

Report of the Head of Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment and Housing)

Date: 7th July 2016

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 previous Scrutiny inquiry aimed at tackling domestic violence and abuse.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 The former 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 The inquiry concluded in March 2014 and a report setting out the Scrutiny Board's findings and recommendations was published on 9th June 2014. This report is available via the Council's website ([click here for inquiry report](#)). The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board received a formal response to its recommendations in September 2014 and tracked progress in February 2015.
- 2.3 It falls within the remit of the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Board to continue to track the recommendations arising from this inquiry. As such, the Board received a further tracking report in October 2015 and agreed to close out a number of the recommendations. The purpose of today's meeting is to consider the progress made in relation to those recommendations that currently remain open.

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.
- 3.3 Details of progress against each of the remaining recommendations are set out within the table at Appendix 2. To assist Members, the Principal Scrutiny Adviser, in liaison with the Chair, has given a draft position status for each recommendation. The Board is asked to confirm whether these assessments are appropriate and to change them where they are not.

Domestic Violence & Abuse Breakthrough Project

- 3.4 In recognition that Domestic Violence and abuse has been named as one of the council's 8 breakthrough projects, the Director of Environment and Housing has also provided a report outlining the work to be delivered as part of the breakthrough project and progress to date (see appendix 3).

4.0 Recommendations

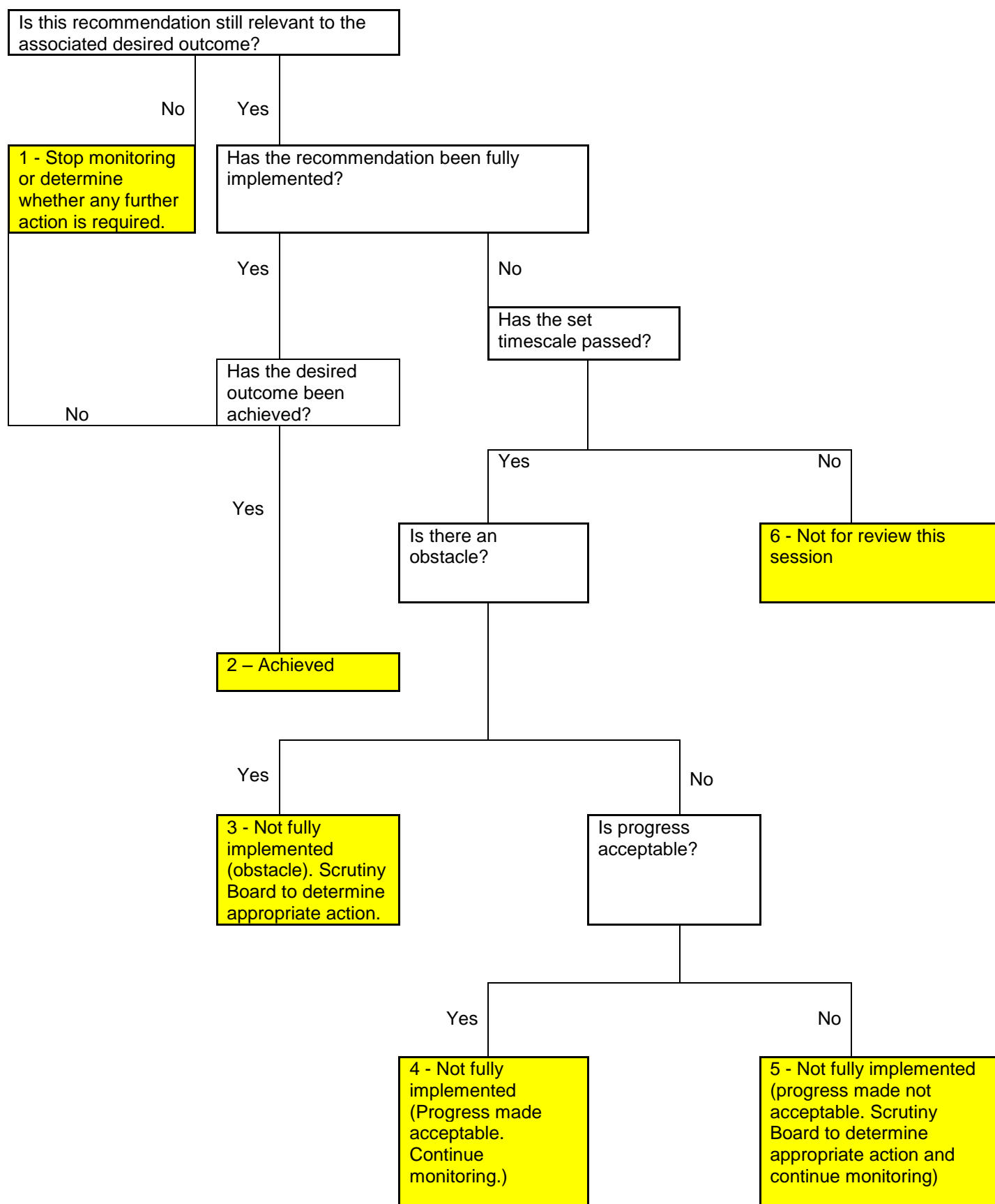
- 4.1 Members are asked to:
- Agree those recommendations which no longer require monitoring;
 - Identify any recommendations where progress is unsatisfactory and determine the action the Board wishes to take as a result.
 - Note and provide any comment in relation to the work and progress made as part of the breakthrough project as set out in Appendix 3.

5.0 Background documents¹

- 5.1 None.

¹ 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 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.

Position reported in February 2015:

- 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 reported in October 2015:

The following areas will feed into the review of commissioned domestic violence services:

1. Further to a DHR recommendation, Safer Leeds is currently producing a set of guidelines to promote good practice in delivering responses to victims and perpetrators of DV where interpreters are used.
2. Shantona, a community organisation with a specialism around supporting BME communities, has successfully secured funding for a BME DV post to improve under-reporting of DV among BME communities and to support community organisations to respond effectively to domestic violence.
3. The Domestic Violence Team is liaising with a range of BME led organisations such as Hamara, Shantona, Health for All, BARCA and the Black Health Initiative to consult with and work to develop service provision and good practice.
4. The DV Team is rolling out work on a cluster basis with some focus on responding to diverse communities and BME families.
5. The Citizens Panel has been consulted on domestic violence responses and this has resulted in useful information to feed into planning and service development.

Current Position: June 16

Commissioning for a new DV&A service for Leeds is underway and will start delivering from 1st April 2017. In writing the specifications for the contracts great attention was paid to the learning from the scrutiny enquiry. In addition, the development of the specification was undertaken in consultation with partners and service users at all stages.

The two commissioned options specify that the service is “inclusive and accessible” and that it “*will ensure that a fit for purpose interpreting provision is offered for those individuals whose first language is not English. Everybody in Leeds who is suffering the impact of domestic violence and abuse should feel that this is a service that they can approach and that will help and support them*”. The specification also states that the service must “*provide a culturally responsive service to individuals from a broad range of ethnic backgrounds in a variety of community languages, either by having a variety of languages spoken by team members or by ensuring access to appropriate interpretation and translation services. Family members and friends of the service user are not to be considered acceptable substitutes for professional interpreters.*”

The specification has been written in such a way that makes it clear that the service needs to be flexible and responsive to meet emerging and changing need and to work closely with local community groups to encourage engagement. Consortium bids were welcomed and bidders were particularly encouraged to involve community groups, especially those

working with BME, isolated and vulnerable groups in the delivery of the service.

In terms of Engagement/Access and Disengagement the specification states that: *“the Service must engage with, and be accessible to, individuals from a diverse range of ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. This will require a thorough and up-to-date understanding of issues relating to domestic violence and abuse within all client groups, particularly in terms of barriers to seeking help and best practice in overcoming these barriers. The Service will therefore develop a culture of proactive engagement, working in partnership with other agencies and professionals (for example social workers and probation officers) to proactively engage individuals and to reduce and overcome barriers to accessing services. This will include developing a plan to engage with service users groups that are under-represented in services, including but not restricted to:*

- Older people
- Young people aged 16-25
- LGB&T*
- Asylum seekers, refugees and those with insecure immigration status and / or no recourse to public funds
- BME communities
- Disabled people
- Sex workers

The Provider must build links and work with small community groups supporting clients from the above groups in order to encourage and develop referral pathways, ensuring that service users are supported to access the Service when appropriate.”

The section around Drop-In Provision states that: *“It is expected that drop in provision – including specialist provision where appropriate – will be made available for individuals from all service user groups (including men and LGB&T*) – either through direct delivery or by working with other agencies to identify alternative suitable provision. The drop-in provision will be delivered in various accessible and safe locations across the city...The drop-in provision will be well promoted where local intelligence indicates that there is a specific/growing need and will be targeted for specific communities where appropriate, working closely with community groups to encourage engagement...the Service will monitor the demand and need for drop-in provision and establish and develop this provision across the city as required”*

The Community Based 1-1 Support element of the service includes a requirement to “include an assertive outreach element to proactively encourage engagement by individuals who are known to be at risk but are not engaging with services”

There is going to be a 6 month mobilisation period for the new service (starting 1st October 2016) and this time will be used to ensure that: appropriate pathways into interpreter services are in place; there is adequate support for vulnerable communities, including BME communities; and pathways to other services offering specialist advice around immigration status are identified. A robust performance framework will be established to monitor this activity.

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

2 – Achieved

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.

Position reported in February 2015:

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 reported in September 2015:

- 1) A proposed re-structure for the DV Team is being progressed. The proposal seeks to ensure that resources are in place to deliver the Community Safety Partnership's statutory responsibility to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews; support the DV Breakthrough Programme, meet demand for the Leeds DV Quality Mark and training requests and support partnership working across the city.
- 2) A Leeds DHR Policy and Procedures paper has been adopted by the Domestic Homicide Sub Group and the DV Team has devised a model for delivering DHR lessons learned.
- 3) Safer Leeds is working with other agencies to ensure other training providers are utilised and demand is addressed.

Current position: June 2016

- 1) Funding to increase the capacity of the Domestic Violence Team has been agreed and the restructure is being progressed.
- 2) Since September 2015 over 1200 people have received DV training including Health Visitors, GP's and School nurses cluster staff, Adult Social Care social workers. This includes 367 people who have undertaken DHR Lessons Learnt training.
- 3) Training capacity within the health economy in Leeds will be increased by the recruitment of 2 specialist nurses within the safeguarding team in the CCGs. The nurses will be in post from July 2016.
- 4) Additionally a DV Breakthrough Programme Ambassador scheme has been launched within LCC encouraging staff from all teams across the council to put themselves forward to be the representative on their team who will undertake training and be able to sign post and assist colleagues to find the information they need. They will be examples of best practice and cascade basic awareness raising training to their colleagues.

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

2 – Achieved

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.

Position reported in February 2015:

- 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 reported in September 2015:

- 1) The ISAs have been progressed and await sign off.
- 2) As part of a school notifications pilot the project group will agree a way forward regarding information sharing with schools in line with Operation Encompass good practice.

Current position: July 2016

- 1) The Information Sharing Agreement has completed and is in use. This covers the domestic violence arrangements, including the daily MARAC at the Front Door Safeguarding Hub. The document has been signed off by all partner agencies and their Information Compliance Officers.
- 2) Following a two month pilot Operation Encompass (School DV notification process) 2016 was rolled out city wide from April 2016.
- 3) The Commissioning process which is currently underway includes robust clauses in the tender documents and contracts. regarding Information Sharing and Multi Agency participation
- 4) The FDSH Sharepoint site has been built. LCC staff can already access the site and other partners are being added. West Yorkshire Police and Leeds Domestic Violence Service are the first services to trial accessing the shared site.

- 5) A Safer Leeds wide review of all Information Sharing protocols is currently being undertaken, led by the Partnership Information and Intelligence Manager to ensure that all information stored, used and discussed is in compliance with appropriate standards.

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

2 – Achieved

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.

Position reported in February 2015:

- 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 reported in September 2015:

The HMIC recommendations were put into an Action Plan for the Force and have been driven by the force Performance Unit. These recommendations have seen the introduction of the Front Door for domestic violence and also additionally working alongside LCC colleagues managing daily risk.

Victims have been pivotal to the development of the Front Door Safeguarding Hub and both Integrated Offender Management and LCSB now have police colleagues sat at the head of these processes ensuring victims of domestic violence are prioritised.

The Safeguarding model within Leeds District has recently been increased. The District now has a dedicated Domestic Abuse team and there is significant additionality in the leadership of the Safeguarding Unit. There are now six dedicated Detective Inspectors committed to domestic abuse and safeguarding issues. This is more than this area of work has ever been allocated to it before.

The emphasis on Safeguarding issues has also become a critical part of daily business within Leeds District and as such daily scrutiny is placed around activity such as arresting those circulated as wanted for DV offences. A greater emphasis and use of DVPO legislation has been established. Additionally the planned restructure of the domestic violence Team within Safer Leeds will continue to ensure lessons are learned from the DHRs in Leeds district.

The Chief Officer Safer Leeds will ensure that details of any future HMIC follow up visits/inspections which relate to Domestic Violence and Abuse will be brought to the attention of the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Board.

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

2 – Achieved

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.

Position reported in February 2015:

Implementation of Leeds Safeguarding Partnership is underway, with co-location on the 4th 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 and ensure the effective co-ordination of support services.

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 reported in September 2015:

1. The Front Door Safeguarding Hubs have now been operational since April 7th 2015. The hub has built on activity previously undertaken by WYP Safeguarding Unit and the Front Door to create an integrated and co-located unit to provide a specialist, multi-agency response to improve the safety of victims and their children.
2. A range of partners are involved in these arrangements. Partners 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, Youth Offending, West Yorkshire Fire Service, Adult Social Care, Families First and Health Services. A daily meeting brings partners together to discuss high risk domestic violence incidents reported to the police in the last 24 hours. To date the hub has discussed over 1000 incidents.
3. 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 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 DVPOs, Claire's Law, and tenancy breaches.

4. Work is now being developed to pilot a locality based response to domestic violence incidents that are assessed as standard or medium risk. This will be built on the principles of the Front Door response and the pilot will be undertaken in the Inner West.

Current position: July 2016

- 1) The Front Door Safeguarding Hub has now been operational for over a year and discussed over 2,500 cases. Recent developments have included integrating the MARAC process into the FDSH arrangements and establishing a school notification process for DV incidents. A process to notify GPs is now in development.
- 2) Although there are difficulties in allocating places where schools are full, particularly if the parent finds it difficult to disclose the reason for their move, the Fair Access protocol ensures that the parent of any child needing to move schools is supported to do so. Reminders have been issued to Admissions Officers of the Fair Access Protocol and the need to make admissions offers quickly.
- 3) Protocols are being prepared for customer services officers on contact procedures for parents who move as a result of DV&A. Admissions team colleagues are also being advised to fast track any applications received from parents as a result of this.

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

2 – Achieved

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.

Position reported in February 2015:

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 reported in September 2015:

The Front Door Safeguarding Hub Strategic Group is overseeing the development of "Operation Encompass". A draft protocol has been developed by a partnership working group and informed by a site visit to Liverpool. Resources within the council contact centre

have been secured to carry out the notifications to schools and a mechanism with WYP established to provide timely information on incidents where children were present. The process will be piloted prior to wholesale roll out. A number of clusters expressed interest in being pilot areas and three have been selected. The process will operate as part of the Front Door arrangements.

Current position: July 2016

- 1) The pilot scheme ran for two months from 1st February 2016 in three clusters and was evaluated to be a great success. The scheme has now gone live across the city as part of Front Door Safeguarding Hub's routine procedure, as of 18th April 2016.
- 2) In Leeds the process involves notifying schools and educational establishments within 24hrs of an incident that the police attended where their pupil was in the house. This starts with a daily download from police systems, detailing all domestic violence incidents, with names and dates of birth of any children present. This is crossed checked with the LCC school admission data base to identify the schools attended and a phone call is then made by LCC contact centre staff, usually before 8am, to designated safeguarding leads in the schools to inform them of the incident.
- 3) Some feedback from the evaluation included:
We received the notification even before the child got to school
"We were able to tell the class teacher to keep an eye on the child."
"We chatted to the child and played alongside her to see if she was ok"
"We were not aware of the DV before and it helped us understand what else might be going on for the family."
"I spoke to Mum and was able to offer her some support."

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

2 – Achieved

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.

Position reported in February 2015:

- 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 September 2015

1. The provision in the city for working with perpetrators is being increased by a new West Yorkshire service commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner. From December 2015 CRI (a third sector organisation) will be delivering early help interventions to perpetrators identified through voluntary referral and conditional cautioning routes. The programme will also develop responses for BME, LGBT and female perpetrators. The service is commissioned for two years and part of the specification is to evaluate interventions and inform future commissioning and delivery plans.
2. A pilot project to test and develop Integrated Offender Management principles and practices for domestic violence offenders has commenced. This will inform the ongoing review of the IOM programme and commissioned services.

Current position: June 2016

- 1) A cross sector Steering Group led by Children's Social Services has been developed to ensure the Sustainability of Caring Dads. It is a key deliverable on the Domestic Violence and Abuse Breakthrough Plan being steered by the Heads of Environment & Neighbourhood and Children's Services under the leadership of Councillor Mulherin. The pilot was successfully completed and the programme has now been fully integrated into the Children's Services portfolio with funding secured for the next 12 months and a staffing structure recruited.
- 2) The PCC funded perpetrator programme CHOICES has now been running since the 1st December. The service works with standard to medium level offenders aged over 16 and a risk of being abusive within the family setting. It offers an open referral route which means cases can be brought through the criminal justice system or referred by anyone working with the family or offender. The service is represented at both Front Door and the Locality Case Conference meeting to enable proactive referrals and ensure they are fully engaged with all agencies.

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

2 – Achieved

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

Position reported in February 2015:

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 is 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 reported in September 2015:

1. £135k has been granted by the Family Valued Programme to further develop Caring Dads over the next 12 months. This will include focused work to increase the programme's access to BME families and to develop a peer mentoring scheme.
2. Responsibility for the Caring Dads programme has been moved from Safer Leeds to Children's Services to ensure it is sited in the most appropriate service area and to build long term sustainability. As part of this arrangement a practice steering group is being established to monitor and evaluate progress and programme effectiveness.
3. From December 2015 a new perpetrator programme will be available in Leeds funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Officers from Safer Leeds will be involved in the evaluation and contract management of this programme to ensure effective delivery and learning.

Current position: June 2016

- 1) A Caring Dads Steering Group has been established to assess and direct the work of the Caring Dads programme on a bi-monthly basis. The programme has now recruited a new Project Manager, BME Development Worker, a Peer Mentoring Development worker and a project worker. In the coming months they are looking to train more facilitators and have made a commitment to the Domestic Violence Team to work in partnership in delivering training to colleagues.
- 2) The PCC funded CHOICES programme which has now been running for 6 months works alongside the victims to allow them to provide real time feedback to the impact of the work being undertaken with the perpetrator. This feedback informs the practice of the service overall and assists in risk assessing the situation outside of the group. An evaluation of this programme will also be undertaken to inform future delivery.
- 3) Programmes for perpetrators who are in the criminal justice system are delivered by the Community Rehabilitation Company. A number of other organisations also deliver programmes or interventions. Therefore the Domestic Violence Programme Board, Chaired by the Director of Environment and Housing, is reviewing the availability and scope of all programmes and interventions in the city to identify gaps and develop proposals.

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

2 – Achieved