

To: Cambridgeshire Community Safety / Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships / Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse Partnership

**From: Simon Kerss, Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager
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State of the Partnership Briefing: 2nd Quarter 2010/11

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To update Cambridgeshire's Community Safety / Crime and Disorder Reduction and Domestic Violence Partnerships on developmental, operational and strategic issues regarding the work of Cambridgeshire's Domestic Violence Partnership.

2. Background

- 2.1. At the July 2009 Community Safety Partnership Officer Support Group, it was agreed that the format of the following report would be aligned with those provided to the Cambridgeshire Domestic Violence Partnership Strategic Group to ensure that partners are provided with an overview of county issues.
- 2.2. The three main priorities of the Domestic Violence Partnership's 2008 – 2011 action plan/strategy are: Prevention & Early Intervention, Protection and Justice and Support. Subsequently, this report will reflect these priorities

3. Prevention and Early Intervention

- 3.1. The NI32 repeat rate for Cambridgeshire at the end of the 2nd Quarter for 2010/11 is unchanged at 30.5% (Central 27% / Southern 34%).
- 3.2. The review into the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referral threshold, undertaken by the Information Systems and Crime Team at Cambridgeshire County Council, is now complete. The review proposes that the referral threshold be raised from 14 to 17 points to make better use of the resource. The findings of the review have been shared with all MARAC partners for consultation and any changes will be implemented in October 2010.
- 3.3. The county's two new Domestic Abuse Taskgroups (Central and Southern) have now met to confirm membership and roles and have developed their action plans for 2010/11. The Chairs of the new groups are Anna Calvert (Central) and Chief Inspector Dave Sargent (Southern).

4. Protection and Justice

- 4.1. In June of this year, a decision was taken by Central Government to suspend all LPSA Reward Grant payments. As Cambridgeshire's Domestic Abuse Unit (DAU) has primarily been resourced through an LPSA Award since 2009, this decision posed serious issues for the continuation of the unit for the remainder of this financial year. In September, it was confirmed that Cambridgeshire County Council would underwrite the staff costs of the unit until March 2011 to maintain service delivery and enable work underway through Making Cambridgeshire Count to progress. However, as there is a currently a recruitment freeze in place at the Council, the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (IDVAS) is unable to recruit to a vacant post at the DAU. A further post of Programme Coordinator has also been cut from the DAU's plans for this year.

4.2. The suspension of the LPSA Reward Grant has also adversely affected a number of joint projects with the Voluntary Sector, which were outlined in the Quarter 1 'State of the Partnership' briefing (July 2010). Projects that had funding withdrawn as a result of the changes were:

- £25,000 to New Directions to establish a community-based intervention programme for those who use violence in their relationships;
- £5,000 each to Cambridge City and Fenland to establish two new posts of Domestic Abuse Mental Health Support Workers;
- £3,500 to establish a Freedom Programme for Young People in East Cambridgeshire;
- £2,500 to support Parent Programme domestic abuse training.

4.3. Cambridgeshire's Domestic Abuse Unit received a visit from the Home Office's Interpersonal Violence Lead, Claire Gipson, in September. Claire spent several hours discussing issues with staff at the unit, before shadowing an IDVA and ISVA for the remainder of the day.

5. Support

5.1. The number of referrals to the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, per District, for the 2nd Quarter of 2010/11 are:

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|--------|----|
| Hunts: | 79 |
| Fen: | 48 |
| City: | 90 |
| East: | 37 |
| South: | 39 |

Further information on reporting to the police and trends in reporting are available from the relevant Strategic Assessment and the quarterly performance updates.

- 5.2. Further funding, as a result of joint work between the Constabulary, NHS Cambridgeshire, Rape Crisis and the Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, has been secured and an additional Independent Sexual Violence Advocate post is currently under development. This post will go live before Christmas.
- 5.3. An application has been made on behalf of the Safer Fenland Partnership to the Safer/Stronger Community Fund to resource a further Freedom Programme for Fenland in the March area. If successful, this application will enable female survivors of abuse to attend a rolling 12-week therapeutic programme.
- 5.4. A new Drugs and Alcohol / Domestic Abuse Strategy has now been drafted for the county to include actions on developing joint training and working practices. This Strategy will go live once 'signed off' by the relevant partnerships during this current Quarter.
- 5.5. A project to enable victims of domestic abuse to access outreach support in their communities is also now underway. Resourced jointly via Supporting People and the Domestic Abuse Partnership, this service is delivered from Refuge (Hunts / Fen/ East) and Cambridge Women's Aid (South and City)
- 5.6. The project with Addenbrookes Hospital to locate an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVAS) within the Accident and Emergency Department part-time for the remainder of 2010/11 will go live on 1st November. This post will be responsible for developing referral pathways and awareness within the Trust and will also provide training on signposting and risk assessment to relevant staff. Following a three-month review of outcomes, it is hoped that this service will be extended to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

5.7. The Making Cambridgeshire Count (MCC) Domestic Abuse Project business plan was accepted by the MCC Chief Executives at a meeting on 22nd September and the project team is now moving towards implementation of the plan. Members of the team are meeting with relevant stakeholders over the next few weeks to better explain the implications for service delivery and resourcing. The outline briefing that was agreed by the MCC Chiefs in September is attached to this document as Appendix A. However, considering the current climate of change and uncertainty, it is expected that the plan will be revised in the near future.

6. Risks

6.1. That Central Government's Spending Review will further reduce resourcing to those most in need within Cambridgeshire.

7. Recommendations

7.1. That CDRPs / Community Safety Partnerships support the MCC and Safer/Stronger agenda to achieve excellent services by improving provision, reducing the prevalence of DV and reducing repeat incidents and costs across the county.