

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PAF/13/15
Committee:	People and Families Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	9 July 2015	
<u>Domestic Abuse</u>		
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**Essex Strategic Children's Partnership Board**  
**Exception report for Children and Young People's Plan Priorities**

The report is to inform the Essex Strategic Children's Partnership Board on the progress being made against our priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan. It is intended to be an exceptions style report to give the opportunity for;

- a) Issues of particular concern to be reported
- b) Inform the board about current work/developments pertinent to the priority
- c) Where needed seek support/information from Local Partnership boards and/or strategic partners.

<b>Children's Partnership Priority</b>	Domestic Abuse is a cross cutting issue across the priorities
<b>Name of priority lead</b>	N/A
<b>Date of Report:</b>	03 June 2014

**Section 1: Priorities; Actions; Progress and Challenges**

**Summarise the *current* work/developments critical to delivery of the priority**

**Joint Commissioning Strategy for Domestic Abuse (DA Board)**

The DA Board received a near final version of the Strategy and its underpinning activity plan on 11 May, and following an opportunity for final comments the strategy has been refined and shared with the DA Board for virtual sign off.

**Support services for victims (Greg Myddelton - OPCC)**

The IDVA service went live as planned on 1 April 2015. A geographical mapping of IDVA allocation is being developed and will be shared with partners on the Joint Commissioning Group. In addition the approach to monitoring progress is being developed by the task and finish group and will be implemented now the service has gone live. Discussions are being undertaken with Safer Places regarding the inclusion of an IDVA within the JDATT/MARAC team.

**Community based services for victims (Simon Harniess – ECC)**

Following the development of the specification, the tender has now gone live. The new specification has been developed via a multi-agency Task & Finish Group and seeks to shift the service away from an approach where refuge is the default solution towards a model which has a greater focus on outreach and a broader focus than accommodation needs.

Key characteristics of the new service, following feedback from service users and providers, include the provision of a service to groups who are currently not supported or who are under-represented in services; and

an emphasis on linking people back into employment, training or education.

Evaluation criteria have been agreed and developed with the Task & Finish group and the formal bid evaluation will be carried out by representatives from ECC, OPCC and Southend Council following the closure of the tender period on 21st May. It is anticipated the contract will be signed on 13 August and the service will commence on 1 October.

#### **JDATT & MARAC (Lesley Forbes-Lange)**

JDATT are now triaging between 15-18 cases per day – rather than the 9-10 initially forecast. Some of the up lift is due to additional information being gathered in MIU/CRU to escalate medium risk cases to high. Essex JDATT is also now triaging (for MARAC) Southend and Thurrock cases.

Essex Police have replaced the PROtect system with Athena, which went live from 1st April 2015. Athena is an intelligent system that will in time produce a richer picture regarding risk, however some teething issues have been identified and work is underway to resolve these. These include

- Insufficient information being sent from Athena for Children's Social Care and Health;
- Children not being linked to the victim and/or perpetrator.
- A significant decrease in the number of children listed against what would be expected for domestic incidents coming into the JDATT.
- Pregnancy warning markers being assigned; but not being included on the feed.

Finally, a new Case Management System is required to ensure timely information sharing across various agencies and systems to inform decision making. Options are currently being considered by the task and finish group.

#### **Education and Prevention (Ben Hughes - ECC)**

The draft of the Risk Avert program is completed, and is being piloted in two schools - Colchester School for Girls and St Martins, Brentwood. As part of the programme a screening tool has also been developed, this will support teachers in the identification of young people who may be at risk.

There are now direct referral pathways for schools. Links are being developed across new services being commissioned (Early Intervention – Clare Burrell) in Essex to build referral routes for identified Young People. In addition work is ongoing to ensure links to the developing CAMHS and 0 – 19 services (historically School Nursing). Schools will be supported as part of the Risk Avert training to identify referral pathways.

Other local authorities are looking to implement Risk Avert and these include.

- Medway (7 schools)
- Suffolk (Aiming for 11 schools to join programme from Sep '15)
- Hertfordshire (to run a limited pilot (5 schools) from Sep '15)

#### **Perpetrator Programme (Susannah Hancock - OPCC & Tom Simons – Essex Police)**

The Perpetrator working group has combined with the Essex Criminal Justice Board DA working group, to form a single cross agency working group with a single work plan. This means that we now have representation from across all key agencies to progress this important area of work. This merge has also now given the Perpetrator work stream access to CPS courts.

The programme of work is in the developmental phase and is making links with Safe Lives and Social Finance for potential development of perpetrator programs. Working in partnership to act as a national pilot area for a new approach to perpetrator change programmes. Funding has been identified from ECC and OPCC. Social Finance is seeking to lever in additional external funding. Essex is one of 4 pilot areas nationally (the others being London, Wales, Sussex). It has been decided to pilot the approach in the first instance in Tendring and Colchester. Pilots will begin in Sep '15. A full evaluation programme will be in place.

Work continues to progress re enforcement through Op Shield. A key performance indicator delivered through operation Shield is a reduction in the total harms score of the cohort. Since May 2014, this figure has reduced by 31%.

**Safer Accommodation (Tracey Brushett - ECC)**

The Housing representative in the JDATT is now making contact with the social housing landlords to gather limited information which is fed into the risk assessment process. The working group is exploring what are the 5 key things social landlords should do when receiving these notifications.

The Countywide Reciprocal Agreement has been signed by 11 Housing providers and will be implemented shortly. Supported providers have agreed to provide support to the needs of victims when being relocated, either through this agreement or through each agency's own internal management transfer process.

A bid to the DCLG Transformation Challenge award Fund was successful and Chelmer Housing Partnership have agreed to host and administer a database on behalf of partners across Essex. A working group made up of partners will now develop an action plan for the implementation of the database.

Training continues to be carried out to support providers and elements of the Police to raise awareness on the roles and responsibilities of Housing providers. This is now being scheduled in for the new IDVA's. The training includes an element of bringing a reality to the expectations of the victim and their support worker. A practitioner's guide is being drafted in partnership with all the stakeholders; this will give all of the partners' options for victims and how to progress those options.

**Early Intervention in health settings (Jenny Phaure – West Essex CCG)**

The Domestic Abuse Board and Health Executive Forum (HEF) have both endorsed the Terms of Reference for the newly established Great Essex Domestic Abuse Health Sub Group (DAHSG). The group is now meeting regularly to progress our agenda regarding case finding and support in health settings across greater Essex.

A work plan has been established. This currently comprises six workstreams including: funding governance and assurance processes, sign off to 13/14 and 14/15 funding allocations, monitoring, evaluation/market analysis across health, transformation funds 15/16 and health infrastructure. The DAHSG also recognised the importance of ensuring robust engagement and communication across the health economy and key stakeholders. A first draft communications plan has been developed to ensure the inward and outward facing processes are in place.

Three health based infrastructure posts have now gone live on NHS jobs – these includes an NHS DA health lead role, a countywide training coordinator position and also health representation within the JDATT/MARAC. It is anticipated that there will be wide interest in these posts to support the delivery of this agenda. The continuation of funding for these posts beyond the 1 year fixed period will form part of a health DA sustainable strategy. The posts will be hosted by the DA lead CCG (Castle Point and Rochford CCG).

Finally the health sub group are in the process of commissioning a piece of evaluation/market analysis – also to include stakeholder workshops. This will inform the development of a specification for health based commissioning priorities.

**Communications (Andy Allsopp - ECC)**

Campaigns and BAU communications will be linked to six elements of strategic action already identified (raising awareness/improving signposting, improving access to appropriate information, promoting risk avert, tailoring information for/to minority ethnic communities).

Campaigns and BAU activity in 15/16 will aim to highlight the different varieties of domestic abuse – (emotional, physical, sexual and financial) – providing a theme-led approach running through communications. Activity will be programmed across organisations, with a Campaign Mandate provide later this Spring.

**Current performance against the delivery of the outcomes pertinent to the priority:**

N/A

**Support/information required:**

No support required

**Learning to be shared**

None

## Section 2 – General

Report here any emerging issues for the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board or Local Stay Safe Groups.
N/A
Report here any relevant emerging issues relevant to the board
N/A
Report here any emerging issues/gaps/trends that you want to bring to the attention of commissioners
N/A
Report here any specific issues relating to workforce development
N/A
Report here any other issues you would like to raise
N/A