

South Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum

Minutes of Meeting

15th April 2009

Filwood Community Centre

Present: Rebecca Dunk (Chair) – CYPS, Karen Coward – KWDAP, Emma Priddle – KWDAP, Wendy Crowley – WISH, Fiona Anderson - KWDAP

Apologies: Lesley Welch – Safer Bristol, Kevin Keogh – Avon & Somerset Police, Linda Mellows – Family Intervention Project, Natalie Barraclough – Social Work, Leigh Zyweck - CYPS and Leigh Forster - WISH.

1. Minutes from Last Meeting – Matters Arising

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

2. Actions from Last Meeting

Information Packs

There followed some discussion around the progress of the information packs used by Health Visitors and how these might be added to from packs used by the Forum Members. Unfortunately due to the low attendance today Rebecca asked if this information could be brought along to the next meeting. There also followed some discussion regarding the changes in Health Visitor Services and the Forum felt it may be beneficial to have a Health Visitor representative on the Forum.

Action: - Members are asked to bring along any relevant information/materials along to the next meeting which they consider appropriate for inclusion in the pack.

Rebecca will write letters to Health Visitors to invite them onto the Forum.

Funding

Becky confirmed having received an email from Carol Metters who advised that funding for both projects would be extended until December at which time the joint commission process will be up and running. It was noted that both Leigh from WISH and Sue Moss from KWAHA have also been pursuing this issue.

Housing Complaint

Following concerns raised by Wendy at the last meeting when a banding was refused to her client unless she would provide the refuge address to the housing officer, Rebecca has now received a response back from housing who have confirmed that they are currently reviewing their structure and are looking at having a representative who they can assign to SBDAF meetings. It is hoped by doing this

he/she will be able to report back to other housing officers to raise awareness and prevent mistakes like this in the future. Rebecca suggested that it might also be helpful if they were to allow the appointed representative to attend MARAC'S to take account of the problems previously experienced by Karen.

Case Conferences

Rebecca confirmed having spoken to Nicola Hannaford and raised the Forum's concerns re the imbalance of power when perpetrators are present. She has asked if they can review their procedures and they will look to see what can be done.

Action: - Rebecca will report back to the next meeting.

3. Case Studies/Institutional Advocacy Book

Wendy and Karen both had complaints with regard to housing. It was noted that they had particular problems with Fishponds, particularly with regard to Social Needs Assessments. Wendy advised they will make appointments but do not appear to understand the system or how it works. A number of housing officers are not familiar with the term MARAC or what this represents and this is having a detrimental affect on clients who need to be rehoused.

Acknowledging the need to raise the profile of domestic violence the need for further representatives on the Forum was considered.

Action:- Rebecca Dunk to write to Jenny Parker on the Board at HAWKS to ask for a representative to attend as well as contacting the Youth Offending Team, Bristol Drugs Project, Probation Services, Education etc.

4. Any Other Business:

Karen invited everyone along to the launch of their book "Have Wings Will Fly" due to take place in Waterstone's on Thursday 23rd April at 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Karen advised that the Home Office were holding a Road show on the same day to raise awareness around Violence against Women. She confirmed they would be attending at Bristol City Football Ground in the morning and that they have already contacted her about using the book to help publicise this issue. Later that day an information bus is due to take a tour around the city leaving at 4.00 pm outside the Hippodrome Theatre.

Karen advised that regrettably both herself and Emma would be leaving the KWDAP in the next couple of weeks and invited everyone to attend their joint leaving party which would take place on Friday 1st May 2009 at 5.30 pm in the Tobacco Factory, North Street, Bedminster.

5. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting was arranged for 2.00pm on Wednesday 8th July 2009 at Filwood Community Centre.