

IMPROVING LIVES SELECT COMMISSION

Date and Time :- Tuesday, 27 October 2020 at 5.30 p.m.

Venue:- Microsoft Teams Meeting

Membership:- Councillors Atkin, Beaumont, Buckley, Clark, Cusworth (Chair), Elliot, Fenwick-Green, Hague, Ireland, Jarvis (Vice-Chair), Khan, Marles, Marriott, Pitchley, Senior, Simpson and Julie Turner

Co-opted Members – Ms. J. Jones (Voluntary Sector Consortium), Mrs. A. Clough (ROPF – Rotherham Older People's Forum) for agenda items relating to older peoples' issues

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view [via the Council's website](#). The items which will be discussed are described on the agenda below and there are reports attached which give more details.

Rotherham Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair or Governance Advisor of their intentions prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

There will be a pre-meeting for all members of the Improving Lives Select Commission at 4.00 p.m.

8a Domestic Abuse Strategy - Progress Report

Public Report
Improving Lives Select Commission

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Improving Lives Select Commission – 27 October 2020

Report Title

Domestic Abuse Strategy Review

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Sam.barstow@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides an overview in relation to key achievements and gaps in delivery, relating to Rotherham's Domestic Abuse Strategy. The strategy is developed and overseen by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and runs from 2017 to 2020, with a new strategy currently under development. The current strategy was endorsed by the Council's Cabinet in 2017.

Recommendations

1. That feedback be provided on the review of the current Domestic Abuse Strategy in order to inform future key objectives

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Domestic Abuse Strategy

Background Papers

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Domestic Abuse Strategy Review

1. Background

- 1.1 The Domestic Abuse Strategy for Rotherham contains the following vision:
In Rotherham we do not tolerate domestic abuse and as agencies, we will consistently identify risk, work to protect victims and address offending behaviour. In communities, we will promote the value of positive relationships and identify need, in order to focus on preventing conflict and abusive behaviours. Our services will work together, be responsive, evidence based and informed by those affected. Rotherham's approach seeks to focus on improving the quality of relationships in the borough, whilst working to protect and support those already affected by domestic abuse.
- 1.2 Within the strategy the vision was further broken down into a range of key objectives. In order to inform future steps required of the refreshed strategy for 2020 – 2025, a review of each of the objective areas has been undertaken in order to reflect on progress and identify any continuing gaps and this will be detailed further within the body of this report.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 **Aim 1:** Support cohesive, shared assessment processes that enable services to understand need and embed the message that domestic abuse is unacceptable and that perpetrators of domestic abuse crime will be brought to justice and offered intervention to change behaviour to prevent reoffending.
- 2.2 Under this aim, the partnership has continued to promote the consistent use of the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) assessment which is now well embedded and routinely applied across the Council and partner agencies. Of the 6,815 police incidents over the previous year, 12% were assessed as 'high' risk, 23% 'medium' risk and 65% as 'standard' risk. Consistent use of this assessment framework ensures that regardless of the agency which victims present to, they are assessed consistently and offered appropriate support or referral into a service.
- 2.3 Partners have also launched a Smart-Water initiative in partnership with the Police which offers further protection for victims by deterring further offences. It also offers evidence in the event there is a breach of any relevant order designed to protect the victim from contact with the abuser. 72 victims have been provided with this additional measure since its launch in 2019. Police satisfaction has also increased over the previous year with the latest quarterly rate at 81% satisfied with the way their case was handled.
- 2.4 With the standard assessment process now in place, partners are further considering the implications in relation to domestic abuse for those with complex or chaotic lifestyles. These issues are often a mixture of issues such as mental ill health, alcohol or substance misuse and co-abusive relationships. Concerningly these types of issues have been identified within the most recent Domestic Homicide Reviews conducted within the Rotherham area and is therefore a clear area of focus moving forwards. It has also been a challenge to

reduce the number of repeat 'high' risk victims, though this is in the context of rising demand for support services. During 2017, 36% of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referrals were repeats. This was the same in 2018 (36%) with a slight reduction in 2019 at 34%. This is also likely to require specific focus in the refreshed strategy.

- 2.5 **Aim 2:** Focus on the provision of services that support positive relationships through early identification of need and addressing conflict before abusive situations occur and impact negatively across communities.
- 2.6 A key achievement under this aim is the establishment of the South Yorkshire-wide Perpetrator Programme called Inspire to Change, which has now been in place for almost three years, with further funding in place for an additional three years. During 2019/20 Rotherham made 582 referrals into this service. This type of service takes place prior to individuals being found guilty of an offence and seeks to address negative and potentially abusive behaviours before they develop. Where individuals are found guilty of an offence separate and mandated perpetrator programmes exist within probation services. Increasingly services find individuals who want to stay together and therefore this type of support is crucial to helping develop healthy relationships.
- 2.7 Other initiatives, such as Operation Encompass have also been developed and delivered in the Rotherham area. This operation seeks to provide enhanced support for young people who may live within abusive households and ensure that schools are aware of initially high-risk incidents of domestic abuse. Latterly the scheme has expanded to include all types of domestic abuse incidents. This is not necessarily for any direct intervention by the school but to support the informed provision of pastoral care for the young person if required and appropriate.
- 2.8 Whilst services have improved provision up in this area, increasingly trauma is being recognised as contributing factor to abusive relationships and further opportunities exist to embed a trauma informed approach across services. This would support continued early identification and prevention efforts.
- 2.9 **Aim 3:** Review the system and redesign the adult pathway, replicating best practice
- 2.10 Over the course of the strategy, the partnership has engaged in two extensive reviews. Firstly, in an independent peer review by partners at Bradford City Council. This review provided broad overall assurance, but also highlighted the need to further clarify pathways and seek to better link support services across the whole range of statutory and third sector partners. The second review was a whole system review which sought to engage providers, workers and victims to understand the existing gaps and gather feedback as to how to improve the system. The key outcomes of this review are listed below and will be used to inform the specification of the new service, as Domestic Abuse services are to shortly be recommissioned:

- One integrated domestic abuse service that will ensure a seamless service for victims and their families across all levels of risk.
 - It is key that the IDVA Service and wider domestic abuse workforce are integrated. Not only will this avoid handovers between the services, it will enable systemic practice and key worker relationship building and will capitalise on the skills and expertise of both workforces. The integrated service will combine a range of provisions; have an extended helpline and digital offer, and responsibility for workforce training and development. This model could be delivered to varying degrees through integrated working, secondment or full integration.
- Maintaining refuge provision that meets the needs of a range of victims and family members, providing a whole family approach.
- Greater focus is required in relation to prevention through education and engagement.
- A clear offer of support for victims in co-abusive relationships.
- A diverse offer of provision which meets the needs of victims, particularly those with protected characteristics.
- A training offer needs to be considered as part of any new integrated domestic abuse model to ensure consistency, upskilling of services, awareness raising and accountability. Following this it is likely that there will be an increase in referrals at an early prevention stage and from hard to reach communities.

2.11 **Aim 4:** Make every contact count (MECC), wherever people access support, providing effective support.

2.12 This aim is linked in a number of ways to Aim 1 and relies on effective and consistent assessment across agencies, informing appropriate support referrals. In order to ensure a level of awareness and consistency, the partnership has continued to offer free training to a large array of professionals, including those from statutory agencies, but also extending to place like banks, hairdressers and dentists. The partnership has also established a framework to monitor training across the statutory agency workforce in order to hold agencies to account on their commitment to domestic abuse training and awareness raising. The Council and its partners have also delivered various communication and engagement campaigns relating to domestic abuse using themes such as Safeguarding Awareness week to promote positive messages. Finally, the partnership has been able to enhance the digital offer within services through additional funding to the commissioned service, Rotherham Rise.

2.13 **Aim 5:** Identify lessons, listen to victims, promote challenge and respond as a partnership

2.14 This aim seeks to ensure continued learning and development in response to Domestic Abuse. Aside from the review processes listed in section 2.10, this Aim

includes learning from tragedies such as deaths or suicides linked to domestic abuse, along with the commissioned review process referenced above, near miss investigations by the partnership, and the review of research and learning from our regional partners. During the lifetime of the current strategy, two Domestic Homicide Reviews have taken place, one of which is currently published and relates to a death that took place in 2017, with the second relating to a further death in 2018. The latter is currently with the Home Office for agreement for publication. In addition, a further five 'near miss' reviews have taken place over the previous two years. These are not statutory but are undertaken by the partnership in cases where serious injury has or was likely to occur and ensures that lessons are learnt at every available opportunity. Common themes arising from this work again relates to co-abusive relationships, mental health issues and/or substance misuse. This work continues to be used to inform immediate actions and strategic objectives.

- 2.15 **Stalking and Harassment** has been a key issued identified by Improving Lives Select Committee in previous discussions relating to domestic abuse and as a result the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) have undertaken further work and additional monitoring. It is important to understand that stalking and harassment is often a part of a pattern of abusive behaviours in cases of domestic abuse. As a result, stalking and harassment is part of the standard assessment framework and a key part of the safety planning work undertaken by statutory and commissioned services. Protection from this form of domestic abuse runs through all of the services and is apparent in initiatives such as the Smart Water initiative referred to above, along with the use of powers such as Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders. Further work has also been done to establish the nature of any stranger related stalking and harassment and whether this should be an area of further concerns. This has primarily involved quarterly monitoring of any repeat stalking and harassment cases related to stranger stalking only throughout 2019. No cases were identified in that period from Police data. The SRP also developed a clear stalking pathway in order to provide clarity in terms of the support offer for victims of stranger stalking and this is attached as appendix B. This is thought to be the only such pathway across South Yorkshire and may now be adopted across the region.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The current Domestic Abuse Strategy concludes at the end of 2020. A further strategy is proposed for the period 2020 – 2025. This will enable the partnership to take a longer-term approach to the issues identified and is a natural progression from the position of services three years ago and the requirement at that time for a short and focussed strategy. The key issues that have been identified over the lifetime of the current strategy are as follows:
- Deliver an integrated domestic abuse support service through the recommissioning of contracts, as legally required
 - Further work to identify and address co-abusive relationships
 - Continue to focus on prevention and early intervention
 - Strengthen the response to complex cases of domestic abuse

- 3.2 Further work will also be undertaken to explore the potential to focus on both Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, with the two often linked and the responses often involving the same or similar practitioners and professionals.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken throughout the lifetime of the strategy, as referenced in section 2.10. The partnership will also be launching an extensive engagement and co-production process with providers of domestic abuse services in order to design the specification of future services for victims of Domestic Abuse in the Rotherham area. Finally, the review of the strategy has taken place in partnership with key service providers across the Police, Health, commissioned and non-commissioned services. The future strategy will be designed by a similar cross sector partnership of practitioners and professionals.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 As noted, the current strategy concludes at the end of 2020 and therefore a new strategy is to be designed and agreed at the December meeting of the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications brought about as a result of this report. Financial implications in relation to recommissioning of services will be detailed within the relevant report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 Whilst statutory processes such as Domestic Homicide Reviews are referenced the report overall does not present any legal implications for consideration.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct HR implications as a result of this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 All victims of Domestic Abuse and their families could be classed as vulnerable. Issues relating to the provision of services and support are dealt with directly within the paper.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 Equalities implications are routinely considered in terms of engagement in any consultation, monitoring of any statistics in relation to services users and access to services.

11. Implications for Partners

- 11.1 Domestic Abuse is managed through a partnership priority group, under the leadership of the SRP Board. As a result, partners are thoroughly engaged in the work relating to the strategy.

12. Risks and Mitigation

- 12.1 There is limited risk associated with the review and development of future strategy. The strategy seeks to prevent risk by guiding services in relation to key priorities.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Sam Barstow, Head of Community Safety and Regulatory Services



The Safer **Rotherham**

Safer Rotherham Partnership **Domestic Abuse Strategy** 2017 to 2020

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Foreword

from the Chair of the Safer Rotherham Partnership,
Councillor Emma Hoddinott

The Safer Rotherham Partnership continues to develop and strengthen, building on the commitments made within the Partnership Plan covering 2016 – 2019. Whilst we collectively accept the scale of the challenges ahead of us, I am pleased to see progress being made against the aims of the partnership and in this case, the development of this strategy to coordinate our efforts in respect of tackling Domestic Abuse.

The Borough of Rotherham covers a district of 110 square miles and has a mix of communities in both rural and urban areas. Centrally placed within South Yorkshire, the population continues to grow and change over time with an increase in the numbers of those aged over 60, who now make up one in four of our residents, and those from minority ethnic groups, who now account for one in ten. This range of communities and the changing nature of them mean our services must continue to adapt to meet demand. To adapt we must ensure that we continue to be informed by feedback, consultation findings and inspection recommendations, whilst responding to a changing national picture, making best use of available interventions for support that help to change behaviour as well as tools and powers.

Across the partnerships in Rotherham, a range of services are commissioned that offer advice and support for victims of domestic abuse alongside refuge provision, housing support and a range of counselling interventions. Despite this provision, we have identified gaps.

In particular our own assessments, alongside external reports, tell us that we need to focus on addressing the following;

- Continue to improve assessment of risk, evidence gathering and action to address offences of domestic abuse
- A focus on tackling offenders and bringing them to justice
- Increased work around prevention and early identification of issues, before abusive situations develop
- Ensuring a strong interface between the children and adults systems and building on existing strengths related to information sharing that facilitates communication across the continuum of need.
- Upskilling agencies to swiftly identify the signs of Domestic Abuse and building consistent, integrated pathways. Embed a culture of learning across the strategic partnership that enables a robust response to emerging research as well as findings from Serious Case Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews, whether local or national.

Domestic Abuse continues to be a priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership. Through the work of the partnership progress has been made in improving delivery of provision but evidence highlights that more is needed and further improvements required. This strategy seeks to harness the energy of the partnership and focus development towards common goals. Making best use of the limited resources available by working together will enable a rigorous and proactive approach to improving the quality of relationships across Rotherham and reducing harm caused by domestic abuse.

Introduction

Whilst we know that Rotherham is a unique place with its own identity and history, there are many parallels in relation to domestic abuse when comparing with the national picture.

According to the Office of National Statistics (ONS), during the year 2016, domestic abuse accounted for one in ten calls to Police with a total 1.03 million reports. Of these reports, four in every ten were identified as being a domestic abuse -related criminal offence. The ONS have also stated that there seven women a month killed by their current or former partner. SafeLives estimate that over 130,000 children live in households affected by domestic abuse. With significant levels of underreporting suspected, and confirmed by victims and survivors, it is clear that this issue affects many lives and many families across the country.

The national picture is consistent in Rotherham, where reports of domestic abuse continue to rise. South Yorkshire Police received 6,500 calls relating to domestic abuse during 2016, a rise of 5.7 % in comparison to 2015 (6152). Recorded domestic-related crime also rose by 28 % locally in 15/16 and estimates suggest over 27,000 women and girls in the Rotherham area have suffered abuse in their lifetime and while we know this issue does not only affect women, we do recognise the increased prevalence. Whilst increases in reporting are positive, in the context of suspected underreporting, we need to do more to understand the true scale of domestic abuse. The number of crimes has risen by 22 % from 1562 in 2014/15 to 1900 in 2015/16. In relation to cases, during 2016 we recorded 431 high risk victims, 1722 medium risk victims and 4373 victims requiring

lower levels of support. As a result of these increases, there is a challenge for services in meeting demand effectively. During 2016/17, there were 3914 contacts for families to the early help Service and 'family relationships' are amongst the top three cited needs. Almost a third (32.5 %) of cases are identified by social care services or the police, suggesting missed opportunities for earlier identification and intervention. Young people are also at risk of suffering or perpetrating domestic abuse within teenage relationships, according to a report conducted by the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board which made a number of recommendations to support closer working between domestic abuse and teenage services.

Alongside the statistical data the partnership is supported by a range of inspections and quality assurance frameworks that provide insight into these services and inform valuable learning for the partnership. This work includes inspections of the Police, such as the PEEL inspection, partnership inspections, Domestic Homicide and Serious Case reviews alongside themed reviews known as 'Deep-Dive' inspections and inspections by agencies such as Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. Commissioners at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) requested an audit into Children who are at risk of domestic abuse, which concluded in June 2017.

Recent reviews reinforce the data and have suggested that routes into services can be confusing and at times, agencies have missed opportunities to spot the early signs where intervening at an early stage could have improved situations. The range of people and agencies that can be involved in cases and in assessing risk means that the information may not always be accessible and we may not properly understand the full

picture for victims or perpetrators. This may be exacerbated by families not feeling involved with the process of making decisions individually, or collectively informing the services. A lack of consistency in the application of assessment tools and processes, such as early help and DASH, limits any feelings of consistency for families and reduces visibility of need to agencies. Further work with perpetrators is also required both to prevent and address unacceptable behaviour, both as a community, alongside using legal powers available.

There has been some significant progress made by agencies in recent years including higher levels of both generic and specialist training, in particular the Police have received specialist training in relation to victims of domestic abuse. Partners continue to commission various services which total £444,000 and range from refuge through to floating support and have supported a total of 532 victims during the last financial year. The partnership has recently been awarded an additional £200,000 in order to better support victims fleeing domestic abuse, who have complex needs. The SRP have also commissioned Salford City Council to conduct a peer review into domestic abuse service, which will commence in 2017.

The strategic partnership recognises and seeks to further understand the drivers and impact of domestic abuse and this strategy will focus on the gaps identified by the partnership, through a range of sources, and seek to improve services for the benefit of the people and communities impacted by conflictual relationships and domestic abuse. The strategic vision is informed by local evidence and has been developed to accelerate change and improve outcomes.



Current Provision

There is a range of commissioned, voluntary and charity funded services that exist within Rotherham. These services provide a range of functions that are important to supporting delivery of domestic abuse services.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) are commissioned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and support those affected by domestic abuse that are assessed as high risk. A local charity, Rotherham Rise, is commissioned to deliver a range of services for medium and standard risk victims alongside providing housing support and a refuge. There are a number of outreach, voluntary and counselling services that support those impacted by domestic abuse including some which target support to minority communities and those with protected characteristics. There are currently around 350 victims being supported across this range of services. The South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (SYCRC) currently runs a number of perpetrator programmes for those convicted of relevant offences, such as the Accredited Building Better Relationships programme and non-accredited short duration Respectful Relationships programme. SYCRC currently work with approximately 450 identified perpetrators of domestic abuse within the County.

Vision

In Rotherham we do not tolerate domestic abuse and as agencies, we will consistently identify risk, work to protect victims and address offending behaviour. In communities, we will promote the value of positive relationships and identify need, in order to focus on preventing conflict and abusive behaviours. Our services will work together, be responsive, evidence based and informed by those affected. Rotherham's approach seeks to focus on improving the quality of relationships in the borough, whilst working to protect and support those already affected by domestic abuse.

Aims

The Aim:

Support cohesive, shared assessment processes that enable services to understand need and embed the message that domestic abuse is unacceptable and that perpetrators of domestic abuse crime will be brought to justice and offered intervention to change behaviour to prevent reoffending.

The Gap:

Identified weaknesses in assessing risk in criminal or civil justice settings, gathering evidence and use of tools and powers, including legal powers.

The Aim:

Focus on the provision of services that support positive relationships through early identification of need and addressing conflict before abusive situations occur and impact negatively across communities.

The Gap:

A reactive, costly approach that tackles symptoms and not root causes of domestic abuse.

The Aim:

Review the system and redesign the adult pathway, replicating best practice.

The Gap:

Pathways for those adults affected by domestic abuse are duplicative and confused and this makes sharing information and the provision of coordinated, timely support a challenge. The pathway must be accessible for all.

Aims

The Aim:

Make every contact count (MECC), wherever people access support, providing effective support.

The Gap:

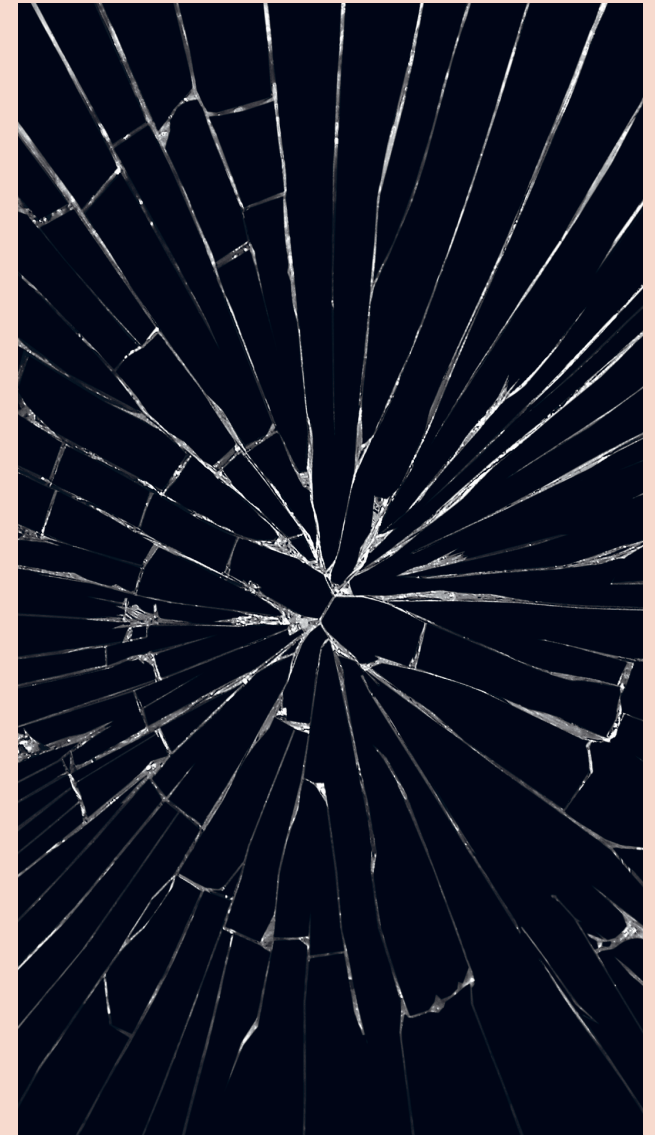
Not all agencies are quick to identify domestic abuse; they don't always fulfil responsibility of using shared assessments or put people in touch with the right services. At times we are unsure who is the victim and we know that this can change within abusive relationships, service must be able to respond to this changing picture.

The Aim:

Identify lessons, listen to victims, promote challenge and respond as a partnership.

The Gap:

We have not always been quick to act on lessons learnt. We want to be quicker at responding and delivering more together, using our now well established and strong leadership in Rotherham as a catalyst for change. We want those affected by domestic abuse to have a voice and inform our services.



Objectives

Support cohesive, shared assessment processes that enable services to understand need and embed the message that domestic abuse is unacceptable and that perpetrators of domestic abuse crime will be brought to justice and offered intervention to change behaviour to prevent reoffending.

Whilst domestic abuse continues to rise in terms of incidents reported, it is widely accepted that this does not represent the true level of incidents within Rotherham or across the Country. Whilst there may often be a combination of reasons as to why someone may choose not to report, this can often be influenced by peoples trust in the system and belief that there will not be an effective response. Victims want assurances that partners would make them safer, as opposed to placing them in any more risk. To achieve the best outcomes, we have to act under the same principles and process.

In order to deliver against this objective, the partnership will focus on the following areas;

- Embed an approach that focuses on prevention rather than cure
- Seek innovate ways to support those affected by domestic abuse, learning from research and applying evidence based methodology to the services that we commission
- Increase the appropriate use of tools and powers to address domestic violence
- Seek to prevent future perpetrators through education and effective intervention
- Promote understanding of positive relationships, the impact of couple conflict and domestic abuse across agencies and communities

Focus on the provision of services that support positive relationships through early identification of need and addressing conflict before abusive situations occur and impact negatively across communities.

We are clear in our determination to protect victims of domestic abuse but a key objective, for long term, sustainable change is to apply a preventative approach in Rotherham. In order to reduce the incidence of abusive relationships we need to offer support at the earliest juncture by joining with partners and communities to promote positive relationships. Research shows that adults in distressed relationships are much more like to suffer from depression, anxiety and other mental health problems as well as poor physical health. There is also clear evidence that poor-quality parental relationships and inter-parental conflict, for those with children have a negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life chances. Negative relationships also have clear economic consequences, in terms of increased costs to the public purse through responding in reactive rather than proactive ways. Investing in support for the promotion of good-quality relationships makes economic sense for Rotherham at a time when pressures to public funding are high.

- Commission interventions that focus on prevention of risk and future harm
- Commission intervention that breaks cycles of abuse and harm
- Identify groups at risk and deliver preventative interventions
- Promote positive relationships
- Identify individual and community based strengths that could be further developed

Objectives

Review the system and redesign the adult pathway, replicating best practice

Various inspections and ‘deep-dive’ reviews have revealed that the partnership would benefit from working more effectively together in order to ensure that we spot the signs, maximise opportunities to intervene and share relevant information swiftly and effectively across partners. Key to addressing domestic abuse is having a common understanding of what it is, what our collective response should be and how we work together.

In order to deliver against this objective, the partnership will focus on the following areas;

- Support the development of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in order to ensure that it supports and protects our most vulnerable people
- Continue to strengthen information sharing
- Develop a multi-agency pathway
- Enable effective joint commissioning

Make every contact count, wherever people access, providing effective support

Domestic abuse may present in a number of different ways whether that be through access to health, crime and anti-social behaviour or as a family in crisis. People may also find it challenging to access services and so we should ensure there are no barriers, for any individuals or communities. The multitude of ways in which this issue could present highlight the critical need for partners to ensure that they are alert to domestic abuse, will handle victims or perpetrators appropriately and engage the relevant processes.

- Make sure the system works, wherever people access
- Ensure appropriate access for all individuals and communities, including BME, LGBT and those less able
- Ensure front line staff within all agencies are trained
- Support the development of the MADA



Objectives

Identify lessons and respond as a partnership

Alongside proactive improvement to the system, it is also a critical function of this partnership to ensure that any available learning is captured and responded to. Alongside statutory process in relation to DHRs, serious case reviews, themed reviews, audits and external inspections are often relevant to this area of work. As a partnership we want to ensure we are as effective as possible, this involves challenging ourselves, and each other, to ensure the best possible service. Where there are lessons, we will respond collectively to change practice.

- Oversee the delivery of actions relating to DHRs
- Seek to provide our own quality assurance framework
- Deliver responses as a partnership



Delivery

Strategy

This strategy has been developed by the Domestic Abuse Priority Group, on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership. The purpose of having this strategy is to clearly identify our gaps and areas for improvement and allow us to focus on them together. As highlighted within this document partnership work is key to our success and this strategy will therefore become the driving force in respect of improvements to domestic abuse services.

Performance

Periodic updates in relation to progress will be expected by the SRP Performance and Delivery Group (PAD). Suitable performance indicators will be identified in order to support each aim and again, periodic updates will be provided. Alongside managing performance, the partnership will seek to manage any risks that exist in respect of delivery against the strategy.

Action Plans

A robust action plan will be developed to support this strategy. The action plan will be driven by the aims and objectives contained within this strategy and will identify specific actions needed in order to support each aim and deliver success.



If you would like to speak to someone about domestic abuse then please make contact with one of the following;

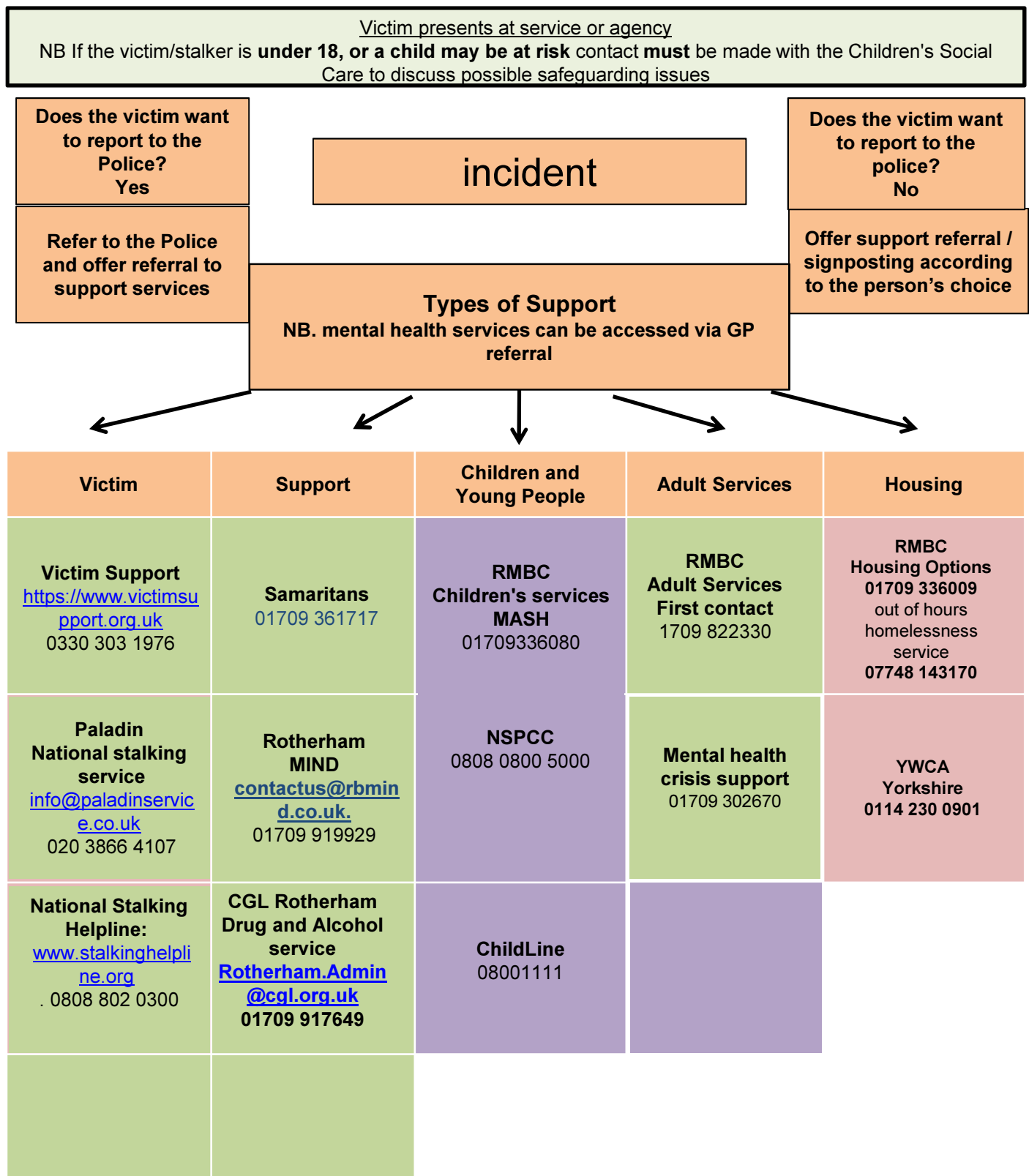
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
01709 255011

Rotherham RISE
0330 202 0571

South Yorkshire Police on 101
or 999 in an emergency

*Don't
suffer
in silence*

The Rotherham Stalking Pathway 2019



Domestic Abuse

For cases of Stalking within a domestic relationship complete a DASH.

If High Risk, refer to MARAC and IDVAS – 01709 823196
MARAC.referrals@rotherham.gov.uk

If medium/standard risk, with consent, refer to Rotherham Rise [03302020571](tel:03302020571)
enquiries@rotherhamrise.org.uk

Sexual Harassment

No matter what the situation is, sexual harassments is never ok and is not your fault. If you've been subjected to unwanted sexual behaviour you can contact Victim support for free and confidential help. [0330 303 1976](tel:0330 303 1976)
If you feel you are in danger call **999** or report the incident to the Police.
Getting help is the first step to stopping this form of abuse.