

Minutes of 'Domestic Violence' Working Group Meeting

Held on Tuesday 12th February 2008 at 1.25 pm

Committee Room 1, 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, Alex Villiers Policy Officer, Lindsay Bowker Relationship Centre, Sally Carr Halton Youth Service, Janet Guy Culture and Leisure Services.

Item	Details	Action
1	Apologies: Cllr Geoffrey Swift, Cllr Marie Wright, Clare Myring, Cllr Sue Edge, Cllr Shaun Osborne, Cllr Martha Lloyd Jones, Cllr Ernie Ratcliffe	
2	<p>Overview of current situation – Steve Eastwood</p> <p>Chair welcomed the group to their first meeting and introduced Lindsay Bowker from the Relationship Centre. HC mentioned the Chair of the Safer Halton Partnership PPB had requested the group meet.</p> <p>SE; Halton had money from the Home Office a couple of years ago to be a pilot area, from supporting victims, arrest through to appearing in court. Three main areas: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) No core funding, currently Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), for 2008/09 Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) which has up to 20% cut. Hard to attract people into a post when claiming from various Funders, annually. A draft Needs Assessment Impact paper was distributed to the group, final version available in a few weeks. Will be linking in to LAA process, targets preventing homelessness, getting people into work. ii) Court outcomes and support have improved through commissioning the Relationship Centre to engage with victims to support and advise. Also through agencies working together for a better outcome through the court process. iii) Sexual violence, services not developed. Victims won't come forward; need more information to be accessible. Need to try and prevent domestic abuse and look at options, unable to due to capacity of services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Halton currently less than 5 people delivering. The group asked SE for figures specific to Halton. Police do have an obligation to report; in the past an incident would not always be recorded due to the victim not wanting to take any further action afterwards. A multi-agency operational one-stop shop, where advice is available from a social worker, midwife, to the police with one contact phone number, might be a way forward. • S Clarke; Halton has high risk victims, reports to police have exceeded LPSA targets, so far 703 calls received for quarter 3, in 2006/07 2157 calls received, for 2007/08 2132 calls to date. Women's Aid Refuge in Lugsdale Road, Widnes offers 16 beds, constantly full also 100's of outreach clients, difficult for Runcorn women to access. • LB; Children and Vulnerable Adults (CAVA) figures and referrals from the Police and Health are passed to Lindsay who works with social services to support victims and children, very rare children are taken away. Sanctuary measures cover housing, safe rooms, CCTV, lighting and additional locks. Counselling is offered. The Relationship Centre offers a support system via Comic Relief Funded Programme for 13-19 year olds. Support client through court cases offer video link, screening or separate courts from perpetrator. The Relationship Centre is currently funded till March 08, dealt with 500 clients this year. • S Carr; Halton Youth Service offer a lot of preventative and intervention work with 11-19 years olds in the borough. Promote Anti-Social Behaviour and challenge young people to be more pro social behaviour and responsible. 	SE

	<p>Worked in Ditton for 6 months, now currently in Halton Lodge. Lot of positive curriculum work risks including rights as young people and encourage people to talk. Two Advice and Information Centres within Connexions in Runcorn and Widnes. If a young person has a 'cause for concern', report raised with Senior Manager Team. 12,000 CD-roms go out to young people via secondary and special schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AV suggested analysis, so the group can demonstrate and build a case for funding with more evidence. Chair agreed more substantive research needed. AV to produce a topic brief paper. • S Clarke; Nationally for example a rape by an ex-partner costs £76,000 per person (from Police, Health to CPS) £23 billion a year in England and Wales. A sanctuary scheme of £700-£800 secures a property and support without having to re-house, change schools for children and stay in community. <p>The Chair and group agreed the following four priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Funding 2) Sexual Violence 3) Early stage preventative 4) Service Delivery <p>HC to find out how much percentage reduction of current budget is (up to 20%). S Clarke would like to commission a contract for 3 years, currently contract the Relationship Centre for a year for £43,000.</p>	<p>S Clarke /LB AV</p> <p>HC</p>
3	<p>Any other business None.</p>	
4	<p>Date and time of next meeting Tuesday 19th February at 5pm, venue to be confirmed.</p>	