

UPDATE ON DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE WORK IN CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SERVICES

To: **Children & Young People's Committee**

Meeting Date: **10 July 2018**

From: **Executive Director: People and Communities**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **n/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To update the Children and Young People's Committee on domestic abuse and sexual violence work in children and education services across Cambridgeshire.**

Recommendation: **To note and comment on the progress being made in Cambridgeshire to support children and families affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) can impact on children and young people in a number of ways. Children who grow up in a violent home are more likely to be victims of child abuse. Those who are not direct victims have some of the same behavioural and psychological problems as children who are themselves physically abused. (World Health Organization, 'World Report on Violence and Health', ed. by Krug, Etienne G., et al., Geneva, 2002.)
- 1.2 Children who are exposed to violence in the home may have difficulty learning and limited social skills, exhibit violent, risky or delinquent behaviour, or suffer from depression or severe anxiety. Children in the earliest years of life are particularly vulnerable: studies show that domestic violence is more prevalent in homes with younger children than those with older children. (Brown, Brett V., and Sharon Bzostek, 'Violence in the Lives of Children', Cross Currents, Issue 1, Child Trends DataBank, August 2003.)
- 1.3 Several studies also reveal that children who witness domestic violence are more likely to be affected by violence as adults – either as victims or perpetrators.
- 1.4 Domestic abuse continues to be one of the most significant factors for families contacting or being supported by Children's services.
- 1.5 This report will outline the current work around domestic abuse and sexual violence in Children and Education services.

2. UPDATE ON PROGRESS

- 2.1 Across Cambridgeshire a huge amount of work has been underway to develop the offer to children and families, both through services and also through education settings. The work has been strongly informed by the national evidence base, local need and demand, and the outcome of internal audit and inspection processes.

The following sections outline the progress and work which has taken place.

2.2 *Children's Services*

- 2.2.1 Cambridgeshire Children's Services have been assessing their Domestic Abuse offer in Cambridgeshire in the midst of the Children's Change Programme which ran from late 2016-2017. Now Social Care and Early Help have been aligned formally into five Districts, they are better placed to map existing provision and plan for what is needed to give the right services for victims, perpetrators and children in a variety of offers across the County.
- 2.2.2 The work which has been undertaken in the last 12 months includes:
 - Drafting of extensive guidance based on evidence-based research and current knowledge around domestic abuse to enable staff members to work with children and families affected by domestic abuse.

- Agreeing and disseminating the toolkit that will be used to identify and risk-assess the abuse a family experiences – this allows more accurate referrals us for processes such as MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and also to select the right provision, as well as identify any gaps in provision.
- With the help of the clinical team, they have worked to identify a group model of intervention, based on evidence-based evaluations, that will address the widest audience, as well as mapping practitioners of the previous group offer – the Freedom Programme - and supporting this offer where still viable.
- Starting to develop a programme of community perpetrator work and looking to train a body of workers to be able to deliver this around the County.
- Supporting the DASV Partnership in identifying DA Champions locally who will support practitioners and sign-post where possible. They are also looking to develop practice experts in-house who, along with the clinical team, can help identify DA typologies and develop an action plan, on an individual basis, for each family as needed.
- Evaluating their offer to children and young people – both children who experience domestic abuse in their home or in their own personal relationships, and children who are demonstrating abusive behaviours themselves. This will require a range of options, and work will need to take place with schools in each District to marry up the services so they can be delivered in a way young people want them to be.

2.2.3 The Children and Families Leadership Team are in the process of completing the service mapping exercise and agreeing funding for the projects that are needed to complete this offer.

2.3 *Early Help*

2.3.1 The Early Help Hub (EHH) currently deals with Domestic Abuse (DA) contacts passed to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that do not meet the threshold for Children's Social Care support. The family will be contacted on the safe number provided and offered advice on local support services available such as Women's Aid or the Bobby Scheme and national organisations such as National Centre for Domestic Violence and Respect.

2.3.1 The EHH Coordinator would also consider any other support needs that the family may have and if any further concerns arose during the call then would possibly refer back to MASH for further assessment if appropriate. Where the family is already supported via Early Help Services the EHH would alert the allocated worker to the Domestic Abuse contact so that it could be considered as part of the ongoing work with the family.

2.4 *Education Services*

2.4.1 A multi-agency Healthy Relationships Group has been in place since 2014. The membership of the group includes statutory providers of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) provision such as the Cambridgeshire County Council Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Service and Education Child Protection, as well as third sector providers. In 2015 the group mapped out RSE provision across the county in order to form a comprehensive picture of delivery and to highlight any gaps in provision. The group meet twice a year to share updates from their organisation

and to discuss any new developments around best practice. The group also provide advice to providers by sharing expertise, learning and knowledge.

- 2.4.2 Since 2013, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership have been involved in delivery of an annual Healthy Relationships-themed interactive play to year 9 pupils across the county. The coordination for this work is led by the Area Partnerships and funding is provided by Community Safety Partnerships at District Councils.
- 2.4.3 The PSHE Service have revised and produced the Cambridgeshire PSHE secondary frameworks, with a focus on relationships and sex education (RSE). They were piloted in relation to RSE in five Cambridgeshire schools between November 2017 and January 2018 and the evaluation is currently being compiled. This work was commissioned by Public Health. The PSHE Safer Corridors pack is also now available for schools. This toolkit offers ways of engaging with young people about sexual harassment in schools.
- 2.4.4 The Education Child Protection Service have worked with schools to encourage them to identify a Domestic Abuse lead, who has additional training in this area. So far 211 people have been trained in schools and colleges across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A follow up course on risk assessment and safety planning has been introduced for DA leads. The service are also working with police on Operation Encompass. This will reintroduce notification to schools of DA incidents reported to the police. It is hope this will be introduced from September 2018.

2.5 *Youth Support Services*

- 2.5.1 The Youth Support Service have updated and launched a healthy relationships programme, called Impact across the Early Help Districts. The following five key themes are explored to ensure knowledge and understanding that can support and educate young people to safeguard themselves and their peers: E-Safety, social media and on-line behaviours, Domestic Abuse, Aggressive sexualised behaviours, Radicalisation and Child Sexual Exploitation
- 2.5.2 The Youth Offending Service (YOS) have a Domestic Abuse (DA) lead and DA champions based in each of the area teams, providing support around training, referrals and interventions for young people. All members of staff received DA training in April 2017. The YOS Asset plus assessment process includes the issues of DA and sexual violence and there is also screening for young people around experience of parental DA. Interventions with young people are linked to court orders or pre-court disposals.
- 2.5.3 YOS have been instrumental and taken the lead in the delivery of the Break 4 Change programme in Cambridgeshire. This is a group programme to work with young people and their parents/carers where there have been issues of child/adolescent to parent violence (APV). The initial pilot 10 week programme was successfully delivered and longer term delivery of two programmes a year is being set up, partly through funding from the VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) programme. There is additional joint funding work with the YMCA Respect programme, which is delivering 'holding groups' for young people where there are APV issues. The groups are set up to

provide support for families, often prior to commencement of a Break 4 Change programme.

2.6 *Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership – Specialist Services*

- 2.6.1 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership coordinated a consortium bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for funding domestic abuse accommodation linked services across the county. The successful bid secured a one-time grant of £700,000. Some of this funding has been used to support services for families. This includes the Bobby scheme, which is a charity that works to secure the homes of domestic abuse victims so that they, and their children, can remain at home. Between April and December 2017 208 victims living with 127 children have received Bobby Scheme support across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is estimated that the funding for the scheme will be used by the end of June 2018.
- 2.6.2 The bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government has also been used to provide outreach workers for Cambridge Women's Aid and Refuge. To the end of December 2017 outreach workers had supported 786 women and 45 men with a total of 804 children. Some additional funding has been obtained to secure the outreach provision until March 2019 but the service is at risk after this date.
- 2.6.3 Both the outreach provision and the Bobby scheme are supporting victims and their children to remain safe, in their own homes as much as possible. They are increasing stability in education and support for the children; and support and employment for the victim. This is therefore reducing the likelihood of need for support from Children's services. As the funding for this is short term, there is a risk for the continuation of both outreach provision and the Bobby scheme.
- 2.6.4 The Young People's Independent Domestic Violence Adviser continues to work with young people aged 13 -19 (up to 24 for looked after children and those with learning difficulties and disabilities) who are victims of abusive in their own intimate relationships. They work closely with other relevant agencies, such as Children's Social Care. The Children and Young Person's Independent Sexual Violence Adviser works with children aged 0-19 (and their families) who are victims of sexual abuse or sexual violence and is based in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership.
- 2.6.5 Embrace Child Victims of Crime have a Cambridgeshire based service offering free trauma-focused Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and therapeutic counselling for young people. The counselling is available to young people aged 13-19 (or up to age 24 with special needs) who have been victims of, or witnessed domestic abuse or sexual violence and has been promoted to Children and Education Services. The three-year project is funded from the Home Office's VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Transformation Fund, following a partnership bid by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. The project launched in October 2017 and to date they have assessed 85 young people.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Recognising, responding to and managing the impact of domestic abuse and sexual violence for both victims and perpetrators is complex. The report highlights the significant amount of activity which is going on to ensure that services continue to respond to need in a focussed and evidenced based way. This includes both how mainstream services are best equipped to be effective as well as how and where more specialist provision may be needed.

4. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

In a report into the costs of domestic abuse produced for the Local Government Association by Walby (2009), the estimated lost economic output attributed to domestic abuse was £21.6m per year. Therefore, any actions to tackle, reduce or challenge the issue are likely to reduce this lost output.

4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The report describes a suite of actions to enable people to live free of domestic abuse and sexual violence, both of which have significant impacts on health and independence. The report cited above, estimates the physical and mental health care costs of domestic abuse in Cambridgeshire at £19.5m.

4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

The Walby Report estimated annual Social Care costs for those affected by domestic abuse to be £3.2m.

5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly the DCLG) and VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) funding outlined in paragraph 2.8 and 2.10 is short term. Work is going on through the DASV Partnership to explore options for the continuation of some of the core activity, such as the outreach provision which is currently due to expire by March 2019.

5.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence are highly gendered crimes, therefore there will be greater impact on female residents in Cambridgeshire.

5.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Cambridgeshire County Council is in the process of seeking to become accredited to the White Ribbon Campaign, which seeks to end male violence against women and girls, men and boys. This is being led by Cllr Kevin Cuffley, Vice Chair of the Communities and Partnership Committee and the Member Ambassador for the White Ribbon Campaign. The work of the DASV Partnership within the County Council falls under the jurisdiction of the Communities and Partnership Committee.

5.7 Public Health Implications

The incidence and impact of domestic abuse and sexual violence is a high priority for public health, with resources committed to both support direct work with victims, and to support wider campaigns to raise awareness of the issue and help and support which is available.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	N/A
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?	N/A
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	N/A
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	N/A
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	N/A

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	N/A
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	N/A

Please include the table at the end of your report so that the Chief Executive/Executive Directors/Directors clearing the reports and the public are aware that you have cleared each implication with the relevant Team.

Source Documents	Location
World Health Organization, 'World Report on Violence and Health', ed. by Krug, Etienne G., et al., Geneva, 2002.	http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/introduction.pdf
Brown, Brett V., and Sharon Bzostek, 'Violence in the Lives of Children', Cross Currents, Issue 1, Child Trends DataBank, August 2003.	http://catalystforchildren.org/pdf/Violence.pdf