

Overview and Scrutiny

Response to Recommendations

Title of review	Domestic Violence
Date review completed	March 2011
	<u>UPDATE FEBRUARY 2012</u>
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Total number of pages	17

Guidance

The final report of the above review has been considered by Cabinet and responses are now required to the recommendations contained within the report. Follow this three step response to each recommendation which are set out on an individual page in this document.

PART ONE

Response from the Cabinet Member/Executive to recommendation, to be completed two months after publication of review

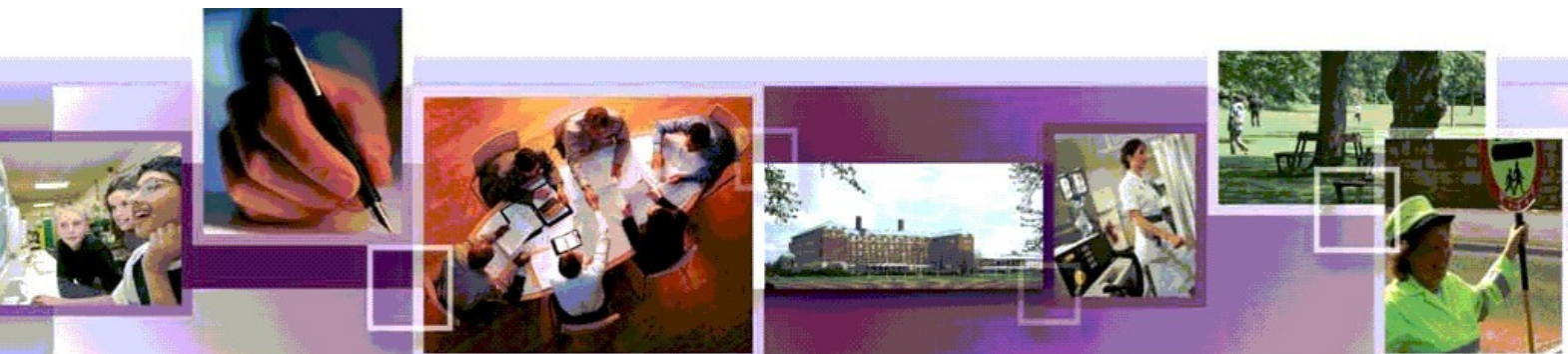
PART TWO

Response from the Department to progress on carrying out recommendation, to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

PART THREE

Additional comments or further action required, to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee.

- Should you need further assistance in completing this response, please contact the Lead Scrutiny Officer above. Visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/scrutiny for a copy of the review.



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Recommendation 1 (of 17)

The County Council take a lead on developing a small number of data reports to reflect as accurately as possible the volume of domestic violence in the county. This could be used by the Safeguarding Boards and Safer Nottinghamshire Board to monitor the impact of their work.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick ✓)

This forms part of the work undertaken by the County Council and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to produce a Domestic Violence Framework 2011-13. A final framework document, that includes recommendations on data reports, was approved at the Safer Nottinghamshire Board June 2011. The Framework also includes reference to a new Domestic Violence Strategic Partnership Group to take forward further developments in the sector such as those recommended in the Scrutiny report. Terms of reference for the new Strategic Partnership Group are being written for circulation in the next two months.

PART TWO to be completed xx months after Cabinet Member's response

Response from the **PPCS Department** to progress on carrying out recommendation

Date due

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Date provided

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The first of these Data Reports was submitted to the newly formed Safer Nottinghamshire Board DV Performance and Strategy Group. This is very much a first attempt at this Report which will be improved and enlarged for the next quarterly meeting in Mat 2012. See attached

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 2 & 3 (of 17)

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County Council workers receive safeguarding training that will equip them to identify risk, and offer support to children and young people who live in homes where they witness domestic violence, or where are involved in abusive relationships.

The impact on the safeguarding of children and young people be thoroughly examined when reductions in service provision, or funding for domestic violence support services, are proposed.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☒ partially accept ☐ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

2. There will be a new Training Plan linked to the Domestic Violence Framework described in answer to recommendation 1. This plan will include domestic abuse safeguarding training. The County Council staff groups that need this training will be clearly identified. Information about access to training courses should be displayed in the intranet. Outcomes should be monitored to assess how far this has been achieved.

The following is already provided for staff working in children's services:

Training Courses regarding domestic violence are provided by the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum (NDVF). These courses are free to professionals working in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City. The regular NDVF emails containing information about the training are circulated via the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board (NSCB) Training Sub-Group and training pool members for wider distribution across agencies. The NSCB training programme also signposts colleagues to where they can find the NDVF training information. In 2010/11 the NSCB developed and provided a "Trilogy of Risk" course which considered risks to children where one or more of the following factors are present:-

- domestic violence
- mental health
- parental substance misuse.

Issues regarding domestic violence are also contained within the core courses run by the NSCB. A further event based on the "Trilogy of Risk" course will be provided during 2011/12.

This response includes contributions from portfolio holders for Adult Services and Children's Services as well as Community Safety

3. Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board has advised partners, including the County Council, to examine the impact on safeguarding of any reductions in the funding of domestic violence services, as recommended.

The risk and impacts of changes have been explored through the Consultation processes for Supporting People.

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Children's Social Care has maintained its investment in working with the specialist domestic violence sector to embed specialist domestic violence workers within its reception and assessment team, to enable them to provide a professional and expert service to vulnerable children experiencing domestic violence on their own homes. In addition, Children's Social Care continues to work with the police to gain a better understanding of the appropriateness of referrals to children's social care regarding issues of domestic violence. This work is reducing the number of inappropriate referrals and thus allowing those children who require Children's Social Care intervention to receive it in a more timely way. Team support workers are currently embedded within the Police Public Protection Unit and there is an ongoing review of the effectiveness of these posts. A further report on the impact of funding reductions on children affected by domestic abuse will be submitted to the NSCB in July 2011.

Children referred to Children's Social Care as a consequence of domestic violence are provided with advice and information as well as additional emotional and behavioural support as required through the service's reception and assessment teams which have embedded specialist link domestic violence workers. Through these workers children and young people can access individual work, group work and a range of appropriate advice and guidance information.

This response includes contributions from portfolio holders for Adult Services and Children's Services as well as Community Safety

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2) The Training Plan has been drafted and linked to the Framework. Each agency has now been asked to specify what level of training is expected of their staff in key posts.

3) There have been no further reductions to services since July 2011. Key areas of delivery are currently subject to a competitive tendering process designed to increase efficiency and quality of response to domestic violence.

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 4 (of 17)

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Young people identified as living in homes where domestic violence exists be provided with additional emotional and behavioural support, to help them understand that violence is not normal. In addition, guidance for parents on the impact of domestic violence on their children should be made available, linked to this support for children and young people.

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4. There is a budget from Nottinghamshire Children and Families and Cultural Services and NHS Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw PCTs of £110,000 for this work in Nottinghamshire for 2011-12. It has been reduced by 15% from 2010-11. Some provision is available in each district but the demand exceeds supply and supply is reducing.

Mainstream services such as schools, youth service, social care are unable to give the level of support required even when staff have expertise in this area (which many do not) so they refer on to these specialist services, demonstrating the need for them. Evidence show that they do make a difference to future outcomes particularly in relation mental health.

This is a key concern of the Community Safety Portfolio Holder.

Both the Youth Justice/Targeted Support Service and the Young People's Service undertake direct work with young people at risk of and/or experiencing domestic violence, on both an individual and group basis. This work is usually focused upon prevention and harm minimisation. Both Services, along with other children and young people's services, refer cases, as appropriate, into the Council's key arrangement for accessing early intervention focused support for children and young people – the network of 42 locality based multi-agency joint access teams (JATs).

In addition services such as the Early Years and Early Intervention Service work directly with families where domestic violence may be present. Here, the Service is also represented on JATs, and is also leading work to redefine and reshape the Council's family focused support services both to minimise gaps in provision and to ensure key issues such as domestic violence are addressed by Council services.

This response includes contributions from the portfolio holders for Children's Services and Community Safety.

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4) The services for children's outreach described above are currently subject to a tender process so will continue at the current level for at least 2 further years. Additional funding for children who disclose domestic abuse to staff at their school has been identified and commissioned, thus extending the hours of support available.

Work with parents is available in North Nottinghamshire funded by a Lottery Grant to Nottinghamshire Womens Aid. Some support is available elsewhere via the "Freedom Programme" delivered in Children's Centres and by Probation.

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 5 & 6 (of 17)

Education for young people regarding domestic abuse and violence in intimate relationships be supported and encouraged, and mechanisms be found to ensure this work continues.

All schools develop a domestic violence policy which safeguards young people from emotional and physical harm and addresses issues for young people in teenage relationships.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

Date due Date provided

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5. Programmes are available for children and young people but providers may need to charge for their delivery – the level of provision varies according to availability of funding. Schools cannot be required to include this education within the school programme and some do refuse even when funding is available. Bassetlaw Secondary schools have consistently engaged with this programme with funding from Bassetlaw PCT.

Community Safety funding is being sought to improve the number of school programmes running this year, especially within high crime "priority areas". We already know that Brunts School, Samworth .Academy, Sutton Community College and Quarrydale School are planning "Healthy Relationship Programmes" covering domestic violence and teenage partner violence in the coming year.

6. This can be recommended for schools but not mandated under existing conditions. Guidance for Schools in dealing with issues of Domestic Violence of which it is aware amongst its pupil cohort has been produced and it is anticipated that this will

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be available via the Schools' *Wired* System by the start of the next academic year in September 2011.

Dayncourt School in Rushcliffe, has been selected for a pilot project funded by Comic Relief to develop a "Whole School Approach to Domestic Violence". The results of this 2 year pilot will also be shared on the Schools' *Wired* System.

These recommendations are partially accepted because Nottinghamshire County Council cannot directly influence school policy. This response includes contributions from the portfolio holders for Children's Services and Community Safety.

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5) In addition to the above, there has been a successful bid to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to introduce Healthy Relationship Education into 12 Primary Schools in Priority Plus Areas in the current academic year and another group of Primary Schools the following year. This is in addition to work in key secondary schools on this issue, described above, developed by the Community Safety Partnerships.

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 7 (of 17)

Further examination of services and support available for men, hard to reach and minority groups.

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A review of this provision will be produced for Cabinet/ O&S by November 2011.

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7) Provision for Male Victims has been reviewed and a briefing sent to the Members Reference Group (on Grant Aid).

Following a multi-agency meeting on this issue, a new multi-agency plan on the issues for Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee people affected by domestic and sexual violence has been drafted. This will be the subject of a report to the next meeting of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board DV Performance and Strategy Group

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 8 (of 17)

More integrated and coherent funding streams to reduce duplication and inefficiency. Future funding and commissioning of services is vital for this vulnerable group of victims.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

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Date provided

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8. A series of meetings have been scheduled to explore possibilities in relation to future funding. The budget holders are recommending more joined-up approach to commissioning and a reduced number of contracts. Since this may impact on services in local areas, a consultation proposal on this issue is going to Cabinet in July. The proposal is for this consultation to be conducted during August and September to seek views on a number of options. The results would go to Cabinet in October 2011.

With regard to overall funding levels a reduction of 18% has been made in the total allocation of funds from local partners in the current year as compared to the previous year. However the impact of the reductions to the Supporting People Budget (in Adult Social Care) will be felt strongly next year resulting in a total budget reduction (if other funds remain constant) of 28%. Since there is a strong possibility that other reductions will be made next this could rise to over 30% in just 2 years.

The impact of commissioning changes and budget reductions will be assessed over time and Members kept informed

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8) The joint commissioning process has been designed by a group of officers across the Council agreed and with Portfolio Holders and Cabinet. The process was subject to a consultation exercise with stakeholders in August/September 2011 and adapted in response to the replies received to arrange services into 2 lots, covering North and South Nottinghamshire. The services went out to tender, jointly, in November 2011 and applications were returned in January. The outcome will be known in April 2012. The jointly commissioned services will be started in August 2012

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Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

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Consideration be given to merging services to improve the management of limited resources and facilitate uniformity of provision across the county by a smaller number of commissioners and providers. This is especially important where services contribute to limiting crime and safeguarding children.

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9. This issue is very complex.

The consultation proposal on future commissioning, see above at 8, will include options for reducing the number of services in each area that are funded through public funds.

Where there is a clear business case this approach is already being developed as with MARAC provision in 2011. However the 7 domestic violence specialist voluntary sector organisations in Nottinghamshire are all still delivering a range of services using public, private and charitable funding. There is a great deal of local support for these organisations and valuable expertise contained within them. They are independent organisations. Funding decisions can limit the number of providers but this also introduces a competitive environment and overlap of delivery on the ground because agencies no longer have mutually exclusive catchment areas.

At the present time a dual approach is being followed:
Encouragement to merge and some commissioning directed to a smaller number of providers.
Service improvement within existing providers via the DV Services Review in order to raise overall standards and limit the effects of competitive commissioning.

This recommendation is only partially accepted because this issue is subject to public consultation in the near future. This response includes a contribution from the Deputy Leader portfolio holder for Grant Aid as well as the portfolio holder for Community Safety

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9) See section 8 above for commissioning report

The small organisations have continued to operate independently to date, but are working more effectively together, especially in South Nottinghamshire

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Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 10 & 11 (of 17)

Simplification of all County Council funding streams for both application and monitoring arrangements.

The efficiency and effectiveness of pooling budgets and implementing joint monitoring arrangements, needs to be explored.

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Response from the **Cabinet Member/Executive** to recommendation

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Date provided

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10 and 11

As described above in 8

A series of meetings have been scheduled to explore possibilities in relation to future funding. The budget holders are recommending more joined-up approach to commissioning and a reduced number of contracts. Since this may impact on services in local areas, a consultation proposal on this issue is going to Cabinet in July. The proposal is for consultation to be conducted during August and September to seek views on a number of options. The results would go to Cabinet in October 2011.

The options for consultation all include more streamlined application processes and monitoring arrangements that can deliver savings for both commissioners and providers.

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10-11) See section 8 above

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Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 12 (of 17)

The MARACs system be maintained at its current level and consideration be given to extending this to medium risk cases.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

Response from the Cabinet Member/Executive to recommendation

Date due

Date provided

I, accept ☐ partially accept ☒ do not accept ☐ the recommendation (please tick✓)

12. MARACs are being retained and developed but the available funding has been reduced by 18% due to financial constraints across the partnership

The situation is under review by Safer Nottinghamshire Board with respect to risk of harm and effectiveness of the risk assessment processes used to select the highest risk cases for MARAC. Developments in information sharing between the Police, Social Care and Probation are showing that where a victim is willing to engage, effective agency responses can take place earlier, before the MARAC meeting. This results in a reduction in the number of cases that need the MARAC process.

At this stage it is not possible to extend MARAC to include medium risk cases however more could be done to support the survivors concerned through both police systems, other mainstream services and specialist outreach services should money be made available. Medium risk victims need secure and effective specialist services outside the MARAC to be continued. This includes the refuge and outreach services where reductions of 30% and 50% respectively are due to take place over the next 12 months.

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This recommendation is only partially accepted because the Safer Nottinghamshire Board does not have capacity to extend MARACs to include Medium Risk at the present time.

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12) No change from the above at present

A multi agency approach to medium risk repeat cases is being looked at in the context of the Vulnerable Persons Panels and the Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 13 & 14 (of 17)

Adequate funding be made available to maintain and promote the Women's Aid 24 hour help line.

The helpline be promoted as the main referral route for all agencies.

PART ONE to be completed two months after publication of review

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13 and 14.

Work has been done through the Domestic Violence Services Review to ensure that the Women's Aid 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline is promoted effectively as the main referral route for all agencies in Nottinghamshire.

In the current year the Women's Aid 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline has lost the

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following funding from Nottinghamshire that was provided in 2010-11:

NHS Nottinghamshire PCT £25,000

South Notts Community Safety Partnership £25,000

NCC Grant Aid is providing £28,000 instead of the previous £30,000

So a total loss of £52,000 in a single year.

The Helpline is continuing using Big Lottery, Nottingham City Council, and Nottingham PCT **supplemented by their own reserves** for a limited period.

More money is needed here but it is mainly partnership funding that has been lost, not County Council funding. The Portfolio Holder for Grant Aid is unable to help at present since the Grant Aid funding for 2011/12 is fully committed. However, this is something members may wish to consider for the 2012/13 through the Members Reference Group.

The July report to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board recommends that this issue to be raised at the Children's Trust and the Health and Well-Being Board.

This response includes a contribution from the Deputy Leader portfolio holder for Grant Aid as well as the portfolio holder for Community Safety.

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13-14)The 24 Hour Helpline has been maintained to date supported by a private donation this year. The Helpline is being promoted as the single point of contact for victims/survivors and all agencies

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Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

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A strategic lead at both Member and officer level be appointed. Consideration be given to the appointment of an officer within the Chief Executives department with responsibility for coordinating domestic violence support for the authority.

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15. This is under consideration – one suggestion is for this responsibility to rest with the Group Manager, Localism and Partnerships.

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board now has a Domestic Violence Champion - John Robinson, Chief Executive of Gedling Borough Council. John has been able to commit time to partnership meetings and has been effective as a voice on this issue within the partnership.

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15) John Robinson continues to be an effective Champion on behalf of SNB
Ann Marie Hawkins, Group Manager Localism and Partnerships is supporting him and leading on this issue within the Council

PART THREE to be completed by Chair/Lead Officer of select committee

Additional comments or further action required

Not to be completed

Recommendation 16 & 17(of 17)

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To facilitate a faster and more effective response, progress towards co-location and common risk assessment should be continued.

Closer links be formed with health care units. Awareness raising for staff in GP practices be increased and opportunities for staff to attend training on this issue made available. Literature, which supplies information about specialist domestic violence advice and support, be available in surgery waiting rooms and A & E units.

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16. Co-location of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care with the Police Domestic Violence Support Unit is already being explored and has been partially implemented in Mansfield. The Police are following a model developed in Cornwall that has proved effective. Supt Helen Chamberlain, force lead for Public Protection, is now addressing a county and force wide approach to these developments which is taking some time but should be completed in 2012.

The newly implemented ACPO risk assessment has been introduced countywide and further training is planned in the autumn to ensure all practitioners are able to use this effectively.

This response includes contributions from the Portfolio Holders for Adult Services and Community Safety.

17. Progress within primary health care is being piloted in Mansfield by NHS Nottinghamshire County. In secondary care some training is available at Kings Mill and QMC Emergency departments and a new post has been created within the Healthcare Trust (Mental Health) to deliver training.

When public health functions are moved into the County Council it may be possible to influence this further from within ASCH. The closer link with health and awareness raising will be addressed through Joint Commissioning arrangements and through the work of the Health and Well-Being Board.

This response includes contributions from the Portfolio Holders for Adult Services and Community Safety

These recommendations are only partially accepted because Nottinghamshire County Council is not able to implement such improvements without support from other agencies. It is suggested that this report is circulated to Nottinghamshire Police and NHS Nottinghamshire Community Health for their comments on these recommendations.

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16) Co-location for the IDVA services has not been achieved in South Nottinghamshire due to problems with accommodation management within the Police. We are assured this will be implemented soon

17) A meeting has been set up for later in February with the lead for DV in Public Health to explore developments in Health Services across NHS Nottinghamshire. NHS re-organisation has made it very difficult to pursue this more quickly

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