

ITEM NO: 4(a)

Report To:	OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL
Date:	25 November 2013
Reporting Scrutiny Panel:	Resources and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
Subject:	DOMESTIC ABUSE IN TAMESIDE
Report Summary:	This review has considered how effective the Council and partners are at addressing the volume of Domestic Abuse in the borough, and ensuring the safeguarding of adults and children involved.
Recommendations:	That Overview (Audit) Panel note the recommendations in section 9 of the report.
Links to Community Strategy:	This review supports the Council's Community Strategy priorities relating to 'Safe Tameside' but also recognises links across all Community Strategy areas.
Policy Implications:	The review itself has no specific policy implications. Should the recommendations of this report be accepted by Tameside Council's Executive, the relevant services will need to assess the policy implications of putting individual recommendations in place.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)	The implementation of the cross cutting policies and strategies recommended in the report will need to be managed and resourced from within the associated existing revenue budget funding envelopes unless additional funding is provided from external partners.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The Council has a number of statutory duties and powers to reduce the exposure of children to domestic abuse and address the perpetrators of domestic violence both in terms of help and support and enforcement.
Risk Management:	Reports of Scrutiny Panels are integral to processes which exist to hold the executive of the authority to account.
Access to Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting James Gray, Scrutiny Coordination Officer by:



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1. INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR OF THE RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL

- 1.1 I am pleased to present this review looking at the effectiveness of the Council and its partners at addressing the volume of Domestic Abuse in the Borough and ensuring the safeguarding of those adults and children involved.
- 1.2 Although domestic abuse affects small proportions of our communities the influence domestic abuse can have on the lives of those involved can be devastating. A high degree of domestic abuse cases involve children in some way and many of those children involved are identified as being at risk. Further more the long lasting effects of being in a domestic abuse environment can have a profound and life long effect on those children as they grow up.
- 1.3 As part of this review the Panel have heard from representatives from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Victim Support and Witness Service, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Probation Trust, New Charter Housing Association and Tameside Women's Project.
- 1.4 The Panel considered undertaking a review of Domestic Abuse within the Borough following the recent Ofsted inspection around safeguarding. The inspection identified areas for improvement around safeguarding particularly domestic abuse.
- 1.5 Although Domestic Abuse is already embedded in various strategies, policies and procedures there are no documents concerned solely with the targeting of domestic abuse, although domestic abuse has a presence in many different documents.
- 1.6 Whilst it was concerning for the Panel to hear of the increase in the rates of domestic abuse being recorded this must also be regarded as an indicator of the great work that is being undertaken around domestic abuse and the surrounding issues. The profile of domestic abuse and the different types of domestic abuse are gaining awareness amongst Tameside's residents.
- 1.7 On behalf of the Resources and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, I would like to thank all of the individuals and organisations that have contributed to this review.

Councillor Margaret Sidebottom
Chair of the Resources and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 There is no specific domestic abuse criminal offence but it is used as a term by the police to define the context for a range of offences.
- 2.2 Domestic abuse accounts for 18% of all crime within England and Wales. National figures from the British Crime Survey showed over 1 million cases of domestic abuse within the UK during 2011/12, 27% of those victims of domestic abuse suffered from physical injury. The cost of domestic abuse to the UK stands at £36.7billion annually according to the latest figures provided by the Home Office.
- 2.3 Domestic abuse activity has remained consistently higher in Tameside compared to other neighbouring boroughs – particularly for the number of young people (under 18) involved as perpetrators. 683 domestic abuse incidents attended by Greater Manchester Police during 2011/12 involved the victim, perpetrator or both being under the age of 18. The levels of

recorded domestic abuse have increased, however, this is regarded as a good sign, due to people becoming more aware of the agencies that are available to report incidents to.

- 2.4 Within the UK in 2009/10 non sexual abuse between partners was the most common form of domestic abuse experienced by five percent of women and three percent of men.
- 2.5 The estimated costs of domestic abuse to Greater Manchester stand at £766.7 million annually. Police in Tameside respond to around 500 incidents of domestic abuse per month. The financial cost to Tameside has been estimated to be in the region of £43.4 million annually.
- 2.6 The Tameside Reducing Violent Crime Strategy has outlined a delivery plan, which identified domestic abuse as a key theme. The strategy shapes the borough's aims, objectives, actions and proposals for reducing violent crime.
- 2.7 The development of a new information 'Hub' within Tameside will help Tameside Council and partner organisations identify and coordinate the needs of families and individuals within the borough. Tameside has developed a tool for dealing with domestic abuse incorporating domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and honour abuse (D.A.S.H). The specific objectives of the "Hub" are to identify an individual's or families' needs earlier, develop early intervention, improve safeguarding decisions, increase the assessment of families needs and change the coordination of services.
- 2.8 The Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) work with victims of domestic abuse from the point of crisis. The work carried out by the IDVAs is typically short to medium term intervention and within a multi agency setting to manage risk. Around 90% of cases that are referred to them involve children and 60% of those involve children on the 'at risk' register with Tameside MBC Children services.
- 2.9 Victim Support and Witness Service provides support to victims of domestic abuse, through 5 Domestic Abuse Community Volunteers, 17 trained Victim Support Volunteers and 13 trained Witness Service Volunteers. Victim Support refers high risk victims into the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process as well as sitting on the group as a partner.
- 2.10 Tameside Women's Project provides women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse with temporary accommodation in single or family units in a safe and secure environment. The refuge has specially trained staff who provide a range of support and advice to women who have been subjected to domestic abuse.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL – 2012/2013

Councillor Margaret Sidebottom (Chair), David Buckley (Deputy Chair)
Councillors Brian Wild, Idu Miah, Yvonne Cartey, David McNally, Michael Whitley, Leigh Drennan, Ellie Shember-Critchley, Warren Bray.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Aim of the Review

- 4.1 To review how effective the Council and partners are at addressing the volume of Domestic Abuse in the borough, and ensuring the safeguarding of those adults and children involved.

Objectives

- To receive an overview of the domestic abuse situation in Tameside to include relevant statistics and how we perform compared to other similar Local Authorities.
- To assess the effectiveness of the policies, procedures and strategies employed by partners in addressing the levels of Domestic Abuse within the borough.
- To ensure that Safeguarding for adults and children within Tameside is being delivered effectively.
- To produce workable recommendations for the council and partners to support and tackle issues surrounding Domestic Abuse within the borough.

Value for Money/Use of Resources

- 4.2 The Home Office estimates the cost of services to victims and the economic loss due to domestic abuse in the UK stands at £36.7 billion annually, whilst the cost to Tameside alone is believed to exceed £43.4 million annually.

Equalities Issues

- 4.3 The Tameside Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) plays a pivotal role in addressing the issues surrounding domestic abuse within the borough. Domestic abuse can affect all sections of Tameside's communities.

Tameside Area Agreement Targets

- 4.4 The following targets from the Tameside Area Agreement relate to Domestic Abuse.

Key Quality of Life Measures	
Attractive Tameside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Crime• Feelings of Safety
Supporting Measures	
Safe Tameside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assault with injury• Re-offending / public protection• Domestic Violence
Supportive Tameside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Panel met with Tony Griffin, Assistant Executive Director for Specialist Services and Safeguarding, who advised the Panel of developments within Tameside following the Ofsted inspection that took place between the 19 and 30 March 2012.
- 5.2 The Panel met with Jane Forrest, Head of Commissioning and Resources, who outlined details of the Tameside HUB service incorporating a range of partners and services within Tameside.
- 5.3 The Panel met with Gale Osborne, Service Delivery Manager for Victim Support and Witness Service Tameside, regarding the services the organisation provides to victims and witnesses of domestic abuse within the borough.
- 5.4 The Panel met with Superintendent Nicola Spragg, of Greater Manchester Police who provided the Panel with an overarching picture of domestic abuse within Tameside and the

responses and strategies the police have implemented to tackle domestic abuse within the borough.

- 5.5 The Panel met with Detective Inspector Derek Weaver, of Greater Manchester Police regarding the work GMP undertakes around domestic abuse within Tameside.
- 5.6 The Panel met with Enda Ross, Integrated Offender Management Strategic Lead, for Greater Manchester Probation Trust, regarding the work the Trust undertakes to help reduce the levels of domestic abuse within the borough through working with offenders and victims.
- 5.7 The Panel met with Kerrie Parry, IDAAS Manager for New Charter Housing Trust, to hear details of the work undertaken by the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory services (IDVA's) in supporting victims of domestic abuse.
- 5.8 The Panel received a briefing note from Lorraine Gilmore, Manager for Tameside Women's Project around the work the refuge undertakes with women and children affected by domestic abuse.

6. BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

- 6.1 The Resources and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of Violence within the borough in 2006. That review looked at different aspects of violent crime within the borough including domestic violence. The Panel undertook a follow up review to that report in 2009, which recommended seventeen actions the majority of which were accepted and acted upon by the Executive Member and relevant council services.
- 6.2 The Home Office estimates that the cost of Domestic Violence within the UK stands at £36.7billion annually including the cost to public health, legal and social services.
- 6.3 Within the period 2011/12 Greater Manchester had 64,377 incidents and 14,637 of those were recorded as being related to domestic abuse in some way.
- 6.4 The Tameside Reducing Violent Crime Strategy 2012, outlines the Crime and Disorder Partnership's approach to violent crime incorporating different themes such as domestic abuse, sexual violence, the night time economy and young people.
- 6.5 The Tameside Strategic Partnership (TSP) Board brings together partner organisations to improve the quality of life for residents of Tameside. One of six key aims of the TSP is to ensure a Safe Tameside "*.....where everyone feels safe and secure, where crime and antisocial behaviour rates are low and continue to fall, and where people have respect for each other now and in the future*"¹.
- 6.6 Tameside Citizens' Panel in August 2012 surveyed 1,201 residents in Tameside regarding Domestic violence (being hurt in a relationship) of those respondents 1.7% advised they had been a victim of domestic abuse once compared to 0.8% the previous year whilst the numbers who had been the victim of domestic abuse more than once remained at 1.4%.
- 6.7 The Tameside Citizens' Panel also asked residents whether they were worried about becoming a victim of domestic violence. Of those questioned 5.5% said they were worried, compared to 3.7% previously, whilst 6.4% said they were a little worried.

¹ Tameside Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2010-2013

7. REVIEW FINDINGS

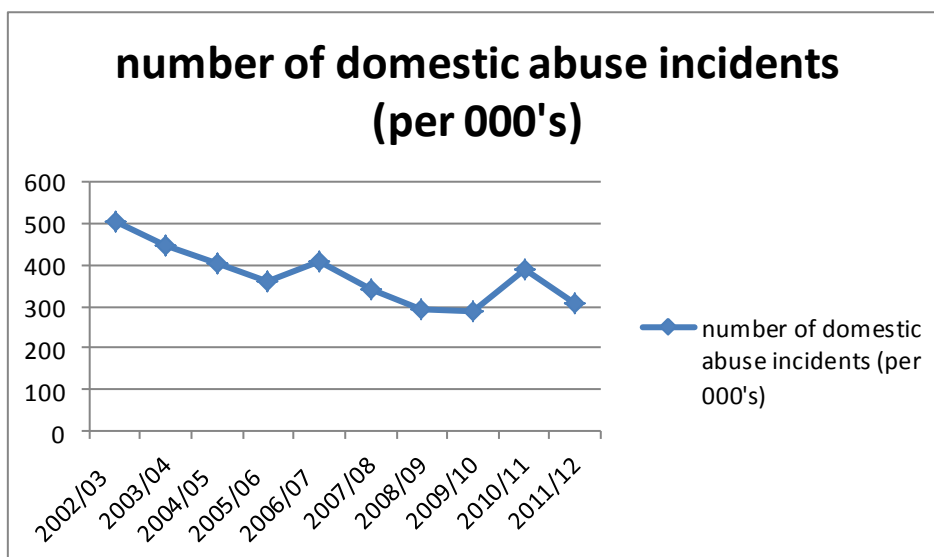
Domestic Abuse Nationally

- 7.1 Domestic Abuse is a term used to define a range of offences and incidents. Domestic abuse can be physical, psychological, sexual, financial and emotional abuse or harm between partners or family members. Domestic abuse can take place regardless of gender, sex, race, age or religion. One in four women are expected to experience domestic abuse within their lifetime.
- 7.2 Violence between family members falls into the definition of domestic abuse and also includes abuse that is perpetrated by young people within the family. In 2009/10 British Crime Survey figures identified that domestic abuse victims are more likely than any other, to become repeat victims.
- 7.3 Domestic abuse accounts for 18% of all violent crime within England and Wales. The British Crime Survey (BCS) 2010/11, identified 7% of women and 5% of men experienced some type of domestic abuse. Around 27% of those victims of domestic abuse suffered from physical injury².
- 7.4 According to figures provided from research carried out by Lancaster University, domestic abuse in 2008 cost the country £15.7 billion. National figures provided by the British Crime Survey 2009/10 show there have been large falls in domestic abuse since 1995. In 2009/10 non sexual abuse between partners was the most common form of domestic abuse experienced by five percent of women and three percent of men³.
- 7.5 British Crime Survey statistics showed over 1 million cases of domestic abuse within the UK during 2011/12. The majority of domestic violence incidents are committed by men on women. Home Office statistics for 2009 identified 73% of domestic abuse incidents were against women.
- 7.6 Graph one highlights the trend of domestic abuse incidents within the UK since 2002. The chart indicates a gradual decline in the number of domestic abuse incidents with individual peaks in 2006/07 and 2010/11.

²<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/hosb1011?view=Binary>

³

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210.pdf>



Graph one showing the number of Domestic Abuse incidents per 1000 of the population within the UK between 2002/03-2011/12 according to the Office of National Statistics⁴

- 7.7 The Home Office estimates that services and treatments for victims along with the economic costs of domestic abuse costs the UK £36.7billion annually.
- 7.8 In September 2012 the government established a cross government definition of domestic violence:
“The incident or patterns of incidents of controlling coercive, 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”

Conclusions

1. Domestic abuse can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse or harm between partners or family members.
2. In 2009/10 British Crime Survey figures identified that domestic abuse victims are more likely than any other to become repeat victims.
3. Domestic abuse costs the UK £36.7billion annually.

Recommendations

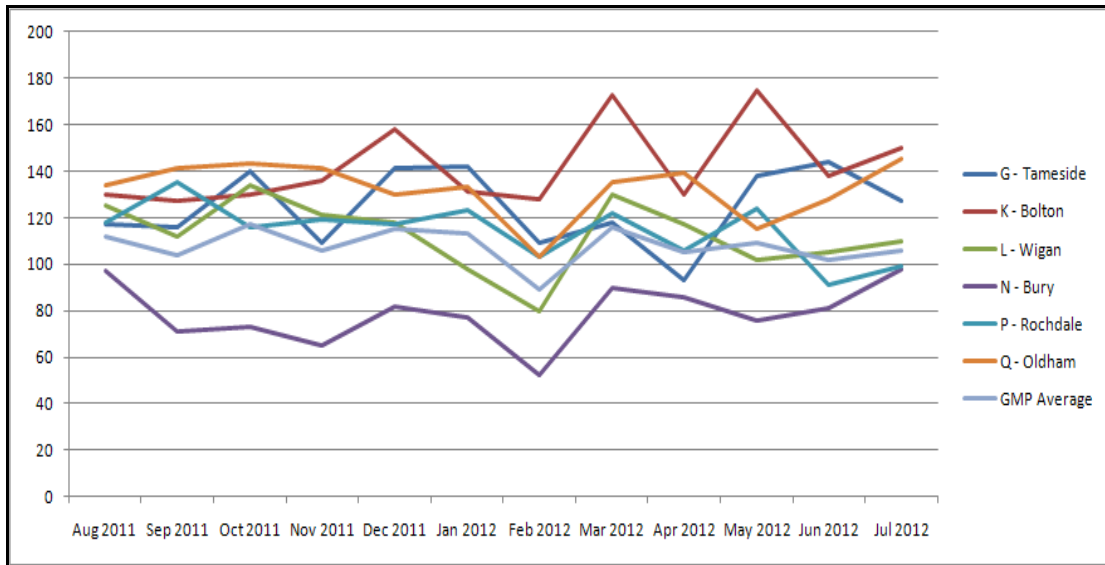
1. The cross government wider definition of domestic abuse is used in all policies and strategies the Council has regarding domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Locally

- 7.9 In the period 2011/12 Greater Manchester had 64,377 incidents and 14,637 of those were recorded as being related to domestic abuse. The estimated cost of domestic abuse to Greater Manchester stands at £766.7 million annually.
- 7.10 The annual average rate for each indicator for all four LAs (Oldham, Rochdale and Stockport who make up the Public Protection Investigation Unit (PPIU) division alongside Tameside (i.e. Oldham, Rochdale and Stockport). Activity in all areas has remained

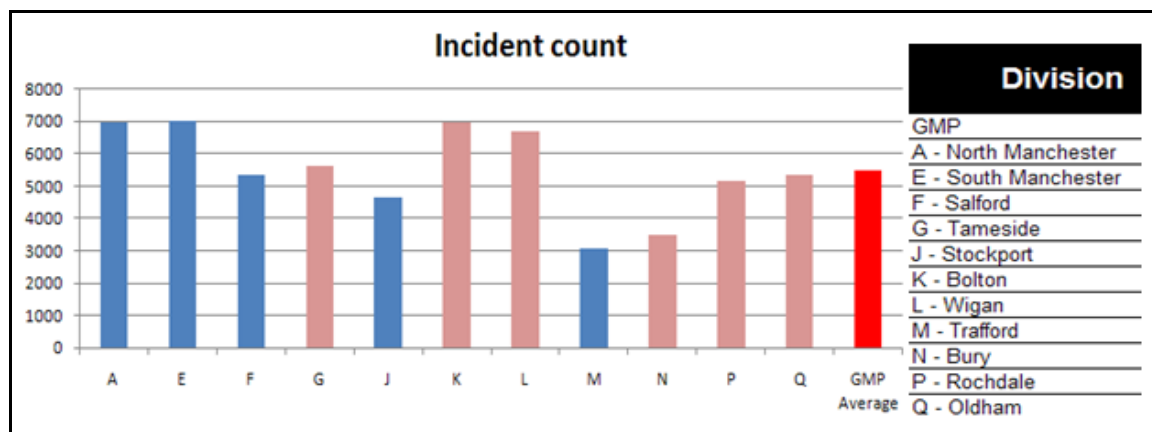
consistently higher in Tameside compared to other boroughs – particularly for the number of young people (under 18) involved as perpetrators.

7.11 The conversion of incidents to crimes for domestic abuse related incidents currently stands at around 20% within the borough. This places Tameside above the Greater Manchester figures in relation to domestic abuse related crimes. Tameside is also ranked 2nd within Greater Manchester for the number of incidents per 1,000 of the population. Tameside Currently has 12.05 incidents per 1,000 of the population compared to the Greater Manchester average of 10.44.



Graph two showing the number of levels of incidents across Greater Manchester authorities between April 2011 and July 2012

7.12 Graph two outlines the fluctuations in the levels of incidents recorded across Greater Manchester within the different divisions. Tameside has been consistently average compared to other divisions within the borough. However from April 2012, Tameside levels have increased to third highest within Greater Manchester.

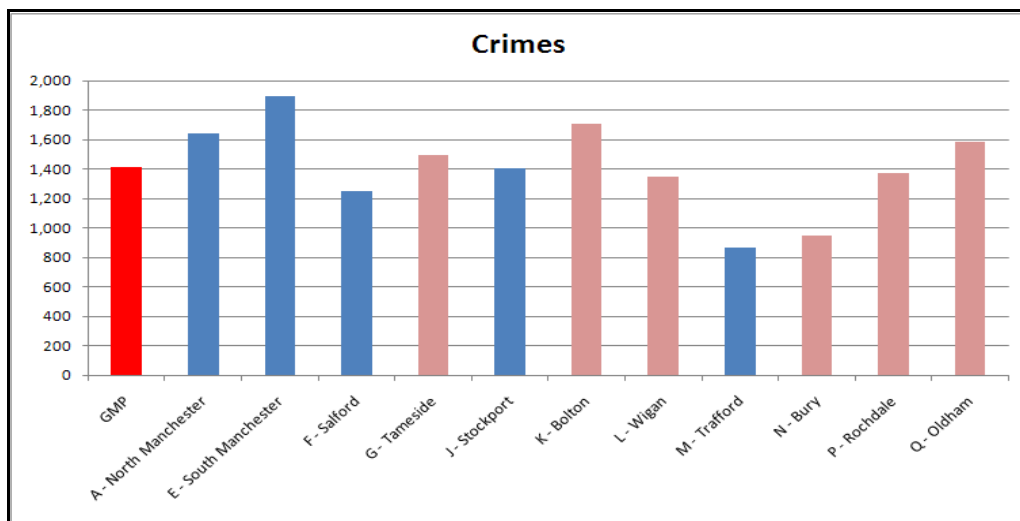


Graph three showing the number of Domestic abuse incidents the police responded to throughout Greater Manchester during 1/8/11 – 31/7/12

7.13 Graph three outlines the number of domestic abuse incidents that have occurred across all divisions of Greater Manchester showing the incidents within Tameside in the identified period as being slightly higher than the GMP average.

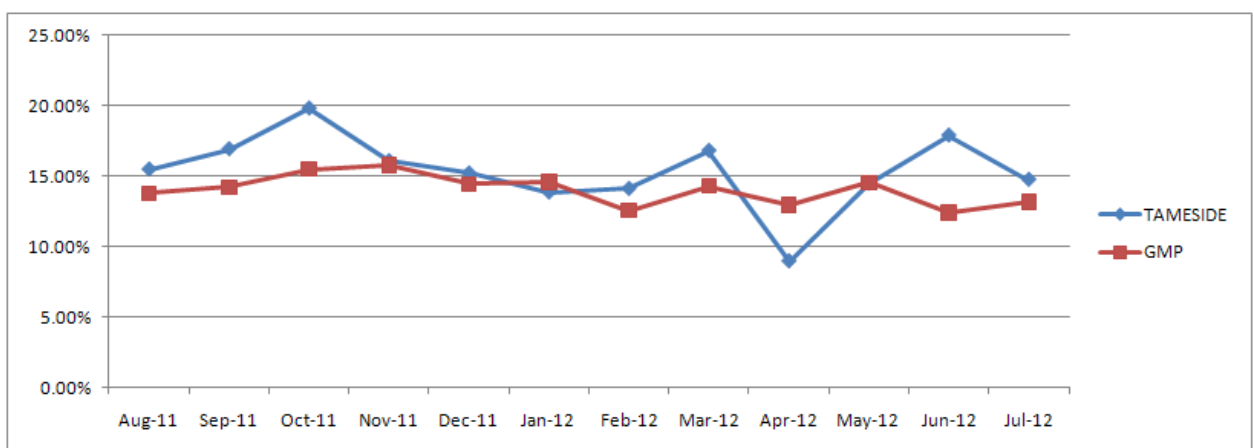
7.14 In the period 2011/12, 8% of all recorded crimes in Tameside were domestic abuse incidents; the impact of domestic abuse on families and communities can be severe. Within Tameside, around 20% of domestic abuse cases can be identified as “repeat cases”. Police in Tameside respond to around 500 incidents of domestic abuse per month. In the year 2009/10, 11.6% of domestic abuse victims in Tameside were aged between 17-20 years of age.

7.15 Domestic abuse incidents per 1000 of the population within Tameside decreased from 1,492 to 1364 between 2010/11-2011/12. The Financial cost to Tameside has been estimated to be in the region of £43.4 million annually. The number of incidents per 10,000 of the population within Tameside, Oldham, Rochdale and Stockport for individual Safeguarding Children Board indicators in relation to domestic abuse identify that rates in Tameside are higher than other boroughs.



Graph four showing the number of domestic abuse crimes by division between 1/8/11 – 31/7/12

7.16 Graph four identifies the number of recorded domestic abuse crimes across divisions in Greater Manchester in comparison to the GMP average. Tameside recorded more domestic abuse crimes than the GMP average.



Graph five showing the Tameside and Greater Manchester wide averages conversion rates of domestic abuse incidents

7.17 Graph five highlights the percentage of domestic abuse incidents that are converted to recorded crimes. The levels of conversion fluctuate between August 2011 and July 2012 with Tameside being consistently higher than the GMP average with a sudden drop around

April. This could be attributed to end of year targets and a focus on provisions to reduce incidents.

- 7.18 Tameside has a higher level of incidents than other boroughs within Greater Manchester, between August 2011 and July 2012 there were 5,617 domestic abuse related incidents within Tameside. Over the period of a year there are noticeable differences in the levels of domestic abuse incidents within the borough. This may be linked to significant events such as football and public holidays.

Ofsted and Local Interventions

- 7.19 There are varying types of interventions that are being implemented locally to tackle domestic abuse within Tameside. The Tameside Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) brings together a range of organisations to review the most high risk cases, dealing with around thirty cases per month through a multi-agency approach.
- 7.20 The Ofsted inspection which took place in March 2012, looked at services for Safeguarding and Looked after Children. The results of that inspection identified areas with two outstanding, seventeen good and three adequate scores and placed Tameside as the second best performing borough in Greater Manchester. The adequate areas related to the effectiveness and quality of safeguarding provision.
- 7.21 An action plan has been put in place and is overseen by the "Journey to Outstanding" Board. The Board comprises of the Lead Member for Children and Families, Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services for Tameside MBC and the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board. The action plan looks at the three adequate areas and the sixteen recommendations made by Ofsted and how it is intended to address these areas.
- 7.22 The comments made by Ofsted around the services provided within Tameside were very positive looking at refuge support and provision, women with disabilities, ethnic communities and single older women. The Ofsted comments focus however on provision not being provided for boys over the age of 15. Ofsted also noted the good communication that takes place at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and that the actions identified are carried out effectively.
- 7.23 Ofsted identified good attendance at the Multi-Agency Public Protection Agency (MAPPA) identifying clear arrangements when prisoners are released ensuring risk assessments can be undertaken to safeguard children.
- 7.24 The biggest challenge to the Council is the volume of domestic abuse referrals that are received. The majority of notifications are received from the police of whom Tameside received 2,355 in the period 2011/12. There is also a large proportion of sexual violence and assaults occurring with concern around the fastest growing area of domestic incidents where with the victim/perpetrator or both are under the age of 18.
- 7.25 Concerns have been identified around Tameside having the second highest rate of referrals to social work in the North West. Research suggests that other authorities may identify and deal with issues at much earlier stages than currently takes place within Tameside. The authority could consider implementing steps to ensure that the council intervenes at much earlier stages. In the period 2011/12 there were 13,606 contacts to social care services of which 4,237 (31%) were made by the police with the next highest (10.5%) from schools.
- 7.26 Many of the issues around children and domestic abuse are caused by adults. Children are often involved as a result of being around domestic abuse in their home. To deal with the high rates, action needs to be taken to prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first

instance. It appears that consideration should be given to educating young people with regards to healthy relationships and domestic abuse in the home. The Council's concern for education standards in schools arises from its general community leadership role, from its power under the 2000 Local Government Act to promote social and economic wellbeing, and from its participation in the 'duty to collaborate' arrangements under the 2004 Children Act. It has a legitimate interest in children's life chances and social and economic wellbeing and therefore Scrutiny has a vital role to play in ensuring Tameside has high educational standards.

Percentage of Children who are the subject of a CPP through factors of drug misuse	Percentage of Children who are the subject of a CPP through factors of Parental Alcohol Misuse	Percentage of Children who are the subject of a CPP through factors of Parental Mental Health	No. of Children who are the subject of a CPP through factors of Domestic Violence
23.4%	27.7%	50.5%	34.8%

Table one showing the percentage of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan through different factors.

- 7.27 Table one outlines the percentage of children who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP) as a result of differing factors. The highest influence is parents with mental health problems accounting for 50.5% followed by domestic violence with 34.8% of CPP's as a result of domestic violence. Those children with CPP's as a result of drugs and alcohol are 23.4% and 27.7% respectively.
- 7.28 Tameside Hospital has policy and procedures to identify and deal with issues and concerns of domestic abuse. All frontline staff undergoes safeguarding training, which includes recognition of the signs of domestic abuse. All pregnant women are asked by their midwife about domestic abuse. This is mandatory and is discussed in private without the partner being present.
- 7.29 When a patient presents to the Emergency Department with potential injuries consistent with domestic abuse, the Nurse or Doctor will raise a MARAC form. This is then sent on to the Hospital's Safeguarding Lead, who checks whether the patient is known to local agencies and co-ordinates, a response. If the matter is urgent it is reported to the Police.

Conclusions

4. In the period 2011/12 Greater Manchester had 64,377 incidents and 14,637 of those were recorded as being related to domestic abuse in some way.
5. In the period 2011/12, 8% of all recorded crimes in Tameside were domestic abuse incidents.

Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Probation Trust

- 7.30 Domestic abuse itself is not a crime type it is recorded as a substantive of a crime. There are no specific targets for the number of domestic abuse incidents within the borough and an increase in the levels of domestic abuse can be regarded as both positive and negative. Positive in that more people are coming forward to report incidents of domestic abuse and negative due to the high levels of incidents.

- 7.31 During the period 2011/12 297 high risk cases were dealt with by MARAC. Of these 378 children were identified as being in the household during the incidents and around 50% had safeguarding issues in relation to the children. Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) set a target for MARAC to deal with 360 cases in the last year, Tameside dealt with 297 cases. The focus however should be on the quality of the services provided rather than the number of cases that are dealt with.
- 7.32 Within Tameside of the 2,084 Offenders that are managed 232 (July 212) have a history of Domestic abuse offending, 18 have completed the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) during 2011/12 period and 82 have completed Improving Responsible relationships by Securing Behaviour Change (IRSC). In addition Integrated Offender Management through Spotlight offers one to one support and training. There are currently no programmes for low risk or non convicted offenders. Programmes can often be resource intensive and there are not enough programmes. 39% of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload have witnessed some form of domestic abuse within the home and 22% are victims of domestic abuse.
- 7.33 Domestic abuse is concerned with those individuals over the age of 18 although incidents involving under 18s are treated in the same way but recorded differently. More work must be carried out around early intervention and prevention towards changing the attitudes of the young towards one another.
- 7.34 Tameside is currently running a pilot for Domestic Violence Protection Orders. Manchester is one of three forces currently piloting the scheme which provides the victims of domestic abuse with the opportunity to remain within their place of residence. The order restricts offenders from returning to a specific address and from contacting individuals.
- 7.35 Clare's Law is a national pilot, which allows individuals who are concerned about a partner to make enquiries with the police to establish whether the individual may be a threat to an individual. The domestic violence disclosure provides a person with a right to ask about the previous offending of a person. The disclosure is passed to the individual who the police deem to be a risk and is at the discretion of the police. It will also be the duty of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 7.36 Strategically domestic abuse is being driven forward by Tameside Violent Crime Strategy, AGMA Standing Together Research and the CDRPs Strategic Analysis of domestic abuse. The CDRP could consider working collaboratively with adults and children's services highlighting the agenda of domestic abuse across all work streams. There should also be further work carried out with perpetrators of domestic abuse and early interventions. Strategically domestic abuse whilst being coordinated and overseen by the CDRP should be embedded across all mainstream agendas.
- 7.37 The Criminal Justice System has seen high rates of drop out cases due to the victim not wishing to press charges against the offender. The police now move forward with prosecutions of individuals without the cooperation of the victim. This has also lead to good feedback from victims who advise the police this gives them a degree of protection and shows that the police are providing the evidence against the perpetrator. This has been successful through the introduction of body cams that the police wear to record scenes when they are called to domestic incidents.
- 7.38 Drugs and alcohol have a great effect on Domestic abuse, Tameside is the fourth worst borough within Greater Manchester for alcohol consumption which may have an effect on the levels of domestic abuse being identified in the borough.

	Area	GMP Division	CAADA annual volume target	Number of Cases Discussed	% of CAADA annual volume target achieved for Q1	Number of children in households	Number of Repeat cases	% of Repeat cases	Number of GMP referrals	% of GMP referrals	Children's Social Care	% Children's Social Care
YTD	MANCHESTER NORTH	A	230	445	193.48%	646	123	27.64%	242	54.38%	8.5	1.91%
YTD	MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN	B	230	371	161.30%	381	105	28.30%	180	48.52%	1	0.27%
YTD	MANCHESTER SOUTH	C	230	276	120.00%	396	69	25.00%	92	33.33%	5	1.81%
YTD	SALFORD	F	360	454	126.11%	361	61	13.44%	296	65.20%	13	2.86%
YTD	TAMESIDE	G	360	297	82.50%	378	63	21.21%	175	58.92%	11	3.70%
YTD	STOCKPORT	J	480	334	69.58%	446	126	37.72%	209	62.57%	9	2.69%
YTD	BOLTON	K	430	347	80.70%	430	79	22.8%	181	52.16%	7	2.02%
YTD	WIGAN	L	500	447	89.40%	550	109	24.38%	315	70.47%	9	2.01%
YTD	TRAFFORD	M	360	377	104.72%	392	105	27.85%	220	58.36%	11	2.92%
YTD	BURY	N	300	280	93.33%	318	65	23.21%	215.5	76.96%	4	1.43%
YTD	ROCHDALE	P	330	265	80.30%	300	57	21.51%	164.5	62.08%	3	1.13%
YTD	OLDHAM	Q	360	246	68.33%	293	69	28.05%	150	60.98%	4	1.63%

Table two showing the number of domestic abuse MARAC cases during 2011/12 by authority within Greater Manchester

- 7.39 Table two outlines the number of domestic abuse MARAC cases across the Greater Manchester divisions. The table highlights that Tameside's CAADA target is 360, however, 297 cases were discussed in Tameside identifying MARAC only met 85.5% of its target. Of these cases dealt with by MARAC, 63 cases were involving repeat cases. 59% of MARAC referrals were made to MARAC by Greater Manchester Police.
- 7.40 In Tameside during 2011/12, 683 incidents involved the victim, perpetrator or both being under the age of 18. Throughout this report there is acknowledgement that the age of perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse is increasingly becoming younger.
- 7.41 Research has shown that a large proportion of domestic abuse cases are dropped as they progress through the criminal justice process. The Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) has been introduced due to the not uncommon process whereby perpetrators who have not been charged often return to the property where the abuse took place. This often makes it necessary for the victim to consider vacating their property. This has a detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of the victim and has a negative impact and disruption where children are involved.

Conclusions

6. Tameside has a higher level of incidents than other boroughs within Greater Manchester.
7. Tameside is ranked 2nd within Greater Manchester for the number of incidents per 1000 of the population.
8. 39% of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload have witnessed some form of domestic abuse within the home.
9. Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) are being piloted with Greater Manchester Police.

Recommendations

2. That a strategic domestic abuse coordinating role is developed to support the work across all partnership areas. This role could be overseen through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
3. Consideration is given to developing further perpetrator programmes within the borough to engage and expand on those programmes already available.
4. Domestic Abuse needs to be embedded within the partnership working of Children's and Adults Services to ensure effective programmes of prevention and early intervention are developed in both universal and targeted services.
5. Domestic abuse and healthy relationships is included in Personal, Social and Health Education lessons for children in all schools within Tameside (primary and secondary) to ensure that the issues of domestic abuse and healthy relationships are addressed at as early an age as possible.
6. Partner organisations help to publicise Clare's Law and the information available to individuals with concerns.

Domestic Abuse Interventions

- 7.42 The Government's strategy 'Violence against Women and Girls' identified the vision for tackling domestic abuse nationally. Funding for intervention projects including Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs), Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs), Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs) have been provided through the strategy.
- 7.43 The strategy outlines six areas that it will focus on to ensure that violence against women and girls in the UK is tackled and is sustainable for the future. These areas are; preventing violence, provision of services, and partnership working. Over the next four years the government has committed in excess of £28million to services focussing on violence against women and girls⁴.
- 7.44 The strategy outlines an action plan that the government will be implementing in order to tackle violence against women and girls within the UK. The action plan builds on consultation and engagement from a range of government organisations and partners from the private, public and third sectors.
- 7.45 One of the primary goals of the strategy is to prevent violence against women and girls by changing and altering the attitudes and actions which cultivate domestic abuse. The strategy outlines the different roles that central departments such as the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, NHS and Department for Education play in reducing the levels of domestic abuse nationally.
- 7.46 The strategy recognises that a multidisciplinary approach is needed in order to tackle domestic abuse and protect victims of domestic abuse whilst working with perpetrators to reduce reoffending. The strategy brings together the different roles of all public organisations both centrally and locally, outlining the roles these organisations play in combatting and reducing the levels of domestic abuse.
- 7.47 Standing Together against Domestic Violence (STADV) identifies that at least two women are killed in the UK each week by current or former partners.

⁴ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-paper?view=Binary>

- 7.48 The STADV guidance identifies that strategic leadership in relation to domestic abuse is easier to develop and manage if a distinct partnership body is in place that is able to monitor and set clear targets in relation to rates of domestic abuse
- 7.49 There appears to be concern that with the interventions of MARAC and IDVAs there is a focus on treatment rather than intervention methods when there should be a focus on both attributes in order to tackle the problems associated with domestic abuse.
- 7.50 STADV identifies that a coordinator role is vital in order to develop partnership working to tackle the issues around domestic abuse. This is not necessarily through an individual undertaking a role but through a mechanism and structure within an organisation. This role should be used to tackle the issues around domestic abuse from both a strategic and operational viewpoint.

Tameside Violent Crime Strategy

- 7.51 Tameside's Reducing Violent Crime Strategy 2012 outlines the borough's aims, objectives actions and proposals for reducing violent crime within Tameside. Crime in Tameside over the last five years has reduced by 24% indicating 5,800 fewer victims of crime in the borough.
- 7.52 Domestic abuse is one of the key themes of the Tameside Violent Crime Strategy 2012, along with sexual violence, night-time economy and young people.
- 7.53 The Tameside Reducing Violent Crime Strategy outlines a clear delivery plan to help tackle the issues surrounding domestic abuse in the borough. The delivery plan will only be delivered successfully through partnership working and the capacity of MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and the Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service (IDAAS)⁵. The strategy also examines the potential for a specialist domestic abuse service in Tameside, reviews services for young people as victims and offenders and examine the support available to male victims.
- 7.54 The strategy recommends the development of appropriate services for victims from minority ethnic communities, opportunities for education and prevention in schools, identify ways of supporting victims of domestic abuse and develop intervention models to ensure risk levels do not increase. The strategy also looks at identifying external social risk factors, examining victim profiles and identifying the needs of parents who suffer from domestic abuse.
- 7.55 The Strategy outlines the impact that violent crime can have on an individual as well as the impact of domestic abuse on individuals, families and communities.
- 7.56 Tameside's strategy reflects current national themes in particular the document "call to end violence against women and girls", which outlines a vision for a society in which no woman or girl has to live in fear.
- 7.57 There is an increased emphasis on domestic abuse and pledges for increased funding being made for IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisers), ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advisors) and MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) co-ordinators.
- 7.58 The strategy acknowledges there is no specific domestic abuse criminal offence but it is used as a term by the police to define the context of a range of offences. The definition

⁵ The IDAAS service is the same service as the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (IDVAs).

used in Tameside is *“any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse, (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between people who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”*.

- 7.59 The Tameside strategy incorporates violence between family members as domestic abuse and this can also include young people being the perpetrators. Police in Tameside currently respond to around 500 incidents of domestic abuse per month.
- 7.60 Tameside has established the use of a D.A.S.H risk assessment tool for domestic abuse incorporating domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and honour abuse. All police officers in Tameside attending a domestic abuse incident complete the assessment and this form is then used by practitioners as part of the MARAC referral process. On average 50-60% of children in Tameside with protection plans receive them due to domestic abuse within the household.

Tameside information Hub

- 7.61 A key recommendation made by Ofsted during the 2012 inspection of Tameside Council, was to ensure that robust arrangements are in place for screening domestic violence notifications and the need to ensure that the planned “Hub” provides a range of responses that recognise the varying needs of families.
- 7.62 Tameside Council needs to maximise the learning from involvement with the Women’s Centre, Safeguarding and Domestic Violence Pilot. This works towards improving multi-agency approaches to safeguarding children, who are experiencing domestic abuse. The multi-agency approach is difficult to achieve due to the separation of services, and responses to what is happening, little if any work with men or perpetrators, parental mental ill health and parental substance misuse.
- 7.63 At present, families in Tameside who need help, have to approach a range of different services and agencies to receive support. The “Hub” will provide a single integrated coordination service. The service will coordinate the care of those families with the greatest needs and will incorporate a range of service providers. The service will bring a range of different services, professionals and information together enabling the right decisions to be made at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 7.64 Earlier intervention will establish an overall cost saving, the key will be to get the right intelligence and right people in place. The concept is a secure environment where agencies share potentially sensitive and confidential information that helps to inform decisions. The service will support frontline staff in undertaking common assessments and the key worker role and provide outcome focussed multi-agency plans. The service will consist of a group of multi-agency workers who will work together but are employed by their own organisations.
- 7.65 The specific objectives of the “Hub” are to identify an individual’s or families’ needs earlier, develop early intervention, improve safeguarding decisions, increase the assessment of families needs, change the coordination of services and develop the targeting of services for the most vulnerable.
- 7.66 The intention of the information hub is to streamline services to ensure that families only have to provide information to one organisation. The agencies involved will include the Police, Social Workers, Mental Health, Health Workers, Nurses and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers.
- 7.67 The anticipated outcome is that the service will provide the coordination of a whole family approach, with the improved assessment of a families needs. The whole family approach

will recognise the interconnectedness between the problems faced, promote streamlining of teams to clarify the work, interventions, care plans and outcome measurements. The service intends to provide the right services, at the most appropriate time to the necessary people, as well as looking to reduce demand and increase self sufficiency.

- 7.68 It is anticipated that savings will actually be made through the implementation of the Hub, as the organisations involved currently provide the services in question, but separately. The biggest stumbling block will be ensuring that a multi-agency approach is achieved however as the practitioners from the different agencies involved will be co-located this will facilitate closer working collaborations and relationships.
- 7.69 The changes the Hub brings will develop early intervention in addressing levels of domestic abuse by intervening at as early a stage as possible in order to prevent abuse from intensifying.

Conclusions

10. The “Hub” will provide a single integrated coordination service for families.
11. The objectives of the “Hub” are to identify an individual’s or families’ needs earlier and develop the targeting of services for the most vulnerable.

Recommendations

7. The information hub is operational as soon as possible bringing together and coordinating responses to residents within the borough who are in need.
8. That the Police and Council share access to their integrated systems to ensure the sharing of information and speedy responses to safeguarding issues.

Victim Support and Witness Service

- 7.70 Victim Support and Witness Service has seventeen trained community volunteers within Tameside. These volunteers provide emotional support, home and personal safety tips, positive coping strategies, bespoke advocacy services, assistance with Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority applications, information provision and signposting of further services to residents.
- 7.71 Specialist training is provided to those volunteers who have completed over forty hours of support work. Specialisms can be undertaken in a variety of areas including domestic abuse, sexual abuse, young people, hate crime, and people bereaved by homicide.
- 7.72 Referrals to Victim Support are made from the Police, Adult Services, St Marys Hospital in Manchester, housing providers and also through self referral. Consent is gained before victims are contacted and needs assessments are carried out on the individual. Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) and Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour based violence (DASH) risk assessments are completed, which involve a twenty four point questionnaire, to determine the levels of risk. High risk cases are identified where they score over 14 on the CAADA, DASH risk assessment rating.
- 7.73 Victim Support refers high risk victims into the MARAC process as well as sitting on the group as a partner. Referrals are received from IDVA’s once risk levels are reduced in order for volunteers to provide on-going emotional and practical support.

- 7.74 In July 2012 Tameside Victim Support had 5 Domestic Abuse Community Volunteers, 95 domestic abuse referrals in Tameside, 66 needs assessments completed, 9 domestic abuse support visits and 5 victims referred into the MARAC process, 20 domestic abuse victims were also supported as witnesses in court.
- 7.75 In addition to victims, support is also provided to witnesses of crime in court. In Tameside there are 13 trained Witness Service Volunteers who provide confidential emotional support, information on court proceedings, pre-court visits and a quiet environment to wait before being called to give evidence.
- 7.76 Domestic abuse victims or witnesses at court can arrange for pre trial visits and court familiarisation visits, special measures are also available, which can include screens or providing evidence via video link. There are also special domestic abuse courts and domestic abuse trained community volunteers available to provide support where necessary.
- 7.77 The government consultation document "Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses" identified that the government intends to invest £50m in services for victims and witnesses with levies raised from offenders. In addition to this there will be a reform of the Victim's Code of Practice creating better and more extensive rights for victims.

Conclusions

12. Volunteers provide emotional and practical support to victims and witnesses of crime.
13. In Tameside there are 13 trained Witness Service Volunteers who provide emotional support and practical support within the court environment.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

- 7.78 The Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) work with victims of domestic abuse from the point of crisis. The work carried out by the IDVAs is typically short to medium term intervention and within a multi agency setting to manage risks that clients face. The IDVA service is commissioned by the local authority on behalf of the Crime and Disorder Partnership and the service works with victims of domestic abuse to help them re-integrate back into society.
- 7.79 The IDVAs key objective is to increase the safety of survivors of domestic abuse and their children. The service deals with cases referred by the MARAC and liaises with twenty key agencies within the borough. The referrals of MARAC are carried out using the D.A.S.H risk assessment tool. Those cases which score a rating over 14 are automatically referred to MARAC. The service is contracted to deal with 270 cases a year however at present it is dealing with 35 referrals a month.
- 7.80 The IDVA service also takes referrals for individuals who do not meet the criteria for referral to MARAC. This referral is intended for those who require support going through either the criminal justice system or the civil family courts. These referrals are carried out in an identical way to the MARAC referrals. The core duties of the IDVA service is to carry out risk assessments, safety planning, individual support plans bespoke to each victim, involve and liaise with other agencies, represent clients views at all times, make agencies aware of the abuse, encourage people to report domestic abuse and signpost clients to counselling and specialist advice.
- 7.81 Concern was raised during the course of the review around the policies and procedures of Pennine Care in relation to individuals suffering from mental health problems who also have

alcohol dependency. It was identified that where instances of alcohol dependency are present in individuals with mental health issues they are often not treated for their mental health issues as this may be triggered by the alcohol dependency.

- 7.82 From the cases that are referred to the IDVA's, 90% involve children and 60% of those involve children on the 'at risk' register with Tameside MBC Children Services. The service works closely with schools to identify issues at as early a stage as possible although the service is not currently commissioned to provide prevention work in schools.
- 7.83 The IDVAs carry out additional duties which include running the Life After Violence and Abuse (LAVA) group. LAVA meets once a month to bring together individuals who have gone through similar issues and problems. The service also runs the Positive You course, which helps to build the confidence and self esteem of individuals and helps survivors to reintegrate back into society.
- 7.84 The service liaises with Victim Support and the IDVAs attend court with the victims to provide support and familiarise the victim with the court environment. The service arranges pre-court visits and support on trials as well as liaising with the Police, Crown Prosecution Service to ensure special measures and restraining orders are implemented where possible.
- 7.85 The IDVAs carry out monthly management meetings with the Crown Prosecution Service, supports clients by taking them to appointments, participates in child protection proceedings, organises counselling, assists in relocating clients, running one to one domestic violence sessions. The service also assists Greater Manchester Police with public relations issues and provides domestic abuse training to agencies and professionals including new police recruits as well as training at the Accident and Emergency unit for practitioners.
- 7.86 The IDVA service is contracted to New Charter Housing Trust Group by the local authority on behalf of the CDRP, but is independent and gives independent advice. People are becoming more aware of the agencies that are available to go to and report incidents or seek support.
- 7.87 There is no particular age group affected by domestic abuse but this covers all ages. The age range twenty to thirty five is most common, although the service has had victims who have been as old as seventy. It is likely that the increased culture in reporting incidents has also contributed to the increase in domestic abuse rates.
- 7.88 The increase in reported domestic abuse incidents is linked to a change in culture where domestic abuse is no longer seen as just physical abuse and can involve emotional, psychological and financial abuse.

Conclusions

14. The IDVAs deal with cases referred by the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and interact with twenty key agencies within the borough.
15. The work carried out by the IDVAs is typically short to medium term and involves multiple agencies.
16. There is no particular age group affected by domestic abuse but covers all ages.
17. The IDVA service is contracted by New Charter Housing Trust Group, but is independent and gives independent advice.

Recommendations

9. The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider domestic abuse as a priority.
10. IDVA service is established to work with Children as well as adults who are the victims or witnesses of domestic abuse.
11. The Personal and Health Services Scrutiny Panel consider undertaking a review of Pennine Care's policy around engaging with individuals suffering with mental health issues and alcohol dependency.
12. The Council and partner organisations consider developing the role of the IDVAs to focus on medium risk cases in addition to high risk cases.

Tameside Women's Project

- 7.89 Tameside Women's Project is a Registered Charity and Company Limited by guarantee. Children's workers are funded via Children in need; housing benefit payments, non-eligible charges and donations.
- 7.90 Families receive emotional and practical support from a project worker; resettlement/rehousing assistance from a resettlement and aftercare coordinator and also support with parenting/school admission. The aim of the refuge is to empower the family helping them to grow emotionally, become self sufficient at managing time and money, build bridges with children and regaining the balance of power.
- 7.91 The Project is staffed 24 hours a day and also operates a 0800 helpline for both male and female victims of domestic abuse. In the period 11/12, the project received 982 calls to the helpline and received 273 referrals. The refuge has three waking night support workers, five project workers; two children support workers, one outreach children's worker, two aftercare and resettlement workers, a housekeeper, admin worker, deputy manager and manager.
- 7.92 The Project takes referrals from anywhere and anybody aiming to complete risk assessments and agree or decline admissions within thirty minutes of receiving all the relevant information. The refuge cannot take people with chronic needs such as substance abuse, due to the communal living aspect of the building and safeguarding issues.
- 7.93 In the period 2011/12 the refuge accommodated 85 families and worked with 206 families on an outreach basis, offering support and advice on a number of issues from safe locations within the community. Demand for services outstrips availability as the refuge only has access to 20 bedrooms.
- 7.94 The average length of stay at the refuge is between six to nine months depending on whether the family needs to be rehoused in the local area. Some families only stay a few nights while others return back to their properties after seeking legal remedies or return to their partner. There are however restrictions on the age range of children staying with parents of domestic abuse and many older children are unable to be accommodated.
- 7.95 Tameside Women's Project has been able to develop close working relationships with local schools and nurseries as well as having health visitors who visit the refuge twice a week and four local GP surgeries which are available to take patients.

- 7.96 Training sessions and workshops are run for women within the refuge providing them with opportunities to undertake GCSEs. The refuge also offers practical courses for women such as cooking, nutrition, aromatherapy, decorating and soft furnishings as well as confidence and assertiveness courses.
- 7.97 Women from the project move to alternative accommodation after time and the women's project will continue to provide care and support services. The aftercare support workers provide women with help and advice regarding resettlement, housing and benefits, signposting to appropriate agencies, advice and practical and emotional support where necessary. Outreach workers linked to the refuge are able to provide support to women for as long as necessary, even upon the individuals leaving the refuge.

Conclusions

18. The Women's Project supports women and children fleeing domestic abuse with temporary accommodation.
19. The project provides accommodation as well as emotional, practical support, training, courses and signposting to other agencies.

Recommendations

13. Consideration is given to providing local refuge for children aged 14+.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Domestic abuse can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse or harm between partners or family members.
- 8.2 In 2009/10 British Crime Survey figures identified that domestic abuse victims are more likely than any other to become repeat victims.
- 8.3 Domestic abuse costs the UK £36.7billion annually.
- 8.4 In the period 2011/12 Greater Manchester had 64,377 incidents and 14,637 of those were recorded as being related to domestic abuse in some way.
- 8.5 In the period 2011/12, 8% of all recorded crimes in Tameside were domestic abuse incidents.
- 8.6 Tameside has a higher level of incidents than other boroughs within Greater Manchester.
- 8.7 Tameside is ranked 2nd within Greater Manchester for the number of incidents per 1000 of the population.
- 8.8 39% of the Youth Offending Team (YOT) caseload have witnessed some form of domestic abuse within the home
- 8.9 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) are being piloted with Greater Manchester Police.
- 8.10 The "Hub" will provide a single integrated coordination service for families.

- 8.11 The objectives of the “Hub” are to identify an individual’s or families’ needs earlier and develop the targeting of services for the most vulnerable.
- 8.12 Volunteers provide emotional and practical support to victims and witnesses of crime.
- 8.13 In Tameside there are 13 trained Witness Service Volunteers who provide emotional support and practical support within the court environment.
- 8.14 The IDVAs deal with cases referred by the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and interact with twenty key agencies within the borough.
- 8.15 The work carried out by the IDVAs is typically short to medium term and involves multiple agencies.
- 8.16 There is no particular age group affected by domestic abuse but covers all ages.
- 8.17 The IDVA service is contracted by New Charter Housing Trust Group, but is independent and gives independent advice.
- 8.18 The Women’s Project supports women and children fleeing domestic abuse with temporary accommodation.
- 8.19 The project provides accommodation as well as emotional, practical support, training, courses and signposting to other agencies.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The cross government wider definition of domestic abuse is used in all policies and strategies the council has regarding domestic abuse.
- 9.2 That a strategic domestic abuse coordinating role is developed to support the work across all partnership areas. This role could be overseen through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- 9.3 Consideration is given to developing further perpetrator programmes within the borough to engage and expand on those programmes already available.
- 9.4 Domestic Abuse needs to be embedded within the partnership working of Children’s and Adults Services to ensure effective programmes of prevention and early intervention are developed in both universal and targeted services.
- 9.5 Domestic abuse and healthy relationships is included in Personal, Social and Health Education lessons for children in all schools within Tameside (primary and secondary) to ensure that the issues of domestic abuse and healthy relationships are addressed at as early an age as possible.
- 9.6 Partner organisations help to publicise Clare’s Law and the information available to individuals with concerns.
- 9.7 The information hub is operational as soon as possible bringing together and coordinating responses to residents within the borough who are in need.
- 9.8 That the Police and Council share access to their integrated systems to ensure the sharing of information and speedy responses to safeguarding issues.

- 9.9 The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider domestic abuse as a priority.
- 9.10 IDVA service is established to work with Children as well as adults who are the victims or witnesses of domestic abuse.
- 9.11 The Personal and Health Services Scrutiny Panel consider undertaking a review of Pennine Care's policy around engaging with individuals suffering with mental health issues and alcohol dependency.
- 9.12 The Council and partner organisations consider developing the role of the IDVAs to focus on medium risk cases in addition to high risk cases.
- 9.13 Consideration is given to providing local refuge for children aged 14+.

A Post Scrutiny - Executive Response

In Respect of: Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse in Tameside

Date:

Cabinet Deputy(ies): Cllr Kevin Welsh (Neighbourhoods)

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
1) The cross government wider definition of domestic abuse is used in all policies and strategies the council has regarding domestic abuse.	Accepted	The impact of domestic abuse on young people, either as victims, perpetrators or children within families is recognised by the partnership and it is agreed that the wider definition be used in council policies and strategies. The violent crime steering group will ensure alignment between the agreed ACPO definition and the preferred wider definition by the council.	Nicola Spragg – GMP (Violent Crime Lead)	April 2013
2) That a strategic domestic abuse coordinating role is developed to support the work across all partnership areas. This role could be overseen through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.	Accepted	Agreement has been reached for additional capacity to support partners and the council to establish progress in key development areas as identified	Lisa Lees – TMBC (Head Neighbourhood Services)	June 2013

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
<p>3) Consideration is given to developing further perpetrator programmes within the borough to engage and expand on those programmes already available.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>There is acceptance that Tameside has identified need for perpetrator behaviour change programmes ,to be made available ,at an earlier threshold level than those currently being offered under NOMS contractual arrangements with GMPT .</p> <p>Indeed Tameside would ideally wish to offer programme availability to a range of Partners outside of The Criminal Justice System such as Health , CSC , RSLs and those involved with The Troubled Families agenda .There are programmes available under the “What works accreditation umbrella “ which Tameside might wish to consider piloting under a Financial Investment Model or within a current commissioning stream.</p> <p>In an attempt to drive this agenda forward discussions have been had with GMPT Programmes Division who would be prepared to offer the Improving Relationships Supporting Change Programme to 70 individuals from across the in a 12 month period at a cost of 50k</p> <p>The proposal would therefore be that CDRP and DA Steering Group would consider as to whether a FIM or current commissioning stream should be brokered /approached in order to proceed with a pilot venture..</p>	<p>Enda Ross – GM Probation (District Manager)</p>	<p>Proposal to Domestic Abuse Steering Group by 31/3/13 and if accepted to CDRP by 30/6/13</p>

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
4) Domestic Abuse needs to be embedded within the partnership working of Children's and Adults Services to ensure effective programmes of prevention and early intervention are developed in both universal and targeted services.	Accepted	This recommendation cannot be met by a discrete action, though I can confirm that the issue is high on our agendas. The children's service review will bring new opportunities for early intervention, which will be further enhanced by closer working on "Early Help" between Children's and Adults' Services. As those progress we will be reviewing their impact and will specifically ensure that these reviews take account of Domestic Abuse.	Tony Griffin – TMBC (AED Children's Services)	First review is expected to be in September 2013

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
<p>5) Domestic abuse and healthy relationships is included in Personal, Social and Health Education lessons for children in all schools within Tameside (primary and secondary) to ensure that the issues of domestic abuse and healthy relationships are addressed at as early an age as possible.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>This is already integral to the PSHE curriculum in Secondary schools and is part of the 'relationship development' and personal wellbeing work that is undertaken in Primary schools. Two secondary schools have won regional quality awards for their work on IAG (independent advice and guidance) which includes programmes on healthy relationships. The behaviour and safety of pupils is one of the four areas under inspection by Ofsted where students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is commented upon. Their understanding of bullying and personal safety is also tested through personal interviews with pupils.</p> <p>However, from research undertaken, the impact of this work is not sufficiently addressing the particular issues in relation to domestic abuse and it is recognised that a more targeted programme of education is needed involving a multi agency approach.</p>	<p>Heather Loveridge – TMBC (Head Education Services)</p>	<p>Presentation to the Directorate Management Team with a view to developing a multi-agency response which can support schools and children and young people in understanding domestic abuse, reporting issues around personal safety and knowing how to remain safe. April/May 2013</p>

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
6) Partner organisations help to publicise Clare's Law and the information available to individuals with concerns.	Accepted	Disclosures relating to Claire's law have already commenced. The violent crime steering group has oversight of the number of requests and will continue to monitor. Through the violent crime strategy, all members will be encouraged to publicise availability through IDVA, MARAC and other specialised services.	Nicola Spragg – GMP (Violent Crime Lead)	April 2013
7) The information hub is operational as soon as possible bringing together and coordinating responses to residents within the borough who are in need.	Accepted	This long-awaited development has seen some further delay. However, this is now purposeful as the Hub is an integral part of our Children's Service Review, which is bringing in a number of developments in a short period of time. The expected "go live" date for the Hub is now 10 th June 2013.	Tony Griffin – TMBC (AED Children's Services) / Jane Forrest – TMBC (Head Commissioning and Resources)	10.06.13
8) That the Police and Council share access to their integrated systems to ensure the sharing of information and speedy responses to safeguarding issues.	Accepted	Both organisations are committed to the Police having a presence in the Hub (see above), with access to their IT systems. In the meantime, a social worker from the Referral and Assessment team is based in the Public Protection Unit, from where they have access to Council systems in order to best inform decision-making. GMP are committed to the vision of the multi-agency hub and are working with Children's Social Care and Partners to make this a reality.	Nicola Spragg – GMP (Violent Crime Lead) / Tony Griffin – TMBC (AED Children's Services)	Already in place but to be developed further (see above) – June 2013
9) The Health and Wellbeing Board should consider domestic abuse as a priority.	Accepted	Following public and key stakeholder consultation on the draft joint Health and Wellbeing strategy, the board have accepted Domestic Abuse as a priority. This will form part of the development strategy action plan.	Debbie Bishop – TMBC (Head of Health and Wellbeing)	February / March 2013

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
10) IDVA service is established to work with Children as well as adults who are the victims or witnesses of domestic abuse.	Accepted	A new service is currently being tendered to include 16+ years and a requirement for the following; <i>'A specialist intervention programme to work with children of Services Users. Children may be of any age and have experienced domestic violence. There may also be older children who are perpetrators of domestic violence. This work may include outreach, individual work and group work and might also include educational work with young people both around domestic abuse, creating, developing and maintaining healthy, relationships, self-respect and self-esteem.'</i>	Lisa Lees – TMBC (Head Neighbourhood Services)	October 2013
11) The Personal and Health Services Scrutiny Panel consider undertaking a review of Pennine Care's policy around engaging with individuals suffering with mental health issues and alcohol dependency.	Accepted	Public Health will provide support to a review by the Personal and Health Services Scrutiny Panel if this is undertaken.	Angela Hardman – TMBC (Director of Public Health)	Awaiting decision by PHSSP

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
12) The Council and partner organisations consider developing the role of the IDVAs to focus on medium risk cases in addition to high risk cases.	Accepted	<p>The Provider will offer differing levels of Service to Service Users based upon their individual needs, meaning some Service Users may only require advice and signposting to an alternative appropriate service whilst others will require full support and the involvement of a trained IDVA Worker.</p> <p>It is expected that the Service will be structured in a way that can deal with the full range of complexity experienced by those facing domestic abuse as defined in the DASH risk assessment.</p>	Lisa Lees – TMBC (Head Neighbourhood Services)	October 2013
13) Consideration is given to providing local refuge for children aged 14+.	Accepted	We are currently tendering three services that work with people experiencing domestic abuse, including the refuge. In the specification we have asked agencies bidding to propose how they would provide safe and supported housing for households fleeing domestic abuse that include male children aged 14+	Diane Barkley – TMBC (SUM. Community, Adults and Health)	New service commences 1 October 2013 Anticipate new provision in place by January 2014