

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:

13.9.12

Report of:

Integrated Safeguarding Unit/Domestic Abuse

Subject/Title:

Whole Family Approaches to domestic abuse – developing and commissioning an integrated service

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Rachel Bailey

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This is the second report to the Committee and was occasioned by the Committee's robust engagement with the recommendations of the first report in June:

That Councillors promote a strategic cross-cutting and multi-agency approach which encourages partnerships, partner agencies and communities to:

- prioritise the issue in their strategies, action planning and performance management*
- commit long term resources in a collaborative way which maximises contributions including those of local communities*
- address the cause as well as the symptoms of domestic abuse by taking a 'whole family' early intervention approach which provides both challenge and support to those who abuse*

In addition to receiving the report Councillors requested that:

- (a) the Committee recommend to Council that funding for the provision of support to perpetrators of domestic violence to provided
- (b) The Committee the Domestic Abuse Manager be requested to return to a future meeting of the Committee with proposals for funding to deal with perpetrator behaviour.
- (c) That the Committee recommend to Council and its partners that the funding of the Domestic Abuse Partnership be budgeted for three years in the next budget to provide stability and increase confidence in the continuity of the work carried by the Partnership.

This report addresses the 3 related matters above.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee continues to scrutinise and support the Commissioning work being undertaken through the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Partnership, Safer Cheshire East Partnership and Adult and Children's Safeguarding Boards by:

- attendance at stakeholder engagement events where possible
- receiving the final Commissioning Strategy in early 2013
- ensuring that the priorities of the Commissioning Strategy inform related strategies and services of which they have oversight

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

The work to re-design and re-commission is underway and is being led by Lucia Scally (Commissioning Manager) and Kate Rose (Integrated Safeguarding Unit Manager) with the support of the Domestic Abuse Manager.

Over the summer the attached Paper was approved by all related boards. This sets out intentions and timetable for a Commissioning Strategy to be in place by April 2013 allowing one year for a tender to be released and a service model to be secured.



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The Commissioning Strategy will take account of changes to commissioning and service delivery that are already underway, notably:

- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- (forthcoming) Office of the Police Commissioner
- Engagement of Integrated Offender Management services, Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Services in responding to non-statutory offenders
- Development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which is a multi-disciplinary whole family approach to assessment and allocation of incoming cases. This is happening incrementally through the work of the Integrated Safeguarding Unit at Dalton
- 'Troubled Family' (payment by results/government front loaded) interventions
- Pilot 'whole family' work in the voluntary sector
- Expansion of Probation Service interventions to non-statutory offenders
- Effectiveness of models of delivery in the region and other parts of the UK

It is not yet possible to put an exact cost to the perpetrator provision element of the strategy as such provision will form part of a whole family model and not stand alone as a separate service. We are hopeful that elements of this provision will be resourced through changes to existing job roles or by secondment and therefore not incur additional cost but the following are the range of costs in other local authority areas varies from £70k to £150k p.a. depending on the scale of the model being implemented.

While we work towards a fully costed model we will incur the following costs in this financial year:

- Developing and implementing a training programme on good practice in responding to perpetrators for frontline staff and their managers (£10k)
- Stakeholder engagement events (£1k)
- Publicity directed towards perpetrators (£1k)

It should also be noted that:

- The Council has already sought to consolidate all the elements of its contribution to high risk domestic interventions (Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit) by moving these to Base Budget
- The Council is encouraging partners similarly to commit longer term funding

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All – but a higher rate of domestic abuse in Crewe and Macclesfield

Concern was also expressed at the previous meeting regarding refuge provision in Macclesfield. The commissioned provider 'Barnardo's' is working with the commissioner in Supporting People to secure a designated building and to make the changes necessary to provide safe and accessible accommodation for families in need.

In the meantime we are not aware of any Cheshire East service users who have been unable to secure refuge provision.

There are no amendments to Sections 5 to 10 of the First Report.

11.0 Access to Information

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