

Annual Report on Delivery of Domestic Abuse Strategic Recommendations

Purpose

This report is intended to provide Oxfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on progress against the nine recommendations set out in Oxfordshire's Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse published late 2016.

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 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 Strategic Board and Operational Domestic Abuse 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 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.

Progress update

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

1. Endorse and implement a pathway of domestic abuse services based on the identified needs set out in Oxfordshire's Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse

There is now an established Domestic Abuse Pathway for adult victims as well as a Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young People agreed and in place.

2. Implement a new governance structure for domestic abuse

The governance for this area was agreed at the Domestic Abuse Summit held in 2017 and formally signed off by the Health Improvement Board a few days later. In summary the governance structure is as follows:

- 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. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Board has representation from all key strategic stakeholders whilst the Operational Board benefits from a broad range of operational lead officers from service delivery organisations and teams.

3. 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

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.

4. Adopt a co-commissioning approach that identifies resources, agrees a range of outcomes and measures success and implementation.

At the Domestic Abuse Summit in July 2017 a co-commissioning approach was agreed following which funding 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 committed to commission a range of domestic abuse services.

A new contract delivering the new service model commenced 4 June 2018 and alongside this a partnership agreement was put in place with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) 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. 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.

Experts by Experience (people who have used domestic abuse services) have been involved in a range of commissioning and service development activities including:

- 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.

- Regular attendance on the Domestic Abuse Operational Board
- Development and delivery of multi-agency domestic abuse training
- Involvement in conferences and awareness raising events

6. Strengthen connections both strategically and operationally between domestic abuse and sexual violence delivery.

We have strengthened connections by ensuring representation from sexual violence support agencies on our Operational Board, with the work of our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Co-ordinator linking with a broad range of agencies on gender violence issues and delivering training to raise awareness with key professionals. The Strategic Board is also exploring broadening our strategic approach towards inclusion of more aspects of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda which includes sexual violence.

7. Training strategy for domestic abuse to be developed and co-funded to deliver multi-agency training

A broad range of multi and single agency domestic abuse training is available for agency staff across Oxfordshire. This includes training for professionals working with Young People. We have recently added to this by co-designing (with our voluntary sector specialist training provider) the following multi-agency training which is being delivered at low cost using a train the trainer approach:

- Domestic abuse awareness
- Domestic abuse, children and families
- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Champions role

8. 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.

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Board is currently developing a 5-year strategy – broad consultation with partners is in progress with 3 consultation events planned for the end of March.

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

The Strategic Board is also working on a new communications strategy to sit alongside the 5-year strategic plan.

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