Health and Wellbeing report from Strong and Safe Communities Group meeting 16 November 2016, Bury St Edmunds

The following agencies were represented at the meeting.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) (Community Safety and Public Health), West Suffolk councils, Babergh Mid Suffolk councils, Suffolk Police, Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), East Suffolk Councils, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Youth Offending Service (YOS), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Apologies: Waveney CSP, Ipswich CSP, Suffolk Coastal CSP, Waveney CSP, CCG, Adult Safeguarding Board (ASgB)

1. Workstreams:

Domestic Abuse workstream - the interim report and action plan will be shared with stakeholders at the County DA forum on 28/11/2016.

Work will now begin to deliver the action plan along the 4 themes identified.

Commissioning – will look at what is in Suffolk already, who is commissioning and how can quality and consistency be assured, together with making funding go further.

Single front door – a triage model with a single point of contact for frontline staff and victims, for signposting so that there is a better understanding of need. This will enhance data capture, which at present is varied, missed or there is double counting.

Training - reflecting on recent good practice by the Police with the 25 days of action in relation to DA training delivered by Safer Lives.

Awareness raising and campaigns – local forums and CSPs are the focus of this element as it was felt this was best delivered locally

Sexual Exploitation workstream - an initial review of the Suffolk System around sexual exploitation was presented. The review looked at the scope of adult sexual exploitation, who are the stakeholders, what is the scale of the issue, and what further work should be done to understand what adult sexual exploitation looks like in Suffolk.

E safety workstream - the E safety group, (a sub group of the LSCB) have a good handle on this element. A strategy is in place with a good effective action plan which is delivering. At present the focus is on children but this may develop to adults in the future, if the group sits somewhere else so that it can encompass all aspects of cyber crime.

Youth violence and Gangs workstream – It has been proposed to approach UCS (University Campus Suffolk) to take forward a piece of work based on the county lines toolkit and a threat assessment. TCA funding could be used to provide the capacity to carry out this piece of work. This was welcomed by the LSCB.

2. Future of Hate Crime Service in Suffolk

The Police are recruiting for a hate crime and Vulnerabilities coordinator staff post. This post holder will not be dealing with victims directly but will be providing education and training plus support to Police officers.

It was noted that there is a gap in the visibility of 3rd party reporting centres, resulting in under reporting at those locations.

Race Hate crime is still the most significant strand.

The Police have set up a working group to look at this, also being aware of the withdrawal of funding for victim support (specifically for an enhanced service for victims of hate crime), closure of the LGBT advisory panel and the withdrawal of migrant workers support. Need to establish what can be done to close any gaps.

Claire Swallow - commented that the PCC office is not averse to funding what is necessary IF this additional to what statutory services have a duty to deliver. VARCs (victim arrest referral centres) are included in the victims code of practice. A victim of hate crime is entitled to enhance services. The VARCs are contracted to give this service.

A key recommendation is that a robust gap analysis should be undertaken and the recommendations should include working with CSPs. A task and finish group will be set up to undertake this piece of work.

3. Athena Partnership Platform update - Essex Police area trialling the Partnership platform starting Easter next year. Suffolk will follow in the 2nd half of 2017.

The use of ECINs will continue by all partners until then, however in terms of Police partners this does vary across the county. A corporate decision is required and communicated with all police officers and partners. The current ECINs (omputer program) contract finishes March 2018.

4. Target Hardening for victims of DA - currently the Safe Partnership delivers a target hardening service to victims of DA in the West of the county. This was funded jointly by the LAs and the PCC 11 months ago and a 12 month evaluation of the project is due at the end of the calendar year. This service is not county wide, although the Fire Service delivers a limited service to victims and are happy to continue until their funding runs out.

DOCOs (Police designing out crime officers) carry out a risk assessment with recommendations for high risk victims of DA. There are concerns that the recommendations are raising expectations of delivery which cannot be met by councils or Registered Social Landlords. After discussion it was agreed that there should be a consistent service across the county. The DOCO role is advisory only and the threshold for referrals should be linked to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) threshold for higher protection.

It was agreed that this needs to be a joint solution.

Dates of next meetings:

19 January 2017

30 March 2017