



ARTICLE NO: 1C

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS UPDATE 2011/12

Article of: Director of People and Places

Relevant Head of Service: Assistant Director Community Services

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SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Borough wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

- 1.1 To provide Members with the Annual Report from the Council's Domestic Violence Coordinator for the year 2010/11

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Domestic Violence Coordinator post was established on the 1st December 2006, and is jointly funded by Central Lancashire NHS and the Borough Council. The post is part time and the post holder is contracted to work 20 hours per week.
- 2.2 The original remit of the post was to develop a West Lancashire Domestic Violence (DV) Strategy and to co-ordinate a multi agency approach to tackle domestic violence. The strategy was first published in 2007. Since this time the post holder has worked towards ensuring the targets of the strategy have been met.
- 2.3 In addition, as detailed in the annual report which can be found at Appendix 1, there have been two overarching targets from the NHS themselves and numerous internal targets recently introduced.
- 2.4 The annual report has already been received and approved by the NHS, however, it is important that Members are also aware of this report to raise awareness of the work done in this highly significant area of work.

3.0 WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- 3.1 The Government/Home Office definition of Domestic Violence is “Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality”. It is therefore about different types of controlling behaviour and can ultimately result in serious assault or even murder.

4.0 HOW MUCH OF AN ISSUE IS IT IN WEST LANCASHIRE?

- 4.1 It has been estimated that there were 3,306 victims of Domestic Violence in West Lancashire in the year 2010/11, however, due to under reporting, the true figure is not known. During this year, the number of enquiries made to the helpline of the West Lancs. DV Support Service (external to the Council) was 3231. The Police received 1118 reports of DV incidents. Even this snapshot of figures demonstrates that DV is a major issue for many families in West Lancashire and is an issue for all communities and agencies.

5.0 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTCOMES

- 5.1 In order to assist in the achievement of the targets, numerous initiatives have taken place throughout the year 2010/11. There have been specific initiatives organised to raise awareness and to help reduce incidents or increase reporting. Further details are included in the report itself contained at Appendix A.
- 5.2 Due to the causal link between alcohol and domestic violence a campaign was organised and run at Christmas. In addition, a “World Cup” campaign was undertaken due to the potential for increased alcohol consumption.
- 5.3 There have been numerous training sessions run for the NHS, Council staff and the drug and alcohol service (amongst others). These training sessions raise awareness of the issue and ensure relevant individuals are aware of how to report potential problems. Another part of the awareness raising took place at Edge Hill University during “Fresher’s Week”.
- 5.4 The Co-ordinator has also been working on a Domestic Violence policy for the Council and the accompanying guidance for managers. The majority of the work done in reviewing the DV strategy was also undertaken in this year. This document was approved by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in April.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Co-ordinator post is a mainstream post and half of the monies are received from the Central Lancashire NHS. This amounts to £6,500. Towards the end of the financial year, Central Lancashire NHS advised us that they were reviewing all their voluntary, community and faith sector contracts. Depending on the outcome of this review it could have resulted in the post reducing down to 10 hrs. However, the Strategic Review Group of the CSP agreed to underwrite the post from unallocated resources, if the NHS funding was withdrawn. In addition special initiatives have benefited in the past from funding approved by the Local Priorities Group of the CSP.

Background Documents

The following background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.

West Lancs. CSP Domestic Violence 2007
Strategy

Annual Progress Report of the Domestic
Violence Co-ordinator 2010/11

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Annual Progress Report of the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator 2010/11

Appendix 2 – Equality impact assessment

Annual Progress Report of the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator (West Lancs) 2010/2011

Purpose of report

This report is intended to give an overview of the activities of the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator in West Lancs and the prevalence of domestic abuse and to provide a progress report.

Background

The Domestic Violence Co-ordinator came into post on 1st December 2006 and is currently jointly funded between Central Lancs NHS and West Lancashire Borough Council. The post is part-time, 20 hours a week.

The original remit of the DV Co-ordinator was to develop a West Lancashire Domestic Violence strategy and co-ordinate a multi-agency approach tackle domestic violence.

The DV Co-ordinator has been working to the NHS service level agreement and job description, along with two overarching targets:

- Reducing repeat incidents of domestic violence (as measured by Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, MARAC)
- Increasing reporting of domestic violence
West Lancs Community Safety Partnership target

Plus council targets around:

- *Update of West Lancashire Domestic Violence Strategy*
Final version is due to be considered by the Community Safety Partnership on 20th April 2011
- *Production of West Lancashire Borough Council Domestic Violence Policy*
Policy and supporting documents are with WLBC Human Resources awaiting further progress/advice
- *Attendance at quarterly Community Safety Partnership meetings*
Attended four
- *Awareness raising talks to relevant groups*
Nine delivered to a variety of agencies, feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Sessions were delivered to a variety of professionals including: health professionals; children's centre staff; learning disabilities staff; Community Mental Health Team staff; DISC staff (tenancy related housing support); CAFCASS; Eating disorder service; probation
- *Attendance at monthly adult Prolific and other Priority Offender groups*
Eleven meetings took place during the year – attended seven
- *Attendance at Youth Issues Group/youth Prolific and other Priority Offender group*
Eleven meetings took place during the year – attended six
- *Attendance at MARAC meetings*
Participated in nine
- *Initiative/awareness campaign around the Football World Cup*
Delivered – see Appendix B

Work Activity

- *Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) Service*

The IDVA service is a vital component of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court status and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs).

The current funding streams came to an end at the end of March 2011. The new government made £3.3m available for IDVA services and MARACs, Lancashire County Council made a composite bid on behalf of 12 district authority areas including West Lancs, aiming to secure £260k for IDVA services and £104k. The Home Office allocated £40k and £15k respectively.

The Safer Lancashire Board have committed £180k to IDVA services, the proposal waiting endorsement is for this to be pooled with the Home Office money above and be apportioned to areas based on volume of MARAC referrals.

There is a shortfall in the funding that is needed to operate an IDVA service; myself and colleagues are working on securing the service for this year as a matter of urgency.

- *Multi-Agency Forums*

- MARAC pre-meeting

A meeting prior to the MARAC meeting has been taking place. The Co-ordinator chairs this pre-meeting, proposes issues to be discussed and consults with other agencies to bring issues to the meeting that are identified as being relevant, for example: the government have recently issued guidance regarding Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews, this was discussed at the last pre-meeting; the refresh of the domestic violence strategy was distributed to this group (among others) for consultation.

- DV Forum

The format of the Forum was difficult to maintain last year, attendance levels dropped considerably. However with the review of the strategy underway, the Co-ordinator and Chair of the forum recently agreed and held a meeting. Although again not attended by as many as we would have liked, those who did attend stated that they would like to see the Forum take place regularly again. It has initially been agreed for it to take place quarterly for the rest of this year, with a suggestion that some of the dates could be used for briefing/training sessions. The DV Co-ordinator will deliver some of these; however, colleagues in other agencies will be encouraged to take part giving the forum a better balance of multi-agency input, ownership and hopefully, sustainability. The role of the co-ordinator is to support this forum, bringing issues to the meeting for discussion, taking away appropriate actions, taking minutes, acting as chair in the event of the Chair being unavailable due to annual leave/sickness, taking and distributing agenda, minutes and any supporting documents.

- *Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews*

As from the 13th April 2011 the Community Safety Partnership is responsible for establishing Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews.

Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews and online learning package are available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-homicide-reviews/>

- **Campaigns 2010/2011**
Appendices B and C are attached which give details of the two major awareness campaigns during 2010/2011
- **Partnership meetings**
I have contact with or attend at number of LSP & multi-agency partnership meetings, this is not an exhaustive list.

Regular attendance:

Community Safety Partnership
Health & Wellbeing Group
Strategic Review Group
Local Priorities Group
West Lancs DV Forum

Southport & Ormskirk Hospital DV Forum
Youth Issues Group
Prolific and Other Priority Offenders
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

Specialist DV Court Meetings

West Lancs MARAC
South West Lancs Local Operational Group

Lancashire SDVC Management Group
Lancashire MARAC Steering Group

Intermittent attendance/maintain link with

Safeguarding Adults Locality Network Meeting
Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRACs)

Targeted Youth Support

Meetings for specific purpose

DV Task and Time
DV & Women Offenders

Supporting People Consultation

Annual or other events:

Face the People event
West Lancs Domestic Violence Support Services AGM event
Freshers/student fairs at Skelmersdale College and Edge Hill
West Lancs Domestic Violence Support Services DVD Event
Ormskirk Police Station Open Day

Multi agency event at Burscough High School
Supported West Lancs DV Support Services Sunglasses event in Ormskirk (run in conjunction with students from Edge Hill)
Forced Marriage & Honour Based Violence Conference

The DV Task and Time meeting is a sub-group of the Local Priorities Group (LPG), the LPG recognised that when discussing domestic violence the greater proportion of the reporting of domestic violence comes from the Digmaor area, and although we know that domestic violence takes place across the the borough and occurs in rural areas as well, the group decided to bring a multi-agency time limited group together to bring some additional work focussed primarily but not solely around the Digmaor area.

Some examples of the actions from this group are:

- Engaging local businesses
- Engaging local education establishments, many young people witness this abuse or are affected by it in other ways, whether it be through friends or other family members. Additionally, there was concern that many young adults are directly affected by domestic violence when they enter relationships. Skelmersdale College have responded very positively to this and a range of activities are planned, details to be confirmed but likely to be during May
- Ensuring the new Street Pastor services have the domestic violence helpline available

- Talk to a group of local victims about barriers to reporting, accessing support, and where awareness campaigns could be targeted

It is the intention that strands of this work that prove successful could be used in other areas across West Lancashire

- **MARACs**

MARACs continue to be generally well attended and well supported in West Lancs. The Co-ordinators role in them is to:

- Provide training in support of referrals to MARACs and the IDVA service
- Follow up where there are gaps, I've recently had discussion with CAFCASS who are a CAADA recommended attendee, and provided training to them. Discussion is ongoing with regard to fuller input from Safeguarding Adults.
- Be available to support agencies at the meeting, for example, the Co-ordinator has presented information to the meeting that has been sent through when the IDVA was off sick at short notice and when other agencies have forwarded information for the meeting
- Working with agencies regarding referrals to MARAC e.g. identifying those agencies or services that we would expect to see referrals from, examples being health (although this has improved dramatically in the last year) and housing
- To follow up with agencies on those occasions when they do not attend. A recent example being when GMW (GMW provide alcohol and substance misuse services) did not attend but eight of the nine cases discussed had alcohol as a factor.
- Attendance at a MARAC Steering Group, giving an overarching strategic input to MARACs and the other SDVC management meetings in Lancashire

It was expected that multi-agency referrals to MARACs would take some time to become embedded; the Co-ordinator has delivered and continues to offer training. This is beginning to show results in terms of referrals to MARACs, the level of referrals that have come solely from the police have dropped from 92% in the first year (07/08) to 75% (in 10/11), with health participating much more fully. Ongoing training is vital to securing commitment and confidence in other agencies to use the resources available to identify victims.

- ***Involvement in Funding Issues***

The following re-iterates some of the involvement that the co-ordinator has had in relation to applying for and securing funding:

- £20,000 per year over three years of Ministry of Justice funding (2010/2011 was the last year of funding from the MoJ)
- £19,000 Lancashire SSCF funding in conjunction with counter-part in South Ribble/Chorley to run the Ladybird Project (NSPCC therapeutic groupwork for children and their non abusing parent/carer) across the three areas (2008/2009)
- £10,000 Second Homes funding for IDVA 2010/2011
- Various smaller amounts of funding for specific purposes e.g. resources (posters/lipbalms/mint cards/resources relating to young people)
- Various amount to deliver specific campaigns e.g. football world cup, Christmas/new year campaigns
- £1,500 Lancashire funding to deliver MARAC training (2008/2009)
- Supporting a bid the refuge made for £5,000 to provide DV awareness training for members of the community

- Safer Lancashire Board £18,669 for IDVA service 2011/2012 (estimate & to be confirmed)

These funding streams have not been secured in isolation by the co-ordinator alone; the majority have been partnership or joint bids for money to address identified needs.

- ***South Ribble/Chorley***

Regular contact continues to take place with the domestic violence counterpart in South Ribble/Chorley and means that the DV/MARAC training that is delivered across the South West Lancs area is consistent. The three areas are served by the one police Public Protection Unit and many professionals work across the three areas. As such, some issues and pieces of work benefit by us working together.

- ***Statistical Information***

The various statistics and figures used in this report are drawn from various sources such as the Safer Lancashire Community Safety Website Multi Agency Data Exchange (MADE) which includes statistics collated by the Crown Prosecution Service; Lancashire Constabulary; IDVA service, voluntary sector agencies, Probation. Plus direct contact with some of the services.

- ***Resources used in community events:***

- Lipbalms (discreet method of having a helpline number in a victims possession – helpline number hidden in barcode)
- Mint cards (discreet method of having a helpline number in a victims possession – helpline number hidden in barcode). These are less gender specific than the lipbalms
- 'Expect Respect' booklets regarding healthy relationships aimed at young people – all of the booklets that we had were given directly to young people at various events including the freshers/student fair s at Skelmersdale and Ormskirk
- West Lancs Domestic Violence Support Services literature
- Campaign materials Football World Cup and Christmas/New Year
- Information for male victims (and professionals who might encounter male victims) used at various events and included in packs used in training sessions
- Information displayed on the councils plasma display in Skelmersdale
- Information regarding Forced Marriage – included in packs used in training sessions

Upcoming

Priorities and Themes

Tackling domestic violence supports the following priorities in 2011/12:

West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership

Reduce assault with injury crime rate
Reduce the most serious violent crime
Reduce alcohol related violence crime
Reduce incidents of domestic violence
Reduce criminal damage
Reduce alcohol and drug misuse

Safer Lancashire Board

Protect and support vulnerable people
Change attitudes and behaviours
Reduce alcohol and drug misuse

Reduce reoffending

- Substantial work required to secure IDVA service
- Adoption of DV policy (waiting for advice/direction from Human Resources)
- Adoption of refreshed Domestic Violence Strategy (on the agenda for the Community Safety Partnership meeting on 20th April)
- Delivery of training to relevant agencies and groups
- Actions arising from Domestic Violence Task and Time Group
- Attendance at relevant meetings

Appendix A

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW AND NARRATIVE

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Estimate of the number of victims of domestic violence aged between 16-59 in West Lancs in the last year (Using Violence Against Women and Girls 'Ready reckoner')		3,306	
Calls to West Lancs Domestic Violence Support Services e.g. helpline/support calls (West Lancs DV Support Services)	2993	3314	3231
Incidents reported to police	1013	1140	1118
DV incidents classified as crimes	372	400	456
Cases at court These figures relate to South West Lancs	609	518	679
Successful cases at court	486	383	560
Custody to Prosecution Rate (This is a county statistic that cannot be broken down further at this time)	78.3%	At end Qtr 3 09/10 77.7%	
Offender enrolments on Probation DV Programme	18	67 (46 completions)	75 Orders 63 attended module 1 session 1
Criminal cases unsuccessful - witness related issues	59 (12%)	54 (10.4%)	112 (16%)
Admissions to refuge - women	55	75	60
- children	68	82	67
Refuge unable to accommodate - women	62	25	6
- children	94	40	6
Referrals to IDVA service	91	104	139
Cases heard at MARAC (started December 2007)	44	119	118
NI32 Repeat Incidents as measured by MARAC Cases heard at MARAC more than once	2 (4.5%)	22 (18.5%)	30 (25.4%)
Best Value Performance	54.54%	63.64%	

Indicator (BVPI) 225		Estimate	
Reported on for the last time 08/09			

*Wherever possible the figures quoted are West Lancs statistics, however it is not always possible to achieve this
Although these statistics are as complete as possible, some figures were not readily available at the time of writing*

Narrative

Calls to the DV services. Sustained advertising of this service is key to enabling people to access the helpline and DV services.

Incidents reported to police. Increasing reporting is a local target for West Lancs. Although other agencies routinely collecting information about reports would be useful, it relies on agencies taking on a monitoring role in addition to their current workload. Research gives us estimate of the number of victims that actually exist, which could be anywhere between 3,306 and 4,623. We know from those people who do report an incident that they do not report every incident.

DV Incidents classified as crimes It is worth noting that it can take time for a case to come to trial, and this can cross the reporting periods that most agencies would use.

Cases at court have risen considerably since the start of SDVC. These figures relate to the whole of the South West Lancs area, it is not possible at this time to break them down into the particular courts. However, even doing so may not produce an entirely accurate figure because there are times when cases are adjourned and heard in different courts, Ormskirk cases could be heard in Leyland and vice versa. In addition, it's possible for some cases to be heard outside of the SW Lancs area, e.g. at Preston Crown Court

Successful cases at court. The figures suggested that the percentage rate of successful cases has increased. It is encouraging that many more cases are to going to court and the success rates remain positive.

Custody to prosecution rate waiting for information.

Offender enrolments on DV Programme. These figures relate to the Probation DV Programme. Enrolments on this programme rely on perpetrators being sentenced to the programme through court. Some areas (St Helens and Knowsley for example) have voluntary sector programmes, where perpetrators can present themselves and undergo a programme (following assessment). Like many other areas West Lancashire does not have a local voluntary programme of this sort.

Criminal cases unsuccessful - witness related issues. These are figures extrapolated from the CPS statistics. Overall, the number of cases going to court is significantly higher and the numbers of successful cases have increased. The apparent increase of witness related issues needs monitoring, although it's feasible that as Criminal Justice systems and procedures improve, a proportional increase in the cases that are not successful for this reason wouldn't seem entirely unexpected.

Admissions to refuge admissions can vary depending on the size of the families that the refuge are accommodating and the length of time that they remain at the refuge.

Refuge Unable to Accommodate The figures relate to the people the refuge have had direct contact with, there is a service called 'Refuges online' which other domestic violence services can use to check availability without needing to contact the refuge directly, this means that more people could have been seeking refuge space in West Lancs than is recorded in these stats.

Referrals to IDVA service have been steadily increasing. A threat to the service/level of service exists in 2011/2012 because of the situation regarding funding.

Cases heard at MARAC. MARACs started in West Lancs in December 2007. Referrals have been discussed earlier in the report. The three areas of South Ribble/Chorley/West Lancs are served by the same police Public Protection Unit (PPU)

NI32 Repeat incidents as measured by MARACs. The repeat incident figures are becoming more meaningful as MARACs mature. There is still an issue about the majority of referrals being from police and that agencies need to be identifying and referring cases back in when they become aware of a repeat incident. However, the increase in repeats is a positive step at this time; the figure reducing will be a measure of effectiveness over time.

Best Value Performance Indicator 225 is no longer a performance measure although we estimated it on a voluntary basis last year

Appendix B – Domestic Violence / World Cup 2010 - Show the Red Card

Background

Two figures particularly give some background as to the reasoning for publicity around domestic violence and the football world cup:

- Figures from a Home Office report about the 2006 Football World Cup revealed a 31% increase in domestic violence on the five England match days in the tournament
- Around one third (360,000) of all domestic violence incidents are linked to alcohol misuse (Dept of Health 2004)

A risk of an increase in domestic violence during the World Cup was identified as a threat in the West Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2010

Other areas across Lancashire have done similar campaigns, e.g. South Ribble/Chorley; Blackpool and Hyndburn.

West Lancashire response

The materials that were used:

The Community Safety partnership purchased:

- 2000 'red cards'
- 250 A4 'show the red card' posters
- 1000 drinks mats

As part of a co-ordinated response to the issue across South West Lancs (the three areas of South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancs are covered by the same police Public Protection Unit) , West Lancs was provided with an additional:

- 2000 red cards
- 250 '1-0 to him' A4 posters
- 1 A1 poster



The additional items were provided by South Ribble and Chorley who secured funding prior to West Lancs confirming our funding. In the spirit of co-operation and partnership working, when ordering more materials, we reciprocated the gesture and ordered a similar quantity of materials for South Ribble and Chorley as they had provided for West Lancs.

West Lancs Borough Council website

Press release and items for download can be found at:

http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/council_democracy/news_and_publications/this_months_news/domestic_violence.aspx

Distribution

Posted out to:

Off licences

Pubs

Bookmakers

Supermarkets

Community Centres

Local stores

Leisure Centres

Other – Ormskirk Rugby Union, Stanley Institute Working, Upholland Labour Club, Riverside Takeaway, National Services Club, Parbold Womens Institute, Skelmersdale Football Club

NHS

100 posters and some red cards have been given to a contact in the NHS for distribution to a mix of GPs, pharmacies and dentists.

I have asked for more rural areas to be prioritised initially.

Requests for materials received from:

Young Peoples Service

Addaction

Aughton Parish Council

Crown Prosecution Service

CVS

West Lancs CVS have added the press release and information including links on to their Health Information and Links webpage

<http://www.wlcvcs.org/health.html>

Lancashire Police

Local policing teams in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale were provided with approximately 100 posters for each area plus drinks mats and red cards.

These were made up into packs and given to local licensed premises; I'm grateful for their support and have thanked the sergeants who organised the distribution.

Domestic Violence Information Centre (Ormskirk)

Provided with posters and cards.

Events

Resources have been taken to local events by me and/or colleagues from other agencies:

- Opening of off licence in Ormskirk (May)
- Community event at Duck pub, Digmaor on 29th May
- Display boards in foyer at Asda (Skelmersdale) on 23rd June
- Burscough Priory School Healthy Lifestyle event on 26th June

Meetings

Burscough Business Watch – 3rd June

Ormskirk Pub Watch – 15th June

[Skelmersdale Business Watch – 2nd July – to be confirmed]

Appendix C – Community Safety Partnership DV Christmas/New Year Campaign

Linked to: Operation Harmony

NHS Ending Violence Against Women and Children campaign (16 days of action)

Activity

- Resources bought (budget £1000)

Christmas/New Year Posters (used remainder of supply from previous year and ran a re-print)

Operation Harmony sweets

'Loves Me, Loves Me Not' bookmarks

Drinks mats

- Resources used that already had

Mint cards (discreet helpline)

West Lancs DV Support Services Leaflets and yellow cards

Posters remaining from last year

- Distribution of items

Central Lancashire PCT – posters sent out to all GPs, plus pharmacies and optometrists

Bookmarks – handed to Ormskirk Library who forwarded to other libraries; Jane Webb (PPU); HomeStart; Digmoor Community Centre

Drinks mats – Bursough Sports Centre; West Lancs DV Support Services; Ormskirk and Skem Police; West Lancs DV Support Services (for distribution to licensed premises)

Posters – West Lancs DV Support Services (young people on work placement distributing)

Ormskirk and Southport Hospital

Young Peoples Service

Leisure Centres

WLBC Customer Service Points (plus plasma screen updated in Skem CSP)

Claire's Accessories (Skem)

YOT Nurse

Asda – posters and bookmarks

In summary, resources went out across West Lancs to:

Businesses, shops/supermarkets, licensed premises, health settings (GPs, pharmacies, optometrists, hospital), leisure/sports centres, taxi service, various organisations (voluntary, statutory and community, for adult and young people), community centres/groups, multi agency events for professionals

Wherever possible links were made to Operation Harmony and some of the resources related directly to Harmony to support the linkage

An article was sent to the PCT for a Community Engagement Newsletter, as well as a standard text being sent for any community group to use in newsletters etc.

A press release was issued

- Websites

West Lancs District Council

Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)

- Events

CVS Rural Fair

HomeStart Christmas Fair (plus will be using for further event over the period)

Digmoor Christmas Fair – deferred because of severe weather however an alternative event is planned for the end of January, domestic violence materials will still go to that

DV Awareness/MARAC training event
 West Lancs DV Support Services AGM
 Digmaor and Upholland Family Group
 Community Development Focus Group (Digmaor)

In summary, materials went out to a number of community events in:
 Rural West Lancs and
 Skelmersdale but with a focus around Digmaor

And to events for professionals: e.g. training, West Lancs DV Support Services AGM

Plus during meetings, including:
 Health and Wellbeing Group
 MARAC

Activity that explored but wasn't feasible:

- Direct contact with offenders in custody by alcohol and substance misuse workers
- Event at Skem Concourse
- Contact with GPs (PCT are trying to progress a piece of work regarding alcohol and asked that I hold back so while they finalise that)

The weather hampered some of the delivery of resources and one event that we had hoped to take part in couldn't go ahead for this reason.

All resources went out (barring a few bookmarks that I have left), the vast majority going out directly to community groups, appropriate businesses (e.g. licensed premises, Asda etc)

	2009/2010				2010/2011			
	Nov	Dec	Jan		Nov	Dec	Jan	
Domestic incidents	89	94	53	236	117	102	97	316
Domestic violence crimes	36	36	19	91	47	41	32	120
Helpline calls	309	189	224	722	301	212	323	836
	434	319	296	1049	465	355	452	1272

It has not been possible to secure statistics from Accident and Emergency

West Lancashire Borough Council
EIA process for services, policies, projects and strategies

Question 1

Using information that you have gathered from service monitoring, surveys, consultation, and other sources such as anecdotal information fed back by members of staff, in your opinion, could your service/policy/strategy/decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy) disadvantage, or have a potentially disproportionately negative effect on, any of the following groups of people:

- People of different ages – including young and older people
- People with a disability
- People of different races/ethnicities/nationalities
- Men
- Women
- People of different religions/beliefs
- People of different sexual orientations
- People who are or have identified as transgender
- People who are married or in a civil partnership
- Women who are pregnant or on maternity leave or men whose partners are pregnant or on maternity leave
- People living in areas of deprivation or who are financially disadvantaged

Response: There is not considered to be any disadvantageous effects on these groups - the aim of the co-ordinator is to co-ordinate the work of partner agencies and deal with domestic violence (DV) at a strategic level. DV victims, would therefore benefit from any improvements made.

Question 2

What sources of information have you used to come to this decision?

Response: Officers have good knowledge of the people in the area and are aware of persons who fit into the groups quoted in Question 1.

Question 3

How have you tried to involve people/groups in developing your service/policy/strategy or in making your decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy)?

Response: Yes

Question 4

Could your service/policy/strategy or decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy) help or hamper our ability to meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010? Duties are to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity (removing or minimising disadvantage, meeting the needs of people)
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it

Response: It will help

Question 5

What actions will you take to address any issues raised in your answers above?

Response: Continue as before

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