

**Decision Maker:** Public Protection & Safety Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent

**Title:** Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls

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**Ward:** Borough Wide

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**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 A briefing report on the Domestic Violence and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) contracted services and project work.
  - 1.2 To provide background and performance information for the services in 2016-2017 and update of the recently commissioned DV/VAWG Service.
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**2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report for information.

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

### 1. Summary of Impact:

The reported domestic abuse and sexual violence incident rate in Bromley from June 2016 to June 2017 was 14 victims per 1000 of the local population, this equates to roughly 4541 victims and of these 2580 were domestic abuse offences. Women are more commonly affected by domestic violence than men with an estimated 1 in 4 women in England and Wales experiencing domestic violence in their lifetime.

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## Corporate Policy

### 1. Policy Status: Existing Policy

LBB VAWG Strategy 2016-2019  
The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment 2016-2019  
Domestic Violence and VAWG Training Programme 2016-2019  
HM Government Ending Violence against Women and Girls 2016-2020

### 2. BBB Priority: Safer Bromley:

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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable:
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: 805011 2001/805000 0180
  4. Total current budget for this head: £199k (2017/18) & £194k (2018/19)
  5. Source of funding: Mayors Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC)
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 36
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory-Government Guidance
  2. Call- in Not Applicable
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable

### **3. COMMENTARY**

- 3.1 LBB has a long history of committing to tackling domestic violence/abuse and has agreed that domestic violence/abuse as one of the key priority areas outlined in the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment Report 2016-2019.
- 3.2 For the year ending March 2016 the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated 2.0 million adults aged 16 to 59 experienced domestic abuse in the last year, equating to a prevalence rate of 6 in 100 adults. Women were more likely to say they have experienced domestic abuse than men, with an estimated 1.3 million female victims compared to 716,000 male victims. On average two women are killed by their partner or ex-partner every week in England and Wales. Domestic homicides represent a third of all murders in England and Wales.
- 3.3 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to monitor the level of domestic abuse in their communities and establish partnerships in order to reduce the problem as well as work together with other agencies to highlight the issue and coordinate a response.
- 3.4 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) came into effect on 13 April 2011. They were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The Safer Bromley Partnership has the responsibility for establishing domestic homicide reviews within Bromley. Bromley to date has conducted one domestic homicide review that dates back to 2013.
- 3.5 Domestic abuse costs society an estimated £15.7 bn per year. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on a wide range of services including housing, criminal justice, and social services provision. In England the estimated total costs of domestic violence are £5.419bn which comprises of:
- £1.6bn for physical and mental health costs
  - £1.2bn in criminal justice costs
  - £268m in social services costs
  - £185.7m in housing and refuge costs
  - £366.7 in civil legal costs
  - £1.8bn in lost economic output

#### **MOPAC SUPPORTED PROJECT PERFORMANCE 2016-2017**

##### **3.6 The Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project**

- 342 victims of domestic abuse were supported by the project
- 36.5% of victims were aged between 26-35 years old
- Service User demographics show that the victims of domestic abuse in Bromley had 212 dependants, further reaffirming the need for CYP specialist support services
- 13.7% of victims supported by the service were male from various types of relationships
- The Community IDSVA delivered Healthy Relationships Workshops to students at various colleges across the borough.

### 3.7 The One Stop Shop

- 324 service users attended the One Stop Shop
- 219 of those attending sought advice from a solicitor;
- 102 from housing
- 51 sought advice from the police
- 147 from specialist domestic violence/abuse services

### 3.8 Victim/survivor support groups

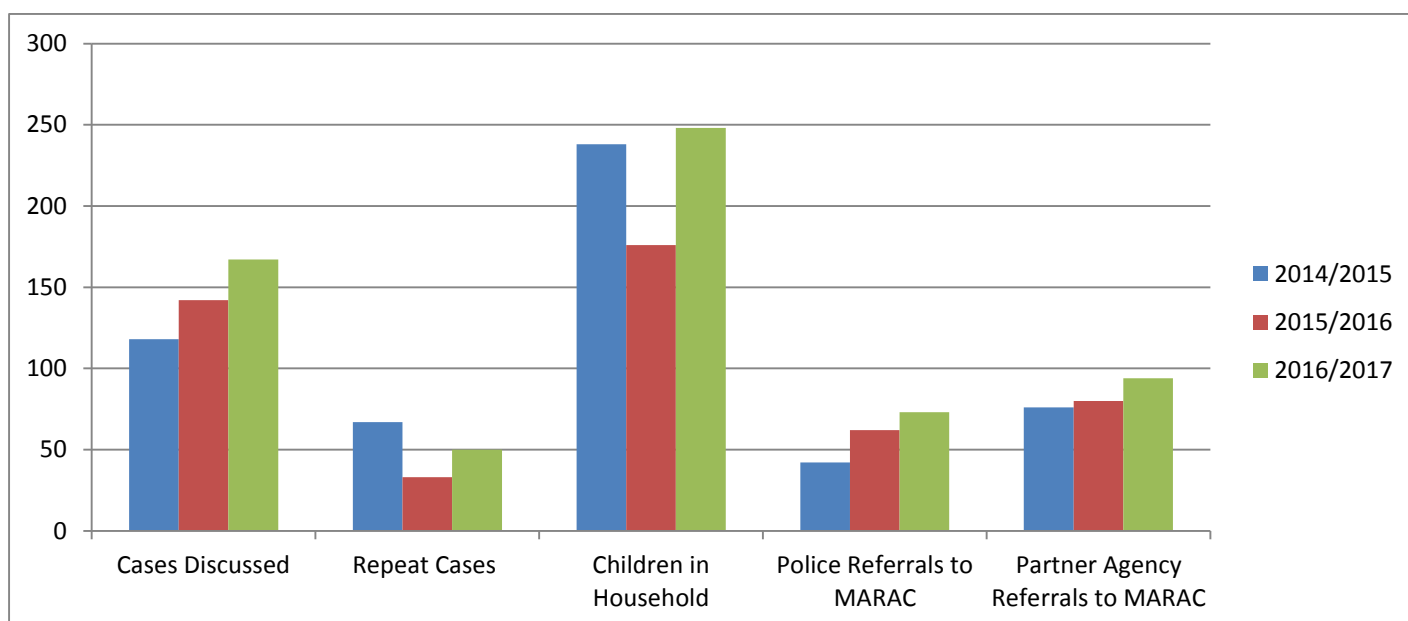
- Received 109 referrals
- 21 referred from Bromley Children's Social Care
- 23 clients self-referred
- 11 referrals the Bromley Children's Project
- 93% of service users reported understanding the effects of domestic abuse on children
- 96% of service users had an increased ability to spot and deal with abusive behaviour

### 3.9 Perpetrator Programme: (2015-2017)

- 80 Perpetrators were referred to the project
- There were 7 self-referrals in a two year period
- 42 of the referred perpetrators attended assessment meetings
- 38 perpetrators were assessed as suitable for the programme
- 17 men completed 30 hours of treatment

## 4. THE MULTI-AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE – MARAC PERFORMANCE

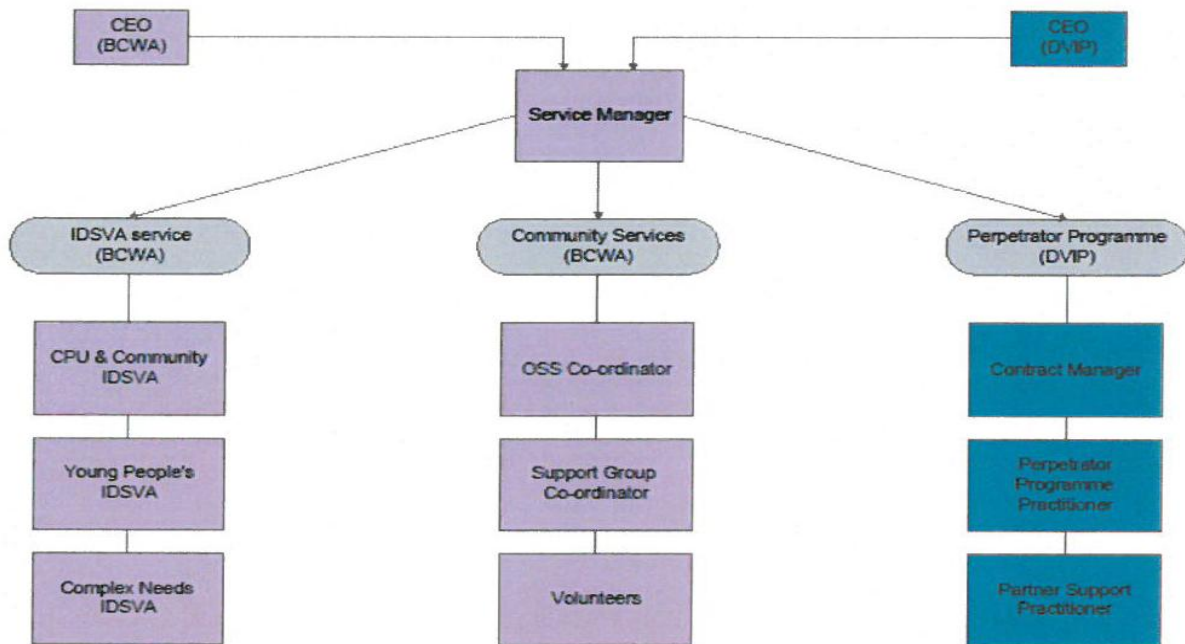
4.1 The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a process which aims to allow statutory and voluntary agencies to give a consistent and structured response to managing the risk in cases of domestic abuse. MARAC is used to consider cases of domestic abuse that are categorised as high risk. The Bromley MARAC is held on a monthly basis by the Bromley Police where the relevant agencies are able to share up to date risk information, with a comprehensive assessment of a victim's needs and decide upon the most appropriate way to lower or manage the identified risks. Overall there has been an increase in activity 2016-17.



## **5. THE TENDER OF THE NEW SERVICE**

- 5.1 The proposal was for one organisation to deliver the whole DV/VAWG Service either by forming a consortium with other providers or by undertaking delivery of all the services. The benefits to LBB would be one lead service provider taking responsibility for all data collection ensuring streamlined contract and performance monitoring and improved referral pathways between the various strands of the contract.
- 5.2 In accordance with the Council's financial and contractual requirements and following Executive approval on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the services were subject to a full tender process.
- 5.3 The tender submissions were assessed on a 60% finance and 40% quality split. The overall weightings for this contract evaluation were set to identify the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) and deliver the best possible combination of whole-life cost and quality to meet the Council's requirement. Evaluation by a panel consisting of representation from the Children's Early Intervention Service, Adult Safeguarding & Quality Assurance and Interim VAWG Commissioner. Of the bids that were evaluated at ITT stage, Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA) had scored the highest and were considered suitable to deliver the contract. BCWA submission was of a high standard and they scored well in all domains of operational competence, workforce and service transfer and TUPE arrangements.
- 5.4 BCWA formed a partnership agreement with DVIP (The Perpetrator Programme) to deliver the services outlined in the Service Specification. The new service will improve multi-agency working to provide support for not only the primary victims of domestic abuse but also their children and perpetrators. BCWA have worked in Bromley for more than 40 years, they have a proven track record of delivering accessible, innovative and sustainable services to the local community
- 5.5 BCWA has a long standing working relationships with the previous Independent domestic and sexual violence advisors (Victim Support) and as such TUPE legislation for the eligible staff was smooth and largely without incident. However it should be noted that one member of staff decided not to transfer with the service at the last minute and left BCWA without a full complement of staff at the project start date and as such they needed to go through the recruitment process for a replacement. Below is the staff/project structure chart for the newly commissioned service:

**Structure Chart  
BCWA & DVIP**



**6. THE SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL**

- 6.1 In 2016 LBB mapped the way domestic violence services were being delivered and recognised the benefits of co-location model prior to the domestic violence services being retendered, the service specification for the new service was built around the co-location model. This will ensure that we are providing all victims of domestic abuse access to essential services. On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 the Care Quality Commission, OFSTED and HM Inspectorate of Probation published a report, 'The multi-agency response to children living with domestic abuse'. The report identified strengths where domestic violence services were co-located.
- 6.2 Having monitored the referral pathways from the previous IDSVAs service providers it was apparent that LBB had large gaps in referrals and access to services with adult social care, health care teams, children and young people's services including early intervention teams and working with victims with multiple complex needs.
- 6.3 The co-location model will ensure that services in Bromley work across boundaries in strong partnership to ensure that essential services can work with families and intervene early. Victims will now be able to disclose experiences of violence and abuse across all services and access specialist support as early as possible.

**THE SERVICE PROVISION**

The IDVA project

- 6.4 Young Person (YP) IDSVAs supports young victims of domestic abuse. The YP IDSVAs is co-located with the Looked after Children/Leaving Care Team and Children's Early Intervention Teams to provide support, advocacy and deliver age appropriate work in a range of educational, youth and Community settings.

- 6.5 The Complex needs IDSVAs provide specialist support to elderly victims of domestic violence. The IDSVAs will also link in and be a single point of contact for the Adult Early Intervention / Initial Response Team and Substance Misuse Teams (BDAS) to support service users with complex additional needs.
- 6.6 Community Safety Unit/Community IDSVAs are co-located with the Bromley Police Community Safety Unit (CSU) offering a specialist support service to police staff. The IDSVAs also support self-referrals and referrals from other local organisations making contact via telephone and secure email.

#### Community Domestic Abuse projects – One Stop Shop and Domestic Abuse Support Groups

- 6.7 The One Stop Shop (OSS) is a crucial starting point for both male and female victims on domestic abuse because in many cases the victim has probably never spoken to anyone about their situation before. The OSS supports vulnerable victims by offering a wide range of services under one roof including a police officer, a family law solicitor, Bromley Metropolitan Police and other DV service providers.
- 6.8 Victim/survivor support groups programme is approximately a 12 week course with the overarching aim to:
- To help women who have experienced domestic violence make sense of and understand what has happened to them.
  - To recognise potential future abusers.
  - To help women gain self-esteem and the confidence to improve their lives.

#### Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme (DVIP)

- 6.9 The programme provides long term structured group sessions designed to help men to understand why they have used abusive behaviour, how they can change this and how they can work towards constructing respectful non abusive personal relationships. DVIP's increase the safety and well-being of women and children affected by domestic abuse by addressing issues of masculinity, sexual respect, the instrumental and systematic nature of intimate partner violence, and intimacy with the perpetrator.

#### **ADDITIONAL SERVICE PROVISION**

- 6.10 Young People's Outreach Officer provides specialist 1:1 support for young women who have been affected by domestic abuse. We can support a young person over the telephone or meet with them privately in a safe location to offer confidential advice on a range of practical and emotional issues.
- 6.11 A Young People's Outreach Officer that facilitates a peer support programme for young women and girls who have experienced domestic abuse, or who are vulnerable to entering abusive relationships. Over the course of six weekly sessions, participants will explore topics such as: healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, digital abuse, gender roles, body image and self-esteem.
- 6.12 BCWA are currently commissioned to deliver the LBB VAWG training and development programme on behalf of both the safeguarding children and safeguarding adult's board. The programme currently includes training sessions covering foundation, intermediate and advanced level domestic abuse training programmes for 2017/2018. The training covers signs of DV, awareness about the types of abuse and myths of DV, safe enquiry and appropriate responses to disclosure, risk assessments, MARAC, how to support service users with complex needs etc.

## **7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The project outcomes contribute to the Building a Better Bromley priorities, the Safer Bromley Partnership Strategy and the LBB Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The expenditure on the service is fully funded from MOPAC grant in 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 8.2 In 2019/20 and 2020/21 the MOPAC funding is being reviewed and it is expected that there will be reductions in funding. If funding is reduced officers will have to consider how these services can be scaled down in order to meet the reduction, alternative funding put in place or the service ceasing.
- 8.3 The contract ends in 2018/19 but there is the option of an extension for a further two years (1 plus 1).

## **9. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This is contained within the report.

## **10. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

- 10.1 When thinking about the consequences of domestic abuse, it is important to consider the impact (mental, emotional, physical, social and financial) on the individual survivor, family and children, and also the wider societal costs including the costs of police, health and other service responses, and time off having to be taken by survivors from paid employment and caring responsibilities. It is also important to bear in mind the additional barriers particular social groups might face in escaping domestic abuse or in accessing support or justice. Women's Aid found that:

Poverty: Women in poverty are particularly likely to experience the most extensive violence and abuse in their lives. One research report found that 14% of women in poverty have faced extensive violence and abuse, compared to women not in poverty (6%).

Disability: The full range of mental, physical and sexual cruelty can also be inflicted on individuals with learning disabilities. Disabled women can experience additional barriers to accessing justice and support. One study found that women with physical and learning disabilities were often not believed or are ignored when they disclosed abuse. Women with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year (15.7%), compared with those without a long-term illness or disability (6.2%).

Pregnancy: 40%-60% of women experiencing domestic violence are abused while pregnant.

- 10.2 Research by the NSPCC highlights the impact domestic abuse on children living in the family with 1 in 5 children witnessing domestic abuse. A third of children witnessing domestic abuse also experience another form of abuse. SafeLives estimate that 62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others. There is a growing amount of research that highlights the long term effects of domestic abuse on children, this includes aggressive, anti-social, fearful and/or inhibited behavior. As a result, young people that witness abuse in the home are more likely to develop long term problems such as depression; trauma related symptoms and is violent in their own adolescent and adult relationships.



- 10.3 The abuse of children often starts prior to them even being born. The Department of Health in 2004 reported that in 30% of cases domestic violence either starts or will intensify during pregnancy. Domestic abuse has been identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still birth.
- 10.4 In March 2013 the Home Office introduced a new official definition of domestic violence, this was expanded to include 16 to 17-year-olds.
- 10.5 Older victims of domestic violence experience abuse for twice as long as those aged 61 and under. Nearly half have a disability yet older victims are hugely under represented among domestic abuse services. In research conducted by SafeLives they found that older victims are less likely to attempt to leave in the year before accessing help and more likely to be living with the perpetrator after getting support. Research shows that:
- 10.6 Only 27% of older victims will attempt to leave in the year before accessing help compared to the 68% of those under 60 years old.
- 10.7 32% of older victims will continue to live with the perpetrator after getting support compared to 9% of those under 60's. 48% of older victims also have a disability for a third of those, this is a physical disability. Victims aged 61 years old and over are far more likely to experience abuse from an adult family member (44%) than those less than 60 years old (6%)

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Personnel & Legal Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	LBB VAWG Strategy 2016-2019 <a href="https://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/media/20655/vawgstrategy2016to2019.pdf">https://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/media/20655/vawgstrategy2016to2019.pdf</a>  VAWG Training Programme 2016-2019 <a href="https://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/media/20986/dvvawgtraining-programme2016-19.pdf">https://bromley.mylifeportal.co.uk/media/20986/dvvawgtraining-programme2016-19.pdf</a>