

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)

Presentation
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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National Figures

- Domestic violence accounts for between 16% and 25% of all recorded violent crime (Home Office 2004)
- 45% women and 26% men had experienced at least one incident of inter-personal violence in their lifetime (Walby & Allen 2004), however, when there were more than 4 incidents, 89% of the victims were women
- 1/3 of women attending emergency departments for self-harm were domestic violence survivors
- Abused women are 5 times more likely to attempt suicide

Lancashire Figures

- 21% of All crime is violent crime
- 19 calls to the Police per 1000 population
- 11 Domestic Homicides Apr 09 – Dec 10
- 53% Serious sexual assaults by partner
- Domestic Abuse is top 5 priority in all 14 CSPs

Domestic Abuse - Local

- April 11 – July 11
 - 490 incidents reported to the Police Chorley
 - 381 incidents reported to the Police South Ribble (MADE)
- High Recording Areas
 - Chorley -South East & Chorley South West & North West
 - South Ribble- Golden Hill and Bamber Bridge East & West
- Support BCS Risks
 - Living in Council & HA properties and claiming benefits
 - 24% of all violent crime in Chorley is domestic violence related
- May 09 - Apr11
 - 73% offences were committed by a known offender

History

- **Dec 2007** - 1st CH & SR Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- **Apr 2008** – CH & SR Specialist Domestic Violence Court Status (SDVC)

SDVC Accreditation & IDVA Commitments

- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)
- Specialist support service -Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)
- Commitment to match funding and provision for mainstream funding for the IDVA service ►

MARAC

- The “Safety Focussed” component of the SDVC model for very high risk (VHR) victims – **at risk of serious harm or murder**
- *The MARAC combines up to date risk information with timely assessment of a victims needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic violence case” ►*

Chorley & South Ribble MARAC DATA

- 1st July 2010 – 30th June 2011

- Cases Heard 223

- Approx referrals to IDVA 110 (?)

- Repeat Cases 31.4%

- Number of affected children 315

Links

- Serious Violent Crime
- Assault with injury crime rate
- Repeat Incidents of Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence Murder
- Emotional Health of Children
- Lancashire Domestic Violence Strategy
- Safer Chorley & South Ribble Action Plan
- Children and Young People Action Plan
- Public Health Strategy

Key elements of an IDVA service

- Independent
- Professional
- Safety options
- Crisis Intervention
- Risk
- Partnership
- Measurable
Outcomes

Aims

- Increase confidence in the criminal justice system
- Reducing repeat homelessness
- Reduce levels of injuries sustained
- Increase notification of children at risk
- Decrease victimisation
- Increase victim safety
- Reduce the number of victims unwilling to support prosecution

A national evaluation of IDVA projects

- In more than ½ the cases, the abuse was escalating up to the point of referral to the IDVA service

When asked if victims were safer after the intervention by the IDVA service

- In 70% of cases, the abuse was reported to have ceased. 76% of victims felt safer (47% felt much safer)
- At intake, 82% of survivors reported experiencing at least one type of abuse that was severe or extreme in nature
- At intake, 75% of survivors reported experiencing more than one type of abuse
- At intake, 66% of survivors reported that abuse was escalating

Case Study 1

- Long history of DV
- Known to Police
- Repeat MARAC Case
- Refused engagement on previous occasions
- Finally engaged with IDVA service
- IDVA time constraints, had to make a decision if to support to court - chose not to support as had other commitments
- Victim did not give evidence
- Case collapsed
- Victim killed 2 days later
- IDVA told – If you had supported her to court this would never have happened
- Emotional impact on IDVA immeasurable

Case study 2

- Previous 15 yr marriage
- Professional woman
- New relationship with school friend
- Assaulted baby
- Strangled victim to the point of passing out
- Safety Plan
- Sanctuary measures (window fitter)
- Had password breaker – accessing emails
- Charges 2 x sec 39 assaults
- Supported to court
- Would not have gone if it was not for the IDVA
- Now looking to go back to work
- Text – I have now got a life and friends because of you thanks.

Case study 3

- Professional woman
- History of DV
- Engaged with IDVA
- Assault charges
- Safety planning
- Advised to accept restraining order rather than risk going to court and case collapsing
- Victim committed suicide short time later

Service User

"The IDVA is in my opinion the lifeline that I needed, I had not heard of them prior to the worst part of the violence, I believe the police should give out the IDVA details at the first incident, how things might have been different in my own case if this had happened" ... without this service I do not think many victims of domestic violence would go through with prosecution PS, Passed computer course at college 100% attendance and full marks, Thanks Ali ►

MARAC QA Report Published April 2011

- CAADA recommended IDVA capacity to support recommended volume – 3.5 FTE IDVAs (prev 4.3)
 - **We currently have 2 p/t IDVAs**
- Ch & SR MARAC running at 212 cases per annum
 - **Estimated net savings to the area is £1million per annum.** (saving lives saving money calculator)

Police Public Protection Unit

“The work of the IDVAs takes so much of the victim support work from the police which is very beneficial to us but they also have far more information in their 'toolbox' re benefits, housing support services etc than we have. When a gold case is identified the IDVAs are always in a position to assist and early intervention by the IDVAs certainly gives a better quality of service to the victim and allows trust and rapport when the victim is at their lowest point.

DI Stewart ►

Impact of no IDVA Service

- **SDVC** -Would not meet the criteria for the accreditation = NO SDVC?
- **MARAC** – IDVA the voice of the victim
- **CRISIS** – A time of extreme danger, or an emotionally stressful and traumatic event in a persons life –Who else would provide the specialist crisis intervention work?
- **Agencies** – The impact on their resources
- **Retractions** – The impact on the victim, the reduction in successful prosecutions and perpetrators not being held accountable for their actions more children at risk ►

CAADA cost of an average DV case

- 6 police callouts
 - 8 GP visits
 - 6 prescriptions
 - 4 A&E attendances for minor wounding
 - 2 A&E attendances for serious wounding
 - 12 nights in a refuge
 - Police involvement in S18 prosecution
 - Other CJS involvement in S18 prosecution
- =£14,000 ►**

Cost of the IDVA service

- At the current level of provision this equates to approximately 3 'average' DV cases.
- Commitment required for mainstream funding at minimum level of 2 part time IDVAs
- Future consideration for 3.5 FTE IDV^Δ funding

Future IDVA Funding

- IDVA service for to 2011/12 funded by LCC ABG & government grant.
- Funding end March 2012 and future funding arrangements remain subject to clarification
- (CAB) currently host the service and have a further £40,000 to support the IDVA service from the 1st of April 2012
- monies were gifted to the CAB by now dissolved Chorley women's refuge
- £40,000 gift to support the IDVA service comes with caveat that it cannot be used to substitute any other available funding
- £40,000 would sustain the IDVA service across both Chorley and South Ribble until the end of January 2013
- If no other funding sources identified based on current expenditure the service cost will be approx £47,500
- for South Ribble and Chorley to retain its status as an SDVC it is a requirement that IDVA services are provided
- MARAC is strongly supported by the current IDVA service
- due to funding concerns relating to the continuation of the current IDVA service Chorley's Overview and Scrutiny panel are considering IDVA funding on the 7th of November 2011