



## REPORT FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST EXECUTIVE GROUP

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Report Title:</b>	Update Report - Domestic Abuse
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<b>Status of report:</b>	Not confidential
<b>Approved by:</b>	Jayne Hellowell – Head of Commissioning & Healthier Communities

1.	<p><b>Purpose of report/ Introduction/ Background</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to inform the TEG members of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The ongoing review into domestic abuse service provision in Barnsley and,</li> <li>b) the development of the new women’s centre.</li> </ol> <p><b>A. Strategic contract review for domestic abuse.</b></p> <p>In 2016/17, in response to national recommendations and a comprehensive, local review of domestic abuse services, Healthier Communities re-designed the whole-system response to domestic abuse, to centralise services that could respond across the spectrum of standard, medium and high risk.</p> <p>Subsequent to the tendering process the three year contract was awarded to Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) and commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. This contract included an option to extend for a further two years.</p> <p>Healthier Communities are currently undertaking a review of IDAS’ performance against the specification, a review of National policy changes that have taken place and whether this contract in its current form should be extended to 2022.</p> <p>In its current form, the service supports individuals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recover from current or historical situations of sexual violence and domestic abuse.</li> <li>- Build resilience from current or past experiences.</li> <li>- Learn effective skills and techniques to overcome negative behaviour and reaffirm positive behaviour in others.</li> <li>- Instil and expect this in all relationships.</li> </ul> <p>The aim of the service is to ensure that Barnsley sees a reduction in the number of people experiencing sexual violence and domestic abuse, whilst enabling people and families to achieve enduring and sustainable recovery. The service must empower local communities to provide support to people and families who have experienced sexual violence and domestic abuse, through the provision of group work. The service also aims to combat the harms caused by sexual violence and domestic abuse by empowering communities to challenge</p>
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behaviour that harbours perpetrators of sexual violence and domestic abuse – whilst enabling victims to seek support. The service is designed to encourage victims to seek an appropriate resolution to their case through the criminal justice system, by providing support to victims and families throughout the process – thus contributing to an increase in successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

Specifically in terms of young people, IDAS have appointed a Young Person’s Violence Advisor (YPVA) whose role entails working with young people to educate them on healthy relationships, provide appropriate support to those experiencing domestic abuse or sexual violence and working closely with key partner agencies to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes for the individual, their family and the wider community. IDAS have also commissioned *Helping Hands* (an accredited Women’s Aid programme) to deliver an educational package to young people in Primary Schools about what a healthy relationship should look like whilst helping young people identify unhealthy relationships and sexual assault.

IDAS are responsible for managing and administering the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The MARAC is a multi-agency process that ensures all appropriate agencies are involved in safety planning for high-risk victims of domestic abuse. MARAC creates a multi-agency safety plan, in order to reduce the risk to the victim and any dependent children or adults. IDAS are responsible for monitoring attendance at MARAC and monitoring progress against the multi-agency safety plan. IDAS are also responsible for managing the refuge in Barnsley. This involves deciding who is eligible to be placed in the refuge, providing ongoing support to residents and their families in the refuge and assisting them with identifying and applying for appropriate move on accommodation.

The current contract requires IDAS to take a whole family approach to delivering their services. They work with the whole family in order to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse and sexual violence. In practice, this means that IDAS work with children and young people to provide support whilst working collaboratively with other agencies as appropriate.

IDAS provides a single point of contact and are expected to be the local expert coordinator and advisor in relation to any local domestic abuse issues. This includes building good working relationships with partnership agencies, delivering training on domestic abuse and addressing issues regarding the community response to domestic abuse and sexual violence thus contributing to a culture of continuous improvement in terms of the response to domestic abuse in Barnsley.

**Key Achievements:**

The table below shows the number of individuals that were supported by IDAS to achieve specific outcomes within years one and two of the contract.

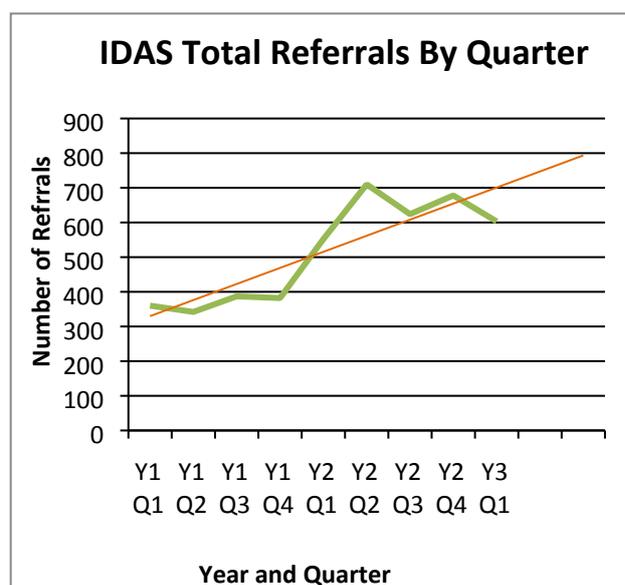
Number of Individuals Supported by IDAS to achieve each outcome		
Outcome	Year 1	Year 2
Supported to Manage Substance Misuse	6	72
Making Positive Lifestyle Choices e.g. healthy eating, smoking cessation	28	114
Supported to better manage mental health and wellbeing	36	402
Engage clients in safety planning	79	716

Support to improve awareness around healthy relationships	73	733
Supported to attend an IDAS programme	32	460
Supported to participate in work/ volunteering activity	1	61
Supported to better manage finances	11	148
Supported to maintain/ secure accommodation or avoid eviction	9	146
Supported to better manage their physical health and wellbeing	10	243

We have not set IDAS official performance targets, because this service is the first time that there has been a single service for domestic abuse in Barnsley across standard, medium and high risk. The contract therefore represents the first chance to develop an in depth understanding of the needs of domestic abuse clients in Barnsley. Our approach to contract monitoring has focussed on working closely with IDAS to understand their processes and how they monitor outcomes. By doing this we have been able to set stretch targets in order to push IDAS to achieve better outcomes for their clients. This has enabled us to improve IDAS' performance and use the data provided to set benchmark targets for years 4 and 5, should the contract be extended.

Throughout the lifecycle of the contract, IDAS have been attentive to performance reviews, meeting targets and deadlines and will make 'real time' adjustments to provision responding to need. They have shown willingness and commitment into developing the service which is shown through their increasing referrals each month and their commitment to delivering campaign work.

IDAS have undertaken a significant amount of campaign work in order to raise awareness of domestic abuse and combat the stereotypes and societal norms that allow domestic abuse to occur unchallenged and prevent victims from accessing support. The graph below demonstrates how referrals into IDAS have increased over the lifetime of the service, which suggests that agencies are becoming more confident in identifying domestic abuse and are more aware of the service provided by IDAS. A full report exploring the impact of campaigns is included as an appendix.



IDAS Barnsley has recently been successful in attaining Leading Lights accreditation from Safe Lives, which recognises best practice in domestic abuse services nationally.

### **B. Women's Centre Project**

Healthier Communities have been successful in securing £250k grant funding from the Ministry of Justice for the development of a local 'women's centre' including a provision of move-on accommodation for female offenders leaving prison. Upon being awarded the grant funding, Healthier Communities undertook a procurement exercise to secure a Registered Provider of Social Housing, who could provide the accommodation element of the bid. Humankind were successful in procurement exercise and have since been tasked with:

- Identifying potential property sites and recommending best options, in accordance with the specified budget.
- Managing the development of the project from conception to handover.
- Project managing the building design and refurbishment as appropriate.
- Providing the accommodation element of the bid.
- Developing a service level or partnership agreement with the domestic abuse contracted provider, IDAS, setting out their relationship as landlord and tenant.

The facility in Goldthorpe previously known as the Factory, has been identified and agreed as the appropriate property for the Women's Centre. The centre will provide office space for our contracted domestic abuse provider IDAS serving the whole of the Borough and a number of resources aimed at promoting recovery from domestic abuse and improving outcomes for all women. This will include a crèche or nursery, a learning space, individual rooms for consultations and counselling and, group session rooms. An architect has been appointed and is currently in the process of finalising the designs for the new Women's Centre.

The accommodation element of the project will be provided by Humankind using a dispersed accommodation model, which is advantageous as it will prevent the Women's Centre becoming stigmatised as a place where vulnerable reside whilst also being able to place Women into appropriate communities based housing.

IDAS and Humankind are currently working on producing a service level agreement which will determine their relationship as tenant and landlord.

The Women's Centre is due to be available for use from December 2019, with IDAS currently planning a launch event for around this time.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Board is asked to:

Note the content of this report.

## **3. Conclusion/ next steps**

The strategic contract review into IDAS will be presented at the Communities Directorate Management Team meeting. DMT will take a decision on whether to extend the contract by 2 years.

## **4. Risks/ barriers**

IDAS have shown they can manage individual client risk and whilst caseloads are currently manageable we need to appreciate the gradual increase in case numbers and future proof

	<p>the system by adapting the model for ‘step down’ interventions access to group support, increasing the direct support by volunteers and aftercare packages.</p> <p>Waiting times for high risk emergency refuge placements have historically been long. This is a national crisis and usually is explained by reduced numbers of placements available due to funding cuts but also due to poor housing availability. If we are to ensure effective refuge services in Barnsley we must be mindful we aren’t solving a cross county, placement crisis. Our local response will include identifying private landlords as a housing resource as well as ensuring effective responses from the Authority stock particularly for those women who have larger families.</p> <p>Service users and staff have identified that although not an exclusively ‘female only’ service males are not readily accessing IDAS. More needs to be done to attract this client group both in terms of access points but also working on the stigma associated with men being victims. We will be making marketing to men as victims a priority in the later period of 2019.</p> <p>There is a specific risk around the provision of the Young Person’s Violence Advisor (YPVA) as this post is funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and is funded on a yearly basis. IDAS are aware of the risk posed by the funding ending and working on contingency plans to enable the post to continue.</p> <p><b>Women’s Centre</b> There are risks around opening the centre in accordance with agreed deadlines as subject to monitoring by the MOJ. These risks are currently being monitored, managed and mitigated as appropriate by the project team.</p>
5.	<p><b>Financial Implications</b></p> <p>None</p>
6.	<p><b>Co-production/ stakeholder engagement</b></p> <p>In terms of the strategic review of the IDAS contract, a stakeholder engagement event was held with a range of IDAS service users, to seek their views on the current delivery model. In addition, IDAS staff and service users have had the opportunity to provide feedback through online questionnaire. A large proportion of the respondents to the service user survey have been provided by young people who access the YPVA service, as discussed above.</p> <p>In terms of the Women’s Centre, a multi-agency Task and Finish group has been created, to ensure that all key stakeholders are able to contribute to its development. Engagement with key stakeholders is a key part of ensuring this project is a success and Healthier Communities are currently managing this element of the project.</p>
7.	<p><b>Appendices/ background papers</b></p> <p>7.1 Report to the PVP sub-group of the Safer Barnsley Partnership exploring the impact of campaigns.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>20190424 Item 3 SpeakUp Domestic At</p> </div>

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