**Bath and North East Somerset**

**Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Strategic Partnership**

**Violence and Abuse against Women and Children (Men and Boys Transgendered People) Action Plan 2012 – 2015**

Domestic and sexual violence is a major social problem that has wide reaching consequences; impact on physical and mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, homelessness, anti-social behaviour, social exclusion and poverty. Not only are victims seriously affected but children, family, friends and the wider community are also affected; it touches individuals of all ages, cultures, genders, economic status and religious background.

In 2010 the Government published “Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls” strategy which provided the framework for a greater emphasis on tackling all forms of violence against women and girls. That document is also the basis of this Action Plan, and adopts the national definition of Domestic abuse as set out by.

This action plan acknowledges the gendered nature of domestic, sexual violence and abuse in that the majority of victims are women and girls. However, the Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Strategic Partnership (IVASP) recognises that men and boys may also become victims of domestic and sexual abuse and embraces the new definition of domestic abuse.

**Definition of domestic abuse Home Office March 2013**

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

• Psychological

• Physical

• Sexual

• Financial

• Emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.” \*

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

**The Action Plan**

This action plan commits to three priority themes;

**Prevention**

Aim: to change attitudes and prevent violence.

How: Raising awareness through campaigns; safeguarding and educating children and young people; early identification, intervention and training

**Provision**

Aim: improve provision and specialist support services which are essential in enabling people to end violence in their lives and recover from the damaging effects of abuse.

How: Provide a range of services to meet the needs of survivors; practical and emotional support, emergency and acute services; access to legal advice and support, refuge and safe accommodation

**Protection**

Aim: to provide an effective criminal justice system.

How: Effective investigation; prosecution; victim support and protection; perpetrator interventions.

**Bath and North East Somerset Domestic Violence Problem Profile 2011**

The problem profile provides a clear picture of the issue of domestic violence and abuse within B&NE. it sets out to highlight any trends or key issues and make recommendations based on analysis of available data. For example the data shows a rise in BME victims and offenders since 2009, an increase in repeat cases, gaps in data and evidence of underreporting of incidents.

**Performance Management**

This action plan provides a framework for the work of IVASP and a mechanism for managing progress against agreed outcomes. IVASP will consider its action plan at its quarterly meetings focusing on those actions that are not on target to be achieved or require revision or update. IVASP will also review this 3 year action plan on an interim basis, that is, at the end of each financial year.

On a six monthly basis progress on the action plan will be reported to the Responsible Authorities Group, which is the statutory body responsible for providing strategic leadership on community safety matters in Bath and North East Somerset.

| **Prevention – Increase public awareness of VAWG; reduce the tolerance and prevalence of VAWG; increase public knowledge of the support available; move towards earlier intervention. Plan Lead: Juliette Parsons** | | | | | |
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| Objectives | **Action** | **Lead person/org** | **Timescale** | **Update** | **Resources** |
| **Greater focus on implementing successful measures that have demonstrable effectiveness** | * All individual campaigns to have outcome measures built in at the planning stage that demonstrate progress to longer term goals |  |  |  |  |
| **All VAWG agencies have access to domestic violence and abuse awareness training** | * A training plan for all staff developed, co-ordinated, maintained and delivered by a consortium of providers drawn from across the IVASP partnership. * IVASP to oversee the training plan/strategy and monitor its impact * Review annually | IVASP | Quarterly  30th June  30th Sept  31st Dec  31st Mar | Quarterly MARAC training delivered 2014/15 | Training materials  Staff time  cost for specialist agencies |
| **Increase public/community awareness of the nature and impact/unacceptability of domestic violence.** | * Develop promotional material also utilise available free resources. | CSP officer/specialist DVA services | July 2013 ongoing | This is not an excuse awareness raising poster and bus campaign March 2014, | Promotional material  Staff time |
| * Ensure all B&NES agencies are aware of these materials/resources and that they have access to them |  |  | This is not an excuse resources distributed March 2014 |  |
| * Work to encourage all public and major private sector organisations to develop policies and best practice to support their staff |  |  |  |  |
| * Identify wider campaigns where key messages could be disseminated Integrate awareness raising within wider health and information campaigns |  |  |  |  |
| **Monitor the level of need for support amongst the low and medium risk groups of victims** | * Prioritise action to identify and propose how this gap in support for medium and low risk victims could be addressed | IVASP | Ongoing |  |  |
| **Emphasis on raising awareness of sexual harassment and sexual/sexist bullying and healthy relationships with young people, especially those at risk of becoming victims or perpetrators, including those living in families where domestic abuse takes place.** | * Off The Record carrying out pilot, educational work in several schools | Education/safeguarding/OTR  Off the Record | Ongoing |  |  |
| * Primary prevention embedded in schools, further and higher   education and the youth service |  |  |  |  |
| * Develop group work with young people |  |  |  |  |
| **Develop a co-ordinated approach in responding to VAWG in B&NES** | * Work with cohorts of young people in a targeted way to impact on DV by reducing the likelihood of all B&NES young people becoming victims or perpetrators | SSFP, Off the Record, YOT |  |  | Staff time |

| **Provision - Provide access to co-ordinated, high quality and effective services; Make VAWG a high priority; Improve efficiency through coordination and information sharing; Train and equip staff to improve service standard. Plan Lead: Andrew Snee** | | | | | |
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| **Objective** | **Action** | **Lead person/org** | **Deadline** | **Update** | **Resources** |
| **Develop proposals for core data requirements across agencies** | * Develop comprehensive victim profiles to understand the needs of all victims | MARAC/IVAS Partners | Ongoing |  | Staff time |
| **Ensure that high risk**  **victims of VAWG are**  **identified and supported using**  **an effective and**  **robust multi agency**  **framework** | * B&NES DV agencies to ensure that the MARAC co-ordinator post is funded appropriately and in line with need | MARAC/SSFC |  |  |  |
| * Maintain and improve the effectiveness of MARAC through an effective MARAC steering group |  |  | Chair of Provision to discuss recommendation from away day to support the work of the MARAC steering group – including lead agency and review dates agreed |  |
| **Across the IVASP partnership develop clear and consistent approaches to dealing with VAWG** | * Produce clear pathways to enable widest understanding of how services are accessed and what provisions are available for victims and perpetrators * Including victims and perpetrators who have capacity issues |  |  | * Findings of the PSTN review * Publicise DVA and SARSAS pathways * CURO to develop guidelines on dealing with perpetrator who is also a joint tenant |  |
| * Develop partnership information to ensure across the partnership a wider understanding of costs and benefits of DA services in B&NES |  |  | * Walby estimate cost of DVA £17 million pa * PSTN review |
|  | * Improve reporting rates, focus on LGBT and victims with LD/Disabilities and victims with capacity issues as identified by MARAC review |  |  | * Newly commissioned IDVA service to provide monitoring data on LGBT and victims with disabilities * LGBT training 2015 |  |
| **Ensure clear pathways to services for all victims of DV as dictated by an understanding of their varied needs especially Homeless/rough sleeping, LGBT and with Learning Disabilities** | * Identify and target client groups who are most likely to under report | DHI/ | Ongoing | * PSTN review, greater focus on early intervention * IRIS * IDVAs in a wider range of settings |  |
| * Ensure that victims of VAWG and perpetrators of VAWG who have substance misuse issues receive a co-ordinated response |  |  | * IVASP to consider how to ensure best take up of DHI services especially RSVP voluntary perpetrator programme |  |
| * Information about services and support on B&NES website |  |  | * Review DVA webpage |  |
| **Survivors of domestic abuse to be actively involved in the planning and development of services** | * Evaluate the impact of this approach | SEEDS | Ongoing  Evaluate after one year | * IVASP agreed that SEEDS (survivors group) will attend its meetings as required by the agenda with an open invitation for them to attend * PSTN review to include feedback from survivor focus group hosted by Southside |  |

| **Protection - – identifying and assessing risk, protecting victims with civil and criminal legal interventions and addressing the behaviour of perpetrators by all available means including criminal and civil justice measures. Plan Lead:** | | | | | |
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| **Objective** | **Action** | **Lead person/org** | **Deadline** | **Update** | **Resources** |
| **Develop good practice in dealing with DV** | * Conduct CAADA self –assessment * Working with Safeguarding (children and adults) ensure measures are taken to protect the most vulnerable victims | MARAC |  |  |  |
| * Continue to develop and maintain CAADA DASH (multi-agency risk assessment) and ACPO DASH assessments, including aligning them to include questions re children and young people |  |  |  |  |
| **Continue to develop and strengthen the co-ordinated approach to**  **detection, arrest, conviction and effective sentencing of perpetrators of**  **domestic violence** | * A commitment to working closely with the courts and the CPS to ensure that victims are given all the necessary support to help them through the often difficult process of prosecution | IVASP, Police Probation |  |  |  |
| * Develop clear links and working arrangements with the New Lighthouse victim hub |
| **Make available information about the range of ways survivors and children can be protected to staff across the partnership and include referral and process guidance** | * Ensure awareness raising and victim contact arrangements take into account potential risks to victims if perpetrators find out victims have contacted agencies or are looking for help | Co-ordinator of MARAC/specialist DVA services | Ongoing |  | Staff Time |
| * Monitor MARAC especially levels of re-victimisation post MARAC |
| * Monitor numbers of prolific and repeat offenders and address repeat and prolific offending |
| **Have clear Domestic Homicide Review procedures in place** | * Share protocols, procedures and learning for Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews to ensure lessons are learned and future victims are protected as far as possible. | IVASP Chair |  |  |  |
| **Reduce the number and incidence of repeat victims and reduce reoffending rate** | * Research best practice in dealing with repeat victimisation | MARAC Probation/  IVASP chair |  |  |  |
| * Work to achieve a better understanding of common factors in repeat victimisation |
| * Continue to monitor and profile repeat victimisation |
| * Achieve better understanding of IDAP stats and outcomes |
| **Young people and children affected by DV** | * Publicise information about pathways to services in support of victims and staff | YP Safeguarding |  |  |  |
| * All IVASP partners to ensure YP have access to provision and remove barriers |