

## Minutes of 'Domestic Abuse' Working Group Meeting

Held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 5 pm

**Halton Women's Centre, Castlefields, Runcorn**

**Present:** Cllr John Stockton (Chair), Cllr Geoffrey Swift, Cllr Sue Blackmore, Howard Cockcroft – Operational Director Culture and Leisure Services, Sally Clarke Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, Steve Eastwood DAAT Co-ordinator, Ally Hanbury Halton Youth Service, Lindsay Bowker and Heather Bromlow – The Relationship Centre, Janet Guy Culture and Leisure Services.

Item	Details	Action
1	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Inspector Simon Blackwell, Cllr Peter Murray, Clare Myring, Sally Carr, Alex Villiers. Chair welcomed the group and introductions were made.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March and matters arising</b> Minutes agreed as a true record. <u>Item 5</u> – Minutes to be amended to <u>Forced Rape Steering Group</u>.</p>	
3&4	<p><b>Budgets &amp; 3 year funding</b> HC had previously confirmed budgets for 2008/09 had been secured, but aware 2009/10 will be difficult. SE Suggested that other agencies need to spend money differently and have a part to play in providing access routes for victims. Further SC distributed a list which included the following (as requested at last meeting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sustainable mainstream funding to commission 3-year contracts.</li> <li>➤ A one-stop shop to support service/family safety unit for Halton.</li> <li>➤ Commitment of agencies resources and/or services (health/housing/police) to support schemes on an invest to save basis.</li> <li>➤ Two full time ISVAs/IDVAs for Halton (£60,000).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SE has submitted a 3-year bid to Working Neighbourhood Funds (WNF) for £80,000 per year based on provision of a one-stop shop based in Grosvenor House, Runcorn. This would provide a central location with public access via Halton Direct Link, close to the Court and Police Station with a number of services under one roof. Rent in Grosvenor is expensive, but the site would enable a set up straight away for operational services involved sharing costs. Hoping to have decision in May.</li> <li>• The group discussed the cost effectiveness of this approach through savings across the health service/housing/police at the moment, currently £23 billion a year nationally in England and Wales. AH asked if the proposal involved out of hours access. SE confirmed at present no high street services at the moment, currently have a 24-hour 0800 number, answered by Relationship Centre during office hours and staffed by HBC out of hours.</li> <li>• Chair summarised the bid involved an interface for the public, with all operational staff in the same building, supporting staff re-directing resources. Chair asked for the list of potential staff/agencies for the next meeting. If 3-year WNF bid successful, additional figures would be for the two full time ISVAs/IDVAs of £60,000 (including on costs) per year and Domestic Abuse (DA) Co-ordinator post only funded for 12 months at a cost of £36,400 (inc on costs). DA Co-ordinator post is currently funded year on year from Home Office funding. To have this post is one of the BVPI's. The group agree and support the need for the post to be made permanent.</li> </ul> <p>Next step to approach potential agencies, then any recommendations from the group would go to the Safer Halton PPB.</p>	<b>SE</b>
5	<p><b>Domestic Abuse Forum Action Plan</b> Domestic Abuse Action Plan discussed at the last meeting (4 priorities), then looking to be formally adopted. The Action Plan has been to through the Strategy</p>	

	Group, and no comments have been received. This group also supports.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Any other business</b> AH; Youth Service work involves prevention, ensuring on agenda and for out of hours accessibility to be given consideration.	
<b>7</b>	<b>Date and time of next meeting</b> Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 5.00pm at the Women's Centre.	