

DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY UPDATE

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee Meeting**

Meeting Date: **31st May 2018**

From: **Adrian Chapman, Service Director, Communities & Safety**

Electoral division(s): **Countywide**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Information Only* **No**

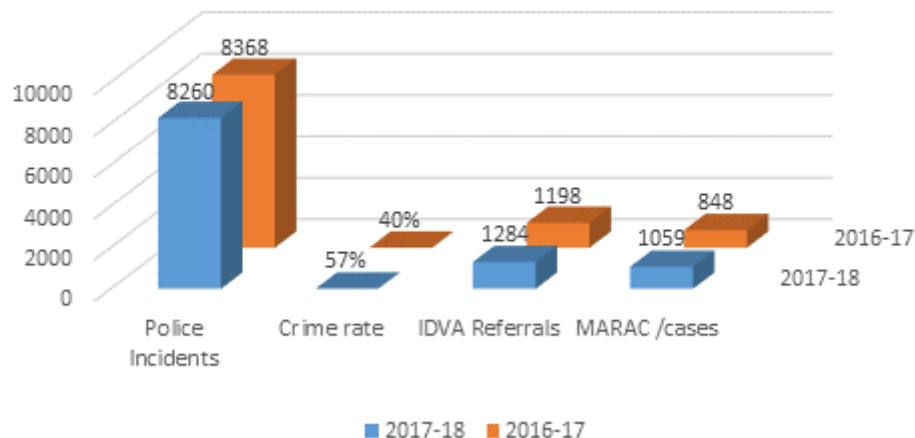
Purpose: **To consider and note:**

- a) **The key activities of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership during 2017 – 2018.**
- b) **Priorities for 18/19.**
- c) **Management information about demand on critical service areas in relation to domestic abuse and sexual violence.**

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1.0	BACKGROUND
1.1	In 2016 a VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Needs Assessment was commissioned by the OPCC (Office of Police and Crime Commissioner) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and was finalised in September 2017. Following this, a VAWG Strategy for 2017-2021 for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was produced underpinned by a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence action plan to focus on delivery.
1.2	The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) broad partnership produces an Annual Report to outline the key achievements of the strategy, and areas of progress and development for the coming year. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of these achievements and also the challenges for the DASV Partnership during 2017/18. It will highlight key points from the 2017/18 DASV Annual report and indicate the priorities for 2018/19.
2.0	MAIN ISSUES
2.1	<p>In 2017 governance arrangements for domestic abuse were reviewed and a countywide Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Board was established, reporting into the Community Safety Strategic Board. The key objectives of the group include signing off the VAWG needs assessment, setting out a DASV Strategy for the county and the associated action plan.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Board is comprised of a wide range of partners, chaired by Detective Superintendent Martin Brunning, Head of Public Protection (Cambridgeshire Constabulary), with Sarah Ferguson acting as Vice Chair.</p> <p>A DASV Operational Group was also established to co-ordinate delivery of the DASV action plan bringing together operational managers from key agencies with responsibility for domestic abuse and sexual violence.</p>
2.2	The Board consider a number of indicators as a guide to what is happening in terms of domestic abuse and sexual violence. The chart on the next page shows some of the main indicators for 2017/18 with a comparison to 2016/17.

Domestic Abuse Data



In addition to this:

- 79% of clients engaged with the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service (minimum target of 75%)
- 84% of clients who engaged with an IDVA had a safety plan
- 35% of clients called the police again to report an incident – approx. two thirds of these were due to clients following their safety plan
- The Sexual Assault Referral Centre had 191 over 18s and 102 under 18s who used the service, an increase on the previous year from 129 and 81 respectively.

2.3 There has been an increase in IDVA referrals over recent years. Most notable is the increase of 25% in those cases presented at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), where the victim has been assessed as at high risk of homicide.

79% of clients referred to the IDVA service engage with the service and of those who engage 84% are provided with a safety plan – demonstrating the ability of the service to engage with a high number of vulnerable, and often complex, individuals.

In terms of effectiveness, the IDVA service is a crisis intervention service, so cannot track longer term outcomes, however, the service can demonstrate numbers of victims who are now more informed and have a safety plan. The service is working on a process to gather outcomes data via an exit interview, which will be available at the end of the year.

When considering police reports, we would expect an increase in awareness of domestic abuse to increase the number of crimes being reported to the police, this does not necessarily indicate increased domestic abuse and sexual violence in the general population.

2.4 The Board is in the process of reviewing the content and presentation of management information for 2018/19, and anticipates that a revised performance framework will be in place from summer 2018.

2.5	<p>The strategy is split into four main areas, Prevent; Protect; Pursue & Prepare. Key achievements for 2011/ 2018 in each of the four main areas are listed below:</p> <p>Prevent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) service have produced guidance on Relationships and Sex Education for schools to purchase. • Work with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust and Addenbrooke's to develop Domestic Abuse policies. • Awareness materials have been produced and sent to a wide range of agencies and professionals, and are available to download from the website. • Initial Break4 Change programme, addressing APVA (Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse), delivered by Youth Offending Service. • Embrace counselling for children aged 13-19 (up to 24 with additional needs) who have witnessed domestic abuse is in place, funded through a 3 year Home Office grant. <p>Protect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DV Strategy and guidance developed for Children's Social Care. • Countywide single MARAC now operational daily. • Perpetrator Panel now countywide and where appropriate will consider domestic abuse perpetrators leaving prison. <p>Pursue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Local Policing Plan in place from May 2018, which means the closure of the specialist DAISU unit a move to local policing teams. <p>Prepare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Stalking and Harassment IDVA Post is currently out to advert, which will work from the Victim's Hub • DASV Champions have been nominated by a range of agencies and 6 network events have been held with very positive feedback. The champions will continue to meet on a quarterly basis
2.6	<p>The full annual report is available to Members through the link provided at the end of this report.</p>
2.7	<p><u><i>Department for Communities and Local Government Grant</i></u></p>
	<p>In addition to the core system wide changes and developments which have taken place in the last year outlined in 2.3, Members will be aware that the partnership were awarded a one year grant for £700k from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), which ended on 31st March 2018.</p> <p>The following describes what has been achieved to date in the 8 main areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach workers at Cambridge Women's Aid, Refuge – to date, 1317 victims (74 male: 1243 female) who had 1231 children living with them, have been

	<p>supported with additional safety, advice, information and advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse pathway mental health nurses supported specialist staff and victims to understand the mental health needs of clients. • Bobby Scheme – 259 victims homes were provided with increased security, this included 329 children. • Counselling for Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre and Peterborough Rape Crisis – 23 women received specialist sexual violence counselling • Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation – housing associations are considering accreditation, and 6 workshops have been held to date, with 51 attendees from 11 housing organisations. • 'Move on' support – was provided for a range of needs from transport costs to goods for new homes. • 'No Recourse to Public Funds' support – supported over a dozen women and their children access support they would not have otherwise had. • Development of Domestic Abuse /Sexual Violence awareness materials for diverse populations – these have been widely distributed across the county and can be accessed free of charge from our website. Films have been produced on You Tube about the IDVA service and the outreach service, which can be viewed in Polish, Urdu, Punjabi, Russian and British Sign Language. More can will be developed where needed.
2.8	<p>An evaluation of all the initiatives funded through the DCLG funds has been concluded and was considered by the DASV Delivery Board on 1st May. A key outcome from the report is the impact which outreach work has had to enhance the range and level of support available to victims, with conversations taking place actively across the Partnership on how this may be sustained beyond March 2019.</p>
2.9	<p><u>Activity within Cambridgeshire County Council 2017/18</u></p>
	<p>In addition to the Partnership activity described above, the County Council has made significant progress in raising the profile and responsiveness to domestic abuse and sexual violence within its own services in the last 12 months.</p>
	<p>Following the decision by the Communities and Partnership Committee to seek accreditation to the White Ribbon Campaign, extensive work has been underway to make a public commitment to standing up against domestic abuse. As part of this, the County Council has launched a domestic abuse policy, and following the training of all Human Resources managers, plans are being made to roll this out across all management teams.</p>
	<p>An initial training session for County Councillors has also been held, with plans being made for further sessions in order to raise awareness amongst Members of the issues and how to respond.</p>
	<p>Key developments within service areas include the development of a Domestic Abuse policy and guidance handbook for staff within Children's Services, and the development of extensive 'offer' through core services to families affected by abuse. The renewed focus on domestic abuse has also supported an Adult safeguarding audit within Adult services. Recommendations from the audit are now being taken forward.</p>

	<u>Areas of focus and development for 2018/19</u>
2.10	<p>The above outlines the significant developments which have been made across the partnership but also within Cambridgeshire County Council over the last year.</p> <p>Going forward, the priorities for 2018/19 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider options around a “single front door” model for Domestic Abuse • Secure funding for outreach provision to continue after March 2019 • Establish a countywide DHR (Domestic Homicide Review) process • Support Cambridgeshire County Council to achieve White Ribbon accreditation • Develop a DASV action plan for adult social care/adult safeguarding and support this work going forward • Support Children’s Social Care to implement their Domestic Abuse strategy
3.0	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES
3.1	Developing the local economy for the benefit of all
	Domestic abuse costs public sector services millions of pounds each year (£113m for Cambridgeshire), in many cases it also affects the ability of victims to work and earn a living for victims and their children.
3.2	Helping people live healthy and independent lives
	The partnership exists to enable victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, predominately women and their children to be safe and live their lives free of abusive behaviours. This improves both their physical and psychological health and wellbeing.
3.3	Supporting and protecting vulnerable people
	Those vulnerable due to domestic abuse and sexual violence require support to enable them to life safely, free from risk of abuse and violence. In particular children, those with disabilities and those who require additional support are particularly vulnerable.
4.0	SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS
4.1	Resource Implications
	The DCLG Grant ended in March 2018 and, although funding has been secured to extend outreach provision until the end of March 2019, future funding for outreach provision and the Bobby Scheme are at risk.
4.2	Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications
	<i>Not Applicable - There are no significant implications within this category.</i>

4.3	Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications
	<p>The Local Authority has statutory responsibilities to support those impacted by domestic abuse under the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Right Act 1998 • Children's Act 1989 and 2004 • The Care Act 2014 • Mental Capacity Act 2005. • Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.
4.4	Equality and Diversity Implications
	<p>The Council has a duty to provide appropriate services to vulnerable groups, as established by the Equality Act 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women • Those with disabilities • Ethnicities • Sexuality. <p>The recent (2017) VAWG needs assessment has shown that the above groups constitute the greatest cohorts of need across the county.</p>
4.5	Engagement and Communications Implications
	<p>In order to effectively communicate with both staff and Cambridgeshire residents it is vital that there is a communications strategy in place and that all relevant members and officers are briefed on the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence work within the County Council.</p>
4.6	Localism and Local Member Involvement
	<p>The priorities presented herein would enable communities to develop their resilience to issues of domestic abuse through increasing and enhancing levels of awareness amongst Members.</p>
4.7	Public Health Implications
	<p>The proposed priorities will help raise awareness of the issues amongst the population and different organisations which will, along with specific interventions positively impact on the psychological and physical health of Cambridgeshire residents</p>

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer:
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: P White, R Stephens
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Virginia Lloyd
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Sarah Ferguson
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: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DASV Annual Report (Draft) • DASV Delivery Board Terms of Reference • DCLG Grant Evaluation Report, Shirley Magilton 	<p>Draft document available on request</p> <p>http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/site/the_dasv_partnership/84035</p> <p>Document currently in draft and is available on request</p>