

Update on Domestic Abuse Strategy

Purpose

This report is intended to provide Oxfordshire's Health Improvement Board with an update on development of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy and also an update on progress for Quarter 1 of the current year Delivery Plan.

Context

Recommendations from the 2016 Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse included the development of a 5-year strategy for domestic abuse. We have been working to develop this strategy with consultation at Strategic and Operational Boards as well as a range of key partnership and Safeguarding Board meetings and widely attended Consultation events. In May the Health Improvement Board were presented with the framework for the Strategy and a Year 1 Delivery Plan and corresponding dashboard and it was agreed that the final draft of the Domestic Abuse Strategy would be presented to the Board for comment in September.

The Strategy

We have been working hard to develop a Domestic Abuse Strategy that is fit for purpose and meaningful for all those affected by and working to tackle domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire's Strategic Board for Domestic Abuse has developed the Outcomes for the Strategy with a range of outcomes to be achieved over the 5-year period sitting under each of the 4 Strategic Aims of prevention, provision, pursuing and partnership. We then held a workshop to develop a statement for each strategic aim and set of outcomes which described the ways in which we would deliver these Outcomes. Some of these are already included in the Year 1 Delivery Plan which is currently being implemented (see below for an update). The rest will be included in delivery plans over the 4 remaining years of the Strategy. The Strategy also describes the approach being taken in Oxfordshire. We have decided to take a "Coordinated Community Response" which is a well-known and well-regarded approach to tackling domestic abuse. This approach aims to keep the victim-survivor and children at the centre and ensure all key agencies are working together, ensuring policy and practice aligns to best meet the needs of the victim and children and holding the perpetrator to account for their actions. The Draft Strategy is included with this paper for perusal and comment. We will be putting this draft out for a final consultation in September before publishing.

Year 1 Delivery, Quarter 1 2019-20

All activity is set out under one of the four strategic aims. The Year 1 Delivery Plan can be found at the back of the Draft Strategy for reference.

Prevention: Preventing domestic abuse from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviour which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it

- We've started the roll out of our new modular domestic abuse programme. We've had delegates sign up from agencies across our Coordinated

Community Response, including a variety within community based work, including student social workers from Oxford Brookes, Aspire, the Job Centre, and Home Start.

- This quarter our training pool delivered Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness training in Oxford and Cherwell to 17 people, Domestic Abuse and Children & Families in Cherwell to 9 people, and Domestic Abuse and Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment and Safety Planning in Oxford City to 6 people. There were also 10 new Champions trained from agencies around the county.
- Our Black Asian Minority Ethnic & Refugee (BAMER) project workers have been engaging with different communities across the Thames Valley including women from Somali, Syrian, Pakistani, Indian, Kurdish, Polish, Sri Lankan, Moroccan background. The project is currently collecting and collating Baseline data and exploring different needs of women from different groups and barriers that they face.

Provision: Providing high quality, joined-up support for victims where domestic abuse does occur.

- Monitoring meetings with our commissioned provider of domestic abuse services, A2 Dominion, are in place and key data is being shared. Self-Referrals have not exceeded the 48 hours Access service response target but referrals from professionals have taken longer. Dispersed accommodation is yet to be delivered but is being worked on and should be coming on stream soon.
- Preparation for 3rd peer audit of the Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young People is underway although difficulties in obtaining case information means that there is likely to be a small delay to holding the audit which was originally planned for September 2019.

Pursuing: Taking action to reduce the harm to victims of abuse by ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and provided with opportunities for change in a way that maximises safety.

- Discussions have begun with the Witness Service to look at developing bespoke domestic abuse training for staff.
- The first evaluation of the voluntary Positive Relationship Programme for perpetrators has been completed creating a baseline for monitoring this programme going forward.
- Changes within Thames Valley Police (TVP) have taken place resulting in the number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices almost doubling from this time last year, more changes are planned to continue this trend. TVP are recruiting 2 court presentation officers to cover Domestic Violence Protection Order applications at court bringing expertise and greater likelihood of success as well as freeing up officers to work on live investigations.

Partnership: Working in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims, children and their families.

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- There has been a 6.6% **increase** in referrals to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) for high risk victims compared to Q1 in 2018
- The first new MARAC Review Group meeting was held this quarter.
- We need to improve our recording of protected characteristics captured in our MARAC data base (MODUS)
- South and Vale Local Policing Area (LPA) held its first Multi-agency tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) meeting in September 2018 taking a new approach to manage repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse using risk-frequency-gravity matrix to identify and assess. Outcomes for the 13 focussed on have shown positive outcomes where the perpetrator engages.

Next steps

We will aim to publish the Domestic Abuse Strategy in November following feedback from the Health Improvement Board members and the public consultation due to complete in October. We will continue to report on progress on a quarterly basis and will commence work on developing our Year 2 Delivery Plan in January 2020.

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3 September 2019