

Domestic Abuse Medium Repeats Group

Introduction

This group was set up in 17th December 2012 and reformed in November 2013 and exists as a specialist group that provides opportunity for the exchange of information, ideas and experiences, in order to monitor the ongoing actions for all agreed cases. These cases are a specific list of vulnerable people who have been identified as medium repeats for domestic abuse, that have not been referred to MARAC in Stockton.

The group provides an opportunity for a multi-agency group to meet, who are committed to working towards early intervention for those living with domestic abuse. This approach enables the development of a response which will maximise the sharing of information and promotion of collaborative working to promote engagement of support services and to identify and utilise any funding resources available.

General Aims

- To reduce the repeat rate for domestic abuse
- To reduce the impact of domestic abuse on the victims, their children and vulnerable adults
- To hold perpetrators to account?
- To promote awareness of domestic abuse and other key support services available

Membership

Members of the group will be from statutory and support agencies and any further individuals who can support the aims of the group.

Members of the Group include:

- CESC - Stockton Borough Council
- Cleveland Police
- Community Safety Team - SBC
- Community Rehabilitation Service
- Durham Tees Valley Rehabilitation Company
- Endeavour Housing
- Harbour
- Housing Options - SBC
- Thirteen
- Public Health
- A Way Out

The Duties of the Group

- To provide a co-ordinated, accountable and multi - agency response for social housing providers in Stockton to incidents of Domestic Abuse
- Nominated individuals to meet on a regular basis and take decisions on behalf of their respective organisation
- To ensure that there is a consistent referral process in place and to regularly review the volume of referrals received and the procedure as a whole

- To monitor progress of cases of Domestic Abuse and to provide advice and guidance throughout
- To ensure consistent communication between partners outside of the monthly meeting
- To ensure that all information is recorded and stored accurately
- Where appropriate, refer cases on to MARAC and to also take accountability for cases passed down from MARAC

Actions Taken

Since January 2014

- 31 cases have been looked at by the group (6 currently remain open)
- 25 discharged
 - 6 of these were escalated to MARAC
 - 10 reduced calls to the police and were engaging with services
 - 3 moved from the area
 - 4 refused to engage with any of the Services offered
 - 2 referrals weren't relevant for the remit of this group

Success

To the group success is measured by the following:-

- A reduced number of calls being made to the police where the couples have chosen to remain together.
- Victims are offered support services bespoke to their needs, empowered to understand options and make informed choices.
- We are continuing to Raise awareness of the help and support available to those who are survivors of domestic abuse.

Challenges

The group continues to face challenges due to the following:-

- Number of calls to the police increased April-July 2015 (8%/ +107 incidents)
- Repeat incident rate has also increased to 46.4% from 37.1%
- Difficult to engage clients who are entrenched within abusive relationships
- Changes in job roles and staff turnaround for attendance at meetings
- Consistency in the way cases are identified