

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 20th January 2015

Progress Report to the Children's Trust Board about the Domestic Abuse Strategy

1.0 Background

1.1 The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) Executive resolved at its meeting in May 2014 to establish a Domestic Abuse committee. It was suggested that this should be a children's and adults committee and this was subsequently approved by the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB).

1.2 The rationale for establishing a committee was to create one body with strategic oversight for a strategy to tackle domestic abuse in all its form. Such a body did not exist in Wirral and whilst much excellent work was being undertaken to combat domestic abuse there was no borough wide co-ordination of activity. Developing a strategy to tackle domestic abuse was included in the WSCB 2014-15 Business Plan as one of the seven priority areas of work.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The Domestic Abuse committee met for the first time in August 2014 as a joint children's and adults committee and developed and published a terms of reference (attached as Appendix One). Jill Barr from the Family Safety Unit was elected as Chair of the committee.

2.2 The committee identified three major work streams for the committee to focus on:

- Development and publication of a Neglect Strategy
- Revision and publication of a Children's and Adults Domestic Abuse protocol and practice guidance
- Review of current Domestic Abuse training and publication of a revised suite of training

2.3 Three task and finish groups were established to pursue the three work streams as each one was a substantial piece of work. The committee set itself the original timescale of completing each work stream by the end of winter 2014-15 and publishing the strategy, protocol & practice guidance, and training at the WSCB and SAPB meetings in March 2015.

2.4 The purpose of this report is to update the Children's Trust Board about progress which has been made on the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

3.0 Domestic Abuse Strategy

3.1 The Strategy task and finish group first met in September 2014 and has also since met in November 2014. A draft Strategy document was presented to the Domestic Abuse group in December and is currently undergoing final revisions. The intention is to publish the final strategy in March 2015.

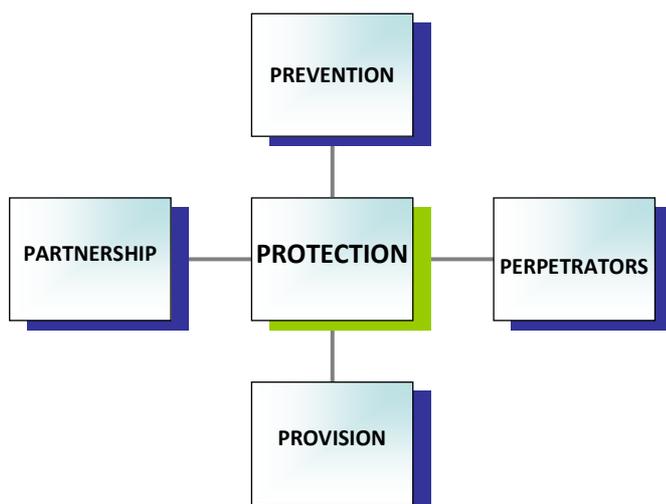
3.2 There are six main aims of the Strategy published in the draft document (attached as Appendix Two):

- ensure domestic abuse is a strategic priority for everyone in Wirral
- improve early identification and prevention of all forms of domestic abuse through high quality training
- develop multi agency understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on children and adults
- change the acceptance of domestic abuse
- ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their children are adequately protected and supported
- hold perpetrators accountable through effective and early interventions

3.3 The Strategy includes several sections of information including:

- Wirral's vision to break the cycle of domestic abuse (in all its forms)
- Key national and local statistics and indicators
- The start of a Wirral local needs analysis (which ultimately will lead to a report for the JSNA)
- A directory of the key services for Domestic Abuse
- Success stories provided by the FSU
- Planning for a performance management framework – reporting for domestic abuse.

3.4 The Strategy has developed a vision for Wirral based upon the priorities identified in the Government's ***Violence against Women and Girls Action Plan***. These have been presented for Wirral as the 5 P's which are shown in the diagram below:



3.5 To achieve a coordinated approach for the 5 P's the strategy includes a delivery action plan which is RAG rated. Each of the P's has been translated into specific actions and a lead person(s) has been identified for each. Progress against the delivery plan is presented at each Domestic Abuse meeting.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 As stated earlier in the report the strategy is one of three work streams that are currently underway by the Domestic Abuse committee. Work is continuing in all aspects with the intention to complete the strategy, procedure and revision of training by March 2015. At that point the intention would be to bring a further report to the Children's Trust.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 The Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report.

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Appendix One – Domestic Abuse Committee Terms of Reference

6.2 Appendix Two – Draft Domestic Abuse Strategy

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