**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse**

**and Sexual Violence Partnership**

**Annual Report**

**2019-20**



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**Introduction from the Chair**

Dear Partners

I am pleased to introduce to you the Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Annual Report for 2019/20.

The last year has been exceptionally busy with not only the ‘business as usual’ to keep up with, but also in developing new projects and adapting our response through COVID, ensuring we are able to not only continue to deliver our usual response but also adapt to the changing environment and risks faced within our communities. I am really grateful and proud at how the partnership has pulled together through this period.

Over the last 12 months we have developed and articulated our partnership response delivering a strong core offer to our communities whilst being clear about how we will seek to enhance that offer through bidding for additional funding. Indeed, through this last period we have been successful in obtaining extra funding on several occasions enabling us to continue to strengthen the service we provide across the County.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence affects whole families, having a long lasting impact, particularly for children often creating cycles of abuse. This is something we are passionate about trying to break. We work across partnerships to ensure we support whole families to prevent abuse occurring, or where it does occur, to support families recover from abuse. We continue to offer support to all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence dependent on risk and need with over 2000 victims being referred to ISVA and IDVA services within the county. The feedback from victims receiving this support from our IDVA and ISVA services demonstrates the positive difference we are making.

The next twelve months will be a period of challenge as we endeavour to continue to provide a service to all victims based on need and risk and work hard to identify hidden harms particularly as the COVID pandemic continues. Our vision is to reduce the harms associated with *domestic abuse and sexual violence* and to prevent these crimes from occurring within our communities. We commit to taking new, innovative and **evidenced** approaches, focusing on harm reduction in our communities, preventing victimisation and repeat victimisation. Whilst acknowledging the role of traditional approaches such as Criminal Justice, we will prioritise an approach which seeks to improve the long term safety leading to positive outcomes for our communities. To do this we will not only focus on supporting victims but also on reducing harm posed by offenders of domestic abuse and sexual violence, preventing re-offending and reducing the risks within our communities.

We would like to thank you in advance for all your support and hard work in the area of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Laura Koscikiewicz

Chair, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership

**Key information from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Annual Report 2019-20**

**Key Headlines 2019-20 – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

* There were 1979 referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Services for domestic abuse, an increase of nearly 150 from 2018-19
* A total of 1471 cases were heard at MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
* A total of 14,116 domestic abuse incidents were reported to Cambridgeshire Constabulary which is an increase on the previous year. Crime rates went up by around 25%
* 1116 victims of violent crime (including domestic abuse and sexual violence) supported by the Victim and Witness Service.
* Refuges across the county housed 89 women and 129 children
* 1077 people received support from domestic abuse outreach services
* The Adult Independent Sexual Violence Advisors received 315 referrals and Children’s ISVA had 150
* The Adult Safeguarding Teams received 774 referrals that involved a domestic abuse element and 280 with a sexual violence element.
* 621young people have received support from the VAWG Project

**1.0 Our structure**

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership operates across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. At a strategic level, work is overseen by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Board who ensure the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, and associated Action Plan are delivered by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Operational Group.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Community Safety Strategic Board

Cambridgeshire Health & Wellbeing Board

Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board**

DASV Operational Group

**2.0 Our Aims**

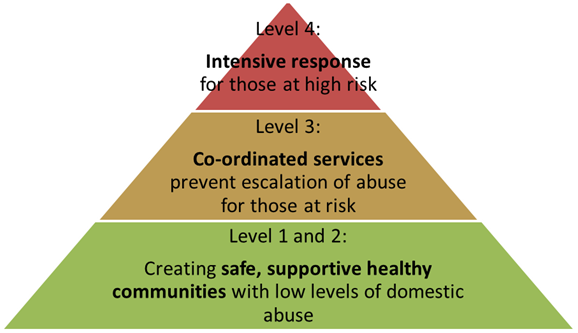
Our vision is:

**To reduce the harms associated with domestic abuse and sexual violence, and prevent these crimes from occurring across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.**

The current Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy is based on Home Office expectations for VAWG services. Our Strategic Aims are separate for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and more information can be found in the relevant sections further in this report.

**3.0 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Offer**

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence ‘Offer’ is based on the Model of Staged Intervention, setting out services at four levels: the model is a key part of a wider integrated model of support services for victims of crime commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



**4.0 Strategic Aims – Domestic Abuse**

Our delivery plans were revised in 2019-20 and we now have separate plans for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence with a series of Strategic Aims.

The Strategic Aims for Domestic Abuse are:

* Working to prevent people becoming offenders of domestic abuse and reducing victimisation by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it.
* Reducing the risk to victims and intervening to prevent it from continuing, recurring or escalating.
* Perpetrators are appropriately pursued and challenged.
* Through a joint commissioning approach we will ensure all victims have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused support

4.1 Challenging Attitudes and Behaviours

4.1.1 Education and Awareness for Communities

Raising awareness with the general public, and with specific community groups forms a large part of our work and in therefore included on the VAWG Action Plan.

Communications and awareness work delivered in 2019-20 included:

* Work with the Joint Mosque Council in Peterborough to raise awareness within the Muslim community
* Attending GP Safeguarding events to distribute posters and information
* White Ribbon stalls at the Cambridge Folk Festival and The Junction
* Domestic abuse and White Ribbon stall at the Parish Council Conference and at a schools conference
* Focus on male victims for International Men’s Day – a project with Cambridge 105 radio

4.1.2 Preventative work with children and young people in schools and other settings

The Healthy Relationships Group is made up of providers of Sex and Relationships Education to young people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A range of settings are used including schools, youth centres and targeted work. The group meet bi-annually to share updates on their services and to discuss any upcoming events and national or local policy changes.

4.2 Reducing Risk to Victims and Intervening

4.2.1 IDVA Service

Cambridgeshire County Council manages the IDVA Service which includes 15.4 FTE Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVAs), an IDVA Manager, 2.2 MARAC Coordinators and 1.6 Business Support Assistants. The majority of the posts are based at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Godmanchester with posts covering Peterborough based at Copse Court. The IDVA Service works mainly with victims who are assessed as being at high risk of harm utilising the sector wide ‘DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence) Risk Assessment Checklist but also has four specialist posts that take referrals at all risk levels:

* 2 Young People’s IDVA posts – working with young people aged 13-19 (24 with additional needs) that are experiencing abuse in their own intimate relationships and at all risk levels
* A8 IDVA – works with victims from Eastern European ‘A8’ countries at all risk levels
* Health IDVA – works with victims referred by all hospital and Midwifery Services at Addenbrooke’s and Hinchingbrooke Hospitals, at all risk levels
* Stalking and Harassment IDVA focussing primarily on non-domestic abuse related incidents

IDVAs also provide a range of support to partner agencies such as delivering training, advice via a daily Duty IDVA service and attendance at team meetings.

Number of referrals to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough IDVA Service

The total number of referrals received for 2019-20 was 1979 which is an increase of over 100 referrals since 2018-19

Engagement rate

The Engagement rate is the percentage of referrals that engage with the IDVA Service. Engagement is on a voluntary basis. Although all efforts are made to engage clients, in some cases it is not possible to safely contact the client or they may not with to engage. The overall engagement rate for 2019-20 was 76% (target of 75%).

Repeat Rate – Cambridgeshire IDVA Service

The repeat rate refers to cases re-referred to the IDVA Service with the same victim and perpetrator within twelve months of the last referral. The overall repeat rate for 2019-20 was 36%, an increase since last year.

Repeat referrals are not always a ‘negative’ thing; these can be viewed in a positive way, when the client is engaging with the IDVA Service and is reporting further repeat incidents to the Police in accordance with their agreed safety plan.

MARAC data

Threshold for MARAC referrals were increased to 17 in January 2020 for a three month pilot, with the IDVA service still receiving risk assessments scoring between 14-16 for review.

As part of the pilot MARAC meetings were reduced to three per week, excluding bank holidays. Complex cases heard at Daily MARAC that require further investigation and more intrusive safety planning are still escalated to a MARAC Plus meeting.

The total number of MARAC cases heard at Daily MARAC in 2019-20 was 1471 which is slightly less than the previous year and as expected due to the threshold increase pilot.

IDVA Service Feedback

A new feedback process for the IDVA Service was started in August 2018 whereby, once a case is closed and providing it’s safe to make contact, a telephone call is made to the client to ask for feedback on the impact working with IDVAS has had for the client.

Questions are asked around the four Ministry of Justice outcome areas and responses are captured in quantitative format.

* Improved Heath & Wellbeing
* Increased safety and perceptions of safety
* Feeling empowered and better informed
* Better able to cope with daily life

Clients were also asked if they had any additional comments to make and this was captured in narrative form.

142 clients consented to provide feedback and the responses are displayed in the chart below.

Clients are also asked if they have any other comments they wish to make, below are a selection:

* *I feel so much happier and better now. My life has a purpose and I’m not worried about my husband*
* *You helped me feel more confident in reporting the incidents to the police and I now know what to do if anything happens again*
* *I can look forward now to the future with my kids.*
* *I feel that the support I received was very well organised, competent and very practical. I received prompt response to my Housing problem, I would not be able to achieve the same outcome without dedication of an IDVA.*
* *You have listened to me, believed in me and advised me. I thank you again for everything you have done for me.*

4.2.2 Specialist Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services

The four women’s refuges in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough housed a total of 89 women and 125 children during 2019-20. A successful bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funded 7 members of outreach staff who will work in a needs led, flexible approach to victims, enabling them to remain safely in their own homes where possible, and support them to live safely elsewhere when necessary. There is one post per district council area, with Cambridge City, South and East being covered by Cambridge Women’s Aid and Peterborough, Hunts and Fenland being covered by Refuge. A further bid to MCHLG was made in 2019 and the outreach service is now funded until March 2021.

Cambridge Women’s Aid 2019-20

Cambridge Women’s Aid (CWA) has been providing specialist services to survivors of domestic abuse in Cambridge and the surrounding areas for over forty years. Currently, CWA does this through the provision of refuge for eleven women and their children, and by offering tailored specialist support to survivors living in Cambridge city, South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire.

Refuge for women and children

CWA continued providing high quality refuge services during 2019/20. The refuge service focused on the safety of each person and worked with them to reduce their risk of harm while supporting them to recover from their experiences. In addition to in-house individual support and specialist play therapy, staff also provided various groups and activities to build women and children’s confidence and support their independence. CWA continued supporting women and children who left the refuge through resettlement support for as long as necessary.

* 34 women and 49 children were accommodated in refuge this year
* Refuge was occupied 91% of the time
* Emergency out of hours service was available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
* Children’s music sessions with Lady Lynn had 77 attendances
* The Children’s Service provided 1,864 play sessions places for children in refuge
* 171 childcare session places were provided to enable mums to attend group sessions or receive one to one support
* School holiday fun sessions had 565 attendances
* Groups for women on empowerment, health and creativity had 123 attendances
* School age children moving on from refuge benefited from specialist long term play therapy

*“The refuge gave me a boost and more fire to fight. Thinking about the kids and a better life has helped to push me forward. I know I have to be independent and stronger. The Power to Change programme in refuge helped me find out about my rights and how to set boundaries and take more control” – Refuge Resident*

Outreach

CWA also offered a free and confidential service based in the community to support those affected by domestic abuse, either directly or by supporting those who know them or work with them.

* 502 people received one to one support
* The people receiving support had a total of 555 children
* 120 people received brief advice
* Shine programme delivered with the C3 Church benefitted 20 women
* Peer Support Art Group in East Cambs and Cambridge city had 349 attendances
* Freedom Programme had 94 attendances and benefitted 10 women

*“My support worker is an angel, a rock. If it hadn’t been for her I would have drowned in despair. With CWA I had the understanding from the professional perspective but I also got compassion and empathy” – Outreach Client*

Ask Me Project

In March 2019, we were also awarded funding to raise awareness of domestic abuse in our communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, through the ‘Ask Me’ project. Community members from all walks of life were trained to break the silence about domestic abuse, raise awareness of the barriers that survivors face, and offer a supportive initial response and signposting to services if someone discloses abuse to them.

* 117 people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough attended one of thirteen 12-hour courses on the right response to domestic abuse, and have gone on to become Community Ambassadors.
* As a result of the training, so far Community Ambassadors have:
  + Had 350 conversations with friends, family, colleagues and clients about domestic abuse
  + Challenged myths and stereotypes 228 times
  + Raised awareness on social media 160 times
  + Signposted a survivor to sources of support 80 times

*“This has given me confidence to start conversations about domestic abuse, to challenge other people's views respectfully and to support and signpost survivors as necessary” – Community Ambassador*

Training

During the year, CWA also used their expertise to train and raise awareness of a number of different groups including:

* Police
* Housing officers
* Social workers
* Medical students
* GPs
* Students
* Voluntary groups
* Local employers
* Magistrates
* Family Court

Partnership working

CWA continued to provide support and expertise to the countywide Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership and the local Cambridge City Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forum. Working alongside Cambridge City Council we have ensured that survivors have had the opportunity to attend events and meet with various agencies to share their experiences and recommendations.

Covid-19 Response

Since March 2020, CWA has successfully adapted its services to continue supporting women during Covid-19. The refuge is one of only a few across the country that has been able to continue accepting referrals for women fleeing abuse. The outreach service has continued to offer emotional and practical support via telephone, email and Zoom calls. We have also launched a new live chat support service, to widen our reach during lockdown and offer women another option for accessing support.

Refuge 2019-20

Outreach

During the year the Refuge Outreach received 575 referrals to the service in Fenland, Peterborough and Huntingdonshire. 75% of these referrals were contacted and supported. 384 children were indirectly supported. The Outreach service has enjoyed successful relationships across the area with partners. Outreach Workers are now co located in 6 children’s centres and the first support groups for survivors are established and well attended. 100% of the clients leaving the Outreach Service have felt better informed and empowered to act

Refuges

In 2019/20 both refuges supported 29 women and 56 children. The refuges continue to work closely with local partners and have been successfully fundraising which has enabled families to access move on goods, education and social activities. The funding for Child Support Workers has continued giving mother essential time to engage with support and aid recovery.

Women leaving the refuge felt

Peterborough Women’s Aid

An Early Intervention Domestic Abuse Worker was commissioned through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to make contact with and offer support and signposting to victims of domestic abuse where the police have been called to an incident but there is insufficient evidence of a crime. This is for both standard and medium risk incidents. Due to capacity issues in other services the Early Intervention Domestic Abuse worker has also contacted domestic abuse victims where the police have identified a crime and the risk is deemed as medium. 802 people have been supported of which 737 were female, 24 were male. 117 declared a disability.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Improved health and wellbeing | 163 |
| Better able to cope with aspects of everyday life | 175 |
| Increased feeling of safety | 245 |
| Better informed and empowered to act | 802 |

Victim and Witness Hub

The Victim and Witness Hub is a free service which provides support to anyone in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough who is a victim of crime, whether you wish to report the crime to the police or not, and/or a victim or witness attending court. The Hub has a freephone number for victims of crime who need support but do not want to report the crime to the police, which can include victims of domestic abuse.

The 20 Care Coordinators in the Victim and Witness Hub (Hub) offer emotional and practical support to victims of crime, and support victims and witnesses to attend court to give their evidence. The support offered by the Hub to victims of domestic abuse, stalking and harassment is dependent on the risk to the victim as assessed through the DASH. The Hub, in the first instance, receives referral of victims at standard risk recognising that victims at higher risk are offered support from specialist domestic abuse services such as IDVAs, Refuge and Women's Aid. However any specialist service can refer a victim of domestic abuse to the Hub.

4.3 Pursuing Perpetrators

4.3.1 Police Domestic Abuse data 2019-20

The Total number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary (including Peterborough) for 2019-20 was 14,116 which is a slight increase on the 2018-19 figure.

4.3.2 Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel

The DA Perpetrator Panel was established in 2018 to focus on partnership led intervention to deter the most prevalent and systemic domestic abusers. Each month, a cohort of perpetrators is identified through police and partner research and subjects are scored using an RFG (Recency, Frequency, Gravity) framework which was developed by Strathclyde Police. Those who offend frequently score the highest and are prioritised as a result.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2019-20** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Total** |
| **Perpetrator Panel referrals** | 95 | 90 | 67 | 44 | 296 |
| **Perpetrator Panel repeat rate** | 74% | 73% | 73% | 59% | 70% |

Currently, the Panel focuses on disruption and enforcement techniques to prevent offending – this may involve targeting perpetrators for other criminal matters, seeking to impose Non-Molestation or Restraining Orders or conducting visits to their home address.

4.4 Outcome Focussed Support

4.4.1 Supporting children and young people to recover

In 2018, Cambridgeshire County Council, on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership, won funding from the Home Office Public Protection Unit to support children and young people who had experienced domestic abuse.

Aim: ‘*Reduce the impact and harm of domestic abuse in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’* through the key deliverables of:

* Provision of high-quality support and advice for children who are affected by domestic abuse.
* Increased awareness of domestic abuse / services and support available to children affected by domestic abuse.
* Reduction in harm caused by domestic abuse.
* Reduction in prevalence of domestic abuse.

From this funding, £711,500 has provided the services below.

* Cambridgeshire County Council: Young People’s IDVAs x 2
* Cambridge & Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership: ChISVA x 1
* Refuge: Children’s Outreach Workers x 2
* Cambridge Women’s Aid: Children’s Outreach Worker x 1, Family Support Worker x 1
* Family Action: Children’s Criminal Justice Worker x 1 in courts, Children’s Domestic Abuse post x 1 in Victim & Witness Hub, Children’s Worker x 1 to work in Children’s Centre
* Bobby Scheme: Security devices to enable families with children to remain safely in homes
* Embrace: Support service for children aged 7 – 12 years who are victims of domestic abuse

This provision has delivered support to 1,079 children and young people who were victims or witnesses of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence. This breaks down into 650 children and young people being directly supported with one to one and group work – and 429 through one off interventions from the Bobby scheme to make their homes safer. This total is well in excess of the target of 900 set in the grant agreement.

More detail is provided in the CADA Evaluation Report 2019-20.

4.4.2 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG Project)

The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Prevention and Intervention Project has been a multi-agency partnership project aimed at reducing the harm, risk and costs of VAWG in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This has been through the provision of both long and short-term support for victims or witnesses of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence as well as for young perpetrators showing ‘risky behaviours’. Specialist, community-based services provided one to one and group therapeutic help to improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce the impact of young people’s experiences on their future lives - and in future costs to the public purse. The services were for young people aged 13-19 years or 24 with additional needs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. In addition, parents and carers were part of the Break4Change programme, and presentations to parents of children receiving counselling were delivered by Embrace.

The three agencies funded were: Embrace, Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership (C&PRCP) and Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service delivering Break4Change.

* In total, 621 young people have received support from the VAWG provision over the entire time period.
* This includes 21 young people on the B4C programme for risky behaviours and 13 such cases worked with by Embrace.
* An additional 123 parents attended parent sessions delivered by Embrace. This feeds into the prediction that the impact of the projects would reach increased numbers due to improved outcomes through family connections.

4.4.3 Developing a group work offer and supporting children’s social care

Recovering Together

In September 2018 18 facilitators were trained to deliver the programme. This was a mix of practitioners from Children’s Social care and Early Help. Following this plans were put in place to run courses in Cambridge and Huntingdon. Referrals were slow to come in and the first course ran in Cambridge starting in March 2019 with 6 Mums and 5 children. 3 mums and 4 children completed the full 12 week programme. Due to low numbers of referrals further planned courses had to be cancelled.

Caring Dads

Six facilitators from Early Help were trained as facilitators in August 2018. As with Recovering Together referrals were initially very slow to come in and plans for a course had to be delayed several times. Eventually a central course, held in Huntingdon was arranged starting in June 2019 with 8 Dads starting the programme. 3 completed the full programme.

Rise

75 Practitioners have been trained to date, including 9 Social Care Child Practitioners and both Safeguarding and Whole Family EHAMS, to enable them to supervise their District Family Workers. There is further training planned for the end of Jan 2020 to train the majority of the remaining Early Help Family Workers.

Rise is being delivered through both Group and 1-1 interventions, dependent upon the needs of the participant. So far 8 Courses have run across the County. Within Hunts and St Ives the number of participants have averaged at 6 fully completing the course. Wisbech, Whittlesey and East Cambs have also run courses with 6 participants on each course.

The plan for January 2020 was for a RISE course to be running in every District at least termly. A number of Child Practitioners and Family workers are completing the course 1-1 and once evaluation forms are considered it will be then possible to assess numbers and impact of this approach.

April 2019 – March 2020 Statistics

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course | Number of courses held | Number of referrals \* | Numbers starting course(s) | Number completing course(s) |
| Recovering Together | 1 | 30 | 6 | 3 (4 children) |
| Caring Dads | 1 | 25 | 8 | 3 |
| Rise | 8 | Unknown | 37 approx | 37 |

\*referral numbers indicate number of referrals received prior to courses that were planned/run they do not include recent referrals

For all courses during this period both facilitators and managers involved circulated information about the programmes, put up posters and flyers, visited numerous team meetings and promoted through newsletters.

A number of challenges have emerged with the continuation of these courses including low numbers of referrals, retention and training of facilitators, geographical location of courses and capacity of early help services to deliver these courses. For these reasons the decision was taken to end delivery of Recovering Together and Caring Dads programmes but to continue with the delivery of RISE across the county.

Current facilitators of the programmes will now become champions who are able to support and advise other practitioners across Early Help. The Early Help Teams have developed a programme entitled RISE for victims and survivors of DA, that focusses on healthy relationships.

* + In 2019/20 the team delivered:
  + 4 Course across Huntingdon and St Ives – 2019-2020
  + 1 in Whittlesey – Nov – Dec 2019
  + 1 in March  - only ran for 3 weeks as COVID stopped it  from finishing
  + 1 In Wisbech  - Sept – October 2019
  + 1 in East Cambs

4.4.4 Child Safeguarding Domestic Abuse data

Due to changes in recording, we are unable to compare referrals to children’s social care related to domestic abuse to data from previous years. Overall the trend for the referrals has been decreasing and re-referrals has stayed constant across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

4.4.5 Adult Safeguarding domestic abuse data

The total number of Adult Safeguarding (AS) referrals to the Cambridgeshire MASH with a domestic abuse element in 2018-19 was 575. The total number of AS referrals to the Peterborough MASH with a domestic abuse element in 2018-19 was 197. All these figures are an increase across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as the charts below show.

As the chart below shows, Safeguarding Adults criteria under the Care Act 2014 is not met in the majority of cases involving domestic abuse that are referred to the Adult Safeguarding MASH Team in Cambridgeshire, but most cases do meet the criteria at the Peterborough AS MASH.

4.4.6 Domestic Homicide Reviews

A countywide group is in place to monitor recommendations from Domestic Homicides in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with representatives from Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding, Health and Police. An action plan has been drawn up to ensure that learning and associated service improvements from DHR’s are shared across the county. This group reports to the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board.

Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough one DHR report was published in 2019-20. A further 4 DHRs are in progress. DHR reports are published by the relevant Community Safety Partnership and links can be found at <https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/domestic_homicide_reviews/405477>

4.4.7 Whole Housing Approach Project

The Whole Housing Approach Project (WHAP) came from a joint bid with Standing Together and Westminster City Council to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The aim of the project is to work with housing providers to help them to develop policies around supporting tenants who are experiencing domestic abuse and to support housing providers to achieve the Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation (DAHA) award.

The WHAP was delivered across three sites in England including Cambridgeshire. The main delivery outputs for activities delivered across the three project sites between April 2019 and March 2020 includes:

* 1,200 survivors supported by 8 mobile advocates and 2 co-located housing advocates
* 141 survivors and 185 dependent children received Flexible Funding, which was introduced for the first time to help sustain and secure stable housing. A total of £66,935 was awarded with most funds helping to clear rent arrears and debts accumulated due to financial abuse, pay for deposits and other move on costs and for household items after relocation.
* 349 Sanctuary Schemes were installed in Cambridgeshire and Stockton.
* A Reciprocal Scheme was introduced for the first time in Cambridgeshire. Since it was launched in May 2019, the scheme received 17 referrals received and had 4 successful moves (all for women survivors). Focused work also took place in the three London boroughs and this saw an increase in the number of properties offered by each borough and 2 successful moves occurring.
* We saw an increase in activity for DAHA accreditation in all three sites. The Stockton WHA Officer laid the ground work to get the local authority ready to start working towards accreditation. Cambridgeshire saw its first two providers acquire accreditation (Cambridge City Council and Cambridge Housing Society), thanks to the support of having a dedicated DAHA Development Manager. And in London, the three local authorities have shown an interest with 1 provider actively starting to work towards implementing the standards.
* The Privately Owned Housing Officer employed by Surviving Economic Abuse delivered work at the 2nd tier (similar to the DAHA PRS Development Manager). The post holder worked with stakeholders in all three sites to deliver 10 talks/presentations, 11 training sessions (mainly to DA services to increase awareness of economic abuse and in context of privately owned accommodation) and facilitated 15 local meetings to inspire this sector engaging in a coordinated community response.

The Whole Housing Approach project delivery team also produced a [WHA toolkit](https://smex12-5-en-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.dahalliance.org.uk%2fwhat%2dwe%2ddo%2fwhole%2dhousing%2dapproach%2fwhole%2dhousing%2dtoolkit%2f&umid=6192b508-0db2-4c3e-88e5-b72fc70668d7&auth=505b56986b829e54b121f0e79bb1ea33b60cdc84-2adea0654f091095109c0cae01c1241ad8ec1a79) with a section for each of its twelve components, which offers practical guidance and resources for local areas to implement the WHA and deliver consistent practices for domestic abuse.

**5.0 Strategic Aims – Sexual Violence**

* Working to prevent people becoming offenders of sexual violence and reducing victimisation by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it.
* Promoting the safety and protection of victims and survivors.
* Appropriately pursuing and challenging perpetrators.
* Ensuring all victims and survivors have access to appropriate and proportionate outcome-focused jointly commissioned support.

5.1 Challenging Attitudes and Behaviours

Awareness raising around sexual violence included an event at Anglia Ruskin University to highlight Sexual Violence Awareness Week which included an interview with Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre on the ITV Anglia News programme.

5.2 Promoting safety and protection

5.2.1 Adult Safeguarding

There were 199 referrals relating to sexual violence/assault.

There were 83 referrals relating to sexual violence/assault. All these figures are an increase across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as the charts below show.

In both AS MASH Teams, the majority of sexual violence case meet the Safeguarding Adults criteria.

5.3 Pursuing Perpetrators

Sexual violence data from Cambridgeshire Constabulary is below. The data from the police performance team supports the national picture that sexual violence offences are on the rise. There is a gradual rise in reports of both sexual assaults and serious sexual crimes in most quarters. This stems from encouragement in the wider public to report sexual offences. The final quarter of 2019-2020 saw a significant increase. This was over 100% more crimes reported in Feb. There was an increase from 35 crimes in 2019 in Feb, to 75 in Feb 2020. This is mainly due to a media campaign that Cambs police did, to encourage valentine’s day/month offending reporting.

5.3.1 SARAC

A SARAC is a meeting where agencies share information about the risk of serious harm to people who have experienced sexual abuse or rape. Multi-agency safety plans are developed to support those in need. The aim is to increase the safety and well-being of the adults and children involved and to reduce the likelihood of repeat victimisation. In 2019-20 the SARAC heard 9 cases.

5.4 Outcome Focussed Support

5.4.1 Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Group and ISVA Service

ISVA Service

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total number of valid NEW referrals to ISVA service 2019-20** | **465** |
| ISVA referrals | 315 |
| ChISVA referrals | 150 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Total number of clients supported 2019-20** | **730** |
| ISVA clients | **525** |
| ChISVA clients | **205** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Support type** | **ISVA** | **ChISVA** |
| Number of cases where there was single incidence of support | 122 | 6 |
| Number of cases where there was ongoing support | 403 | 199 |
| Number of cases referred to other services within the partnership (such as counselling) | 65 | 42 |
| Number of cases signposted to external community services, groups or networks | 152 | 21 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age at time of referral** | **Female** | **Male** | **Trans / non-binary** |
| 12 years and under | 55 | 12 |  |
| 13 to 17 years | 135 | 6 | 1 |
| 18 to 24 years | 192 | 11 | 4 |
| 25 to 34 years | 132 | 5 |  |
| 35 to 44 years | 87 | 10 | 2 |
| 45 to 54 years | 50 | 5 |  |
| 55 to 64 years | 14 | 4 |  |
| 65 to 74 years | 4 |  |  |
| 75 years or over | 1 |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcomes Indicators framework** | **Improved** | **No change** | **Deteriorated** |
| Improved health and wellbeing | 232 | 3 | 0 |
| Better able to cope with aspects of everyday life | 232 | 3 | 0 |
| Increased feeling of safety | 232 | 3 | 0 |
| Better informed and empowered to act | 232 | 3 | 0 |

**ISVA Service Client feedback**

* *There are so many positive changes because of my ISVAs support. It’s been life changing. I received more support than I even knew was possible. I now have a great support network, help at university, and counselling. [ISVA] gave me back my hope, my voice, my courage, and she helped me make it through the worst times in the immediate aftermath. She explained my feelings which was hugely beneficial, and she was incredibly emotionally supportive when I was providing crime information. She was outstanding.*
* *Got support in school when they were being unhelpful and unsupportive with my situation making me feel less alone.*
* *The most important thing to me was that I was believed and supported they were amazing!!*
* *Hearing someone I didn't know confirm how I was feeling and knowing that his behaviour was not acceptable, that it wasn't just in my head has really helped me to move on.*
* *Before I spoke to anyone about what had happened, I felt like no one would believe me, I felt no one cared and that I was over exaggerating the circumstances. I didn’t even know you could report anonymously and I was really upset and angry that I didn’t have the courage to formally report so with these options and the support and guidance I managed to report without the backlash and understand no one of it was my fault and that it’s a normal process to feel how I did. I believe I’d be in a very bad place mentally and physically if [ISVA] wasn’t there and I’m forever grateful.*

Helpline & Emotional Support Service

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of calls to the helpline service | **1141** |
| Total number of new/first time callers to the helpline | **158** |
| Number of helpline opening hours | **609** |
| Total number of clients accessing emotional support and counselling | **275** |
| Total number of active volunteers | **85** |
| Total number of volunteer hours | **8231** |

**Helpline/Emotional Support Service Client feedback**

* *I can now talk myself down from the panic and a flashback by being aware of what's going on in my body and linking this feeling with past fear. Flashbacks have reduced dramatically*
  + *My personal hygiene has improved dramatically, I no longer feel dirty, people have noticed this change, my flashbacks have lessened, I only had one last week before they were every day! I've been told it’s good to see a smile on my face.*
  + *I feel that I have been able to make sense of things that I never have before. I feel so much more in control*
  + *These sessions have helped me make sense of my brain & triggers so that I can manage them and not become overwhelmed.*
  + *I know that I am not crazy now and that I am just reacting to trauma*
  + *I feel more in control of my panic attacks and have a much better understanding of what happened & the reason I responded & reacted the way I did afterwards*
  + *Less symptomatic in fact I have had a whole two weeks of no flashbacks! The best two weeks since the rape!*
  + *The most beneficial thing that has ever happened for me! It’s opened up my mind in terms of learning given me a key to a door that I didn’t have before, I couldn’t understand the aspect of self-soothing & Self talk. This has been the difference between life & death for me!*

5.4.2 The Elms Sexual Assault Referral Centre

Feedback from people who used The Elms SARC

* *The nurses were really lovely, kind and caring.  I just felt uncomfortable as brought back flashbacks of the other day.  Apart from that the people are so kind, caring and understandable and I feel safe with them.*
* *I found the service useful and thorough.  Really helped me out today and relived the stress I was under before I came to the SARC.*
* *The staff were friendly and helpful and I was well taken care of and fed/offered drinks.  I was being informed with what to expect and why it was happening.*
* *Very helpful, the people are lovely made me feel calm and made sense of what I had to do next. Everything was very useful and helpful, nothing needs to change I felt much safer here than any other doctor place as there was no judgement whatsoever. Thank you.*
* *They were quick to book me in and made sure every stage was clear and that I understand everything.  They made me feel safe and helped me understand that I did everything I could have. They helped ease a lot of my worries and treated me with patience.*

**6.0 Training**

Training is offered on four levels to link in with the local offer.

6.1 ELearning – The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Basic Awareness eLearning modules are available for free on the DASV Partnership website. The Domestic Abuse e-learning module was updated during 2019 and further updates will take place during 2020 to reflect national issues such as the Domestic Abuse Bill.

6.2 LGSS DA Training attendance 2019-20

* 73 people attended the Domestic Abuse Awareness training
* 29 completed the DA risk Assessment training
* 14 People attended DA Safety Planning
* 30 people attended Safeguarding Adults DA training

6.3 Safeguarding Boards DA Training attendance 2019-20

* + Introduction to DA - 33 people attended across 3 courses.
  + DASH - 19 people attended 1 course
  + Adults and DA - 15 people attended one course
  + Forced Marriage / HBV 19 people attended one course – is a joint children’s / Adults
  + FGM 11 people attended 1 course - is a joint children’s / Adults

6.4 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions Network has been in place since April 2018. The network is open to any professional (including volunteers) working in any agency or organisation that may encounter victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence. The aim of the network is to have at least one person in each agency that has comprehensive and up to date knowledge of DASV and signposting and referral methods for specialist support. Through the sessions they will also develop a network of other professionals who can act as ‘phone a friends’ when questions or queries arise. Quarterly networking events are held across the county and each quarter has a theme where speakers from relevant organisations are invited to talk about their services. Sessions in 2019-20 focussed on:

* Sexual Violence
* Domestic Homicide Reviews
* Economic Abuse
* Stalking & Harassment

We currently have over 250 DASV Champions signed up including representatives from children’s and adult’s social care, mental health, NHS, police, voluntary organisations and community organisations.

6.5 Other Training

General awareness training is also provided on an ad-hoc basis by the Partnership Manager, IDVA Manager and specialist services. During 2019-20 the IDVA Service delivered the following training:

* 2 DA Awareness Sessions to Cambridge City Council
  + Young parent pathway - family nurse partnership
  + 8 IDVA presentations to Consultants, nurses, children centres and school nurses
  + Marac Development Day for partners
  + Family Court Magistrates Panel
  + CPFT  presentation Peterborough
  + DA training Hinchingbrooke Hospital
  + Victim & Witness Hub Stalking & Harassment
  + HMC DV Magistrates training 30/9
  + Peterborough City Hospital DA training (4 sessions)
  + IDVA presentation at Cambs Education Conference
  + IDVA presentation at Cambridge City Council White Ribbon Conference Cambridge 21/11

**8.0 Priorities for 2020-21**

* Ensure that consistent support is available to all victims of domestic abuse both during the COVID pandemic and in the recovery phase
* Develop and implement a centralised process to undertake DHRs
* Work towards implementing the local authority statutory duty as part of the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill
* Undertake a needs assessment to understand the landscape around Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse
* Review perpetrator interventions across the county and further develop the perpetrator panel
* Evaluate and undertake a review of SARAC processes
* Continue to embed the Whole Housing Approach Project across the county, including a focus on move-on accommodation
* Explore the possibility of a health pathfinder project and work with health settings to improve identification and responses to domestic abuse
* Work with schools to support the implementation of mandatory Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)
* Work with schools, colleges and universities on improving responses to sexual violence affecting children and young people in education settings

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