

**Select Committee – Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence and Abuse
Summary of Progress towards Recommendations (Lead Directorate – Customer & Communities)**

VERSION CONTROL & MANAGEMENT

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| V1 | 17.12.2012 | AG | Master copy supplied by Business Strategy and Support |
| V2 | 04.02.2013 | AG | Addition of lead names following KMDASG suggestions |
| V3 | 07.03.2013 | AG | Additions following 1 st meeting of Task and Finish Group |
| V4 | 14.03.2013 | AG | Reformat of plan and additional inclusions from partners |
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| Recommendation 1 | Progress to date | Status |
|---|---|--|
| <p>That KCC seeks to collaborate with Clinical Commissioning Groups in Kent so that the Kent and Medway domestic violence and abuse care pathway can inform the development of a Map of Medicine Clinical Care Pathway to assist all General Practitioners (GPs) in identifying and responding appropriately to cases of domestic violence and abuse and asks</p> <p>That NHS Kent and Medway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expedites use of the Health Information Service Business Intelligence (HISBI) system to enable sharing of information on the presence of domestic violence and abuse (actual/disclosed or strongly suspected) in health settings such as Accident & Emergency (A&E) departments, GPs, Midwifery, Ante-natal and maternity settings. That in line with established protocols this information is shared and collated within Health and made available to other appropriate agencies/bodies such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) especially when frequency of attendance indicates potential heightened risk to a patient or their child/children; • Retain and develop specialist Domestic Abuse Health Visitor roles across Kent. | <p>NHS Kent and Medway are drafting a pathway outlining DA support available to assist GPs to take to Clinical Commissioning Groups seeking their approval for use across county by Qtr 2 2013/14. They will also use the GP bulletin to promote the DA website as a tool to assist signposting patients to relevant services.</p> <p>A DA flagging system is being developed currently in an East Kent GP practice. This will act as a pilot scheme during 2013 and once evaluated will be shared as an example of good practice across different health settings – training will be required to support flagging systems and will need to be built into a roll out plan.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Health Visitor service has recently been reviewed and development options are currently being considered by Kent and Medway Health visitors Commissioning Managers. All health visitors across county now use an assessment tool to identify their clients' needs that also addresses domestic abuse issues.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 2 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That to mitigate the loss of specialist domestic abuse police officers and to strengthen contact and referral processes:</p> <p>Kent Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that there is a system for flagging the number of domestic abuse incidents and making this information available to responding officers and that a third (and any subsequent) incident, regardless of risk level, should trigger an automatic discussion with a domestic abuse specialist to determine whether a MARAC referral is required (in line with Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) guidance on potential escalation of domestic abuse cases); carry out an immediate review of information provision and referral to partner organisations including those in the voluntary sector and in particular Victim Support and, in addition, agree (with input from key partners) a process or processes to expedite urgent information requests. <p>Kent Police with KCC and Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether the presence in the Central Referral Unit (CRU) of a domestic violence and abuse specialist worker could help with the effective triaging of cases; Ensure that all staff in CRU are trained in CAADA Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment; | <p>Kent Police are currently reviewing their systems with the aim of ensuring adherence to good practice/guidance. A new IT system (Project Athena) is being constructed for use by a number of Police Forces, including Kent Police, and will assist with identification of DA cases; this should be implemented by the end of 2013.</p> <p>Kent Police and Victim Support implemented a revised procedure at the end of 2012 to ensure that Victim Support receives all DA incident referrals that are made to Kent Police.</p> <p>2 specialist CAF co-ordinators have now been located within the Kent Police Central Referral Unit (CRU) that will ensure domestic abuse notifications (DANs) not meeting social care thresholds are linked to a Common Assessment Framework pathway. CRU staff now use the DA website to ensure that appropriate service information is provided to victims and families affected by domestic abuse. In addition Kent and Medway NHS will be recruiting 2 additional CAF co-ordinators during 2014.</p> <p>DASH training was provided to CRU staff during 2012.</p> <p>KSCB partners are currently reviewing what processes are in place, or can be put in place, for those families when CAF permission has been declined.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation, although still at early stages for some of the review processes.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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- Put in place a process to ensure that domestic abuse notifications (DANs) not meeting social care thresholds are linked to a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) pathway so that families have the opportunity to access appropriate community support.

Kent Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards:

- Give urgent consideration to a process by which risk (for adults and children) can be monitored in the above case, where a CAF is declined.

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| Recommendation 3 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That KCC seeks to strengthen and develop the co-ordinated community response to domestic violence and abuse, in particular by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (KMDASG) domestic abuse website • establishing a single point of telephone contact to complement the domestic abuse website • gaining commitment at strategic level from relevant agencies e.g. housing, Police, solicitors, health agencies, Victim Support, to the development and staffing of Multi Agency Domestic violence and abuse One Stop Shops (OSS) and facilitating more flexible provision (to include evenings and exploring ways to reach remote communities). • providing funding to publicise the One Stop Shop widely in each area • seeking to support through the joint commissioning process the development of a Specialist Domestic Violence Court in the south of Kent | <p>Website posters and cards have been widely distributed in GP surgeries, social services offices etc and made available to agencies working across the county; banners advertising the website have been used at several multi-agency events during 2012 and will be at forthcoming events during 2013.</p> <p>A revised Kent and Medway IDVA service is currently being commissioned as part of this service the successful provider will have to ensure easy access arrangements such as single telephone contact number. This service will be operational during April 2013.</p> <p>One Stop Shops (OSS) are continuing to be developed at local level – more flexible provision being actively reviewed by partners, with Canterbury district partners opening their second OSS service to address the needs of their coastal residents in November 2012. In November 2012 support for the OSSs was discussed at Kent CSP and all partners were asked to support the resource and development of the OSSs. Good Practice Protocols for OSS to follow were designed in December 2012 and have been adopted by all 12 OSSs currently operating across Kent and Medway. Numbers of DA victims seeking support at OSSs continues to grow.</p> <p>All OSSs have been made aware that they can apply for Member grants to assist with costs for publicity. Some OSS receive ongoing funding support from their local community safety partnerships.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the South Kent Specialist Domestic Violence Court will become operational in June 2013 (as part to the work that is currently being commissioned under the Kent and Medway IDVA Service).</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 4 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That KCC seeks to rationalise the existing patchy provision of domestic violence and abuse services and drives up the quality of services, by devising and implementing a commissioning plan, beginning with Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) services and aiming to achieve joint commissioning of a ‘domestic violence and abuse care pathway’ informed by needs assessments and taking account of different forms and types of DVA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that joint commissioning is enabled by consolidating existing funding sources and seeking to align this with further funding from internal and external sources (e.g. Supporting People, KDAAT, Families and Social Care (FSC), Public Health, Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation, Health and Mental Health, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to provide a multi-agency domestic violence and abuse commissioning ‘pot’; • that commissioned domestic violence and abuse services are monitored and evaluated through a Quality Assurance Framework. | <p>A thorough joint needs assessment was completed in late 2012 and a joint commissioning business model was established.</p> <p>A range of public services have pledged contributions totalling £759,700 for 13 /14 including KCC, Medway Council, Public Health, The Police & Crime Commissioner, Probation, KFRS and the majority of District Councils.</p> <p>Pooled commissioning arrangements of Kent and Medway IDVA Services has now commenced with contracts due to be let in March 2013 and it is anticipated that the new service will be operational from April 2013.</p> <p>Public Health colleagues are leading on discussions with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) during Qtr 1 and 2 2013/14 with a goal for CCGs to adopt health contribution element of this service in their commissioning arrangements for 2014 onwards.</p> <p>KCC Commissioning Team are currently tendering for Independent Needs Analysis work to look into different commissioning models. This work will look at a range of commissioning arrangements that KCC are currently involved in and partner agencies will also be asked to contribute to this review. The review will be completed by June 2013 and will help inform future commissioning processes involving those funded internally by KCC and those that could be, or are currently, funded through partnership arrangements.</p> <p>Quality Assurance is included within DA service specifications and outcome monitoring arrangements.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation, although still at early stages for some of the review processes.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 5 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That KCC demonstrates strong leadership and commitment to addressing domestic violence and abuse by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring that basic awareness training in domestic violence and abuse awareness is included in the Member Development Programme so that all Members can be ambassadors and advocates for a change in public attitude (and can signpost effectively to help and support); identifying a Member Champion for Domestic abuse to help drive forward changes and expedite the development of a network of Domestic violence and abuse Champion roles including in Health, (within Clinical Commissioning groups, GP surgeries, Accident and Emergency Departments); ensuring that the Member chosen to sit on the Police and Crime Panel (which will scrutinise the work of the PCC) is also a domestic violence and abuse Champion; having Member (Champion) representation on the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Executive Group.¹ | <p>KCC HR Organisational Development will ensure that DA is included within the Member development programme following the May 2013 elections.</p> <p>Cllr. Mike Hill is currently the nominated KCC Member on the Police and Crime Panel and also the meeting Chair.</p> <p>KCC Community Safety will progress Member Champion recommendations following May 2013 elections.</p> | <p>Work to address the training programme is underway; the other parts of this recommendation will be progressed following May 2013 elections.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

¹ One or more Members could undertake these roles.

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| Recommendation 6 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>Members welcome the development of a Kent and Medway domestic violence and abuse training matrix in order to rationalise existing provision and ensure all statutory sector professionals have the appropriate level and content of training and recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to complement current training resources: a portfolio of domestic violence and abuse webinars is developed, with the involvement of survivors, offering professionals an alternative, quick and easy way to increase their knowledge and engagement. • KCC Learning & Development Team take a more proactive role in the development of training on domestic violence and abuse and ensure that there is a mechanism to engage survivors in the development of training, policy, practice and future services. | <p>A Training Matrix for Kent and Medway DA services has been completed and is available on the DA Website. It has been publicised in the Kent DA Newsletter and will continue to be highlighted there as a resource for all agencies.</p> <p>To build upon the Training Matrix, KCC Learning and Development Team will establish a small multi-agency working group to devise a portfolio of webinars. The group is to complete this work by December 2013.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation, still at early stages.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 7 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That KCC seeks to influence attitudinal change on domestic violence and abuse using a ‘multi-pronged’ approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asking the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner to have domestic violence and abuse as a top priority in the Police and Crime Plan for the duration of the Plan and that given domestic abuse represents 25% of violent crime in Kent, the new PCC is invited by Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (KMDASG) to become a domestic violence and abuse Champion and to receive appropriate support and training for that role. • asking that the County Community Safety Partnership continues to have domestic abuse as a high priority and cascades this to the local Partnerships • using a Public Health campaign to help change perceptions • using Safeguarding Week 2013 to raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse • using established community safety routes to get domestic violence and abuse information and links into the public eye (e.g. Fire & Rescue Service leaflets in GP surgeries) | <p>The Kent PCC has adopted the County Community Safety Agreement which has DA as a priority and has ratified Kent Police support for the Kent and Medway IDVA service commissioning project. DA also features in the Police and Crime Plan. Additionally the PCC has met with representatives from some of the DA service providers.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse will continue to be a priority for all CSP’s following the PCC’s adoption of the County Community Safety Agreement as the key policy driver.</p> <p>DA is a public health priority area both for vulnerable children, reducing reoffending and improving mental wellbeing. The Public Health communications plan will reflect this.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse will feature in the plans for the 2013 Safeguarding Week.</p> <p>Various options are being considered by KCC Community Safety Team to expand the current circulation of domestic abuse information and add further information sources.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 8 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That in implementing its Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy KCC creates culture change – through a process of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding understanding of domestic violence and abuse and its impacts throughout the organization • Examining the interface with individuals and families experiencing domestic violence and abuse • Ensuring that practice, processes and communications are as supportive as possible to non-abusing parents (where this does not conflict with the duty to safeguard children) | <p>KSCB, KCC Adult Safeguarding and KCC Specialist Children’s Services are all offering DA training to staff currently.</p> <p>Early Intervention work commissioned by KCC in 2012 is already identifying an unmet need for those affected by domestic abuse and this is being reviewed with the aim of commissioning if funds available. Parenting programmes are currently being commissioned and this avenue is also being explored to determine if DA can be covered as part of these programmes.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation, still at early stages.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 9 | Progress to date | Status |
|---|--|---|
| <p>That KCC asks the Criminal Justice Board to carry out a review to determine whether breaches of Non-molestation or Restraining order in domestic abuse cases are being dealt with effectively by criminal justice agencies.</p> | <p>Initial discussions have commenced with KCJB representatives to determine scope of issue.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation, still at early stages.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 10 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That (in the light of the Family Justice Review, and given the proven impacts on children of witnessing/experiencing domestic violence and abuse) KCC lobbies the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) with regard to making perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse more accountable for their actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The select committee support the recommendations of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) and RESPECT² that, as a condition of perpetrators having contact with their children, they should be required to attend a specialist perpetrator programme and/or parenting classes and ask that these recommendations are taken into consideration by Families and Social Care during case conference proceedings • That KCC and relevant partners conduct a review of arrangements in Kent for parental contact (including those families not in touch with Families and Social Care) and seeks opportunities for further safeguards to be put in place regarding supervision where a parent has perpetrated domestic violence and abuse | <p>KCC Specialist Children’s Services are developing options to take forward this recommendation and to identify other key partners that should be involved; scoping work is being completed to inform lobbying approach and also to determine what actions can be delivered locally.</p> | <p>Initial discussions underway to address this recommendation, still at early stages.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

² Membership association for domestic violence perpetrator programmes and associated support services

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| Recommendation 11 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>Members welcome the new services commissioned by FSC for children aged 5-13 who have experienced domestic violence and abuse and those targeted at healthy relationships (girls aged 11-16) and would like to see services commissioned for boys of this age to address unhealthy attitudes and behaviours towards girls or same sex partners in their peer relationships. Members would also like to see the gap in universal services to address healthy relationships within schools addressed through the commissioning process to augment schools' own teaching.</p> | <p>A small working group has been set up by KCC Specialist Children's Services looking into the current commissioned services provision, demand, unmet need and gaps in service.</p> <p>During Qtr 1 2013/14 the group plan to conduct a needs and resource analysis, with a view to addressing future service alignment issues and resourcing gaps in service. The needs analysis is due to be completed by October 2013; this will then inform commissioning plans for 2014 onwards.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 12 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That KCC takes a number of actions designed to increase knowledge and understanding within schools of the impact of domestic violence and abuse on children and young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports links between social care and education and retains vital Family Liaison Officers/Parent Support Adviser-type roles within schools; • asks the Kent Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) and Kent Head Teachers to ensure there is a focus on healthy relationships within the schools' Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), religious or ethics frameworks and that staff are trained to recognise and respond to issues of domestic violence and abuse affecting pupils at home or in their peer relationships. • writes to the Teaching Agency asking them to require that teacher training programmes include compulsory modules on the impact of domestic violence and abuse on children and young people • writes to the Department for Education asking that schools are encouraged to place a greater emphasis on the health and wellbeing of pupils, in order to underpin their ability to achieve academically. | <p>Early intervention workers already link with FLOs and PSAs. DA information is already cascaded to FLOs. Communications with Academies are being reviewed.</p> <p>KSCB will raise the issues around healthy relationship education within schools and do currently offer training and support to schools, including DA training.</p> <p>Letters will be drafted in consultation with the KCC Business Intelligence Unit.</p> | <p>Work is underway to address this recommendation, still at early stages.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 13 | Progress to date | Status |
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| <p>That KCC should take a lead on developing approaches to young people who show aggressive or violent behaviour towards their parent(s) and that this should be reflected in the Integrated Youth Support Strategy and pilot programmes and any other relevant strategies.</p> | <p>Initial discussions are taking place with lead services associated with the Integrated Youth Support Strategy to build the necessary links with IYSS and determine other work streams currently being progressed around this recommendation.</p> | <p>Initial discussions underway to address this recommendation, still at early stages.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

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| Recommendation 14 | Progress to date | Status |
|--|--|--|
| <p>That KCC seeks to include information and links (such as www.thehideout.org.uk and the new Kent Domestic violence and abuse website - young people's resources) in materials published for young people.</p> | <p>Already in place for some teams.</p> <p>A number of partner agencies are also ensuring information is being cascaded.</p> <p>Discussions with KCC Communication Team underway to develop this recommendation.</p> | <p>Initial discussions underway to address this recommendation, still at early stages.</p> <p>Amber</p> |

Key:

- Green** = Completed /advanced progress
- Amber** = Progress underway
- Red** = No significant progress made