

North Yorkshire County Council**Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee****21 January 2013****Domestic Abuse Commissioning Strategy for North Yorkshire and York****1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress of the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy for North Yorkshire & York 2012 in preparation for the revision of the next Domestic Abuse Strategy for North Yorkshire & York 2013-2017.

2 Background

- 2.1 The City of York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy defines domestic abuse as:
'Any violent or abusive behaviour – whether physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, verbal or financial – which is used by one adult to control and dominate another with whom they have or have had a personal or family relationship regardless of gender'.
- 2.2 The Domestic Abuse Strategy for North Yorkshire and York 2009-2013 recognises that abuse can have a devastating impact on victims and their families, and tackling and reducing instances of abuse remains a key priority for partners across York and North Yorkshire.
- 2.3 From April 2011-March 2012, 7261 'Domestic Incidents' were recorded across North Yorkshire and York. 18% of these were repeat incidents and at 17% of all incidents children or young people were recorded as present. North Yorkshire Supporting People's Services recorded that in 2010-11, 906 clients accessed formal support from a specialist domestic abuse service.
- 2.4 To continue to reduce the impact of domestic abuse and the effects on families across North Yorkshire, we need to ensure that services are improving people's lives, with an emphasis on early-intervention and providing secure provision and consistent services across the county. To help achieve these aims the Joint Commissioning Strategy and action plan have been developed using a community budget approach due to year on year concerns about the insecurity of sufficient funding to provide a continuing, consistent level of service to domestic abuse victims, children and perpetrators.

3 Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy Steering Group

- 3.1 A multi-agency Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy Steering Group was established as a Task & Finish Group to develop and progress a strategic commissioning strategy. The group met monthly to complete the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy Project Plan.
- 3.2 The group completed an overview of current services for victims, perpetrators and children and young people affected by domestic abuse. This informed a mapping process to explore further the implications of the analysis and examine possible practical solutions to enable the development of proposals to improve existing pathways for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse of all ages by enhancing existing provision.
- 3.3 A Communication and Consultation Strategy and action plan was developed and agreed to deliver an equitable and consistent approach to communications county-wide and to ensure stakeholders were engaged and informed throughout the strategy's development. The development of the strategy has been regularly reported to the Commissioning Bodies and children's and adults safeguarding boards for both City of York and North Yorkshire; Consultation has been carried out with stakeholders and by making the draft strategy available to the public.

4 Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy North Yorkshire & York 2012

- 4.1 This strategy sets out the framework by which North Yorkshire County Council, City of York and Partners will match the needs and aspirations of local communities, agreed priorities and desired outcomes with the resources available to it.
- 4.2 The strategy brings together information from a wide range of sources and it considers access to current service provision and performance of those services. The outcomes from this strategy will enable the continued delivery of the current City of York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2013 and shape future priorities for the North Yorkshire and York Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group.
- 4.3 Outcomes to be delivered by the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy are:
 - To improve the safety of victims and children who witness and experience domestic abuse.
 - To enable the development of services based on evidenced need.

- To deliver equitable, coordinated and consistent services across the county.
- To provide a funding framework for current and future domestic abuse services by using the vehicle of a Community Budget.
- To evidence our long-term commitment to reducing the impact of domestic abuse and to deliver the City of York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

4.4 Identified Priorities:

4.4.1 The priorities for change that the Joint Commissioning Strategy will facilitate are identified below:

- Safeguard Domestic Abuse Accommodation based services and specialist floating support services as much as possible.
- Recurrent mainstream funding should be made available to support service provision via a community budget model.
- Improve service pathways for Children and Young People affected by Domestic Abuse through enhancing existing provision.
- Safeguard the North Yorkshire & York Making Safe Scheme, including support for victims/survivors and improve the distribution of services based on evidenced need.

4.5 Next Steps:

4.5.1 The Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy will now be presented through Local Domestic Abuse Forums to Local Councils, Police and Local Care Commissioning Groups for signup. To address the priorities for change identified in the Commissioning Strategy a draft implementation action plan has been developed to identify practical proposals for delivery of the strategy. These include integrating closely with existing referral, assessment and service provision routes to ensure families' experience of support is rounded and joined up and the development of a Domestic Abuse Training strategy to enhance existing services.

4.5.2 The Joint Coordinating Group approved the final draft strategy in October 2012 and from December 2012 we are asking all partners from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors to sign up to this strategy. Sign-up represents partners' commitment to the principles underpinning the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy and to supporting the delivery of five agreed outcomes, as outlined in the executive summary, and a commitment to the principle of long-term,

sustainable funding for domestic abuse services, through a community budget approach.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That Members approve the progress of the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy for North Yorkshire and York 2013-2017.

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Background documents: None

Annexe: Joint Commissioning Strategy 2013-2017 For Domestic Abuse Services in North Yorkshire & York (Executive Summary)

Joint Commissioning Strategy 2013-2017 For Domestic Abuse Services in North Yorkshire & York

Executive summary

Purpose of the Strategy

This strategy sets out the framework by which North Yorkshire County Council, City of York and Partners will match the needs and aspirations of local communities, agreed priorities and desired outcomes with the resources available to it. The strategy brings together information from a wide range of sources and considers access to current service provision and performance of those services. Multi-agency sign-up to the outcomes from this strategy will enable the continued delivery of the current York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2013 and shape future priorities for the North Yorkshire and York Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group.

The Joint Commissioning Strategy recognises that abuse can have a devastating impact on victims and their families, and tackling and reducing instances of abuse remains a key priority for partners across York and North Yorkshire. Partners committed to the strategy recognise that Domestic Abuse is widespread throughout every socio-economic group and occurs across all communities.

Outcomes to be delivered by the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy

Sign-up to the strategy represents partners' commitments to the principles underpinning the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy and to supporting the delivery of the following five outcomes:

1. To improve the safety of victims and children who witness and experience domestic abuse.
2. To enable the development of services based on evidenced need improving the quality of monitoring, recording of outcomes and impact to ensure the success of services.
3. To deliver equitable, coordinated and consistent services across the county working towards alignment of services across York and North Yorkshire.
4. To provide a funding framework for current and future domestic abuse services by using the vehicle of a Community Budget.
5. To evidence our long-term commitment to reducing the impact of domestic abuse and to deliver the City of York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Domestic Abuse Funding & Services Review

To inform the strategy and identify the security of our services a Domestic Abuse Funding & Services Review was undertaken of all funding which supports any targeted Domestic Abuse Service along with an analysis of our existing services outcomes and cost-efficiency.

The multi-agency Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy Steering Group completed mapping of existing service pathways to demonstrate gaps in services and or reliance on existing services e.g. Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA).

The Key points from this review are:

- Historically funding for domestic abuse services has been generally short term and not recurrent.
- Funding through community safety has been based on requests for funding to address priorities.
- Existing pathways need to be secure and improved to deliver the most positive outcome for Victims, Children, Young People and Perpetrators.
- There is a need for those not directly involved in abuse work to understand how their work supports their service priorities.

Partners signed up to this strategy recognise these issues and are committed to the principle of long-term, sustainable funding through a community budget approach.

Priorities

The main priorities for change that the Joint Commissioning Strategy will facilitate are identified below:

- Safeguard Domestic Abuse Accommodation based services and specialist floating support services as much as possible.
- Recurrent mainstream funding should be made available to support service provision via a community budget model.
- Improve service pathways for Children and Young People affected by Domestic Abuse through enhancing existing provision.
- Safeguard the North Yorkshire & York Making Safe Scheme, including support for victims/survivors and improve the distribution of services based on evidenced need.

Turning the strategy into practice

An implementation action plan has been developed describing how the work will be implemented. Progress against the plan will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group. The Action Plan will be updated quarterly and the identified priorities for change will be assimilated with the North Yorkshire and York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2013. The North Yorkshire & York Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group approved the Joint Commissioning Strategy in October 2012, partners support the actions outlined in the plan and will facilitate the effective implementation of the plan as appropriate.

Future commissioning will be led by NYCC, City of York and the Police with appropriate District or Borough Council/s using an agreed commissioning framework. Future procurement will be influenced by the priorities identified within this strategy and the York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Organisations from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sector are invited to sign up to the strategy. Sign-up represents partners' commitment to the principles underpinning the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy and to supporting the delivery of agreed outcomes.

North Yorkshire & York Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group