

## **Early Help**

The Early help strategy identifies the need for clear pathways into support for children, young people and families at the earliest possible stage through the Early Help Teams. The Troubled Families Outcomes Plan is explicit in this and also identifies the need to work closely with VCS organisations where appropriate.

## **Work in Schools**

The Expect Resource has been promoted, signposted, given to schools electronically/written in to the Rotherham Healthy Schools Scheme of work for PSHE primary phase for several years but it is for the schools to teach themselves. Reception through to 6<sup>th</sup> form session plans is provided.

Gender awareness work underpins domestic abuse prevention work (also written in to Primary SOW – Equal choices, Equal Chances with links to the world of work also) this links to media awareness and expectations e.g. are they different for males and females – codes of behaviour, language used etc.

Healthy Relationships work (including consent) is the underpinning link to domestic abuse work and child sexual exploitation rather than having issues addressed in silos.

## **Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**

The MASH went live on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and replaces the 24 hour decision making process previously undertaken by CART.

All cases where there are children, and/or high/potential high risk are discussed daily at the Multi Agency Domestic Abuse hub (MADA).

High risk Adult only case discussed at MADA daily.

Encompass updates Education of Domestic abuse incidences within the family daily.

## **Safeguarding Adults Team**

The Safeguarding Adults Team (SAT) commenced on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2015 and is based at Main Street Police Station.

The team, as part of the South Yorkshire Police Public Protection Unit (PPU) is part of Specialist Crime Services.

The role of the SAT is to deal with;

**Domestic Abuse Investigation & Safeguarding** (Professional investigation programme (PIP) level 1 (priority and volume crime investigations) & level 2 (serious and complex investigations)).

- **High-risk domestic abuse incidents (crime or non-crime)** - Investigation and safeguarding for the whole family beyond the initial Police response following grading by Domestic Abuse Risk Assessors (DARA). This includes prisoner process for all offences at PIP level 1 and 2.
- **Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** - Investigation and safeguarding of all incidents where the victim is 18 or over at the time of the offence.
- **Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DADS/Claire's Law)** - Risk assessment and subsequent disclosure of information to applicants.
- **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** – Research and present information around high risk domestic cases and fulfil any Police actions arising.
- **Retraction Statements** - Where an offender is charged and CPS require a retraction statement. (The original OIC will be responsible for preparing a background report for the case.)

### **Sexual Offences Investigation & Safeguarding (PIP level 2)**

- **Non-stranger Rape and Sexual Assault by Penetration** - Investigation and safeguarding of all incidents beyond the initial Police response, whereby the victim is aged 18 or over at the time of the offence, except in cases where the identity of the offender is not immediately known and will require significant enquiries to establish (stranger rape).
- **Stranger Rape and Sexual Assault by Penetration** – Support the Force Crime Unit (FCU) investigation by way of victim care/safeguarding and video interview (ABE) when required.
- **All sexual offences whereby the victim has a diagnosed mental disorder or learning disability** - Investigation and safeguarding of all incidents beyond the initial Police response, whereby the victim is aged 18 or over at the time of the offence, except in cases where the identity of the offender is not immediately known and will require significant enquiries to establish.

### **Vulnerable Adult Investigation & Safeguarding (PIP level 2)**

- Investigation and safeguarding of all incidents beyond the initial police response, whereby the victim is aged 18 or over at the time of the offence and a lack of care or neglect has resulted in serious or significant harm (physical, emotional, psychological or financial) to the victim.

### **Perpetrator Programme(s)**

#### **South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)**

**Build Better Relationships (BBR)** - This is a nationally accredited group-work programme designed to reduce reoffending by adult male offenders convicted of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The programme is delivered to High Risk of Harm offenders who are supervised by the National Probation Service.

**As part of a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order an offender may also be required to attend a Short Activity Programme as part of their order. The following programmes are currently delivered in South Yorkshire, including Rotherham:**

**Respectful Relationships** – A twelve sessions Domestic Abuse Programme. The programme is suitable for Medium Risk Offenders who have either been convicted of or linked to domestic abuse and abusive behaviour (this may not be convicted behaviour but link to risk and risk management.)

**Re -Think** - Eight session thinking and behaviour programme. This programme is available for all offenders who have an identified thinking and behaviour need.

**Anger Management** - A twelve session programme focusing on issues and difficulties linked to emotional control or angry and aggressive behaviour which has or may lead to violence.

**Driving Matters** - An eight session programme, with four sessions on Drink Driving and four sessions on being a responsible road user. This programme can be tailored to a participants needs and participants can be referred for either or both of the group session modules.

### **Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (IDVA) – based in Adult Services**

This service can be referred into via a DASH Risk assessment. Risk needs to be high to meet the threshold to access the service. IDVAs will support victims with emotional and practical needs. They will continue working with the client until the risk is reduced at which point, if appropriate, they will refer into alternative support services. Support is offered

Age Criteria 16+, referral to MARAC, provides advice and support to Vulnerable Person Team who sits under the same service.

Currently there are 3 IDVA and 1 male support worker. The recommendation of Safe Lives is for 5 IDVA for an area the size of Rotherham.

### **The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

The SARC is based in Sheffield and provides a South Yorkshire one stop service for males and females of any age who have experienced rape or sexual assault regardless of whether this happened recently or in the past.

### **Independent Sexual Violent Advocates (ISVA) – out to tender**

This service is currently provided by the Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (DRASACS). The SY Police & Crime Commissioner ISVA tender will be announced at the end Nov 2016, if successful, the service will be delivered through the Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service as part of a county-wide service led by DRASACS.

The service provides practical support to victims of sexual violence; speciality of supporting people as complainants in the criminal justice process, ensuring that victims receive their entitlements under the 'Victims Code'.

Referrals received since April 2016 (when the service moved from NHS SARC to DRASACS) is 161 with 85 current 'live' clients.

Approximately £65k will be coming into the Rotherham area via the Police & Crime Commissioner tender, for the next three years (2017-2020), with a gap in funding of approximately £12k.

A Rotherham area requires 2.2 FTE ISVA posts to meet current demand.

### **Rotherham Rise – RMBC commissioned services.**

#### **Black, minority, ethnic, refugee (BMER) – Rotherham Rise**

The purpose of this service is to provide specialist support and housing related support to vulnerable BMER women who are experiencing domestic abuse or who are at significant risk of domestic abuse.

This specialist service must work with all women (and where appropriate their children) to support the various needs relating to the experience of domestic abuse.

The support must be specialised in nature and tailored to the very specific and differing needs of this diverse group of women.

Although the service is for women the provider must ensure that any males contacting the service for support are advised and appropriately signposted to an alternative support service to meet their needs.

#### **Medium Standard risk support - Rotherham Rise**

Provides housing related support to vulnerable people who are experiencing domestic abuse or who are at significant risk of domestic abuse, from the age of 16.

The service will support both men and women and will ensure that support is provided appropriately to meet their specific needs. Service users will be eligible for support if they are resettling after a period of living without a permanent home (i.e. supported/temporary accommodation, refuge, living with family or friends, homeless) or are at risk of losing their home (Prevention).

#### **Services for Children and Young People – Rotherham Rise**

Holistic approach on a one to one basis focussing on providing a safe, inclusive environment to explore children and young people's experiences, thoughts, wishes and feelings of Domestic Abuse. Gives the space and opportunity to speak openly about their feelings and past experiences in order to provide them with the right support tailored to their needs

Widens Children and Young People's support networks to promote quality of life and build confidence, self-esteem and positive relationships. Direct work is undertaken on a one to one basis in regards to safety planning and awareness of keeping safe, which incorporates internet safety. Also works in partnership with other professionals/ organisations including social care.

### **Group Work – Rotherham Rise**

TRAP (Teenage Relationship Abuse Programme) - TRAP is an 8 week programme for young women who have/ may be vulnerable to relationship abuse in an intimate or family relationship. The 8 week programme asks young women to consider and explore:

### **Rotherham Rise Men's Centre (under development)**

The purpose of this service is to develop and provide a range of appropriate support services to meet the holistic needs of men and young males who have been affected by domestic violence and abuse and child sexual exploitation. This will include preventative work and work with perpetrators.

This service will be delivered by Rotherham RISE in partnership with other providers and agencies in both statutory and VCS.

### **Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service**

Specialist counselling service for those traumatised by sexual/domestic abuse/violence, childhood sexual exploitation and abuse and honour based violence.

The aim is to make long-term, sustainable improvements in anxiety and depression. Post-therapy, clients report feelings of being more confident, better self-esteem, relaxed, independent, positive, stronger and even happy.

Provide practical and emotional support, advocating for clients when required and addressing social isolation and loneliness.

Therapeutic and non-therapy groups are offered for those either waiting for one to one therapy to start or once they have completed. Drop-in and the moving on group are also available to those in therapy.

### **Victim Support – Out to Tender**

Notable changes are that support is now to be paid to 'victim care advocates' as opposed to volunteers and SV, DV victims should be triaged to specialist services where they have capacity. When the contract award is decided it will require consultation and collaboration with all stakeholders and local services as there is a strong focus on coordination and there is a need to agree pathways. This will make it more streamlined for victims and avoid duplication of effort.

## **Domestic and sexual abuse co-ordinator (D&SAC)**

Historically this post has sat within the Community Safety arena but in December 2011 was transferred along with the Independent Domestic Advocacy Service into Adult Safeguarding. The post holder left the authority in July 2015 and the post remained vacant until October 2016 when it was returned back to Community Safety and a newly recruited co-ordinator took up the post.

The purpose of the D&SAC is to Support the development and achievement of SRP priorities and targets at a strategic level by leading on domestic and sexual abuse through delivery of the domestic and sexual abuse strategy. The post also leads on associated work on behalf of RMBC (e.g. Violence against Women and Girls), ensures SRP compliance with the statutory conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews and develop training and pathways for domestic and sexual abuse.

## **Domestic Violence or Abuse as an indicator of Troubled Families**

Proposed South Yorkshire pilot working in conjunction with the 'Nesta' innovation foundation. Although originally intended to apply data analytics to the Troubled Families Programme (TFP) in its entirety, a decision has been taken to focus on a subset of the programme – domestic violence or abuse (DVA).

As one of the 6 Headline Problems of the Expanded Programme, it was felt that DVA would provide an indicator and potential early warning symptom of those individuals or families that are either at risk of needing support or are in danger of not being viewed as high enough risk when support would be beneficial

## **Growing Futures. – Children's Services**

South Yorkshire bid in for Domestic Abuse Navigators (DANS) to work with whole family to co-ordinate support for high risk cases, the DANS will do direct work with perpetrators within the family.

## **£20 Million funding – Housing Services- task group in place to look at bid**

This will be used to increase refuge spaces and other accommodation for women fleeing domestic violence. From ensuring that victims have somewhere safe to live and recover, to providing education, employment and life skills training, the fund will support a range of services to help victims rebuild their lives.

New 'Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services' are also being published setting out how local authorities should be responding to domestic abuse in a collaborative and effective way.

This puts the victim first, providing flexible services that meet their needs and collaborating with other councils to open up services to victims from outside the local area. The fund is designed to increase refuge spaces and ensure that no victim is ever turned away from the essential support they need.

£20 million fund will ensure that local authorities can work with charities to help those who really need it. This is the first wave of the £40 million dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse at Spending Review 2015.

### **Domestic and Sexual Abuse Priority Group (D&SAPG).**

The D&SAPG is a multi-agency group formed to support the work of and report to the SRP as a key priority area.

The group has been established to:

- Produce a 3 year Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, with its recommendations implemented by the Rotherham Domestic Abuse Forum
- Support the reduction of repeat incidents being heard at MARAC
- Reduce and prevent the occurrence of domestic homicides in Rotherham
- Ensure that opportunities for the prevention of domestic abuse are fully utilised and linked in with initiatives to prevent violent crime, including anti-social behaviour, hate crime and alcohol related violence
- Improve the overall approach to addressing domestic abuse by agencies
- Increase and encourage the reporting of domestic abuse
- Improve partnership working on the wider “Violence against Women and Girls” agenda, in particular work on Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation
- Increase the awareness of domestic abuse and the effect on its victims, including children who may be living in households where domestic abuse is being perpetrated
- Provide strategic co-ordination of the work being undertaken to address domestic abuse to ensure early intervention is aligned with longer term support available and that victims identified as being of high risk of domestic homicide are referred to MARAC and IDVAS to ensure the risk of domestic homicide is reduced
- Ensure compliance with the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Component
- To ensure the ongoing development and effectiveness of multi-agency learning and to implement the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews
- Audit, evaluate and monitor effectiveness of how well multi agencies work together to protect victims, and any children, of domestic abuse by ensuring compliance with the SDVC Components
- Improve ways of working in light of local, regional and national experience, research and evaluations
- To raise awareness in the wider community of the need to promote awareness, prevent abuse and protect victims, and any children, from the impact of domestic abuse and how they can contribute to achieving these objective
- To agree modification of policy and procedure in line with changes in legislation, Government policy and local practice experience

This group has not met in this format since 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 when it was chaired by adult safeguarding. This, together with the post of Domestic and

Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator being vacant between July 2015 and October 2016 did result in a lack of co-ordination of the strategic and operational functions, although lots of good work was, and continues to be done. A smaller group initially led by C&YPS and later by Strategic Commissioning formed to fill this void and maintain some momentum, and its contribution in respect of this should be acknowledged. This group held its final meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November to be replaced by a re-convened priority group (Recommendation 3)

### **Multi Agency Domestic Abuse meetings (MADA)**

The purpose is to share information regarding high risk cases received in the past 24 hours and agree next steps. This ensures immediate actions to ensure the safety of the individual and any children involved.

The IDVA sits with the Children and Families Team Social Worker and assess cases and risks putting in immediate protective measures. A screening exercise is also undertaken. This information then goes to a meeting with SYP and other agencies (MADA) to ensure actions are allocated and followed up the following day at the next MADA.

A plan is put in place for each case discussed at MADA, which has immediate actions that include contacting and informing those who have links with any children involved e.g. schools, health visitors.

This meeting captures incidents between MARACs, facilitating a faster protective response.

The impact on MARAC is that repeats are reduced in the longer term and improved response times for those at highest risk are put in place.

### **MARAC. – Referral 16+ age**

The MARAC is to reduce the risk of further assault, injury and homicide to victims of domestic abuse who have been assessed as at high risk of further abuse. The MARAC is designed to support, not replace existing public protection arrangements, it has specific focus on the safety of the victim and any children. The MARAC forms part of a package which includes the IDVA service and sits within the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme. MARAC operates within Safe Lives guidance The over-arching aims of the MARAC is to:

- Protect victims of Domestic Abuse and their children
- Reduce serious harm and homicide as a result of domestic abuse
- Improve effectiveness by enabling agencies to work together
- Improve single and multi-agency accountability through focused action planning
- Provide support for staff working with “high risk” cases of Domestic Abuse
- Reduce the risk of further victimisation of victims of Domestic Abuse
- Enhanced information sharing between agencies, to ensure that a full picture of the risk can be identified and appropriate measures implemented to reduce the risk



- The MARAC meets fortnightly to consider cases of domestic abuse where the victim has been assessed as at high risk of serious harm, with the aim of reducing that risk and promoting safety. This includes:
- Accepting referrals from any agency whose staff is trained to use the ACPO DASH 2009 Risk Assessment Model, and who have assessed the case as High Risk.
- Ensuring the victim's voice is heard, through representation by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate.
- Sharing information to provide a full picture to enable appropriate action to be agreed.
- Agreeing actions to reduce risk and promote the safety and well-being of the victim and any children.
- Providing professional support to reduce the risk of further harm.
- Between June 2015 and July 2016 there were 523 cases discussed at MARAC.

### **MARAC Steering Group**

The purpose of the MARAC steering group is to provide strategic governance to the MARAC in order to reduce repeat victimisation and reduce levels of harm posed to high risk victims of domestic abuse in Rotherham. Also to provide quality assurance to the MARAC and ensure compliance with the Safe Lives' principles of an effective MARAC process.