

EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE

NAME OF TOPIC GROUP: Crime and Disorder 2018: Domestic Abuse

CHAIRMAN: William Wyatt-Lowe

SCRUTINY OFFICER: Charles Lambert

DATE OF SCRUTINY: 7 December 2017

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Terry Hone, Colette Wyatt-Lowe

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Recommendations

Executive Response

2.1. That Domestic Abuse (DA) Champions are introduced county wide and the DA Partnership targets work with GPs on this. (Paras 4.1, 5.2)

Following the successful award of funding from the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Fund, the Strategic Partnership's Team, within ACS, has led the a successful procurement process to identify a provider to deliver the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Champions Programme. The commencement of this programme is imminent and will work to identify and train a cohort of DA Champions, from both community and specialist agencies, across the County - **commencing April 2018.**

The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline has been formally commissioned through a direct Single Tender Award process, in line with Hertfordshire's Contract Regulations, to coordinate and manage the Champions Network, in partnership with the Local Authority – **commenced March 2018.**

The funding period will cease in March 2020 and the Home Office are receiving monitoring and closedown reports, as required.

We continue to work with GPs, in partnership with the LMC and both CCGs. This is primarily through training by IDVAs,

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| | <p>information sharing sessions and identifying DA Champions. Further engagement is continually being assessed.</p> |
| <p>2.2. That DA training and awareness raising is adopted by the HSAB as part of mandatory safeguarding training for operational front line staff and managers across Adult Care Services (ACS); and, that all relevant ACS contracts build in DA training as a mandatory requirement. (Paras 3.6, 4.1, 5.6, 5.7)</p> | <p>The HSAB has identified DA as a key priority for 2018/19 and, as a result, ACS have commissioned a number of training courses for front line staff, including Domestic Abuse & Safeguarding, DA Risk Assessment Lite Bites and Modern Slavery. However, this training is not a mandatory requirement and there is work ongoing around the wider training and needs analysis, across the wider DA Partnership, to identify key areas for learning and development. This can then be presented to SMB to enable the requirement for mandatory training to be embedded.</p> <p>More work is required with ACS Commissioning to enable a greater understanding of how DA can be embedded into contracts, however, the Strategic Partnership's Team is working in partnership with Herts Care Providers Association (HCPA) to deliver DA study days with the private home care and residential care market, in May 2018.</p> |
| <p>2.3. That the Hertfordshire DA Partnership actively creates support services for medium and standard risk victims. (Paras 3.6, 3.9, 4.4, 4.5, 5.4)</p> | <p>The Strategic Partnership's Team have continued to progress in seeking support services for those assessed as medium or standard risk, namely the provision of five caseworkers working within a variety of key agencies, across the County, through the Sunflower network.</p> <p>In partnership with these agencies, which include District & Borough Councils and Voluntary & Community Sector organisations, we have formulated a single and common job description for the continuation and development of these vital roles. The funding for these roles is comprised from the VAWG funding and that awarded through the DCLG and will be developed through 2018/19.</p> |

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| | <p>We are also working proactively with the commissioned services – specialist accommodation and IDVA – to continually review the victims they support and ensure the risk levels identified enable them to get the right support and intervention, at the right time.</p> |
| <p>2.4. That work should be undertaken with Princess Alexandra Hospital, Luton and Dunstable Hospital and Barnet General Hospital to identify and develop improved communications with the service that performs a similar function to that of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) at the Lister and Watford hospitals. (Paras 3.6, 3.7, 4.3, 5.3)</p> | <p>Other Local Authorities, namely Essex and Central Bedfordshire, have confirmed that they deliver an IDVA service covering a number of our Out of County hospitals. Also, through discussion with the agencies that fund the Herts IDVA service, it was clear that the current co-locations within the two main acutes and community partners, HCT and HpFT, is providing a resilient service, across the County.</p> |
| <p>2.5. That the partnership develops a countywide non-mandatory perpetrator programme. (Paras 3.8, 4.5, 5.4, 5.5)</p> | <p>The Strategic Partnerships Team has written a report on supporting perpetrators of domestic abuse in Hertfordshire. This report: reviewed support currently available to perpetrators of domestic abuse in Hertfordshire, identified gaps in this support provision, provided examples of perpetrator programmes in other parts of the country noted for good practice and made recommendations as to what the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) may want to commission by way of a perpetrator programme.</p> <p>This report found the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most of the support available in Hertfordshire, as provided by HCC and the voluntary sector, is targeted at perpetrators with children. 2. To receive support, perpetrators must be referred by another agency, such as the Police or Children’s Services. A self-referral pathway is required. 3. It is unclear how perpetrators with complex needs (e.g. substance misuse, mental health condition, disability) |

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| | <p>should be supported whilst on a programme.</p> <p>4. It is unclear how the success of perpetrator programmes can and should be measured.</p> <p>Before a programme is commissioned, more data is required on the perpetrator demography in Hertfordshire, as well as the critical issue of identifying a funding source. Consideration is currently being given the role of the perpetrator sub-group in collecting this data, identifying funding and commissioning a programme that addresses the gaps in our provision – commencing April 2019.</p> |
| Any other comments on the report or this scrutiny? | |