

Committee: Safer City Partnership	Dated: 6 June 2016
Subject: Domestic Abuse Forum quarterly report	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services Report Author: Chris Pelham - Director of People, Department of Children & Community Services	For Information

Summary

This report details the quarterly update of the activities of the Domestic Abuse Forum in delivering the two-year Domestic Abuse Strategic Action Plan.

Main Report

Consultations

1. In-line with the two-year action plan for the Forum, the Domestic Abuse Forum (DAF) is conducting two consultations.
2. Firstly, a consultation is currently underway on the name of the Domestic Abuse Forum. The current role of the Domestic Abuse Forum is to oversee the delivery of the action plan which details the Corporation's strategic and operational response to domestic abuse.
3. To bring greater clarity to the role of the Forum, a suggestion to move from its current name which focuses on one aspect of its work to a more encompassing name was identified in the City of London Domestic Abuse Review in 2014.
4. Awareness of the DAF, and its work, has been increasing in the City and neighbouring boroughs and the need to maintain this would give strong reasoning for having a launch of the new name with appropriate communications.
5. The Domestic Abuse Forum is governed by the Safer City Partnership and updates the committee through this report. Additionally, the report goes to the City & Hackney Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards, respectively, as well as the City Health & Wellbeing Board.
6. Changing the name will mean the Forum have the potential to include the strategic response to other forms of violence against the person and Ending Harmful Practice.

7. Research has been conducted with other Fora who work in this field to see what names exist. The table below shows examples of names in other areas of the UK:

Area	Name of Forum
Brighton	Violence Against Women & Girls Forum
Northamptonshire	Interpersonal Violence Forum
Cardiff	Domestic & Sexual Violence Forum
Dudley	Domestic Abuse Strategic Group
London Borough of Havering	Domestic Violence Forum
London Borough of Southwark	Southwark Violence Against Women and Girls Forum

8. Members of the Forum have been asked two questions:
- Do you think the name of the Forum needs to change?
 - What do you think the name of the Forum could be (you may have more than one suggestion) and why is that the right name?
9. The consultation deadline is 28 May and the responses will be discussed at the Forum meeting on 16 June 2016.
10. There is likely to be a development to the strategic remit of the Forum to include other crimes against the person – notably stalking, sexual violence and exploitation and Ending Harmful Practice (Female Genital Mutilation, Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage). The action plan and terms of reference for the group will be updated accordingly.
11. The Corporation currently has policies in place for some of these crimes, notably Female Genital Mutilation and Child Sexual Exploitation.
12. The second consultation is on the City of London Violence Against Women and Girl's Strategy. This policy will be an overarching policy and will focus on areas violence wider than domestic abuse including sexual violence, sexual exploitation and Ending Harmful Practice.
13. From this strategy, all future actions plans will be written to how we support people who have experienced interpersonal violence, abuse or exploitation.
14. The Domestic Abuse Forum will continue to be responsible for the delivery of this action plan.
15. Although the policy will be titled 'Violence Against Women and Girls' the policy will be fully inclusive of men and boys.

City of London Domestic Abuse Profile

16. At the last Domestic Abuse Forum, the City of London Police Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) introduced the current City of London Domestic Abuse Profile and detail how high risk victims are managed, how information is gathered and outcomes reviewed.
17. Having a holistic understanding and awareness of people's experiences of domestic abuse is important, whether they report the incident to the police or not. Currently we only have statistical evidence of those incidents that are reported to the police and referrals to social care that have domestic abuse as a risk factor.
18. The members of the Forum talked about ways in which we could gather information from a variety of services and did a workshop to understand what could be measured and how we can get this information.
19. Members of the Forum concluded they had a role to play in providing this intelligence and signed up to supporting a holistic profile. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator will be meeting with the FIB to look at the next steps for this piece of work and will update the SCP shortly.

MARAC update

20. There has been 1 MARAC case since the March SCP. This was a case that had already been to MARAC, referred by Adult Social Care who are the case owners. The Public Protection Team and the Vulnerable Victim Advocate are working to support the victim and actions have been identified for the perpetrator.

Commissioning

21. The application for continued funding for the role of the Vulnerable Victim Advocate to support high risk victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime has been successful for another year.
22. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator and the head of the Public Protection Unit will monitor the progress of this role and support the VVA to engage with all service providers in the City who may come into contact with members of the public or City workers.

DIY injunction training

23. In partnership with Hackney Council, the City of London have been successful in a bid to the Department of Communities & Local Government to deliver training for staff working with people experiencing domestic abuse in how to apply for a 'Do it yourself' injunction. For victims who are in employment or not eligible for Legal Aid, an injunction to protect themselves (and their children) from an abusive perpetrator can cost thousands of pounds. A DIY injunction costs £110.

24. Rights of Women have been commissioned to deliver the training, which will run from May 2016 to March 2017. The training will focus on legal remedies to domestic abuse and supporting victims to get DIY injunctions.
25. The training is open to all Corporation (and Hackney Council) staff and commissioned services. Use of civil remedies (occupation orders and non-molestation orders) can be overlooked, however with this training staff can support victims (and their children) to remain in their home and keep a perpetrator (and their family and friends) away. This will compliment police protection measures and support those who do not wish to engage with the police.

Engagement subgroup

26. The DAF engagement subgroup have met twice and developed their work streams for getting information to residents and workers.
27. Engagement with City businesses will come from focusing on one City business to develop a blueprint for how to deliver key messages and embed the knowledge within an organisations culture and policy.
28. The package that could be delivered to a City Business would consist of:
- An presentation to managers on local services/half day workshop
 - HR Policy workshop
 - Training and establishing domestic abuse champions
 - Supporting the development of an internal campaign
29. Whilst this is under development, we will run a poster campaign and an online campaign for residents and workers to learn more about services in the City.

Domestic Homicide Review

30. In November 2015, the Chair of the SCP decided a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) would be undertaken to understand if there are any lessons the Safer City Partnership can learn from the tragic death of a Corporation of London employee and City resident.
31. At the last DHR Panel, those attending reviewed the Individual Management Reviews (IMRs) from agencies who were involved and discussed the timescales for completion.
32. There are two outstanding IMRs that need to be submitted to the Panel and so the next meeting will be in June. At this same meeting the Panel will review the draft Overview Report from the Chair of the Panel.

33. The final report will be reviewed in the July Panel along with the action plan for taking the learning forwards.

34. The Action plan will be the responsibility of the Community Safety Team. A formal report will be presented to the Safer City Partnership in September.

For more information on any matters in this paper contact:

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