

Commentary from Members' Workshops on the Domestic Violence Intelligent Commissioning Framework

The notes include remarks from the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum representative.

- Understand the importance of focusing on early identification and prevention at the same time as managing high-risk cases.
- Members acknowledged and confirmed their understanding of the various forms of domestic violence, including financial and psychological abuse
- Employers (including within public sector) need to understand the impact of domestic violence on employees: managers in the council need to have increased awareness of the policy and how to respond
- Important to involve and raise awareness within a wide range of partnerships and functions, including the Healthy Schools Programme, Housing Partnerships and Academies
- Work in schools and with all children is very important to change attitudes and assumptions that domestic violence and abusive relationships are acceptable and to help prevent domestic violence in teenage relationships.
- Request more information about the help available for children living with DV and for teenage girls in an abusive relationship
- Acknowledged lack of information about domestic violence issues for carers although evidence that there are particular risks for households with a family member who has a disability
- View is that GPs need to improve responses to DV locally. This is often a first point of contact for victims and perpetrators. Consider a system for ensuring GPs are trained and supported to ask questions about DV for victims and perpetrators, to be confident in responding to patients who disclose, and know how to refer to specialist DV services and to have information in GP practices about the services and help available.
- Importance of integrated commissioning for domestic violence and mental health commissioning, including approaches which deal with behaviours of perpetrators
- Acknowledged the particular effectiveness and cost benefits of the Family Intervention Programme
- Specialist DV services, including work with perpetrators to stop them doing this again are very important and need to be maintained. Many

third sector organisations have skills which they can contribute to dealing with domestic violence: can take on roles which include as 'trusted friends' particularly in LGBT and BME communities

- Local communities need greater awareness: we need publicity campaigns with the message that domestic violence is unacceptable, and where to get help (one number point of contact: through the local helpline: should be more widely known).
- More publicity is needed about the numbers affected by DV, how it impacts across many other areas of work and the cost to the city. Members were shocked by the high prevalence (eg nearly 11,000 women experiencing Dv last year)
- Members need an easy to use information sheet explaining where people can go for help, if someone comes to them to get help for DV.
- Favoured the co-ordinated community response model diagram which shows how lots of services are already involved with victims and perpetrators and children.
- All partnerships and services need to do something about domestic violence: it's wider than a criminal justice issue. Minimum service provision should be sought, including family support packages and across joint commissioning of adults and children services
- Fully agreed that high quality responses required at point of service delivery and that achieving this would not necessarily be at a high cost to services