

## **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on
  - recent developments relating to domestic and sexual abuse and
  - changes to strategic planning and commissioning arrangements within the County Council for domestic and sexual abuse

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **2. Data and outcomes**

Police and Crown Prosecution Service information for the year to December 2013 shows a mixed picture for domestic abuse. Whilst domestic abuse is clearly a significant issue and levels are rising, there is evidence that partnership processes are impacting positively to limit repeats and bring more perpetrators to justice.

The target to increase disclosure and therefore encourage more first time domestic abuse incident reports as compared with the previous year has been achieved with a 5% increase. This has led to an 8.5% increase in recorded crime but without any increase in repeat crimes. Court data shows more domestic abuse crimes that have been detected are being charged and more of these are successfully prosecuted. The figures for sexual violence continue to rise but this is a national trend and includes the "Saville effect".

	Year to dec 2012	Year to dec 2013	%age change
Domestic Abuse Incidents	7464	7799	5%
Domestic Abuse Crimes	2923	3172	8.5%
Domestic Abuse Repeat Victims	13% of all victims	13% of all victims	0%
Sanctioned detections resulting in charge	45.7%	50%	4.3%
Successful Domestic Abuse	71.4%	73%	1.6%

Prosecutions			
Serious Sexual Violence	318	368	16%

All reports to the Police are now graded as High, Medium or Standard Risk with High Risk addressed by a multi-agency team at MARAC<sup>1</sup>. Work to support Medium Risk survivors and links with the Vulnerable People's Panels in the Districts provide some help for those classified as Medium Risk. Specialist help for Standard Risk survivors is available if they access the 24 Hour Helpline. There they receive immediate advice and information but they may have to wait for several weeks for on-going support services.

Risk level	HIGH	MEDIUM	STANDARD	Awaiting grade
Breakdown 2013	11%	22.2%	55.6%	11.2%

Ashfield and Mansfield remain the Districts with the highest levels of domestic abuse. However the volume of crimes in Gedling has risen fastest in 2013 by 19% from 890 to 1,044 separate crimes and this has given rise to some concern.

With regard to sexual violence it is South Nottinghamshire where we see the significant increases with reports rising by 58% from 78 serious sexual offences reported in 2012 to 123 of the same in 2013.

More data is contained in the revised Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Domestic Abuse. This is being drafted currently with the final version available to Members in May 2014.

### 3. Governance:

Both the Nottinghamshire Health and Well-being Board and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board have a role in the governance of partnership arrangements for domestic and sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire. A joint committee that reports to both these Boards has been established. It is called the Nottinghamshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive. A broad range of partners including Police, Probation, Community Safety Partnerships, Third Sector, and NHS work with the local authorities to agree strategic plans, commissioning priorities, governance arrangements and performance targets across the partnership. It is chaired by John Robinson CEO of Gedling BC.

Within the County Council the lead department is now Public Health with commissioning approval through the Health and Well-being Board. However this Community Safety Committee continues to have a leadership role in strategic planning and linkage with the broader crime reduction and community safety agendas.

### 4. 2014 Domestic Violence Review

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<sup>1</sup> Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

Members and partners are awaiting the outcome report from the 2014 Domestic Violence Review that has been led by the Police and Crime Commissioner. A draft report is due by the end of April. This will inform future planning and commissioning.

5. Sexual Abuse Review and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

This work is still on-going following the report to Community Safety Committee in September 2013. A further report and the first Nottinghamshire Strategic Needs Assessment on Sexual Abuse will be available to Members in July 2014.

6. HMIC Review of Domestic Violence and forthcoming PCC Conference

The recent national review of Police responses to domestic violence has been published by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary. Nottinghamshire was considered to have a generally effective response, with some room for improvement. Points to note:

- Some different processes are used in City and County
- Nottinghamshire could improve its management of serial perpetrators
- Further Police training is needed to improve risk identification and use of professional judgement

As a response to the HMIC and the local Domestic Violence Review, the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner is organising a Conference in May 2014 which will address these and other issues.

*"Domestic Violence Event – Reflecting Upon What is Working in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire" at Nottingham Race Course on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014*

7. Future Commissioning

The current contracts for domestic abuse services are due to end in 2015. Re-commissioning in 2015 will be informed by:

- Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic needs Assessment  
*draft available now*
- Domestic Violence Review 2014  
*draft available end of April*
- Nottingham City Safe from Harm Review – there is an agreement to align commissioning with then City as far as is possible. For example to use the same outcome measures, and data recording methods.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 9 That the Community Safety Committee notes the recent developments and changes to strategic planning and commissioning arrangements relating to domestic and sexual abuse.

**Chris Kenny**  
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**Constitutional Comments (SLB 11/04/2014)**

- 10 This report is for noting only.

**Financial Comments (SEM 14/04/14)**

- 11 There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- **None**

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- **All**