

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)**

**Date: 16 February 2015**

**Subject: Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse – Tracking of Scrutiny recommendations**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress made in responding to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny inquiry aimed at tackling domestic violence and abuse.

**2.0 Background information**

- 2.1 Last year, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board conducted an in-depth inquiry into tackling domestic violence and abuse, with a particular focus on improving the early detection and referral of victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.
- 2.2 In acknowledging the complexity and cross-cutting nature of this area of work, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board and the Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board were also invited to nominate a representative to assist in undertaking this inquiry.
- 2.3 The inquiry concluded in March 2014 and a report setting out the Scrutiny Board's findings and recommendations was published on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

**3.0 Main issues**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny recommendation tracking system allows the Scrutiny Board to consider the position status of its recommendations in terms of their on-going relevance and the progress made in implementing the recommendations based on a standard set of criteria. The Board will then be able to take further action as appropriate.

3.2 This standard set of criteria is presented in the form of a flow chart at Appendix 1. The questions in the flow chart should help to decide whether a recommendation has been completed, and if not whether further action is required. Details of progress against each recommendation are set out within the table at Appendix 2.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 Members are asked to:

- Agree those recommendations which no longer require monitoring;
- Identify any recommendations where progress is unsatisfactory and determine the action the Board wishes to take as a result.

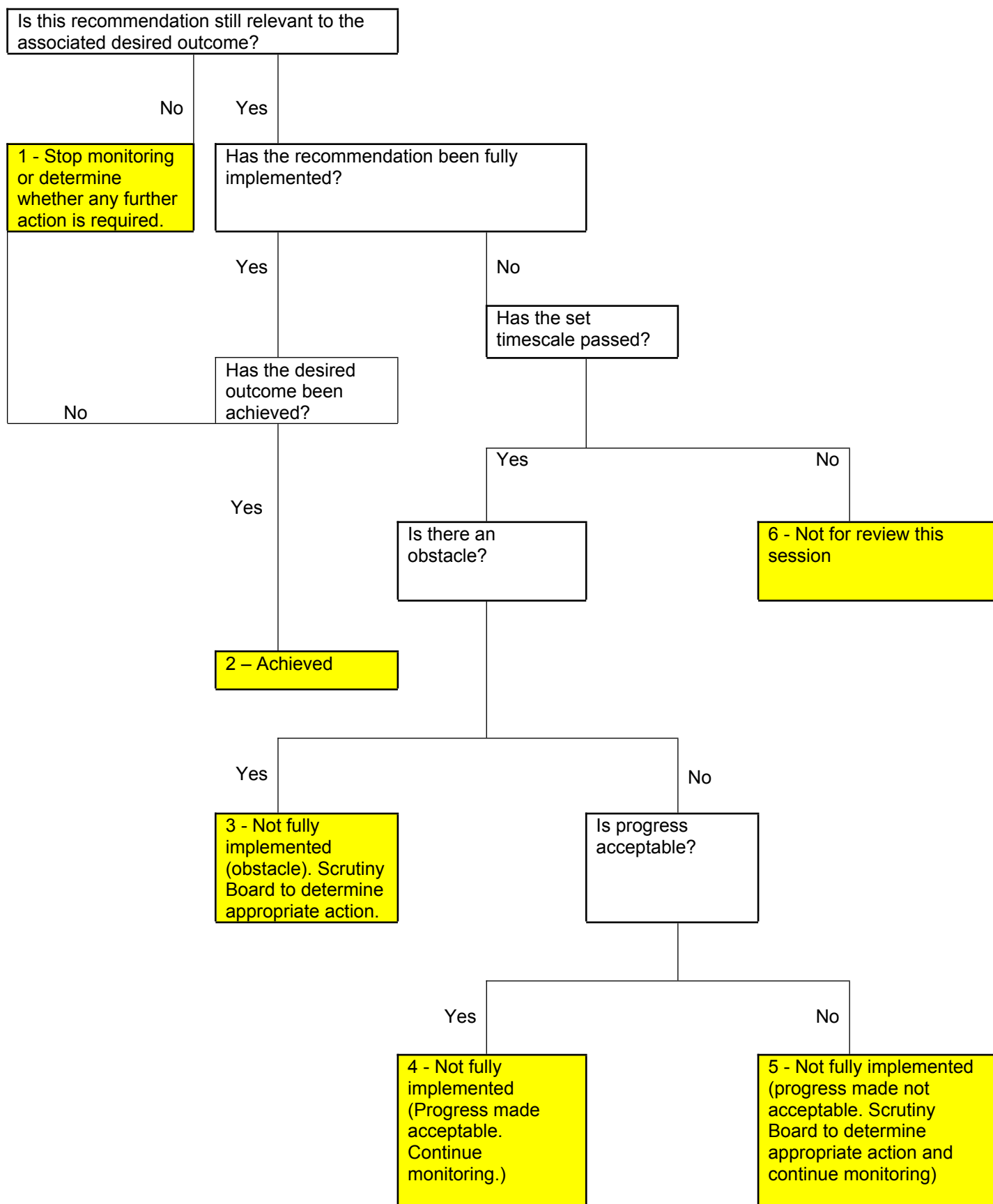
#### **5.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

5.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

**Recommendation tracking flowchart and classifications:**  
**Questions to be considered by Scrutiny Boards**



Position Status Categories

- 1 - Stop monitoring or determine whether any further action is required
- 2 - Achieved
- 3 - Not fully implemented (Obstacle)
- 4 - Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- 5 - Not fully implemented (Progress made not acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- 6 - Not for review this session

**Desired Outcome** – That there is an inclusive multi-sector partnership approach in driving forward a citywide Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and Action Plan including Performance Management.

**Recommendation 1**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group:

- (i) Liaises with the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups to identify a commissioning representative(s) to join the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group.
- (ii) Reviews the membership of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group, reflecting on recommendation 2 of the NICE public health guidance published in February 2014, to ensure it is relevant and inclusive.
- (iii) Liaises with the Chair of the Leeds Children's Trust Board to consider appropriate membership of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group in reflecting support to children and families.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The CCGs have agreed that a clinical lead (GP) will represent all three organisations at the strategy group. This is most likely to be Dr Yen Anderson but will be confirmed by 1 September.
- 2) The membership of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group reflects the majority of the services detailed in recommendation 2 of the NICE guidance. A review of membership will be undertaken by October 2014 and relevant services / organisations approached for representation in line with the NICE guidance recommendation.
- 3) Children's Social Work, Children's Targeted Services, Youth Offending and the Children's Safeguarding Board are currently represented on the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group. The Chair of the group will liaise with the Chair of the Leeds Children's Trust Board to ensure that membership is appropriately reflects support to children and families.

Additional response from the Director of Children's Services:

The Director of Children's services will ensure that there is appropriate officer attendance from Children's Services on the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group.  
The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group and Chair of the Leeds Children's Trust Board will meet to review membership of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group to ensure that it reflects the needs of children and families.

**Current position:**

- 1) Dr. Yen Anderson has been confirmed as a member of the Strategy Group
- 2) The Domestic Violence Strategy group follows NICE guidelines. We now have invited a schools rep to ensure we have representation from all suggested groups.
- 3) LSCB is currently represented on the strategy group through the attendance of the LSCB manager, however in recognition of the importance of DV in relation to safeguarding children the independent Chair will also attend future meetings.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – There are clear linkages made between the Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and Action Plan and other relevant citywide strategies and action plans.

**Recommendation 2**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group takes a lead on working with the Chairs of the local Strategic Partnerships to identify where linkages between the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and Action Plan and other relevant citywide strategies and action plans need to be established or strengthened.

**Formal response:**

The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group will liaise with the Chairs of the five Strategic Partnership Boards on an on-going basis ensure that domestic violence is reflected in relevant citywide strategies and action plans and to arrange for items relating to delivery of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and Action Plan to be presented to these Boards as appropriate.

**Current position:**

The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group is a member of the Children's Trust Board, Safer Leeds Executive, Adult Safeguarding Board and is due to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Work is ongoing to develop relationships with:

- Housing and Regeneration Board
- Sustainable Economy and Culture Board

Domestic Violence and Abuse has been identified as a breakthrough project for the Council, and an Outcomes Based Accountability event will take place in March. This event will provide a formal route through which a wide range of internal and external partners will be engaged to reinforce the need for a Citywide approach to tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That victims of domestic violence and abuse feel confident in accessing support and advice through the Leeds Domestic Violence 24 telephone helpline.

**Recommendation 3**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group leads on working with the Leeds Domestic Violence Service in actively promoting the Leeds Domestic Violence 24 telephone helpline and making it more explicit that victims can also use this helpline anonymously.

**Formal response:**

- 1) As part of the Leeds Domestic Violence Programme, a public awareness campaign will be delivered to raise awareness of both the Leeds Domestic Violence 24 hour telephone helpline and the Leeds domestic violence and abuse website which is under development. The publicity campaign is currently in the design phase and service users and practitioners will be consulted on the development of the materials.
- 2) A multi-agency review will be undertaken of commissioned domestic violence services which will include an evaluation of the 24 hour phone line to understand capacity and effectiveness. The review is timetabled for 2014/15 and will be concluded by the autumn of 2015.

**Current position:**

- 1) Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group has led on developing a phased approach to raising the awareness of domestic violence & abuse and available services. The logo and branding for the domestic violence & abuse campaign has been finalised. Marketing materials, DVD, and a website are in the latter stages of development. Phase one of the work is 'a call to action' with all materials promoting and directing people to the helpline and website for information and signposting for support. This will be in place in March 2015.
- 2) Some insight work is underway which includes capacity and effectiveness of the 24hour helpline this will support further phases of the campaign work and also support the commissioning review.
- 3) The multi-agency review of DV services (including helpline services) has commenced and is due to conclude in September 2015. See update provided against recommendation 5.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That a virtual one stop facility is established to provide a comprehensive overview of the provision available in tackling domestic violence and abuse in Leeds and the appropriate referral pathways targeted at both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

**Recommendation 4**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group progresses immediately with the development of a virtual one stop facility dedicated to tackling domestic violence and abuse and ensures that it is targeted at both victims and perpetrators and also acts as an effective tool for practitioners to use in terms of improving their understanding of existing provisions and the appropriate referral pathways.

**Formal response:**

The virtual one stop facility is currently under development and is scheduled to go live in October 2014. A number of practitioners have contributed to the content of the website and both the content and branding will be subject to consultation with service users, practitioners and the public. The website will be targeted at victims and survivors, perpetrators, practitioners, children and young people and the public.

**Current position:**

- 1) Following extensive input from service users and practitioners the branding and website content are complete. A DVD has been developed featuring facts and statistics alongside the stories of victims. The new website and DVD will go live in March 2015 to support an Employers Conference taking place in the same month.
- 2) Work is taking place to support further phases of a social marketing & social media campaign which will support the website to become an effective resource for a broad range of users

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*



**Desired Outcome** – That the additional barriers facing BME communities are recognised and factored into the commissioning framework for the provision of domestic violence and abuse services in Leeds.

**Recommendation 5**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group ensures that the following service issues are factored into existing and future commissioning frameworks for the provision of domestic violence and abuse services in Leeds:

- Enabling easier access to an accredited interpreter service, appropriately trained in relation to honour based abuse
- Provision of local specialist services for BME communities
- Provision of outreach services within particular vulnerable communities
- Enabling easy access to specialist advice services surrounding immigration status

**Formal response:**

- 1) A multi-agency review will be undertaken of commissioned domestic violence services during 2014/15 which will include an appraisal of how best to provide accessible and specialist services to BME communities and vulnerable communities. The review will ensure that appropriate and good quality responses to BME and vulnerable service users are factored into future commissioning frameworks.
- 2) Work is currently being undertaken to make variations to the specifications for LCC commissioned services. Access issues for BME and vulnerable service users are being considered.
- 3) The Domestic Violence Team is currently working with Corporate Communications to investigate different translation software options for the website.

**Current position:**

- 1) A domestic violence sub-category plan published in October 2014 sets out the current commissioning arrangements, including the capacity of existing services and where there are gaps in provision.
- 2) A domestic violence sector review project team has been formed to oversee a review of services for victims and perpetrators. This project team will use the findings of the sub-category plan to oversee a process of stakeholder and service user consultation which will inform the development of service models and specifications for domestic violence services in the city. The scope of this review will consider the accessibility of services to BME groups
- 3) The commissioning review will be overseen by the Domestic Violence Programme Board. It will seek to deliver the objectives of the breakthrough project and will make specific reference to the opportunities created by the formation of the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership.
- 4) One off spend has taken place this quarter to begin work to develop support for BME community in North Leeds and give snapshot insight of how to work with this vulnerable group of women.
- 5) In addition the Public Health Early Intervention/Prevention Contract has been varied from April 15 to ensure that the development of work with specific BME communities in the North of Leeds develops and continues from insight.
- 6) The new DV&A website will be available in over 50 languages when it goes live in March.
- 7) Work is underway to establish a reference group of community leaders with whom proposals for DV services can be discussed and tested. It is hoped this group will

also champion the DV agenda.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That actions arising from the governments 'A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls' Action Plan 2014 are maximised locally to help reduce the acceptance of honour based crimes.

**Recommendation 6**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group ensures that planned actions set out in the government's 'A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls' Action Plan 2014 are closely monitored and utilised at a local level aimed at reducing the acceptance of honour based crimes.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The government's 'A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls' Action Plan 2014m is not currently monitored and formally utilised at a local level.
- 2) The issue of honour based crimes is currently addressed through practitioner training delivered by the Domestic Violence Team
- 3) Responding to vulnerable groups, including honour based violence, FGM and forced marriage, is a requirement within the Domestic Violence Quality Mark training and this will continue to be the case
- 4) There are other responses across the council, for example, victims of forced marriage accessing the one stop shop in Harehills
- 5) The Domestic Violence Team has links with Karma Nirvana, an organisation that supports victims of honour crimes and forced marriages

**Current position:**

- 1) The LSCB, LSAB and Safer Leeds recognise the importance of working together on this agenda, to address a number of issues relating to violence against women and girls. This includes child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, female genital mutilation and 'missing from home'. There are on-going discussions with the Prevent Co-ordinator to build on some of the networks and relationships he has established with BME groups and within BME communities to flag up and address these issues.
- 2) The Domestic violence Team have been in discussion with BME organisations such as Hamara Healthy Living Centre to explore how we raise awareness on issues such as domestic violence, FGM and honour based violence.
- 3) The LSCB CSE & Missing sub group has identified FGM as being an issue linked to CSE and has included consideration of how the partnership should respond as part of its new Strategy (2015-17). The action plan is being developed and will be in place by April 2015.
- 4) We are continuing to work with The Black Health Initiative on community development to identify peer role models/mentors to help tackle this issue

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That there is sufficient capacity within the Leeds Domestic Violence Team to deliver domestic violence training and assist services across a wide range of sectors to attain the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Quality Mark.

**Recommendation 7**

That the Chief Officer of Community Safety leads on working with the Leeds Domestic Violence Team to identify the capacity needs of the team in delivering effective training to assist services across a wide range of sectors to attain the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Quality Mark.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The Domestic Violence Team (DVT) is largely responsible for delivering DV training and the DV Quality Mark. The structure and capacity of the DVT within Safer Leeds is currently under review as part of a wider review and re-structure of the Domestic Homicide Review process. As such, the capacity is likely to be enhanced and a clear focus for the team is the capability to deliver the Quality Mark.
- 2) As part of the current DHR review and with a desire to want to ensure that lessons learned are incorporated in daily business, there is a greater focus on the quality mark and our ability to ensure that as wide a market as possible is reached. It is clear that the status and credibility of achieving the quality mark is now part of the factors driving the review of the DVT.
- 3) In October 2014 the City is due to deliver its first DV themed Conference. Part of the theme of this Conference will be the highlighting of the quality mark and the role of it within Organisations. This driver is being led and delivered by the DVT and hence capacity needs to be able to meet demand.
- 4) There is currently being developed in Leeds some good practice from other Local Authorities and Forces. The new model is very much a broad framework for delivering DV services across the City and the role of the DVT is critical to it. As part of this holistic approach to delivering DV services, the current DVT capacity is being enhanced by seconded staff so that a model for the team can be developed to ensure it is fit for purpose in the new Leeds District model.

**Current position:**

A formal re-structure of the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Team (DVT) is being undertaken with a view to increasing capacity and seniority. The new structure, once finalised, will assist the DVT to respond to the following key areas of demand:

- 1) The Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Team (DVT) is responsible for delivering DV training and the DV Quality Mark. The structure and capacity of the DVT is currently under review as part of a wider review and re-structure of the Safer Leeds. As such, the capacity is likely to be enhanced in order that the team is the capability to respond to the training demand and deliver the Quality Mark. A report has been submitted by the DV Team to Safer Leeds Senior Management Team who are currently considering the recommendations for addressing current training demand. In addition, a meeting with third sector organisations that have recently begun delivering domestic violence training has been organised in order to ensure training is well co-ordinated across the city.
- 2) A review of the DHR process has been undertaken and refined. Further work on the lessons learned process is underway.

3) A conference on domestic violence is being organised for March 2015. Part of the theme of this conference will be the promotion of the Leeds Domestic Violence Quality Mark to the private sector.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Quality Mark is being actively promoted across the health and social care sector in Leeds.

**Recommendation 8**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group leads on encouraging greater take-up of domestic violence training linked to the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Quality Mark by making clear associations with the training recommendations set out in the NICE public health guidance document published in February 2014.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The content and model of delivery for the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Quality Mark is currently being reviewed to ensure that there is capacity to respond to a greater take up of the training. The review will also consider the best way to promote and potentially prioritise organisations to be assessed against the quality mark.
- 2) Quality marks are in development for the private sector, for children's clusters and GPs to respond to the specific needs of businesses, GPs, schools and other agencies that work with, and support, families and children.
- 3) A Leeds domestic violence conference is scheduled for October / November 2014 where the Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Quality Mark will be promoted to a range of organisations across the city
- 4) The Quality Mark will also be advertised on the practitioner pages of the virtual one stop facility

**Current position:**

- 1) The Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Team (DVT) has worked with Public Health to assess our DV training against the NICE Guidance training recommendations. Public Health are scoping the possibility of creating online Level 1 basic awareness training to initially be available to LCC to promote awareness and encourage early intervention. We are looking to see if this can be made mandatory training and scope to broaden to wider health colleagues.
- 2) A Quality Mark has been developed to further support the children's clusters to respond to DV. The DVT are working with Targeting Services Leads and Cluster Heads to target clusters and roll out the Quality Mark across the city.
- 3) The DVT is currently liaising with the CCG Safeguarding Team to explore the possibility of a Quality Mark for GP practices. This will be cross referenced with key recommendations coming out of DHRs and NICE Guidance.
- 4) Early Start Services (Co-location of Children's Centre Staff and Health Visitors) have been quality assured and will be reviewed in the next 6 months.
- 5) A quality mark for the private sector has been developed and will be launched at a DV conference in March 2015.
- 6) The Quality Mark will also be advertised on the practitioner pages of the website facility which will be launched in March 2015.
- 7) A wide range of statutory and third sector organisations have attained the quality mark.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That GPs are given the knowledge and capacity to identify domestic violence and abuse and support patients at the point of disclosure to act immediately in seeking advice and support.

**Recommendation 9**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group and the local Clinical Commissioning Groups:

- I. Work closely with the Leeds Domestic Violence Team in taking forward the recommendation of NICE and delivering integrated training for clinicians and administrative staff in local GP practices
- II. Look at the feasibility of developing an initiative in Leeds based around the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) initiative in Bristol
- III. Work closely with GP practices to promote the need to create safe environments at the point of disclosure of domestic violence and abuse whereby patients are offered more time and a private environment to support them in accessing immediate advice and support rather than rely on them making a self-referral after the appointment.

**Formal response:**

- 1) Working with the identified clinical lead from the CCGs, the Domestic Violence Team will actively promote the domestic violence materials on the health pathway and map of medicines to GPs.
- 2) The Public Health Post seconded to the Domestic Violence Team will provide targeted training to GPs and briefings to GP safeguarding leads (again working with the clinical lead).
- 3) A bespoke Domestic Violence Quality Mark is in development for GPs.
- 4) The Quality Mark training is being reviewed and will reflect the suggested levels of training in the NICE guidance in the future. This will include creating safe environments at the point of disclosure of domestic violence and abuse.
- 5) The CCGs through the identified clinical lead and working with the Chair of the Domestic Violence Strategy Group will look at the feasibility of the IRIS and report back to the Strategy Group by December 2014.

**Current position:**

- 1) A GP Quality Assurance tool is in development to set out minimum requirements for practices and will establish a Domestic Violence champion at each practice. Active dialogue is taking place between CCG's Safeguarding team regarding implementation of good practice and implementation of DHR recommendations. Target training for GPs on Domestic Violence is due to take place
- 2) A Public Health DV Health Co-ordinator is contracted within the Domestic Violence Team to deliver against key recommendation with NICE Guidance PH50. An action plan is currently being developed to identify how this work can be delivered with the local health economy in Leeds.
- 3) A specialist Quality Mark for health professionals is part of this action plan so that work is prioritised and targeted from a co-ordinated approach
- 4) The creation of a safe place for disclosure links to this specialist response and

quality mark for GP's and ante natal setting particularly.

- 5) Work is taking place to create a safe environment of disclosure particularly in relation to GP and antenatal settings.
- 6) Leeds maternity strategy is being revised and will be included in the strategy.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*



**Desired Outcome** – That the views of Scrutiny are considered alongside other key stakeholders, including the Trade Unions, in the development of the Council's Domestic Violence Policy and Guidance document.

**Recommendation 10**

That the Chief Officer HR ensures that the views of Scrutiny are considered alongside other key stakeholders, including the Trade Unions, in the development of the Council's Domestic Violence Policy and Guidance document. In summary these include the following:

- Establishing linkages to undertaking stress linked assessments
- Exploring the merits of re-introducing 'Zero Tolerance Officers' in association with the principle of having additional link officers for staff to approach.
- Making it explicit that employees do not have to disclose their identity to obtain initial information and advice from the employee assistance provider service.
- Ensuring that the policy signposts perpetrators to support services too.
- Ensuring that the policy makes clear references to the Children's Safeguarding Policy in terms of when incidents need to be referred to Children's Social Work Services.

**Formal response:**

Working closely with Community Safety, the Trade Unions and employee assistance provider to ensure the promotion of confidentiality, support and signposting within the Policy.

**Current position:**

The final version of the policy has been approved by the Unions. This policy captures the points made in this recommendation and has been passed to the HR Leadership Team for final sign-off. The issue of how training around this policy will be disseminated will be raised with the Cross Council Safeguarding Group

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That information regarding referrals that relate to Council employees is captured effectively through closer linkages between HR, the Duty and Advice Team and Adult Safeguarding.

**Recommendation 11**

That the Chief Officer HR leads on establishing closer linkages between HR, the Duty and Advice Team and Adult Safeguarding so that information regarding referrals that relate to Council employees can be captured effectively.

**Formal response:**

Working with the identified groups we are currently ensuring stronger links with Community Safety and the Duty and Advice team to capture the information.

**Current position:**

The MARAC Strategy Group have agreed that for council and public sector employees who are either victims or perpetrators of domestic violence incidents, any MARAC referrals will be dealt with in closed meetings and details will be recorded appropriately. This has been written into the MARAC Operating Protocol. HR and the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership will work closely on this issue.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That domestic violence training is incorporated into the Managers Challenge Programme.

**Recommendation 12**

That the Chief Officer HR leads on working with the Leeds Domestic Violence Team to incorporate training around identifying and responding to domestic violence into the Managers Challenge Programme.

**Formal response:**

Currently working with Community Safety and Leeds Domestic Violence Team to include Domestic violence training in the Managers Challenge Programme.

**Current position:**

The Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Team is liaising with the Manager Challenge Team to integrate DV into the Manager Challenge Programme. Initial thoughts are that DV could be delivered in the 'Let's Talk' sessions.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** - That the Council's Domestic Violence Policy and Guidance is actively promoted across the wider business community as a good practice model.

**Recommendation 13**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group leads on working closely with the Chief Officer HR and the Chair of the Joint Trade Union Committee to explore opportunities to promote the Council's own Domestic Violence Policy and Guidance document as a good practice model across the wider business community.

**Formal response:**

The LCC Domestic Violence Policy is in final draft form and consultation is taking place with the Trade Unions. The Domestic Violence Team will promote the Council's Domestic Violence Policy and Guidance as best practice to a range of organisations through the delivery of the Domestic Violence Quality Mark.

**Current position:**

The Leeds DV Policy has been approved by Unions and is awaiting approval from HR leadership team. LCC approaches will be promoted within the March conference to the business community. At the conference we will also share good practice across public, private and third sector organisations

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That the local referral and assessment process relating to FGM, as set out in the procedures of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board, is widely promoted across the city.

**Recommendation 14**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works with the Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board in maximising opportunities to actively promote the local referral and assessment process relating to FGM.

**Formal response:**

The Chair of the Domestic Violence Strategy Group, as a member of the Leeds Children's Safeguarding Board, is working with the Chair of the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board to maximise opportunities to actively promote the local referral and assessment process relating to FGM. This will continue to be reviewed and assessed through regular discussion and actions agreed at the Safeguarding Board.

**Current position:**

- 1) The Domestic violence Team have been in discussions with BME organisations to explore how we raise awareness on issues such as domestic violence, FGM and honour based violence.
- 2) The LSCB CSE & Missing sub group has identified FGM as being an issue linked to CSE and has included consideration of how the partnership should respond as part of its new Strategy (2015-17). The action plan is being developed and will be in place by April 2015.
- 3) A conference organised by the NHS will take place in Leeds shortly which will also raise the profile of this issue and identify good practice.
- 4) See also update provided at recommendation 6

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That by December 2014, information sharing protocols between partner agencies relating to domestic violence and abuse have been reviewed to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose.

**Recommendation 15**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group ensures that a review of existing information sharing protocols between partner agencies relating to domestic violence is completed by December 2014 to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose.

Formal response:

As part of the Domestic Violence Programme, existing information sharing protocols between partner agencies will be reviewed and new arrangements established if required. This work will be undertaken as part of the targeted work being undertaken to further develop the Front Door.

Current position:

- 1) An information sharing agreement (ISA) is being progressed as part of the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership. The first draft of which was reviewed on the 19th of January. These will then be presented to the relevant Information Compliance Officer prior to implementation.
- 2) A SharePoint site is being developed to enable effective sharing of information across all agencies involved in the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership. Protocols governing the access to and appropriate use of this site will be included in the ISA.
- 3) Key parties will meet shortly to agree a way forward regarding information sharing with schools in line with Operation Encompass good practice.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That Leeds responds positively to the recommendations arising from the 2014 HMIC inspection in relation to the effectiveness of the police approach to domestic violence and abuse.

**Recommendation 16**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works closely with the Leeds Divisional Commander to ensure that all of the recommendations arising from the HMIC inspection are being reflected within local policing services.

**Formal response:**

The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group and the Chief Officer Community Safety will work closely with the Leeds Divisional Commander to receive updates on progress with respect to the recommendations arising from the HMIC inspection and ensure the provision of any required partnership support.

**Current position:**

- 1) Leeds continues to work closely with the force Domestic Violence lead to develop and improve processes against the HMIC recommendations. The work within the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership takes cognisance of this report and again aims to improve the service to victims.
- 2) The Force and Leeds City Council has undertaken a safeguarding review (this includes DV). Demand analysis has been undertaken to ensure the appropriate resource levels are committed to investigating DV. Again the future modelling will take into account recommendations.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*



**Desired Outcome** – That there is a single point of contact to refer all incidents of domestic violence and abuse which provides a holistic multi-agency approach in meeting the needs of the victim and their family.

**Recommendation 17**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group explores the feasibility of establishing a single point of contact, building on the current ‘front door’ arrangements, to refer all incidents of domestic violence and abuse with the aim of providing a holistic multi-agency approach in meeting the needs of the victim and their family. In particular, the victim should receive advocacy and support in accessing safe accommodation and, where necessary, a school place for their children.

**Formal response:**

The Front Door has been established, co-locating Police, Children’s Social Work and Health Staff to provide immediate assessment, triage and action planning of domestic violence referrals involving children. Adult Safeguarding staff have also been involved in these arrangements. A project is now underway to expand the remit of the scheme to include high risk referrals not involving children and to invite representation from other relevant services and organisations to provide holistic support to the victim and their family. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will be in place by August 2015.

**Current position:**

Implementation of Leeds Safeguarding Partnership is underway, with co-location on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of Westgate House due to commence in February 2015.

The project will bring together and build on activity currently undertaken by WYP Safeguarding Unit and the Front Door to create an integrated and co-located unit to provide a specialist multi agency response and pro-active interventions to improve the safety of victims of domestic violence and abuse and their children.

This project will contribute to the city’s aim to reduce the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and abuse by:

- Providing a faster and more co-ordinated and consistent response to domestic violence cases through improved quality of services and information sharing between partner agencies.
- Improving planning and management of risk assessment and investigation.
- Improving processes for accessing services and expertise.
- Improving domestic violence and abuse pathways in Leeds ensuring access to more comprehensive and coordinated support.
- Preventing escalation of issues through effective risk assessment, robust decision making and targeted interventions.
- Reducing duplication of assessments and interventions.
- Improving the targeting of offenders

- Improving the use of additional tools such as DVPO's, Claire's Law, tenancy breaches

A range of partners will be involved in these arrangements; either as part of the co-located team or through an agreed "virtual" link. These include West Yorkshire Police, Children's Services, Health, Substance Misuse Services, Leeds Domestic Violence Services, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Education, LCC Housing Services, Adult Social Care and Adult Safeguarding.

An operating framework is being developed which will detail the roles and responsibilities of all agencies that are involved, the information sharing agreements and agreed operational protocols.

Alongside the development of the co-located team work is ongoing to develop pathways and responses to domestic violence and abuse from prevention, responding to incidents through to recovery and aftercare. These pathways will include responses to victims, perpetrators, children and families. This will enable to develop a co-ordinated and whole system response in the city.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) are utilised and monitored effectively within Leeds.

**Recommendation 18**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works with the Leeds Divisional Commander to monitor the effective use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) in Leeds.

**Formal response:**

The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group and the Chief Officer Community Safety will work with the Leeds Divisional Commander to monitor the use of DVPOs in Leeds. The effectiveness will be reported to the Strategy Group and to the Safer Leeds Executive.

**Current position:**

- 1) Evidential review officers review each case and consider applicability of DVPNs. The approach is used selectively around 20 have been used as at December 2014 with some breeches and resulting prison sentences. A review of the approach is due to take place in February 2015 and has been identified for discussion at DV Strategy Group in April.
- 2) Leeds continues to use DVPO where appropriate. It is hoped that further staff will be trained in the future to apply for DVPO and prepare cases. Awareness has been provided and recently refreshed locally as part of district training programmes. The Leeds Domestic Violence lead monitors numbers of DVPOs.
- 3) As outlined in recommendation point 16 the safeguarding review is proposing a dedicated Domestic Violence team who will become more experienced and provide a consistent approach to DV including DVPO.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That vital skills and expertise built up within the third sector in terms of tackling domestic violence and abuse is being effectively harnessed.

**Recommendation 19**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group leads on exploring how the Council and other commissioners of services can assist in ensuring that vital skills and expertise built up within the third sector in tackling domestic violence and abuse is effectively harnessed.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The Domestic Violence Forum is a sub-group of the Domestic Violence Strategy Group which comprises of third sector members. The group provides an opportunity for networking and raising practice issues. The forum is often utilised by the Domestic Violence Team to consult on service reviews or new initiatives e.g. the group will be consulted on the development of the virtual one stop facility
- 2) Additionally the third sector is represented at the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group as key partners.
- 3) The Third sector will continue to be involved in the evaluation of services such as Caring Dads and will be heavily involved in the review of commissioned domestic violence services.

**Current position:**

In addition to the points above, third sector providers are actively engaged in the delivery of the March conference, and have also participated constructively in a workshop to improve consistency of user satisfaction survey data.

The review of commissioned services is due to be concluded in September 2015 – see update provided against recommendation 5. This review will be coproduced with input from the Third Sector.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – There is greater consistency and quality assurance across all schools in tackling domestic violence and abuse through effective cluster partnership working.

**Recommendation 20**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group leads on working with the Director of Children’s Services, the Chair of the Leeds Children’s Trust Board and the Leeds Domestic Violence Team in developing a customised domestic violence charter mark that is based around a set of minimum standards for cluster partnerships to aspire to.

**Formal response:**

A Domestic Violence Quality Mark is currently being piloted for cluster partnerships. The cluster based work involves delivering sessions to practitioners in children and young people’s services and schools to promote and support the use of resources to address domestic violence. This includes looking at useful interventions for those children and young people affected by domestic violence as well as looking at preventative work around conflict resolution, respect, equality and sexual consent. Restorative practice is one of the models promoted as part of a menu of options to foster healthy relationships.

Additional response from the Director of Children’s Services:

The Director of Children’s services will review the existing plans in clusters around domestic violence identifying work done and any areas for further development. A draft charter mark is currently being finalised. This will be developed further with a number of clusters in the Autumn and roll out to further Clusters later in the financial year. A number of Clusters have been identified to be included in the first phase of Cluster training and development, the final decision will be made by the end of September. The DV team will have increased capacity from the beginning of September with staff seconded from YOS to lead on this area of activity.

**Current position:**

The Domestic Violence Quality Mark for Clusters has been developed – level one is being piloted with 9 target Clusters (Armley, Chess and Networks, BCM, Jess, Morley/Tingley Ardsley, Bramley, Pudsey, Inner East and Seacroft Manston). They will all have received the core training by the end of March and will all have received the level 1 Quality Mark by April 2015. An evaluation process has been developed to monitor the impact of training through follow up sessions with staff who have received training.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That clear associations are made between tackling domestic violence and abuse and the significant impacts this can have on achieving the 3 main obsessions as set out within the Children and Young People’s Plan.

**Recommendation 21**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works closely with the Chair of the Leeds Children’s Trust Board to make clear within the Children and Young People’s Plan how tackling domestic violence and abuse can have significant impacts on achieving the 3 main obsessions set out within the plan.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group is a member of the Children’s Trust Board. The Trust Board is clear on how tackling domestic violence can have significant impacts on achieving the three main obsessions within the plan. Working with the Chair of the Trust Board and the Director of Children’s Services, the Chair will continue to ensure that the Children and Young People Plan has a clear focus on tackling abuse and violence.
- 2) Strong links exist between the Safer Leeds Executive, the Leeds Adult Safeguarding Board and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board. Key documents such as the Children and Young People’s Plan will be presented at all three Boards.
- 3) The Domestic Violence Team were involved in the development of the Think Family Protocol and are consulted when the Children and Young People’s Plan is revised.

Additional response of the Director of Children’s Services:

The behaviour of adults is recognised by the Leeds Children’s Trust Board as the most significant contributory factor leading to children becoming looked after and subject to a child protection plan.

Domestic violence has been identified as an issue in over 50% of cases where children under 5 become looked after.

The Leeds Children and Young People’s Plan is revised.

**Current position:**

There continues to be a strong recognition that Domestic Violence is a key issue impacting on the lives of children.

The Children and Young People’s Plan 2015-19 is currently being drafted for consideration be Executive Board and full Council. The draft plan recognises the importance of the role and behaviour of adults; particularly, where domestic violence, substance misuse, learning disability and mental health impact on children, young people and their parents and families.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That existing communication mechanisms linked to schools are maximised to promote the importance of tackling domestic violence and abuse and sharing good practice.

**Recommendation 22**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works closely with the Director of Children’s Services to ensure that existing communication mechanisms linked to schools are maximised to promote the importance of tackling domestic violence and abuse and sharing good practice. Such mechanisms should include the Leeds Education Hub website and the 4-Heads peer support model.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group will continue work with the Director of Children’s Services and the Deputy Director with responsibility for education to ensure that existing communication mechanisms are maximised. This includes greater working with the Youth Council to ensure the voice of the child and young person is heard in relation to how the impact of domestic violence and abuse is understood in a school setting.
- 2) See response to recommendation 20 re. cluster work

Additional response of the Director of Children’s Services:

The Director of Children’s Services will ensure that the relevant training and information for practitioners in schools is provided, to assist them to effectively identify, support, protect and undertake direct work with children, young people at risk of, or experiencing honour based violence through :

- Developing a ‘light bite’ awareness raising session for school professionals to access.
- A preventative curriculum resources page on Leeds Education Hub for PSCHE and designated lead officers, with practical resources for schools.
- Making sure that schools complete and disseminate DV policies.
- Working with the LSCB, devise and develop an Honour Based Violence Policy for all professionals.
- Using the existing communication mechanisms, particularly designated lead officers, to raise the profile of domestic violence and abuse and promote existing good practice amongst schools and clusters.

**Current position:**

In addition to the above, the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group will attend the Headteachers forum and governors training to talk specifically about Domestic Violence.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That there is a clear mechanism in place to ensure that schools across the city are informed immediately of any incidences/referrals associated with a pupil so that they can respond appropriately and sensitively to the needs of that child and also to family members.

**Recommendation 23**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works closely with the Director of Children’s Services and the Leeds Divisional Commander to ensure that there continues to be commitment from all key partners towards the development of ‘Operation Encompass’ within Leeds.

**Formal response:**

The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group will work closely with the Director of Children’s Services and the Leeds Divisional Commander to monitor progress with respect to ‘Operation Encompass’ and report back to the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group.

Additional response of the Director of Children’s Services:

The Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group, the Director of Children’s Services and the Divisional Commander will work to ensure the principles of ‘Operation Encompass’ are explored, understood and developed in Leeds. The detail of exactly how this will take place will be determined over the next few months.

**Current position:**

Work to develop and implement a process to inform schools of police attendance at an incident of domestic violence connected to one of their pupils (as developed in Operation Encompass) is being taking forward as part of the of the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership (LSP). It is envisaged that the process for notifications will be undertaken as part of the operational delivery of the LSP.

A working group has been established; whose membership includes CSWS, Police Educational Safeguarding, Integrated Process Team and Families First. This group is scoping out the approach and reviewing areas of good practice. Merseyside has recently implemented Operation Encompass and the working group will be looking at lessons learnt around their implementation. Along with key colleagues in Education the group will be develop proposals to implement a Leeds model.

Early learning from a similar scheme in Merseyside indicates that the timescales for scoping through to implementation was approximately six months. A significant issue that they had to address was workforce development within schools and as part of the scoping there will be a need to assess where there may be gaps in knowledge and confidence in adopting a protocol. This assessment has already taken place in some clusters and there may be an opportunity to pilot the protocol in these areas and adopt an incremental approach to implementation.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*



**Desired Outcome** – That Leeds has developed a sustainable approach towards effective management and engagement of perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

**Recommendation 24**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group ensures that work is undertaken immediately to develop a Leeds model aimed at providing a more sustainable approach towards effective management and engagement of perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The Caring Dads programme is currently being piloted across 3 areas with a total of 30 men signed up to a 17 week group programme. Caring Dads is a parenting programme which seeks to improve relationships between men and their children and reduce abuse to partners.
- 2) The requirements for perpetrator services in Leeds will be confirmed as part of the review of commissioned services. It is estimated that this will commence within the next two years.
- 3) An interim solution is currently being developed for perpetrators who are not fathers to ensure that there are a range of responses to perpetrators in Leeds.

**Current position:**

- 1) Agreements have been reached to continue the Caring Dads programme. In order to make the programme more sustainable Safer Leeds are in the process of obtaining a licence to enable them to deliver the training programme for group facilitators. Increasing the number of accredited facilitators will mean that a minimum of six programmes can be delivered per year. Each programme is 17 weeks in duration.

Alongside Caring Dads bespoke responses are being developed for BME perpetrators of domestic violence and those whose first language is not English. This will include one to one sessions.

The Youth Offending Service are continuing the delivery of PACT (Parents and Children together) to respond to adolescent to parent violence. 48 PACT facilitators have been trained to be able to deliver the programme or one to one work.

- 2) A project team has been established to undertake the review of domestic violence services. This will include responses to perpetrators. The terms of reference and programme timetable for the review are currently being developed.
- 3) Work is ongoing with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and partners across West Yorkshire to develop a West Yorkshire perpetrator programme. This is likely to deliver a voluntary six week early help intervention for perpetrators who have come to the attention of the police but are not subject to statutory interventions. The details of how this programme will be delivered will be confirmed shortly.
- 4) The Safer Leeds Executive agreed to extend the remit of the Drug Intervention Programme and the Integrated Offender Management Programme (DIP and IOM) to

include developing offender management responses to domestic violence. Work is ongoing to agree selection criteria, a tactical toolkit and the multi- agency delivery framework. The development of these partnership responses will be led by the Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group on behalf of Safer Leeds.

A commissioning review of DIP and IOM services has started. Tackling domestic violence and abuse will be incorporated as a key element in the new service specification.

- 5) An Assertive Engagement (Sanctions) Framework has been developed to support work with perpetrators or instigators of violence. This is a toolkit for use by practitioners or by case conferences and provides details of a range of sanctions that might be used to manage risks to victims and engage with perpetrators. This will be piloted through the MARAC arrangements and rolled out through training and briefing sessions.
- 6) Work continues to explore the opportunities to work with other partners such as Leeds Rhinos and support providers to compliment perpetrator programmes.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6) *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board***

**Desired Outcome** – That the effectiveness of local domestic violence perpetrator services and programmes can be clearly demonstrated through robust evaluation processes.

**Recommendation 25**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group ensures that work is undertaken immediately with existing providers of domestic violence perpetrator services and programmes in developing a robust evaluation process aimed at assisting service providers to demonstrate the effectiveness of future programmes.

That particular progress surrounding such work is brought back to Scrutiny for consideration in September 2014.

**Formal response:**

- 1) Caring Dads will be evaluated externally by Leeds University. This will involve analysis of police call outs along with questionnaires and interviews with perpetrators, victims, Social Workers, the Caring Dads facilitator and Victims' Support Workers. The team are also considering how they can include the voices of children. This approach to evaluation can be replicated on other perpetrator schemes if it is considered to be robust and provide the evidence required.
- 2) Any new perpetrator service that is delivered or commissioned by the Council will include the requirement to achieve outcomes and key performance indicators

**Current position:**

- 1) A Caring Dads evaluation has been completed by Leeds Beckett University based on the first three programmes, each of which ran over 17 weeks. The evaluation is very promising. One of the key findings from the report was that 'all the men who had been through Caring Dads programme and took part in the evaluation reported improvements in their aggressive responses to the people with whom they interact.' Feedback from the partners of the men taking part in Caring Dads was equally positive, with one partner stating 'he is more loving and patient. He helps out more and helps taking the children to, and bringing them home from school'. Safer Leeds are seeking continued funding with a view to continuing Caring Dads and increasing the numbers of men who are accessing this programme.

*See Caring Dads evaluation, for full report*

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That there is greater awareness of, and a multi-agency response to, adolescent to parent abuse in Leeds.

**Recommendation 26**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group leads on undertaking work to ensure the following:

- (i) That local and national intelligence surrounding the risks posed by adolescent to parent violence is widely disseminated to increase greater awareness of this growing area of concern and galvanise action in tackling this problem.
- (ii) That the lessons arising from the Parents and Children Together (PACT) programme are used to inform the provision of future services in providing a multi-agency response to adolescent to parent abuse in Leeds.

**Formal response:**

- 1) The Domestic Violence Team and the Youth Offending Service co-deliver a course to practitioners to increase understanding of adolescent to parent abuse including risks. This will continue to be delivered.
- 2) An Operational Manager from the Youth Offending Service delivered a presentation on domestic violence in teenage intimate relationships to a range of partners at the Domestic Violence Strategy Group in April 2014. She also talked about adolescent to parent abuse.
- 3) The Youth Offending Service co-hosted a child to parent abuse conference with Leeds University on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 with speakers from the youth justice board, academia and practice. Leeds PACT presented an item and the PACT parent mentor who attended the first PACT programme and who has co-facilitated the latest programme spoke at the conference. The Youth Offending Service will continue to seek out similar opportunities.
- 4) The PACT programme, which responds to adolescent to parent abuse, is currently being delivered to adolescent boys and their mothers. The evaluation of the first programme has been produced and is being used to inform future programmes. The evaluation is scheduled to be presented to the Domestic Violence Programme Board in September 2014.

Additional response of the Director of Children's Services:

(i) The Director of Children's Services will ensure that Leeds YOS leads on this area of work through raising awareness in Leeds across all partners. The service will monitor and report on take up of:

- A one day awareness raising course on adolescent to parent violence with Leeds domestic violence unit, piloted as part of the City council's domestic violence training for the workforce in Leeds.
- A 2 day training programme to support practitioners in this area across a range of multi-agency teams.

The Leeds YOS has been asked to present at the Leeds domestic violence strategy

meeting to facilitate discussion with a view to highlighting further actions that need to be undertaken in Leeds.

(ii) The Director of Children's Services will ensure that the learning from the PACT programme informs future planning through:

Disseminating the findings from the evaluation of the programme, particularly the impact on parents.

Working in partnership with Leeds University to identify how to evaluate the programme from an academic perspective.

To host the YJB launch of guidance for local areas on adolescent to parent violence early next year. This will hopefully also provide the opportunity to continue local conversations about how we take the work forward in Leeds.

To disseminate a new model of working with domestic violence in Leeds around adolescent to parent abuse. The challenges identified are:

- Ensuring all services who work/come into contact with children and families understand and have a shared approach to tackling adolescent to parent violence-ideally a shared protocol.
- Meeting the significant demand for the programme.
- Improving the first response to this issue so families are identified and appropriate support identified.

**Current position:**

The domestic violence unit and Leeds Youth Offending Service (YOS) have delivered 2 awareness raising courses to 28 staff. The training package has been finalised and more courses will be scheduled this year. It is intended to continue to facilitate them in partnership.

The 2 day PACT training course has been delivered 3 times to 48 staff from a range of agencies across the City. It is scheduled to run again in February 2015. It has been opened up to staff from other authorities who want to implement a programme in their areas.

In addition to the conference co-hosted at Leeds University, Leeds YOS presented at a similar conference in Wakefield in September 2014. The lead manager has also been invited to a meeting with Respect, who set the standards for domestic violence work, in February 2016 to consider a set of standards to apply to work on adolescent to parent violence.

The PACT programme has received 190 referrals/enquiries in a 16 month period. The majority of referrals are coming from Children's Social Work Services (CSWS), clusters, Signpost and YOS. The safeguarding team based at Westgate estimate 30 cases a week where the child is the aggressor in the family, which is a significant number. PACT will take direct referrals from Westgate.

The programme has now run 3 times, with a 4th scheduled for the end of February. In total 28 mums have completed the programme and 14 boys. There have been a number of boys and girls who have completed the programme on an individual basis. The numbers are not known. There are a number of promising outcomes: Parental confidence is increased leading to a change in parenting behaviours; violent behaviour reduces and in some cases

stops; there is a reduction in other abusive behaviours and some young people have improved school attendance.

We will continue to review this model of working and alongside reviews of other perpetrator programmes with potential for working within geographical locations/wedges.

There are two major changes for the next PACT group: we will be piloting putting girls on the group programme alongside boys and we will be working in partnership with Leeds Rhinos who will be hosting the programme at their ground. We anticipate this will be a significant factor to help us engage the young people. We now have 3 parents who have completed PACT, joining the PACT team and helping us to deliver the programme as parent mentors. This has really strengthened our work with parents.

PACT will continue to be part of an overall strategy addressing perpetrators of Domestic Violence and will pick up those that may not fall into existing programmes.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme is utilised and monitored effectively within Leeds.

**Recommendation 27**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works with the Leeds Divisional Commander to monitor the effective use of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme in Leeds.

**Formal response:**

The Head of Localities and Safeguarding, Community Safety chairs the MARAC meetings and the effective use of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme will be reviewed at the MARAC Strategic Group. Progress and any issues will be reported back to the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group.

**Current position:**

Leeds has an established Claire's Law Panel which meets on a monthly basis to discuss all domestic violence disclosure requests. Generally, the disclosure scheme is working well, both in terms of individuals requesting information about new partners (right to ask), as well as MARAC deciding we have a duty to inform women under 'right to know' where a partner has a history of DV. On average 3-4 referrals a month are discussed at the Claire's law panel, and there is good representation from agencies.

The Claire's Law panels started in Feb 2014 and of the 34 applications we've received, we've made 26 disclosures to date. (see below for breakdown):

- Number of Clare's Law applications under Right to Ask – 22
- Number of Clare's Law applications under Right to Know – 12
- Number of Disclosures made to Potential Victims – 26

The governance arrangements for the Domestic violence Disclosure Scheme sit within MARAC therefore, the MARAC Operating protocol has been updated to reflect this.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That all local head teachers and governing bodies understand the significant impact that targeted prevention programmes based around respect and conflict resolution can have in helping future generations to understand and develop healthier relationships.

### **Recommendation 28**

That the Chair of the Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group works closely with the Chair of the Leeds Children's Trust Board and Director of Children's Services to raise greater awareness amongst local head teachers and governing bodies of the significant impact that targeted prevention programmes based around respect and conflict resolution, whether delivered through PSHE and/or SRE, can have in helping future generations to understand and develop healthier relationships.

### **Formal response:**

- 1) An aspect of the work currently being piloted with cluster partnerships is talking about how to promote healthy relationships amongst students. Restorative practice is one of the models promoted as part of a menu of options to foster healthy relationships.
- 2) See response to question 20 for details of work with cluster partnerships

Additional response of the Director of Children's Services:

The Director of Children's Services will monitor and report on take up of training for school staff, head teachers, designated safeguarding leads and governors on the importance of the preventative curriculum in relation to domestic violence. In relation to:

- The **Primary PSHE Scheme of work and Secondary PSHE schemes of work** including units on a spiralling curriculum on relationships, which includes the wider Sex and Relationship Education.
- A new training programme - '**Is this Love? Healthy relationships and young people**' ([http://www.schoolwellbeing.co.uk/training\\_courses/58](http://www.schoolwellbeing.co.uk/training_courses/58)) which provides an insight into the issue of abuse within teenage relationships including the current government campaign tackling the issue, explores OFSTED requirements in relation to safeguarding and pupil health and wellbeing, consider ways in which to educate and embed key learning into the PSHE curriculum through interactive activities.
- The jointly facilitated '**The Challenge! How to deliver CSE, Pornography and Teenage Domestic Abuse**' (including FGM and forced marriages) co facilitated with the Domestic Violence Unit and Education and Early Years safeguarding team, on how schools can best join up their delivery and resource bank to support the teaching and learning about positive healthy relationships and young people as a whole.
- The take up of **classroom based sessions to Primary schools** which includes activities adapted from a range of quality resources; beginning to explore the issue of acceptable behaviour within relationships. With the aim that pupils will be able to



identify positive qualities within a relationship, recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviours, identify sources of support

- The take up of **classroom based sessions to Secondary schools** which uses Bristol's Safer Partnership resource 'Spiralling' to explore the concept of an 'unhealthy' relationship and enables young people to gain an understanding of behaviours which are controlling and abusive. With the aim the pupils will be able to recognise the early warning signs of an abusive relationship, define behaviours which are controlling and abusive, identify sources of support for someone who is involved in an abusive relationship.

**Current position:**

Work outlined above is ongoing. In addition we have identified that the Governor Training programme would benefit from more training around Domestic Violence.

A monitoring report will be prepared towards the end of the current academic year to allow us to identify the lessons we have learnt to date, and how well conflict resolution and wider restorative approaches are being used across the learning community. There are proposals to roll out restorative practice training across the children's services workforce so that in the longer term a "restorative conversation" is the default option.

See also latest position recommendation 20 for position regarding implementation of a Domestic Violence Quality Mark for clusters.

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*

**Desired Outcome** – That all local head teachers and governing bodies understand the significant added value to be gained through embedding restorative practices in schools and feel supported in taking this forward within their own school.

**Recommendation 29**

That the Chair of the Leeds Children’s Trust Board and the Director of Children’s Services ensures that further work is undertaken immediately to raise greater awareness amongst local head teachers and governing bodies of the significant added value to be gained through embedding restorative practices by citing existing good practices. Linked to this, assistance should be given to schools in taking forward this approach.

**Formal response:**

The Chair of the Leeds Trust Board and the Director of Children’s Services will ensure that the Partner Headteachers and the Governors Support Service develop and implement a training plan for restorative practice. This will be introduced to all schools and learning settings. This area of work will underpin the leadership and management strand of the Leeds for Learning programme.

**Current position:**

The re-launch of the Think Family Work Family protocol and practitioner guidance incorporated Domestic Violence, which has been reflected within the newly devised Think Family, Work Family training which has been available since April 2014. It is also covered within the Think Family, Work Family Light Bite session. The Safer Leeds DV team are also providing a DHR Light Bite within those sessions.

The restorative awareness sessions were offered to all governors in May 2013. The LCSB light bite sessions were confirmed as being suitable for governors and were sent out to all governors this month.

There are proposals to roll out restorative practice training across the whole of the children’s services workforce so that in the longer term a “restorative conversation” is the default option. The project plan and funding for the work programme is in place, and implementation will commence in the post Ofsted inspection period. Some work in schools and learning settings has already taken place. Progress in these areas will be included in a review of training to be undertaken towards the end of this academic year.

See also latest position recommendation 20 for position regarding implementation of a Domestic Violence Quality Mark for clusters

**Position Status (categories 1 – 6)** *This is to be formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board*