

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS**

### **14 January 2011**

#### **Adult Services**

##### **Group A**

- 217. Rent of refuge is relatively high (if people are not eligible for housing benefit)
- 218. Notice has been issued to Harbour as ongoing budget availability has not been confirmed from 1 April 2011
- 219. Is it out of the question to consider decommissioning the refuge and investing in other services, such as outreach services?
  - (a) Refuge is a resource centre
  - (b) Refuge is a safe place in crisis (no real alternative at present)
- 220. Acknowledged that we need to work towards keeping the victim in their own home.
- 221. Raising awareness will increase demand, at a time of reduced budgets

##### **Group B**

- 222. Surprise expressed that fewer people are accessing refuges nationally and more using outreach services (is this due to more 'move on' accommodation available in other areas and, therefore, shorter refuge stays?) Queried whether 'fewer' is a reduction in numbers or just a reduction in proportion.
- 223. Occupancy of refuge is being analysed in more detail
- 224. Pressures on floating support – increased investment would be measured by outcomes (very individual support)
- 225. Supporting People Grant: not ringfenced; allocation for 2011/12 to be confirmed
- 226. Influence developers by insisting on inclusion of provision of move-on accommodation in plans

##### **Group C**

- 227. Average stay at refuge to be established
- 228. Could the forthcoming changes to housing benefit have an effect on access to the refuge?
- 229. Refuge can be seen as comparatively 'comfortable' and result in a reluctance for tenants to move on
- 230. Honour based violence victims: non-British nationals may not be eligible for refuge services

##### **Group D**

- 231. Service model may need to be looked at in order to achieve some outcomes in a more efficient way
- 232. Emergency room is not always available when it is needed
- 233. Increased investment is needed in the outreach service

#### **Key issues to feedback**

- 234. Can we influence developers by insisting on the inclusion of 'move-on' accommodation in their schemes (in the absence of additional public funding)?