



**MINUTES**  
**Domestic Violence/Abuse Strategy Group**  
**Protection & Justice sub-group**  
(incorporating Specialist DV Court Steering Group)

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Central Probation office (next to Magistrates Court), Room A**

S:\CST\Domestic Abuse\DVA Strategy and Sub Groups\Protection & Justice (inc SDVC) sub-group\Meetings\2010-2011\22Oct10\Minutes DVA P&J 22 Oct 2010.doc

<b>Present</b>
Dave McCallum Police
Lesley Welch - Safer Bristol Partnership
Veronica Shorttle – Safer Bristol (minutes)
Leigh Forster - WISH
Sue Lloyd – Victim Support
Michelle Cunningham – MARAC Co-ordinator
Steve Carpenter - CPS
Julie Mills - HMCS
Pete Crossman - HMCS
Julie Watkins - WCU
Annette Young – Bristol Magistrates
Sarah Steel – Probation
Charlotte Robson – Stopping Violence Programme
Boyce Preston - Probation

## **1. Introduction and apologies – Chair**

Introductions were made and apologies were received from Russell Lane.

## **2. Review of previous minutes and actions arising**

Correction of spelling of 'CAADA DASH' agenda item 9, the minutes have now been amended to reflect this change. The minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010 were agreed for accuracy.

Action 1: Double listing – agenda item.

Action 2: Concerns of group on sentencing, JM common assault sentencing is being revised, magistrates will be trained but guidelines will not improve the

Action 3: JM double listing of DV court cases reasons still stand, cost of single listing too expensive. DMC only 2 SDVC trials have been bounced.

**Action 1 LW** proposed double listing regular agenda item with reports back on cases bounced from JM.

Action 4: Closed, CJB no longer attending P&J/ SDVC mtgs.

Action 5: Closed. DMC assured mtg that he would know about a homicide and there would be a review.

Action 6: Closed. DMC followed up issue of DV suspects charged but conditions not put on bail and then subsequently difficult to get conditions once they appear in court, with Insp Dave Huggins. SC reported better work is being done. DMC said Custody Officers need to be aware of stringent bail conditions.

Action 7: **Action 2 LW** to write to Sentencing Council re: discrepancy in sentencing of perpetrators of DV as opposed to stranger assaults. Letter needs to contain evidence of case studies from agencies, JM suggested evidence of national picture from IDAP.

Domestic Abuse Performance Report tabled.

Voluntary agencies are aware that victims are not advised that perpetrators are going to court, JW agreed this does happen.

**Action 3 Next Link, Wish, Victim Support to report to JW any incidents where this happens.**

Action 8: Closed.

Action 9: completed.

Action 10: Completed - Send out DART letter with minutes.

Action 11: **Action 4 DMC** 'Bloody Domestic' dvd produced to address Police culture towards DV, send out copy to all members, there are confidentiality issues of its use so meeting requested a statement of when it can be used.

Action 12: Closed.

Action 13: Closed.

Action 14: **Action 5 DMC** to follow up email around European Protection Orders from Dave Warren.

### 3. Review and Update of Action Plan

Not updated.

### 4. Performance Data incl SDVC

Domestic Abuse Performance Report tabled for meeting to discuss. Discussion around DA arrest rates.

**Action 6 LW** to follow up with Jenny Land, CJB Performance Officer, to see if results can be broken down to Bristol specific.

**Action 7 SC** to check out proportion of restraining orders that are applied for and not got, the number looks very low.

The performance data is restricted and not allowed to be shared, only for use by P&J/SDVC members and use within their agencies.

**Action 8 LW** check with CJB which agencies have signed the DA Incidents Protocol.

Attendance at court the number of victims/witnesses not attending has slipped back.

**Action 9 JM** to follow up with Paul Buss this issue of non-attendance at court.

### 5. Report from Stopping Violence advisory group

LF is part of the advisory group. Respect is doing a 2-year national research project looking to see if perpetrators programmes are effective in increasing safety of victims.

**Action 10 LW** to send out link.

Perpetrators programme started this week run by Splitz, they have funding for 3years. Wish has a women safety worker attached.

RL sessions are 30 weeks split into 6x5 week modules (spaces for 30 men a year). Referrals are voluntary through a GP. JM suggested CJ should be informed but anyone going through the courts can't go on the programme. DMC solution could be an agreement for this information not to be used as mitigation in court. Decided not to pursue as perpetrators could get to know and use it as an easy way to avoid charges.

**Action 11 VS** Splitz leaflet send link round.

### 6. Report from MARAC Steering Group

The MARAC development day was successful and well attending by a variety of agencies. The aim was to improve action planning at MARAC and to encourage agencies who are not already on board to get involved in the process. CAADA produced a quality assurance report in June 2010. The

steering group put together an action plan to address areas for improvement. One of the main areas highlighted was that a MARAC Operating Protocol was needed which is now in draft format at the moment and which will make it clear to agencies the MARAC process and their role within it.

Sexual Violence MARAC pilot is running for 6 months, maximum of 6 cases a month with referrals all coming from IDVA's, the aim is to protect serial sexual victims.

JM trafficking of people, research suggests that outside of London Bristol has a big problem.

## 7. Proposal for homicide reviews

Not Covered.

## 8. SDVC Action Plan

Action Plan attached including updates from the meeting. Following actions are included in Plan.



"SDVC JwithS AP V7  
Oct10.doc"

**Action 12 JM** to chase up with PB operational group to review ToR.

**Action 13 LW** DMc has written business case for 2 more IDVAs, LW to confirm current number of FTE IDVAs.

**Action 14** do defence solicitors understand how SDVCs work? agenda item next mtg

## 9. Issues to report to/from Avon & Somerset Criminal Justice Board

DMc doesn't sit on the board but LW attended.

Main issues were victim personal statements and Avon & Somerset Police to change the definition of DV to 16 plus. Perpetrators of DV can be any age but victims are 16+.

## 10. AOB

DMc use of IDVA's to take victims personal statements, on the positive they would be well placed to get the information and Police are keen for this to happen. DMc view is that the message should be made clear that it is the responsibility of the officer in the case to get the statement.

JW advises victims to contact officer in charge of the case. JW if there are 4 cases in a day not enough time for Police Officers to take statements.

## Actions summary table from Protection & Justice SDVC mtg 16/07/10

<b>Action Point</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>	<b>By Who</b>
1	LW Proposed double listing regular agenda item with reports back on cases bounced from JM.	LW
2	LW to write to Sentencing Council re: discrepancy in sentencing of perpetrators of DV as opposed to stranger assaults.	LW
3	Voluntary agencies are aware that victims are not advised that perpetrators are going to court, JW agreed this does happen. Next Link, Wish, Victim Support to report to JW any incidents where this happens.	Agencies
4	'Bloody Domestics' dvd send out to group.	DMc
5	Follow up email around European Protection Orders from Dave Warren	DMc
6	Follow up with Jenny Land, CJB Performance Officer, to see if results can be broken down to Bristol specific for DA arrest rates.	LW
7	Check out proportion of restraining orders that are applied for and not got, the number looks very low.	SC
8	Check with CJB which agencies have signed the DA Incidents Protocol.	LW
9	Follow up with Paul Buss this issue of non-attendance at court.	JM
10	Send out link to Thangam's research on Stopping Violence Programme.	LW
11	Splitz leaflet send link round.	VS
12	Chase up with PB operational group to review ToR.	JM
13	LW to confirm current number of FTE IDVAs.	LW
14	Do defence solicitors understand how SDVCs work? Agenda item next meeting.	VS

**Next meeting Friday Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2011, Central Probation Office, 10am to 12 noon.**