

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY – MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

To: **Adults Committee**

Meeting Date: **Thursday 26th March 2015**

From: **Adrian Loades, Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **N/A**

Key decision: **No**

Purpose: **To inform the Committee of the measures developed to measure the impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.**

Recommendation: **The Committee is asked to note the findings of this paper and comment as appropriate.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>	
Name:	Vickie Crompton
Post:	Head of Service
Email:	Vickie.crompton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 699834

1.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Domestic Abuse Governance Board was formed in November 2013 following a peer review that highlighted potential risks from a lack of clear strategic leadership in this area. A Governance Board was established with partners and initially met monthly in order to complete work on the Domestic Abuse Strategy which has now been revised and updated. The Board now meets quarterly.
- 1.2 The Board is made up of representatives from Cambridgeshire Constabulary, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Adult and Children's Social Care, Public Health, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust, CAFCASS, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, District Housing, Community Safety Partnerships and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 1.3 The Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2014-2018 was signed off by all partners in November 2014. An action plan has been developed and the Governance Board will be responsible for performance monitoring the key actions. The Committee considered the strategy at its meeting on 9th September 2014 and asked for an update on the performance and other indicators that would be used to monitor the delivery of the strategy. This paper provides details of the indicators being used as well as an update on key activities over the next few months.
- 1.4 There are no national performance indicators for domestic abuse. A number of different methods of collating performance and management information were therefore discussed by the Governance Board reflecting the variety of locally set performance indicators used by partners. For example, the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (Cambridgeshire County Council) uses local indicators to manage team and individual staff performance, and Cambridgeshire Constabulary have developed an action plan to monitor their own performance and improvement actions in response to inspections from HMIC.
- 1.5 As a result of the difficulty in creating a single set of performance indicators that accurately reflect all activity, each organisation's response to domestic abuse is presented individually. The Governance Board will develop an overview of performance and activity and in doing so then to find ways of understanding and interpreting the interdependencies and relationships between these data sets. The full set of indicators considered by the Board is attached as Appendix One.

2.0 **MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Strategy is set out with four key elements; Prevent, Protect, Pursue and Recover. The following indicators have been extracted from the full report to measure progress against the commitments within the strategy at a high level:

2.2 We will prevent people from becoming perpetrators or victims of domestic abuse

2.2.1 If we are successful in this objective, we expect to see:

- Greater reporting of domestic abuse to police

	2014/15 (13/14 figure in brackets)			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police	1880 (1670)	1965 (1907)	1758 (1818)	(1894)

2.2.2 There have been a general increase in reporting since April 2013 and figures suggest this may reach a peak and become steady. Not all victims will be confident to report to the police, or it may not be appropriate as the abuse may not be a criminal act and therefore support from other agencies may be more appropriate

2.3 We will protect victims of domestic abuse and their children, where or not they choose to report crimes to the police

2.3.1 If we are successful in this objective, we expect to see:

- More people engaged in protective services such as IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors)
- Decreases in 'negative' repeat incident reports to the police (negative repeats mean cases where a woman with a safety plan to protect her from previous abuse re-contacts the Police because of a further incident of domestic abuse)
- Increased 'positive' repeat incident reports to police (positive repeats are when a woman with a safety plan to protect her from previous abuse re-contacts the police in order to enact her safety plan)

	2014/15 (13/14 figure in brackets)			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% of referrals into the IDVA service that engage with the service	75% (71%)	71% (78%)	80% (78%)	(61%)
% of IDVA clients that are 'repeat' clients	51% (29%)	35% (20%)	21% (41%)	(41%)
% of cases heard at MARAC that were repeats – i.e. resubmitted within 12 months	38% (40%)	34% (52%)	13% (30%)	(38%)

2.3.2 Since April 2013, there has been an increase in the percentages of victims who engage with the IDVA service from 71% to 80%.

2.3.3 The percentage of IDVA (and therefore high risk) clients being victimised and contacting the police more than once has reduced from a high of 51% in April 2014 to 21% at the current time.

2.3.4 Since the HMIC Inspection, police officers have identified a greater number of victims who are at risk of homicide from their partner and requiring a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference. The numbers coming to MARAC more than once has fallen from a high of 52% in June 2013 to 13% currently, demonstrating the effective response from numerous agencies following discussion at MARAC

2.4 We will pursue perpetrators of domestic abuse through the criminal justice system and ensure that they face up to the implications of their actions

2.4.1 If we are successful in this objective, we expect to see:

- Increased charges, and convictions domestic abuse
- Maintaining successful completions of referrals to offender interventions.

	2014/15				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Commentary
Total number of domestic abuse cases that went to court	219				Q2 and Q3 data not yet released
Total number of perpetrators completing Building Better Relationships programme	83 joined	No joining	18 completed 37 joined		Course runs for 3 months – so there is a delay in data for those completing the course

2.4.2 We will also begin recording the number of male perpetrators attending and completing the Ormiston Mens Perpetrator Programme, with there being four so far this year. This programme is voluntary, whereas those attending “Building Better Relationships” do so as mandated by the Court.

2.5 We will support victims to recover from the consequences of domestic abuse.

2.5.1 Success in this context will mean that a woman affected by abuse is able to access alternative accommodation if needed, is able to protect her current home through additional security measures being put into place, is able to access legal injunctions to protect her from a former partner or has a safety plan to protect her agreed and a multi-agency response is coordinated to protect her.

2.5.2 Bobby Scheme interventions to increase their home security

Q1 42	Q2 39	Q3 43
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2.5.3 Women Housed at the Refuges

Cambridge	23	23	20		Total for 2013-14 = 49
Refuge	55	38	22		Total for 2013-14 = 62
Occupancy Rate for the Refuges					
Cambridge	87%	91%	91%		This occupancy rate is high which is positive.
	(87%)	(93%)	(91%)	(94%)	
Hunts	85%	100%	68%		
	(94%)	(100%)	(89%)	(88%)	
Fenland	91%	100%	100%		

2.5.4 Figures from engagement with the IDVA Service are an indication of trends as seen in “Protect”.

2.6 In the next quarter, key activities will be:

- To work with police to examine MARAC high risk referrals to ensure they are appropriate, in order to focus resource on those at greatest risk of homicide.
- To carry out research into men who call for police service in relation to domestic abuse
- Develop the Cambridgeshire “Offer” for families affected by domestic abuse
- To raise awareness of domestic abuse for those with learning disabilities.
- To work with the Bobby Scheme to seek external funding to enable them to continue to provide additional home security to victims.
- To increase referrals from the health sector to specialist IDVAs.
- To work with Ormiston Trust to establish a perpetrator programme in the Huntingdon area.

3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

3.1.1 The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- Domestic abuse costs public sector services millions of pounds each year, 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

3.2.1 The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- It is essential that the strategy enables victims of domestic abuse, predominately women and their children to be safe and live their lives free of abusive behaviours.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

3.3.1 The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- Those vulnerable due to domestic abuse require support to enable them to life safely, free from risk of abuse and violence.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

4.1.1 There has been a significant increase in the numbers of victims considered at high risk of homicide and therefore referred to MARAC – from 84 in q1 of 2013 to 144 in q3 of 2014, which has an impact in resources from all partners, and in particular the Council as the organisation taking responsibility for the co-ordination and Chairing, as well as the resources required from both Adult and Childrens Social Care, Education Child Protection and the IDVAs.

4.1.2 As more victims and their children are identified, there is increased pressure for all services working with these families. Specialist services for those who are not at high risk of homicide are very limited across Cambridgeshire.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

4.2.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.3.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

4.4.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Public Health Implications

4.5.1 Domestic abuse has a significant on the physical and mental wellbeing of victims and their children, ensuring services are in place to meet the needs of these individuals will reduce the future burden on health services.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

4.6.1 There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
<i>Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-2017</i>	<i>Amanda Warburton</i> <i>2nd Floor, Babbage House</i> <i>Shire Hall Site,</i> <i>Cambridge</i>

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