

## Minutes of 'Domestic Violence' Working Group Meeting

Held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 5.00 pm

Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

**Present:** Cllr John Stockton (Chair), Cllr Peter Murray, Howard Cockcroft – Operational Director Culture and Leisure Services, Steve Eastwood DAAT Co-ordinator, Sally Clarke Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, Lindsay Bowker Relationship Centre, Sally Carr Halton Youth Service, Cllr Geoffrey Swift, Inspector Simon Blackwell, Clare Myring, Cllr Ernie Ratcliffe, Janet Guy Culture and Leisure Services.

Item	Details	Action
1	<b>Apologies:</b> Alex Villiers Policy Officer, Cllr Marie Wright, Mike Andrews Community Safety Co-ordinator.	
2	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and matters arising.</b> LB – The Relationship Centre offers a support system via Comic Relief Funded Programme for 13-19 year olds. ER requested opportunity to refer to minutes at a later date. The Chair had requested more substantive research and tabled a summary document today of the national report on the cost of domestic abuse to society for the next meeting. HC The full document is 117 pages, if anyone wished to see please contact HC or Sally Clarke.	
3	<b>Budgets</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer Halton Partnership today approved budgets additional to Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) changing to Working Neighbourhood Funding (WNF) for 2008/09. HC explained Members concern over funding and called the meeting today. SE Current ongoing discussions with partners a draft action plan of how money will contribute to needs will be produced.</li> <li>• Chair thought the group should put forward a recommendation to Safer Halton PPB for 3 years funding so posts could expand and develop. SE mentioned PCT responsibility and to tap into mainstream service resources. The 4 priorities of the group agreed at previous meeting were:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding</li> <li>2. Sexual Violence</li> <li>3. Early stage preventative</li> <li>4. Service Delivery.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• HC suggested the topic brief understanding caused of Domestic Violence produced by Alex re-focus on these 4 priorities, and then invite relevant people to meetings. SE suggested looking at what we have, what we need and what steps do we take and invite key agencies. The Group agreed. SB sits on a Rape steering group, which shares good practice, to attend their next meeting and get guidance to feed back. SE will feed back anything relevant from Government Office. The group interested in preventative methods. Training is offered through Agencies to raise awareness and systems and help in place when people report abuse.</li> <li>• Chair asked the group to look at the national summary paper for the next meeting. Also for S Clarke/LB to provide the group with a Halton perspective on their work and forum over the last 2 years. SE mentioned the Strategic Needs Assessment would cover this.</li> <li>• CM spoke of engaging with young people, personal safety and supporting victims of ASB. Engage with parents and their children and look at early stages, preventative methods. Chair asked if there is any evidence of preventative methods working in schools? CM PSE days in schools looked at healthy relationships, police officers also go in to schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SE</b></p> <p><b>SE/HC</b></p> <p><b>SB</b></p> <p><b>ALL S Clarke/ LB</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LB; Comic Relief project goes into schools and would clarify details for next meeting.</li> <li>• SB; Setting up for Halton a run aways post later in the year, high numbers in Halton, to look at support services and interventions.</li> </ul>	<b>LB</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Draft Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence Topic brief paper</b>  Agreed brief in item 3 to look at what we have, what we need and what steps do we take.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 24-hour helpline for Domestic Abuse is available, Halton specific for general public or professionals, in all G.P's. ER suggested raising awareness through Area Forums. Publicity costs are £20,000, CM suggested use of community information pillars in the town centres.</li> <li>• CM It has been approved that Halton has a face the people session, hopefully with SHP Chairs on the panel, with people from the community in the next few months (to be publicised).</li> </ul>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b>  Tuesday 25<sup>TH</sup> March 1pm, venue to be confirmed.</p>	