1. Meeting: Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

2. Date: 1st December 2006

3. Title: Responding to the Scrutiny Panel’s report on the impact of domestic violence on children and young people

4. Programme Area: Children & Young People’s Services

5. Summary:

In December 2005, the Scrutiny Panel held a special meeting to consider the impact of Domestic Violence on children and young people. The Panel have made a number of recommendations which have been carefully considered by the Joint Leadership Team of Children and Young People’s Services.

Children and Young People’s Services have made a significant contribution to the drafting of the new Domestic Violence Strategy. Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board have highlighted its contribution to the Domestic Violence Strategy and improving services to children who experience domestic violence as a priority in its Business Plan 2006-2007. The ‘Safe and Well’ multi-agency assessment Protocol and Practice Guidance issued in May 2006 included domestic violence as a source of stress for children and a factor to be considered in assessments. This report outlines the work undertaken this year to ensure appropriate planning and funding of accessible and appropriate services.

6. Recommendations:

That;

a. The Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel receives and accepts the report and the action plan attached.

b. The Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel highlight corporately the importance of establishing accurate baseline information to inform the future commissioning of services for children, mothers and other carers experiencing domestic violence.

c. The Scrutiny Panel supports the request for a representative for Children and Young People’s Services to be a member of the Supporting People Commissioning Group.

d. A further report is provided in respect of children of women without recourse to public funds when information is received from provider services.

e. The information about Domestic Violence on the Council website should be reviewed and improved.

f. The Corporate Domestic Violence Policy should be updated and relaunched alongside the Domestic Violence Strategy.


g. The final draft of the Rotherham ‘Safeguarding Children affected by Domestic Violence’ multi-agency Protocol and Practice Guidance be received at a future meeting.
7. Proposals and Details:

Context

The report into the impact of domestic violence by the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel published this year highlighted that domestic violence is prevalent in all communities in our society. In Rotherham, universal services provide general support to the women and children who do not come forward to report their experiences of domestic abuse. The integration of Children and Young people’s services is driven by a commitment to prevention and early intervention to promote the best possible outcomes for children in the borough. Statutory and voluntary agencies jointly contribute to specialist and targeted help where children have additional needs as a result of domestic violence or at a risk of significant harm as a result of domestic violence at home.

In 2005-06:

- Rotherham Victim Support received 369 referrals as a result of domestic violence and 64 clients had additional security to their property.
- Rotherham Women’s Refuge accommodated 53 women and provided outreach support to 42. It also helps women find accommodation in other refuges outside the borough.
- The Refuge worked with 69 resident children and an additional 16 through outreach work.
- 85 women were provided with support from Apna Haq
- 197 women received support from Choices and Options Project
- Children’s Social Care received over 1000 referrals about children due to issues related to domestic violence. A significant number of these referrals were received from South Yorkshire Police who have improved their recording and assessment practice in respect of calls about domestic abuse. Many children continue to receive help from universal services or specialist services as children in need. Child protection investigation and planning takes place for those children and young people most at risk of harm or family breakdown.
- Over 46% (59) of 129 children on the Child Protection Register in June 2006 had experienced domestic abuse at home. A number of children who become looked after by the local authority will also have been adversely affected by domestic violence at home.
- 362 children and young people received the Violence Free Relationships programme in a school or alternative setting.

Children and Young People’s Services have responded to all the Scrutiny Panel recommendations which are set out below.
Strategic Planning

7.1 Use of the ‘Vision for services for children and young people affected by domestic violence’ as a template to commission and deliver appropriate services across partner agencies.

Children and Young people’s Services have found the guidance produced by the Local Government Association, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, and Women’s Aid in 2005 extremely useful. It has assisted the review of existing services and possible revisions to the Single Plan and Wellbeing Strategy. The Safe and Well documents reflect the levels of need indicated in the document and the rollout of the Common Assessment Framework across the borough will establish thorough early assessment and planning across the borough.

The ‘Vision’ document has provided a useful template to plan contributions to the Domestic Violence Strategy 2006-10 which was published in draft in September. Children and Young People’s Services are already taking forward work contained in the draft action plan (attached as Appendix A).

The ‘Vision’ guidance has also influenced the completion of the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Inter-agency Protocol and Practice guidance produced in June 2006. This is currently being reviewed by members of both Rotherham Domestic Violence Forum and the Safeguarding Children Board with a view to an amended version being adopted in Rotherham and also in Barnsley and Doncaster. We will continue to promote it across all agencies.

7.2 Addressing the impact of domestic violence on children and young people in the revision of the Children and Young People’s Plan.

The Single Plan will be reviewed by the end of November 2006 and more detailed information relating to domestic abuse will be included, drawing on work undertaken to contribute to the Domestic Violence Strategy and also the Safeguarding Protocol.

7.3 Addressing the impact of domestic violence on children and young people in the revision of the Audit of Need.

The Scrutiny Panel reviewed available national statistics and acknowledged the absence of good local management information about domestic violence. Children and young People’s Services have begun to consult with partners to ensure that local information is developed to include in future audits of need.

7.4 Establishing the Children and Families Sub-committee as a joint sub-committee of the Domestic Violence Forum and Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board.

The new Working Together guidance published in March 2006 promotes collaborative work between the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Domestic Violence Forum.
It recommends that the ‘Domestic Violence Forum and LSCB should jointly contribute – in the context of the Children and Young People’s Plan – to an assessment of the incidence of children caught up in domestic violence, their needs, the adequacy of local arrangements to meet those needs, and the implications for local services. Other work might include developing joint protocols, safe information-sharing arrangements and training’.

It has been agreed that the Rotherham Children and Families Domestic Violence Sub-committee will be a joint sub-committee of both the Forum and the Safeguarding Board. This will facilitate joint planning and development, monitoring of progress and quality assurance. The Safeguarding Board will receive the minutes of the Sub-committee which currently meets quarterly.

South Yorkshire Police are currently undertaking the first Domestic Violence Homicide Review in the country following the death in September of a woman who had two children. It is being undertaken in conjunction with a Serious Case Review by Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board.

7.5 Consideration of good practice from other local authorities.

The Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Manager have considered a Local Government Association leaflet outlining good practice in Cheshire, Derby, Newham and Warwickshire. South Yorkshire Police have shared good practice in respect of Domestic Violence Courts and Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences derived from work in Cardiff. As described above, good practice is already being shared across South Yorkshire in terms of multi-agency guidance for responding to child protection issues and domestic violence. The Safeguarding Manager has considered the informative website for Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum and Children and Young People’s Services are exploring the potential to improve information sharing through the Council website and the Safeguarding Children webpage.

Service Provision

7.6 Reviewing and strengthening awareness training in schools, including support staff, school nurses and school governors.

Training for teachers is being revised to ensure that child protection training is undertaken at least every 3 years, with training every 2 years for designated child protection teachers. A new half day course specifically about domestic abuse is currently being developed to deliver in schools.

7.7 Provision of awareness raising training across partner agencies and evaluation of its effectiveness in improving services.

Significant work is taking place to map the children’s workforce and to outline its development and training needs as part of the move to Integrated Services. Domestic violence will be included in the new training strategy being developed by the Safeguarding board to be implemented in 2007.
Health trusts have reviewed new Domestic Violence guidance issued at the beginning of the year and are planning to respond to a recent consultation on new guidance in respect of Forced marriages.

7.8 Use of the Worker’ Information Handbook and Directory’ and the on-line Directory of Services for Children and Young People in Rotherham’ in raising Members’ awareness.

This recommendation is being taken forward by the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator.

7.9 Review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Addressing the effects of Domestic Violence on children and young people is identified in the draft CAMHS strategy and the Local Area Agreement. Action plans related to vulnerable groups are in development, after establishing the numbers and provide base lines.

The review of the referral criteria and the CAMHS strategy will determine how a single point of access will address referrals from the refuge. The CAMHS strategy includes training for Tier 1 workers, covers early identification and intervention and will include recognising effects of domestic violence.

The Joint Leadership Team are reviewing the provision of CAMHS services with the relevant Health trusts and have arranged an away day in November to consider the detail of new CAMHS arrangements, which will begin to take effect from April 2007. Proposals include simplifying the referral process and also establishing a specialist service for children living in unstable home circumstances, which will include children who moved due to domestic violence.

7.10 Preventative work and information on healthy relationships – accessible services across the borough.

Surestart Children Centres and Extended Schools provide opportunities for preventative work and publicity on health relationships. Young People’s Services also promote this work, for example, through Youth Start and the B@Y Project.

Clearer information about domestic violence and services for women, children and young people experiencing it will be included on the Council website. A link to the Women’s aid ‘Hideout’ website for young people is planned through the Safeguarding Children webpage.

7.11 Personal Social and Health Education Provision (including Violence Free Relationship training).

The PHSE and Citizenship curriculum, together with the demands of the Healthy Schools Standard, offers an opportunity to ensure that issues around violence and safety are considered in the classroom where so many young people spend much of their time. Children and Young People’s Services are supporting the introduction of new materials, including the missdorothy.com project, supported by South Yorkshire Police and Fire and Rescue Services, for use in primary and secondary schools.
We will set targets to substantially increase the number of schools participating in the Violence Free Relationships programme.

7.12 Priority for school places for children and young people who have moved due to domestic violence.

This is a priority, which will be achieved by the Admissions Team within Children and Young People's Services.

Voice and Influence

7.13 Ensuring that Children and Young People’s voices are heard and taken into account in decisions about service delivery.

The Scrutiny Panel Report acknowledged the consultation with young people in the Visioning exercise in June 2005 and the importance of including children and young people’s views in commissioning services. Children experiencing domestic violence will continue to be consulted in future consultations. The Children’s Rights Officer and Bridges Project have been approached to undertake a specific piece of work in respect of care leavers.

The powerful video about the impact of domestic abuse, made by young people supported by Rotherham Women’s Refuge, was shown at the launch of the Single Plan in May 2006.

8. Finance:

8.1 Sustainable sources of funding for the work undertaken with children and young people

Discussions have been taking place with service providers to clarify funding requirements.

Apna Haq currently costs £143 722 and is funded by Supporting People. Choices and Options currently costs £125 000 and is funded by Supporting People. Rotherham Women’s Refuge costs £407 445 and is funded by Supporting People, Rotherham MBC, NRF, Charitable and other donations, as well as rental income. The Supporting People Five Year Strategy 2005-10 highlights investment in existing services for women fleeing domestic violence as a medium term priority and estimates that £160K is required over 3 years to stabilise them.

8.2 Support to women without recourse to public funds

In February 2006, the Director of the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group wrote to Local Authorities to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to highlight the problems faced by women who come to this country to join husbands but whose marriages break up due to domestic violence within one year and have ‘no recourse to public funds’. These women have no eligibility for welfare benefits or any claim on the public purse.
The letter asks local authorities to be mindful that some victims of domestic violence could have specific needs for care and attention and/or have dependent children, which may make them eligible for assistance under section 47 of the NHS & Community Care Act, the Local Government Act section 2, the Children Act 1989 or other relevant legislation. Although local authorities have a statutory power under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to make appropriate provision for children to ensure that their needs are being met (e.g. being adequately fed and housed and cared for), this is subject to interpretation. This matter requires further consideration by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and partners, and provider services will be asked to identify how many women they are in contact with who have no recourse to public funds.

8.3 Free bus travel for children and young people living in a Refuge and Free school clothing for children moving schools due to domestic violence

Work has been commissioned to establish the extent of demand for such support. Some Rotherham children and their mothers have to leave the borough for their immediate protection. It would be extremely helpful if the Women’s Refuge could establish the level of support provided to them in the area they move to.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

It is important that funding is agreed to continue specialist support to children and young people affected by domestic violence. Failure to do so would place those services at risk. It is also important that the membership of the Supporting People commissioning group reflects both the needs of children and young people and the development of the new Children and Young People’s Service. It should include representation from Children and Young People’s Services as well as Adult Social Services.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Domestic violence is an important issue highlighted in:

- Rotherham Corporate Plan 2003-06
- Rotherham Community Strategy 2002-07
- Children and Young People’s Plan and Well-being Strategy 2006-09 (to be refreshed in November 2006)
- Rotherham Safeguarding Board Business Plan 2006
- Rotherham Domestic Violence Strategy 2006-10
- Rotherham Domestic Violence Multi-agency Protocol and Practice Guidance (to be finalised in 2006)

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006
Rotherham Supporting People Five Year Strategy

Preparatory work contributing to drafts of the Domestic Violence Strategy 2006

Current consultation on the Domestic Violence Multi-agency Protocol and practice Guidance

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# Actions for Children & Young People’s Services from the Domestic Violence Strategy Action Plan

## 1 Objective One

Increase the level of support to ensure that the safety of victims including dependents is paramount and that they receive services appropriate to their needs.

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>The single plan for children and young people’s services will outline how the needs of children and young people experiencing domestic violence will have their needs met</td>
<td>Plan updated post Joint Area Review</td>
<td>Head of Service (Planning, Information and Performance)</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>November 06</td>
<td>Single Plan revised and re-published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Ensure that information about local services is readily available and accessible through the revised and improved Children’s Service Directory</td>
<td>Directory reviewed post launch of the Domestic Violence (DV) strategy, linking to other relevant directories and available on the internet</td>
<td>Head of Service (Planning, Information and Performance)</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>December 06</td>
<td>Directory revised and updated at half yearly intervals</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Promote the Women’s Aid website ‘Hideout’</td>
<td>‘Hideout’ promoted and linked to Miss Dorothy.com which is being used in many local schools</td>
<td>Marketing and Communications officer</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>December 06</td>
<td>Number of schools using Miss Dorothy.com/ ‘Hideout’</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>Ensure that staff adhere to the procedures for staff working with people experiencing or affected by Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Confirm appropriate responses are given to referrals of actual, or possible, domestic violence</td>
<td>Front Desk Team Manager to undertake an audit on new referrals. Team Managers, in supervision, to raise awareness of and confirm responses to individual cases of domestic violence</td>
<td>Head of Social Care</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>March 07</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Education: Chairs of Governors and Head teachers ensure that staff within schools and College management ensure that staff receive awareness raising training</td>
<td>To be promoted through Chairs and Vice Chairs of Governors meetings, Head teacher meetings and the 14-19 Strategy Group</td>
<td>Head of Learning</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>March 07</td>
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<td>Young People's Services: Staff are reminded of internal procedures found in Young People's Services folder 3A.</td>
<td>Youth Officer to ensure that all staff, particularly new entrants, are annually reminded of internal procedures and records</td>
<td>Head of Young People's Service</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>March 07</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All units have copies of the folder.</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
<td>Use the data from the Youth Start recording system to monitor the number of young people who seek support around DV issues.</td>
<td>Data to be passed to Head of Service (Planning, Information and Performance) Monitored on monthly returns – shared with Head of Service (Planning, Information and Performance)</td>
<td>Project Co–ordinator Senior Worker - Management Information</td>
<td>Within service budget Within service budget</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>System in place to deliver monthly reports from Youth Start And annual report to SRP DVTG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DV included as a category of issues raised by young people on the session plan of the Young People's Services Management Information System.</td>
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<td>Issues raised by young people are used to inform future curriculum plans in youth work sessions</td>
<td>Session planning to include response to DV issues as appropriate</td>
<td>Young People's Service Unit Leaders</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>System in place to deliver Monthly reports produced by Senior Worker – Management Information and annual report to SRP DVTG</td>
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<td>Annual evaluation of youth work curriculum reported to the SRP DVTG</td>
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<td>1.6</td>
<td>Produce detailed quarterly management information about referrals and open cases (including children on the register and take up of Youth Start provision)</td>
<td>Produce detailed quarterly management information reports Which meets equalities legislation</td>
<td>Head of Service (Planning, Information and Performance)</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>31st December 2006</td>
<td>System in place to collect data and produce reports for SRP DVTG and thereafter quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Monitor access to school places for children forced to move due to domestic violence</td>
<td>Women’s Refuge, Social Care and 2010 to inform the Admissions Officer when children are involved in rehousing a victim of DV</td>
<td>Head of Resources and Access</td>
<td>Within service budgets</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>System in place to collect information and make Quarterly reports to the SRP DVTG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Assess transport costs needed for children who have to move further away from their school</td>
<td>Identify the scale of funding required based on audit of target above</td>
<td>Head of Inclusion, Voice and Influence</td>
<td>Establish transport costs required</td>
<td>Establish baseline by March 31 07</td>
<td>Baseline produced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Assess funding needed for uniform clothing grant for children who have to move school</td>
<td>Identify the scale of funding required based on audit of target above</td>
<td>Head of Inclusion, Voice and Influence</td>
<td>Establish grant level required</td>
<td>Establish baseline by March 31 07</td>
<td>Baseline produced</td>
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<td>No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>Children and young people in temporary accommodation have access to appropriate activities as well as access to domestic violence support services in the community.</td>
<td>Service Managers monitor the take up of services by children and young people who are affected by domestic violence</td>
<td>Senior Head of Service</td>
<td>Within service budgets</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>System in place To make quarterly monitoring reports against performance management targets</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>Consider provision of services to children affected by domestic violence and accessibility of services through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Strategy</td>
<td>The CAMHS Strategy is currently being re-written and will be considering the provision of services to vulnerable Children and Young people (C&amp;YP) including Those affected by Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Primary Care Trust Commissioner</td>
<td>Within the service budget</td>
<td>December 2006</td>
<td>CAMHS Strategy to be signed off and revised annually and action points updated. Performance managed through CAMHS Strategy and commissioning group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>Ensure the Children &amp; Young People’s Commissioning Strategy is responsive to domestic violence services</td>
<td>The Commissioning Strategy consultation and development will ensure the needs of all vulnerable children and young people, including those affected by domestic violence, are met.</td>
<td>Head of Service (Planning, Information and Performance)</td>
<td>Within the service budget</td>
<td>Commissioning Strategy to be finalised by 31st March 2007</td>
<td>Commissioning Strategy produced and provided to SRP DVTG</td>
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<td>No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>Ensure integrated services teams are responsive to domestic violence</td>
<td>A named key contact in each team regarding domestic violence</td>
<td>Senior Head of Service</td>
<td>Within the service budget</td>
<td>Teams finalised by April 2008</td>
<td>Named contact identified for each team</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Objective Three

**Provide services which demonstrate they meet the needs of Rotherham’s Diverse Community**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Target</th>
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<th>Performance Indicator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Materials needed on forced marriage for Personal Social Health and Citizenship training</td>
<td>Appropriate materials developed for use in schools</td>
<td>Education Safeguarding Officer</td>
<td>Staff time and production costs</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>Materials produced and used in PSHCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Undertake a Consultation exercise with Looked After Children(LAC) who have experienced domestic violence and ensure that feedback is used to develop services</td>
<td>Establish a focus group to inform and consult with</td>
<td>Children’s Rights Officer</td>
<td>Staff time and Children’s Fund contribution</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>Records / information made available to future inform policy development and provide information for children and young people</td>
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</table>
**Objective Four**

*Work to prevent domestic violence by increasing training and awareness raising leading to improved customer care*

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<th>Performance Indicator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Increase take up of ‘violence free relationships’ training for students within schools and colleges by 50% and negotiate flexible delivery of the VFR training within schools</td>
<td>Establish baseline for 2005/06 and calculate 50% increase</td>
<td>Education Safeguarding Officer Senior named officer within 3 Colleges Education Welfare Service Education Safeguarding Officer</td>
<td>Staff time</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>System set up to provide quarterly reports to the SRP DVTG re numbers of students trained in each college and school.</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
<td>Increase skills of practitioners working with children and families who experience domestic violence</td>
<td>Deliver awareness training to practitioners in Early Education, Childcare, Children’s Centres and Extended Services</td>
<td>Early Years Service Workforce Development and QA Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Sure Start Grant funding</td>
<td>March 08</td>
<td>Number of practitioners trained annually</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Negotiate domestic violence as an element of all vocational child care courses</td>
<td>Deliver awareness training sessions to students on childcare courses</td>
<td>Early Years Service Workforce Development and Quality Assurance Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Sure Start Grant funding</td>
<td>March 08</td>
<td>Number of students trained annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Identified staff will attend the 2-day multi-agency training course –‘Violence against Women by Men they know’</td>
<td>Managers to identify key staff and book them onto training and audit impact of training through supervision / PDR reviews</td>
<td>Service Managers</td>
<td>Within service budget</td>
<td>March 07</td>
<td>Quarterly reports to the Domestic Violence Strategy group on number trained from each service</td>
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</tbody>
</table>