

## Summary Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA)

<b>Area for Assessment:</b>		
<b>Name of service or function etc</b>	Solihull Partnership Domestic Abuse Strategy	
<b>Which Service does this affect?</b>	Community Safety	
<b>Is this a new, existing or revised function?</b>	Revised strategy	
<b>Summary of findings:</b>		
<b>Main conclusions on the likely impact of the proposed savings on different equality groups (protected characteristics):</b>		
<p>It is evident that domestic abuse cuts across all sectors of our communities. Services in the borough are provided by a variety of agencies, and there are a number of service access points. It is important that this approach continues. Data available from partner agencies shows quite different levels of take-up by different sectors of the community, demonstrating that some services are more likely to appeal to different members of our communities. For example, older victims are more likely to access domestic abuse services through established safeguarding routes; whilst Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic victims appear to use services provided by the voluntary and community sector more readily than statutory services.</p> <p>What is also clear is that there are particular risk factors for each equality group which all agencies need to be aware of and training should address. It is also apparent that some members of the community do not perceive domestic abuse services as being for them – this may partly be down to traditional methods of provision, but may also be down to a lack of understanding of what constitutes domestic abuse. It is clear that often abusers deliberately emphasise and reinforce their victims' vulnerabilities and dependence as an additional form of asserting and maintaining control; affecting the nature, extent and impact of the abuse.</p> <p>It is clear that, despite the good work that has taken place in the past, there is still a lot more work which needs to happen to ensure that we are fully able to meet the needs of those at risk of domestic abuse. All the evidence suggests that women are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse; however it is important that we are also able to meet the needs of male victims. Currently there is little preventative work taking place, and we are not aware of any work with perpetrators other than that mandated by the courts. We also need to increase our understanding of the nature of domestic abuse for older people, younger people, those in same-sex relationships, some faith based communities, and some ethnic groups, as well as understanding of some of the barriers and increased risks facing other disadvantaged groups, including disabled people. It is vital that as well as considering the needs of victims and perpetrators that we are equipped to respond to the support needs of children living with domestic abuse.</p> <p>It should not be concluded that higher rates of abuse in particular communities are caused by membership of that community. Instead it is important that we understand that these relationships are complex. It is essential that the findings of this assessment are treated as indicative and that we respond accordingly. Inevitably improved monitoring and data sharing amongst agencies will help to inform our understanding of domestic abuse in the borough.</p>		
<b>Actions</b>		
<b>Actions identified to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Ensure that commissioning arrangements include equalities monitoring requirements and analysis of	Increased understanding of who our commissioned services are benefiting and identify gaps in service provision	December 2011 and ongoing

this as part of contract management arrangements		
Consider monitoring whether the victim is dependent on the perpetrator for their basic needs, and vice versa	Improved understanding of the relationship between providing care and domestic abuse	March 2012
Introduce monitoring of disability and sexual orientation within police systems	Improved understanding of the relationship between disability, sexual orientation and domestic abuse	March 2012
Routinely record, monitor and analyse patterns of abuse, including re-offending, victim or perpetrator or victim/perpetrator status within the police systems	An appropriate response can be formulated based on patterns of abuse	March 2012
Improve data sharing (including the numbers of children affected) amongst all agencies to help inform strategic understanding and response	Increased knowledge and understanding of the picture of domestic abuse within Solihull	March 2012
Improve analysis of data currently collected, including homelessness cases where domestic abuse is the cause, and victim information obtained through MARAC cases	Increased knowledge and understanding of the picture of domestic abuse within Solihull	March 2012
Ensure that findings of this assessment are integrated into development of a strategic action plan	Action plan is developed and delivered, taking account of different needs of different communities	September 2011
Develop minimum training standards for front line services to respond to domestic abuse, ensuring it addresses the differing needs and experiences of different groups. To be delivered by individual agencies.	Increased understanding of staff to be able to meet needs of diverse client group	March 2012
Develop a shared multi-agency protocol for service access points (including GPs, children's centres, mental health services, housing services, midwifery services, health visitors, social care etc) including routine enquiries of disclosure, use of professional interpreters, referrals to the police	Maximise the effectiveness of individual organisations in responding to victims of domestic abuse and appropriate timely signposting between organisations	March 2012
Develop further opportunities for children and young people to learn about appropriate behaviours within positive relationships and how and when to access help when	Secondary schools/pupil referral units report that staff feel confident to teach about positive relationships and to enable young people to know how and when to access help	March 2012

relationships become abusive		
Ensure public awareness raising activities address the specific issues facing different groups, explicitly those groups less likely to traditionally access support or report to the police (e.g. male victims, older victims, teenage victims, lesbian gay bisexual and trans victims, disabled victims)	Members of the public understand that services are open to them	March 2012
Map what services currently exist across the borough and which groups these are working with	Improved understanding of the support available to victims and perpetrators	December 2011
Ensure that needs assessment/risk measurement tools include consideration of equality characteristics	Appropriate support can be put in place to meet identified need	March 2012
Make available accessible formats of key information relating to domestic abuse	All sectors of the community understand what constitutes abuse, how to report and how to seek support	March 2012
Ensure that accessibility audits inform the commissioning of any service provision	Increased accessibility of service provision	December 2011 and ongoing
Undertake research and consultation and develop responses accordingly	Increased understanding and meeting of the needs of male victims, LGBT victims, young victims and victims who are members of the Gypsy and Traveller Community	March 2012
Identify ways of responding to supporting victims with no recourse to public funds in response to developing Home Office guidelines	Agreement on how to support those with no recourse to public funds	March 2012
Promote awareness amongst LGBT young people of the risks of domestic abuse and where to seek help (through GaySol/Solihull College's LGBT group)	Increased understanding of domestic abuse within those communities at higher risk	January 2012 and ongoing
Promote awareness amongst all young people but especially those vulnerable due to individual circumstances of the risks of domestic abuse and where to seek help (through children's social work services, youth service, youth offending service, schools and colleges)	Increased understanding of domestic abuse within those communities at higher risk	January 2012 and ongoing
Ensure information on website is up-to-date and reflects current service provision. To include strategic definition of abuse, updated links and ensuring male victims are	Website (information point) is up to date	September 2011

acknowledged		
Investigate new funding streams for Sanctuary	Victims are able to remain in their homes	Ongoing (review March 2012)
Investigate the use of advocates to support disabled victims through the criminal justice system	Improved outcomes for disabled victims	March 2012
Investigate the possibility of using agreements with community/faith groups to encourage work to tackle domestic violence	Faith and community groups take an active lead in tackling domestic abuse	November 2011
Develop mechanism for non-police agencies to use triage process	Increased ability to meet the needs of child victims of domestic abuse, particularly for those families not involved with the police	
Investigate opportunities to pilot a domestic violence prevention programme in Solihull	Perpetrators are supported early on to change their behaviour Intervention meets the needs of community	January 2012
Address the issue of sustaining domestic abuse services to meet the needs of all victims	Victims are able to access support to address the domestic abuse they face	March 2012
<b>Date Assessment Signed Off</b>	June 2011	