

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Agenda Item Cover Sheet

TITLE OF PAPER:

Domestic Abuse Update

DATE OF MEETING:

22nd March 2010

ORGANISATION/SUB GROUP:

Learning Youth & Skills, CYPS

RELATED CYP IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY:

2.4 Tackle Domestic Abuse in North Yorkshire

RELATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S):

NI 32 'Repeat Incidence of Domestic Violence'

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAPER:

- **That members of the board note the content of the report**

IMPACT ON RESOURCES: **N/A**

AUTHOUR:

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Domestic Abuse Officer,
North Yorkshire County Council**

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

22nd March 2010

Domestic Abuse Update

1.0 Purpose of Paper

- 1.1 This reports sets out the progress made since the launch of the North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy (2nd Edition) and the current work priorities.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the board note the content of the report

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Partners in North Yorkshire and City of York are committed to improving the safety of and outcomes for, adult and children victims/survivors of domestic abuse, through co-ordinated services sufficiently flexible to meet individual needs and which encourage empowerment and self-determination.
- 3.2 The second edition of the North Yorkshire and the City of York Domestic Abuse Strategy was endorsed by the Board in May 2009. The strategy provides a framework around which both statutory and voluntary agencies will continue to work together to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic abuse.
- 3.3 The revised strategy focuses on 6 broad strategic priorities. One of these covers children and young people:
- Further improve inter-agency coordination between those working on domestic abuse and safeguarding
 - Develop support for those living in violent homes to ensure they are not left isolated to deal with their experiences
 - Improve information to victims and witnesses, reinforcing the message that the violence they have experienced is wrong, illegal and they are not to blame
 - Develop 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
 - Secure consistency of Assessment of needs and an appropriate level of intervention
 - Work towards providing integrated and early intervention by services
 - Develop consistent and equitable provision of services county-wide.

4.0 Key Points

- 4.1 The Domestic Abuse Officer is now in post with a work plan in place to monitor and implement the milestones identified through the North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy and the activities specified through the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 4.2 Revised guidance to schools (identification of domestic abuse, responding to Domestic Abuse, guidance on the curriculum) has been successfully rolled out in Scarborough and Ryedale. Scarborough based multi-agency staff have provided teacher training to schools across Scarborough on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people. Over 100 teachers have been trained to date, training in Ryedale will commence March 2010 and a train the trainer session to recruit additional Ryedale trainers will be delivered by September 2010.
Best practice from Scarborough and Ryedale guidance and training has been used to draft new guidance to be rolled out across the county with the relevant training package for September 2010. Following the success of the guidance training Scarborough and Ryedale will pilot providing sessions with pupils to schools on domestic abuse in line with the school curriculum from September 2010.
- 4.3 A Domestic Abuse focus group (with a focus on children, young people and their parents) has been established as a multi-agency group to provide a forum for the discussion and formation of agreements, solutions and projects to encourage consistency of services and support for the victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Current membership consists of representatives from Children's Social Care, Adult & Community Services, NYCC Corporate Services and Independent Domestic Abuse Services. A Terms of Reference (see annexe A) has been agreed and the group will meet quarterly chaired by David Walker Education Officer (Social Inclusion) North Yorkshire Children & Young People's Services (NYCYPS) and support will be provided through by Gemma Ingles the Domestic Abuse Officer (NYCYPS).
- 4.4 In addition the Domestic Abuse Officer will convene meetings with the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinators. The purpose will be to ensure the alignment of work in support of the young people's priorities within the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Report prepared by:

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5th March 2010

Annexe A

Domestic Abuse Reference Group Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Group

It is a multi-agency group established to provide a forum for the discussion and formation of agreements, solutions and projects to encourage consistency of services and support for the victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

'Domestic Abuse' is defined as agreed by the North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Initiative in the City of York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2013.

Objectives

1. To agree and provide partnership support for the work plan of the Domestic Abuse Officer.
2. To ensure the participation of Children, Young People, Families and practitioners where possible.
3. To identify opportunities to exceed requirements and share best practice to maximise local services for North Yorkshire.
4. To provide links between established Local Domestic Forums and associated groups.

Aims:

To achieve the purpose and objectives by delivering the work plan, specifically developing:

- a) Consultation of Survivors of Domestic Abuse
- b) Service Mapping
- c) Integrated Services Information Sharing Agreements
- d) School Guidance on Domestic Abuse
- e) School Training Packages on Domestic Abuse
- f) Evidence of impact and evaluation of current services and local projects
- g) Strategic support, administrative and financial, for existing services e.g. MARAC Guidance, The Making Safe Scheme.

Principles:

- a) Openness:
 - all reports to be openly recorded
 - all papers to be public except in restricted situations (e.g. Tenders)
 - clear communication
- b) To have a set work plan
- d) All material for meetings to be sent out at least 7 days before the meeting

Reporting Arrangements

The Domestic Abuse Reference Group is a discussion forum with no formal reporting responsibilities. Where appropriate the work of the group will be reported to the Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group and/ or the North Yorkshire's Children's Trust.

Accountability

The members of the Domestic Abuse Reference Group are accountable to their home agencies. Where there is more than one representative from a single agency, the members are responsible for their area of work. Where one member represents a number of agencies, they will feed into their own and other agencies.

Membership and Administrative Support

Each member must send a substitute when they are unable to attend.

The membership will be regularly reviewed as appropriate.

The chair of the meeting is David Walker, Education Officer (Social Inclusion) North Yorkshire Children & Young People's Services.

Administrative Support will be provided through by the Domestic Abuse Officer.