

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

HWB – 11/02/2020

CSP – 16/12/2020

Safeguarding Executive – 08/01/2020

**TITLE: TELFORD & WREKIN DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2019-2021 –
PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORT OF: LIZ NOAKES - DIRECTOR HEALTH, WELLBEING &
COMMISSIONING**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RICHARD OVERTON
CABINET CHAMPTION AND HWB MEMBER – CLLR RAE EVANS**

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

This report updates the Health & Wellbeing Board on the progress being made towards implementation of the Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-2021. The strategy, approved by the Cabinet in December 2018, aims to: raise awareness, identify, prevent, and better support victims of domestic abuse and their children. At the same time - investigating and prosecuting, but also supporting perpetrators to break the cycle of abuse, is also considered as important.

The Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Subgroup works to develop and deliver the action plan to address the safeguarding issues and challenges defined by the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership Executive and Community Safety Partnership. The group works to the [government's cross-party definition of domestic abuse](#)ⁱ, including honour based violence (HBV), forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). The objectives of the strategy are:

1. To review and develop specialist services and support and implement comprehensive multi-agency pathways, for both victims and perpetrators and children and young people affected by domestic abuse
2. To use intelligence to inform service provision and raising awareness campaigns
3. To develop practitioners' knowledge on the dynamics of domestic abuse within the whole family and provide them with the appropriate training and resources to support the family
4. To increase awareness in the community of domestic abuse and how to seek support
5. To review current policies and procedures associated with FGM, HBV and Forced Marriage within the community and across the professional workforce. (OFSTED Recommendation)
6. To embed learning form Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

Significant developments have taken place during 2019, full details are included in Appendix I, but highlights of progress against objective 1, the key priority of the strategy, are as follows:

- Citizens Advice (CA) have been commissioned as the specialist provider for the Telford & Wrekin Council Community Grant Fund. CA will build community capacity to deliver support locally for victims, including the community ambassador programme. CA will provide advice and guidance to community groups applying for funding, which opens in January 2020.
- A Family & Perpetrator programme has been scoped and this will be commissioned during 2020 once funding is fully identified.
- A bid has been submitted to the MHCLG 2020-2021 Fund for Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse, and their Children, within Safe-Accommodation, linked to the prospective Domestic Abuse Bill.
- The Council’s Strengthening Families Team Domestic Abuse Support Programme offer, which includes Freedom and Me, My Child & Domestic Abuse programmes continues to expand.
- A West Mercia Women’s Aid Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is now in post and working at Princess Royal Hospital 4 days a week.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The HWB is requested to endorse the progress being made in implementing the Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-2021.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and support our most vulnerable children and adults • Put our children and young people first • Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained • Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT (Cont.)	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	The domestic abuse action plan is being regularly updated and implementation will continue to be monitored and reported over the lifetime of the strategy until March 2021.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>Through its budget strategy, Telford & Wrekin Council continues to invest in protecting the most vulnerable people in its community which includes those who are victims of domestic abuse. An element of funding has been identified to support the Family and Perpetrator Programme pilot.</p> <p>The Council was selected to participate in the Government's Strengthening Families programme (Hertfordshire model) which is investing £84 million over 5 years to support up to 20 local authorities to improve work with families. The aim is to holistically meet the needs of families with key professionals as part of one team including specialists in domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health</p> <p>The Council also provides a number of support programmes both to groups and one to one, including the Freedom Programme, through its Early Help practitioners.</p>
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	<p>The White Ribbon Campaign is supported by the Council within existing resources and through a grant paid by the Police and Crime Commissioner of £2,500.</p> <p>In January 2020, the Council submitted a bid to the MCHLG Safe Accommodation, Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse Fund, for £97.9k for one year.</p>

FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT (Cont.)		<p>The MHCLG funding would be used to improve the following elements of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe accommodation support, in our current refuge provision • Specialist community support linking to the Sanctuary Project • Trauma informed therapy with Willowdene <p>Successful bids are expected to be announced in March 2020.</p> <p>Any additional services identified as being required as the action plan is implemented will need to be considered within the partners existing resources. If additional funding is required, this will need to be discussed amongst partners and a request made through the relevant governance arrangements of each organisation.</p> <p>TS/PH – 04/02/2020</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	No	<p>The Council has a duty to take steps to improve the wellbeing of those within its borough. The DA strategy assists the Council in meeting this statutory obligation. The strategy will also assist the Council in being able to work with partners in implementing the Domestic Abuse Bill which is anticipated to be brought into force within the next 12 months. AL 03/02/2020</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<p>The strategy prioritises the development of our service and support offer for victims of domestic abuse, children and young people affected and also perpetrators. Additional funding is required to develop this offer, and discussions between partner organisations, such as the Police and OPCC to agree funding arrangements, are continuing to take place.</p>
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	<p>Borough-wide impact</p>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. **INFORMATION** - Please refer to Appendix I for details of the January 2020 progress update.

Report prepared by Helen Onions, Consultant in Public Health, Telephone: 01952 388908

TELFORD & WREKIN DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE: January 2020

OBJECTIVE 1	
Review and develop specialist services and support and implement comprehensive multi-agency pathways, for both victims and perpetrators and children and young people affected by domestic abuse	
PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Advice have been commissioned as the specialist provider for the Telford & Wrekin Council Community Grant Fund. CA will build community capacity to deliver support locally for victims, including the community ambassador programme. CA will provide advice and guidance to community groups applying for funding, which opens in January 2020. • The Council is continuing to develop a Family & Perpetrator programme, although funding is still to be fully identified. • A bid is being developed for the MHCLG <i>2020-2021 Fund for Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse, and their Children, within Safe-Accommodation</i>. This fund is linked to the prospective DA Bill, and the local bid is likely to include developments for: 24/7 security to existing emergency accommodation, specialised support for victims and CYP in emergency accommodation, specialist accommodation and support for complex needs victims of domestic abuse. • As part of the White Ribbon campaign, Human Books were launched at the Telford & Wrekin Serious Violence Conference 22 November 2019. The collection of books on offer for survivors and children with experience of DA will be available in the library service. • Council's new Family Safeguarding "Hertfordshire" model will be implemented from September 2020. The aim is to holistically meet the needs of families with key professionals as part of one team including specialists in domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health will include strong links to the family and perpetrator programme and the community support offer. • The Council's Strengthening Families Team DA Support Programme offer, which includes Freedom and Me, My Child & Domestic Abuse programmes continues to expand. The Crush programme will cover each locality from December 2019 and is advocated by young people locally. This links with the Early Help assessment and going forward will link with the community ambassador programme. The Freedom programme continues to offer support to victims of DA, with the number of sessions expanding. An evening programme will start from January 2020 at the Park Lane centre, and the number of facilitators has increased and includes volunteers. • TWSP Domestic Abuse pathway continues to be developed. The community support offer and the perpetrator and family programme will be incorporated into the pathway as the offers progress. Further work is being undertaken to raise awareness of the pathway to GPs and primary care in line with Domestic Homicide Review recommendations. Future work will focus on a local provision with wider local and community health professionals, such as dentists, optometrists, pharmacists and therapists, potentially through the networks developed for the Exploitation and Vulnerability training.

OBJECTIVE 1 (Cont.)	
Review and develop specialist services and support and implement comprehensive multi-agency pathways, for both victims and perpetrators and children and young people affected by domestic abuse	
PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is being delivered by WMWA in PRH 4 days a week, working collaboratively with A&E and maternity services. • West Mercia Sexual Assault and Abuse Strategy – T&W Council had signed a commitment to be part of the work with the CCG.
OBJECTIVE 2	
Use intelligence to inform service provision and raising awareness campaigns	
PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence-led planning underpins the work of the action plan. Police, Council and partner data sets are being used to gain a better picture DA in Telford & Wrekin. There is a family unit orientated approach to address concerns around the numbers of children involved in DA incidents. Baseline profiling has been developed using 2018/19 data from Family Connect and Strengthening Families systems. This intelligence has been directly used to develop the community support grant proposals and perpetrator and family programme. • A performance and outcomes dashboard is now being developed to evidence the impact that the action plan is having on tackling DA. Work needs to be done to ensure the flow of data, which has been disjointed, especially around offender data. • NHS Improvement/ England is exploring information sharing between GPs and the police through ICT. The aim is to share information about low and medium level risk DA as part of the preventative work, this includes working through IG implications. • CPOMS - Child Protection Online Management System had been up and running since September 2019 to address the issues raised by schools not receiving timely alerts though Operation Encompass. A pilot with CPOMS was successful to prevent the loss of notifications and although this had stalled, it was now proceeding at pace.
OBJECTIVE 3	
Develop practitioner's knowledge on the dynamics of domestic abuse on the whole family and provide them with the appropriate training and resources to support the family	
PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner agencies continued to raise the profile of DA through staff training, particularly around HR policies. WMWA were delivering training/ briefings to GP Forum and National Probation Service. Specialist training was being delivered the by hospital IDVA in SaTH • TWCCG are exploring the Identification & Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) programme for GP practices, linked to DHR4 recs. • The Shropshire Community Health Trust digital strategy continues to develop the Bright Sky app, and awareness raised through bespoke sessions for minor injuries.

OBJECTIVE 3 (Cont.)	
Develop practitioner's knowledge on the dynamics of domestic abuse on the whole family and provide them with the appropriate training and resources to support the family	
PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma and adversity informed practice awareness is becoming more prominent, ACEs workshop sessions delivered the T&W Serious Violence Conference, 22 November 2019. • The updated Exploitation & Vulnerability Training delivered to 1,000s of frontline staff in T&W includes DA awareness elements. • T&W Safeguarding Partnership are to review the safeguarding training offer, including the DA online training. • A future focus of the Subgroup will be to making training more comprehensively available across the partnership.
OBJECTIVE 4	
Increase awareness in the community of domestic abuse and how to seek support	
PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Ribbon campaign was launched at the T&W Serious Violence Conference on 22/11/2019. The campaign aims to promote and signpost to the new community peer support, generate more ambassadors, increase social media and community conversation. • Domestic abuse in rural areas was highlighted as a key focus for the DA subgroup going forwards, and linked with DA in older adults which was a theme of the Adult Safeguarding conference held jointly with Shropshire on 21 November 2019. It was noted that DHR3 was a case within a rural community which had been a key theme and it had also been picked up in the PCC Police and Crime Plan. It would be necessary to develop the intelligence to inform DA subgroup work programme.
OBJECTIVE 5	
Review current policies and procedures associated with FGM, HBV and Forced Marriage within the community and across the professional workforce. (OFSTED Recommendation)	
PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit of DA policies across all agencies had been collated from audit undertaken in 2018 and May 2019. Health organisations had provided HR policies which included DA to the partnership team. Shropshire Community Health Trust was near completion on an update on DA policies and procedures. • Regional West Midlands FGM pathway and risk assessment had been reviewed and was available as part of the regional policies and procedures. • Digital monitoring of FGM – SaTH have launched live FGM monitoring/ information sharing tool. • TWSP Conference in July 2020 will focus on DA including themes of FGM, HBV and Forced Marriage. Planning for presentations/ workshops with national experts will start in the New Year

OBJECTIVE 6

Embed learning form Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

PROGRESS

- DHR 4 - Recommendations have been mapped to the Domestic Abuse Action Plan objectives, and also actions in other relevant strategies, for example, the NHS Mental Health Long Term Plan and Telford & Wrekin Drug & Alcohol Strategy.
- DHR 3 – The draft review report was presented to CSP in December, several lessons learned relate to organisational policies.

ⁱ The Government definition of domestic violence and abuse is: Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members¹ regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

'Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.'