

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

26 June 2017



## Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Plan on a Page

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### Report of Report of Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adults and Health Services

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#### Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to share the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Plan on a Page with Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### Background

- 2 The County Durham Partnership has agreed a new, streamlined approach for the development of strategies and plans which has been adopted by Durham County Council. The key aim is to make strategic planning processes as efficient as possible by focusing on a smaller, core concise set of objectives.
- 3 The County Durham and Darlington Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Groups (DASVEG) is a sub group of the Safe Durham Partnership and Safer Darlington Partnership with a priority of working together to tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- 4 The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy was developed in 2015 and outlines high level objectives for tackling the issues. An Action Plan developed in 2015 has been monitored and updated with a significant amount of activity taking place across organisations in County Durham to tackle these issues.
- 5 The DASVEG held a multi-agency development session in December 2016 to pull together its Plan on a Page focusing on key areas of activity to take forward over the next 12 months. The draft Plan on a Page is attached at Appendix 2.
- 6 This Plan on a Page has been approved by the Safe Durham Partnership and work is progressing taking forward the activity outlined within it.

## **County Durham & Darlington Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Plan on a Page (PoP)**

7 Much of the activity outlined in the previous action plan, developed in 2015 has been completed or has been mainstreamed as business as usual for agencies. It was felt that in order to tackle some of the chronic issues within the domestic abuse and sexual violence agenda a more focused response was required from agencies. The DASVEG agreed that an 18 month work plan be established with clear and focused objectives and actions. The DASV PoP outlines those key areas of activity for the DASVEG for the next 18 months, developed following the DASVEG development sessions held in December in 2016. The key areas of activity are:

- Reducing repeat victims and serial perpetrators;
- Preventing domestic abuse through early intervention; and
- Identifying 'invisible victims' and offering them support and guidance;

### **Reducing repeat victims and serial perpetrators**

8 Durham Constabulary data highlights that since April 2016, approximately 42% of domestic abuse victims were repeat victims. Of the high risk cases discussed at MARAC approximately 17% have been repeat cases. During 2015/16 an average of 10% of adults referred into the Harbour programme have been previously referred during the last 12 months.

9 DASVEG will explore the reason for these repeats and develop innovative and effective perpetrator interventions. DASVEG will support the specialist service with the delivery of their 'follow-up' service for abused women to ensure that existing the specialist service is a gradual process for vulnerable.

10 A multi agency task and finish sub group has been established to take these actions forward, Chaired by Durham County Council's Public Health team, the task and finish group will review and improve the draft key measures for each of the areas of activity defined in the PoP.

### **Preventing domestic abuse through early intervention**

11 Educating children and young people on respectful and healthy relationships is important in order to prevent offending or victimisation in later years. At the moment there is no countywide adopted programme in place.

12 Having clear key messages is integral to any programme that is delivered to Children and Young People.

13 DASVEG will develop and implement a peer to peer relationship programme in conjunction with DCC Children's Services based on best practice, and will monitor and evaluate this programme on an ongoing basis in order to meet agreed key measures.

- 14 As is the case with the previous objective, a multi agency task and finish sub group has been established to take these actions forward, Chaired by Durham County Council's Children Services, the task and finish group will review and improve the draft key measures for each of the areas of activity defined in the PoP.

### **Identifying 'invisible victims' and offering them support and guidance**

- 15 Current data and information held by agencies relates to those individuals who have accessed specific provision or have been brought to the attention of services and this data is often used to develop and implement service provision in specific area.
- 16 However, national research identifies that this is the tip of the iceberg and that domestic abuse and sexual violence are hugely underreported.
- 17 GPs and other primary care workers are well placed to spot signs and symptoms of abuse and provide guidance and support and national best practice is in place to support this approach.
- 18 DASVEG will work with Clinical Commissioning Groups to engage with GP's across County Durham and Darlington and work with Public Health teams to engage with Health Pharmacy schemes to train frontline practitioners on signs and symptoms of abuse and what to do to support victims and tackle perpetrators.
- 19 DASVEG will consider the implementation of the IRIS project, a nationally recognised project which places specialist workers within GP surgeries.
- 20 As with previous objectives, a multi-agency task and finish sub group has been established to take these actions forward, Chaired by Clinical Commissioning Groups, the task and finish group will review and improve the draft key measures for each of the areas of activity defined in the PoP.

### **Recommendations and reasons**

- 21 The Safe and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny are recommended to:

Note information within this report, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Plan on a Page and comment accordingly.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** - No implications

**Staffing** - No additional staffing implications

**Risk** – None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** - None.

**Accommodation** - No adverse implications

**Crime and Disorder** - Implementation and success of the Plan on a Page will have a positive impact on domestic abuse and sexual violence.

**Human Rights** - No adverse impacts

**Consultation** – This PoP has been developed in conjunction with Service Users, specialist services, frontline practitioners and statutory agencies.

**Procurement** - No adverse implications

**Disability Issues** - No adverse implications

**Legal Implications** - None