

# Report to Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group

## Outline of Evidence for Domestic Violence Review

**Date:** 21 November 2011

**Contact:** Madeleine Thorpe (01296 382140; [mcthorpe@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mcthorpe@buckscc.gov.uk))

### Purpose of agenda item

This item is for members of the Task and Finish Group to consider and agree their priorities for evidence gathering for the review, based on information presented in previous items (Introduction to Domestic Violence, and Self Assessment of Domestic Violence).

### Scope of the review

The key issues for consideration, as identified in the scope of the review (Appendix 1), can be summarised as:

- How effectively agencies work together
- Arrangements for commissioning services
- The role of a Big Society approach in Domestic Violence
- Services for different groups
- Honour based violence
- Relationships education for young people
- The role of practitioners and the public in identifying Domestic Violence
- Work with whole families, survivors and perpetrators

### Summary

The following tables set out potential evidence sources for the different aspects of the Domestic Violence topic that the review could explore.

Members are asked to consider the suggested evidence sources and identify their priorities for the review.

### >> Performance of services in the county

<b>Witness / evidence source</b>	<b>Key areas to cover / detail</b>
Susie Yapp, Safer Bucks Partnership Manager	How is DV performance managed? How is training delivered to ensure agencies work effectively together?
Police (Chris Innes / Rebecca Mears)	How accurately is DV measured/recorded? How different types of incidents are recorded (e.g. honour based violence, abuse in teenage relationships)
Denise / Liz, Aylesbury/Wycombe Women's Aid	Monitoring requirements for commissioned services. Data confidence for DV in the county.
Officers in Community	Commissioning for DV services within BCC – this

Safety, CYP, AFW	is currently spread between Community Safety, CYP and AFW.
MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference) - Aylesbury 8 <sup>th</sup> December - Wycombe – 25 <sup>th</sup> January	The MARAC is a meeting of local agencies to discuss and agree action in high risk Domestic Violence cases. Up to two members could attend a MARAC and report back to the rest of the Group on how agencies work together in high risk cases. Members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement to attend the MARAC.
MARAC Quality Assurance reports (written evidence)	Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the county's two MARACs.

### >> Development of the 2012-15 Domestic Violence Strategy

<b>Witness / evidence source</b>	<b>Key areas to cover / detail</b>
Martin Phillips, Cabinet Members for Community Engagement	Portfolio lead for Domestic Violence
Val Letheren / Mike Appleyard / Patricia Birchley, Cabinet Members	Particular areas of DV which fall in their portfolios
Domestic and Community Violence Strategy Group	Partner views on how agencies work together (Councils, TVP, Health, VCS etc)
Joint partner workshop, 25 <sup>th</sup> January, run by BCC Community Safety to inform new strategy	A specific session could be run within the workshop to gather partner views to feed into the review, for example on community-led solutions.
Angie Sarchet, Cohesion and Equalities Manager	Overview of working with under-represented groups
Rebecca Carley, Locality Services Manager (and/or area Localities and Communities Managers)	Community based solutions [links into evidence relevant for DV services in rural communities]

### >> Involvement of Victims

<b>Witness / evidence source</b>	<b>Key areas to cover / detail</b>
Visits to Women's Refuge(s)	Understanding victims' experiences and the practical support refuges provide. A visit could be arranged for a small group of members.
Focus Group	Focus group of victims / service users in Buckinghamshire
Mumsnet / other forum	Use of online forum to gather views about online support for DV victims

**>> Honour Based Violence / Forced Marriage**

<b>Witness / evidence source</b>	<b>Key areas to cover / detail</b>
Angelie, Asian Women's Worker, Wycombe Women's Aid	How are victims supported to seek help?
Karma Nirvana, national charity	How can victims be empowered within their communities?
Al-Aman Family Safety Project, led by London-based charity Domestic Violence Intervention Charity (DVIP)	Working with mosques/cultural centres and training community leaders to identify and reduce tolerance of DV; working with men and women in Arabic speaking communities.
Newham Asian Women's Project	Providing training towards employment as a route to help women live independently

**>> Rural communities (with low access to DV services)**

<b>Witness / evidence source</b>	<b>Key areas to cover / detail</b>
Melanie McCarry, University of Bristol, has completed a range of research into DV including rural communities	Extent and characteristics of DV in rural communities
Health representative – rural GP / nurse / health visitor	Views about rural DV services – links to others in local communities etc
Parish Councils and LAF members	Is there an appetite for training local community representatives in recognising and offering the appropriate initial support for those affected by DV?
Surrey libraries	Campaign to provide DV support through libraries How useful can online support be for those affected by DV?
Mumsnet	Discussion topic on usefulness of online resources and support for DV

**>> Prevention of Domestic Violence – working with CYP**

<b>Witness / evidence source</b>	<b>Key areas to cover / detail</b>
Steve Edgar, School Improvement, BCC	Extent of support that can be provided to schools for healthy relationships education
Linda Ayres / Simon Brown, CYP Commissioning, BCC	Prevention and support for teenagers in abusive relationships.
DV Worker, Youth Service, BCC	Services delivered around healthy relationships in Buckinghamshire
Bracknell Forest Youth Offending Service – Stepping Up Project	Evaluation of the Stepping Up Project – a six week course for young men who have seen inappropriate behaviours modelled / are in abusive relationships, to promote positive behaviour.

Research carried out by NSPCC, Barnardo's and Sugar magazine - TBC	Extent of abuse in teenage relationships – importance of understanding the gendered nature and power relations that underly much DV.
--	--

### **Further topic areas:**

The above evidence programme is achievable in the time available for the review (Appendix 2). Further topic areas may emerge through evidence gathering, which could be the focus of more in depth study commissioned by the OSCC, if needed. These areas could include:

- support for victims with No Recourse for Public Funds
- support for victims in relation to prosecution
- substance misuse
- domestic violence affecting groups such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender; men as victims of DV; disabled victims; Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups

### **Resource Implications**

- Officer, partner and contributor time
- Costs for external speakers (TBC) and evidence gathering

### **Next steps**

>> Are members happy to agree the above evidence programme, and are there any suggestions for additional evidence that could be considered for inclusion?

>> Which members would like to attend a MARAC? Up to two per date (on 25<sup>th</sup> January this would be instead of attending the partner workshop)

>> Which members would like to visit a refuge? Dates TBC

## Appendix 1

### Task and Finish scope on Domestic Violence

Membership	<p>Lesley Clarke (Chairman)          Other Members to be confirmed.          Co-optees: One voluntary sector representative; one member invited from each District Council</p>
Officer contact	<p>Madeleine Thorpe (01296 382140)</p>
Background to the review and key areas to be addressed	<p>The Countywide Community Safety Partnership (Safer &amp; Stronger Board) is the partnership body with responsibility for co-ordinating crime and disorder reduction across the county. It has set one of its top three priorities as tackling domestic violence. The OSCC has statutory responsibility for scrutinising the work of the crime &amp; disorder partnership.</p> <p>The aim of the review is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Countywide Domestic Violence Strategy and its implementation with a view to identifying service gaps, making recommendations to strengthen co-ordination of services; ensure a joined-up commissioning approach; and identify any potential improvements to services and clarify resource needs.</p> <p>The review will cover all aspects of the Strategy; with a particular focus on co-ordination; prevention and early intervention. The review will build upon a self-assessment (audit commission toolkit) be completed by the BCC Community Safety Team.</p> <p>The key issues to address are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effectively are services and agencies working together to tackle domestic violence?</li> <li>• How effective are the commissioning arrangements to maximise value for money and ensure a joined-up approach across the county?</li> <li>• To what extent does the commissioning approach support a Big Society, community self-help approach?</li> <li>• To what extent do agencies work together to address the needs of the whole family, including children?</li> <li>• Are the current support services offered meeting the needs of survivors of domestic violence, and if not what are the service gaps?</li> <li>• Are services meeting the needs of different groups, including Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women; men; and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT), and are there any specific issues that need to be addressed?</li> <li>• How is honour-based violence being addressed within services/agencies and the local community and what further work needs to be done?</li> <li>• What is being done to challenge the cultural acceptance of domestic violence?</li> <li>• What “relationships education” do children receive in Buckinghamshire</li> </ul>

	<p>schools to educate about domestic violence and how can we ensure that this is ongoing in the new schools governance climate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent is BCC working with young people to reduce the risk of current and future violence relationships?</li> <li>• To what extent is domestic violence identified &amp; reported by practitioners and the public and what more could be done?</li> <li>• How effective is work to reduce repeat offending, and work with perpetrators?</li> <li>• What are the risks and opportunities in regard to changes in future funding arrangements?</li> </ul>
Anticipated outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good understanding of the range of impacts domestic violence has on people's lives</li> <li>• Identification of issues and need in Bucks and the opportunities and risks associated with gaps/projects at risk of closing</li> <li>• A report with recommendations to the County Council's Cabinet and Safer and Stronger Partnership Board to make improvements, including on the co-ordination and commissioning of services.</li> <li>• Specific actions identified to be included in the next Countywide Domestic Violence Strategy as a result of the scrutiny review.</li> <li>• A higher profile and ownership of domestic violence work across services within the Council and partners.</li> <li>• An insight into the experiences of service users.</li> </ul>
Link to Council Corporate Plan priority	<p><i>Priority – Helping the most vulnerable</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will support the most vulnerable to live safely, with dignity and respect</li> </ul>
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-assessment exercise</li> <li>• Written evidence</li> <li>• Oral evidence (Dec-Jan)</li> <li>• Visits to Women's Refuges</li> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• Use of existing survey data and analysis</li> <li>• Commissioning qualitative research (if needed)</li> <li>• Calling an End to Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2010</li> </ul>
Public Involvement	Tbc
Key background papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer Bucks Plan 2011/12</li> <li>• Countywide Domestic Violence Strategy 2009-2012</li> <li>• Thames Valley Domestic Violence Strategy</li> </ul>
Evidence to be provided by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Member for Community Engagement</li> <li>• Cabinet Member for Children's Services</li> <li>• Community Safety Team</li> <li>• Domestic and Community Violence Board (facilitated discussion at meeting)</li> <li>• Children &amp; Young People (Safeguarding)</li> <li>• Adult Social Care</li> <li>• Safeguarding in Education</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bucks Safeguarding Children's Board/Adults Board</li> <li>• Youth Offending Service</li> <li>• Thames Valley Police</li> <li>• Women's Aid (Wycombe; Aylesbury Vale)</li> <li>• Victim Support</li> <li>• RELATE</li> <li>• Fresh Start</li> <li>• Harmoni for Health</li> <li>• MK Act</li> <li>• Probation Service</li> <li>• PCT/GP Collaboratives</li> <li>• Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Crown Prosecution Service and Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS)</li> <li>• Other Local Authorities or VCS projects identified as beacons of good practice</li> <li>• Housing Associations/District Councils</li> </ul>
Equalities Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The review will include a focus on the extent to which domestic violence services are accessible and tailored to meet the needs of specific groups such as BME Women; men; and LGBT.</li> </ul>
Outline timetable	A detailed timetable will be agreed by the Task & Finish Group. It is expected that a first meeting will take place in November.
Reporting mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSCC – in the new Year</li> <li>• Cabinet – Spring 2012</li> </ul>

## **Appendix 2**

### **Dates for evidence meetings**

Five further dates for evidence gathering meetings have been set:

- Wednesday 7th December, 1pm - 3pm, Mezz 2, New County Offices, Aylesbury
- Wednesday 18th January, 1.30pm - 4pm, Mezz 1, New County Offices, Aylesbury
- Thursday 19th January, 10am - 12.30pm, Mezz 1, New County Offices, Aylesbury
- Wednesday 25th January, 10am - 1pm, Green Park, Aston Clinton. (This will be to take part in a joint partner workshop on developing the county's 2012-15 Domestic Violence Strategy. The exact timings may change.)
- Thursday 26th January, 2pm - 4.30pm, Mezz 3, New County Offices, Aylesbury

A wash up session will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> February for members to review the key findings from the evidence and consider their recommendations.