

Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	24 September 2015
Subject: City of London Domestic Abuse Quarterly Report	Public
Report of: Assistant Director of People, Department of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Summary	
<p>The attached Report relates to the first of the quarterly reports from the Domestic Abuse Forum to the Safer City Partnership. The report details the activities and work since June 2015 of the Corporation's response to domestic abuse in the City.</p>	
Recommendation:	
Partnership Members are asked to note the report.	

City of London Domestic Abuse Forum quarterly report

1. The City of London Domestic Abuse Forum is held quarterly and is Chaired by the Assistant Director of Children and Community Services and facilitated by the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator from the Community Safety Team.
2. In 2014, the Department for Children & Communities commissioned a systematic review of domestic abuse in the City of London, incorporating the views of 39 individuals from across 17 organisations.
3. The review concluded there was a clear commitment by statutory and community and voluntary sector partners to do more to respond to domestic abuse for those who live, work and study in the City.

Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator

4. The City of London has established a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator in line with a key recommendation from the 2014 City of London Domestic Abuse Review.
5. The role of the co-ordinator will be to maintain a foundation of good awareness, providing a consistent response from frontline workers and a clear understanding strategically in our partnerships.
6. Fostering healthy partnership working and being clear on actions will help local practice respond to needs internally within the Corporation and externally, within those communities we currently engage very well with and those currently under-represented.

7. To achieve this, a two-year plan has been created in consultation with external service domestic abuse service providers. The plan has been reviewed and scrutinised with partner expertise included to create a robust mechanism for the delivery of actions.
8. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator will divide his time between this role and his role as a Community Safety Officer and be based in the Community safety Team. He will work with the Chair of the Domestic Abuse Forum to take responsibility for co-ordinating the action plan to improve the City's response to domestic abuse.
9. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator will provide a strategic single point of contact, internally and externally, for all subjects associated with Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), to co-ordinate the Corporation's response.

Domestic Abuse Strategic Action Plan

10. The Domestic Abuse Review by Nicole Vincent systematically scrutinised a range of areas such as staff training, commissioning, external engagement and levels of awareness and knowledge of Corporation and partners working in the Safer City Partnership.
11. Over eighty recommendations were given as a result. These have formed the basis of the City of London Domestic Abuse Strategic Action Plan.
12. In addition, SafeLives (formerly CAADA) carried out an assessment of the City of London MARAC in April 2015 and documented areas of development. These actions have been incorporated. The overall aim is to strengthen our internal mechanisms (for prevention, response and care) and external presence.
13. Other key priorities will be decided at the Domestic Abuse Forum in September. These will be delivered via subgroups who will report into the Forum. Probable subgroups include 'training', 'commissioning', 'MARAC development' and 'External engagement and awareness raising'.
14. The Forum has established governance through a quarterly report to the Safer City Partnership. This report will also be made available to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Boards for children and adults, in addition to the City Health & Wellbeing Board.

Membership review

15. The membership changed to include more external partners to help increase referrals to services and foster closer working relationships between external partners and the Corporation. A review of victim service pathways between providers and the Corporation is a priority.
16. The new members of the Forum are:
 - City Gateway
 - St Mungos Broadway
 - Latin American Women's Right's Service (LAWRS)
 - IMECE Women's Centre
 - Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)

- Nia (Iris Project)
- East London Rape Crisis

17. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator has met with each new member of the Forum to provide an update on where we are at and how we are looking to progress our action plan.

18. Meeting with partners provided a welcomed opportunity to understand how each service works internally, and with partners, and for the Co-ordinator to be aware of local issues of concern from front line services.

19. These issues have been valuable in strengthening the direction and priorities of the two year action plan

Referral pathways

20. One of the key recommendations from engagement with local services focused on having clear referral pathways between services for people experiencing domestic abuse, and their children.

21. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator will organise a meeting with all victim services in the City to map referral pathways. This will be reported to frontline services in the statutory and voluntary sector and will be used in training front line service providers to deliver a consistent response to domestic abuse.

22. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator will give a presentation detailing how frontline support services engage with each other to support people experiencing domestic abuse in the December DAF.

DAF Subgroups

23. Subgroups will be developed as 'task and finish' groups for the Forum. They will be made up of members of the Forum with the opportunity to invite other experts to help deliver key pieces of work outlined in the DAF action plan.

The following subgroups will be developed:

- Commissioning (having a therapeutic response to victims, children witnessing domestic abuse and people who perpetrate domestic abuse)
- Training (designed to deliver a consistent response to risk assessment, safety planning, referral to services and give staff the confidence to provide this service)
- Engagement and awareness raising (focus on external engagement on what different communities in the City experience and how we best provide support, including BAME communities, children and young people, older people, rough sleepers, etc)
- MARAC development (using recommendations from the SafeLives assessment in April 2015 an action plan has been developed to deliver a consistent response, including training for members and focused discussions on actions for children and for perpetrators)

24. Each of these will have an Action Plan managed by the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator. They will report back to the Forum on a quarterly basis and will be included in the quarterly report to the Safer City Partnership (and deliver information to the Safeguarding Boards and Health & Wellbeing Board).

MARAC update

25. In line with the MARAC action plan, the MARAC protocol has been reviewed by the Chair and Co-ordinator. Focus was given to:

- Emphasising that the DASH risk assessment is a guideline for making a MARAC referral and that repeat incidents, professional judgement and escalation can, additionally, all be signifiers of high risk domestic abuse.
- MARAC induction for all new members so they understand the importance the mechanics and how this links with risk.
- Timeframes for completing actions, with governance on escalation for non-completion of assigned actions

26. The administration templates for MARAC were also re-designed, making it clear discussions relating to victims, children and perpetrators.

27. The MARAC referral form now has space for concerns about children, impacts and any action taken prior to the MARAC referral. It also has space for identifying if the perpetrator works with vulnerable people or is a risk to others they reside with.

28. The MARAC research form will now have added information to be checked by all agencies relating to other people who reside at the address of the perpetrator(s) and the victim(s).

29. Action planning in the MARAC minutes has been redesigned to clearly detail risk identified, and actions, for victims and children as well as action for perpetrators.

Calendar of events

30. *Hotel Toolkit Launch* – On 13 August, the Hotel Toolkit was launched to the 26 hotels in the City of London. The Toolkit was created by the Community Safety Team for the Safer City Partnership in collaboration with City of London Police.

31. It details the response hotel managers and staff should take when faced with a range of crime types, from theft and fraud to child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. Written in easy to understand language, it uses simple pathways to help staff to offer care to someone experiencing crime.

32. The Public Protection Unit will be carrying out training with hotels on 22nd September on using the toolkit. This will link in with CSE work carried out earlier in the year, making the hotels aware of Operation MakeSafe.

33. *Behind Closed Doors* - On 27 October 2015, Behind Closed Doors will take place. Using a similar format to last year's successful event, City businesses and services will be able to learn more about domestic abuse and stalking from a

range of personal and professional experiences. Additionally, attendees will experience an impactful theatre production from Alter Ego, called 'Working it out' about a domestic abuse experience centred on the workplace.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) policy

34. Corporation Policy Officer, Poppy Middlemiss, carried out an FGM needs assessment, using a range of information sources including the Standard Operating Protocol provided by the City of London Public Protection Unit.
35. Earlier in the year, the Public Protection Unit trained front line police officers and staff on FGM, how to respond and support women and girls who have experienced it. This was complimented by an awareness-raising campaign in communities and businesses.
36. FGM is on the agenda of the City of London Children Looked After and Care Leavers Improvement Group. The Corporation is also working with Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Islington to set up a protocol to offer consistent support and guidance.
37. The Partnership for Ending Harmful Practice is offering free half-day training covering FGM as well as awareness on other harmful practice.
38. The partnership is made up of:
 - Asian Women's Resource Centre
 - IMECE Women's Centre
 - Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights (IKWRO)
 - Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)
 - Women & Girls Network (WGN)
 - Southall Black Sisters Trust
 - FORWARD
 - Ashiana Network
39. Robin will be sending out more information on this to partners and organising training for staff.
40. For more information, please contact Robin Newman, City of London Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator & Community Safety Officer, on Robin.Newman@cityoflondon.gov.uk