



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

Friday 16th July 2010

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\16th July 2010\Minutes DVA P&J July draft 2010.doc

Present
Lesley Welch - Safer Bristol Partnership
Paul Appleton - Chair - Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Leigh Forster - WISH
Julie Mills - HMCS
Annette Young
Julie Watkins - WCU
Russell Lane - Avon and Somerset Probation Service
Lesley Ness - CPS

1. Introduction and apologies – Chair

Introductions were made and apologies were received from Kate Perin, Dave McCallum, Sue Lloyd and Michelle Cunningham.

2. Review of previous minutes and actions arising

Pete Crossman to be added to the attendees list of the last meeting - the minutes have now been amended to reflect this change. The minutes of the meeting held 23rd April 2010 were agreed for accuracy.

Action 1: completed

Action 2: Not completed - carry forward **ACTION 1 LW**

Action 3: completed - on agenda

Action 4: completed - on agenda

Action 5: completed. The double listing of DV court cases will be on the JIG agenda in September. The group discussed this issue in further detail and the following actions were agreed:

ACTION 2 LW/VS to ensure double listing is on the agenda for the next P&J meeting

ACTION 3 Julie Mills to take double listing of DV court cases back to the Operational Group.

ACTION 4: KP to liaise with Rob Allan and compare data around double listing for Bristol against other core cities.

Action 6: completed

Action 7: completed - on agenda

Action 8: not completed. This action will be carried out in the IDVA consortium. Action closed.

Action 9: completed. Pommy Harmer will receive minutes from this meeting but will not attend.

Action 10: not completed - carry forward **ACTION 5 LW**

Action 11: PA to follow up with DM after this meeting **ACTION 6 PA/DM**

Action 12: completed - on agenda.

Action 13: completed - on agenda.

Action 14: completed.

LF raised an issue around short sentencing for perpetrators, it can mean on a lot of occasions that there is no time to move victims to a safe/unknown premises and gives the wrong message to perpetrators and society. Women lose faith and say they are unlikely to call the police again. It seems cases could go to the Crown Court but are staying at the Magistrates. JM then reported that with incidents such as common assault, they can only be trialled in a Magistrates Court. In the case of the sentencing being beyond the maximum sentencing powers of the Magistrates Court, the case will be referred to a Crown Court. There is a conflict between the law and charging standards. Minor injuries are common assault, which is what most perpetrators are charged for. Harassment charges also go to the Magistrates and the maximum sentencing is 6 months.

ACTION 7 JM to assist LF with who to write to concerning this issue and the content of the letter.

3. Review and Update of Action Plan

The Chair instructed that comments will be made on red actions only.

8.3.1 - PA to provide update **ACTION 8**

8.5.1 - Reported at CJ Board, Weds one of the IDAP Programme had to be ceased. Queried Probation but the waiting list may increase again.

8.6.4 - re-do targets, currently discussing with the new voluntary perpetrator programme.

All of objective 9 is now in the new provision action plan.

10.2.1 - LW reported that this is no longer relevant.

10.2.2 and 10.2.3 - now in the provision action plan.

4. Performance Data incl SDVC

This item was agreed at the last meeting. LW has not got the performance data. Safer Bristol now has a Partnership Analyst in post who will be working on this. The performance data should be up to date by the next meeting.

5. Report from Perpetrators Working Group

The contract has been agreed for the Stopping Violence Programme. Splitz have been awarded the contract. A coordinator and group work facilitators have been appointed. The groups should start in September. Monitoring and evaluation methodology are currently being agreed. The criteria for the programme is male violence against women irrespective of charge, it is voluntary and outside of the criminal justice system. The programme works on a first come first served basis. Once everything is up and running a report on progress will be completed.

6. Report from MARAC Steering Group

MC was not present so LW updated on her behalf.

The local MARAC went through the quality assurance system and unfortunately didn't do very well. The main reason for the red scoring (6 out of 9) is that there is no MARAC operating protocol. Practice is good but not written down anywhere.

Research has been undertaken for the annual audit of quality standards. The new Analyst will work on this.

Agency engagement is good on many areas, particularly from drugs and alcohol agencies and CYPS services.

ACTION 9 MC to update on protocols and action plan on behalf of the MARAC Steering Group.

7. DART letter for victims

The DART letter was circulated prior to the meeting. In principle, the group agreed the letter but

asked that IDVAs were contacted to check the wording. **ACTION 10 SL to ensure that IDVAs that the letter is appropriately worded and contact DART to agree any changes.**

8. Governance of SDVC - Operational Group

There was a proposal to minimize the amount of work people have to do by attending meetings. Merging operational and steering groups is not helpful. LW recommended sticking to the current process in place as meetings have been reduced a lot already. It was agreed to ask the Operational Group to update on ToR rather than LW doing this piece of work.

9. SDVC Action Plan and ToR

Updates were made on amber and red actions within the plan.

1. Multi Agency Partnerships

Amber - Operational Group to review the ToR. Change owner of action to Paul Buss and due date to October.

Amber - Currently reviewing information sharing protocol, change due date to October.

Amber - Change owner to Paul Buss

Amber - KP to confirmed title of the group, change due date to October.

3. ID of cases

Red - a custody officer will work alongside an experienced custody officer for 3 weeks. Change to green.

4. IDVAs

Amber - one post funded until the end of March 2011. By next October there will be a better idea of cuts were facing. Change to red.

Amber - leave as amber, change completion date to October.

5. Training and dedicated staff

Amber - some mop up training has been completed, this is high on the agenda and will be ongoing. Change owner to include Dave McCallum. CAADA DASH training has been completed within the Police. A DVD has been commissioned called "bloody domestics" which is 20 minutes long and demonstrates how a perpetrator intimidates police officers. The identity of survivors and perpetrators hasn't been hidden. LW proposed that the DVD is re-issued with identities hidden and liaised with Susie Clements who confirmed that it is possible and can be done quickly. **ACTION 11 LW to continue to liaise with DM to agree sharing the DVD with partners.**

The CPS reported that there has been no new training for a while, everyone is DV trained. The CPS use more senior staff to deal with DV courts. Agreed to keep this action amber and always ongoing.

6. Court Listing

Red - JIG to discuss in September. Change due date to October.

7. Equality and Diversity

Amber - discussed at the Criminal Justice Board. Julie is receiving advice centrally on how to record effectively.

Amber - feedback in October - change due date.

8. Data Collection

Amber - change to green

Red - keep this action as red

9. Court facilities

Amber - change due date to October

10. Childrens Services

Amber - WISH and Next Link have been commissioned. A DVA CYPS Coordinator should be in post within the next 3 months. Report back in October - change due date.

11a - change to green

ACTION 12 changes to action plan to be made as identified (updates, status and due date).

10. Issues to report to/from the Avon & Somerset Criminal DA Justice Board

Nothing further to report.

11. AOB

Public health reported that they attended a UK Public Health Association Conference. A project has been started (cost of 5 million) to reduce violence through early intervention. There will be an open day in courts where young (low risk) gang members are invited. The YP are taught about the consequences of their actions/behaviour etc and they are offered a contract to sign to agree that they will not be involved in any gang related work for 6 months. They are awarded counselling and training for signing the contract. There will be a huge amount of undercover and intelligence work on the YP. The age group is 15 - 25 year olds. This is a similar process to IMPACT. Amy is proposing this approach is used in Bristol. **ACTION 13: Amy to write a proposal paper, take to Bristol YOT for agreement and approach Rob Wakefield and Supt. Mike Harris (leads on Bristol IMPACT) with this initiative.**

ACTION 14: LW to send the email around European Protection Orders (from Dave Warren) to this meeting and add as an agenda item for October.

There will be a Violence Against Women's day on the 25th of November. A radio programme will be run to raise awareness.

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

Action Point	Matters arising	By Who
1 (carried fwd)	Protection & Justice Action Plan, LW still working on putting it into new format, DM/LW have worked out new system to prepare for meetings.	LW
2	Ensure double listing is on the agenda for the next P&J meeting	LW/VS
3	Take double listing of DV court cases back to the Operational Group.	JM
4	Liaise with Rob Allan and compare data around double listing for Bristol against other core cities.	KP
5 (carried fwd)	Homicide reviews LW to do a paper for consideration for next mtg, (2 sides A4 max), to be sent out a week before mtg.	LW
6 (carried fwd)	DM to follow up issue of DV suspects charged but conditions not put on bail and then subsequently difficult to get conditions once they appear in court. Message sent to Insp Dave Huggins 070510	PA/DM
7	Assist LF with who to write to concerning this issue and the content of the letter.	JM
8	Provide an update on action 8.3.1	PA
9	Update on protocols and action plan on behalf of the MARAC Steering Group	MC
10	Ensure that IDVAs that the letter is appropriately worded and contact DART to agree any changes.	SL
11	Continue to liaise with DM to agree sharing the DVD with partners	LW
12	Changes to action plan to be made as identified (updates, status and due date).	
13	Write a proposal paper, take to Bristol YOT for agreement and approach Rob Wakefield and Supt. Mike Harris (leads on Bristol IMPACT) with this initiative.	Amy
14	Send the email around European Protection Orders (from Dave Warren) to this meeting and add as an agenda item for October.	LW

Next meeting 22/10/10, Central Probation Office.