

SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP TASK GROUP UPDATES

TASK GROUP	Domestic Abuse
REPORTING OFFICER	Sarah Ashcroft
DATE OF SHP MEETING	5th May 2017

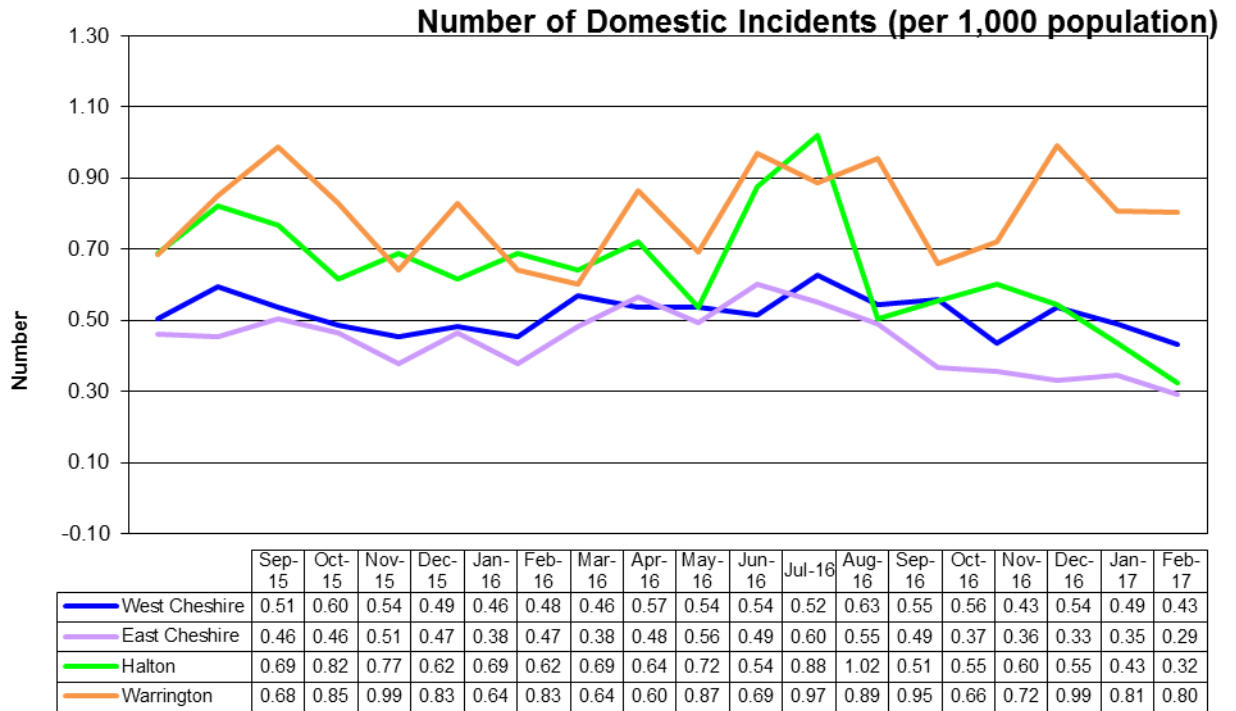
PROGRESS AGAINST RELATED LAA TARGETS

(Progress on those targets for which the task group has responsibility and associated commentary on direction of travel).

MARAC - Halton MARAC has a repeat rate of 24% (Data provided by Safelives, latest data set available January 2016 – December 2016); during this period 287 cases were discussed (same period last year 284 cases). Halton discussed 45 (35 *previous year) cases per 10,000 population compared to 40 (37*) per 10,000 Cheshire and the national rate of 34 (33*) per 10,000.

Police – (Data provided by Cheshire Police, latest data set available January and February 2017) The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police in Halton during this period is 96 compared to 165 reported in the same period last year. 23 victims were recorded as male and 65 female. In 63 of the incidents the perpetrator was male compared to 19 being female. 7% of victims reporting domestic abuse to the Police are aged 55 plus; 24% are aged between 16-24 years. The largest proportion of victims are aged between 25-34 years representing just under a third of all victims, 31%.

In 27/96 domestic abuse incidents were recorded as featuring or being affected by alcohol. 8/96 incidents were affected by drugs.



Domestic Violence Prevention Orders - During January and February Halton has issued 7 DVPO's.

Domestic Abuse Community Support Service – 185 referrals were received during this quarter compared to 284 last quarters.

Risk Level	Active Clients	Pending Clients
Very high	2	0
High	45	4
Medium	79	9
Standard	19	0
Dash	19	4
Omitted/declined /na		

Sanctuary Scheme - there were two referrals to the Sanctuary service this quarter, all of whom had Sanctuary measures approved. All clients were contacted on the day of referral, and the longest wait for work to be completed was five days.

Halton Domestic Abuse Case Study – Victim ‘Michelle’

Background Information

Kerrie is a 28 year old female who had been in a relationship for two years. Kerrie was referred into the service in March 2016 by the Police Referral Unit. The case was graded at High Risk, due to the incident highlighted on the VPA, as well as a considerable number of other unreported incidents. Kerrie originally declined support when contacted by the service. The case was heard at MARAC and a SDAP disclosure was made to Kerrie, but at this point she still declined support. The IDVA service received further reports of incidents from the Police and continued to contact the client in an attempt to encourage her to engage with the service. Eventually Kerrie agreed to engage and received both practical support and support around her emotional wellbeing to enable her to remain safe both emotionally and physically. Work around abusive and controlling behaviours was carried out, and specific work around positive relationships was also completed. Coping strategies were also discussed, as Kerrie felt that she would struggle to remain away from the relationship.

Reduced risk of further abuse.

The risk posed to Kerrie has significantly reduced, due to on-going safety planning and the emotional and practical support offered. The client was also supported to report breaches of bail to the Police. Regular contact was established with Kerrie, where ongoing advice was offered regarding abusive and non-abusive relationships and coping strategies. Sanctuary measures were implemented on her property to enable her to feel physically safe. – see below.

Kerrie was also supported through the criminal court by staff. The perpetrator was found guilty and a restraining order was granted. Since the restraining has been in place, Kerrie has received no further harassment from her ex-partner, and there have been no further issues reported. Kerrie has also been relocated to a new property unknown to the perpetrator.

Sanctuary

A fire safety assessment was completed and a fire proof letter box fitted. Extra locks were also added to front door.

Improved Health and Well Being.

Kerrie describes feeling like she has her life back again, and is now feeling much stronger. She reports that she is beginning to find herself again, and feels in control of her life, since being supported by the IDVA service. Kerrie stated that she feels much safer and her emotional well-being has improved, due to the on-going support she has received. Kerrie is starting to re-build her life and no longer feels isolated as she is now back in contact with her friends and family.

Service user left service in planned way

Kerrie's exit from service was completed in a planned way and she is fully aware of how to contact the service in the future if support is required.

Satisfaction with support from service

The client completed an exit survey see attached document.

Refuge – Total number of referrals to refuge this quarter = 23

End of Month;	Number of Residents
Jan	12
Feb	12
Mar	12

In January, there were **5** referrals, **3** of whom were accepted in to Refuge. **2** were refused as the Refuge was full, and were signposted to alternative services.

In February, there were **6** referrals, of those referrals **4** were accepted in to the service. **1** referral was refused as the service was full, and one referral was refused as there were presenting health and safety implications for another resident.

In March, there were **12** referrals, **6** of whom were accepted in to Refuge.

3 clients were refused as the service was full at the point of referral, **1** was offered a place but decided not to come in to Refuge, and **1** was unable to take up the place as she had a full time job, and could not afford the accommodation costs. We also had to refuse a referral for a woman due to the fact she had no recourse to public funds, and I am concerned that there needs to be a strategic response to victims of domestic abuse in this situation before there is a serious incident or a domestic homicide.

Occupancy rates:

Week Number	% of Occupied Units per week
1	100%
2	100%
3	100%
4	100%
5	83%
6	92%
7	100%
8	100%
9	83%
10	100%
11	100%
12	100%
13	100%

Improved Health & Wellbeing:

53% of clients leaving Refuge reported an improvement in their mental health

53% of service users reported an improvement in their general health and wellbeing.

53% of clients leaving Refuge felt they had been treated with dignity and respect.

53% of clients leaving the service reported feeling empowered and in control of their own lives.

ISVA – 62 referrals received this quarter, compared to 48 quarter two last year; year-end 2016/17 188 compared to year-end of 190 last financial year. 17/62 (27%) referrals were children aged between 0-17 years compared to 16/48 last year. In 45/52 referrals received the victim knew the perpetrator against 36/48 last year's same quarter report.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER LAST QUARTER

(List important activities or actions that have occurred over the last quarter)

1) Domestic Abuse background / evidence base

Domestic abuse is defined by the UK government as 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been **intimate partners or family member regardless of gender or sexuality**. This can encompass, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse'.

Domestic abuse and Sexual Violence are issues that can affect anyone regardless of social group, class, age, race, disability, sexuality or lifestyle.

The impact of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is costly not only to the victim, in terms of personal and emotional cost but also to the local economy with increased costs for health services, the criminal justice system, housing, safeguarding and social care costs and the loss of economic productivity.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence are issues that affect children and young people. Ensuring that young people are able to identify abuse and have the knowledge and information available to them to enable them to make and identify healthy relationships is central to raising expectations both in males and females.

Domestic abuse is a significant problem nationwide with recent figures suggesting police in England and Wales receive on average, over 100 calls for service an hour for this crime alone (ONS, 2016).

National Crime Survey figures for the 12 month period ending March 2015 suggest an estimated 1.3 million women and 600,000 men suffered some form of domestic abuse in England and Wales.

Within Cheshire, domestic abuse accounted for 11% of all reported crime between March 2014 and March 2015. Whilst this equated to a 23% increase in recorded domestic abuse crimes (compared to a 31% increase nationally), improvements in Cheshire Constabularies reporting systems are thought to account for these increases. Whilst greater reporting of domestic abuse is often viewed as an indication of increased confidence in police handling of such cases and intrinsically linked to the support provided by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA's), the need to explore the effectiveness of alternate models of responding to such victim's remains a priority for all partner agencies in Cheshire, Warrington & Halton.

2) Operation Enhance Update

Following the Independent Evaluation of Operation Enhance: Immediate Secondary Response Initiative to Domestic Abuse Calls for Service, The University of Chester. The report produced and the findings are overall very encouraging and point to Operation Enhance being a successful pilot.

The evaluation presented both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the questionnaires and interviews conducted with victims as part of the Operation Enhance initiative. Victims of domestic abuse from Runcorn who received the enhanced secondary response and Widnes who received a typical secondary response, expressed their views about the service they received from the police and IDVA's in the day(s) following the initial call for service. Analytical comparisons were made between these views regarding; satisfaction with the service received, engagement with police, Criminal Justice Service and support services as well as examining victim wellbeing post-secondary response. Evaluation of police and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates experiences of the initiative's effectiveness were also provided.

The Complex Dependency Programme Team has agreed to provide additional resources to support the continuance of Operation Enhance, the pilot is to be rolled out and delivered across the Pan-Cheshire area.

The below table indicates the award agreed for each locality.

LA Area	Total Award	June payment	December payment
Cheshire West & Chester	£43,500	£21,750	£21,750
Cheshire East	£42,500	£21,250	£21,250
Warrington	£42,000	£21,000	£21,000
Halton	£32,000	£16,000	£16,000
Evaluation	£10,000	n/a	n/a
Total	£170,000		

Aims of Operation Enhance:

- Increased victim engagement with protection and support services earlier in the cycle of domestic abuse
- Increased support for children living with domestic abuse to be safer and develop their resilience
- Challenge and support for perpetrators to reduce current and future risk
- Provide additional capacity for victim support services at the first possible opportunity to enable learning and evaluation evidence to inform the design of future commissioned services

Principles of service delivery:

1. Victims and their families need to be at the heart of the system, with the knowledge of how to get help for themselves – or what to do if someone tells them about domestic abuse.
2. Early identification at every public service to identify all victims, their children, young people at risk and perpetrators and get each member of the family the right support quickly and safely.
3. Quality services for all victims, including:
 - Help in the community from a qualified IDVA working as part of a robust multi-specialist team
 - Support from a high-quality MARAC for victims at high risk
 - Targeted help with victims with complex needs
 - Support from universal or volunteer-led services
4. Support for children living with domestic abuse to become safe and develop their resilience.
5. Challenge and support for perpetrators from specialist officers to reduce the risk to the current victim and prevent abuse to future victims and children.
6. Support for the victim and their children to recover and live a life sustainably in safety

7. Commissioners/Coordinators should align their budgets and fund services according to jointly-agreed outcomes that address risk and need in their local population.

Definition of service delivery

30 June 2017 to 31 March 2018 (pending recruitment processes); Operation Enhance will be delivered Friday-Monday each weekly period, in response to incidents of domestic violence and abuse reported during the hours of 22:00hrs and 02:00hrs on Friday Night into Saturday, Saturday into Sunday and between 20:00hrs and 22:00hrs on Sunday, resulting in additional demand for support and services for vulnerable victims the following day.

(The National College of Policing has produced a report which has identified that the best outcomes for a victim of domestic abuse has been achieved by conducting follow up visits with the victims the day after the incident).

3) Domestic Abuse Matters – First Responder (Police officer) Training

In 2013, coercive and controlling behaviour was included in the cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse, which has been adopted by the police service as its working definition. In 2015, the enactment of Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act introduced a new offence of ‘coercive and controlling behaviour in an intimate or family relationship’. It is therefore crucial that frontline police officers are able to identify the pattern of abusive behaviour that characterises coercive control. A thematic inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (2014) concluded, however, that officers often struggle to identify abusive patterns of behaviour, particularly in the absence of physical violence.

Cheshire Police have commissioned the Domestic Abuse Matters, a nationally accredited programme of activity that comprises of training for first responders and supervisors, as well as a peer coaching role. The first responder training is a one-day classroom session involving a mixture of videos, PowerPoint presentations, and group discussions. Key learning outcomes were for officers to be able to explain what is meant by the term ‘coercive control’, understand the effect of 2 multiple controlling behaviours on victims, and identify why victims can find it difficult to leave an abusive partner.

It is the intention of Cheshire Police to train 75% of all frontline staff within the first rounds of training, with the remaining 25% being targeted from September onwards.

To ensure the programme is embedded, Cheshire Police have supported a number of Police officers / staff who have received the train-the-trainer two day programme, who will in turn continue to train frontline staff in this important subject area in the future. Halton’s Domestic Abuse service

provider has been supportive of the programme and local Independent Domestic Violence Advocates have been accredited to deliver the programme in collaboration with Police staff to ensure that the victims voice is consistently heard.

4) Successful Domestic Abuse Funding Bid to the DCLG

Following on from quarter threes update, Halton worked in collaboration with other Cheshire Authorities and the Complex Dependencies Unit to produce a bid to the Fund for refuges, specialist accommodation based support and service reform to help local areas meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services.

This bid has been successful, the total award for the Pan-Cheshire area is £481,000 for a two year period.

The aim of the additional resources is to:

1. Develop a sub-regional coordination and specialist support model for victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) in Cheshire, improving the quantity, quality and maximise the use of available accommodation options matched with essential family support through our integrated front door system.
2. Reduce the need to export victims out of area by expanding the availability of specialist support provision so that vulnerable victims with complex needs can be helped with the appropriate level of support to enable them to be safe.
3. Extend our dispersed accommodation offer by creating additional bed spaces across the area utilising public sector accommodation assets and expanding our work further with Registered Providers.

A Domestic Abuse Refuge Accommodation Project implementation group has been set up to steer the delivery of these funds in line with the application for funds.

Key features of the funding include: the recruitments of a team of staff who will be able to assess victims of domestic abuse that also require additional services/resources due to complex needs as well as those affected by Post-traumatic stress, extreme anxiety and personality disorder conditions which require considered understanding and clinical intervention; a dedicated coordinator for the Pan-Cheshire area that will effectively match accommodation and dedicated wrap around support options to our most vulnerable survivors; additional workforce development training and communications; as well as a proposal to identify an additional 6/8 accommodation facilities across the Pan-Cheshire area specifically for those victims that are unable to access traditional refuge facilities due to a range of additional support needs they exhibit or require.

5) Pan-Cheshire Communication Strategy.

In January 2016, the Cheshire Strategic Domestic Abuse Board commissioned a pan-Cheshire, joint agency domestic abuse communications programme.

A domestic abuse strategic communications group has been created to take responsibility for the development and implementation of a campaign brand, communications strategy and implementation plan. This will be delivered by the communications group, subject to Board approval and oversight.

This strategy outlines the terms in which the communications group will deliver the strategy. Stakeholder membership and participation in this group, and having a clear strategy defining roles and responsibilities, will be critical to the campaign's success.

The campaign strategy will support the Strategic Domestic Abuse Board's communication aims and incorporate a delivery plan. It will provide a tool kit for use at local level to ensure communication activities across Cheshire is under one 'umbrella' brand. It will also provide tactics that enable the campaign to be delivered year-round, ensuring a co-ordinated approach and on-message.

The following work streams will support the development and implementation of this strategy:

- **Campaign brand** - A campaign brand will be developed and incorporated into marketing tools and tool kits to support the ongoing delivery plans.
- **Website** - Development and maintenance of a website will signpost victims to help and support from services local to them.
- **Campaign delivery plans** - A phased approach will be adopted when devising and implementing delivery plans, which will support all target audiences. This will be based on evidence gained through data, demographic profiling and consultation with victims.

6) The Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Cheshire & Merseyside) RASASC Annual Report

Provides specialist support services to adults and children who have experienced sexual violence, including rape; sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse. We strive to provide high quality, specialist care within a safe, non-judgemental environment. Each client is at the centre of all decisions relating to the criminal justice system; health & social care; and therapeutic

interventions. Our service has no lower age limit so we can develop services to support children and families.

Working in partnership for seamless pathway of support

Our work covers the counties of Cheshire and Merseyside and RASAS are currently commissioned to provide a seamless aftercare service to survivors of sexual violence. This support is offered in close partnership with the two local Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SAFE Place Merseyside and St Mary's).

In Cheshire RASASC are funded by a consortium that includes; Cheshire police and Crime Commissioner, NHS England and the 4 local authorities.

Core Services:

- Information Line
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs)
- Specialist Counselling
- Group Work
- Training and Awareness Raising

Please see full report for more information.

Budget	£100,140
Quarter 4 expenditure	£97,102
Balance	£3,038

EMERGING ISSUES

LIST OF ADDITIONAL REPORTS/PAPERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

Any additional paperwork supplied should be listed below. Copies will be attached for information.



RASASC AGR
2016.pdf