



Domestic Violence and Abuse Annual Report 2018/19

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR COUPAR

Welcome to the Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Annual Report 2018/19. This report highlights the achievements and challenges in delivering work to address domestic violence and abuse across Leeds. This area of work contributes to our city wide priorities to keep people safe from harm, promote health and well-being and also to help everyone in the city benefit from economic growth. It has built on previous developments to protect victims and their children as well as responding more effectively to perpetrators.

The human cost of domestic violence and abuse is enormous, touching many lives and inflicting devastating consequences on the physical and mental health of victims. It frequently impacts on the lives of children, including those children who are looked after by the local authority. West Yorkshire Police recorded 20,243 incidents between January and December 2018 and sadly during this time Safer Leeds received three notifications of domestic violence related deaths which are now subject to Domestic Homicide Reviews.

It is difficult to measure success in the field of domestic violence and abuse work. There are many challenges to overcome and service providers often need to work alongside victims and perpetrators intensively and over a long period to reduce risk, maximise support and surmount barriers to help. Nevertheless, service users tell us that practitioners who believe their stories, display empathy and respect their choices can make a real difference and that these principles should always be a foundation from which to work from.

On this basis, we have increased resources to improve access to services for victims with complex needs by commissioning specialist services and training staff in trauma informed approaches. We have also improved responses to protect children and young people. Equally, we have made progress through engaging with groups who work with migrant communities. This has helped us to reach out to people who often face additional barriers to services when seeking help. We will continue to strive for further improvements in these areas as well as working to provide effective interventions to more perpetrators.

Leeds has a long history of partnership working and delivering innovation to address domestic violence and abuse. The work is a testament to the immense commitment and wealth of expertise among our third sector organisations, public sector services, community groups and individuals who work tirelessly to co-ordinate responses to benefit all people in Leeds.



Councillor Debra Coupar

**Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council &
Executive Board Member for Communities**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE: NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN THE UK

Domestic violence and abuse is a significant national issue and continues to be a priority for the Government, local authorities and other public and third sector organisations throughout the country.

Approximately 2 million adults in the UK experienced domestic abuse last year.

At the end of 2017/18 the Government consulted with victims, support organisations and frontline professionals with four key objectives in mind:

- promoting awareness of domestic violence and abuse
- protecting and supporting victims
- transforming the justice process
- improving performance across all local areas, agencies and sectors

In 2018/19, as a result of this consultation, 9 measures were identified to help achieve these objectives, and these measures are now being taken forward in the draft Domestic Abuse Bill.



In 2019, the Government also published its refreshed strategy on ending violence against women and girls. It sets out new ambitions for national government, local authorities and wider society on tackling all forms of violence against women and girls including sexual violence, stalking, honour based abuse and female genital mutilation.

Alongside this refreshed strategy, the Government published a male victim's position statement recognising abuse experienced by men and boys. The statement seeks to increase the volume of male victims who report crimes, improve the support they receive and help bring more perpetrators to justice.

According to the most recent national figures, 27% of domestic homicide victims in England and Wales are male. Around half were killed by a partner or ex-partner.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN LEEDS

Every day in Leeds, the police receive on average 60 calls about domestic violence and abuse. During 2018, this amounted to 20,243 police contacts. Around 76% of incidents involved female victims and 23% male victims (a small percentage of victim genders were unknown). In almost half of these incidents, it was not the first time the victim had experienced domestic violence and abuse. Sadly, there were 3 domestic homicides in Leeds this year.

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We also know that domestic violence and abuse can cause significant harm to the children who witness it. In over 25% of incidents reported to the police in 2018, children were present. In addition, 42% of cases where babies under the age of one year have entered care, domestic violence and abuse has been a factor.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES IN LEEDS

'People in Leeds can lead safer, healthier and happier lives and are free from the risks, threats and harms associated with Domestic Violence and Abuse' (Safer Leeds, 2018)

THE CITY WIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOCUSES ON FOUR SHARED PRIORITIES:

Changing attitudes and perceptions (individuals and communities)

Supporting victims (adults, children and families)

Challenging behaviours (working with perpetrators)

Enabling effective change (workforce & organisational response)

This report highlights the range of work that has been taking place across Leeds in 2018 to improve the city's response to domestic violence and abuse, with these four priorities at the forefront.

CHANGING ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS

There are many reasons why victims of domestic violence and abuse do not self-report, and we know that for some communities, self-reporting and access to support particularly low. Likewise, we also know that many people, including victims themselves, don't necessarily recognise the signs and behaviours of domestic violence and abuse.

In 2018, we developed and promoted a number of targeted awareness campaigns and training sessions which aimed to reach out to some of those communities who are significantly less likely to recognise, report and access support for domestic violence and abuse. We have highlighted some of these key campaigns below.

OLDER PEOPLE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Victims over the age of 60 are much less likely to leave an abusive relationship than younger victims and may face a range of challenges which prevent them from seeking or accessing support. This year, the theme for the annual 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaign was 'older people and domestic violence and abuse'. It aimed to raise awareness of the challenges older people face and support professionals to improve their responses to older victims.

Over **50 professionals** came together to produce a set of good practice principles to improve how different sectors and organisations recognise and respond to older victims. These principles were then shared with over **500 organisations** across the city.

The White Ribbon Campaign was launched at the full council meeting on the 14th November. Members of the public were encouraged to 'sign the pledge' by councillors at Leeds City Station and on Briggate and by colleagues from a range of services based in Merrion House. Over **400 visitors** and staff signed the pledge.

Leeds City Council is pleased to have been re-accredited to the White Ribbon Campaign City Status for a further 2 years. We will continue to recruit Ambassadors for the campaign at all levels of organisations across the city.

Website analytics show that webpage views trebled during the 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaign.

A domestic homicide review (DHR) is a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person over 16 is, or appears to be, the result of violence, abuse or neglect by:

- somebody they were related to, or in an intimate personal relationship with; or
- a member of the same household as him/herself.

DHRs are held to identify lessons which can be learnt from the death with regards to the way local professionals and agencies work to safeguard victims.

In 41% of DHRs in Leeds between 2011 and 2018 the victim was aged 50 or over.

AN INCLUSIVE CITY: RAISING AWARENESS WITHIN COMMUNITIES

Research tells us that LGBT+ people are underrepresented in specialist domestic violence and abuse services. It is therefore important to ensure domestic violence and abuse services in Leeds are as accessible to LGBT+ people as possible. Consultation was undertaken with the **LGBT+ community** and as a result services, LDVS have focussed their efforts to improve access to LGBT+ people who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse. **Leeds Domestic Violence Service** have promoted their services in the community and have made sure their staff are trained to understand the challenges faced by the LGBT+ community.

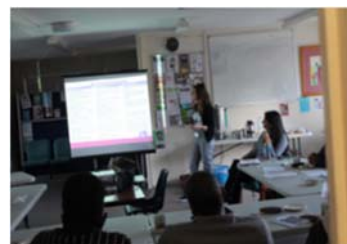


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In some communities, there remains limited awareness about **Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage**. Engaging communities to promote the rights of individuals enables more victims to access the support they need. The Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage Steering Group has refreshed its action plan and delivered a range of awareness raising sessions in partnership with **Karma Nirvana**. The

charity promoted their 'When is a spoon, not a spoon?' campaign in the local media as a safety device for girls at risk being taken out of the country for forced marriage.



Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews suggests that black and minority ethnic led community groups often work with high risk, isolated victims who are less likely to engage with mainstream services. Training has been delivered to agencies working with migrant communities (such as English for Speakers of Other Languages [ESOL] practitioners) to raise awareness and help them to respond well to disclosures of domestic abuse. Other organisations included in this work programme are the **Refugee Council**, the **Refugee Forum** and **Bahar**.

Through the Migration Partnership Team, training is being delivered to Community Networkers who support migrant families in the community. Work has begun with The Refugee Forum to deliver women-only sessions to raise awareness to enable them to signpost victims to support services.

"I feel that through the training that staff have received from the Safeguarding and Domestic Violence Team, [our organisation] have the knowledge and understanding of Domestic Abuse and have supported the MARAC process and professional involvement. They are aware of which agencies to signpost to and how to safeguard the family to prevent further harm." – Training session attendee, Third Sector Organisation

THE 2018 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN



National trends tell us that during big sporting events, incidents of domestic violence and abuse increase significantly. During the 2018 Football World Cup, Domestic Violence and Abuse Ambassadors from across Leeds City Council worked with pubs, clubs and restaurants to raise

awareness of these statistics. World Cup campaign posters were displayed to customers in 120 venues across the city, aimed at encouraging conversations and

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signposting people to help and support. Reported domestic violence incidents in Leeds remained stable during the World Cup period.

What is the role of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) Ambassadors?

DVA Ambassadors are members of Leeds City Council staff from across the organisation who can act as a point of contact within their teams to signpost victims and those supporting victims to relevant services. They also help to raise awareness and deliver activities during key DVA campaigns. There are currently 164 DVA ambassadors across the council, with 80 new people having joined the programme in 2018/19.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS: IDENTIFYING RISK AND PROVIDING SUPPORT

SUPPORTING HIGH RISK VICTIMS

Identifying and supporting high risk victims of domestic violence and abuse remains a priority and there are a range of ways in which partners across the city work together to agree interventions and deliver action plans to reduce the risk.

The Front Door Safeguarding Hub (FDSH) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACS)

The Front Door Safeguarding Hub (FDSH) is a set of multi-agency arrangements designed to ensure co-ordinated support for domestic violence and abuse victims.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACS) are part of these arrangements. They are meetings involving a number of people from a range of organisations including the police, Children's Social Work Services, Health, Housing, Leeds Domestic Violence Services, Adult Social Care and more. These agencies come together to discuss the needs of domestic violence and abuse victims who have been identified as high risk of serious harm or homicide and to put support in place for them and the perpetrators.

In 2018, **3654** victims at high risk were supported through the MARAC process which is an increase of 62.5% compared with 2017. There has also been significant increases in the numbers of 16 and 17 year old victims. The increase is likely to be linked to increased victim confidence, improved awareness among services of high risk indicators, better awareness of risk in young people's relationships and clearer understanding of the role of the FDSH.

The following case study gives a real life example of how the daily MARACS can help people.

MARAC Case study

What issues were identified?

The perpetrator was being violent and exerting control over the victim. Due to the high levels of violence, this case was assessed as high risk and referred to MARAC.

Both parties had issues with drugs and alcohol and were known to substance misuse services. They were also both being supervised by the Probation Service. The victim had worked with one support agency in the past, but had never engaged with domestic violence services.

What action was taken?

The perpetrator was put forward to be managed under Integrated Offender Management on the Domestic Violence Cohort and a detailed safety plan was developed with the victim. Joint appointments with an IDVA and substance misuse worker led to the victim engaging with domestic violence services for the first time. She agreed to take forward complaints to the police and the IDVA continued to support her through the court process.

What was the outcome?

The suspect was convicted and received a long term custodial sentence for offences of assault and breach of Restraining Order. The victim engaged with domestic violence services, substance misuse services and another support agency to get the support she needed. The couple are no longer together and the case has not come back to MARAC for discussion.

The Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) team was established in February 2018, as a further means to support high risk victims in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence and abuse incident. It's recognised that following an incident, victims will often need some space to consider their options with the help of a support agency. Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) are court orders which can prevent a perpetrator from returning to a residence and having contact with the victim for up to 28 days after the incident. **49** DVPOs were issued between February and December 2018 and their effectiveness is being monitored.

Feedback from victims on the DVPO process:

"The protection order has allowed my partner to leave me alone and find ways to sort myself out mentally and physically and the gap was needed for me to breathe".

"[The DVPO was] extremely useful. Especially in the first couple of weeks as I can now see how manipulative he has been and I would have dropped everything if the order was not put in place. I feel the order has saved me from a nasty ending. If it hadn't of been for the DVPO and the Police I would not have got out of it. He has destroyed me so much, I would have been stuck".

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The daily MARAC meeting also identifies cases for the Clare's Law Panel. The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as Clare's Law) gives any member of the public or professional (on behalf of a client) the right to ask the police if a partner or ex-partner poses a risk. Relevant information will be shared directly with the victim in a supportive way to enable them to make more informed decisions and increase safety.

In 2018, **140** applications were heard at the Leeds Clare's Law meeting. This is expected to rise following a West Yorkshire wide campaign to raise awareness of the scheme.

Clare's Law Case study

What issues were identified?

The victim was in a highly abusive relationship and was regularly subjected to controlling, coercive and violent behaviour. She was assessed as being at high risk of serious harm or death. Despite the serious abuse she was experiencing, her abuser was the first lasting relationship she had experienced and she was very reluctant to leave him. She also distrusted the police.

What action was taken?

The victim was referred to the Clare's Law panel as a 'right to know' victim and a detailed and powerful disclosure was authorised and prepared, describing his similar abuse of previous female partners. A police officer and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor made contact and delivered the disclosure and allowed them to explain that, despite what her abuser told her, none of what she was suffering was her fault. Whilst having a visible impact on the victim, the one-off disclosure was not enough to break the relationship and in the following weeks as she suffered increasing abuse from her partner.

What was the outcome?

The victim realised her life was in danger and, with an exit plan prepared, left her abuser. Some months later she spotted the officer in the street and thanked her for not giving up on her and helping her escape.

As part of the FDSH arrangements, schools are informed of any reported domestic violence incidents the police have attended where one of their pupils have been present. This enables schools to support children and young people in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence and abuse incident, as well as recognising and offering any support that the parent or carer may need. The school notification process has been in place since April 2016. Since then, there has been over **12,939** notifications sent to schools with **4599** in 2018.

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The following feedback on this process has been shared by Leeds schools:

All Saints City of England Richmond Hill -
"Where we have had notification then the staff have been prepared and this has been of great help"

Bramley St Peters C of E Primary -
"Previously, we have only received notification if Social Care have been involved – and this is very rarely on the

morning after an incident. This system is so much more beneficial to the child and also to school"

Quarry Mount Primary - *"Exceptionally helpful. We have seen some extreme behaviour and have been able to support the child knowing the difficulties they've faced both inside and outside of school.*

LEEDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE

Leeds Domestic Violence Service (LDVS) is the commissioned service provided by a consortium of 3 organisations: Leeds Women's Aid (incorporating the domestic violence and abuse charity HALT), Behind Closed Doors and Women's Health Matters. The service began delivery on 1st April 2017 and delivers a range of support to victims of domestic violence and abuse including:

- Advice and support (24 hour helpline)
- Support from Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
- Community based one to one support
- Drop-in sessions
- Groups and courses
- Emergency accommodations
- Resettlement support

During 2018 **5525 helpline calls** were taken; **2568 referrals** were made by agencies into the service; and **1132 victims were supported**. Demand has continued to rise in 2018 as awareness of the service has increased. The service has continued its efforts to improve access for victims with additional and complex needs.

SUPPORTING STAFF WHO ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Leeds City Council has refreshed its policy for staff who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse, including more information for people in LGBT+ relationships. Manager briefings are also planned to promote a compassionate response to staff affected by this issue. In addition, work has been undertaken with Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust, leading to their development of a new and similar policy.

Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust
shared the following feedback:

"I just wanted to extend my thanks to you both for your support in peer reviewing the DV policy for staff for LTHT. This has now been approved and received executive sign off and is live in the Trust."

SUPPORTING VICTIMS: WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Domestic violence and abuse has a significant impact on children and young people who are witness to it. Working to minimise the harm to children remains a challenge and priority for all partners.

The work of Leeds City Council's Children and Families directorate is pivotal in intervening early to stop domestic violence and abuse escalating in risk and prevent negative outcomes for children. Services working with young people also play a crucial role in promoting safe, healthy relationships and in helping recovery in those young people affected.

RESPONDING TO FAMILIES AT A LOCAL LEVEL

Local children and families services work in 'clusters' bringing together a range of services including schools, children's centres, police, social work and third sector by local geographical areas. Working together at a local level means that families can access the right services at the right time, as early as possible in the life of a problem.

Cluster based work continues to improve localised responses to families living with domestic violence and abuse. The following is an example from a South Leeds cluster and demonstrates how local responses have made a real difference to families.

Cluster Case Study

What issues were identified?

The victim was experiencing high risk domestic violence and abuse from her partner and was also struggling to manage with challenging behaviour from her two sons.

What support was given?

The Family Support worker coordinated professionals including school, social workers and police to deliver an Early Help Plan. As part of this plan, services worked with mum to develop parenting strategies which helped to set boundaries to prevent the children feeling out of control and vulnerable. Mum and her two sons attended a summer day trip together which gave them chance to have some fun away from the home. The children attended a 'Children Making Choices' group, for children affected by domestic violence as well as some one-to-one sessions.

Mum got emotional support and was encouraged to report incidents when the perpetrator breached the conditions of his restraining order. The police fitted her property with enhanced security measures. She received support with her finances and was able to secure a loan through Credit Union to pay off pay day loans. The victim was also signposted to domestic violence groups for further support.

What was the impact?

The victim fed back: *"It has been helpful in every possible way for me and helped me to get back on track with everything and everyone."*

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Children's Centres have continued to develop their approach to supporting families around domestic violence and abuse. In 2018, this has included a staff training pilot focusing on work with perpetrators who remain within the family. If the pilot proves to be a success, the 'Working with men who are abusive in relationships' workshop will be offered to staff across all Children's Centres in the near future.

DEVELOPING THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKFORCE

Children's Centres have regular and repeated contact with children and their families and are in an ideal position to recognise the signs of domestic violence and abuse, and help victims and their children to access the support they need. To ensure they are able to do so effectively, they have recently refreshed their bespoke training programme entitled 'Domestic Violence: The impact on children' which is mandatory for all Children's Centres staff.

Following a programme of training to increase Social Workers' engagement with perpetrators living in families impacted by domestic violence and abuse, Children's Social Work Services are also reviewing and refreshing their social work training and policies. This is particularly important as many families remain together despite abuse and reducing risk in such families is an important factor in protecting children.

Feedback from a deputy children's centre manager on 'Working with men who are abusive in relationships':

"...the training was really helpful and informative and we now have an action plan to work towards regarding male involvement in the centre. Staff have said how much they enjoyed it and how much more knowable they are around services and signposting and are starting to look a little bit differently about their approach to situations."

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING

Approximately 27.5% of the referrals made each month to Children's Social Work Service gave domestic violence and abuse as the primary reason for referral. Family Group Conferencing (FGC) is a family led decision making process and engages with families to keep children safe. In 2018, 145 families experiencing domestic violence and abuse engaged with Family Group Conferences and approximately, 45% of this work was identified via the Front Door Safeguarding Hub.

The FGC takes place in 3 stages:

- information sharing;
- private family time; and
- sharing the plan with the lead worker.

The plan is monitored by someone in the family or friends network which enables family to have full ownership of the plan they have created.

SUPPORTING VICTIMS: WORKING WITH THE HEALTH SECTOR

It is widely recognised that health care professionals are ideally placed to identify and intervene when patients are experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

GP practices are informed about high risk domestic violence incidents involving their patients and in 2018, there were **3302** notifications to GPs. As the number of notifications to GPs has increased, the number of referrals to MARAC made by GPs has also increased, meaning that more victims have been identified and supported.

The Routine Enquiry Model also recognises the important role that health services play in identifying and supporting victims and means that female patients will be routinely asked if they are experiencing domestic violence and abuse when they visit their GP or other health care professional at their surgery. After a successful pilot of the Routine Enquiry Model in Garforth in 2015, the model is now being rolled out to all **108 GP practices** across Leeds. So far, 36 have completed their training and 14 more are registered for training in the coming months.

Feedback from Moorfield House Surgery on the Routine Enquiry model:

"Since we started Routine Enquiry almost 2 years ago, there has been a definite cultural change in our attitude, awareness and approach to tackling domestic abuse and violence. We have created an environment where patients awareness has increased, staff trained to identify the signs and the presence of a domestic violence counsellor within the surgery. The whole clinical team feel confident 'asking the question' and we not only do routine enquiry but also screen at new patient registration, annual health checks, routine cervical screening and blood tests.

An up to date audit found 1008 patients have been asked with 119 recent/historical abuse and 38 current victims. This highlights that in our patient population approximately 15% of women are or have been victims.

There has been great interest from other CCGs and GPs practices in the routine enquiry model. A delegation from Waltham Forest visited Leeds in order to meet with GPs who are implementing the model and to observe training delivered to them. They were very impressed and are taking the model to their respective boards with a view to implementing routine enquiry across the CCG area."

"It was definitely a trying time but feels like one of the most worthwhile things I've done in 20 years as a doctor."

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Funding has been secured from NHS England for a Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Worker to support victims who disclose in GP surgeries. The Support Worker delivers training and spends half a day each week in eight practices where higher numbers of MARAC notifications occur to provide a support and advice service for victims.

TRAINING FOR NHS STAFF

Domestic violence and abuse training is delivered by the Safeguarding and Domestic Violence Team on a monthly or bi-monthly basis and is available to all staff at the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust; all staff within Leeds Community Healthcare, with additional sessions being delivered to mental health workers; and to junior doctors based with the Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust.



The Safeguarding and Domestic Violence Team also provide mandatory training to midwives every 3 years, which includes:

- how to recognise the signs of domestic violence and abuse including coercive control;
- how to ask the question and respond appropriately; and
- the domestic violence and abuse support services available in Leeds.

Feedback from NHS training:

“The training my staff had on domestic violence last week was amazing and the clinicians all said it was one of the best TARGET sessions they had.” – Practice Manager

“Useful information. I will proactively enquire about domestic violence now that I’m aware of how prevalent it is.” – Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust session attendee

Training around domestic violence and abuse and the Routine Enquiry Model has been promoted to GPs and practice via a city wide GPs event attended by **over 700 staff**, and at the NHS North of England safeguarding conference for staff in primary care

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS: WORKING WITH PERPETRATORS

‘Challenging behaviours: working with perpetrators’ is one of the four shared priorities. Domestic violence and abuse is a gendered issue and the most frequent and serious forms are perpetrated by men towards their female partners or ex-partners. Recognising this, the main focus of activity for perpetrators is targeted towards men.

This priority acknowledges that there are opportunities to intervene at critical points in the lives of men which can prevent them from becoming perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse or address and change their behaviour where domestic violence

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and abuse is already taking place. Services for perpetrators present many challenges, but by continuously improving them we can tackle domestic violence and abuse at the cause.

2 key ways of working with perpetrators to challenge their behaviours are through Integrated Offender Management and the Caring Dads programme.

INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) supports offenders to address the issues contributing to their offending behaviour. Each individual has a personalised intervention plan, designed in partnership with Probation and third sector colleagues which includes measures to achieve positive change and provide interventions around housing and employment issues.

CARING DADS IN LEEDS

Caring Dads is a programme run by a dedicated team in Leeds City Council's Children and Families directorate. The programme is designed for fathers who are trying to change their behaviour to become better dads and works from the belief that it is not possible for somebody to be a good dad if they are abusive to their child's mother. The programme works with dads to look in-depth at why things are as they are, and what needs to change. The aim is to have safer families.

In 2018, Caring Dads completed **5** programmes; **69 men** started with **39 men** completing (57% completion). The 39 men who completed the programme held responsibility for a combined total of **102 children**.

The offer to black and minority ethnic men has also been enhanced this year. In partnership with the Syrian Resettlement Programme, sessions have been delivered with the support of interpreters exploring fathering in a culturally sensitive way.

The following story is told in the words of a Caring Dads service user:

"My experience of Caring Dads has been a very positive one and it has opened my eyes to some of the mistakes I had made in the past. It allowed me space to share my emotions with other men which is so important. The facilitators conduct the session very well, I have learnt new skills which I am putting in to practice, my weekly contact with the facilitators and my midway review have been very positive."

Leeds is one of the few Caring Dads teams in the UK and is recognised as an accredited training centre. The service hosted **two 4 day training events**, tutoring staff to deliver the Caring Dads model with **28 delegates** attending. The Caring Dads team also support Social Workers to develop structured session plans and advice on tailored interventions, meaning the service user receives bespoke offer of support.

ENABLING EFFECTIVE CHANGE: DEVELOPING THE CITY'S WORKFORCE

The Safeguarding and Domestic Violence Team deliver a wide training offer both to staff within Leeds City Council and the wider Leeds workforce including the NHS and third sector. In 2018:

- **117 training courses** were delivered in total, reaching **1670 participants** across a number of agencies
- **26 MARAC training sessions** were held with **356 participants**
- learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews delivered to over **400 practitioners**
- Night Time Economy (NTE) training was delivered to city centre staff including those working in night clubs
- Training to improve risk assessment and increase victim empathy was delivered to **150 police officers**

"Can I just thank you... for the opportunity to attend the vulnerability training on Tuesday. The course itself was very interesting and provided an accurate assessment facing us all in the night time economy." -
- NTE training attendee

"This is the most impactful training I have received in over 20 years with the police."

- West Yorkshire Police attendee

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE QUALITY MARK AND TRAINING

The purpose of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark is to promote consistent and high quality service provision to women, children and men affected by domestic violence and abuse. It is a means to encourage agencies, employers and community organisations to make tackling domestic violence and abuse their business.

Research with victims consistently shows that the most important factor in enabling victims to disclose domestic violence and abuse is a welcoming environment and non-judgemental response. The standards in the Quality Mark build on these principles to improve safety and ensure good practice is followed.

Agencies who achieve the Quality Mark are demonstrating their commitment to addressing the issue and are contributing to achieving the outcome and priorities for reducing the prevalence and impact of Domestic Violence and Abuse in Leeds.

The number of agencies accredited with the Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark continues to grow as services develop their workforces and improve their holistic response.

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The Quality Mark has been rolled out across West Yorkshire with an additional focus on those with complex needs. Organisations achieving the Quality Mark over the last year in Leeds are: BITMO, SARSVL, Touchstone, Community Links, Jigsaw Visitors Centre, Turning Lives Around, Riverside (part of Engage), Stocks Hill DC, Family Group Conferencing, Forward Leeds and Palm Cove.

Case study: Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour team – working towards the Quality Mark

What were the circumstances?

The victim was being harassed by her ex-partner by phone, text messages and social media which amounted to hundreds of calls, all of which were of an abusive and threatening nature. She had been assaulted by him previously and the police were involved in investigating the harassment.

The perpetrator and his friends would gather at the victim's house, throwing missiles, being verbally abusive and threatening. This continued almost daily, leaving the victim and family feeling vulnerable and intimidated. The incidents were reported to the police, who continued their investigation and were seeking to bring charges against him.

What action was taken?

LASBT colleagues recognised this behaviour as potentially high risk domestic violence and abuse and supported the victim and her family by applying for an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction (ASBI) which was granted.

What was the outcome?

The ASBI had a 'no contact clause' for the victim and an exclusion zone around the victim's address was implemented, protecting the victim and her family from harassment. Since the injunction has been in place, there has been a reduction in the number of incidents at the address.

MARAC BRIEFINGS

We have trained over **356** practitioners in **26** sessions specifically on MARACs with a key aim being to improve understanding of risk factors and increase referrals into the Front Door Safeguarding Hub. This has led to an increase in MARAC referrals, in particular from Housing Leeds who have been working towards the Quality Mark this year.

LEARNING FROM REVIEWS TO INFORM PRACTICE

This year, 4 reviews have been completed and identified learning relating to the prevention of harm to adults and children in a domestic violence context. One Lessons Learned review was undertaken by working alongside a victim who had survived a very serious assault and was willing to share her experiences. The learning from this experience lead to training mental health teams to develop skills and knowledge about high risk indicators, coercive control, safety options and developing responses to perpetrators. The learning from these has been delivered to over 400 practitioners from a range of agencies. Additional learning sessions had to be organised due to overwhelming demand.

We have further embedded the learning from the reviews through:

- A rolling programme of training to deepen understanding of coercive control;
- Working with commissioners to promote effective safeguarding through contracts;
- Introducing and promoting the risk assessment tool for young people;
- Rolling out routine enquiry in GP practices;
- Developing locality based early intervention pilots;
- Establishing a network of DV ambassadors to disseminate learning;
- Refreshing and promoting the Think Family / Work Family Protocol
- Developing responses to perpetrators;
- Public campaigns such as White Ribbon Campaign and 16 Days of Action.

The number of referrals into the MARAC process has increased for cases involving 16 and 17 year olds which suggests that the learning is transferring into improved practice in this area.

ROLLING OUT GOOD PRACTICE FROM LEEDS ACROSS WEST YORKSHIRE

During 2018, a central government grant of £456k funded a range of projects to develop skills and knowledge across the West Yorkshire domestic violence and abuse sector to improve responses to victims with complex needs. This focused on mental health, substance misuse and issues for black and minority ethnic and migrant communities. A series of specialist secondments provided intensive support to victims with complex needs with over **700 practitioners trained** across West Yorkshire.

In November 2018, Safer Leeds secured a further **£500k grant** as part of a joint bid with the other four West Yorkshire Local Authorities, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Yorkshire Police. Specialist training and support for staff working with victims from LGBT+ communities and victims with insecure immigration issues will be provided. Additionally, GPs and health practitioners across West Yorkshire will be supported to attain the West Yorkshire GP Quality Mark which includes adopting the Leeds model of Routine Enquiry. This new funding will help us to build on the strong foundations established over the last two years to make further progress in improving and enhancing specialist support to victims of domestic violence and abuse.

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING OVER THE NEXT YEAR?

AWARENESS

- Launching a public campaign to raise awareness of coercive control and stalking;
- Increasing the use of social media to promote domestic violence and abuse services;
- Developing the role of Domestic Violence and Abuse Ambassadors;
- Disseminating Good Practice Principles in working with older people;
- Supporting work to support victims of Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage;
- Recruiting senior people across the city to become White Ribbon Ambassadors.

VICTIMS

- Reviewing and improving the response to reported domestic violence and abuse;
- Identifying and responding to needs in Priority Neighbourhoods;
- Targeting work to improve access to help and services for migrant communities;
- Leading on a programme of work to address complex needs across West Yorkshire;
- Delivering briefings for managers in the council to support staff.

PERPETRATORS

- Identifying and engaging with perpetrators causing the highest harm in the city;
- Promote Caring Dads focusing on black and minority ethnic and migrant fathers;
- Strengthening links between MARAC cases and offender management systems;
- Evaluating the training offer for staff on how to work with perpetrators;
- Delivering the recommendations from the review of perpetrator services.

WORKFORCE

- Delivering specialist training on working with LGBT+ victims;
- Disseminating a No Recourse to Public Funds Toolkit to improve responses to improve responses to destitute victims;
- Developing training on how support and protect young victims and perpetrators;
- Contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board's Healthy Relationships Strategy;
- Sharing learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews to a wide audience;
- Promoting the refreshed Think Family Work Family Protocol and the principles of "Talk to me, hear my voice" in all domestic violence and abuse activity;
- Launching a conference on coercive control and stalking.

ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE QUALITY MARK IN 2018



*Stocks Hill
Day Centre*

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