

Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Partner Update

Issue 5
April 2019

A monthly update on how we are responding to domestic abuse across the county and delivering our strategic priorities

Progress

- We delivered the first two sessions of our new domestic abuse training at the end of March! We had a great group of people join us, with brilliant representation from housing teams especially.
- Places on all modules of our free multi-agency domestic abuse training programme across 2019-20 are available to book via [Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board](#).
- There are still places left on the Spring 2019 [Oxfordshire's Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young People](#) training. There's one half-day session each in North ([20th May](#)), City ([23rd May](#)), and South ([4th June](#)). Please do share this training opportunity, particularly with any colleagues in education.

Male victims

The Home Office has released [a position statement](#) on men who experience abuses that come under their 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG) strategy. The statement is an insightful and relatively short read with some thought-provoking data – including one survey which illuminated that 1 in 5 men took over 31 years to disclose being sexually abused. VAWG is an umbrella term currently used by the government to encompass: domestic abuse, so-called 'honour based' abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual violence, stalking and harassment, and trafficking and exploitation. There was lots of really interesting discussion about the appropriateness of this title at our Strategy Consultation events, and how it may be a barrier to disclosure.

5-year Strategy Consultation Events

A massive thank you to everybody who joined us! We're so grateful for all of your help and support. There was so much brilliant discussion and we're excited to move forward with all of your insights. Key messages included

- Support for the idea that our strategy could in the future be broadened to include all abuses under the 'Violence Against Women and Girls' umbrella, but a strong dislike for this as the title for the strategy. The title was viewed as regressive (with use of the term violence rather than abuse) and exclusionary (rather than inclusive of people of all genders and family members also affected)
- Prevention as the top priority! Education and awareness raising in schools was highlighted, right from early years through to adulthood, and links with Relationships and Sex Education becoming compulsory in schools from September 2020.
- Recovery from abuse was another key theme and a priority for our y1 delivery plan.

"The turnout for the 3 events was incredibly impressive – so many people from a vast array of local agencies and teams all bringing their passion, expertise and creativity. The events have provided a wealth of knowledge, ideas and solutions that will guide and inform the way we can best work together to tackle domestic abuse in Oxfordshire over the next few years" Sarah Carter, Strategic Lead for Domestic Abuse, OCC.



Next Steps

- We'll be working on the next draft of our 5-year Strategy!
- We're continuing to develop our Data Dashboard and Year 1 Delivery Plan for our Strategy, both due in May.

Contact Details

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