

Annual Progress Report on Delivery of Domestic Abuse Strategic Recommendations

November 2018

Walking on egg shells. Hits the walls and doors. I'm not allowed to make decisions. I don't know what to do. Doesn't like me going out. The children are frightened. Calls me names. Shouts and swears at me. Pushes me. Threatens me. I'm so alone. Constantly texting me. Always checks how much I spend. I can't do anything right. Blames me for everything. It's all my fault. Lovely one minute, horrible the next. Turns my family against me. Tells me I'm a terrible mum. I'm scared. Accuses me of having affairs. Hurts our pet. Won't let me do what I want to do. Makes me feel like I'm crazy. Speaks for me. Silences me. Suffocates me. Get help today. Call the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service helpline: 0800 731 0055

Annual Progress Report on Delivery of Domestic Abuse Strategic Recommendations

Purpose

This report is intended to provide the Health Improvement Board with an update on progress against the nine recommendations set out in Oxfordshire's Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse published late 2016 [\[link\]](#). The report is intended to be an annual progress report but will also refer to elements of activity undertaken in 2017 to give a fuller picture on overall achievements. The final section of the report identifies our next steps in delivery.

Context

In 2016 a Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse was completed. This review took an in depth look at the occurrence of and services responding to domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. The review made a number of recommendations to be taken forward to ensure that the various agencies work together to deliver quality, consistent, safe and effective response for all those affected by domestic abuse. The recommendations focussed on working in partnership to provide the right services, taking steps to ensure robust measures are in place to protect and support victims and their families from the serious and significant harm and long-term impacts of abuse, and ensuring that this work is informed by actual experiences of people affected.

Both the Domestic Abuse Strategic and Operational Boards meet on a quarterly basis and both have sub groups which lead on certain aspects of their work. A regular reporting cycle to the Health Improvement Board is in place. Since the Strategic Review was published at the end of 2016, domestic abuse has become a key area of focus for partnership boards. In addition to the focus on domestic abuse by each of the Community Safety Partnerships in Oxford City and each of the Districts, domestic abuse has during the last year been one of 3 key priorities for the Joint Safeguarding Boards and it is also a priority for the Children's Trust.

The nine recommendations the Strategic Board has been focused on delivering are set out on page 65 of Oxfordshire Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse:

	Recommendations
1.	Endorse and implement a pathway of domestic abuse services based on the identified needs set out in this document (see page 58 - 60 for proposed pathway and service details)
2.	Implement the proposed new governance structure for domestic abuse (see pages 59 -60)
3.	Set up task & finish groups to consider (i) how to address “hidden” domestic abuse, (ii) improve prevention work, including work in schools and GP Practices (iii) multi-agency approaches and possible improvements to data capture in relation to domestic abuse including environmental scanning across the Thames Valley, (iv) the viability and effectiveness of a range of perpetrator interventions
4.	Adopt a co-commissioning approach that identifies resources, agrees a range of outcomes and measures success and implementation.
5.	Service user voice to be included in all service development and commissioning work considering the approaches highlighted in this Review and ensuring user voice reporting to both the domestic abuse operational group and to the domestic abuse strategic group.
6.	Strengthen connections both strategically and operationally between domestic abuse and sexual violence delivery.
7.	Training strategy for domestic abuse to be developed and co-funded to deliver multi-agency training
8.	Recommend that the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership develops a 5-year strategic plan for domestic abuse considering the funding for the sustainability of service provision and the longer-term outcomes for victims across Oxfordshire.
9.	Develop and implement an information strategy to ensure that appropriate and accessible information is accessible both to those affected and those responsible for responding to domestic abuse

Progress update

Progress on the delivery of each of the nine recommendations is set out under each recommendation heading written in bold.

No.	Recommendation
1.	<p>Endorse and implement a pathway of domestic abuse services based on the identified needs set out in Oxfordshire’s Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway for adult victims and their families agreed and in place. • Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young people agreed and in place. <p>Both pathways are available on the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Page. [link].</p>
2.	<p>Implement a new governance structure for domestic abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Domestic Abuse Summit in July 2017 a new governance structure was agreed and proposed to, and subsequently agreed by, the Health Improvement Board. In summary the governance is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Domestic Abuse Operational Board, reporting to; ➤ Domestic Abuse Strategic Board, reporting to; ➤ Health improvement Board, reporting to; ➤ Health & Wellbeing Board ➤ Joint Safeguarding Boards hold Strategic Board to account taking the role of oversight and challenge • In addition to the above, over the past 12 months there have been reports (for information) to the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership, Housing Support Advisory Group and the Children’s Trust. • OSCB/OSAB joint Boards have recently requested cross reporting with HIB: Interim proposal is that the DA Strategic Lead attends each of the next Local Community Safety Partnership meetings across the County to share progress on DA

	<p>strategic delivery and respond to queries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Domestic Abuse Strategic Board has representation from key strategic stakeholders including children and adult social care, public health, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Thames Valley Police, Chair of the Criminal Justice Board, health lead officers, Community Safety Partnership Leads and is chaired by the Lead for Children's commissioning. • The Operational Board benefits from a broad range of operational lead officers from of service delivery organisations and teams including both specialist domestic abuse providers and a wide range of public sector and voluntary and community sector agencies
3.	<p>Set up task & finish groups to consider key issues including “hidden” domestic abuse, prevention, improvements to data capture, the viability and effectiveness of a range of perpetrator interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “hidden abuse” task and finish group was established prior to the commissioning of new domestic abuse services and this work fed into the development of the new specification for services. • Black Asian Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) community development work funded from a central government grant is currently addressing “hidden abuse” within these communities in Oxfordshire and across the Thames Valley. • Thematic work of the Operational Board over the last 12 months includes: Programmes for victims and children, Perpetrator services and Prevention.
4.	<p>Adopt a co-commissioning approach that identifies resources, agrees a range of outcomes and measures success and implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Domestic Abuse Summit in July 2017 a co-commissioning approach was agreed <i>in principle</i>. • Resources from each of seven partners (Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Office of the police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley) was then identified and funding was committed by the end of August 2017 • Agreement was made by the commissioning partners to commission a range of domestic abuse services. • Procurement of new services took place between August and December 2017 with a preferred bidder being identified in the December.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to new service model took place from January to May 2018 • Contract award to A2 Dominion following withdrawal by initial preferred bidder in May. • New contract delivering the new service model commenced 4 June 2018 • A partnership agreement was put in place with Oxfordshire County Council as lead commissioner. • Intensive support from OCC contract management team has been facilitating the service transition and monitoring services on how well they are delivering the outputs and outcomes agreed in the contract.
5.	<p>Service user voice to be included in all service development and commissioning work and ensure user voice included on both the domestic abuse Operational and Strategic Boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts by Experience (people who have used domestic abuse services) have been involved in a range of commissioning and service development activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attending visits to gather information on good practice elsewhere in the country ➤ Involvement in the tender by being part of the interview panel for prospective bidders. • Experts by Experience attend the Domestic Abuse Operational Board and take part in task and finish groups. • VOXY (the Voice of Oxfordshire Youth) held a domestic abuse consultation event on domestic abuse and young people in October this year and this was supported by the Strategic lead for domestic abuse and included a keynote speech from an expert by Experience.
6.	<p>Strengthen connections both strategically and operationally between domestic abuse and sexual violence delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Operational Board is now regularly attended by representatives from sexual violence support agencies. • The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Co-ordinator links with a broad range of agencies on gender-based violence issues and delivers training to raise awareness with key professionals • The Strategic Board has just agreed to develop a broader strategy that aims to move in the direction of including all aspects of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda including sexual violence and abuse within the next 5 years.

7.	<p>Training strategy for domestic abuse to be developed and co-funded to deliver multi-agency training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-agency training currently in place: Young People and Domestic Abuse, Designated MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference) Officer and Champions training • Single agency training in place e.g. Children’s Social Care domestic abuse risk assessment training, police training • Currently in the process of co-designing (with our voluntary sector specialist training provider) modular multi-agency training which will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Level 1 Domestic abuse awareness / appropriate referral ➤ Level 2 Responding to domestic abuse, understanding processes & procedures / roles and responsibilities ➤ Level 3 Risk assessment ➤ Level 4 Champions role • It will be based on a train the trainer approach to ensure efficient use of resource – existing Champions as trainers • Timeframes: Complete co-design December, Train the trainer early February, multi-agency mid Feb onwards
8.	<p>Recommend the development of a 5-year strategic plan for domestic abuse considering the funding for the sustainability of service provision and the longer-term outcomes for victims across Oxfordshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most recent meeting of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board in November it was agreed that a working group would be established to meet in January 2019 to develop a 5-year strategy • The strategy will be developed with a view to extending the scope of the remit for the Strategic Board over the five-year period to include all elements of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda.
9.	<p>Develop and implement an information strategy to ensure that appropriate and accessible information is accessible both to those affected and those responsible for responding to domestic abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent Strategic Board meeting also agreed that a communications strategy should be developed in line with the priorities set out in the 5-year strategic plan referred to under actions set out under recommendation 8.

Next steps

The Strategic Board for Domestic Abuse has agreed to develop a five-year strategy that sets out a plan for each year with a view to broadening the remit from a purely domestic abuse focus to the broader focus of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda as set out by central government in their VAWG Strategy. Building on the progress reported above, this document will set out the priorities for each year and ways of measuring whether these priorities have been achieved. It is proposed that this strategy forms the basis for future reporting to the Health Improvement Board with an annual report and quarterly updates on progress.

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9 November 2018

If you have any questions or comments you would like to raise in relation to any of the above or other domestic abuse related issues then please do not hesitate to contact me at Sarah.Carter@Oxfordshire.gov.uk