

AUDIT	Domestic Abuse Strategy	PREPARED BY	Mike Ash	DATE	March 2017
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NO	ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DATE TO BE ACTIONED BY	CURRENT STATUS	MANAGEMENT UPDATE
1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.1	<p>A more pragmatic approach to action planning is needed, with the Strategy clear as to what the key areas of focus are for domestic abuse activities. In particular the Action Plan should be reviewed in the context of providing clarity around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail of actions and related objectives • Outcomes expected • Clear priorities for actions and realistic timescales. An ongoing assessment of implementation should flag when actions will not be completed, with mitigation or reprioritising undertaken as necessary • Outputs and resources required and from where these will be provided • Appropriate Lead Officers across the Council and partner agencies • Removal of duplicated actions • Clear review of actions at the appropriate Domestic Abuse sub-group. <p>Consideration should be given for producing a 'one-pager' on Domestic Abuse, to better focus Domestic Abuse priorities and communicate them to key stakeholders.</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>The big task of the new DA Board is to focus the priorities going forward and at the next meeting (in January 2017) there will be a major refresh and reshaping of this action plan. The current Strategy relates to 2015-17 and so is also due to be reviewed next year.</p> <p>Producing an infographic will be looked at to illustrate the high level Strategy and key priorities and help to embed the Strategy, especially at CSP Board level.</p>	2	<p>Action Planned has been reviewed the March 2017 DA Board and also the QA and Management Group in February 2017.</p> <p>Updated Action Plan to be submitted to next Board Meeting (May 2017)</p>

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.2	<p>A performance framework for measuring the success of the Strategy should be established between partners, through discussions at the Community Safety Partnership and the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategic Board.</p> <p>The framework should define the strategic outcomes, performance targets and indicators of success, to be measured going forward for each theme in the Strategy.</p> <p>Any measures should be jointly agreed between partners and compliment the need to increase domestic abuse reporting.</p> <p>Targets should aim to measure the reactive and proactive / preventative aspects of the Strategy and include a combination of quantitative and qualitative formats where necessary.</p> <p>Where good practice is available, benchmarking should take place with other local authorities, to inform Swindon's approach in this area.</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>This will be a vital part of defining the action plan, as per AP1.1.</p> <p>There is a need to define what is needed and this will also be discussed at the new DA Board in January 2017 and a menu of DA data produced that links to the action plan.</p> <p>This can then be used to inform a calendar of targeted responses and to measure the effectiveness of these responses (which is the intention of the proposed Communication Strategy in the current Action Plan).</p>	2	<p>Discussion held on the Action Plan and Performance measures. At recent Board meetings. Performance measures will be developed for each agreed action. New and amended actions are being introduced incrementally</p>

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.3	<p>The Community Safety Partnership or the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategic Board should identify the data needs regarding domestic abuse.</p> <p>Methods for collection and analysing of this data should be established and then used to continually inform the basis of the Strategy and priorities in the Action Plan, especially for providing proactive strategies for tackling domestic abuse.</p> <p>Priority: High</p> <p>Consideration should be given to including relevant data and other intelligence in the Strategy (as opposed to merely linking to it) to illustrate the national and local context for the domestic abuse approach and to demonstrate the basis of specific areas of focus.</p> <p>Priority: Low</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Strongly linked to AP1.2 above.</p> <p>The current JSNA (and other) data provides a strong case for tackling DA in Swindon and therefore needs to be more explicit in the Strategy.</p> <p>The JSNA will be due for updating soon, which will become the basis for the refresh of the Strategy due in 2017.</p>	1	Action completed. Agreed by Community Safety Partnership Board January 2017

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.4	<p>Responsibilities of agencies for domestic abuse should be clearly defined, with clear ownership and commitment gained from all partner agencies for future resourcing of activities. For example, this could be via a formal (but not overly burdensome), three to five year partnership agreement to ensure all key partners are committed to the Domestic Abuse Strategy in the short, medium and long-term.</p> <p>At the very least, key partners should contribute to a foreword for the Strategy to endorse their commitment to domestic abuse (see also AP1.6). Exploration for establishing a pooled fund for domestic abuse should also be undertaken to evaluate if this is a viable option for funding activities going forward.</p> <p>Priority: High</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>A foreword from partners will be added to the Strategy, as it has been in previous versions.</p> <p>The new structure and membership of the DA Board and Groups provides a strong chance for clearer ownership and contribution from agencies and the right people are in the right place to commit resources to actions where necessary.</p> <p>Wiltshire has a pooled budget and this can work, but if this is not possible in Swindon, then at the very least, there is a need to identify where separate pots of money are and how these will join together going forward.</p>	2	To be implemented as part of the Strategy Refresh in 2017

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.5	<p>The Strategy should be reviewed in the context of including more explicitly the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to and actions relating to the wider VAWG remit. • Particular objectives, actions and priorities regarding minority groups that may be potentially affected by domestic abuse. • A clear priority for improving engagement with Schools and Colleges. • Victims and survivors (and where appropriate, perpetrators) should be given ample opportunity to inform the Strategy and ongoing domestic abuse priorities. Where this happens, this should be reflected clearly in the Strategy document. <p>Any update of the Strategy should be supported by a suitable publicity campaign aimed at key stakeholders to ensure they are aware of any changes / improvements made.</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>The VAWG aspect of the Strategy is developing and the CSP and DA sub groups have a clear message that VAWG is a significant responsibility of the DA Strategy. This will be reflected in the refresh of the Action Plan, as above.</p> <p>Similar for minority groups; this is in the Strategy, but greater attention will be given to it in the new Action Plan in future.</p>	2	Work to be undertaken as part of the Strategy Review to be completed Sept 2017

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.6	<p>Upon refreshing the Swindon and Wiltshire Strategy to Reduce Domestic Abuse, the following additions should be considered for inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risks to the achievement of Strategy objectives, along with the actions for how these will be mitigated. • Reference to the role and structure of the Community Safety Partnership and subgroups. • A foreword by a named lead officer / senior manager from each key agency that demonstrates an ongoing commitment to the Strategy (see also AP1.4). • Progress and achievements made since (and due to) the previous Strategy. • Contact details for where to raise a domestic abuse concern. • The up to date Strategy should be available on the CSP website. <p>As above in AP1.5, any changes made should be suitably publicised to key stakeholders to maximise awareness of ongoing priorities.</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>This will inform the health check of the Strategy when it is due to be refreshed in 2017, which is likely to be after April.</p> <p>It should be noted that the existing Strategy was also a refresh of the previous 2014-15 Strategy, which is why the documents are very similar. The key themes are all still relevant and so the difference in the detail should be in the action planning.</p> <p>The link to the new Strategy on the website has been raised in the past and will be followed up.</p>	2	To be considered as part of the Strategy Review. Sept 2017. All of the additions aside to be presented to the DA Board

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.7	<p>It should be verified with participants that they are satisfied with the roles and responsibilities of each group.</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>It should also be established whether schools / educational establishments should be represented on the Domestic Abuse groups. Victim representation should be secured where possible for inclusion at relevant Domestic Abuse sub-groups.</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p> <p>It should be discussed at Community Safety Partnership whether there should be any executive restrictions on the position of Community Safety Partnership chair, or if current arrangements are appropriate.</p> <p>Priority: Low</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>However, in regards to Schools, the attendance of the Director of Children Services is considered sufficient to represent the views of Schools, as the Head of Education is a direct report.</p> <p>The Head of Education can and will be invited to attend meetings as necessary.</p> <p>There are no immediate concerns with the Chair of the CSP. As the CSP is not a legal entity, having a Councillor as Chair provides profile for DA and ensures direct accountability into Cabinet.</p> <p>CSP will though be asked to reflect on this, to ensure this is still appropriate. In the past, the Chair has rotated between agencies and this can have its benefits, as can having an independent chair, as is the case at LSAB / LSCB.</p> <p>The Chair has already declared they will not be involved, to ensure the objectivity of the decision.</p>	1	New terms of reference for the DA Board revised and agreed December 2016

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.8	<p>The Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategic Board should define their expectations of the QA function of the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Management and QA Group. Clear objectives and, where necessary, methodology for undertaking QA should also be discussed and decided upon.</p> <p>The Group's role in identifying and reviewing near misses should also be considered and defined.</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>The Group have only met twice so far and are still finding their way and so this is to be developed.</p> <p>The Group will have a work programme in place to provide some structure for their QA role, that will include at least two 'deep-dives' of individual processes through the year.</p>	1	<p>Agreed as part of the new terms of reference for the DA Board and the new Community Safety Partnership governance arrangements. December 2016.</p>

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1.	Risk Area: Domestic Abuse Strategy				
1.9	<p>Consideration should be given to undertaking a SafeLives self-assessment or inviting another MARAC to undertake a peer review of Swindon's process.</p> <p>In addition, the MARAC Operating Protocol should be reviewed and updated, with specific consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relationship with other processes (e.g. child protection planning), • Prioritisation of cases to ensure only the highest risk cases are being referred, • The Domestic Abuse and VAWG Management and QA Group's responsibilities for overseeing the performance of MARAC, in particular, establishing action to tackle high repeats (which should be incorporated in the Strategy where necessary). • Action planning in relation to perpetrators, • Responsibility for circulating case notes prior to meetings. <p>An updated Protocol should be circulated to members of MARAC to ensure understanding of the process and reduce any potential over-reliance on individual members.</p> <p>Priority: Medium</p>	<p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>April 2017</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>This is integral to DA work and a refresh of the Protocol is in progress. Work has taken place to ensure the prioritisation of MARACs is robust. A recent dip sample of twenty repeat MARAC cases found that there were three that may not have met the criteria, which were then discussed with SafeLives, who subsequently agreed that these did.</p> <p>Admin within the Police now also provides a review of MARAC agendas prior to cases being heard at MARAC.</p> <p>For perpetrators, there are plans to introduce an 'Enforcement Officer' role to make full use of anti-social behaviour tools against serial perpetrators. However, this requires funding and potentially further capacity in Legal and so is still being developed.</p>	2	<p>Dip sample completed on MARAC March 2017. Peer review to be agreed once new MARAC Chair in post June 2017</p>

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