

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE REVIEW AND WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN UPDATE

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **12 March 2020**

From: **Rob Hill, Assistant Director: Community Safety**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **N/A** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To present to the Committee the outcomes of the review into the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) service, and to present the new DASV strategy.**

Recommendation: **The Committee is asked to:**

- a) Comment on the outcomes of the review of Domestic Abuse services, and the detailed implementation plans set out in the report; and**
- b) Consider further ideas for promoting the White Ribbon campaign.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council currently invests £1.3m in dedicated roles and services in order to address the prevalence of domestic abuse and support victims of violence. This includes funding for three refuges across Cambridgeshire, delivery of partnership work with agencies, and provision of services to raise awareness of domestic abuse and improve responses. In addition, the resources deliver the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) service, which works face to face with predominately high risk victims of domestic abuse.
- 1.2** In 2019 a review of this service considered its overall aims and objectives, and sought assurance that resources were being directed in the best possible way in order to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable, whilst at the same time better manage demand on services. The review identified that the service currently relies on several temporary funding streams that cease in March 2020. There is now an urgent need to redesign services in response to this review, to ensure there is a support offer for all domestic abuse survivors, and remove dependency on unstable funding sources.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Domestic Abuse Review

To address the issues identified in the 2019 review, a proposed new model has been designed to meet the following key principles:

- To deliver an agreed partnership 'core offer' – set out in a new Domestic Abuse Strategy
- To seek to secure efficiencies wherever possible and ensure best value
- To remove reliance on temporary funding to deliver a core offer, but allow the entire model to flex outwards with an enhanced offer (as funding is available) and contract back (when funding is not available)
- To work with partners wherever possible, to join up activities, maximise effectiveness and manage whole service demand as part of an integrated model of victim support services
- To provide a solution for the provision of earlier intervention, with the aim of preventing harm escalation and reducing demand on frontline services
- To seek to develop a 'one team' ethos combining the resources of both authorities to improve service efficiency

2.2 Domestic Abuse Strategy

To coincide with the review, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Board has agreed a new partnership strategy that identifies our core commitment for Domestic Abuse and a separate strategy for Sexual Violence.

The aim of the strategy is to deliver a strong core offer against our statutory partnership responsibilities whilst understanding, where funding is available, how we seek to strengthen this offer.

This will be achieved by:

- Working to prevent people becoming victims and offenders of domestic abuse by challenging the attitudes and behaviours that foster it
- Reducing the risk to victims and intervening to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating
- Ensuring that perpetrators are appropriately pursued and challenged
- Ensuring, through a joint commissioning approach, that all victims have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused support

The full revised strategies can be found at **Appendix 1**.

2.3 Sexual Violence Services

In September 2019, a procurement exercise was launched comprising the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Cambridgeshire, and the Countywide Support Service for victims and survivors of sexual violence. This followed a significant period of successful engagement and consultation in Cambridgeshire which included stakeholder events and online surveys for stakeholders and survivors.

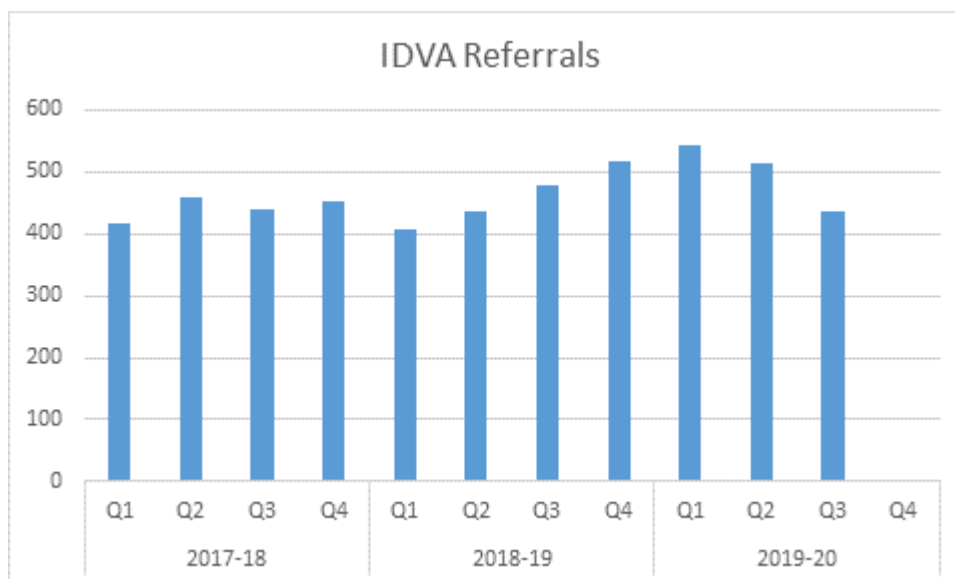
The SARC Service Specification mirrored the national specification with some slight local adjustments. The SARCs are funded 50/50 between the host Police force and NHS England. National guidance further sets out that they should be co-commissioned by the local Police force and NHS England, in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

The specification for the Countywide Support Service included funding for both an ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy) service and an emotional support service. The whole service is jointly commissioned, and funded, through a pooled budget arrangement with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the local authority and NHS England. Cambridgeshire OPCC also holds the devolved Rape Support Fund which is wholly invested into this contract.

The tender process is now being finalised and the contracts will be in place by April 1, 2020 to ensure continuation of crucial services.

2.4 IDVA Service

The IDVA Service works with victims of domestic abuse who are predominately at **high risk** of harm or homicide. Referrals into the service are made using the DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence) Risk Identification Checklist. Around 80% of these referrals come from the police following call out to a domestic incident.



The chart above shows the number of referrals into the IDVA Service and shows an upward trend during the past two years.

2.5 MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

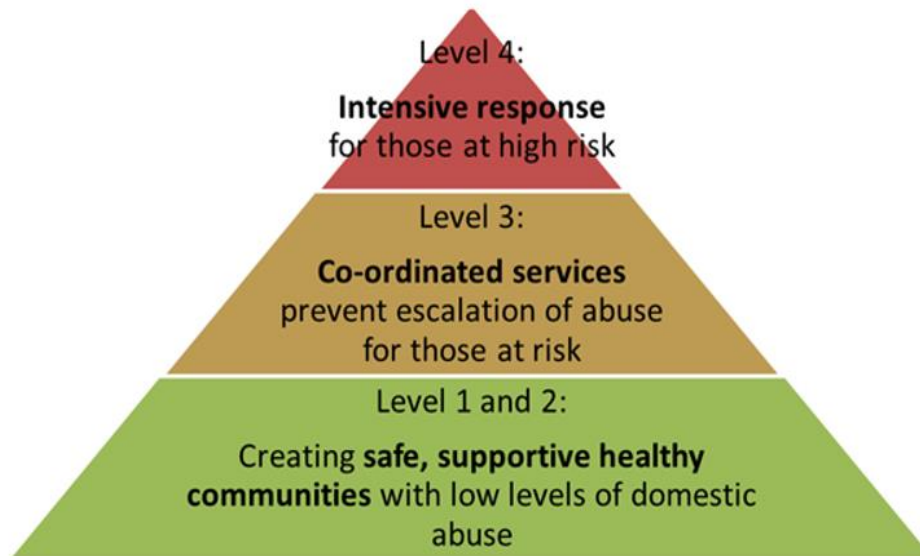
MARAC, or Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, is the process by which a variety of partnership agencies (including Police, IDVA, Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Probation, Substance Misuse Services, Mental Health, Housing, Education, refuges and hospitals) come together to discuss the very highest risk cases of domestic abuse. MARAC is a dynamic process which, in a single meeting, combines up to date risk assessment information with a comprehensive assessment of the victims' needs.

In 2017 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough moved to holding daily MARAC meetings and this has recently been reviewed to reconsider the referral threshold and frequency. The recommendation was for an increase in the referral threshold to MARAC, measured using the DASH template, or use of professional judgement or repeat incidents, and also to move to meeting three times a week. The benefits of this include that it will ensure the cases of highest risk are discussed whilst also reducing demand on services to attend on a daily basis.

The MARAC proposals were agreed by the DASV Delivery Board, and a 3 month pilot began in January 2020. This will be reviewed at the end of March.

2.6 Medium Risk Provision

The focus of the IDVA service is on the highest risk victims of domestic abuse (known as level 4), whilst medium risk intervention is currently provided by the third sector. This is illustrated as follows:



Victims of domestic abuse who are assessed as medium risk, as a result of the DASH risk assessment, are currently offered support by a team of domestic abuse outreach workers. These workers are based with third sector domestic abuse charities and provide face to face and telephone support.

The outreach service is funded until March 2020 through two successful bids to central Government funds. A further bid has been submitted to continue this support but the outcome of this is not yet known. The lack of core funding has revealed a gap in support service provision for a cohort of vulnerable victims and the Domestic Abuse Strategy has committed to providing a level of support to all victims of domestic abuse.

2.7 New Structure

There has been a further review of the service since the initial work, and this has recommended some changes within provision to ensure a core offer can be made which provides support to all victims of domestic abuse. This will mean some reductions in both the DASV partnership function and IDVA Service to remove the reliance on short-term grant funding.

To ensure a core offer for medium risk victims, there will be a new provision of posts within the Victim and Witness Hub, to offer telephone based support to all victims of domestic abuse who have reported to the police. Any extra funding secured will enable an outreach service which can complement this, through the offer of additional face to face support.

2.8 White Ribbon

Cambridgeshire County Council were successful in receiving white ribbon accreditation in 2018. The White Ribbon campaign aims to end male violence against women and girls through a pledge never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence. The campaign's message to men is to practice tolerance, respect and kindness, and to stand up against male violence, bullying and sexism in all forms.

Members will recall from previous papers that accreditation is based on the production of an action plan that addresses several areas:

- Management/Leadership
- Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Ambassadors and Advocates
- Communication Strategy
- Community Engagement

The Council will need to be reaccredited in May 2020, and to show progress against the action plan as part of this.

During 2019, there has been a focus on work with music venues and campaign work, including stalls at local conferences and events including the Parish Councils conference and Cambridge Folk Festival. A campaign recognising men who have made contributions to the White Ribbon campaign was also undertaken to commemorate White Ribbon Day on the 25 November and the following 16 days of action.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- In a report for the Home Office into the economic and social costs of domestic abuse (2017), the estimated lost economic output attributed to domestic abuse was £14098m per year (an average of £7245 per victim). Therefore, any actions to tackle, reduce or challenge the issue is likely to reduce this lost output.

3.2 Thriving places for people to live

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Domestic abuse and sexual violence both have significant impacts on health and independence. The report sighted above, estimates the physical and mental health care costs of domestic abuse is £2333m annually, averaging £1200 per victim.

3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The report above estimates that between a quarter and a third of children have been exposed to domestic abuse at some point during their lives but it is not possible to estimate the cost of the impact on children due to incomplete and inconsistent data.

3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

Any associated work or service provision will have due regard to minimising carbon impact, for example, by ensuring localised accessibility to DASV services to reduce travel.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Reductions in grant funding mean that there will be reduced resource dedicated to supporting domestic abuse work across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, but core funding will enable a universal offer that can be enhanced if further funding becomes available
- The cost of White Ribbon reaccreditation is £500
- There are also costs for marketing materials (including white ribbon merchandise) and small events, which are anticipated to be around £2,000 annually

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence are highly gendered crimes, therefore there will be greater impact on female residents in Cambridgeshire
- Any public awareness activity should make it clear that the issue includes violence against men and boys, as well as women and girls

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Reaccreditation and future activity will require support from the community engagement and communications teams, both of which are represented on the White Ribbon Working Group.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- White Ribbon reaccreditation will involve the continued engagement of area champions and members.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Violence is a public health issue at individual and population levels.
- The new model of working aims to secure the best use of resources through developing new partnership approaches and a stronger focus on prevention.
- The DASV Partnership and White Ribbon campaign will help increase awareness and understanding of this particular violence issue and awareness raising is an important element for the delivery of the wider Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Emma Jones
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Gus de Silva
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Monitoring Officer?	Yes Name of Monitoring Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Matthew Hall
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Val Thomas



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2019

Our vision is to reduce the harms associated with *Violence against Women and Girls (and men/boys)* and to prevent these crimes from occurring within our communities. We commit to taking new, innovative and **evidenced** approaches, focusing on harm reduction in our communities, preventing victimisation and repeat victimisation. Whilst acknowledging the role of traditional approaches such as Criminal Justice, we will prioritise an approach which seeks to improve the long term safety leading to positive outcomes for our communities. The partnership recognises there **may** be a risk associated with this approach, however accepts this is necessary to deliver resilient, thriving communities.

We will deliver a strong core offer against our statutory partnership responsibilities whilst understanding, where funding is available, how we seek to strengthen this offer.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)' is defined by the Home Office as:

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (United Nations, 2013 and Home Office, 2016).

The National VAWG agenda now also includes the following types of violence and abuse¹:

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage (FM)
- Stalking and Harassment
- Honour-Based Violence (HBV)

Although women and girls are disproportionately harmed by all VAWG crime types, locally we recognise that men and boys can also be victimised. All children, whether direct or indirect victims of VAWG, are harmed by its impact. Some people exclusively use the term “survivor” over “victim,” and vice versa. We have decided to use the terms interchangeably within the strategy.

To achieve this we have made the decision to divide our strategy into a Domestic Abuse and a separate Sexual Violence strategy building on the previous VAWG strategy 2017-2021.

This strategies, and the associated delivery plans, will be refreshed on an annual basis. They will set out our core offer against our statutory partnership responsibilities whilst understanding, where funding is available, how we seek to strengthen this offer.



This document forms the **Domestic Abuse** plan for the overarching Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

We commit to-

- Working to prevent people becoming offenders of domestic abuse and reducing victimisation by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it.
- Reducing the risk to victims and intervening to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.
- Perpetrators are appropriately pursued and challenged.
- Through a joint commissioning approach we will ensure all victims have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused support.

Strategic Aim	Core Offer
Working to prevent people becoming offenders of domestic abuse and reducing victimisation by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a preventative programme of resources within education settings across the county. • Delivering consistent preventative messages into the community, aiming to create communities where domestic abuse is unacceptable/ not tolerated. • Ensuring our wider workforce recognises and challenges inappropriate behaviour to support a positive culture.
Reducing the risk to victims and intervening to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring our wider workforce have the appropriate skills and knowledge to recognise Domestic Abuse, know what to do about and will act upon it. • Developing our response based on a consistent understanding of risk of harm, and the impact of trauma across the partnership.
Perpetrators are appropriately pursued and challenged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with agencies to challenge and prevent future offending. • Taking appropriate action to bring to justice those who perpetrate domestic abuse.
Through a joint commissioning approach we will ensure all victims have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring victims and their families are identified early and offered support services based on their risk and need, supporting them to lead resilient, healthy lives.



This document forms the **Sexual Violence** plan for the overarching Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

We commit to –

- Working to prevent people becoming offenders of sexual violence and reducing victimisation by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it.
- Promoting the safety and protection of victims and survivors.
- Appropriately pursuing and challenging perpetrators.
- Ensuring all victims and survivors have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused jointly commissioned support.

Strategic Aim	Core Offer
Working to prevent people becoming offenders of sexual violence and reducing victimisation by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting the development of a preventative programme of resources within education and community settings across the county.
Promoting the safety and protection of victims and survivors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring our wider workforce have the appropriate skills and knowledge to respond to reports of sexual violence in a professional and consistent manner.
Appropriately pursuing and challenging perpetrators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking appropriate action to bring to justice those who perpetrate sexual violence.• Working in partnership with agencies to challenge and prevent future offending.
Ensuring all victims and survivors have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused jointly commissioned support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring all survivors of sexual violence will be offered seamless support based on their needs.

ⁱ Trafficking / Prostitution & Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) are managed through alternative partnership strategies.