



**Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum EM updates**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010**  
**9:30 – 11.30**  
**The Council House**

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<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Leigh Forster (Chair)	WISH
Veronica Shorttle (minutes)	Safer Bristol Partnership
Nicola Coggins	Womankind
Clare McKenzie	One25
Kurda Yar	Social Worker
Jessica Donnellah	YWCA
Ruth Dawes	NHS
Amanda Movesian	Next Link
Mel Harrison	Next Link
Lucy Muchina	BCH (Health)
Jane Owens	One25
Tanya Palmer	University of Bristol
Carol Metters	Next Link
Liz Rogers	Bristol South AWP NHS Mental Health
Karen MacVean	Shelter
Lesley Welch	Safer Bristol Partnership
Chris Fry	Splitz
Russell Lane	Probation
Belinda Cox	Bristol Maternity
Emily Moreton	Safer Bristol Partnership

Apologies received	Representing
Charlotte Robson	Splitz
Jane Crane	Brentry & Henbury Children's Centre
Bev Gordon	Victim Support
Debbie Rogers	Better Together
Jon Peyton	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership
Sally Morrissey	Novas Scarman
Margaret Griffin	

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

LF welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table and apologies were given.

## 2. Presentation: Interpersonal violence within the sex worker community

Clare McKenzie attended the meeting to give an overview of One25 and the work they do.

One25 is a charity, which helps women trapped in street sex-work to break free from violence, poverty and addiction. They run a van outreach programme, which goes around at night, drop-in at Grosvenor Centre, and Naomi House, which provides accommodation for pregnant women and mothers with children under 3yrs. They also have a casework team at the Grosvenor Centre doing one to one support work, each of whom has a specialist area of work. CM said any street worker can access all services from Next Link except safe housing because they often continue to work. CmcKenzie There is little or no emergency hostel accommodation for women fleeing domestic abuse who have substance misuse issues. Therefore they tend, in our experience to end up in emergency b&b or the emergency homeless provision both of which are often very male dominated and intimidating environments. Now that the women only night shelter has closed down and the cold weather shelter is no longer in existence the only emergency homeless out of hours provision in the city is the Julian Trust night shelter which fits the above description of being male dominated and intimidating for women service users.

**Action 1 VS** Send out slides from presentation.

Meeting discussed issues of women being trapped in street sex work because of the need to fund class A habit which is true of all cities, they have to accept help to get back to mainstream society and relearn skills.

Clare said women could exist for years in a homelessness situation working all night and sofa living in the daytime.

The street picture has changed: when heroin was the drug women had loyalty to a

pimp, now crack is more powerful and has broken down this chain and it is the dealers who force women to pay debts. The Barton Hill Project offers help to dealers to change their lifestyle.

### 3. Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting

Action 1 - Splitz to send information on the programme to Emily Moreton for circulation. – completed.

Action 2 - LW to approach the Prevention Sub Group and Strategy Group to publicise Splitz, leaflet in hand c/f.

Action 3 – Housing DA report form – completed.

Action 4 - Election of BDAF non-voting rep to join JCG – EM previously no-one had capacity for monthly meetings.

**Action 2 VS** put a note in BDAF newsletter to try and get rep for above.

**Action 3 HP** to check who can be a representative originally not a frontline worker but possibly this situation has changed.

Action 5 – YP documentary show to BDAF, Em to chase up.

Action 6 – BDAF ToR – completed.

Action 7 – Meeting comments added to definition of DV – Completed.

Action 8 - Take this sentencing issue to the Protection and Justice meeting next Week, Leigh took it.

**Action 4 LW** to contact Julie Mills to get minutes and circulate part that contained comments from victims.

**Action 5 VS** Sarah Payne document putting victim first report, Sara Payne calls for major law and order reform in first report as the Government's victims' commissioner add link to BDAF newsletter. Operation Blue Stone is a CID Team dedicated to street sex puts victim first.

Action 9 write to the Ministry of Justice and Strategy Group regarding sentencing issues, LW will send out again.

### 4. Matters arising not on the agenda

Nothing to be discussed.

### 5. Update on action plans

Nothing to report.

### 6. Feedback from Strategy Group

LW key thing to report is the current DV&A Strategy ends in March. In the new strategy the DV&A Strategy and Sexual Violence Strategy will be joined together as one prevention sub-group, and the strategy will be rewritten as a VAW&G strategy incorporating all eight strands.

The VAW&G Strategy came out last November; the new Government wants to re-brand it. The reason for the rewrite is to move the focus away from primarily criminal justice. We have been told the format will work to 5 sections - Prevention, Provision, Funding, Legislation and Communications. This contrasts to the original strategy's 3 sections of Prevention, Provision and Protection (*though the 5 new sections can be seen to mesh in closely with these*). The briefing noted that voluntary sector should not be negatively impacted on.

LW has identified a person at director level to ask to be a 'champion' and produce a VAWG strategy but they have not agreed yet, (post meeting Annie Hudson has accepted this role). VAW&G strategy contained ready reckoner to find out how many women/girls in Bristol effected by DV&A. GOSW is closing down in December and staff have offered to help produce statistics and perhaps to break it down by wards.

**Action 6 LW** to write to agencies asking if they have data already that could be used.

### 7. Feedback from local forums and action groups

Nothing to be discussed.

### 8. Violence against Women Week

This initiative commences 22<sup>nd</sup> November with a launch at the Council House, with speakers, launch of Safer Bristol poster, with slogan 'if I think someone is experiencing DV I'll speak up, will you?' also NHS have produced friends and family leaflet. The National day is November 25<sup>th</sup>.

### 9. BDAF membership

The core membership needs to be confirmed to enable an election of a chair, attendance by anyone on an ad hoc basis is fine.

**Action 7 EM** to send out form to establish membership.

### 10. AOB

Tanya Palmer, a PhD student at Bristol University, attended the meeting to explain about her research into understanding and interpreting sexual behaviour and the difference between legitimate/acceptable sexual behaviour and acts of sexual violation. Tanya requires volunteers to take part in this research by attending focus groups, dates as per hand out or new ones to be agreed. TP would also like to speak to survivors who are in existing groups.

**Action 8 VS** to send out all the information in the BDAF Newsletter.

**Action 9 HP** criteria for running the DAFF helpline, HP will rewrite.

Post meeting, EM reported documentary that Mike Bedford from Splitz was involved in and discussed at April meeting, that the DVD is not going to be released until January 2011.

Future dates will be set after the DVA Strategy meeting.

Action Points	Actions from BDAF mtg 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	By Whom	By When
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1	Send out slides from presentation.	VS	ASAP
2	Put a note in BDAF newsletter to try and get rep for DVA JCG from BDAF	VS	20/10/10
3	To check who can be a representative originally not a frontline worker but possibly this situation has changed	HP	ASAP
4	Contact Julie Mills to get SDVC minutes and circulate part that contained comments from victims.	LW	ASAP
5	Sarah Payne document putting victim first, link to BDAF newsletter.	VS	
6	Write to agencies asking have they got data already on women and girls effected by DV&A	LW	
7	Send out form to establish BDAF membership.	EM	
8	Put information re: Tanya Palmer's research in BDAF Newsletter	VS	
9	Criteria for running the DAFF helpline, HP will rewrite	HP	

### **Details of next meeting**

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Venue: Council House