

Transformation to 2021 proposal details

Name of Transformation to 2021 proposal: Domestic Abuse Victim and Perpetrator Services

T21 Opportunity Reference: PH4 Domestic Abuse Victim and Perpetrator Services

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Department:

Adults' Health and Children's Services
Care

Corporate
Services

Culture,
Communities and
Business Services

Economy,
Transport and
Environment

Date of assessment: 9/4/2019

Detailed

Overview

Is this a detailed or an overview EIA?

Description of service / policy and the proposed change

Describe the current service or policy, giving a brief description of the current services in scope and the user demographic:

The services provide specialist support for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and their families, providing a variety of functions, including:

- Domestic Abuse Front Door: first point of contact/information/advice/assessment/triage for victims/ children/ perpetrators and professionals.
- Early intervention/prevention
- Support/interventions for victims and perpetrators
- Support for children/young people & adults at risk
- Links between the perpetrator and victim services: ensuring that all members in a family are appropriately supported.

During 2016/17 over 4,500 adults/children supported by victim services, with 259 referrals to perpetrator services (160 accessed interventions, 36 completed). 96% of victims were female and 98% perpetrators male, with the majority identifying as heterosexual.

Geographical impact:

All Hampshire

Basingstoke & Deane

East Hampshire

Eastleigh

Fareham

Gosport

Hart

Havant

New Forest

Rushmoor

Test Valley

Winchester

Describe the proposed change, including how this may impact on service users or staff:

Reduced by 9% already a further reduction of 13% reduction would potentially have the following impact on the services:

- Staff reduction for both the community and accommodation-based services
- Reduction in physical bases for the delivery of support, community outreach, and group work interventions
- Reduction in opening times of services • Reduction in key worker and group-work sessions
- Reduction in specialist services for children and young people affected by domestic abuse
- Reduction in prevention and early intervention services, including training to professionals
- Increased waiting times for support services
- Reduction of availability of crisis accommodation
- Increasing thresholds of risk relating to eligibility for services
- Reduction in the variety of specialist or tailored/personalised needs led interventions.

Who does this impact assessment cover?

- Service users HCC staff (including partners)

Engagement and consultation

Has any pre-consultation engagement been carried out?

- Yes No No, but planned to take place

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform. Describe who was engaged or consulted. What was the outcome of the activity and how have the results influenced what you are doing? If no consultation or engagement is planned, please explain why.

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal – however, the County Council ran a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2019 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing Council Tax, using reserves and making changes to the way services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to the County Council's Cabinet in October 2019. When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

Consideration of impacts

Indicate whether the proposed change is expected to have a positive, neutral or negative (Low, Medium or High) impact on people who share the following characteristics.

For any characteristics with a positive, low negative, medium negative, or high negative impact, please describe this impact in the box provided.

For any characteristics with a medium negative, or high negative impact, please describe any mitigations in the box provided.

Statutory considerations

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Children and young people (CYP) support services would be reduced, less accessible and less visible, and with increased waiting times. Pathways of referrals (e.g. schools/children's social care) may need to be restricted. 40,000 CYP in Hampshire were estimated to be affected by domestic abuse in 2017-18. Flexible opening times are important for those adults of working age in order to access services outside of working hours. Older people (aged 59 and above) are also particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse and have often been the age category for Domestic Homicide Review cases in the county. Victims of domestic homicides (seen at Domestic Homicide Reviews, or DHRs) are most commonly found to be in the 'medium' risk category and often not well known to services. Reductions in funding make it increasingly challenging to access these groups of people, make services accessible and provide the adequate levels of support. There is a specific need for perpetrator interventions in the 18-24 year old age category, which may be affected with a reduction in funding.

Mitigation: Key organisations working with young people and older people provided with training and development to increase capability of front-line workforce to be able to support a lower level domestic abuse need. Prioritise opening times to meet clients' needs. Children's and Adults' Health and Care departments would work together to carry out a system wide process and pathway review with the ability to prioritise and reorganise, within the resource allocation.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Domestic Abuse services were accessed by around 700 people in 2017/18 with some form of self-reported disability. For those who specified what type of disability they had (583 people), the majority were people with a mental health issue (85%, 490 people). Disability relating to physical health was identified by 12% (71 people), and learning disabilities by 2% (14 people). A small number of people reported hearing or visual impairment. Reduced service funding could impact time available to work with clients around their mental health needs and working arrangements with mental health services, or clients requiring more intense interventions due to their individual needs. Reduction in accommodation-based services could see further restrictions in already scarce resources of adapted crisis accommodation.

Mitigation: Clear joint working protocol developed which describes referral, assessment and intervention pathways. Further work and links with the national network of refuges to identify access to suitable accommodation around the county, particularly with neighbouring authorities.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Whilst there are relatively low numbers of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) population currently accessing the Domestic Abuse victim service (1.7%), evidence suggests that this group faces a higher risk of experiencing domestic abuse. Our data shows that men, and people in same-sex relationships, appear to be least likely present to victim services, and even less likely to present to perpetrator services.

Mitigation: Work with relevant LGBT organisations to increase awareness of services and capacity of front-line staff to support lower level domestic abuse needs and to understand referral pathways to both victim and perpetrator services.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: In Hampshire 3.8% of the population is of Asian origin and 1% of Black origin, the largest ethnic group accessing the Domestic Abuse victim services was White British (67%) followed by British (4%). Asian/Asian British represented 2% and Black/Black British 1%. For perpetrator services, 2016/17 data show that of those referring to the service, 4.7% were Asian/Asian British and 3.3% were Black/African/Caribbean/Black British. There is some outreach into Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and identified areas of need. Reduction in capacity and services could affect the ability to engage with BME communities.

Mitigation: Prioritise to keep outreach and awareness raising of services in areas where there is higher representation from BME communities. Continue to undertake annual Health Equity Audits and service improvement plans

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact:
Mitigation:

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Nobody who identified as having undergone or who were undergoing gender reassignment was recorded as having accessed Domestic Abuse services in 2017/18. Reduction in funding would make it increasingly difficult to resource targeted work to reach out to people who have undergone gender reassignment

Mitigation: Consider this in the development of the Safe Spaces transformational element of the new contract.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: The Domestic Abuse services aim to support both men and women who are victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse, but very few male victims access these services. Victim services work predominantly with women, and perpetrator services mostly with men. Reduced services could impact on the number of people accessing support from both angles. Many group work environments won't work with mixed genders and therefore specialist male/female groups would reduce in frequency (or altogether).

Mitigation: Prioritise gender specific groups wherever possible. Consider male victims in the development of the Safe Spaces transformational element of the new contract.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact:
Mitigation:

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Pregnancy is a risk factor for increased domestic abuse, reducing the service may reduce the access for women at a time of need.

Mitigation: Work with the Maternity services to ensure they are able to deal standard risk clients as part of routine care and develop safety plans.

Other considerations

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact: Whilst domestic abuse occurs across the board, irrespective of economic status, there are distinct links between employment status and risk of experiencing abuse. In addition, there are strong links between domestic abuse and alcohol/drug use, which in turn are strongly linked with levels of deprivation. Reduced funding could impact through reductions in service provision (both domestic abuse services and substance misuse services), access to services, intensity of interventions and increased thresholds around eligibility.

Mitigation: Ensure clear referral pathways between services and prioritise affected groups.

	Positive	Neutral	Low negative	Medium negative	High negative
Rurality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact: The current Domestic Abuse victim services have a good footprint across Hampshire with refuges and outreach teams in all districts/boroughs. The perpetrator service is less well resourced and therefore offers interventions in Basingstoke, Southampton, Havant and the New Forest. A reduced budget would decrease the availability of both accommodation-based services, the outreach teams which work out of their office space and there would be further to travel for both staff and service users to access services. Reduced funding for the perpetrator service may result in the closure of groups in areas altogether, cutting off large numbers of the Hampshire population from accessing services.

Mitigation: Build this in to the Safe Spaces transformational work in Years 1&2 of the new contract. Develop proposals for digital / virtual support where appropriate, although this would not suit all service users, particularly those accessing group work or more complex/higher level support.

If you have only identified neutral impacts, please state why:

Additional information

[Click here for guidance on any other factors to consider.](#)

Include any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment here:
(optional)

For every perpetrator there is a victim and we know that a large proportion of both victims and perpetrators are 'repeats'. Unless perpetrator behaviour is addressed, victimisation will continue. The current victim and perpetrator services are required to work closely together to ensure, as far as possible, a coordinated approach aimed at reducing the risks of re-victimisation and reoffending. Reduced funding would likely result in a decrease in availability of services, in particular a decrease in attendance at perpetrator interventions, which is already low.

Vulnerable Groups - Vulnerable adults and children at risk:

- Domestic abuse is often not experienced as a single issue. It frequently exists alongside other problems, in complex family or relationship situations many of which could in fact overshadow the presence of domestic abuse, making it all the more important to identify to domestic abuse and subsequently work with all members of the family.
- The service specification includes requirements for providers to demonstrate understanding of Hampshire safeguarding policies and procedures and work closely with adult and children's social care to identify, support and prioritise vulnerable adults and children.
- Nationally, around half of women within the criminal justice system (as perpetrators of crime) have been affected by domestic violence. While this is of course not a linear cause-and-effect relationship, this statistic can be seen as illustrative of the often complex and multiple needs that may be experienced by women
- The results of stakeholder engagement activity highlighted a lack of awareness of domestic abuse services and how to refer.
- The service specification requires providers of commissioned domestic abuse service and probation to develop a joint working protocol to strengthen awareness and referral rates.
- Victims of domestic homicides (seen at Domestic Homicide Reviews, or DHRs) are most commonly found to be in the 'medium' risk category and often not well known to services.

Reductions in funding would make it increasingly challenging to access these groups of people, make services accessible and provide the adequate levels of support.