

Domestic Violence Report

A Brief History

Prior to 2004 there had been very little strategic direction tackling Domestic Abuse. Intervention by individual agencies usually meant working in isolation. Protocols to tackle and work together on issues of domestic abuse were non-existent.

Data was non-existent until 2005. Figures revealed from the Police system a serious repeat victim/incident rate of 59%, 14% over the national average at the time.

A Common Risk Assessment was not being used, making situations very difficult with different agencies thresholds for intervention.

The Police did not have specialist units to deal with Domestic Violence, it was felt that Domestic Violence was everyone's responsibility within the Police which simply meant lack of ownership and specialism.

In 2005 a review was undertaken by City of York Safeguarding Children's board (Then known as the ACPC) looking at York specifically around services for victims of domestic abuse. The DVC (Domestic Violence Coordinator) was part of the review group and was responsible for carrying out focus groups with victims, children and practitioners in York.

Taken from the Common Cause executive summary available http://saferchildrenyork.org.uk/images/stories/common_cause_executive_summary.pdf

'The establishment of the role of Domestic Violence Coordinator in 2004 has proved invaluable in promoting the domestic abuse agenda across York and Selby agencies and in the development of interagency practice. The lead taken by the coordinator in, improving domestic abuse practice by the Police, the educational work with school children, the promotion of interagency working identifying and responding to high risk and persistent perpetrators, demonstrates what can be achieved when there is a commitment to promoting change'.

2007 – 2010 The DVC's followed the National Domestic Violence plan from the Home Office and the LGA's performance indicators NI32 and NI34.

2009-2013 DVC's are working locally to achieve the actions highlighted in the 2nd York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse strategy (Draft Plan attached)

What has been achieved?

- Quality Assured MARAC's (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) A forum for sharing information of Domestic Abuse cases based on a common risk assessment used by all agencies signed up to the process.
- SDVC (Specialist Domestic Violence Courts) Funding was applied for in 2007 by the DVC. The Home office/MOJ accepted our bid and the DVC commenced coordination. Our SDVC received accreditation along with Scarborough in 2008. York has been seen as best practice in how the court operates.
- Data is supplied on a monthly and quarterly basis from Police and the Local Specialist Service IDAS.
- IDVA's (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisers) Linked to the SDVC's above provide immediate help to victims following a victims complaint, The IDVA is involved through the whole Court process and is located in an office off Court 1 with separate victim access, the courts have to be commended on their commitment.
- Multi Agency Trained IDVA's , Our local Domestic Abuse service now have trained IDVA's to take referrals from court once the criminal proceeding have ended.
- Education – An education guidance booklet was created for schools, and a new draft has been sent to education for roll out in October.
- The York Domestic Abuse Forum has 54 members and is well attended by a variety of agencies.
- Making Safe scheme – The scheme originated in Scarborough and received a Butler Trust Award, it now operates across the County. The scheme is a victim

focussed initiative, primarily engaging the perpetrator and if required removing the perpetrator into temporary accommodation offering support on the five outcomes (Supporting People) ,Employment needs and life skills and addressing the offending behaviour.

- Handyman service – A service to secure victims homes has been funded for the last 8 years to ensure safety and protection to victims and their family.
- Respect Programme – A selection of professionals from York who work directly with young people who are starting to use violence at home, in relationships and with peers have received training to deliver a programme. Funding was granted by the Risk and Resilience network (Amanda Gaines)
- MARAC briefings via the York and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Boards is now a recognised rolling programme and delivered by the DVC.
- The DVC also trains with North Yorkshire Police training department, training specialist areas, student officers and custody staff.

A copy of the Draft Action Plan for this year is attached and includes future work.

Annexes

Annex A – Action Plan

Annex B – Co-ordinator work and outcomes

Annex C – Outreach referrals