

## **1 Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Group**

### **1.1 Aims and Principles of Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group (KMDVSG):**

- To set out a vision within the Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group's (KMDVSG) Strategy for effectively addressing the issue of domestic violence in the county and detail the steps that will be taken to achieve this within individual agencies as well as on a multi-agency basis.
- To identify and prioritise current gaps in service delivery as well as promoting and embedding current effective initiatives that have already been put in place.
- To encourage all agencies and partnerships to work towards providing the highest standards in the provision of services relating to domestic violence.
- Maximise the utilisation of existing resources and, where possible, seek to draw upon additional resources, to improve services further.
- To emphasise the continuing need to strengthen services that assist survivors of domestic violence throughout the county.
- To develop short-term and long-term preventative initiatives.
- To collate and distribute relevant information on best practice, new developments, policies, legislation, events and reports.

### **1.2 Key Responsibilities of the Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Co-ordinator:**

- Managing the implementation of the KMDVSG Strategy;
- Project management of initiatives;
- Research and dissemination of best practice (following best value principles);
- Negotiation with partners on the development of domestic violence targets, action plans and services;
- Production of good practice protocols and terms reference for partnerships and/or agencies;
- Encouraging, supporting and facilitating partnership working across all agencies;
- To act in a consultancy capacity for all agencies in Kent and Medway.

### **1.3 Kent and Medway Multi-Agency Strategy: An Integrated and Proactive Response to Domestic Violence 2007 – 2010**

- The KMDVSG is responsible for the implementation of the strategy over a period of three years, with regular reviews to track progress towards the goals detailed within the strategy's Delivery Plan.
- The strategy and delivery plan will be made available to all other agencies and partnerships on request.

## **2 KMDVSG Selected Project Summary Information**

### **2.1 Domestic Violence Safe School Project:**

- Dedicated staff to deliver school staff training, as well as preventative and support work to children.
- Good Practice Protocols for Kent and Medway covering the delivery of domestic abuse work in school and community settings finalised in July 08.

F/T post in Thanet; P/T posts in Shepway and Dover; Recruiting in Dartford & Gravesham by March 09; Funding being sought in Ashford.

### **2.2 Children's Services:**

- To ensure children who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse have access to appropriate services.

From research areas of development to include:

- Preventative work in schools.
- Individual children's counselling.
- Therapeutic group work; play therapists.
- Play workers in refuges.
- Activity/diversionary workers.

### **2.3 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs):**

- Targets highest risk domestic violence victims.
- Kent LAA Indicator NI32
- MARACs have commenced in Medway, Maidstone and Swale areas.
- Training events organised in Jan and Feb 09 for East Kent, West Kent, South Kent and North Kent areas in preparation of MARACs commencing in those areas by April 09.

At MARAC agencies will have shared information and be asked to commit resources to those victims and families assessed at highest risk of future serious abuse/ danger.

### **2.4 Community/Court Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs):**

- Wrap around services for victims and their families, based either at court and/or in the community.
- IDVA services currently cover Shepway, Swale, Dover, Canterbury Maidstone, Medway, Tonbridge & Malling and Thanet.
- 10.5 posts across Kent and Medway, 4.5 under immediately risk of being lost due to lack of funds.

According to our population and domestic abuse incident statistics we should have 22 posts IDVA posts across Kent and Medway.

### **2.5 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs):**

- Integrated criminal justice system response to DV.
- SDVC (+ IDVA) at Maidstone Court which commenced in April 2007 was accredited by Home Office in April 2008.

Next 2 SDVCs have been identified. In East Kent area, Canterbury Magistrates Court will be developed and in North Kent area, Chatham Magistrates Court.

## **2.6 Community Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (CDAP)**

- Voluntary programme for men not involved in criminal justice system. Prioritises safety of families with Women's Safety Worker key member of team.
- 2 programmes currently in operation South Kent (Dover, Shepway) and West Kent (Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells). A third programme is operating in Medway area and it is hoped this will be a community resource from April 09 onwards depending on funding.

Most commonly quoted reason for attendance by men participating in programme is to be a better role model or to have a better relationship with their children.

## **2.7 KMDVSG Training Manual:**

- 12 training topics, including chapters on:
  - Overview and Dynamics of DV
  - Adult Victims and DV
  - Children and Young People and DV
  - Perpetrators of DV
  - DV and Substance Misuse
  - Specialised Needs and Issues
  - Civil and Criminal Laws
  - Multi-agency Roles
  - Domestic Violence in the Workplace
  - What Health Professionals Need to Know About DV
  - Domestic Violence and the role of Education
  - Domestic Violence - Housing and Benefits

Aim to bring consistency and quality training across the county. Approx. 40 trainers now authorised to use this resource, which is sponsored by KMDVSG, KSCB and KMSVAG.

## **2.8 East Kent NHS Trust and PCT:**

- Midwives make routine DV enquires and receive DV training in with safeguarding children training.
- A&E also receive training on DV in with safeguarding training.
- Considering use of tool for identification e.g. coloured tops on urine samples.
- PCT soon to appoint a number of senior health visitors who will also lead on DV issues.
- 6 DV lead Health Visitors were appointed in Dec 08.

**Alison Gilmour**

**Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Co-ordinator**  
**Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group**

Email: [alison.Gilmour@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alison.Gilmour@kent.pnn.police.uk)