

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy and Performance Board  
**DATE:** 15 January 2013  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities  
**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety  
**SUBJECT:** Domestic Abuse and Violence Prevention Programmes  
**WARDS:** All

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board with an awareness of the increasing acknowledgement that initiatives aimed at ending domestic abuse and violence also need to target and engage with men as the primary perpetrators of abusive behaviour.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION That members of the Board consider and comment on any aspect within this report.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The widespread nature of domestic abuse and violence calls for preventative approaches that aim to change attitudes, values and behavior at the level of the individual, the community and professional.

When one relationship ends most perpetrators have other relationships creating new adult and child victims. One of the most common requests from survivors is for someone to work with their partner, to help them change and keep them safe from further abuse.

Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes are well placed to assist agencies to fulfill their statutory duties by working with men who are applying for child contact as well as those who may be a danger to their children or to the child's mother.

- 3.2 Using Walby's\* cost calculator for domestic abuse in conjunction with the British Crime Survey Inter-personal Violence, the cost of domestic abuse has been estimated for Halton. The true cost is likely to be higher than these estimations, given the higher levels of deprivation in Halton

The costs provided in the table below, are based on the population figure of 70,080 which is the proportion of Halton residents currently recorded as between the ages of 16-59.

Overall Breakdown	£M	Overall Breakdown	
Services	£5,308,560	Services	25%
Economic Output	£2,548,109	Economic Outputs	12%
Human and Emotional Cost	£13,377,571	Human and Emotional Cost	63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£21,234,240</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The cost of domestic abuse per person living in Halton has been identified as **£303** (of the population aged between 16-59) including Human and Emotional Costs or **£112** when focusing solely on service and economic output costs.

The table below, using the BCS IPV research, demonstrates how the prevalence for Halton of Domestic Abuse victims was calculated. The BCS IPV suggests the level of Domestic Abuse by gender in a 12 month period for any domestic abuse as 3.9% for males and 6.3% for females. The estimate of likely prevalence of Domestic Abuse for Halton is **3,600** victims in a 12 month period.

Risk Category	Estimated Prevalence	Percentage Allocation
Standard	1116	31%
Medium	1512	42%
High	936	26%
Not stated	36	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>100%</b>

*\* Costs have been calculating from 'The Cost of Domestic Violence' 2008 Professor Silvia Walby.*

- 3.3 There are two types of Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes available, criminal justice programmes and community based programmes.

Criminal justice based programmes are run locally by probation; they take mandated referrals from the criminal courts as part of a sentence for conviction for a violent or abusive incident.

Community based programmes are usually run by a voluntary sector organisation or part of a voluntary/statutory sector partnership, they take self-referrals as well as referrals from Children's Services, from the family courts and a range of other services.

- 3.4 During the first three quarters of 2011-12 (Quarter four data not available), Cheshire Probation received 25 requirements for domestic abuse

offenders to attend the criminal justice mandatory Domestic Violence Prevention Programme; 27 offenders completed the programme and the average wait was two months.

- 3.5 Activities of a Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes include a range of services which are necessary in order to make sure that the programme is run as safely as possible and with the maximum possible chance of supporting change. These include: assessment; risk assessment and management; multi-agency working; group work with perpetrators; individual and group support for victims as well as advocacy for victims.

Unless communities engage directly with perpetrators, domestic abuse will not stop.

Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes are usually 26 weeks courses and can vary in size, number of clients, model of work and organisational setting. However, all programmes which are members of Respect are committed to delivering services in accordance with the Respect Accreditation Standard. They:

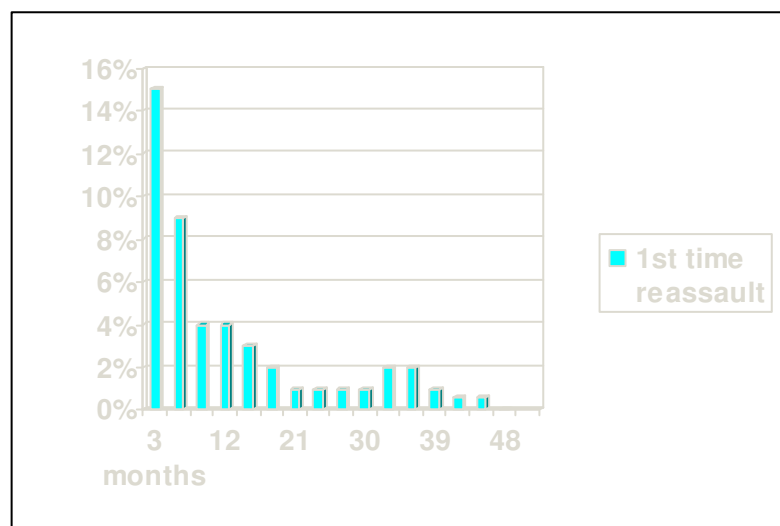
- Provide proactive partner contact for current, former and new partners of programme participants via a dedicated Integrated Support Service (ISS)
- Carry out risk assessments and case management to protect victims and children.
- Deliver group work programmes of sufficient length and quality to ensure the best possible opportunities for change.
- Take referrals from family courts, social services, health professionals, voluntary sector and perpetrators themselves.
- In addition, to direct client work, staff from the Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes and the ISS also works in partnership with other statutory and voluntary sector organisations as part of a coordinated community response.

Currently, almost all UK Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes are for male perpetrators who have female partners, reflecting the fact that the majority of domestic violence, particularly dangerous and on-going domestic violence, is perpetrated by men against women. However, many organisations offer individual sessions to female perpetrators who have male partners and for people in same sex relationships and the aim is to develop more specialist services as resources allow.

- 3.6 Research\* into the effectiveness of community based perpetrator programmes, based on established programmes that met accreditation conclude that Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes are an effective mechanism by which to facilitate change in perpetrator behavior and to increase the safety of victims compared to men who drop out of the

programme at an early stage.

- Men who are required to attend were more likely complete the programme and stop using violence.
- The majority of men were no longer using violence at four years after the programme and had not done so for at least a year.
- Men who completed the programme were more likely to stop using violence compared to men who had dropped out of the programme at an early stage.
- Whilst most men did use some violence again after starting the programme, almost all did so a very few times and the gaps between violence incidents grew wider.
- The majority of women said that they felt much safer and attributed this to the man's participation in the programme.
- The quality of life for the majority of women was much improved.
- The changes were made and sustained with the integration of the programmes to a coordinated community response to domestic abuse and violence.



\*Gondolf (2002) – Widely accepted as the most reliable study into the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes.

3.7 Halton when giving consideration to commissioning a domestic abuse and violence perpetrator programme must ensure that provision is robust and has a strong evidential basis. One such programme is the REPAIR programme delivered in Devon which has been comprehensively evaluated over a three year period. The programme incorporated a whole family intervention model. The programme cost £186,390 per year to run across three geographies. Had the families not been worked with the total cost to society would have been £345,280 meaning the net benefit to society would be £158,890\*. This programme was delivered through an Invest to Save model (ISB) and, although there were lessons learned, it yielded positive outcomes in relation to a significant reduction in men's

abusive behaviours, improvements in risk reduction and increasing self-esteem. The programme was most effective with men who completed both one to one work and group work. Women who received support through the programme reported a decline in abusive behaviour and an improvement in their well-being. Women reported how communication between workers with the men and themselves enhanced their sense of support and confidence in the programme. Young people supported through the programme experienced positive improvements in emotional literacy, improved relationships with mother and siblings, decreased anxiety, stress and anger and less disturbed sleep.

\*<http://www.devon.gov.uk/adva-repair-full-report.pdf>

- 3.8 Respect if the UK membership association for domestic abuse perpetrator programmes and associated support services suggest that for every £1 spent on perpetrator provision £10 will be saved.
- 3.9 The lack of Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes provision in Halton is well documented locally, as a significant gap in service provision.

If Halton is to have a measurable reduction in the impact of domestic abuse on victims and children, consideration must be given to providing an integrated, coordinated whole system approach with local domestic abuse provision that is equipped to support and empower victims; challenge the behaviour, values and attitudes of perpetrators and support them to make step change; as well as, provide recovery and behaviour change programmes for children and young people affected by domestic abuse and violence.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no policy implications contained within this report.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES**

##### **5.1 A Healthy Halton**

To remove barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health by working across partnership to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.

Examples:

1. Preventable cause of death
2. Preventable cause of infant mortality
3. Preventable cause of mental health
4. Preventable cases presenting at A & E

## 5.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Domestic abuse has a detrimental impact on employment. Among employed women who suffered domestic abuse in the last year 21% took time off work and a further 2% lost their jobs.

To maximise an individuals potential to increase and manage their income and mange their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services assisting victims to develop better financial management skills and to address debt through appropriate sign posting.

## 5.3 **Children and Young People in Halton**

Children and young people in Halton are emotionally, physically and sexually healthy and Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities. For example, ensuring homes are healthy safe environments through offering support to parents and providing access for aftercare support for victims of sexual violence whether a child or young person.

## 5.4 **A Safer Halton**

To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms. For example, through ensuring adult victims have access to protective and supportive measures reduces the level of domestic incidents and the subsequent impact on the environment with regards to crime and ASB.

## 6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Failure to provide a local intervention for perpetrators will result in the continuation of the current situation whereby, we to have no facility available for perpetrators that will assist them in changes their behaviour. Agencies have no other available options to them when attempting to work with perpetrators beyond the criminal justice Community Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme ran by Probation, when a criminal conviction is required in order to access the programme.

- Perpetrators will not be encourages to take responsibility for addressing their behaviour.
- Victims will continue to at risk of harm.
- The violence and abuse will continue to affect the wellbeing of our local children.

If we don't hold people using domestic violence accountable for their behaviour it distorts our response to DV and beyond.

## 7.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Preliminary costings have been sort and voluntary perpetrator programme

run to the same rigorous standards as the statutory programme, authenticated by Respect, the National Association for Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme if delivered in a local context for Halton residents would be a in the region of £80,000. Relate have suggested they could offer a service for 40 referrals per year, this is the minimum contract Relate would consider offering.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The service needs to give specific regard to generally under- represented groups such as:

- Those aged over 60 years
- Male victims
- Those aged 16-25 years
- Those from black, minority ethnic and refugee communities
- Those with no recourse to public funds
- Those identifying as disabled
- Those identifying as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender
- Those whose preferred language may not be English

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act