

Domestic Abuse Plan 2014

Year One

Mission Statement

To increase confidence and knowledge for victims, families and professionals. So we are empowered to collectively work together to take action to end Domestic Abuse.

Together we can make a difference.

FOREWORD

Domestic Abuse impacts upon adults, children, families and communities and it is not always easy to identify. Different forms of abuse can mean that some victims may suffer for some time before getting help and is often referred to as the 'hidden' crime.

This Plan is set within the context of preventing, reducing, supporting victims and reducing the number of Domestic Abuse incidents. The Plan is supported by Community Safety Partnership Plan and Board, and is currently a priority for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The affects and impact of Domestic Abuse is an issue that cuts across a number of service areas and is supported by Health & Wellbeing, Adults Safeguarding and Children Safeguarding Boards.

This Plan focuses on three main priorities, supporting the West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police Strategy:

1. Prevention
2. Provision
3. Protection

Each priority provides a key emphasis on raising awareness, training, education, breaking the cycle by promoting positive healthy relationships, essential support for victims and families and challenging the attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators.

This Plan provides a position statement of where we are in providing services to victims, children and families and also identifies the actions needed to move forward and ensure that services are meeting need and that gaps in service provision are considered, and a measured approach in responding to any gaps is taken. The plan is a document that will be monitored and actioned through the newly formed LSCB & Domestic Abuse Sub-Group, as part of year one refresh a needs assessment will be undertaken. Giving this time frame allows the merger of the two groups to be embedded and also the development of partner strategies to be completed.

The Plan and the priorities are supported by an Action Plan that forms the main focus on ensuring the delivery of this Plan.

There have already been a number of successes over the years in supporting victims, but continuing to improve, develop and evolve is essential in our approach.

BACKGROUND

Domestic Abuse cuts across all social, geographical and cultural groups and has potentially a devastating impact on those affected by it.

It is widely reported that one in four women experience Domestic Abuse at some point in their lives and as reported by the Home Office (2003; DOH 2006) accounts for almost a quarter of all crime.

The effects of Domestic Abuse on victims, children and families is one that without the right help, support and justice can have a lasting impact on all, its affects are not just physical but impact on emotional wellbeing, health, work and therefore have subsequent impact on housing and income and relationships with families and friends.

There has been a marked change in recent years in ways that support can be provided to victims of Domestic Abuse; this has included a change in the definition of Domestic Abuse for the age range to include those aged 16-17yrs. Domestic Abuse within this range has unfortunately become ever increasing and the need to promote positive healthy relationships from as early as possible is now more important in a prevention approach.

Home Office Definition of Domestic Abuse:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

“Controlling behaviour” is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

“Coercive behaviour” is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”

* This definition, which is not a legal definition,

Code of Practice for Victims of Crime

The introduction of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, under the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, puts the needs of the victim first and aims to make the “system more responsive and easier to navigate”. The code highlights the importance of victims of crime to be fully informed on what support and help is available from the point that the crime is reported, and to also know who they should go to if they are not getting help.

From October 2014, Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) will receive funding for commissioning support services for victims, further clarification on this funding and allocation is expected over the coming months.

After years of campaigning and encouragement by all to report domestic abuse, recent reports are highlighting the conflict victims are often faced with once they do report, as this can trigger child protection assessments. Which in turn discourages victims reporting incidents in fear of children being taken into care.

A recent report by ¹Family Rights Group data highlighted that domestic abuse is now the largest factor behind child protection intervention, in comparison to previous high factors such as parental mental illness, drug or alcohol misuse. The Charity reports it has seen a 803% increase in inquiries where domestic violence was a factor between 2007-08 and 2012-13.

The HMIC Report – Everyone’s business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse released in March 2014, provides a detail report on the police response, but does clearly identify domestic abuse as a multi-agency response which the ‘police have an essential role to play’.

Eleven recommendations are made in the HMIC report, four of these with linkages to the developing work in this Plan and that of partners, including; review of training, Home Office reconsider approach to Domestic Homicide Reviews, PCC and commissioning services for Domestic Abuse, multi-agency inspection to consider ²‘how local services provide advice, assistance and support to victims’ and the quality of partnership working and how this is scrutinised. Extract of the four recommendations from the HMIC report are attached in Appendix 3.

As with other recent reports the HMIC report has been considered as part of the developing action plan and support through the already existing local multi-agency LSCB & Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

The Serious Case Review into the death of Daniel Pelka in 2012 highlighted a number of key findings; the findings that require particular consideration are detailed below and will be factored into the Action Plan:

- ³**‘Rule of optimism dominated’** – the mother’s assertions e.g. that she wasn’t drinking alcohol excessively, that there was no longer any domestic abuse, that Daniel has a medical condition, were taken at face value **in spite of evidence to contrary** (eg 27 reported incidents of domestic violence over 4 years)
- **Poor information sharing** – the school were not aware of domestic abuse incidents, school did not share concerns about Daniel’s injuries with social care, school and health were not involved in assessment activity, **social care didn’t advise referrers of the outcome of their referrals**
- **Invisible men** – The mother’s partners appear almost invisible in recordings and assessments, although she had experienced **domestic abuse** from all 3 men.

¹ Family Rights Group: Desperate for help – Report analysing calls to Family Rights Group’s advice service from families of children in need or at risk. By Cathy Ashley and Claudia Kanow (January 2014)

² Everyone’s business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse. HMIC 2014. (April 2014)

³ Children and Family Services – One Minute Briefing (Sept 2013)

ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL NEED

The Strategic Business Plan for the Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) has identified Domestic Abuse as a priority. **22% of the Child Protection Plans** that were either implemented or reviewed between April – July 2013 feature domestic abuse.

As of January 2014 the LSCB has decided that domestic Abuse will be a priority for the Board, therefore for the LSCB and Domestic Abuse Steering Group have merged to provide a cross cutting focus on better outcomes.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Whilst there have been significant developments in supporting female victims of domestic abuse, there is still some work to locally support male victims. Nationally there is a wider recognition for male victims of domestic and also support to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims. However, locally we need to develop a greater understanding of how we can provide support, signposting and advice. This is a key action held within the Action Plan.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an area that locally we need to develop a wider understanding and determine support for women and girls in reporting and seeking medical help. ⁴It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK each year, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM.

The Home Office provides the following information in relation to FGM:

⁵*Female genital mutilation (FGM) is illegal in the UK - it's also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this.*

The maximum sentence for carrying out FGM or helping it to take place is 14 years in prison.

FGM is any procedure that's designed to alter or injure a girl's (or woman's) genital organs for non-medical reasons.

It's sometimes known as 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting'. It's mostly carried out on young girls.

FGM procedures can cause:

- *severe bleeding*
- *infections*
- *problems with giving birth later in life - including the death of the baby*

Children and young people as perpetrators is still an area of understanding that is very much under development, as with most aspects of domestic abuse it is very much hidden.

The NICE Guidance: Domestic Violence and Abuse does reference 'Abuse of parents by children' reflects this and the prevalence of this form of abuse is very difficult to determine.

⁴ NHS UK - <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/female-genital-mutilation/Pages/Introduction.aspx> (April 2014)

⁵ Home Office - <https://www.gov.uk/female-genital-mutilation> (April 2014)

However, it needs to be equally reflected and understood as part of any future developments and planning around domestic abuse services and pathways.

This links closely with the development of a wider consideration around perpetrator programme and breaking the cycle of abusive behaviour.

There is further work to develop a whole family approach and reducing the number of children on child protection plans which domestic abuse is a factor.

The development of care pathway to support agencies in referring victims into services and through their recovery journey is identified within the action plan at the end of this document. Wider consideration around the impact domestic abuse has and how we support victims and families will need to be considered as part of the developing pathway. The below diagram identifies the considerations to be given on the wider impact and support needed for victims and families to ensure the best outcomes and support reductions in repeat incidents:



REPORTED DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse reported incidents Jan – Dec 2013 based on police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs)

SNT	Total
Woodside and Madeley	366
Dawley and Malinslee	354
Hadley and Leegomery	281
St Georges and Priorslee	245
Brookside	241
Cuckoo Oak and Ironbridge	229
Nedge	219
Donnington and Trench	217
Ketley and Oakengates	209
Wellington West and Rural	175
Newport	123
Arlestone and College	120
Lawley and Overdale	111
Wellington North	83
#N/A	171
Grand Total	3144

Incidents of Domestic Abuse 01.10.11 and 30.09.12

Children & Family Area	SureStart Children Centre	Crime		Incident	
		n	rate per 1,000 population	n	rate per 1,000 population
Hadley Castle	Donnington	102	5.0	345	16.8
	Hadley	21	1.9	72	6.4
	Newport	98	5.6	338	19.2
	Oakengates	85	8.8	251	25.9
	St Georges	57	4.3	159	11.9
	Total	363	5.0	1165	16.1
Lakeside South	Brookside	22	2.8	49	6.3
	Dawley	101	7.4	277	20.3
	Sutton Hill	32	2.8	101	8.8
	Woodside	61	6.3	170	17.5
	Total	216	5.1	597	14.0
The Wrekin	Arleston	67	5.4	150	12.0
	Malinslee	82	4.9	274	16.2
	Newdale	38	7.0	126	23.4
	Wellington	104	5.1	318	15.6
	Total	291	5.3	868	15.8
Borough rate		870	5.1	2,630	15.4

Source: West Mercia Police, Protecting Vulnerable People Team. Note that all incidents without a postcode have been excluded.

What is this data telling us?

- The crimes and incidents are identified as Domestic Abuse by the presence of a Domestic Abuse Interest Marker or Action Code, as recorded by West Mercia Police.
- ‘Crimes’ are all substantive chargeable offences. ‘Incidents’ are by definition ‘no crimed’ and are not chargeable, i.e. where an incident has occurred but does not quite meet the threshold for charging.

PREVENTION

As with all issues prevention is the ideal, this theme aims to identify what we can collectively deliver in helping prevent Domestic Abuse.

Recent research including the ⁶Girlguiding Care Versus Control: Healthy Relationships, supported by Women's Aid has a number key and pertinent points in considering how becoming a teenager is a crucial stage of development and demonstrates a key focus in prevention work. Having guidance on positive and healthy relationship to challenge believes on unacceptable behaviour, that its not 'just part of a relationship', needs to be identified as a priority when working with young people.

Some key facts from the 2012 Girlguiding Attitude Survey includes:

- Two-fifths of girls believe it is acceptable for a partner to make you tell them where you are all the time.
- One in ten says it is appropriate for a partner to tell you who you can and can't spend time with
- 21% said it was acceptable for a partner to shout at you and call you names
- 17% said it was acceptable for a partner to send photos or videos of you to friends without your permission.

Clare's Law

The introduction of Clare's Law on International Women's Day 8 March 2014, provides the opportunity for people to contact Police to request information on their partner in relation to domestic abuse or violent acts.

If someone is concerned about the behaviour of a partner they can request information from by contacting the Police on 101 and ask for a request for a 'disclosure' under 'Clare's Law' to ensure their safety.

If police checks show that the individual has a record of offences relating to abuse or there is other information to indicate the person you know is at risk, the police will consider sharing this information with the person(s) best placed to protect the potential victim.

The police will contact the person making the request and will further discuss the concerns and decide whether it is appropriate for any additional information to be shared in order to help protect the person who is in the relationship with the individual who may be at risk. The scheme aims to enable potential victims to make an informed choice on whether to continue the relationship, and provides help and support to assist the potential victim when making that informed choice.

⁶ Girlguiding: Care versus Control: Healthy Relationships

Prevention Aims

- Breaking the cycle
- Promoting positive and healthy relationships
- Raising awareness
- Training
- Explore further options to support children subject to child protection plans

How we will deliver

The change in legislation has provided the tool for the crucial work and engagement with **young people** to work with and support those that have been affected by Domestic Abuse within the home, **breaking the cycle** at an **early stage**, ensuring that young people understand the affects of Domestic Abuse and that is not **acceptable** and change potential negative views for positive views on healthy relationships is a priority. There are a number of projects that work with young people including **CRUSH** and **LOL** (Look Out Life) events with year 9 students.

The implementation of the pilot project for **Operation Encompass**, which sees the next day reporting of a Domestic Abuse incident within the home to **schools** for them to take any appropriate action in supporting children and young people.

Our communication campaign to **raise awareness** including Telford & Wrekin becoming a **White Ribbon Town** which saw our campaign on buses, AFC Telford Programmes, International Day for the End of Violence Against Women, over 1300 **pledges never to commit, condone or remain silent** about Domestic Abuse, attendance at over 16 local events and venues supporting the Women's Aid 16 Days of action, campaign displayed on Council plasma screens and internal daily 'pop ups', Town Centre Events.

The development of the 'Basic Awareness Raising' course and the **online training** programme through the Council's Ollie module, which will be available for all staff to complete and the further roll out for partners to undertake.

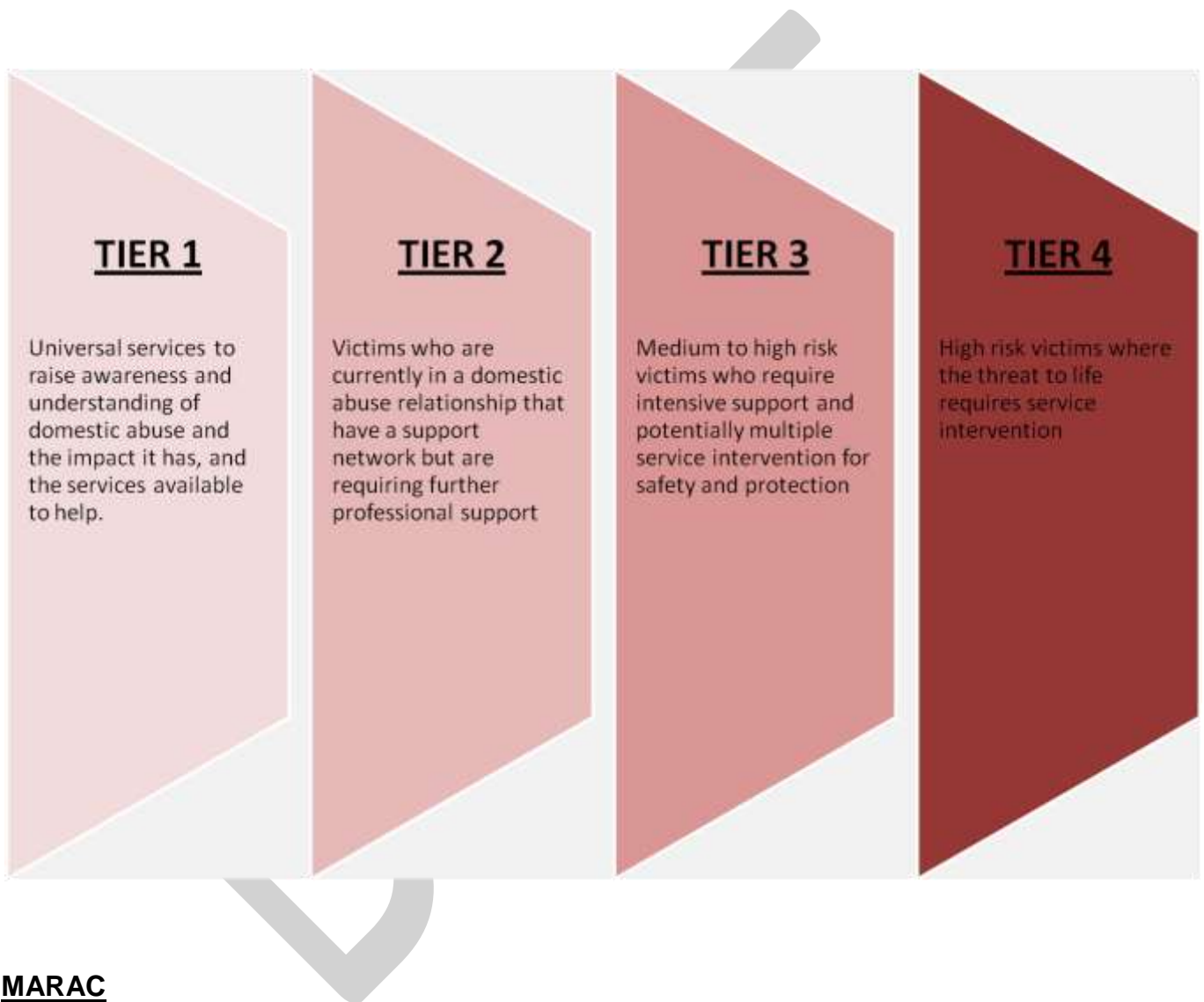
The online training is supported by an attended course which compliments the initial online learning with more detailed training and enhances further knowledge and understanding of Domestic Abuse and its wider impact.

Prevention of **re-offending** remains a key target for the Police and Partnership, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (**MARAC**) provides to vital wrap around support to put appropriate measures in to ensure the safety of the victim and family is paramount and providing **high intensity support** reducing the **risk of retraction** or **re-victimisation**.

PROVISION

Ensuring the right support services are in place for victims and families is essential in making the difference in protecting those that are vulnerable. To ensure that justice is sought against perpetrators and that victims feel confident and empowered to end abusive relationships and know what are the potential traits of an abusive person.

As part of the development of the plan and reviewing service provision the below model provides an overview of support and intervention based on need and risk.



MARAC

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) takes place once a month and brings together a range of agencies to establish a safety plan for the high risk victims of domestic abuse. Telford and Wrekin MARAC has a strong reputation of being well attended and supported by agencies. The meeting is chaired by Detective Inspector, Vulnerable Protection Unit and is coordinated by the MARAC Co-Ordinator, victims are supported by two Officers from the Community Safety Team. The MARAC process is assessed under the annual CAADA self assessment model and its last assessment was May 2013.

Provision Aims

- Raise awareness of Domestic Abuse
- Support victims and families – whole family approach
- Rehabilitate offenders
- Ensure quality of provision and that it meets the needs of victims

How we will deliver

Telford & Wrekin already has established a number of forums and processes for identifying, reducing and preventing Domestic Abuse incidents.

Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse is a key theme throughout the Plan, in order to make a difference the affects, impact and what Domestic Abuse is, is essential in providing support to victims and practitioners on where to get help and support.

Provision does not just focus on the abuse; consideration is given to the wider impact around potential drug and alcohol misuse which can sometimes be used as a means to cope with the lasting effects of abuse. Mental health can undoubtedly be affected after suffering abuse and supporting victims to identify the links through their recovery can often be invaluable.

Support for victim and families is provided through a range of services locally including:

CRUSHED

Officers within Telford and Wrekin Council have been provided with free **CRUSH** training, this is a structured programme of group support and empowerment for young people between the ages of **13-19 years** who **maybe or are at risk** of, or affected by Domestic Abuse within the family setting or within their own relationships.

The programme is specifically designed to compliment the subject matter around **healthy relationships and gender bullying in schools**. CRUSH has been approved by the Safeguarding Children's boards within West Mercia and is considered safe and an appropriate programme for young people.

The CRUSH programme has been tailored to deliver a targeted session in 3hrs, this provides a '**mini**' **CRUSH** programme and been named Crushed.

FREEDOM PROGRAMME

Freedom Programme is currently being delivered in Brookside and a rolling programme across the three CAFLs hubs. The Freedom Programme **is a twelve week programme** for any **female who has been or is being affected by Domestic Abuse**.

The Freedom Programme is a licensed programme and there has been a reduction in number of trained facilitators who can commit time to deliver the Freedom Programme this has had an effect on the number of sessions that can be provided.

POWER TO CHANGE

The Power to Change' is a **support group for victims and survivors** of Domestic Abuse, which provides education and support in a group setting. The benefit of the Power to Change programme is its **flexibility to adapt** to local need and aims of delivery. The facilitators play a key role in supporting the group using their skills, experience and knowledge on issues on domestic and gendered violence, in the **dynamics of self help group**.

Within the programmes there is also the **Parenting Group**. Parenting through Domestic Abuse can be extremely challenging and the **effects of this on children** in terms of their emotions, behaviour, development and self esteem can be far reaching.

The parenting programme aims to assist **parents to support** their children during this difficult time and provide them with techniques and resources to enable them to do this.

Children and Families Locality Services (CAFLs) are leading on the facilitating the Power to Change and Parenting Group. Once the Freedom Programme has been completed the women can move onto the Power to Change in the next term. The groups are spread across the three hubs the groups and will run in term times.

THE DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME

As from 2013 **West Mercia probation trust** will be delivering the "**BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIP**" Domestic Abuse perpetrator programme which is a compulsory programme as part of criminal conviction.

The theory base reflects the growing view that **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** is a complex problem that is likely to have multiple causes. The programme aims to be more responsive to the needs of individuals than has perhaps previously been the case.

"Building better relationships" **aims to reduce the risk of re-offending** and promote the safety of current and future partners and children, help men achieve a better understanding of why they use violence and enhance motivation **to change their behaviour**.

FAMILY CONNECT

The **Family Connect** service based in Family and Cohesion services within Telford and Wrekin Council operate a twice daily **multi-agency triage service** for enabling a **swift response** to decision making and ensuring the right service is being made available at the right time in relation to all **children and families services**.

All domestic abuse incidents where there are children in the immediate family are shared with Family Connect. The necessary checks are then carried out to gather wider information in relation to service involvement, safeguarding concerns and any other further information that will feed in to provide a wider picture on risk levels to inform on appropriate action.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass provides a process for the next day reporting to schools that a child or

young person had been involved in a domestic incident the night before. The framework for the implementation of Operation Encompass follows the Devon & Cornwall model.

The effects and impact of domestic abuse on families and children within a family setting is often not the primary focus when the police and partners are dealing with domestic abuse. Following the recent serious case review of Daniel Pelka which confirmed that the school were unaware of domestic abuse incidents which was linked to poor information sharing it is now very timely that within Telford and Wrekin we look have we can improve information sharing with schools. This will undoubtedly improve support that can be provided to children and young people within the school setting.

The implementation of Operation Encompass within schools provides a process of notifying schools and Child Protection Officers that there has been police recorded domestic abuse incidents within the home environment. This provides an initial flag for schools and Child Protection leads to be aware and where applicable initiate the vital support network needed for children and young people.

Operation Encompass will run as pilot to take place between May – December 2014. Police data has been used to determine the pilot area of Woodside and Madeley, the 7 Primary Schools in this area will be asked to participate in the pilot, these schools being:

- John Randall
- John Fletcher
- William Reynolds Junior and Infant
- Aqueduct
- Sir Alexander Fleming
- St Marys
- Woodlands

A full evaluation will be undertaken to provide the evidence base for the decision of the roll out of the pilot and the potential impact this may have on services and schools.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

Support for victims whether that is low, medium or high **risk** is provided by **two Officers**, based within the **Community Safety Team** at Telford & Wrekin Council. These Officers provide **tailored support** for the needs of the victims; they also represent the victims at the monthly **MARAC** meetings. This support replaces previous commissioned IDVA Service.

By providing an 'in-house' service this has allowed greater ownership to support a wider spectrum of victims. The two posts are also aligned to geographical areas which support the recent Police geographical changes for Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

One post is currently funded through Police & Crime Commissioner Funding and is employed through a fixed term contract due to pressures on Telford and Wrekin mainstream funding.

THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY LOCALITY SERVICES

The Children and Family Locality Services (CAFLs) based in Family and Cohesion services **identify families where Domestic Abuse** maybe taking place and **provide advice, support**

and strategies for keeping children safe. They also refer to other agencies, including MARAC if the victims feel that they would benefit from additional services.

As previously mentioned, CAFs provided valuable support to the delivery of the Power to Change, Parenting Group and Freedom Programme through facilitators and crèche facilities.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Health, Education, the Voluntary Sector and a range of other agencies are **crucial in identifying families** where Domestic Abuse is possibly taking place, **providing services** and working in partnership with strategic services for ensuring that relevant referrals are being made.

HOUSING OPTIONS AND RESETTLEMENT TEAMS

Telford and Wrekin council's **Housing Options and Resettlement teams** joined - Family and Cohesion Services in March 2012. They provide a 'safe' housing provision by way of a women's refuge and additional support services in partnership with supporting people services.

Out of area hostels can also be provided to victims of Domestic Abuse where deemed appropriate and between **2011 and 2012, 80 women were provided this accommodation.**

It is important to note that 'Safe' accommodation **can be also provided to men** fleeing Domestic Abuse. However these numbers are relatively low at the moment.

CATE (Children Abused Through Exploitation) and Targeted Youth Support

CATE-based in Targeted Youth Support within Cohesion services provides a support service to young **people identified at risk of child sexual exploitation.** Some of the factors in this arena are similar to those victims experiencing Domestic Abuse because the perpetrators involved display similar characteristics. Strategy meetings are convened monthly for those young people identified as being high risk of being a victim and this is led by Children's safeguarding in partnership with West Mercia Police.

DOMESTIC ABUSE STEERING GROUP

Domestic Abuse Steering Group sits within the framework of the **Community Safety Partnership** and meets on a bi-monthly basis and provides the arena for **establishing protocols, pathways, identifying service needs and implementing strategies for managing risk and harm.**

The Strategic Business Plan for the Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) has identified Domestic Abuse as a priority. **22% of the Child Protection Plans** that were either implemented or reviewed between April – July 2013 feature domestic abuse.

As of January 2014 the LSCB has decided that domestic Abuse will be a priority therefore both groups have merged with revised Terms of Reference in order to ensure mutual direction of the group.

The LSCB / CSP Domestic Abuse Steering Group is a multi-agency group responsible for minimising the risk and harm of domestic abuse, **ensuring a whole family approach** in considering the best outcomes for victims, children and young people and families.

WOMENS AID

West Mercia's Women Aid provides a range of services to victims of domestic abuse and work closely with our Domestic Abuse Officers. Services include a 24hour helpline, support and recovery groups, training and support for professionals.

VICTIM SUPPORT

Victim Support provides services to Domestic Abuse survivors in the **community and the Court arena**. In July 2012, this service amended its service delivery criteria in order to provide services to victims who are assessed against indicator checklist provided by DASH. Therefore they are in a position to provide services to victims who may be assessed using this criteria as **high risk**. **Victim Support** receives all West Mercia Police referrals of reported Domestic Abuse crimes, and they receive referrals from a range of professionals and self referrals. They will refer any cases that are or subsequently become high risk direct to MARAC and attend the forum.

FAMILY INTERVENTION TEAM

The Family Intervention Team (FIT) based within Cohesion Services provides an intensive wrap around support service for families who require support and intervention to improve future opportunities and outcomes. This intervention empowers and strengthens families to make real change to improve their life chances.

Families will potentially have a range of complex issues but must meet a set criteria to receive support through FIT, criteria includes:

- **Crime and anti-social behaviour –**
 - Household has 1 or more under 18 year old with a proven offence in the last 12months
 - Household has 1 or more member with an ASB order, ASB injunction or ASB Contract or ASB Level 0,1,2,3 warning
 - Family has been subject to a housing-related ASB intervention in the last 12 months

- **Education –**
 - A child within the family has been subject to permanent exclusion or has three or more fixed school exclusions across the last 3 consecutive terms
 - A child within the family is in a Pupil Referral Unit or alternative provision because they have previously been excluded
 - A child within the family is not on a school roll
 - A child within the family has had 15% unauthorised absences or more from school across the last 3 consecutive terms
 - A child within the family has had 15% unauthorised absences or more from

- school across the last 3 consecutive terms
- A child in the family has left school

- **Work** – An adult within the family is claiming a Department for Work and Pensions out of work benefit(s)
- **Local discretion** – Households who cause a high cost to the local purse

Currently 43 families are being supported by FIT, of which 9 families domestic abuse is or has been a factor within the family.

FIT work closely with the Domestic Abuse Officer and provide the appropriate support to victims and children and young people.

The Glade sexual assault referral centre offering a comprehensive service to men, women and children who have been raped or sexually assaulted. Based within Telford the service is available 7 days a week with a 24 hour helpline.

PROTECTION

When a victim has taken that brave step in reporting Domestic Abuse protecting them and their families is crucial for their safety and reducing the potential for retractions.

Protection Aims

- Increasing victims confidence
- Security and safety measures
- Criminal Justice and Legal Outcomes

How we will deliver

Increasing **confidence** from a personal perspective for a victim so they feel confident and **strong** once they have asked for help is often the key in ensuring that their **safety is maintained**, victims might be emotional their lives are potentially in turmoil and perpetrators will often attempt to make contact to get them to change their made and retract statements. Supporting them throughout are the two Domestic Abuse Officers providing **the emotional, reassuring and confidence support** to remain strong and sure on their decision to end the relationship and to take action to move on with their life.

Telford and Wrekin Council in partnership with West Mercia Police and **Shropshire Fire and Rescue service** have developed a **Sanctuary** scheme. This allows **security measures** such as external security lights, window, door locks and panic alarms to be installed at the victims home on the basis that the perpetrator no longer resides at the property and the tenancy is in the victim's name only.

Between April 2011 and March 2012, 30 properties received a Sanctuary service and between **April 2012 and February 2013 there were 54 properties** who received the service. It is important to note the significant increase may have contributed to the numbers of female victims needing 'safe' housing. It is envisaged that the budget for this service may need to be increased as a result.

Assessing risk through out the victim's journey provides an effective monitoring tool in managing risk to the victim and allows risk level, the MARAC process allows this regular monitoring of risk and agency support and intervention.

Once a victim has reported having the confidence in the **Criminal Justice System** is essential. The introduction of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime provides a key focus for victims and witnesses to be put first throughout the process. The Domestic Abuse Officers offer additional support. From October 2014 the PCC will be responsible for commissioning victims services locally.

On 30 June 2012, the **Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO)** provisions operating in the West Mercia, Wiltshire and Greater Manchester police force areas were extended for another year.

The domestic violence protection order (DVPO) pilot closed on Saturday 30 June 2012, but all three police forces will continue the scheme for a further year while the Home Office evaluates the pilot to assess whether or not a change in the law is needed.

Under the scheme the police and magistrates **can protect a victim** when they are at their most **vulnerable**, in the immediate aftermath of an attack, by **preventing the perpetrator from contacting the victim or returning to their home for up to 28 days**. This helps victims who may otherwise have had to flee their home and gives them the space and time to access the support they need and to consider their options.

Previously, there had been a gap in protection for victims of domestic violence due to either the police being unable to charge the perpetrator due to lack of evidence (meaning that the protection available to a victim through strict bail conditions could not be applied) or the process for granting longer-term injunctions taking several days or weeks to apply for. DVPOs are designed to bridge this gap by **empowering** the police and magistrates to issue an immediate order to ban the perpetrator from returning home or making contact with the victim for up to 28 days.

Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004) came into force on the 13th April 2011, introducing a statutory requirement to conduct **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)** in relevant cases. This statutory requirement sits with the Community Safety Partnership.

Guidance defines Domestic Homicide Reviews as:

'Domestic Homicide Review' means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by-

A person to whom s/he was related or with whom s/he was or had been in an intimate relationship, or

A member of the same household as him/herself.

The significance of this definition is that it includes cases where family members are perpetrators as well as cases where the perpetrator was / had been in an intimate relationship with the victim.

On the 31st July 2013, Telford and Wrekin facilitated through an independent chair the first Domestic Homicide review involving a multi-agency approach.

FUNDING

For some years Telford & Wrekin was successful in receiving Home Office funding for Domestic Abuse support services. Over recent years with the Government reductions this funding came to an end. Locally the Community Safety Partnership identified Domestic Abuse as a continuing priority and provided funding for the provision of the IDVA role.

For the past 18 months the IDVA role has been delivered 'in-house' by Telford & Wrekin's Community Safety Team, with the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Officer. By not commissioning this service out this has seen considerable savings.

With the introduction of the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in 2012 the previous community safety grants received by the Community Safety Partnership transferred over to the office of the PCC. This for the first time put CSPs in the position of bidding for funding to deliver local projects and initiatives.

The PCC has been in full support of our Domestic Abuse model and funding has been agreed for 2014/15 for the continuation of our Domestic Abuse Officer.

Pressure still remains on funding for Domestic Abuse provision, needs assessments and review of existing service provision will be undertaken within 2014/15 to ensure the effectiveness of service delivery, identify any gaps and ensure that the needs of victims are being met. Annual reviews of all provision will be a continuum in order to source funding streams.

The Domestic Abuse Steering Group meet on a quarterly base where funding arrangements are reviewed and monitored and will continue to identify potential opportunities for funding.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND OUTCOMES

The MARAC process is evaluated through the annual self assessment through the CAADA model. This ensures that MARAC is meeting the requirements in supporting high risk cases in a multi agency setting.

Any commissioned service through the commission process is set with clear quality criteria and expectations and evaluations processes.

Case recording and support for victims is not only monitored through MARAC but each agency administers reviewing process for quality, consistency and effectiveness this can be from supervision sessions to Independent Case Reviews, Independent Ofsted and DHR.

The Quality Performance Sub-Group will also receive updates as part of their monitoring process.

Evaluation is a continuum of any service that is delivered and used to ensure services are fit for purpose.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW FINDINGS

Following the recent Domestic Homicide Review, areas identified were a failure to hold effective interagency discussions about the couple, a failure to identify the victims as a Vulnerable Adult in formal safeguarding terms and a failure to recognise clear manifestations of Domestic Abuse within the couple's relationship and to respond appropriately.

Among other evidence, the inquest into the victim's death received the final Domestic Homicide Review report, along with an action plan. This made detailed recommendations addressed respectively to the Council, the Police, the Foundation Trust, and Telford and Wrekin CCG. The Coroner concluded that the victim's death had been preventable, and in these circumstances he was bound to send a report under Regulation 28 of the Coroner's (Investigations) Rules 2013 to the relevant public bodies, requiring them each to respond to him about the actions which they were taking to prevent future similar deaths.

Since the Coroner formally endorsed the detailed action plan which followed the Domestic Homicide Review, the Council's response sets out the means by which the Review's recommendations relating to the Council will be implemented. Below are listed the recommendations for the Council, and the relevant responses, some of which were available to the inquest and others which were agreed at a meeting of the relevant managers.

Safeguarding Adults Board for Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire agreed that it would formally monitor the implementation of the action plan by all the agencies concerned.

Consideration and approval of the Action Plan is requested, after which it needs to be sent to the Coroner with the specified timescale.

REF	Action (SMART) Telford and Wrekin Cohesion Services	Lead Officer	Target Date for Completion	Desired Outcome	Monitoring Arrangements	How will Success be Measured?
5.1	To produce new Domestic Abuse (DA) strategy that supports police DA strategy	P Fenn	Spring 2014 (currently in preparation. Next meeting of steering group is on 11.2.14)	Agreed DA strategy	Strategy to be agreed by CSP board and normal council protocols	Recommendations made through the DA strategy and completed action plan.
5.2	To bring into alignment the DA steering group and Safeguarding Children Board DA sub-group	P Fenn / J Britton	Spring 2014	One DA steering group that looks at both C & YP and adults	Performance of the Strategy and action plan to be constantly reviewed by the steering group	Completed actions and suitable outcomes from the steering group.
5.3	To develop new online platform to raise awareness of DA. OLLIE (the Council's Online Interactive Learning Environment) will be used as a preliminary precursor to the attendance by relevant staff on formal training	P Fenn	Spring 2014	For new OLLIE DA awareness raising information to be available to all staff within T & W	Training packages and provisions to be over viewed by the DA steering group	Increased numbers of T & W staff using OLIE and partners attending a new DA awareness course.

	<p>courses on Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>Note. Governance and oversight of 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 will be through the Safer Communities Partnership, with reporting on to the Safeguarding Adults Board by exception.</p>					
6.2	<p>Make further progress in arranging awareness raising and DASH-based training for front-line staff on domestic abuse</p> <p>Continue to explore how to broaden the availability of DASH-based training. This will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen links with staff on Safeguarding Children's Board DA subgroup • Develop a Train the Trainers approach and identify a group to deliver training • Raise this as a training need across the agency partnership • Consult and liaise with the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner, with aim of achieving a consistent all-age approach to the provision of 	Paul Fenn	April 2014	Improved awareness by relevant staff of available pathways for DA victims	Progress in involving staff to be monitored through the Adult Care & Support leadership team	Workforce which is better equipped, informed and responsive in relation to DA, its dynamics and effective responses to it

	training opportunities in relation to the support of DA victims in our locality.					
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Action Plan

The Action Plan details against each theme the specific actions to delivery the aims and will be reviewed and monitored at each LSCB/CSP Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

	AIM	ACTION/WORK PROGRAMME	LEAD	Target Date	Desired Outcome	Monitoring Arrangements	How will success be measured
Prevention	• BREAKING THE CYCLE	Rolling out CRUSH/M-Power to 13-19 yr olds	Domestic Abuse co-ordinator				
	• PROMOTING POSITIVE AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS	Communication Plan to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse, including supporting the White Ribbon Campaign	Community Safety Team/Communications & Reassurance Group				
	• RAISING AWARENESS						
	• TRAINING	Develop relevant train the trainer/facilitator programmes	Community Safety in partnership with the Telford and Wrekin safeguarding board				
	• TO EXPLORE OPTIONS AROUND DEVELOPING ONGOING SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WHO ARE SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLANS.	To work closely with the Local Children's Safeguarding Board to identify numbers of children on Child Protection Plans and address the welfare of the children in the home	Team Leader Community Safety				

	AIM	ACTION/WORK PROGRAMME	LEAD	Target Date	Desired Outcome	Monitoring Arrangements	How will success be measured
		environment.					
Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAISE AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE • SUPPORT VICTIMS AND FAMILIES 	Partners working together to identify current provision and training and identify gaps through a needs assessment.	Community Safety with partners				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REHABILITATE OFFENDERS • ENSURE QUALITY OF PROVISION AND THAT IT MEETS THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS 	Continue to support MARAC process. Steering Group to assess and implement recommendations and key actions from the annual self assessment through CAADA.	Community Safety in partnership with West Mercia Police				
		To continue to provide housing provision to victims of domestic abuse	Cohesion Services working in partnership with registered social				

	AIM	ACTION/WORK PROGRAMME	LEAD	Target Date	Desired Outcome	Monitoring Arrangements	How will success be measured
			landlords				
		Determine appropriate provision for perpetrator through needs assessment	Cohesion services working in partnership with probation				
		Establishing an alternative to the "Freedom Programme" Review the Current Freedom programme and develop a new alternative programme	Community Safety CAFL s				
		Directory of Services Booklet Update the directory of services booklet	Community Safety				
		Review local provision for supporting LGBT and vulnerable victims through needs assessment.	Community Safety				
		Develop understanding					

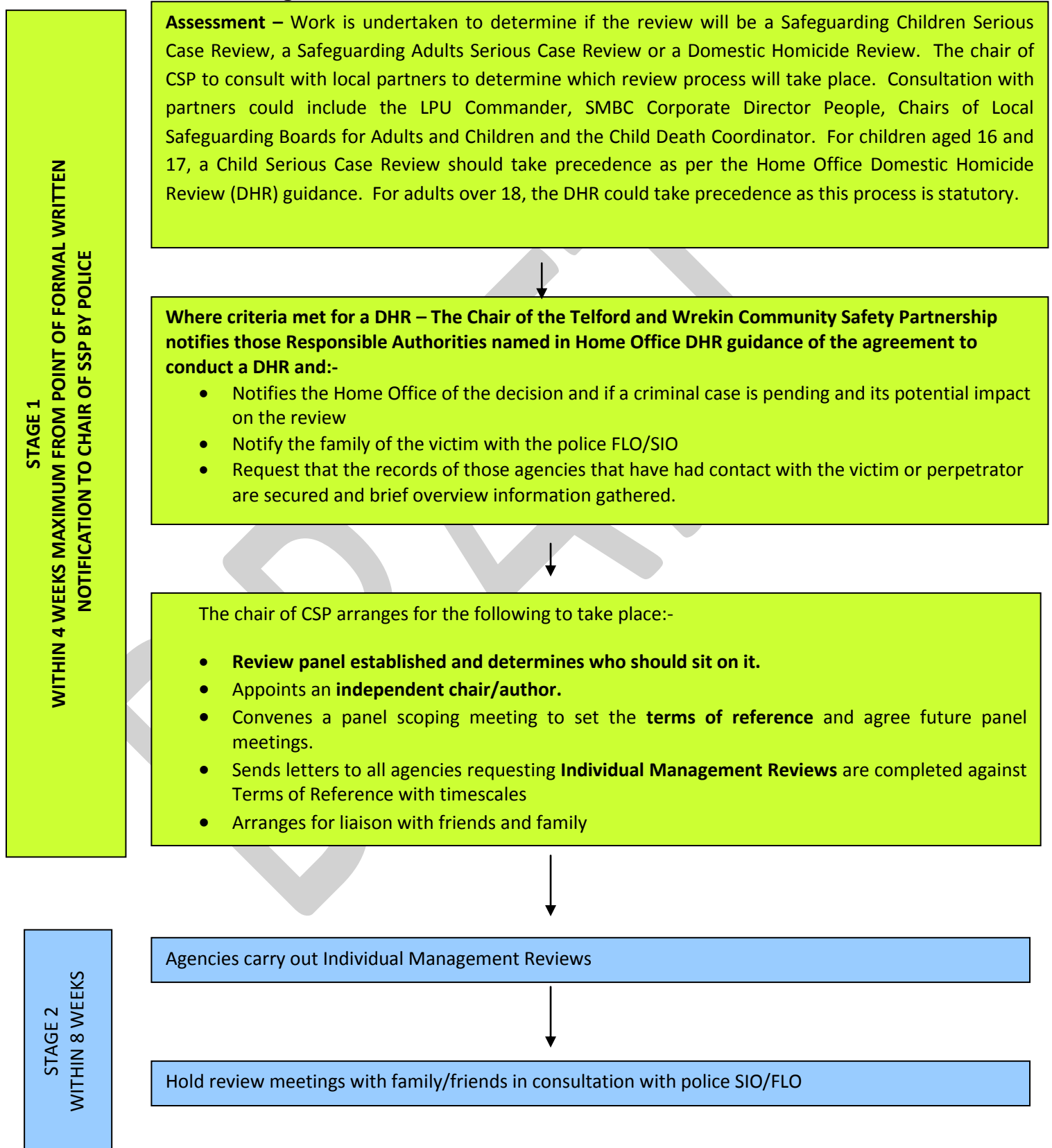
	AIM	ACTION/WORK PROGRAMME	LEAD	Target Date	Desired Outcome	Monitoring Arrangements	How will success be measured
		and support services for abuse of parents					
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INCREASING VICTIMS CONFIDENCE • SECURITY AND SAFETY MEASURES • CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LEGAL OUTCOMES 	Domestic Violence Protection Orders.	Police/Community Safety				
		Maintain Sanctuary Service	Community Safety				
		For the recommendations from the Health & Wellbeing Board to be shared with the Community Safety Board	Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board				
		Recommendations from Domestic Homicide Review to be implemented. Please see page 19 – 21.	Community Safety Partnership Board				
		Deliver pilot project for Operation Encompass	Police, Family Connect and				

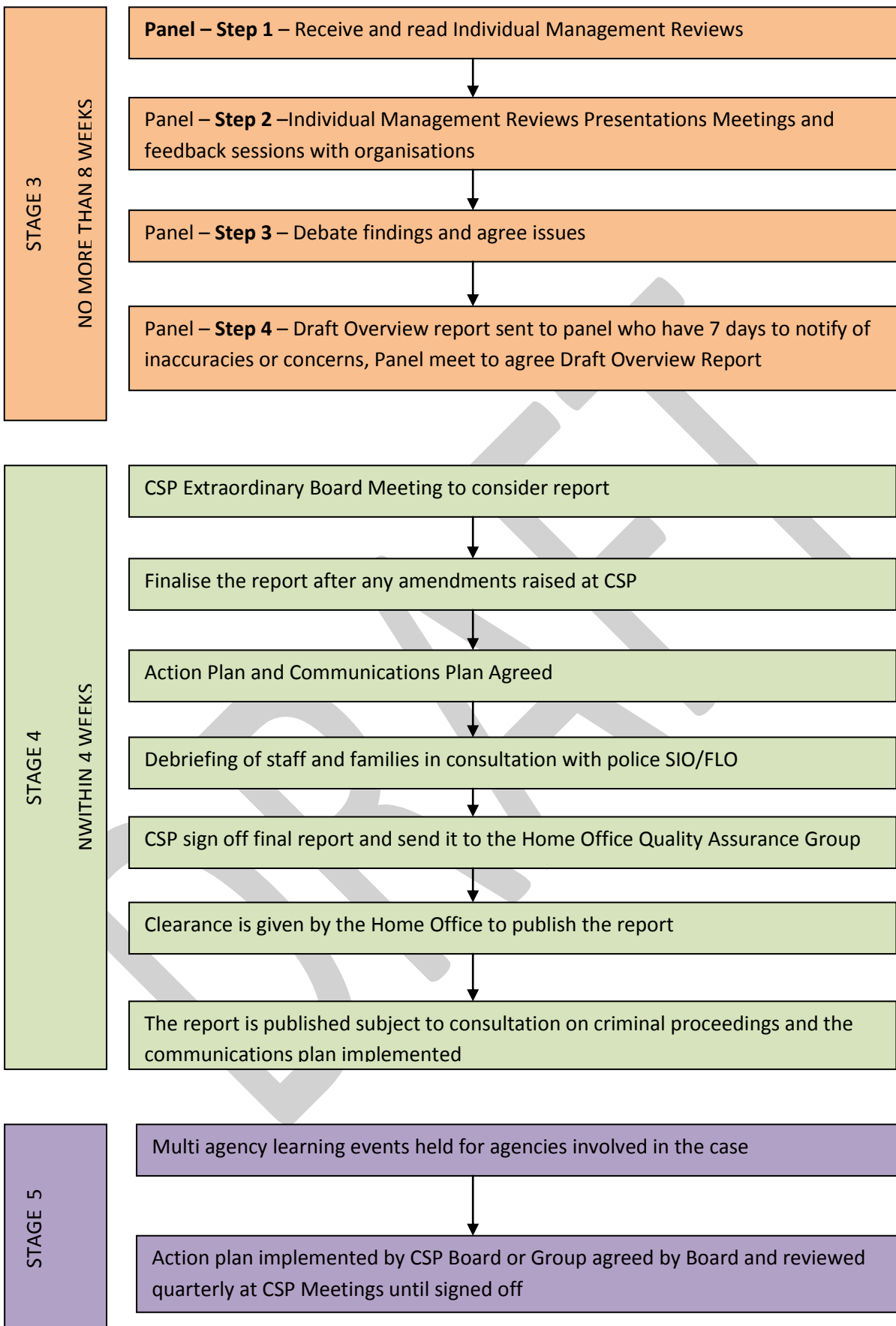
	AIM	ACTION/WORK PROGRAMME	LEAD	Target Date	Desired Outcome	Monitoring Arrangements	How will success be measured
			Community Safety				

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Appendix 1

Telford and Wrekin Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Process Flow Chart following Police Notification to SSP of a Domestic Homicide





DHR TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS

CAUTION: Timescales may differ if there are ongoing criminal or civil proceedings or an inquest

The NICE Guidance: Domestic Violence and abuse; how services can respond effectively (Feb2014) – Recommendations

	Recommendation
1.	Plan services based on assessment of need and service mapping
2.	Participate in a local strategic multi-agency partnership to prevent domestic violence and abuse
3.	Develop an integrated commissioning strategy
4.	Commission integrated care pathways
5.	Create an environment for disclosing domestic violence and abuse
6.	Ensure trained staff ask people about domestic violence and abuse
7.	Adopt clear protocols and methods for information sharing
8.	Tailor support to meet people's needs
9.	Help people who find it difficult to access services
10.	Identify and where necessary refer children and young people affected by domestic violence and abuse
11.	Provide specialist domestic violence and abuse services for children and young people
12.	Provide specialist advice, advocacy and support as part of comprehensive referral pathway
13.	Provide people who experience domestic violence and abuse and have a mental health condition with evidence based treatment for that condition
14.	Commission and evaluate tailored interventions for people who perpetrate domestic violence and abuse
15.	Provide specific training for health and social care professionals in how to respond to domestic violence and abuse
16.	GP practices and other agencies should include training on, and a referral pathway for domestic abuse
17.	Pre-qualifying training and continuing professional development for health and social care professional should include domestic violence and abuse.

HMIC Report – Everyone’s business: Improving the police responses to domestic abuse (March 2014)

Extract of the four relevant recommendations for consideration by the LSCB and CSP:

Recommendation 9

The Home Office should reconsider its approach to domestic homicide reviews. It needs to re-assess whether the current process, guidance and quality assurance arrangements provide the best opportunities for the improvement of forces’ knowledge of and approach to domestic abuse cases. It should consider whether there is a better way of communicating the contents and conclusion of reviews and the lessons learned. Police and Crime Commissioners should track how and when recommendations from domestic homicide reviews are implemented.

Recommendation 10

Police and Crime Commissioners should consider the findings and recommendations of this report when commissioning services for victims of domestic abuse. In particular, they should take note of the strong value placed on the role of independent domestic violence advisers by the victim, police and other criminal justice agencies.

Recommendation 11

Tackling domestic abuse requires a number of organisations in both statutory services (including health, local authorities, the Crown Prosecution Service and Probation) and voluntary and community services to work together. Following HMIC’s inspection, there should be a further multi-agency inspection of these services. This should consider how local services provide advice, assistance and support to victims of domestic abuse. The inspection should not only consider how individual services contribute to keeping victims safe, but also the quality of the partnership and the ways in which joint working is scrutinised.

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