

## Priority 2 – Violence Against Women and Girls

22/23 Quarter 3 - Update

Partners – Early Intervention & DA Lead

### Priority 2

This priority looks at protecting women and girls from violence. We support Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime in their stance of taking a zero-tolerance approach wherever this violence and abuse takes place, with meaningful support for victims and survivors, and significant consequences for perpetrators. The services commissioned by Bromley will support victims and survivors whatever their gender. The Metropolitan Police Service has made tackling domestic abuse a high priority and has a dedicated unit within the Borough Command Unit. They will investigate all instances of domestic abuse, even in cases where a victim has not reported it themselves. There are key interrelationships between this priority and our other priorities.

#### Objectives

To reduce violence against women and girls, change the culture that allows this to happen, and empower them to take control, in doing so we will:

- Better protect women and girls
- Improve support for those affected
- Target offenders

Colleagues are asked to note the change of language to domestic abuse in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The word violence, and all reference to gender have been removed. When the strategy and priorities are formally reviewed, this will need to be updated.

### Commitments within the SBPS

#### 1. Provide strategic direction

#### Refreshing the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) 2016- 2019 Strategy

“Refreshing the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy. A new strategy has been written, approved, and published. The new strategy is titled ‘An intergenerational Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2021-2024 Making Domestic Abuse Everyone’s Business’”



The strategy was circulated for comment to relevant partners via the members of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Operational Forum, DA Strategic Board, Safer Bromley Partnership, BSCP, BSAB, and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Partners were invited

### Rag Status

Achieved

to demonstrate their commitment to prioritise and support the drive to make DA everyone's responsibility (p.58) and to provide electronic signatures by 30 April 2021

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the original Strategy has been amended and the word violence and all reference to single gender-based abuse, have been removed.

Signatures to the commitment were received from several partners and added to the strategy. The strategy has been published on the BSCP, BSAB and LBB website. The commitment is at p.58-59.

The Strategy outlines the priorities that Bromley and partners are committed to support and achieve during the life cycle of the current document. We have identified and agreed the following five priorities as detailed on page 50.

1. We will promote the message that tackling domestic abuse is everyone's and every agency's responsibility
2. We will commission effective service to support victims of domestic abuse
3. We will challenge perpetrators and explore interventions that measure the changes in their behaviour
4. We will increase and develop our existing training offer on domestic abuse to improve responses to victims and survivors, and their families
5. We will introduce Domestic Abuse Ambassadors to support staff in the workplace.

A draft Action Plan has been drawn up covering the 'how we will do this' within each of the five priorities: pages 51-55. The Action Plan has been sent to colleagues in both the Domestic Abuse Operational Forum and Strategic Board for comment, suggestion and contribution in the meetings on 23 September and 14 October respectively. Likewise, a copy of the draft Action Plan was shared with the SBPB members for comment, suggestion, and contributions.

All comments received were incorporated.

The DA Strategy action plan is a standing item on the agendas at the Domestic Abuse Operational Forum and Strategic Board meetings for the duration of the lifecycle of the Strategy.

The Strategy has been added to all the existing DA training materials / courses so that all staff across the wider workforce are aware of the document, where to find it, and the local services commissioned by Bromley. In addition to this, the Strategy was featured in the DA Newsletter (Edition 4 – April 2021).

This is now in circulation, is available digitally via the London Borough of Bromley website, the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board website, the Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership website and the Bromley Parenting Hub website, as well as in hardcopy upon request.

**This objective, to refresh the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) 2016-2019 Strategy is complete.**

**Update the Domestic Homicide Review protocol.**

**DHR protocol**

- Completed by Rob Vale (Public Protection) and circulated to relevant parties.
- It is now an operational document.

**Achieved**


## 2. Communicate

### Develop a communication plan to increase awareness of the services Violence Against Women & Girls provide.

- DA Strategic Lead Officer publishes a regular newsletter which is shared across the wider workforce... with thanks to colleagues who manage the SBP, HWB, BSCP, and BSCP meetings and membership. Five have been published, and the sixth will be published shortly, delayed by maternity leave.
- Credit-card sized information cards have been developed and so far, two runs of 10,000 cards have been printed with more than 10,000 distributed to partner agencies across the wider Bromley workforce. The cards include contact details for both local and national organisations who offer support in relation to domestic abuse. These are designed to be given to individuals at risk of becoming or already victims or survivors of DVA. Additional cards will, if required, be produced in 2022/23. We currently have 5,000 available. Contact the DA Strategic Lead Officer, [Rachel.pankhurst@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.pankhurst@bromley.gov.uk)



- DA Strategic Lead Officer developed and circulated a directory of support interventions for DA victim survivors, and perpetrators. This was shared via BSCP, BSAB, SBP, and HBW to reach the wider workforce. This document was due to be reviewed in January 2021 but due to maternity leave and recruitment of someone to cover this period, the update was deferred and will be on the agenda for July's Operational Forum with target to complete by July 2022.
- BCWA social media presence has grown and EIFS has been promoting BCWA (Bromley's provider) via their Social Media feeds too.
- Bromley Local Authority have updated their DA information on the council's corporate site, but there is more to do on this as there has been a review of the website and this has delayed updates. This is planned for Summer 2022.
- DA Strategic Lead Officer had been actively delivering awareness presentations and training to partner agencies requesting this service. To date; Bromley Healthcare Children's services. Booked in for this quarter; Oxleas Adults Services, Oxleas CAMHS, Bromley Healthcare Adults services, and GP network. During COVID requests for this service reduced dramatically as partners learnt to adapt their service delivery.
- Strategic Board and Operational Forum are now both active with good level of representation across partner agencies. Membership has been reviewed and updated with new partners including Probation, Job Centre Plus and Youth Justice Service.
- Developing a wider DA communications strategy is part of our work plan. This is now live and called the Bromley Parenting Hub. The ambition is to create a satellite, bespoke for domestic abuse information, advice, support and signposting with its own hyperlink. We have taken care to distinguish between DA and reducing parental conflict to ensure anyone who suspects or identifies DA seeks the right specialist support.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continue to work closely with L&amp;D, BSAB and BSCP to provide a core training package for all professionals working within the wider workforce and in addition to this we have commissioned targeted training on co-ercive control and the impact of domestic abuse on children, MARAC panel training and MARAC awareness for the wider workforce.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Tackle under-reporting through media engagement, partnership and information sharing between professionals (particularly health), and engaging the third sector including campaign groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DA Forum has increased communication and awareness amongst agencies.</li> <li>Regular meetings are taking place between the DA Strategic Lead Officer, partner agencies and community and voluntary sector organisations.</li> <li>The SBPB Co-Chair, CI Knight, launched an app to support the reporting of VAWG incidents called 'Safe &amp; the City'</li> </ul> 	<b>Achieved</b>
<p><b>3. Take an Intelligence Led Approach</b></p> <p><b>Improving the response to victims by developing mechanisms to capture data in addition to that provided by the Police</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DA Strategic Lead Officer was meeting regularly with colleagues in the MET BCU however during COVID this has been a challenge. The DA Strategic Lead Officer is reaching out to colleagues in the MET to re-engage. This has impacted on the effective sharing of timely data from the MET. We would like this to recommence, including the comparison of data across the BCU.</li> <li>During COVID we have been asking partners to share their DA data. Requesting data from partners on the prevalence of DVA within families they are supporting has identified a gap and lack of consistency in way that data is captured and reported. Several services e.g. EIFS, Housing, CSC, CCG and BCWA are sharing data in relation to domestic abuse in their respective service areas. Work was undertaken with the Operational Forum and a new data sheet agreed however, many partners have now decided that this is not data they wish to share in the format previously agreed. The DA Strategic Lead Officer is looking again at how other London boroughs have achieved a successful model for sharing their data. This will include analysing the language used to provide a shared language and enable comparison.</li> <li>Partners who are not currently sharing their data in relation to DA are encouraged to do so. Whatever data you are able to share would be welcome. All that is asked is that it comes with an explanation, permission to incorporate and publish, and that regular, ideally monthly (but quarterly broken down by month would also be extremely valuable) updates can be sustained. This will add value and improve our understanding of issues, prevalence, mapping of victims and perpetrators across all levels including where they have not yet engaged with the police/judicial process.</li> <li>Once developed the datasheet will be shared at the DA Strategic Board, the DA Operational Forum and other relevant Boards e.g. SBPB. Our ambition is to create this in a cloud-based environment allowing agencies to 'submit and click' e.g., Survey Monkey.</li> </ul>	<b>In progress</b>

<p><b>Enable accurate mapping of the prevalence of Violence Against Women &amp; Girls and implement appropriate responses and services where needed.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MARAC data will be used to add intelligence to the data that is held. This will link to the DAPP data (Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel) delivered under the DRIVE programme. The challenge in relation to actively using the MARAC data is that there is no current MARAC coordinator post. This has been raised as an issue via the DA Forum and DA Strategic Board. Options are being actively explored in terms of how this gap can be managed at Director level.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not yet progressed</b></p>
<p><b>4. Protect High Risk Victims</b></p> <p><b>Support victims through an effective and robust Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC),</b></p> <p><b>MARAC</b></p> <p>The MARAC Steering Group is currently working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the recommendations made by SafeLives in the MARAC Review that was conducted in September 2020.</li> <li>Membership of the Steering Group has been reviewed and agreed and will be monitored regularly, to ensure consistent representation of core agencies.</li> <li>The action plan has been shared at the DA Strategic Board, work has commenced, and an update will be shared in the SBP Quarter 2 2022/2023 meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>In progress</b></p>
<p><b>Implementing any learning points from Domestic Homicide Reviews,</b></p> <p><b>DHR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are currently three DHRs in progress. Of these three, two are now at the Action Plan stage. The Action Plans have been submitted to the Home Office. One of the Action Plans is live and one is now completed. For the completed one, Agencies are reporting that they have implemented required changes to their procedures.</li> <li>Once the Home Office has ratified the DHR and approved the level of information that can be shared, this will be shared via BSCB, BSCP, SBP, and HWB in order to reach the wider workforce in line with Bromley's DHR Protocol.</li> </ul> <p>Q1 Update – not requested  Q2 Update – DHRs continue, learning is disseminated via Home Office  Q3 Update – DHRs continue, learning and best practice is disseminated. There are currently three live DVHRs in progress and a fourth is with the Home Office Quality panel awaiting review and sign off.</p>	<p><b>Achieved</b></p> <p>Progress Made but more to do moving into 2022-23</p>
<p><b>Ensure that all local domestic abuse services are aware of the relevant support services that are available, including: The One Stop Shop, Outreach Support and the DRIVE programme.</b></p> <p><b>Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCWA continue to provide services both face to face and online, which is meeting the needs of victim/survivors. Details of these services are being promoted via BCWA and EIFS social media and their websites.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Green</b></p> <p>Good progress made but more to do moving into 2022/2023</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCWA continued to deliver the OSS virtually during this financial year. Considering the change in delivering the OSS from drop-in service to virtual, the number of service users, calling to receive advice and guidance through the BCWA support line, has not reduced. Callers to BCWA are now being captured in our data records as OSS enquiries regardless of the day/time that they initiate their contact by the commissioner's request.</li> <li>• The co-location of the IDVA into the MASH Team has had a significant impact on the number of referrals that were made by Children Social Care in Q3 of 2021/2022.</li> <li>• The DA Strategic Lead has also increased engagement with agencies and continues to deliver presentations in relation to domestic abuse and the services available in the borough and this is available to any partner agency by contacting the DA Strategic Lead Officer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Perpetrators' Intervention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DRIVE perpetrator programme has been operational in Bromley for one year and funding has been extended for this to run until March 2023.</li> <li>• The DRIVE data shows that there has been a reduction in reoffending behaviour with significant risk reduction in all Drive cases, particularly where there has been contact between the case manager and the perpetrator. We are waiting on finalised data for the financial year (2021/22) which was most recently requested on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.</li> <li>• A plan to identify funding will need to be discussed to look at how to sustain perpetrator interventions in Bromley after March 2023. MOPAC will be convening a task and finish group to develop and deliver a dedicated action plan on sustainability of the programme beyond 22/23. This has been delayed due to DRIVE not yet having provided any data in relation to impact and outcomes and once this has been received, we will be in a better position to push this forward.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Sanctuary Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calvin Pearson and Lydia Lewinson are leading on this project. The service is now live - contact calvin.pearson@bromley.gov.uk.</li> <li>• Request made for data in relation to the use of this scheme. Update not received in time to be included in this paper but the Sanctuary Scheme is on the agenda for the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board. Data will be requested for this report moving forward.</li> </ul>	<b>Achieved</b>
<p><b>5. Make use of Legislation</b></p> <p><b>Ensure that perpetrators of violence against women and girls are held accountable according to the law and are provided with assistance to change their abusive behaviour in order to prevent them from causing harm or violence to their current, past or future partners.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced new changes in law to make perpetrators more accountable for their behaviour. We produced and circulated a paper on the changes implemented by the DA Act 2021 for use by professionals working across the London Borough of Bromley regardless of their agency. This paper can be found on both the BSAB and BSCP.</li> <li>• The London Borough of Bromley received new duties funding to support the implementation of the new duties in the DA Act 2021 and this is being led by colleagues in the housing department; Lydia Lewinson.</li> </ul>	<b>Achieved</b>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DRIVE programme aims to work with agencies such as the Police and Probation to address and change the behaviour of high-risk perpetrators. Data has been requested from RISE who have been commissioned to deliver DRIVE across our BCU by MOPAC.</li> <li>• Additional services that can provide assistance to perpetrators of abuse in Bromley include the 'Fathers to Fathers' programme run by HomeStart, and 'Respect'. This is in addition to programmes run by partner agencies e.g., our Youth Justice Service run Healthy Relationship groups, Welcare deliver Healthy Relationship sessions in some schools as part of the PHSE syllabus too.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Work in Partnership</b></p> <p><b>With Children's Social Care and Children's Early Intervention Teams to provide support, advocacy and deliver age-appropriate work in a range of educational, youth and community settings.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIFS sits with Children's Social Care. EIFS is providing child focused support sessions for children who have witnessed DA against their primary female carer, an evidence based licenced programme overseen by the charitable organisation 'AVA' (Against Violence and Abuse). This programme has been renamed 'CODA' which stands for Children Overcoming Domestic Abuse.</li> <li>• The CODA programme has been running for over 5 years. Schools work in partnership to enable the children to attend these sessions.</li> <li>• Other agencies are also working with our children and young people in schools and other settings. We have not yet managed to persuade those agencies to share their data and success stories. This is a continuing piece of work for the DA Strategic Lead.</li> <li>• Independent Domestic Violence Advisors ('IDVA') from BCWA are sharing the co-location within the MASH Team and continue to work closely with other agencies in Bromley.</li> <li>• In addition to the IDVAs within BCWA, there is an IDVA based at the PRUH employed through Victim Support pan-London MOPAC funding, and an addition resource via the IRIS programme (CCG) which supports health professionals through access to the IDVA-E.</li> <li>• Anthony Powell – Community Safety Officer/Serious Youth Crime and Gangs Lead was the chair of the DA Operational Forum for 2021/2022 and this will change to Paul O'Brien – Consultant Lead Practitioner within Adult Social Care for 2022/2023, with Anthony taking the role of Vice Chair.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Achieved</b></p> <p>There is a lot going on but always more to do and this will be the case 2022-23</p>
<p><b>Work in Partnership</b></p> <p><b>SEL CCG Domestic Abuse (DA) Update.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Abuse Health Forum introduced. The primary aim is to form part of a wider system approach and response from health to DA in Bromley. DA Health forum provide an update to the DA Operational Forum. SEL CCG had recruited to DA lead post in health but this person has moved on and so now looking to recruit a new person.</li> <li>• SEL CCG (Bromley) has recommissioned Victim Support to deliver the IRIS ("Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) programme increasing the number of GP practices who are IRIS accredited. There are currently 41 IRIS accredited GP Practices across the borough – update given by SELCCG in appendix one.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Achieved</b></p> <p>There is a lot going on but always more to do and this will be progressed 2022-23</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) codeword scheme to enable victims of DA to access immediate help from the police, or other support services, from the safety of their local pharmacy. Currently there are 12 pharmacies signed up to the scheme, covering a wide proportion of the borough. In addition, some pharmacies will also be running the 'Safe Spaces' scheme which enables victims of DA to use the pharmacy consultation room to access information on domestic abuse support services.</li> </ul>	
<b>7. How we will know we are on track</b>	
<p><b>This theme will be included as a substantive discussion item at the Safer Bromley Partnership Board in Quarter 2, whereby Violence Against Women &amp; Girls, Police and associated Partners will provide an update.</b></p> <p>An update was produced for Quarter 2 and quarter 4 in line with the agreed programme See Appendix 1.</p>	<b>Achieved</b>
<p><b>The Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women &amp; Girls subgroup will lead on the effective monitoring and scrutiny of partner agencies in their service delivery, present findings within that setting, and report exceptions to the Safer Bromley Partnership Board if they occur.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DA Strategic Board and DA Operational Forum are now taking place three times a year.</li> <li>• A regular agenda item has been introduced at the DA Operational Forum where agencies are required to respond to a set topic/issue. This improves communication between agencies and provides an overview of what is happening in relation to domestic abuse at a local level.</li> <li>• There has been a lot of work undertaken to produce a universal DA reporting tool but unfortunately this is still not operational. It is on the agenda for both the DA Operational forum and DA Strategic Board with the ambition to achieve this in 2022.</li> <li>• Requests for updates are sort from all partners in the preparation of this report and where received are included in this report – see below. Our ambition is that all agencies represented at the Operational Forum and/or the DASB will submit a short statement for inclusion however only 7 agencies chose to submit an update to be included in this report.</li> </ul>	<b>In process</b>
<p><b>Update the Violence Against Women &amp; Girls Strategy and the Domestic Homicide Review Protocol by August 2020.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DA VAWG Strategy - Completed</li> <li>• DHR Protocol – Completed</li> </ul>	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>8. Impact of COVID 19 on Business as Usual</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All services have continued but are offering a mixture of both online and face to face e.g. One Stop Shop, Freedom, CODA and DRIVE.</li> <li>• IDVAs are able to meet with victims/survivors e.g., to support in Court, but the majority of BCWA's support has continued to be virtual e.g., Zoom, WhatsApp, Facetime, etc.</li> </ul>	



- Support Programme – The freedom programme is being delivered online via zoom and this has been reported as being well received by victim survivors and the service is starting to resume face to face sessions along with telephone support. There has been a small reduction in the number of victim survivors referred in for support groups.
- The co-location of the IDVA into the MASH Team has had a significant impact on the number of referrals that were made by Children Social Care in Q3 of 2021/2022.
- The data shows that 855 referrals into BCWA met the criteria for the IDVA service and were supported in year 2021/22. This is a reduction from the previous year's total of 919.
- We have directed BCWA to change the way they record data in relation to OSS usage and this is now showing more realistic data about the level of support they are giving via the virtual OSS. The data now shows 500 uses of the virtual OSS under the new recording method during the last 12 months, whereas in the previous year under the old recording method there were 358.

## 9. General Annual Update of achievements

- Publication of the new DAVAWG Strategy covering 2021 – 2024.
- DAVAWG Strategic Board and DA Operational Forum successfully set up and running three times a year.
- Increased awareness and commitment from partner agencies in relation to domestic abuse.
- Review of Bromley's MARAC undertaken, Action Plan moving forward led by MARAC steering group.
- The DRIVE perpetrator programme has been operational in Bromley for one year and funding has been extended for this to run until March 2023.

Appendix 1

Please note:

This appendix contains updates from agencies who are represented in either the DA Operational Forum and/or the DA Strategic Board. These updates are in relation to domestic abuse and not the wider work of each of these agencies (unless the agencies is a domestic abuse specialist service). The report is a short statement outlining how they have contributed to the domestic abuse agenda in Bromley over the past year. Our thanks to all the agencies who contributed to this report; it provides a helpful snapshot of the wider picture and the fight against domestic abuse and the support being provided.

### **South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (SEL CCG Bromley)** **Update - 2021-2022**

Ensuring that health representation is effective and visible through the Domestic Abuse (DA) victim/survivor journey by:

- Ensuring Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) information sharing protocols were in place for Health providers.
- Developing a Health attendees MARAC induction guide.
- Recommissioning the Identification and Referral to Improve safety (IRIS) programme across Bromley. The Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) programme. IRIS is a general practice based DA training, support, and referral programme. Core areas include ongoing training and support for the practice, clinical team and administrative staff, including an enhanced referral pathway to specialist domestic violence services for patients experiencing DA. There are currently 41 practices IRIS accredited across Bromley.

- Development of a Domestic Abuse Health Forum, chaired by the Adult safeguarding Manager, supported by the Designated Nurse for CYP. The primary aim is to form part of a wider system approach and response from health to DA in Bromley. The introduction of the forum has received enthusiastic support from health partners and the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) DA strategic Lead.
- SEL CCG have developed a Domestic Abuse policy for staff.
- SEL CCG (Bromley) representation is provided at the Domestic Abuse Strategic and Operational boards.

### **Metropolitan Police Service BCU** **Update - 2021-2022**

In February we launched our violence against women and girls (VAWG) action plan. This plan brings together all of our work to prevent violence against women and girls in public spaces, domestic settings and online, to target perpetrators.

Protecting people from violence is our top priority. The crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls, such as domestic abuse and sexual violence have devastating consequences.

The plan has four themes:

1. Protecting women and girls in public spaces, at home and online
2. Working with our partners and with women to improve prevention and victim care
3. Bringing offenders to justice and improving criminal justice outcomes for victims
4. Improving Met culture and professional standards

#### *Our key objectives*

We want to:

- increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice for violence against women and girls.
- improve processes and victim care across the criminal justice system to reduce the number of cases failing
- reduce repeat victimisation of women and girls
- increase women's confidence in the police to improve the reporting of crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls within London
- see an increase in reporting to police, but a decrease in women being abused, i.e., the proportion of women experiencing these crimes in each year (measured through reporting in the Crime Survey in England and Wales)

The MPS continues to support current initiatives such as OP Vigilant (to tackle predatory offending around the night-time economy) and Ask for Angela. We are also increasing the impact of key units, such as the new Town Centre Teams and specialist units including our Predatory Offender Units, which have now arrested over 2,100 offenders across the capital, half of which were for domestic abuse offences.

At a local level, DI Tom Revell and DI Duncan Mather continue to drive local performance.

In SN

- 83% of Domestic Abuse suspects are arrested in first 24hrs
- Specific stalking prevention weeks with initiatives targeting stalking and harassment.
- Increased use of tools such as Domestic Violence Prevention Orders to safeguard victims (SN has currently second highest total in in London)
- Increase in Sanctioned Detection rate
- SN BCU are also the MPS leader in MARAC referrals
- SN continue to support the DRIVE project aimed at dealing with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse which has been hugely successful

### **Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA)** **Update - 2021-2022**

In 2021/22 Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid have continued the vital work that they are doing within Bromley (and Croydon) to support survivors of domestic abuse. BCWA currently manages six refuges with 37 bedspaces commissioned by the London Borough of Bromley. Additional 12 Croydon and 5 Bromley-based bedspaces are run by BCWA without statutory funding (2 owned and 1 leased).

As well as refuge spaces & support, BCWA have a range of services, some of which are specialist and address barriers that survivors of domestic abuse face. These are:

- Advocacy (IDSVA service – high-risk clients)
- One Stop Shop – Facilitating & providing a free & confidential drop-in service for victims.
- Community Outreach – Providing emotional & practical support to victims within Bromley.
- Outreach Support with no Recourse to Public Funds/EEA Nationals - BCWA typically houses around 15% of London's NRPF service-users despite only having 5% of London's refuge spaces.
- Specialist No Recourse Support in refuge and specialist complex needs support in refuge, funded by the NLCF.
- Safebeds Scheme' is a service that allows Social Services Departments to place women quickly in our independent refuges, including those who have no recourse to public funds ("NRPF"). Safebeds provides temporary, safe accommodation for women and children who would ordinarily not qualify for support and would otherwise be placed in expensive, unsuitable, unsafe bed and breakfast accommodation without specialist support.
- Specialist child support in refuge and in the community for children affected by domestic abuse funded by BBC Children in Need
- Young People's Outreach Support, both in 1:1 and group settings and provided awareness sessions on DVA in assemblies at Secondary schools funded by the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF).
- Awareness raising/support groups in primary schools about healthy relationships.
- Never Too Late (innovation fund)– a new locally funded project for women aged 50 and over in the Bromley area. BCWA provides regular support groups for this vulnerable age group which offers both peer support and a reduction in isolation.
- Japanese outreach service - A specialist Outreach Service for Japanese-speaking clients, funded by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- In-house counselling service – BCWA recognised the need for survivors of domestic abuse needing to access an immediate therapeutic service and have launched a pilot project funded by Barclays.

BCWA became a registered housing provider in August 2021. This registration will provide us with increased stability and opportunities to develop our accommodation services.

BCWA are in the final stages of securing an investment to purchase a number of dispersed supported move on accommodation self-contained units for women & children moving on from refuge for up to 2 years. BCWA will be able to assist larger families, transgender clients, people with disabilities and/or those needing specialist provision or longer-term recovery with these units.

### **Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB)** **Update 2021/22**

Tackling domestic abuse remains a priority for the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) and as a partnership the following was achieved in addressing this area of abuse.

The BSAB:

- Published the Board's Domestic Abuse Policy, which was written in consultation with key domestic abuse strategic leads
- Supported with the implementation of the boroughwide Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy for 2021 to 2024
- Supported the implementation of the Drive Perpetrator Panel to disrupt abuse and reduce reoffending amongst high risk and high harm perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Continued to develop the dedicated webpage for domestic abuse on the BSAB website
- Promoted the availability of a pocket size printed card for victims and survivors of domestic abuse to discreetly keep with them should they need to access support
- Produced a poster in easy-read format raising awareness of domestic abuse
- Raised awareness of the local Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Delivered multiple training for professionals that addresses Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control

- Ran a session on Domestic Abuse and IDVA service during the National Safeguarding Adults Awareness week
- Promoted an online webinar on Working with Male Victims of Domestic Abuse delivered by Respect
- Raised awareness of national initiatives to support victims of domestic abuse, such as the Ask for Ani domestic abuse codeword scheme, Enough, Safe Spaces, Men's Advice Line and the Hollie Guard digital app
- Raised awareness of national publications such as The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

### **Victim Support** **Update 2021/22**

The London Victims and Witness Service (LWWS) from Victim Support is a service for London residents who are affected by or witness to crime, commissioned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

The service brings together five key areas of support for victims and witnesses through a single integrated service:

- The service provides support to adult (18+) victims of crime
- Provides specialist support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse (aged 16+)
- Provides access to Restorative Justice
- Delivers pre-trial and outreach support for prosecution and defence witnesses
- Provides support for people affected by major crime incidents.

The LWWS are co-located at the Princess Royal Hospital in Bromley to help with the identification, and support, for both patients and staff members experiencing domestic abuse. Since the start of the LWWS in 2019, the service has received 233 referrals from Princess Royal. There was an increase of referrals in Quarter 4 of 2021-22 from Princess Royal - This is attributed to the recruitment of a new IDVA who has started working onsite.

LWWS also receive referrals for Bromley residents from a number of other sources, including the police and self-referrals. In Quarter 3 there were a total of 54 Bromley referrals, and this has significantly increased to 116 in Quarter 4.

LWWS opened its doors for external agencies to refer in to some of their programmes this year, including:

- Safer Space+ is a specialist support service for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The project is open to children and young people between the ages of 5 to 18-years-old who reside or are educated within London.
- The iMatter group programme is for women aged 16 and over, who have experienced conflict and abuse. The programme is delivered online, by Zoom, across 10 weeks in groups of up to 12 women. It is suitable for those who are not high risk, and is available in the following languages: English, Welsh, Urdu, Bengali, Polish and Gujarati.

### **Community Safety – Serious Youth Crime & Gangs** **Update 2021/22**

The Community Safety/ Serious Youth Crime & Gangs lead has chaired 2 DA Operational Forum's and will be the deputy chair for future forums.

The officer has established a contact with the DA support organisation DRIVE and is the SPOC for DA cases involving gang nominals.

Work has commenced on contextual safeguarding.

### **London Probation Services** **Update 2021/22**

The London Probation Service are committed to reducing reoffending and protection of the public. It sets out to do this by ensuring that as a service we provide individuals on probation an opportunity to access rehabilitative services and interventions in addition to the proactive activities and partnership work we do to support communities be safer.

In order to achieve this vision, the London Probation Service sets out to ensure that safeguarding of individuals is embedded in our operational delivery plans and by the following:

- Evidence led interventions and toolkits that support Probation Practitioners to carry out their role effectively
- Evidence led interventions to engage people on probation service users, reflecting diversity and facilitate the desistance process
- Accredited programmes to support risk management
- A flexible and innovative supply chain via our Community Rehabilitative Services to facilitate the desistance process and provide effective interventions
- A partnership approach to support effective joint working and innovative practice
- A robust and informative custody approach to enable effective support for those leaving Custody

### *Diversity*

The London Probation Service acknowledges that perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse can be Male, Female, Transgender and that domestic abuse occurs in both heterosexual and non-heteronormative relationships. Furthermore, it acknowledges that domestic abuse occurs in both an intimate partner setting and in interfamilial setting. The London Probation Service holds itself to a high standard in recognising diversity and providing the right support for the right service user.

### *Interventions*

From a theoretical perspective the Probation Service has historically adopted the Duluth Model which places power and control at its core. The Domestic Abuse toolkit which takes this approach is still available for staff to use. Strengths based work has been underpinned by the Good Lives Model and the current delivery of the Accredited Programme Building Better Relationships (BBR) is modelled on this.

In order to successfully embed this approach, there has been a lot of work undertaken and adopting different approaches including, trauma informed practice with all staff, high quality one to one intervention work including use of toolkits by suitably trained and supported staff, accredited programmes and additional intervention programmes that meets the needs of those service users not suitable for Building Better Relationships Accredited Programme.

### *Risk Assessments*

All cases will have an Oasys Risk Assessment and this assessment will include risk management plan details and sentence plan objectives will be agreed with the person on probation based on the overall assessment. Where there is evidence that the person on probation is or has been a domestic abuse perpetrator within an intimate partner setting a Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) will be completed. SARA provides a framework for risk assessment/management and decision making that is both systematic and practical.

Where a person on probation is identified as a perpetrator or victim of domestic abuse, practitioners are expected to raise a risk register on our Case Management systems with relevant risk information attached.

### *Third Party Information*

The London Probation Service will work with its trusted partners to gather and share information in the process of effective and robust risk assessment and management. This included close working relationships with police and social services.

Where there is evidence of domestic abuse; current or historically in a case, practitioners are expected to complete intelligence checks with the police at the start of the period of supervision with and also throughout the period of supervision where there is a relevant change in circumstances or risk. Where these checks can be completed through the police Borough Intelligence Unit, it is preferred where there is a suitable contact and process in the relevant borough that the check is completed with the police Community Safety Unit and that an ongoing professional relationship is maintained depending on the local operational set-up of that Community Safety Unit.

Practitioners are expected to complete a safeguarding assessment for every service user that they work with. They are also expected to review this where there is a relevant change in circumstances. This will inform whether they need to do a known persons check with social services or a referral regarding a child or adult at risk. The London Probation Service are committed to working collaboratively with local authorities regarding safeguarding, particularly regarding MASH requests.

#### *Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)*

The London Probation Service is primary member of MARAC and committed to attending each MARAC meeting. Each local MARAC meeting will have a Probation Officer assigned to it where they will be considered a Specific Point of Contact. Where it may not always be possible to attend MARAC meetings another Probation Officer is expected to attend, or information around the relevant cases to be sent to MARAC in advance of the meeting. Where London Probation Service is invited to MARAC steering groups, an operational manager or a representative will attend or provide information in advance if this is not possible.

#### *Stalking Threat Assessment Centre (STAC)*

The STAC offers a range of services from different agencies, all working together to combat and protect from the effects of stalking.

The Probation Team based at the STAC Clinic is involved in:-

- Information sharing re new allegations of stalking behaviour.
- PSR consults – completion of Screening Assessment for Stalking and Harassment (SASH) risk concern tool, advice re sentencing recommendations, information sharing.
- Complex case consultations – full review of case and hour consult offered with PO and Clinical Psychologist. Pre-release planning, victim safety planning, psychologically informed ways of working etc.
- MAPPA input where STAC can add value.
- One-to-one interventions.
- Victim advocacy via the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.
- Support / advice / risk management advice given to staff who are victims of stalking.
- Materials / training

#### *Stakeholder Engagement*

The London Probation Service is committed to working in partnership with a variety of stakeholders and will therefore ensure they are key member of boards including the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Reducing Reoffending Boards (RRB), London Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and others as they are created.

We currently have a Probation Practitioner representative on the Drive Programme in Bromley who engages to support the service users and sharing of information to help risk management and interventions.

#### *Minerva/WIP*

In London the following providers have been appointed for female services:

Women's Services in London co-commissioned with Mayor's Office for Police and Crime – Advance and Women in Prison

There are different elements to this service:

- Accommodation
- Dependency and recovery (d&r)
- Education, training and employment (ete)
- Emotional wellbeing
- Family and significant others
- Finance, benefits and debt (fbd)
- Lifestyle and associates
- Social inclusion

Her Majesties Courts & Tribunal Services (HMCTS) – The London Probation Service is committed to ensuring that the order of the Court is managed and enforced. As such we will ensure that there is timely enforcement of an order or licence where appropriate for domestic abuse perpetrators.



Q1 – No update requested  
Q2 – No update provided  
Q3 – Jamie to provide

END