

- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Michelle McHugh

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16th January 2007

Domestic Violence – Action Plan Progress

**Report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection
and County Fire Officer**

Recommendation:

- (i) That members support the findings of the needs analysis and the future activities that have been identified to reduce the areas of unmet need.
- (ii) That members note and support progress against the strategy and action plan.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Nationally, one in four women and one in six men, will experience domestic abuse during their lifetime. In the UK domestic violence costs business as much as £2.7 billion a year in lost productivity, with the costs to the country as a whole being an estimated £23 billion. The cost for Warwickshire in 2003/4 was an estimated £35 million; this includes the loss to employers at £4.6 million, health service costs at £5.3 million and £7 million for criminal justice agencies (including the police).
- 1.2 Domestic abuse is defined as any harm between current or former partners in an intimate relationship, wherever and whenever it occurs. The abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional or financial. The term also includes male victims, same sex abuse and inter-generational abuse.
- 1.3 'Domestic Violence – A Strategy for Warwickshire', is a three year strategy developed by the multi agency Strategic Board to deliver and develop services and to ultimately reduce the incidence of domestic abuse in the county.
- 1.4 The key aims of the strategy are to be delivered through a twelve month action plan (Appendix A), which are overseen and reviewed by the Strategic Board.

- 1.5 The National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan and Best Value Performance Indicators for Actions against Domestic Violence exist and guide the Warwickshire Domestic Violence Strategy development and its review.

2.0 Overview of the Position in Warwickshire 2006

- 2.1 Nearly 6,000 incidents have been reported to the Warwickshire Police this year (January – December 2006 to date), which is an average of 500 per calendar month, 16 per day or 1 incident every 90 minutes.
- 2.2 Of the 266,500 women living in Warwickshire, 1 in 4 of them will be a victim at some point in their lifetime, which results in 66,625 women living in Warwickshire experiencing this type of harm. It usually takes 7 years for a victim to come forward, this means that over 9,500 women should be reporting incidents of domestic abuse each year.
- 2.3 1 in 6 men are expected to be victims within their lifetime; that is 43,166 of the male population of Warwickshire (259,000). If it takes the same period of time for men to come forward and report incidents, there should be over 6,000 cases per year.
- 2.4 This is therefore a total of 15,500 domestic abuse incidents taking place in Warwickshire each year; an average of 1,292 per calendar month, 43 per day, nearly 2 incidents per hour.
- 2.5 As it is expected that there will be more than 6,000 (approximate) reported incidents this year, approximately 9,500 domestic abuse incidents will go unreported throughout Warwickshire in 2006.

3.0 Domestic Abuse Action Plan Progress

- 3.1 *Increased Awareness of DV:* press and radio campaign took place throughout the county in November 2006, a Christmas campaign is being launched 15th December 2006.
- 3.2 *Address barriers to partnerships and tackle hard to reach groups:* audit of services has indicated gaps in service for future service development. On going work is being completed to bring all DV partners together with developments of good practice guidance and protocols.
- 3.3 *Promote multi and single agency training:* training being delivered via service providers to new police recruits and court staff. A training protocol is a key factor in the development of new services
- 3.4 *Encourage partner agencies to adopt their own domestic violence policy:* audit planned for early 2007 to determine provision of policies. Development of WCC DV policy to be progressed.

- 3.5 *To work to reduce repeat victimisation, offending and re-offending:* Pilot voluntary perpetrators programme funded from Jan to March 2007 with a view to providing service on a county wide basis in the future. DV campaigning actively encouraging victims not to accept DV and report incidents to the police.
- 3.6 *To encourage the criminal justice agencies to increase the number of incidents of prosecution and/or caution of perpetrators where appropriate:* Specialist Domestic Violence Courts are to begin in Warwickshire in April 2007 aiming to increase levels of perpetrator prosecution and support the victim through the legal processes from reporting an incident through to attending court.
- 3.7 *To provide assistance to victims and their children and refer or provide effective services as necessary and provide a plan for the safety of victims and their children:* helpline and first point of contact service currently being provided by Victim Support with floating support service provided by Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Service (WDVSS). Service specifications currently being developed to ensure equitable and accessible service for all Warwickshire victims of DV
- 3.8 *To support joint partnership and multi-agency work and share information:* needs analysis completed identifying gaps in current service provision. 'Away day' event held with key service providers aiming to improve partnership working and has resulted in increased communication and a joint working process. Information sharing protocol developed; work being undertaken to encourage all partners to sign up to the process.
- 3.9 *To ensure the accurate monitoring of data, using such data to continuously improve services:* data received from police sources used for analysis. DAMAT database has been developed and work is being completed to encourage service providers to use this database. DAMAT administrative assistant currently being recruited who will have responsibility for developing relationships with partners to encourage them to provide useful data and to develop meaningful reports.
- 3.10 *To engage with service users to obtain feedback regarding the services provided:* review of the strategic board and local forums taking place which plan to result in the development of a service user advisory panel. This panel will be accessed to support the review of service provision and to help inform future service development.

4.0 Victim Profile

- 4.1 Police statistics suggest that Nuneaton and Bedworth have the highest levels of reported domestic abuse with 34% of all reported incidents falling in the area. Rugby (at 22%) and Warwick district (at 20%) are the areas with the next highest levels.

- 4.2 Three areas of the county have the highest levels of **repeat** domestic abuse victims. These are the whole of Nuneaton, the south of Leamington, and across all of Rugby.
- 4.3 The average age range of victims reporting domestic abuse in Warwickshire is 31 to 40 years old. On average they will have 2 children (usually under the age of 5 years) with 84% of reporting victims being female. 90% of victims are white British, 6.3% Asian and 1.4% African Caribbean. Research from consultants carried out in 2004 also suggested that there are a high percentage of disabled victims of domestic abuse.
- 4.4 In Warwickshire, an average of 45% of victims live in council accommodation and 41% live in owner occupier. As 74.3% of the population of Warwickshire live in owner occupier, compared to 15.7% living in council accommodation, this suggests that most reports of domestic abuse are coming from those living in social housing. We therefore have a gap for victims in owner occupied housing who are not reporting incidents nor coming forward for help and advice.

It is accepted that 15% of all homeless applications are related to domestic abuse. In line with current Warwickshire housing data it is likely that 240 homeless applications in Warwickshire this year will be as a result of domestic abuse.

- 4.5 58% of Warwickshire victims are abused by their husband or former partner, with 26% of victims being separated, divorced or in the process of getting a divorce. 80% of victims that reported an incident in Warwickshire this year (3532 incidents) have children, with 82% (2326) of these children experiencing or witnessing the abuse. On average a victim will have 2 children. This means that potentially 5652 children will have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse in Warwickshire in 2006. This figure is derived from reported cases; a far greater number of children will have been affected during unreported incidents.

5.0 Perpetrator Profile

- 5.1 There is limited data available on the profile of perpetrators of domestic abuse in Warwickshire. It is known, however, that 85% of perpetrators are male, with the average age being 34 years. 771 perpetrators were arrested in 2005, which is 21% of domestic abuse crimes resulting in an arrest. In 53% of incidents reported, substance misuse was described as being a key trigger.

6.0 Services Available in Warwickshire

- 6.1 *Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Team (D.A.M.A.T):* partnership between Warwickshire Police, Community Protection (WCC) and Children, Families and Young People (WCC) offering access to a range of support and advice for those people living throughout Warwickshire who are experiencing domestic abuse.

- 6.2 *Victim Support*: provider of helpline and first point of contact. The service is available to all victims of domestic abuse including male and same sex victims. The service will also support victims through the court process and signpost to additional agencies. Victim Support receives approximately 100 referrals per month via their helpline or direct police referrals.
- 6.3 *Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Service (WDVSS)*: provide floating support service and refuge accommodation. This service provides support to women victims only. Between July 2005 and June 2006 the floating support service supported 341 users (28/month on average) and the refuges supported 37 users.
- 6.4 *Domestic Abuse Counselling Service (DACs)*: offer one to one counselling to women experiencing domestic abuse on a county wide basis and domestic abuse perpetrators.

7.0 Identified Gaps

- 7.1 In view of high numbers of recorded incidents (now reaching 500 per calendar month) some services are reaching a very small number of users. First point of contact service in touch with 20%, Floating Support Service 5.6% for example. This suggests that investigation needs to take place to discover why some groups are not accessing the support services that are available.
- 7.2 Service provision is inequitable across county. Service differs dependent on the location of the victim/perpetrator. This applies with outreach services, refuge accommodation and perpetrator programmes.
- 7.3 There is a lack of service provision for male victims, same sex victims and victims of inter generational abuse
- 7.4 Low level reporting and service access by victims from hard to reach groups including BME communities and the disabled.
- 7.5 In view of the high number of owner occupied accommodation in the county, there is a relatively low number of victims coming forward. Action is required to encourage victims from a range of economic backgrounds to report DV incidents.
- 7.6 Provision of service choice for those victims facing potential homelessness who may wish to remain in their own home. Currently the only option for victims of domestic abuse is to leave their homes.

8.0 Domestic Violence: Future Developments

- 8.1 Additional performance indicators have been identified and are stated within the Safer Bock of the LAA

- 8.2 A voluntary pilot perpetrators programme has been funded to commence from Jan to March 07 for the Nuneaton and Bedworth area which is aiming to reduce repeat victims and increase the safety of women and children. It is hoped that this will become a county-wide provision in the future.
- 8.3 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts are to be provided in Nuneaton, Rugby and Stratford from April 2007. This is aiming to reduce the number of cases that fail due to the victim not wishing to offer witness statement by shortening the length of time taken for criminal cases to get to court.
- 8.4 To provide additional options to victims of domestic abuse who do not wish to leave their homes, a Sanctuary Scheme is planned from May 2007. This scheme offers victims the opportunity to have a 'safe room' in their home where they, and their children, can securely stay and call the police if the perpetrator should return and behave in a violent manner.
- 8.5 Service specifications are being developed to ensure that domestic abuse services are available and accessible throughout the county. It is aimed that all people that live in Warwickshire that are experiencing domestic abuse will be able to access the same service as a result of these specifications. A tendering process will be followed, with service levels, quality assurance and need analysis indicators being developed to ensure good practice.
- 8.6 The Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Team (DAMAT) has now reformed and is working from the same premises in Leamington Spa, with police, WCC and Children, young People and Families staff joining together in partnership to develop best practice across all agencies.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 The analysis of need indicates the level of domestic abuse throughout Warwickshire. With 15,500 domestic abuse incidents taking place every year it is essential that services exist to support those people that are experiencing this level of harm.
- 9.2 The reporting of domestic abuse incidents needs to be promoted to offer victims the opportunity to understand what is happening to them and make the decision to make some changes to their lives.
- 9.3 Sadly, there have been deaths in Warwickshire this year that have been as a direct result of domestic abuse. Services need to be established on a county wide basis and be accessible to a wide range of communities to reduce the risk of any such incidents happening in the future.

William Brown
Strategic Director of Community Protection

December 2006

DRAFT Domestic Violence – A Strategy for Warwickshire: 12 Month Action Plan 2006/7

Domestic Violence – A Strategy for Warwickshire
12 Month Action Plan 2006/7

This action plan has been produced to support the 3-year Domestic Violence Strategy for Warwickshire. The actions outlined here directly link to the strategic and operational objectives in 3.1 and 3.2 of the Strategy. This action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

	Aim	Action	Accountability	Delivery through	Timescale	Outcomes
1.	Ensure best practice is investigated from local, national and international sources and considered for implementation locally in order to continuously develop services	To research Best Practice	Strategic Board	DV Manager	To each board meeting	At least 3 examples of best practice brought forward to the board each year.
2.	Increase awareness of DV	Develop campaigns for public awareness	Strategic Board	DV Manager	March 2007	Evidence of 2 campaigns
		Maintain and promote Domestic Violence website, accessible to public and professional agencies.	DV Manager	DV Manager	March 2007	Increased public awareness measured through WCC 'satisfaction survey', and other surveys as appropriate.

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	Aim	Action	Accountability	Delivery through	Timescale	Outcomes
3.	Address Barriers to Partnerships & tackle Hard to reach groups	Develop services to meet the needs of under represented groups (e.g. Terrence Higgins Trust, BME organisations, ESW travellers liaison worker, vulnerable adults, drug & alcohol issues)	Strategic Board	Board members	March 2007	Audit of gaps completed to inform development of services
4.	Promote multi and single agency training	Promote DV and work with agencies to ensure that training is on their agenda	Strategic Board	DV Manager	December 2006	Staff dealing with DV in agencies are adequately trained to deal with victims. List of training available to all agencies
					March 2007	Audit undertaken of gaps in training
5.	Encourage partner agencies to adopt their own domestic violence policy	Develop guidance on how to develop a DV Policy, including a policy for employers.	Strategic Board	DV Manager	March 2007	Employer policy presented to WCC for consideration / adoption.
6.	To work to reduce repeat victimisation, offending and re-offending	Police to develop and strengthen own policies and procedures to map offenders	Police	Police	End March 2007	Identify all persistent perpetrators in the last 12 months and reduce numbers by 5%.

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	Aim	Action	Accountability	Delivery through	Timescale	Outcomes
		Ensure that appropriate referrals are made to Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme	Police	Probation	March 2007	4 completions on the programme in 12 months
		Carry out research on reducing repeat victims, aiming to reduce the number of incidents before victims need to access services	Strategic Board	DV Manager	December 2006	Report to the board produced, with recommendations for implementing improvements for victims, including reducing the number of incidents before accessing services
7.	To encourage the criminal justice agencies to increase the number of incidents of prosecution and/or caution of perpetrators where appropriate.	Consult with Criminal Justice agencies and other relevant agencies around Specialist DV Courts	Strategic Board	CPS / Magistrates / Police	March 2007	Agreement from relevant agencies to set up Specialist DV Courts Training completed for key stakeholders
		Research resource needs for a voluntary perpetrator programme, and develop a sustainable delivery model	Strategic Board	Commissioned Service Providers	March 2007	Sustainable voluntary perpetrator programme in place and running regularly

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	Aim	Action	Accountability	Delivery through	Timescale	Outcomes
8.	To provide assistance to victims and their children and refer or provide effective services as necessary and provide a plan for the safety of victims and their children.	Identify needs and barriers to services of individuals and agencies requiring advice and support, and develop a sustainable delivery model	Strategic Board	DV Manager	December 2006	Sustainable advice and guidance easily available to agencies and individuals, to ensure timely and appropriate response / referrals Point of crisis services in place
		Ensure accessible services available to victims of abuse	Strategic Board	Warwickshire County Council	March 2007	5% increase in number of people accessing DV services in Warwickshire for advice
		Developed awareness in young people of DV	Strategic Board	Education Department	March 2008	Raise awareness with young people of domestic violence
		Needs analysis of housing undertaken	Strategic Board	Supporting People	March 2007	Sufficient and suitable accommodation available across Warwickshire
9.	To support joint partnership and multi-agency work and share	Undertake a stock take of current DV services	Strategic Board	DV Manager	June 2006	Identify what services are provided, and what gaps in service exist.

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	Aim	Action	Accountability	Delivery through	Timescale	Outcomes
	information.	Review partner agencies' DV Strategies	Strategic Board	DV Manager	March 2007	Agencies are delivering DV services as outlined in their own strategies.
		Sharing of information protocol in place and working	Strategic Board	DV Manager	March 2007	Information is shared between agencies.
10.	To ensure the accurate monitoring of data, using such data to continuously improve services to victims	Regular analysis of data produced and reporting to prioritise activities and reduce incidents.	Strategic Board	DAMAT	March 2007	Data analysed and monitored to inform future decision making and prioritisation.
11.	To engage with service users to obtain feedback regarding the services provided	Regularly survey user satisfaction with services.	All agencies	DV Manager	Quarterly reports	Ensure that service users inform the development of service provision.
		Look at best practice in service user involvement	Strategic Board	DV Manager	March 2007	Service user engagement / feedback mechanisms agreed