

Report to Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group

Review Evidence Programme

Date: 7 December 2011

Contact: Madeleine Thorpe, 01296 382140, mcthorpe@buckscc.gov.uk

Background

The evidence programme that follows is based on the agreed scope for the review, discussion at the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group on 21 November 2011 and background research.

Summary

Below is an outline of the evidence to be considered during the review.

>> Thursday 8th December: Aylesbury MARAC visit

Witness / evidence	Content
Visit to attend Aylesbury MARAC	<p>Two members of the Task and Finish Group will attend the Aylesbury Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference for high risk victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>A written report on the visit, including background research on MARACs in Buckinghamshire, will be considered by the full group at a later evidence meeting.</p>

>> Wednesday 18th January: BME Communities & Honour Based Violence

Witness / evidence	Content
Anjili, Asian Women's Worker at Wycombe Women's Aid	How victims can be encouraged to seek help. Helping communities to tackle barriers around DV.
Empowering BME victims of DV – practice elsewhere	Drawing on best practice in addressing Honour Based Violence – including Karma Nirvana, Al-Aman and Newham
HBV in Bucks	Feedback on additional meetings (see below)

Additional meetings

The following supplementary meetings are proposed to feed into the main evidence gathering meeting on Honour Based Violence. These meetings will be held in December.

Members	Meeting with	Topics for discussion
Julia Wassell	Sue Burke, Domestic Violence Coordinator	Asian Women's group
Peter Hudson &/ Noel Brown	Sue Burke, Domestic Violence Coordinator	Recent research on HBV in Chesham

>> Thursday 19th January: Work with communities on Domestic Violence

Witness / evidence	Content
Women's Aid	Outreach services and working within communities in Buckinghamshire
Domestic Violence Publicity	The work and effectiveness of the Buckinghamshire Domestic Violence Publicity Group
DV in rural communities	Drawing on wider research – Women's Institute study of DV in rural areas, best practice for rural victims.

>> Between 19th Jan and 6th Feb (expected): Refuge visit(s)

Witness / evidence	Content
Visit to refuge(s)	<p>A <u>small group</u> of members of the Task and Finish Group will meet refuge residents in Aylesbury / Wycombe to discuss the support available.</p> <p>A report on the visit(s) will be considered by the full Task and Finish Group at the wash-up meeting on 6th February.</p>

>> Wednesday 25th January: Workshop session at strategy partner event

Witness / evidence	Content
Partner agencies in Buckinghamshire	<p>Members will attend a partner strategy planning workshop for a session to explore how partners can support community based support services for domestic violence.</p> <p>A written report on the session will be considered at the wash-up meeting on 6th February.</p>

>>Thursday 26th January: Children and Young People; Housing

Witness / evidence	Content
Impact of DV on child development	Drawing on wider research and best practice.
CYP Commissioning / children's centres	Commissioning services to limit the impact of domestic violence on child development
School Improvement Service	Preventative work / universal DV education in schools
Martin Holt, Head of Health and Housing at Chiltern District Council	Support and services available to meet the housing needs of those affected by Domestic Violence. Supported by written evidence to be invited from all Districts.
Sanctuary scheme	Research on the national sanctuary scheme and summary of provision in Buckinghamshire

>> Additional evidence

Survey: Tackling Domestic Violence within Communities

A short survey is proposed to gather views of parish councils, district and county councillors. The survey will gather information about the level awareness of domestic violence and views on the role of respondents in providing support within their communities to those affected.

Draft questions are proposed in Appendix 1.

Next steps

Members are asked to provide any comments on the evidence programme set out above to Madeleine Thorpe (01296 382140; mcthorpe@buckscc.gov.uk)

Appendix 1

Draft questions to be included in online questionnaire for parish councils, district and county councillors.

1. Are you:
 - a) A parish councillor?
 - b) A parish clerk?
 - c) A district councillor?
 - d) A county councillor?

2. How aware do you feel of the extent of Domestic Violence in
 - a) Buckinghamshire? Very, Slightly, Not Very, Not at all, Don't know
 - b) The community you represent / where you work? Very, Slightly, Not Very, Not at all, Don't know

3. Do you know how many incidents of Domestic Violence were reported to Thames Valley Police in Buckinghamshire in 2010/11?
 - a) 2,000
 - b) 4,000
 - c) 6,000

(The answer is available at the end of the questionnaire.)

4. What is the estimated number of women actually affected by Domestic Violence in Buckinghamshire? (According to the Home Office ready reckoner tool, which is based on the female population, aged 16-59. This tool does not cover women older than 59, or men, so an estimate of the total number of people affected in Buckinghamshire would be higher.)
 - a) 6,500
 - b) 11,500
 - c) 16,500

(The answer is available at the end of the questionnaire.)

5. Have you received a presentation about Domestic Violence at your Local Area Forum (or equivalent) within the last few months?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Don't know

6. Is the community you represent
 - a) Rural?
 - b) Semi-rural?
 - c) Urban?

7. Do you consider that there is a role for local councillors to be able to offer support and sign-post those affected by Domestic Violence to the relevant services?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't know

8. Any other comments?

(If you would like a reply to a specific query, please include contact details)

Message on completion of questionnaire:

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire and contributing to the Scrutiny Review. Your answers will be treated anonymously. If you have provided contact details, these will only be used for the purpose of replying to your specific query.

The number of incidents of Domestic Violence reported to Thames Valley Police in 2010/11 was **6,044**.

The estimated number of women affected by Domestic Violence in Buckinghamshire, according to the Home Office ready reckoner tool, is **16,504**. This tool is based on the female population aged 16-59, so a figure for the total number of people affected in the county (including older women and men) would be higher.

Domestic Violence can affect anyone, male or female, from any background. It can include physical violence and also psychological, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. If you are affected by domestic violence, or worried about someone you know, contact the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline on 0808 2000 247. In an emergency, always call the police on 999.