

North Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum

Present: Emily Moreton (BDAF), Alex Wood (NHS, Lockleaze (Chair)), Jan Filer (BIT), Ash Bearman (Shirehampton Community Project), Sally Jaeckle, Jane Crane, Leigh Forster (Wish)

Apologies: Amy Campbell, Ruth Dawes, Donna Sealey, Debbie Rogers, Cheryl Coles, Nicola, Mike Peirce

Date: 19.07.2010

Minute Taker: Emily Moreton

1. Sally Jaeckle explained that her job involves bringing together the early intervention and inspiring quality of provision strands of early years work across the city including child minders, children's centres, nurseries and reception classes. As part of this, three specialist centres will be developed across the city, in Knowle (Ilminster Avenue), Bluebell Valley Nursery at Long Cross Primary and Nursery in Lawrence Weston, and likely Barton Hill for the east/central. As part of this there has also been a commitment to create capacity for health visitors to be involved with these.

She also mentioned Targeted Positive Activities funding, which is government funding for children in need, assuming they meet four out of fourteen criteria, one of which is around domestic violence and abuse.

2. Presentation from Leigh Forster, Wish:

Leigh explained that Wish started as a volunteer organisation, when several women on a training day identified that they had experienced DVA and had no support service available. The project was run entirely by volunteers for two years in a room donated by the City Council and with a computer donated by the police.

The service was then offered funding and went under Victim Support in order to accept it and employ Leigh to manage the service, including setting it up as an independent charity and company. In April 2006, Wish became independent through funding from Neighbourhood Renewal and then received transitional funding to keep going when this finished, and to give the Council time to replace the funding, which is now being done through commissioning.

Wish is part of CAADA which provides national training and quality assurance, and all staff are trained Independent Domestic Violence Advocates. Wish is also one of eight organisations

chosen by CAADA to be Leading Lights. Wish is now also working with Barton Hill to train volunteers for a similar project there.

The project receives a lot of referrals because of being based in the community and therefore accessible. Because of this, most low risk work is done by volunteers while paid staff take on high risk clients. Groupwork is run on a stop-start basis, to provide turnover and avoid cliqueness, and it is hoped that eventually this will be a mutual support drop-in run by clients rather than workers.

Part of Wish's commissioning bid includes providing a service in North Bristol, with a worker spending one day a week in each locality area. Wish work with everyone, including male and same sex victims, and people with substance abuse problems. Because of this, they have also developed a tool for identifying perpetrators amongst men calling in as victims, which also allows them to access the partners to offer support.

Leigh advised that getting funding for a service relies on being able to prove that it fills a gap or meets additional needs, and therefore each project needs to identify a unique selling point.

Contact Leigh: leigh@wishforabrighterfuture.org.uk tel: 0117 903 8632

3. Violence Against Women Week campaign update: Emily stated that the group met for the first time in July, and initial plans were discussed (see attached notes). These include small grants for community workers to do something within the week, provided by the NHS.

4. BDAF rep: Emily asked for someone to put their name forward as North Bristol DAF rep to the city-wide forum. They would represent the group's interests to the city-wide forum and report back (see attached job description). Carried forward to the next meeting.

5. Neighbourhood Partnerships: It was suggested that Neighbourhood Partnership coordinators could be invited to BDAF. DVA is also rising as a priority in some areas through the forums eg Filwood. Emily and the DVA Strategy Coordinator are also planning to visit each forum to talk about DVA and raise the profile.

Dates of next meetings (all 1.00-2.30pm)

Wednesday 15th September Lawrence Weston Youth Club

Monday 1st November Southmead Project

Monday 13th December 12.00 onwards at the Inn on the Green (winter social)