



To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 13 January 2016

Subject: Update on the Perpetrator programme as part of the new Domestic Violence and Abuse Services (DVA) commissioned services for Coventry

1 Purpose of the Note

To provide the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee with an update on the Perpetrator programme provided by Fry Housing, including child perpetrators and referral times.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the progress update below
- 2) Identify any further areas for discussion or consideration
- 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Context

- 3.1 The new commissioned Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) service commenced on 29th September 2014 and replaced existing contracts. The new service was commissioned to create a more integrated programme and brings together multi-agency providers to ensure all referrals access the correct service required.
- 3.2 A key component of the new service is the introduction of a formal perpetrator programme (Brighter Futures) in the City. The programme was developed by Coventry University specifically for Coventry and is a pro-active approach to managing DVA in the City through concentrated work with perpetrators.
- 3.3 Coventry is one of a handful of authorities who commission a specific service for perpetrators with a contracted spend at **£68k** per annum.

4 Perpetrator Programme

- 4.1 Brighter Futures is a solution focussed perpetrator programme which lasts 10 weeks. The programme is mainly run through group sessions (10 people per group) with the provision for both male only and female only groups as well as 1:1 sessions (although these will be limited).
- 4.2 The University has worked closely with Fry Housing to train and develop their staff in delivering the programme and there is now a core group of trained individuals within the organisation. A key aim of the contract is to support other professionals within the City to deliver the programme (train the trainer) to widen the resource across Coventry.

- 4.3 The perpetrator programme is also open to people under the age of 18 but numbers of children accessing the service have been minimal (2 child perpetrators aged 16 – 17 have accessed the service).

However, 230 children have been referred to social care where the perpetrator has accessed the service.

In addition, Relate offer a support / counselling service which includes children who have witnessed domestic violence within their family home. This is a funded service via both the Council and Health partners.

5 Activity

- 5.1 The table below shows the statistics for 6 months of service delivery (April - September 2015) of the perpetrator programme:

	Male	Female	Total
No. of people who have accessed the programme	112	7	119
No. of people completing the programme	51	3	54
Estimated no. of people waiting for the programme			40
Estimated length of waiting			3 months

Summarised data / numbers:

- 51 people are currently accessing the programme
- Emotional, Physical and Verbal abuse equates to 92% of referrals
- 77% of cases are towards their partners (21% are ex-partners)
- White British males between ages of 25-34 are the most prominent category
- CV6 area has the highest number of referrals – 31%
- High number of referrals from social care - 70%
- Utilisation of service has been consistently high

6 Outcomes

- 6.1 As parts of the contractual requirement Fry Housing obtain feedback from perpetrators, victims and agencies involved, to identify if the programme has been a success. In the past year there have been 55 perpetrators who have completed the programme.
- 6.2 Feedback is summarised as: -

Outcome	% of people
Perpetrator demonstrates reduction in risk	93%
Perpetrator does not demonstrate reduction in risk	6%
Increase awareness and understanding of DVA	93%
Victims reporting they feel safer	18%
Victim report they are not feeling safer	6%
No improvement in relationship	4%
No longer in relationship	4%
Relationship has improved	18%

Agencies reported positive change	24%
Agencies reported negative/neutral change	4%

Key points to note:

- High report on positive feedback / changes
- Perpetrators have a greater understanding of DVA following intervention
- Victims are reported to feel safer

7 Next steps

There are currently a high number of people accessing the service and more referrals for the programme. This is likely to increase with new communities in Coventry and the need for cultural / translation services. Whilst there is a waiting list in situ a number of measures are proposed to further develop the service: -

- Prioritising the waiting list based on assessed risk through referring agencies
- Regional work to look at work with DVA perpetrators – Coventry are one of few who have a programme locally
- Explore the notion of training professionals from other organisations to deliver the programme
- Training in appropriate languages / interpreters

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