

<b>Date:</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls Report</b>
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<b>Approval/Information:</b>	<b>Information and some Key Recommendations</b>

## 1 Overview

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide information to strategic partners on key Domestic Violence (DV) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) areas in the London Borough of Bromley.

## 2 Domestic Violence (DV) and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Key Areas

This report will refer to key areas and progress within those areas. Domestic Violence will be referred to as DV and Violence against Women and Girls will be referred to as VAWG throughout.

### 2.1 Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) 'Susan' – Task and Finish Group

- Meetings have taken place with Superintendent Lawry regarding the Domestic Homicide Review Task and Finish Group. The group is chaired by the Superintendent and we met on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to refresh the 2013 Action Plan.
- The Domestic Homicide Review Task and Finish Group will implement recommendations made in the Domestic Homicide Review within 6 months of the DHR being published on the London Borough of Bromley website, and provide an update on this to the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel within the 6 month timeframe.
- The Domestic Homicide Review Task and Finish Group met on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to scrutinise the progress made by agencies against the DHR action plan.
- Of the 11 members invited to the Task and Finish Group, only Lina Wallace (Victim Support) and Clare Lewin (CCG) were in attendance.

- The Meeting was held to address and discuss the progress made by the various agencies against the action plan. A refreshed action plan will be available in the coming weeks and if required can be circulated to the members of the Board on request.
- Ongoing updates will be provided at the next SBP Meeting in September.

## 2.2 MOPAC Contract

Existing services funded by MOPAC until 31 March 2017 in the London Borough of Bromley are:

- DV/VAWG Coordinator post located in the local authority
- Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) Service – delivered by Victim Support
- Safer Bromley Van – delivered by Victim Support
- Outreach Service and Education Project – delivered by Bromley Women’s Aid
- Schools Programme, Volunteer Manger and Resettlement Officer – delivered by Bromley Women’s Aid.
- One Stop Shop – coordinated by Bromley Women’s Aid
- Perpetrator Programme – Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (DVIP)..

All commissioned services are contracted until 31 March 2017 **only**. No funding beyond this date has yet been identified to extend commissioned provision therefore this is an area of concern. A new funding round will be announced by MOPAC in the near future and therefore a ‘Gateway Review’ with our strategic aims will support our funding applications.

### Key Recommendations:

The Safer Bromley Partnership should consider future internal funding streams including borough partnership funding contributions to extend commissioned service provision beyond 31 March 2017 for local DV and VAWG Services including the DV/VAWG Coordinator post. Request to identify local funding could be presented to:

Safer Bromley Partnership  
 Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board  
 Bromley Safeguarding Children’s Board  
 Health and Wellbeing Board.  
 Clinical Commissioning Group

## 2.3 Bromley Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls Forum

The Bromley DV and VAWG Forum is a Sub Group of the Safer Bromley Partnership and is an operational forum not a strategic forum. The DV/VAWG Forum previously met in January 2015 which was an area for concern given the importance of referral pathways and information sharing amongst various agencies to ensure delivery of a fully integrated service to the residents of Bromley. The purpose of a forum is to:

- Share best practice
- Establishing referral pathways with various statutory and voluntary agencies
- Raising awareness of new and innovative approaches to tackling VAWG

- Updating the Forum of legislative changes, MOPAC updates and other vital information
- Having guest speakers from various agencies to raise awareness of their services
- Generally work towards providing the most holistic approach to supporting victims/survivors of domestic violence/abuse and perpetrator support via the DVIP perpetrator programme.

Given the importance of the DV/VAWG Forum I have prioritised re-establishing the forum and the first meeting has taken place (17<sup>th</sup> May 2016) and was well attended by 25 attendees including:

- Education Welfare Officers
- GP Representatives
- DVIP representation
- Housing Officers
- Met Police
- Portfolio Holder for Public Protection LBB
- Community Safety Coordinator
- Affinity Housing
- IMECE Women's Centre
- Ascent
- Senior Clinical Nurse Safeguarding Children
- Midwife Safeguarding
- Head of Safeguarding Adults (PRUH)
- Senior IDVAs
- CEO Bromley Women's Aid
- Rape Crisis South London

The newly elected Chair Person is Rebecca Hitchen, she is the Operations Manager for the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre, the Vice Chair Person is Constanze Sen the CEO of Bromley Women's Aid, both are highly motivated and will take the forum from strength to strength.

From the first meeting I have received positive feedback from the forum members, all attendees found the meeting useful and informative. The Bromley DV/VAWG Forum will be held on a quarterly basis and the next meeting date has been set for the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 10am-12pm, Committee Room 2.

## **2.4 Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Group**

There is currently no existing DV/VAWG strategic Group in the London Borough of Bromley. The purpose of a DV/VAWG Strategic Group would be:

- The DV/VAWG Strategic Group will be a sub-group of the Safer Bromley Partnership and work on its behalf to lead on the effective monitoring, scrutiny and governance of the multi-agency responses to domestic violence and violence against women and girls.
- The strategic group is the direct link between the DV/VAWG Forum/ MARAC Steering Group and the Safer Bromley Partnership.

- The DV & VAWG Forum and the MARAC Steering Group report to the DV & VAWG Strategic Group
- Partner agencies will nominate a senior management level representative from their respective agencies to attend the Strategic Group
- The DV/VAWG Strategic Group will lead on the effective monitoring and scrutiny of partner agencies domestic violence and abuse and VAWG service delivery and establish methods for organisational improvement and learning.

### **Next Steps:**

- A Chair Person will need to be identified for the DV/VAWG Strategic Group.
- A minute taker will need to be identified.
- Review membership of the Domestic Violence Strategic Group and ensure the correct people are invited to attend and have the relevant authority to make strategic decisions.
- Review Terms of Reference

## **2.5 Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy**

The London Borough of Bromley has commissioned a Domestic Abuse and/or Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. The previous strategy came to an end in 2013.

HM Government published its Violence against Women's and Girls Strategy 2016-2020 in May 2016. It is important to align the local DV/VAWG Strategy with the Governments strategy. The strategic aims will support any award of grant money released by MOPAC for DV/VAWG and will assist us with our submissions of bids, in particular if the Borough can demonstrate that it aims to achieve similar outcomes in its strategic approach and direction for Bromley residents.

The Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls Strategy will also align with the Safer Bromley Partnerships Community Safety Strategic Report. The report has highlighted Domestic Violence as one of the key priorities for the next 3 years. We will incorporate the same strategic ambitions and how the partnership will meet these ambitions.

The Strategy is currently being written and we will invite wider consultation.

The draft strategy incorporates all areas of DV and VAWG including:

- ◆ Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse
- ◆ Sexual Abuse
- ◆ Coercive Control
- ◆ Stalking
- ◆ Female Genital Mutilation
- ◆ Forced Marriage
- ◆ Honour Based Violence
- ◆ Trafficking

- ◆ Prostitution
- ◆ Sexual Exploitation

Wider consultations are scheduled for July 2016 and August 2016 to align with the aim to publish the final strategy in November 2016. This could coincide with the United Nations (UN) International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

## **2.6 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference – MARAC**

The MARAC meets in Bromley each month to discuss those who have been identified as at high risk of domestic violence. The MARAC will gather information on victim, perpetrator and any children and implement a safety plan accordingly. All victims discussed at MARAC should be allocated a Victim Support IDVA to support them.

The Bromley MARAC meets monthly and is chaired by the Detective Inspector Chris Wood of the Metropolitan Police Service Bromley Borough Community Safety Unit (CSU). The CSU investigates all reported incidents of domestic violence.

Bromley MARAC was subject to a Self-Assessment carried out by SafeLives on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 which resulted in a report with recommendations being provided to the borough by SafeLives. At the time of the assessment key areas for development included:

- Data submitted between January and December 2014 showed that Bromley MARAC discussed only 118 cases, this was only 23% of the projected volume of 520 high risk cases that could have been identified.
- Not all referring agencies were in attendance
- Representatives were not proactive in volunteering actions on behalf of their agencies
- Lack of victims voice in the room
- Less than 1% of referrals from 16/17 years old, 0% referrals from victims identifying as LGBT, 0% were male victims and only 2.5% of referrals were from victims with a disability.

As a result of the SafeLives Self-Assessment and after consultation with Superintendent Lawry and DI Chris Woods it has been agreed that a MARAC Steering Group will be established to monitor and be accountable for the performance of Bromley MARAC. The function of the MARAC Steering Group will be to:

- To monitor volume of cases reviewed at MARAC, breakdown by referring agency, repeat cases and number of children.
- Analyse changes in referral patterns and encourage multi-agency referrals
- Report on attendance issues
- Report on quality of research, engagement and quality of responses to victims
- Monitor equality of access to MARAC include minority groups, disability, LGBT
- Review any breaches of confidentiality of serious operational issues
- Ensure all MARAC documentation is up to date and effectively implemented

### **The MARAC Steering Group:**

The MARAC Steering Group will be a sub group of the Safer Bromley Partnership, updates and MARAC Performance data will be fed into the DV/VAWG Strategic Group and a report presented by the DV/VAWG Coordinator to the SBP on a quarterly basis. The first MARAC Steering will provisionally take place in September 2016.

### **3. Summary**

#### **Key areas recommended for development and improvements are:**

- Identification of funding streams for existing MOPAC DV/VAWG contracts post 31 March 2017
- Ongoing development of a borough partnership DV/VAWG Strategy 2016-2019 (3 year strategy)
- Delivery of a borough DV/VAWG Strategic Board
- Establish a Bromley MARAC Steering Group to monitor the performance of MARAC