

**London Borough of Enfield  
Equalities Board**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Subject: Domestic Abuse**  
**Cabinet Member: Cllr Keazor**  
**Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou**  
**Key Decision: N/A**

**Purpose of Report**

1.To provide an update on the sections within the Fairer Enfield Policy which relate to Tackling Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls.

**Proposal(s)**

2. To note progress against the Fairer Enfield Policy and Plan and new work planned or commissioned.

**Reason for Proposal(s)**

3.To provide assurance that the requirements of the Fairer Enfield Policy are being progressed. The profile of the wide range of work to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls has been raised following some tragic recent events such as the deaths of Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry in June 2020, Sabina Nessa Sept 2021 and Sarah Everard in March 2021.

**Relevance to the Council Plan**

4.Reflects both the Fairer Enfield Policy but other related Plans including the priorities of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) of “tackling violence in all its forms”. Enfield Council is a responsible authority within the SSCB which acts as the statutorily required Community Safety Partnership for Enfield.

**Background**

5.Updates are provided against each element:

a) Provide opportunities for perpetrators to address their harmful behaviour at an earlier stage, before violence escalates, through voluntary perpetrator programmes (as most interventions with perpetrators are currently only available after statutory services are involved).

- Enfield funded from Adult Services, Community Safety and Children’s Services, a pilot scheme in 2020 to provide a voluntary provision for perpetrators, which was particularly successfully taken up in Children’s Services and may well be reconsidered for future provision. This utilised Council funding to test the effectiveness for complementing existing

services around support for victims of domestic abuse. The provider for the trial service (RISE mutual) has now been recommissioned using funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime for a tri-borough project described further here.

- Enfield has successfully bid along with two other boroughs for funding to develop a BAME-focused & coordinated family & community approach. The work will take account of the different effects of discrimination experienced by marginalised groups in working with families. RISE Mutual CIC ("RISE") will provide domestic abuse interventions which engage the expertise and experience of local community organisations, to challenge perpetrators and support the emotional abuse experienced by victims and multi-victims. The service will be adapted and tailored to meet the specific profile and need of each borough.  
The project requires a small amount of match funding and will run until July 2022
- The programme will use an intersectional approach with families, addressing different elements of the identities of domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, rather than just one – like race or gender. It will also help to break down some of the barriers to victims accessing support and help challenge and disrupt the abuse.  
The support programme – delivered through the social organisation, RISE began in November, and is open to people from BAME, minority and disadvantaged groups, including LGBTQ+.  
Enfield as part of the tri- borough will contribute to a report on uptake and effectiveness of the programme to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime quarterly.

b) The number of available voluntary perpetrator programmes and the number of perpetrators accessing these programmes.

- The boroughs will refer 90 cases to RISE in 12 months.

c) Enhance our response to concerns about domestic violence through a specialist abuse team hub and commissioned service to reduce risks to vulnerable adults and children.

- The Enfield Domestic Abuse Hub was officially launched on 1st May 2020 in response to the emergent concern of increasing domestic abuse incidents in the Borough during the Covid -19 Pandemic. The local domestic abuse helpline was developed to provide easy access to tailored advice and support for victims of domestic abuse, particularly during the lockdown where there was forced isolation and limited access to mainstream support services.

The Domestic Abuse Hub helpline continues to operate during weekdays between 9am to 5pm. The calls are answered by two accredited Domestic Abuse Prevention Advocates (commissioned via SOLACE partnership) and staff from the Domestic Abuse Team in Children Services. A responder has recently

(November 2021) been recruited from the Youth Development Service to cover the Hub 2 days a week.

Actions which benefit the service users, are provided in a coordinated way which is reflected in the range of skills engaged with the work. This has included information sharing or referrals being made to support services. There are no time constraints placed on calls, which allows survivors the time and space to talk about their experiences.

The Hub has resulted in an improved service for clients.

d) Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the domestic abuse hub pilot, to ensure that we maximise support for people impacted by domestic abuse in a sustainable and effective way.

- The services which clients were signposted to, were largely already in place allowing the Hub to access established and already sustained programmes of work.
- Following each call support is provided to the victim in the form of information and advice including signposting to other services for further support.
- The Hub Line does have a voicemail facility if calls are not answered which directs calls to call police in an emergency and details how to make a silent call. It gives details of Hub opening times and an option to leave a message.
- Enfield has a VAWG plan which is currently under review concurrently with the SSCB wider plan and the corresponding work regionally. The Domestic Abuse picture is a complex and fast moving one as aspects of the recent Domestic Abuse legislation are enacted.
- As evidenced in recent calls to the Hub and considering the Domestic Abuse statistics in Enfield, there is a demonstrable need for this approach, which maximises early intervention support rather than the survivor going through various channels. It takes a lot of courage for the survivor (according to SafeLives this could amount to 50 separate incidents of abuse prior to reaching out for help) to make contact and any opportunity to provide support needs to be as robust and efficient as possible.

e.) The number of people reporting domestic abuse through the free hotline.

- Since its inception there has been 242 contacts to the Hub, via phone calls and emails. Most of the phone calls were from victims themselves and received between the hours of 9-5pm. The others were from multiple sources including calls received from both Adult and Children Social workers as well as police, other family members, members of the public and other community organisations.
- Where gender was recorded, 141 contacts were in relation to female victims and 12 relating to male victims of domestic abuse. The largest age group of callers is between 21-40 years and there have been 12 contacts in relation to victims over the age of 60.

- In relation to perpetrator gender, 119 calls were in relation to male perpetrators and 10 calls in relation to Female perpetrators.

f) Impact of the hub to be measured through individual service performance indicators and the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Strategy and Action Plan.

- While it is not possible to attribute directly the case work impact on the wider work to tackle Domestic Abuse, we do have some figures relating to the client group accessing local services this way. This information will help to shape services commissioned going forward.
- Of those impacted by Domestic abuse whose cases were referred via the Hub:
  - The majority were female
  - The most usual age range was 31-40 years, followed by 21- 30 years.
  - The highest ethnicity single classification recorded was “not known” (which is an area already identified for improvement when recording) followed by white British, white other and then a wide range of diverse groups making up collectively the largest section of the local communities.
- The feedback from the community and voluntary sector in relation to the Hub has been positive.

g.) Prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place by challenging attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervene where possible to prevent it.

- The last section of the report aims to provide some oversight of the work being undertaken to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in public spaces.
- Previous communications campaigns from the Community Safety Unit are attached as appendices to this report.
- They include for example the campaign in 2019 using imagery which represented same sex couples. These also featured in the LGBT newsletter to promote the campaign and the route to access support. We create campaigns to ensure everyone is included regardless of sex, race or gender. For example, in our vulnerability campaign we represented figures of how DA affect older people and people with learning disabilities.
- This autumn we have worked closely with the Enfield Youth Parliament to create a campaign to raise awareness around in public spaces safety and with a focus on challenging inappropriate behaviour. Working with the

Youth Parliament has given us a great insight to the concerns of young adults around improving personal safety.

- This is a campaign to inspire action and seeks to help embed positive change and reflection which will be launched on White Ribbon Day. The key areas addressed are reflective of local and national priorities.
- All campaigns are distributed through a variety of mediums and are also shared via internal communications with our own staff.
- Enfield Council was the first London council to receive the title of White Ribbon Authority which raises awareness of male violence against women and girls back in 2010. Through our continued commitment and work we have again been successful in renewing our status as a White Ribbon Borough. This involves an action plan for Enfield council to implement and to ensure we adhere to raising awareness and continue working to stop male violence against women and girls.
- Links established with the Learning Disability Group
- Work with partners to encourage sharing campaigns and making referrals
- Routine enquiry established in GPs surgeries.
- Learning from Domestic Homicide reviews.
- Contributed to the development of a DA workplace policy.
- Check accessibility of reports language used.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

6. To note the progress and invite further reports to the Equalities Board and Crime Scrutiny

### **Conclusions**

7. The aspects of work reported here demonstrate that there has been progress in ensuring services are appropriately designed to support all communities and many are tailored to ensure that they are easily accessible.

The responses featured have been designed and delivered within the context of the pandemic when demand was higher and delivery often more difficult. We do need to improve some aspects of capturing data, either because it is not routinely requested or because it is not currently utilised. For example, there is more work to do with faith groups and disability action groups in relation to working together to reduce vulnerability to harmful practices.

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## **Appendices**

### **Examples of previous Communications Campaigns**

### **Background Papers**

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: