

## Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse Update

### Purpose of paper

1. This paper is to inform the Health Improvement Board on progress in relation to the recommendations from the recent Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse in Oxfordshire “the Review”. It will focus on the co-funding approach being taken to deliver a pathway of domestic abuse services and the partnership work taking place to deliver service improvements across a broad range of agencies.

### Background

2. The Review looked at how well the current services are able to meet need and to consider the broader picture including what could be commissioned in the future and governance arrangements around domestic abuse.
3. There were a number of recurrent themes in the Review and the prominence of these helped us to translate the key issues into key responses. These included:
  - Abuse is often “hidden” and barriers to reporting disproportionately affect people depending on socio-economic and health factors
  - There is a need for perpetrator services to enable effective responses for victims and their families
  - Gaps in training and service aimed specifically at young people
  - Need for better data capture and sharing to understand and improve effectiveness
  - Greater inclusion of the voices of users of services to inform good practice and effective working
4. The Review concluded with nine separate recommendations which are being taken forward using a multi-agency approach led by the County Council’s Strategic Lead for Domestic Abuse.

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| 1. | Endorse and implement a pathway of domestic abuse services based on the identified needs set out in <i>[the strategic review]</i>  |
| 2. | Implement the proposed new governance structure for domestic abuse   |
| 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 |   |
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| 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   |

5. Recommendation 1 and 4 of the Review refer to the commissioning of a pathway of services for Oxfordshire. Currently, domestic abuse specialist services are funded from a range of sources including both grants from national or local organisations and commissioned provision. Funding committed to domestic abuse from the current sources does not meet the cost of services recommended by the strategic review. A decision by partners (funders) is required on either how to address the funding gap or how to reduce the provision to meet the current budget.
6. Oxfordshire County Council currently commissions Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service (ODAS) to deliver some of the specialist domestic abuse services for Oxfordshire. The ODAS contract is for a telephone based access and support service, one Outreach worker covering West Oxfordshire and countywide Refuge provision at an annual contract value of circa £335,000. We have extended the contract for delivery of these services from its original end date of 31 January 2017 until 31 March 2018 to enable a co-commissioning approach with key commissioning partners.
7. OCC commissioned domestic abuse services were historically funded through the Supporting People programme. This funding is no longer “ring fenced” and the budget for domestic abuse has been reduced to £200,000. The County Council has put in the additional funding required on a one-off basis to extend the current level of service until the services can be re-commissioned jointly in 2018-19.

Co-funded approach

8. We are currently progressing a co-funded approach to commissioning specialist services and to funding service development work. The County Council is working with partner commissioners including District Councils, local Community Safety Partnerships and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. We have still to establish what we will commission and the total funds available.
9. We have a multi-agency workshop of senior leaders planned to take place in May to agree total funding available and to finalise governance arrangements.
10. As part of the broader implementation plan following on from the Review, Task and Finish groups have been set up (see recommendation 3 above) and work has commenced on a multi-agency training strategy and a communications strategy. This is being led by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group.
11. All work being taken forward will seek to fulfil our commitment to include the voice of service users, their families and those who work closely with them.

**Sarah Carter**  
**Strategic Lead for Domestic Abuse**  
**Joint Commissioning Team**  
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