

Scrutiny Committee:
Domestic Abuse Strategy
29th January 2019

Agenda

- Context
- Research to inform the strategy
- Engagement to inform the strategy
- Update on 2014-2017 strategy
- Local data
- Four priorities and shared vision
- Implementation
- Views, comments and questions

Context

- Domestic abuse is a complex, multi-faceted challenge with no particular organisation 'owning' responsibility
- A collaborative approach with a shared vision and priorities is required across organisations
- From engagement, domestic abuse is a high priority across the public sector and emergency services. The commitment is there.
- No additional resources are available for implementing the strategy – this will need to be completed within existing budgets

Research to inform the strategy

- Review of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-17
- Research of:
 - The law
 - Local and national policy and guidance
 - Data and research analysis
 - Domestic abuse strategies from other areas
 - Existing governance and leadership arrangements

Engagement to inform the strategy

- Service users from West Mercia Women's Aid
- Families attending groups at Children's Centres in Hereford, Ross and Leominster
- Two Scrutiny Committee workshops
- Two stakeholder workshops to co-produce the strategy. Included police, health trusts, CCG, probation, housing associations, fire and rescue, social care professionals, elected members, domestic abuse and sexual abuse support services.
- Joint Committee Chairs (HSAB, HSCB, CSP)
- Community Safety Partnership
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

Update on the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-17

- Priorities were informed by both national policy and the 2013 local Needs Assessment
- Needs Assessment updated in 2017, informing the revised strategy
- The ethos and priorities are largely unchanged within the revised strategy, aligned to the current national priorities, although in wording they are quite different.
- Significant progress was made to achieving the outcomes in the former strategy (detailed in the revised strategy). Outstanding actions, incorporated into the revised strategy, are also detailed.

Local data – slide 1

- Many incidents are known to not be reported to the police.
- In the year ending March 2017, West Mercia police recorded 3,071 victims in Herefordshire: 2,024 (66%) females and 1,047 (34%) males
- Estimated through applying national self-reported prevalence rates that in 2016/17 there were 5,900 victims aged 16-59 in the county.
- Number of children exposed to domestic abuse in has been estimated to be 300-400 children per month locally (some of these will be repeat exposures for the same children).

Local data – slide 2

- In England and Wales, 16 to 19-year-olds were the most likely to say they had experienced domestic abuse in the last year. Herefordshire has an older age structure: expected to also have an older age profile of potential domestic abuse victims.

The shared vision

Our shared vision is that domestic abuse and the harm it causes will be prevented as people and communities:

- Understand and have the skills to establish healthy relationships
- Recognise and reject all forms of domestic abuse
- Seek, are offered and receive effective help and support early

Four priorities – slide 1

- **Priority 1 – Prevention**

- requires individuals and communities to understand domestic abuse and the harm it causes and have the skills to build, and a culture that supports, healthy relationships

- **Priority 2 - Provision of Service**

- When domestic abuse is disclosed, identified or reported, those affected by domestic abuse need to be able to access information, advice and support that is timely and effective. This support should meet the needs of the affected individual and any children, seeing them as a unit to be supported.

Four priorities – slide 2

- **Priority 3 - Partnership Working**

- There is no single place that a person might disclose domestic abuse, including community members, and no single agency that can provide a full response. Close partnership working is essential, with a shared vision, strong leadership and clear pathways.

- **Priority 4 - Criminal Justice**

- Tools available to the police and court system to prevent and deter perpetrators from domestic abuse must be used effectively and consistently. Those experiencing domestic abuse should see the police and criminal and civil legal systems as working to protect them and their children.

Implementation

- The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) - responsible for strategic leadership and the delivery of this strategy. Will retain strategic oversight
- The CSP shares members with the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards ensuring consistency.
- The CSP will task the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Delivery Group to develop and implement annual detailed action plans with set objectives, outcomes and timescales , building on the outline plan to implement this strategy (detailed in appendix 1 to the strategy)
- Delivery Group will report to the CSP on a quarterly basis
- Delivery Group will deliver and monitor the effectiveness of identified actions.

Objectives and outcomes

- Co-produced with organisations who attended the stakeholder workshops
- Informed by feedback from service users and research
- Themed in accordance with the four priorities
- Captured in detail in appendix 1 to the strategy
- Pragmatic and tangible – provides focus and a basis for the CSP and Delivery Group to create action plans
- Auditable and ensures accountability

We welcome any comments, questions and suggestions on the draft strategy and implementation plan