

# Oxfordshire 5-year Domestic Abuse Strategy

## Key messages from April 2019 Consultation Events

### General feedback

- Support for the idea that our strategy could be broadened to include all abuses under the 'Violence Against Women and Girls' umbrella in the future, 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).
- Need for our strategy to be shaped by a focus on people experiencing abuse, their children, *and* people perpetrating abuse – rather than the continuing to place the focus and onus on victim/survivors.
- Many were mainly happy with our strategic vision, but there were also suggestions to adopt a rights-based approach which promotes zero-tolerance and enables the public and professionals to feel supported to challenge problematic attitudes & behaviours in safe ways.

### Delivery priorities

#### Prevention

- Prevention as the top priority! Education and culture change was highlighted, right from early years through to adulthood, and links with Relationships and Sex Education becoming compulsory in schools from September 2020
- We need a much greater focus on early work with parents of children referred into Children's Social Care - 70% of referrals into CSC in Oxfordshire have a DA factor, increasing evidence that early work with parents reduces risk to children and reduces their likelihood of going onto a Child Protection Plan and entry into care"
- Community based awareness raising, including multi-lingual public information campaigns and targeted engagement

#### Provision

- Recovery from abuse as key, including the delivery, coordination, and allocation of resources for a pathway of group work programmes
- Trauma-informed services, including availability of specialist counselling
- Mapping of services, to ensure professionals are aware where people can seek help and support for the myriad of challenges that come with abuse
- Young People focussed services and support, including within the Young People's Supported Housing pathway
- Ensure services are accessible to all, including via representation within services
- Range of multi-agency professionals training, especially when broadening strategy

#### Partnership

- Ensuring we share and use resources within our partnership (including buildings for group work, existing information directories etc.)
- Co-location of specialists within universal services
- Utilising the partnership to identify need and lobby for change

#### Pursuing perpetrators

- Multi-agency training on working with perpetrators
- Appropriate and accessible perpetrator interventions (community based 6-month programmes, which can be accessed by diverse groups of people)

