

Extending intervention

Domestic Abuse and the Troubled
Families Programme

Mike Howes, LB Harrow

Setting the scene

- Progress in the last year – Pan London DV Contract increased IDVAs from 115 to 156
- At the recommended caseload of 80 per IDVA per year, this resource will provide help to 12,456 victims and their families
- There were 146,695 reports of DV recorded by the Police in London in the calendar year 2015

Safe Lives Strategy – Identified Opportunities

- an intervention to challenge high-risk perpetrators to change their behaviour
- a One Front Door model to identify all the risks to each member of the family together, and make sure each of them gets the right help fast
- specialist IDVAs to help medium-risk victims become safe and standard risk victims to receive the right support

Selected Safe Lives ambitions

- Victims and their families need to be at the heart of the system.
- Earlier identification of all victims, their children, young people at risk and perpetrators.
- There must be quality services for all victims.
- Children living with domestic abuse must get high-quality services

Troubled Families

- The Phase 2 Troubled Families programme has 6 priorities:
 1. Parents and children involved in Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
 2. Children who are not attending school regularly
 3. Parental worklessness and financial exclusion

Troubled Families cont'd

4. Children and adults affected by a range of health problems

5. Children who are in need of help and

6. Parents affected by domestic abuse and violence

- Domestic Abuse could be a primary or secondary cause of each for each of the other Troubled Families criteria.

Harrow's Troubled Families Approach

- Harrow needs to identify around 1,500 families who meet the definition for two or more of the criteria over the next four years.
- We have begun by looking at the data sets we already have so, the Children in Need criteria provides a ready source of candidate families.

Children in Need

- Our initial data scan shows that more than 80% of the families with a child or children in need have DA as a primary or secondary cause for concern
- This provides a potential cohort of 716 families
- We have not yet matched this cohort with our IDVA caseload to see how many are currently receiving support

Children in Need cont'd

- Nor do we know the risk level of the families in this cohort.
- **But** our IDVA capacity is at most 320 meaning that there are some 400 families who either are not high risk – but have a sufficient risk to be in the Children in Need cohort with a DA indicator – or whose need cannot be met from within the existing resource

DA Cohort

- So it seems that at least 400 of the Children in Need/DV Cohort are not receiving a DV intervention.
- Children in Need social workers can signpost to IDVAs - but they do not have the capacity to help.
- The Troubled Families programme offers the possibility of developing a medium and standard risk service.

Harrow Pilot

- Harrow is piloting a different form of therapeutic intervention which will come to a conclusion in July and an evaluation report should be available not later than September.
- Other forms of intervention are being explored that recognise that many victims want the abuse but not necessarily the relationship to end.

New Interventions:

- Can give the possibility of working with victims and families earlier than is usual in high risk IDVA-supported cases;
- Can reduce the time that Children in Need cases remain open and the likelihood of initiating child protection procedures; and
- Can open the possibility of helping to resolve more of the issues that give rise to being in the Troubled Families cohort.