



To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 12 July 2023

Subject: Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project Update and Evaluation

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Committee regarding the evaluation of the Domestic Abuse Early Intervention Project (EIP) and to note the impact on survivors, services involved, and the wider partnership involved in addressing domestic abuse within the city

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are recommended to:

- 1) Support the following recommendations as a result of the Project which were presented to the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board:-
 - a) To strengthen a co-located approach and work pattern by increasing the awareness of the EIP to local other police resources within the Local Police Area
 - b) That the police would benefit from further training on domestic abuse including risk assessments and appropriate ways to engage with survivors and the locally commissioned services.
 - c) Improving the capacity of the EIP team to extend the service support offer that is currently available and for specialist services to review the services provided to enable survivors to attend evening and weekend support sessions
 - d) To continue to seek funding for extend the project beyond March 2024
- 2) Make recommendations or comments to the Cabinet Member regarding the outcomes of the evaluation

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The Public Health Team at Coventry City Council commissioned an Early Intervention Project (EIP) in 2021, allowing domestic abuse caseworkers to work alongside the police to provide survivors with early support in domestic abuse. The team were given access to the police internal system "Connect" to conduct follow-up contacts with domestic abuse survivors of standard and medium risk levels after the initial incident was reported to the police.

- 3.2 The EIP team comprised domestic abuse case workers from Coventry Haven Women's Aid (CHWA), and Panahghar. All of them brought the expertise and specialty of their agencies to the team to engage with and safeguard survivors in this early stage of reporting domestic abuse. With the opportunity to contact survivors after the initial incident, this project aimed to support domestic abuse survivors with early interventions at the earliest opportunity, to prevent further escalation of abuse and reduce harms and risks in the immediate aftermath of the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- 3.3 The evaluation was conducted in collaboration with Coventry University and used a mixed- methods evaluation of the EIP, using both quantitative methods and qualitative methods to evaluate differences in risk assessments between the police and the EIP team, experiences of access, outcomes, and characteristics of domestic abuse survivors, and the perceived impact of the project.
- 3.4 The target populations were survivors contacted by/accessed support services from CHWA and Panahghar between September and November in 2020, and in October 2021. These two timepoints were selected from what were deemed to be the busiest months for the two local organisations. Two timepoints enabled a comparison of the EIP service (October 2021) to service delivery prior to EIP (September-November 2020). The variation in months was to allow for similar numbers of survivors at the two timepoints.
- 3.5 Secondary data was extracted from the CHWA and Panahghar databases used routinely. Demographic information (gender, age, ethnicity, ward and indices of deprivation) as well as details about the relationship of survivors to the perpetrators, the risk levels scored by the police officers and the EIP team and the reasons for the EIP team's risk assignment, and their history and engagement with CHWA and Panahghar were extracted.
- 3.6 Some key findings from the report were:
 - There were instances where the police and the EIP team interpreted cases differently, particularly in relation to high risk
 - The EIP team interacted with more survivors in October 2021 (129 survivors) than CHWA practitioners recorded in September–November 2020 (17 survivors). In 2021, a greater number of people accepted one piece of support (124 survivors), signposting (114 survivors), ongoing support (50 survivors), and outward referrals (52 survivors) than in 2020 (17 survivors, 13 survivors, 7 survivors, 5 survivors; respectively).
 - One out of seventeen survivors experienced repeated abuse in 2020, while ten out of 129 survivors faced re-victimisation in 2021. There was no statistically significant difference.
 - All 146 survivors on the dataset provided by CHWA were female. In 2020 and 2021, most survivors that Panahghar interacted with were female (75.0%; 63.6%). The percentages of male survivors increased from 25.0% (3 of 12 survivors) to 36.4% (4 of 11 survivors) in 2021.
 - 35.3% (6 of 17 survivors) of survivors referred to CHWA in 2020 were between 20-29 years old, and one survivor was aged 70-79 years. In 2021, 36.4% (47 of 129 survivors) of survivors were aged 30-39 years in 2021. The EIP team

also recorded interactions with three (2.3%) survivors aged 10-19 years, thirteen (10.0%) aged 50-59 years and seven (5.4%) aged 60-69 years (none of whom were recorded in 2020).

- More than half (11 of 17 survivors) of survivors were White British, and one survivor was Asian, and one survivor was White Other in 2020 (Figure 6). The EIP team contacted survivors from a wider range of minority groups during the co-located project. One survivor was African, one survivor was White African, two (1.6%) survivors were Caribbean, and two (1.6%) survivors were White Caribbean in 2021
- 82% (14 of 17 survivors) of survivors experienced domestic abuse from their ex-intimate partners, one survivor experienced it from family members, and two survivors experienced it from their current partners in 2020, recorded by CHWA. In 2021, more than half (70 of 129 survivors) of survivors that the EIP team interacted with were abused by their ex- intimate partners, 26.4% (34/129) of them were abused by their current partners, and 18.6% (24/129) of them were abused by their family members.

3.7 Some Key Qualitative findings:

Professionals:

Master themes	Sub-themes
Theme 1: Safeguarding survivors	Greater disclosure from survivors Cross-checking each case Inclusive of different survivor profiles
Theme 2: Survivor-centred support provision	Personalised support Advocating the needs and voices of survivors
Theme 3: Altered ways of joint working	Mutual learning between professionals Co-working patterns in the same space Management of survivors' cases

Survivors:

Master themes	Subthemes
Theme 1: Meeting survivors' situational and personal needs through a joint safeguarding approach	Safeguarding survivors Safeguarding people around the survivor
Theme 2: Communication and skillset of the EIP team to support survivors	Survivors felt at ease and relaxed Survivors were heard, understood, and validated Highly valued knowledge level of the EIP team
Theme 3: Improving outcomes for survivors	Increases in knowledge and awareness of support available Improved wellbeing and the sense of agency and greater perceived safety

The full evaluation report will be available for circulation once finalised within the next month.

Name of Author
Jayne Ross
Domestic Abuse Programme Delivery Manager
Coventry City Council
Jayne.Ross@coventry.gov.uk