

## Domestic Violence Delivery Plan

### **Mission Statement**

To reduce the social, emotional and cost impacts on victims and the wider society by tackling domestic violence and abuse

*LAA 36 measured by a reduction in repeat incidents of domestic violence managed within the MARAC process (multi-agency risk assessment conference)*

### **Introduction**

The social, emotional and financial impact of domestic abuse on communities and the services provided by statutory and local agencies has been identified as a major factor in Devon. The existing strategy agreed by all agencies and led by the adva (against domestic violence and abuse) partnership estimates the potential current financial impact to Devon at £60m per annum.

In excess of 8,000 DV incidents are attended by the Police each year – over 50% of these involve children and young people being in the household. This is known to be the tip of the iceberg in terms of actual incidents as national research indicates that 1 in 10 women are victims of DV each year. For Devon that means a potential incident level of 30,000 per annum.

At a national and local level DV-related crime is acknowledged as the single biggest category within violent crime and the one with the highest level of repeat victimisation. For all these reasons it remains a high priority for community safety work and other wider aspects of local social welfare policy and service provision.

Improving the quality of life for everyone by tackling behaviour that intimidates hurts or offends people in Devon is a priority theme for the Devon Strategic Partnership.

The relevant indicators from the national outcome and indicator set are:

- NI 15 “serious violent crime rate” ;
- NI 26 “specialist support to victims of serious sexual offence” ;
- NI 32 “repeat incidents of domestic violence” and
- NI 34 “domestic violence – murder”

The relevant PSA indicator is PSA 23 “to reduce crime to make communities safer by tackling the most serious crimes and the most harmful offenders”.

One of the priority actions is “reduce the most serious violence, tackling serious sexual offences and domestic violence”, using the indicator “the level of most serious violent crimes” police data, measured nationally.

Another of the priority actions is “reduce re-offending through the improved management of offenders”, using the indicator “the level of serious re-offending” police data, measured nationally (using IDAP and REPAIR, MARAC and MAPPA)

This action plan is relevant to the crime and disorder aspects of DV but its efficacy and effectiveness has to be seen within the wider impact of DV across all social welfare issues. The work of adva embraces the breadth of this well-being agenda.

## Evidence

Devon currently has an LPSA target related to DV which is measured by:

- LPSA2 Target: increase in DV incidents
  - DCC target to achieve an increase of 716 incidents over 3 years to 7,873 in March 2008. Currently performance is 8897 incidents which is exceeding target.
- LPSA2 Target: increase offences brought to justice
  - Increase by 10% from 29.8% to 39.8% by March 2008. Currently performance is 37.3% which is slightly below target.
- 2006-7: 2,874 victims of domestic violence; 77% of victims female, 22% male
- 2006-7: 8,600 incidents; 2,939 of these crimed; 5,661 non-crimed; 34.2% of incidents are crimed
- Proportion of Violent offences 2007-8 Q1 that are domestic violence related is 20% (2005-6 22.8%; 2006-7 22.1%)
- Breakdown of domestic violence crimes 2007-8 Q1: 63% violence (Common assault; robbery; wounding-other; wounding – endangering life); 13% harassment; 12% criminal damage; 7% other; 1% other notable (kidnapping; manslaughter; murder; murder-related); 2% sexual; 1% vehicle; 1% burglary dwelling
- In the Exeter Special Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) area (East, Mid and Exeter) the percentage of DV related offences that result in an arrest has risen in 2007-8 over 2006-7
- MARAC; on average 20 very high risk cases (victims) discussed at each of the 4 monthly MARACs – 960 a year and 50% of these result in referrals to cyp-agencies for action
- MARAC IDVAs are contacting between 74-84% of very high risk cases discussed at MARAC
- MARAC IDVAs are engaging with approximately 60% of referrals contacted
- Exeter SDVC; July 06 – September 07 heard 331 domestic violence cases, approximately 90% of these in Magistrates Court. 228 of these were sentenced.
- SDVC IDVA supports between 55 – 100% of clients through the court process (the number of clients meeting the prosecutor at court has risen and the number of cases continuing in court after victim retractions has risen)
- Rates of DV incidents per 1,000 population: DCC 2007-8 rate 11.5 incidents per 1,000 population (with highest rate reported in Exeter with 17 incidents per 1,000 population and the lowest proportion in South Hams and West Devon at 8 reports for every 1,000 population).

## Summary of action plan

### **Roles, responsibilities, accountability and governance:**

The adva partnership (multi-agency, Devon-wide) Executive Group is the accountable body responsible to Devon Strategic Partnership, for the delivery of services to meet the “reduction in serious violent crime” outcome.

The key Task Group empowered to monitor progress against targets will be the Perpetrator Task Group, receiving reports from the SDVC and MARAC Groups.

The SDVC Operational Groups for Exeter, North Devon and Torbay (covering South Devon) meet bi-monthly to monitor prosecution outcomes relating to domestic violence.

The MARAC Steering Group meets quarterly to monitor performance.

The Local Criminal Justice Board receives quarterly updates on performance from the SDVCs and MARACs.

The adva partnership published in October 2007 its strategic Business Plan 2007-9 ([http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/cyps/families/domestic\\_violence/advadocs.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/cyps/families/domestic_violence/advadocs.htm)) the vision of which is to increase safety of victims and children who live with domestic abuse. Objectives 1-4 (of the partnership’s 7 objectives) specifically address the LAA outcome to reduce serious violent crime:

1. To increase the early identification of and early intervention with victims of domestic violence by utilising all points of contact with statutory services to increase the safety of victims and children/young people
2. To increase the use of existing and new powers and methods by statutory services to protect identified victims of domestic violence
3. To increase the rate at which domestic violence is reported either directly to the police services or through third-party reporting
4. To increase the rate at which domestic violence incidents are successfully dealt with by the civil and criminal justice systems.

### **Areas where delivery will take place:**

The primary methods used to achieve objective 4 will be through monthly multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) and Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVCs), independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) and underpinning provision of support services for women and men victims, children and male perpetrators.

- Monthly MARACs in Exeter; East/Mid; South Devon (South Hams, Teignbridge & West Devon) and North Devon (North Devon and Torridge)
- SDVCs in Exeter Magistrates (includes East/Mid cases); Barnstaple Magistrates (includes North Devon & Torridge cases) and Torbay (includes South Hams, Teignbridge & West Devon cases).
- Health IDVA: health is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most critical statutory agency for victims of domestic abuse. National good practice exists to provide IDVA intervention in A&E and GP Practices. Devon is piloting this provision in 4 practices across the county.
- Co-ordination of adva partnership work (2.5 full-time equivalent co-ordinators; 1.5 full-time equivalent administrator)
- Training of agency staff: exists in all 8 districts; over 100 programmes delivered per year reaching over 1,500 frontline and management staff from statutory and voluntary sectors
- Men's outreach: to ensure equality in service provision for male victims identified through MARAC or SDVC processes across the county.
- Outreach: specialist IDVA and SDVC services cannot exist without the foundation outreach support service and wider support to all those impacted by domestic abuse. Victims move from very high risk and require continued support, county-wide. This wider support is delivered by: 8 District based Outreach Services; 3 area based REPAIR programmes working with perpetrators, their partners and children; 3 Women's Refuges encompassing support to children.

## Delivery Plan

Project title	Action (including geographic coverage)	Project lead	Resources	Delivery dates	Performance measures
Deliver MARACs Across Devon	MARACs held in Exeter, East/Mid, South and North on monthly basis  Provision of support to victims via IDVA	Police  Adva via Women's Aid as provider	In house for admin and Police Officer support  £114,096 SDP funding part funds 4 IDVAs at total of £143,200	Ongoing  Currently 4 IDVAs Expansion needed to 2 IDVAs per MARAC at additional cost of £143,200	NI 32 Reduce the number of repeat incidents of DV appearing at MARAC – target to be set during 2008 pending Home Office issuing of national guidance on counting rules
Deliver SDVCs across Devon.	Continue to support Exeter SDVC Establish SDVCs in North and South Devon Provision of support to victims via IDVA	LCJB  Adva via Women's Aid as provider	In house  3 IDVAs (1 per SDVC) @£35,800 each = £107,400	Ongoing  By April 2008.  Part funded by HO (£40,000) rest from adva	NI 15 reduction in levels of serious violent crime linked to DV NI 34 reduction in DV Homicides

## Community Engagement

Adva partnership is made up of all the statutory, community and voluntary agencies within Devon who provide general or DV specific services. Its structure is built around theme groups responsible for specific action planning and development of services for: survivors; perpetrators; children and young people; and training and awareness. This structure engages the service communities of Devon who directly inform their work in various ways by feedback from users.

In addition, adva funds SEEDS Devon which is a representative group of survivors of DV who have a specific role to assist in improving the quality of existing services and development of new ones to meet need.

Developmental work is also in hand to improve links with BME, LGBT and Vulnerable Adults to ensure services reflect their particular issues and needs.