

1.0 Title of report York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008 to 2011

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group is now consulting on the York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008 to 2011. The Joint Coordinating Group has a membership of key stakeholders from both the voluntary and statutory sector and representatives are at a level where they are able to make decisions and commitments from their agencies regarding countywide Domestic Abuse issues. This report is intended to inform other groups and agencies of contents of the strategy for the consultation.

3.0 Description of the strategy

3.1 The York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008 to 2011 is the follow up strategy to the York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005 to 2008. The new strategy defines Domestic Abuse providing information about the prevalence of Domestic Abuse in a national and local context. It also highlights the good practice and achievements of the 2005-08 strategy where strengthened partnership working is having an impact on keeping families safe, reducing homelessness, reducing repeat incidents of domestic abuse

4.0 Strategic Priorities

4.1 The strategy focuses on 6 broad Strategic Priorities which are detailed more fully below;

4.2 Adult Victims/Survivors of Domestic Abuse

- Co-ordinated services which prioritise their and their children's safety
- A range of services, sufficiently flexible to meet their individual needs
- An approach that encourages empowerment and self-determination
- Services that recognise and respond to the diverse needs of the area, for example survivors living in isolated rural areas, disabled survivors and survivors from black and minority ethnic groups
- Participation in developing services to address their needs in the future
- Prevention work to ensure a consistent approach to improved safety, support and information
- An assessment of needs on individual cases

4.3 Children & Young People

- Inter-agency co-ordination between domestic abuse work, safeguarding work and contact arrangements
- Help and support for those living in violent homes to ensure they are not left isolated to deal with their experiences
- Information given to them that the violence they have experienced is wrong, illegal and they are not to blame

- Education programmes within schools to provide children and young people with the knowledge and skills to build relationships based on respect and that are not abusive
- Assessment of needs and an appropriate level of intervention.
- Working towards providing integrated and earlier intervention by services county-wide.
- Develop consistent and equitable provision of services county-wide.

4.4 Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse

- Effective use of legislation and pro-arrest policies to prosecute offenders
- Provide effective programmes and individual solutions which will help them to change their behaviour
- Negative consequences sufficient to act as a deterrent e.g. stringent bail conditions, tougher sentencing
- Individual assessment of perpetrators to ensure that appropriate interventions are applied

4.5 Practitioners who provide services

- Resources to disseminate good practice
- Awareness raising, training and support for all relevant staff (including consistent multi-agency training).
- Standard definitions relating to domestic abuse service provision, allowing all organisations to work towards a common purpose
- Quality Standards against which services can be assessed and compared

4.6 Organisations and agencies that resource domestic abuse services

- Performance Management to track the effectiveness of the strategy
- Improved data collection to ensure that future services can be more effectively targeted
- Effective identification of Victim/survivors and improving the reporting and recording of incidents of domestic abuse
- Identification of perpetrators by agencies through generic and specific assessment tools providing effective interventions to change their behaviour

4.7 Wider Communities

- Awareness raising and education to challenge behaviour and change attitudes to dispel the many myths about domestic abuse

5.0 Strategic Outcomes

5.1 The strategy focuses on 10 Strategic Outcomes;

- Safer communities
- Coordinated support for Victim/survivors, dependents and wider family

- Better knowledge for the community and professionals of the services available to survivors of domestic abuse
- Clear message within society that domestic abuse is unacceptable
- A reduction in the incidence of domestic abuse and repeat victimisation
- An increase in service user satisfaction
- A reduction in the long term negative consequences of domestic abuse to survivors and children who experience domestic abuse
- The upholding of human rights
- In the longer term, a measurable reduction in the cost of domestic abuse to society

6.0 Implementation Plan

- 6.1 In order to ensure delivery of the strategy there is an implementation plan which focuses on specific actions for the 6 strategic priorities. This part of the strategy is a working document and will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Domestic Abuse Joint Co-ordinating Group.
- 6.2 The Performance Management section includes actions on reviewing and monitoring.
- 6.3 The service for Adult Survivors/Victims section includes actions on;
- Identifying and developing services
 - Data collection and service user engagement
 - Providing a coordinated response to Domestic Abuse within the Criminal Justice System including Specialist Domestic Violence Courts across York and North Yorkshire
 - Emergency accommodation
 - The Making Safe Scheme
 - Developing services for people with no recourse to public funds.
- 6.4 The services for Children & Young People Section links with the Children and Young Peoples Plan and includes actions on;
- Reviewing the role of Integrated Services in relation to Domestic Abuse
 - Education programmes in schools
 - Reviewing levels of intervention
 - Sustainability of strategic support and services for young people including Initial contact and safety planning for children and young people via the Making Safe Scheme
 - Reviewing Police Domestic Violence Protocols with regards to the impact on children and young people.
 - Baseline datasets
- 6.5 The working with perpetrators section includes actions on;
- Delivering and monitoring Domestic Violence Intervention Projects (voluntary courses for perpetrators of domestic abuse)
 - Reviewing and developing further perpetrator programmes for female perpetrators and young perpetrators
- 6.6 The Multi Agency Working section delivers the strategic priorities of practitioners who provide services as well as organisations and agencies that resource services. This includes actions on;

- Continuing and developing Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference for serious incidents of Domestic Abuse.
 - Developing standardised training/awareness raising package across York and North Yorkshire linking with other relevant training.
 - Developing a quality standard for agencies that supply Domestic Abuse Services which is endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group
- 6.7 This section also includes the wider community strategic priority to increase awareness to the general public.

7.0 Timescales

7.1 In order to ensure that there is adequate consultation on the strategy the following timescales have been set;

7.2 Table of timescales

Consultation on the strategy	January to March 2009
Amendments to the strategy to Incorporating the consultation	April 2009
Final draft to Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group	7 May 2009
Launch of Strategy (including signing up to the strategy)	June to early July 2009

8.0 Contact Details

8.1 The full strategy is now available from the following:

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP) website: www.nysp.org.uk

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8.2 If you would like to be involved in the consultation or for further information please contact either Jo Beilby, Sandra Rees, Steve Harris or Amanda Coates on the details above.