.7%	40.0%	+1.3% points
Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Arrest Rate	19.4%	33.6%	+14.2% points
Domestic Abuse Crimes Arrest Rate	28.4%	47.7%	+19.2% points
Victim Withdrawal Rate	77.6%	47.2%	-30.5% points

2. Service activity

- 2.1. Harbour continue to deliver domestic abuse services across the borough, flexing and adapting to respond during the restrictions resulting from the pandemic. This includes support via phone and virtual platforms and the introduction of a Live Chat facility.
- 2.2. The training offer is also being developed as e-modules.

3. Service activity (victims)

- 3.1. There were a total of 2,830 referrals to Harbour during the period April-September 2020, an increase of 5.9% against the same period last year.
- 3.2. Most victim referrals into Harbour were from the Police for heterosexual females aged 26 – 35 years from within Stockton Town Centre, Mandale and Victoria or Newtown Wards.
- 3.3. Referrals to Refuge saw a 165% increase and referrals to Outreach Services saw a 112% increase on the previous year.
- 3.4. Tenancy support and Children's Services both saw increases in referrals due to domestic abuse (127% and 89% respectively).
- 3.5. Twenty-two children, from 16 sibling groups, proceeded to a Child Protection Plan following a domestic abuse referral, the majority of whom were under the age of 6years (16/22).
- 3.6. The Fire Brigade provided 84 letterbox locks during this period (25% of which were in Mandale & Victoria)
- 3.7. Adult safeguarding saw a small increase (9%) of referrals due to domestic abuse and Housing option saw a decrease.

4. Service activity (perpetrators)

- 4.1. Referrals and attendance increased against the same period last year. 131 clients were referred to the perpetrator programme 'DAPS' (Domestic Abuse Prevention Service), with 43 of those clients attending an assessment. This is a 15% increase in referrals and a 26% increase in assessments
- 4.2. One third of clients were White British, male, unrecorded sexuality, aged 26 – 35 years.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. We continue to improve opportunities for learning across the system by sharing local intelligence and seeking evidence from our statistical neighbours. This will improve our understanding, ability to prevent and respond to the needs of individuals, families and communities affected by domestic abuse.

- 5.2. It is encouraging to see an increase in arrests; a reduction in victim-withdrawal rates and an increase in DAPS assessments. This will continue to be monitored closely and opportunities for further improvement sought.
- 5.3. Learning from during the pandemic will be consolidated ensuring options to enhance access to services is explored to the full. Service improvements will be monitored as part of contract management arrangements.

Contact Officer: Mandy MacKinnon

Strategic Health & Wellbeing Manager, Public Health, SBC

Mandy.mackinnon@stockton.gov.uk