

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 16 January 2015

Electoral Division affected: All

Domestic Abuse – Collaboration with Health Services

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report provides an update to an earlier report to Scrutiny Committee about the partnership response to domestic abuse, particularly concentrating on working with NHS organisations.

A number of hyperlinks are included within the paper and supporting documentation attached as an appendix to provide Members with further information.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to note and provide comment on the paper.

Background and Advice

1. Members received a report entitled 'Partnership Response to Domestic Abuse' at the Scrutiny Committee meeting of 13 June 2014. As a consequence the Committee resolved (inter alia) that:
 - a further report specifically on the work of health bodies in relation to domestic abuse be presented to the committee in around 6 months

Update

2. Work is ongoing with health bodies, specifically representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), to improve the development, delivery and consideration of domestic abuse in mainstream service provision.
3. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has produced public health guidance (ph 50) 'Domestic Violence and Abuse: How Health Services, Social Care and the Organisations They Work With can Respond Effectively' which has been used as the basis for discussion with health colleagues.

4. The guidance is targeted at health and social care commissioners, specialist domestic violence and abuse staff and others whose work may bring them into contact with people who experience or perpetrate domestic violence and abuse. It identifies the following recommendations:

- Plan services based on an assessment of need and service mapping
- Participate in a local strategic multi-agency partnership to prevent domestic violence and abuse
- Develop an integrated commissioning strategy
- Commission integrated care pathways
- Create an environment for disclosing domestic violence and abuse
- Ensure trained staff ask people about domestic violence and abuse
- Adopt clear protocols and methods for information sharing
- Tailor support to meet people's needs
- Help people who find it difficult to access services
- Identify and, where necessary, refer children and young people affected by domestic violence and abuse
- Provide specialist domestic violence and abuse services for children and young people
- Provide specialist advice, advocacy and support as part of a comprehensive referral pathway
- Provide people who experience domestic violence and abuse and have a mental health condition with evidence-based treatment for that condition
- Commission and evaluate tailored interventions for people who perpetrate domestic violence and abuse
- Provide specific training for health and social care professionals in how to respond to domestic violence and abuse
- GP practices and other agencies should include training on, and a referral pathway for, domestic violence and abuse
- Pre-qualifying training and continuing professional development for health and social care professionals should include domestic violence and abuse

5. Many of the health bodies are already working to improve their response to domestic abuse, utilising the NICE guidance as the benchmark. For example Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT) is working on the following issues currently:

- Embedding routine enquiry across adult services (already embedded in 0-19yr service)
- Ensuring a risk assessment approach is utilised if disclosure of domestic abuse is made, followed by appropriate referral on to further support
- Improving the availability of information and sign-posting within LCFT health premises
- Generally reviewing and updating of policies and procedures to reflect NICE recommendations

6. A workshop has also been held with representatives of the CCGs to consider the guidance in terms of current provision, and to identify where improvements can be made. Notes of the workshop are attached at Appendix A.
7. The key areas for further development / improvement are considered to be:
 - Effective partnership working – strategic and operationally
 - Integrated care pathways
 - Workforce development – across all agencies
 - Sustainability of domestic abuse services

Next Steps

8. An ongoing engagement with health services is planned in order to agree a mutual action plan, as the basis of future joint working.
9. The CCGs in Lancashire have agreed representation at the Lancashire Chief Executives Group, which has adopted the statutory function of Community Safety Strategy Group for the county. This forum provides strategic direction for community safety, including domestic abuse issues.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

N/A

Risk management

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Agenda & Minutes Scrutiny Committee	13 June 2014	Josh Mynott / Democratic Services / 01772 534580