

Children Services Committee

Report title:	Working with Safelives addressing domestic abuse through partnership working
Date of meeting:	14 March 2017
Responsible Chief Officer:	Matt Dunkley Interim Executive Director Children's Services
Strategic impact A wide body of local and national research evidences that children and families exposed to domestic abuse suffer a range of adverse physical and mental health, social, wellbeing and behavioural effects. To achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families affected by domestic abuse (DA) it is recognised that multi-agency partnership working at both an operational and strategic level is the most effective approach. This is reflected in the NICE quality standard for DA which specifies that services should be commissioned from and coordinated across all relevant agencies encompassing the whole care pathway. A person-centred, integrated approach to providing services is fundamental to delivering high-quality care to children and families experiencing or perpetrating DA. The SafeLives project is a 5 year programme of work which will involve joint working in the development and piloting of improved approaches to domestic abuse and safeguarding our children and families in Norfolk.	

Executive summary

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership in partnership with Safelives have secured £2 million Big Lottery funding to pilot a Beacon Project to mobilise an innovative partnership approach to DA with Norfolk Children's Services, Norfolk Constabulary, Police and Crime Commissioner, Public Health, Norfolk Adult Services.

The project was discussed at the Health and Well Being Board on 8th February 2017 and endorsed as an approach to tackle DA in Norfolk, through the partnership with SafeLives.

The Beacon Project comprises 3 elements:

One Front Door – this builds on our existing Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) model, seeking to integrate safeguarding children and domestic abuse referrals, and collaboratively safeguard vulnerable people at the earliest opportunity. This fits with Norfolk's vision of developing the MASH as a wider vulnerability hub as well as clear alignment to whole family work as part of our Troubled Families Programme and assisting the identification of families needing our help. This is due to commence in March 2018 and funding for the project comes from central government.

Penta interventions – developing and piloting interventions in Norwich aimed at addressing 5 areas for improving DA services.

Norfolk partners will provide funding and resources to match the Big Lottery funding. The total funding is £833,000 over five years which is divided across the five partners. It has been agreed that up to 50% can be paid in kind and the partners can decide how payment is divided e.g. one pays all in kind and another all cash. This has not been decided yet.

The first intervention is planned to be in place June 2017.

Norfolk will set up its own Penta Board which will look at how referrals will work and the operational side of the model.

Drive Perpetrator programme – services to address the behaviour of perpetrators of DA are very limited. The SafeLives Drive programme is being trialled in other parts of the country, and the charity is pursuing funding to support development in Norfolk. Funding has not been found as yet.

Recommendations: To note and endorse Children's Services involvement in the partnership and involvement in the Beacon Project.

1. Proposal (or options)

1.1 Norfolk has been agreed as a beacon site for National DA charity SafeLives, which will bring £2m Big Lottery funding into the county. This project highlights innovative working that builds on existing strong partnership working across Norfolk. The evaluation and impact of the work is built into the scheme, the intention being that this is carried out by an external partner.

The Beacon Project is a 5 year programme of work will involve joint working in the development and piloting of improved approaches to domestic abuse and safeguarding. The principles for this work are summarised below:

The Beacon Project comprises 3 elements:

- **One Front Door** – this builds on our existing MASH model, and seeks to integrate safeguarding children and domestic abuse referrals, and collaboratively safeguard vulnerable people at the earliest opportunity. This fits with Norfolk's vision of developing the MASH as a wider vulnerability hub for a holistic view of linked issues for families, enabling appropriate pre-emptive responses. This is due to commence March 2018 and funding for the project comes from central government. This does not hinder but compliments the existing work to look at MASH re-design and will involve a consultant providing advice to the MASH. There is no cost to Children's Services, as it is covered by a central government grant.
- **Penta interventions** – developing and piloting interventions in Norwich aimed at addressing 5 areas for improving DA services: (i) Medium Risk (ii) Complex Needs (iii) Staying Together (iv) Step down & Recovery (v) Children & Young People.

Norfolk Constabulary, Police and Crime Commissioner, Public Health, Norfolk Adult Services and Norfolk Children's Services will provide funding and resources to match philanthropic donations from a range of funders, including the Big Lottery Fund. The total funding to the 5 partners is £833000 over five years which is divided across the five partners. It has been agreed that up to 50% can be paid in kind and the partners can decide how payment is divided e.g. one pays all in kind and another all cash.

The first intervention is planned to be in place June 2017 and Norfolk will set up its own PENTA Board which will address the operational side of the model and how it works in Norfolk.

- **Drive Perpetrator programme** – services to address the behaviour of perpetrators of DA are very limited. The SafeLives Drive programme is being trialled in other parts of the country, and the charity is pursuing funding to support development in Norfolk. Funding has not been found as yet.

The project provides an exciting opportunity to work in partnership in addressing the fundamental issues within DA and the impact it has on families and children.

The next steps are holding the first Norfolk Penta meeting and establishing operational issues such as referrals as well as the splitting of costs.

2. Evidence

2.1 There are several difficulties that are important to tackle in improving Norfolk's response to DA:

- Very limited provision of perpetrator programmes for changing behaviour. The scale of need and the resources needed to address this effectively are considerable.
- Effective communications for partnership issues such as DA is under-developed. Improved engagement of agencies across Norfolk needed.
- DA awareness training being developed as a key element of Safeguarding training.
- The project with Safelives complements our local approach, building on existing work within safeguarding children & adults, and reflecting the DA Change Programme.

2.2 National Statement of Expectations, setting out government's expectations about local provision of services to tackle the national Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-nationalstatement-of-expectations> This highlights Government 'requirements' for how local strategies and services are commissioned:

- Put the victim at the centre of service delivery;
- Have a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep victims safe;
- Take a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG;
- Are locally-led and safeguard individuals at every point;
- Raise local awareness of the issues and involve, engage and empower communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG.

2.3 There is key alignment of this work to the Norfolk Troubled Families Programme, as its focus will add significant value by developing approaches to achieve sustained change in families who interface with Domestic Violence. Troubled Families outcomes that align to this work include:

- Supporting perpetrators to address their behaviour and develop respectful, non-abusive relationships
- Reducing incidents of domestic abuse
- Reducing risk levels for individuals and families
- Family members supported to address long term impact of domestic abuse and are able to move on

The association to the Troubled Families Programme and Outcomes Plan will be developed as part of this programme.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1** Funding is spaced out of the five years of the project as follows;-
It is proposed that £833000 is divided by 5 and up to 50 % can be paid in kind and rest in cash.
- 3.2** 2017-2018 total cost £55,930 which is then thus divided by 5 and then 50% can be in kind.
2018-2019 total cost £242,760 and as above
2019-2020 total cost £282,030 and as above
2020-2021 total cost £222,530 and as above
2021-2022 total cost £29,750 and as above
- 3.3** The resource from Children's Service is:
2017-2018 total cost £11,186, of which 50% can be in kind and 50% in cash.
2018-2019 total cost £48,552, of which 50% can be in kind and 50% in cash.
2019-2020 total cost £56,406, of which 50% can be in kind and 50% in cash.
2020-2021 total cost £44,506 of which 50% can be in kind and 50% in cash.
2021-2022 total cost £5,950 of which 50% can be in kind and 50% in cash.
- 3.4** Funding for this project has been confirmed within the budget.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1** Partnership working is at the heart of this project and to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families affected by domestic abuse (DA) it is recognised that multi-agency partnership working at both an operational and strategic level is the most effective approach. Support for families with multiple and complex problems through a system wide, whole family approach provides the most meaningful opportunity to achieve positive outcomes for our most Troubled Families. For Children's Services not to proceed with involvement there is clear risk of not integrating outcomes for children and families and reputational risk to the organisation, as well as potentially damaging partnership relations.
- 4.2** Increased awareness and focus on DA is needed, however as part of mobilisation planning we need to consider the impact of increase in referrals into our social work and early help system and build in robust processes early on to respond to need.
- 4.3** The project provides a timely opportunity to build on the MASH and address the response to Domestic abuse across partnerships. The Beacon site will develop innovative ways of working and is likely to involve the third sector in the delivery of the interventions. This provides an opportunity to build on existing partnerships in Norfolk and work in an innovative way to help address DA and impact on children and families.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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