



Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group

Bristol Health & Wellbeing Board

'To reduce forms of domestic, gender-based, and racially based violence and abuse, including sexual exploitation' - Update

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Report for Information

1. Purpose of this Paper

To update the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on progress towards the action 'To reduce forms of domestic, gender-based, and racially based violence and abuse, including sexual exploitation'.

2. Context

All violence is detrimental to the health of individuals and society. Freedom from the threat of violence is a pre-requisite for good health.

Gender based violence including sexual exploitation are persistent and enduring forms of violence, breaching basic human rights and having serious physical and mental health consequences.

Up to three million women across the UK experience rape, domestic violence, forced marriage, stalking, sexual exploitation and trafficking, female genital mutilation or so called honour violence each year. Two women a week are killed by their current or ex-partner. Domestic Violence (DVA) affects one in four women, sexual violence one in five.

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is linked to a host of different health outcomes and is a risk factor for a wide range of immediate and long-term conditions. Violence causes physical damage ranging from death in extreme cases to miscarriages, broken limbs, and cuts and bruises. There is an increased cardiovascular risk and long term mental health problems. DVA can start or escalate in pregnancy with the most serious outcome being the death of the mother or the foetus. It is also associated with low birth weight and premature birth, both of which have subsequent long term health effects. Less recognised are the impacts of unintended pregnancy and the risks for pre-school children. The Bristol Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy Group is the overarching partnership board for the work on Violence and Abuse Against Women and Girls and Domestic and Sexual Violence Against Men (VAAWG) including the following:

- domestic violence and abuse
- female genital mutilation
- forced marriage
- human trafficking
- sex work/prostitution
- sexual violence
- sexual harassment

Separate project Boards or groups exist to take the individual strands forward. See Appendix for details.

The Strategy group oversees and directs the Joint Commissioning Group that has recently started a re-commissioning exercise of most of the DV and SV services in Bristol.

There is a very active VAAWG Prevention Group that covers all areas of VAAWG.

BAVA provides a forum for front line workers.

In addition, a Women's Safety Task Group of the Bristol Women's Commission has recently been established.

3. A brief summary of the priority

Four key objectives have been identified to take this priority forward:

a) The Bristol Ideal

The Bristol Ideal is a project that seeks to ensure that all primary and secondary schools in the city develop a whole-school approach to tackling VAAWG by encouraging them to achieve a list of standards.

The project will be launched on the Friday 28h March 2014 by the Mayor, councillors and all four of the city's MPs. Schools will be asked to sign up to The Bristol Ideal at that point, and aim to achieve the standards for good practice outlined by the project:

- ★ Relationships and Sex Education delivered by trained professionals – with at least one teacher holding specialist accreditation to teach PSHE.
- ★ Formally timetabled, regular Relationships and Sex Education lessons for every year group as part of the curriculum. As part of this learning, children and young people will:
 - Understand the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships
 - Understand that healthy relationships are based on empathy, negotiation, respect for culture and diversity, human rights and equality and, as such, are given the skills and knowledge on these topics
 - Know about all forms of domestic and sexual abuse and about coercive and controlling relationships
 - Understand gendered violence as a cause and consequence of inequality
 - Know where to go to report abuse

- ★ A whole-school approach to tackling domestic and sexual violence and abuse including having a school policy covering this.
- ★ A named staff member with responsibility for addressing all forms of gendered violence and domestic and sexual violence such as domestic abuse, teen abuse, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. They will attend champions meetings locally.
- ★ Taking up training for staff which is on offer from partners in understanding and responding effectively to domestic and sexual violence.
- ★ Ensuring that information about support services are available for pupils and staff, and that there is access to specialist support services for children and young people.
- ★ Participation in research to provide an evidence-base and monitoring for the Bristol Ideal.

It's a long term project but we already have a number of primary schools that would easily achieve some of the standards immediately.

b) Working with partner agencies across the city to establish and enforce good, robust policies and practices preventing sexual abuse and harassment, domestic and gender based violence for staff, clients and workplaces, including responsibilities around domestic homicide reviews.

A survey to audit the current situation has been developed. This will also be used by the Women's Safety Task Group for members of the Bristol Women's Commission.

It is suggested that once the survey has been piloted that Health and Wellbeing Board Partner organisations complete the audit. Once the current situation has been established then a programme of training and policy development will begin.

- c) Including gendered violence as a part of routine inquiries on practitioner's evaluation forms and sharing this data with the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy Group to better plan and commission services.**

This has been highlighted as a need through the recent Domestic Homicide Reviews¹ and some statutory providers have already started to include this. We would like the HWB to champion this in their organisations with support as appropriate. The status of this will be reviewed and a project plan developed if necessary at a later date.

- d) Setting a Quality Mark for training programmes on domestic violence, delivered within partner organisations for social and health care workers.**

Multi-agency training is offered through BAVA (Bristol Against Violence and Abuse) including monthly 'Understanding Domestic Violence Training'. E-learning is being developed. In addition many organisations organise and deliver their own domestic violence training. The aim of this objective is to ensure that all training is of a sufficient standard and quality.

A working group has been established to take this action forward. The first meeting has been scheduled for the 4 March 2014.

1. What is going well and what is going less well?

There are very committed and active partners in the field of gendered violence and a lot of good work is being undertaken. Agency engagement in this agenda is mixed, work is being undertaken to ensure that all statutory agencies and key voluntary agencies are represented.

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209020/DHR_Guidance_refresh_HO_final_WEB.pdf

2. What is going to be achieved in the short, medium and longer term (6 months, a year, longer) and how we will know that this has been achieved

In the next 6 months we will establish a picture of policies and procedures for partner organisations in the City. The quality of this picture will depend on partner organisations willingness to participate.

The Bristol Ideal will have launched and by December 2014 we hope to have already awarded 4-5 schools with The Bristol Ideal. A number of schools took part in a pilot in 2012-13 so we are sure that these schools will have achieved some standards already.

In the next year we hope to establish a quality standard for training.

Including routine enquiry about gendered violence will be progressed in the second year once the impact of the DHRs has been reviewed.

4. Key risks and Opportunities

Barriers/challenges for the future in delivering against this priority

Lack of staff to take actions forward. Although recognised as a priority key posts have recently been lost.

Opportunities

- The Bristol D&SA Strategy is about to be reviewed. This may provide the opportunity to add impetus to the actions identified for the HWB.
- We have had six deaths since July 2013 where domestic abuse has been a factor in the lives of the deceased. Statutory reviews into these deaths may provide the impetus for policies and procedures to be improved for all service providers.

5. Conclusions

Some progress has been made; plans are in place to progress specific actions.

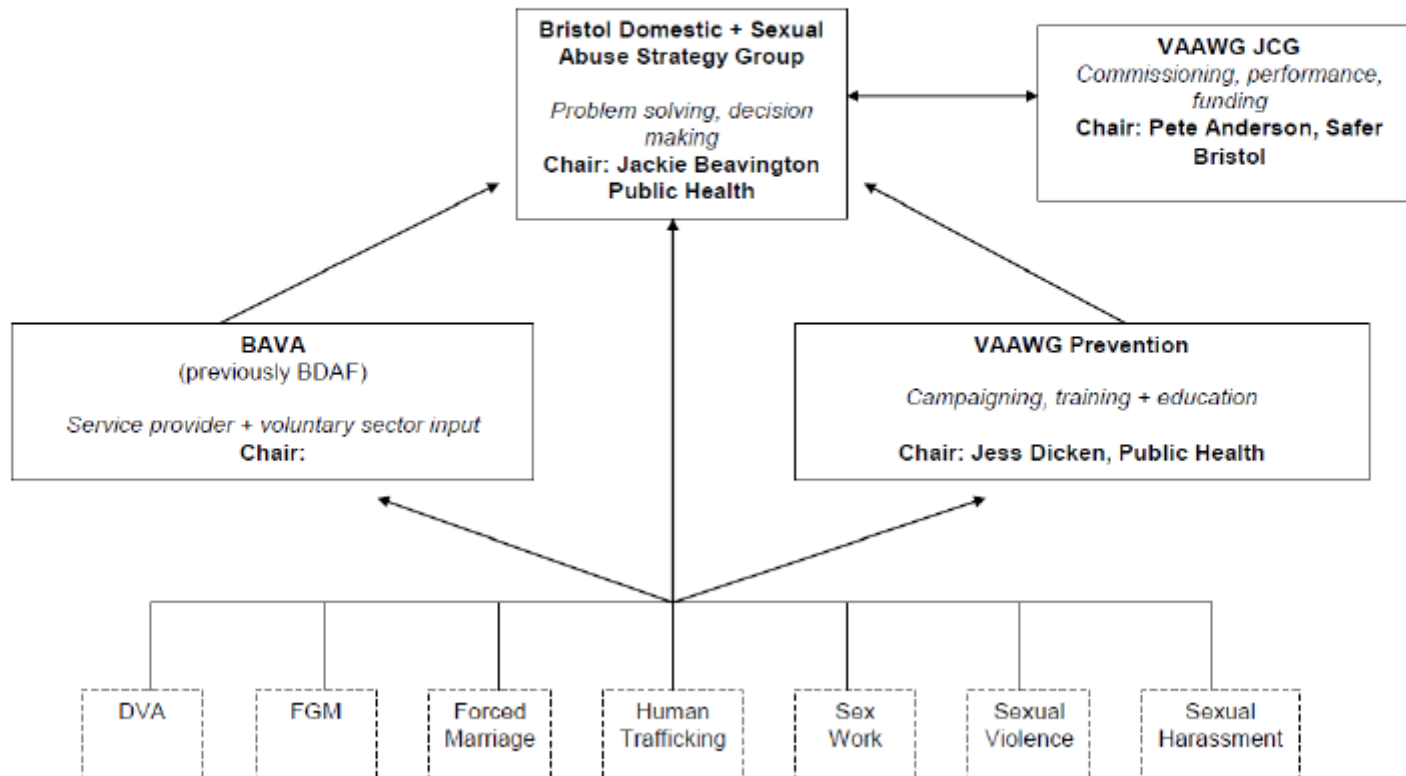
6. Recommendations

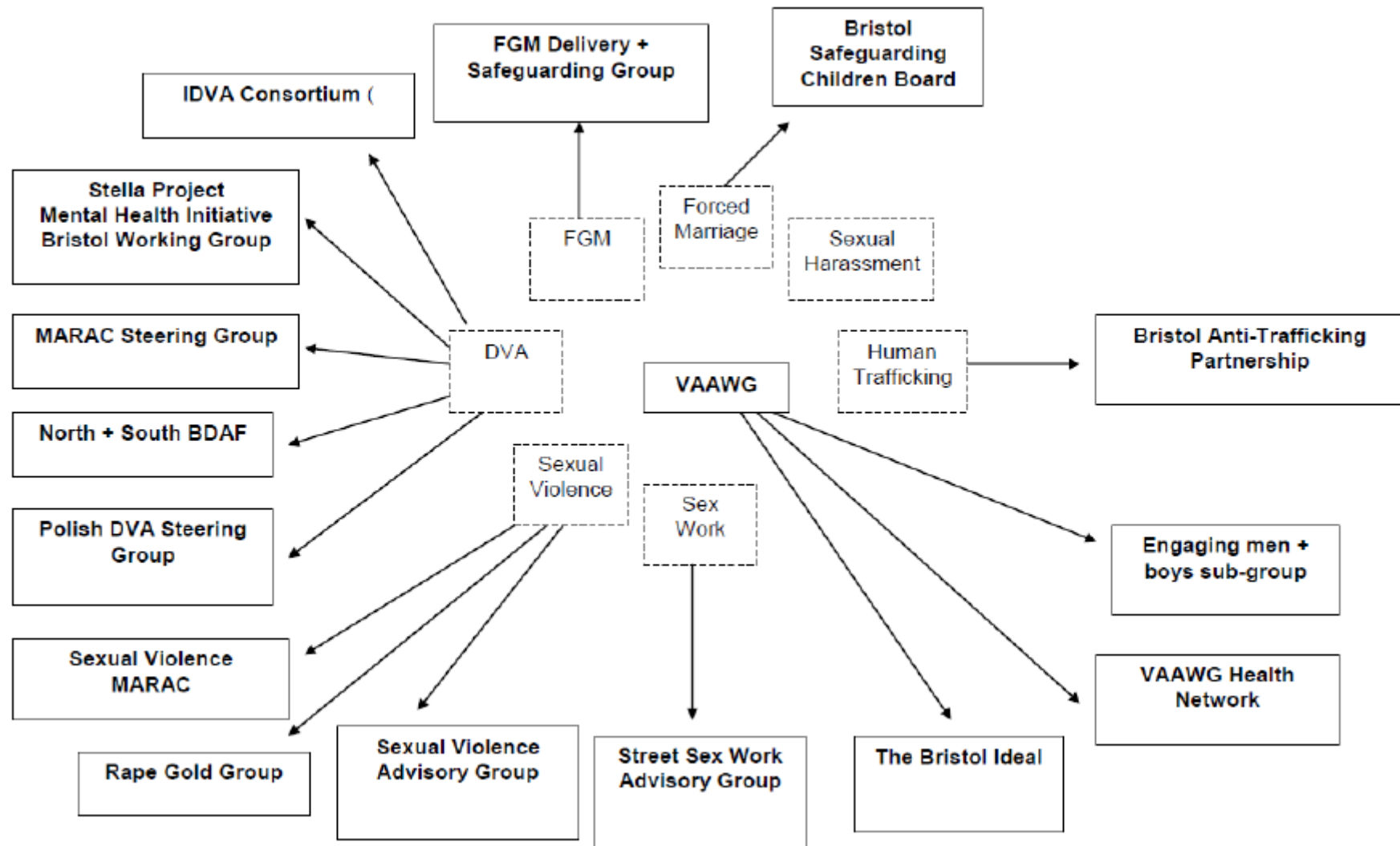
- That partner organisations note the progress
- That they champion the actions and encourage all partners to complete the survey to assess policies and procedures
- That HWB consider how routine enquiry about gendered violence can be incorporated into current procedures and to share information to better inform services and advise the project leads on how to progress.
- That the HWB champion The Bristol Ideal, especially after launch.

7. Appendices

Bristol Violence and Abuse Against Women and Girls Structure

The diagram below shows the governance structure of Violence and Abuse Against Women and Girls (VAAWG) work in Bristol. VAAWG is comprised of the seven areas of work listed at the bottom of the diagram:





Glossary:

VAAWG – Violence and Abuse Against Women and Girls

JCG – Joint Commissioning Group

BAVA – Bristol Against Violence and Abuse (previously Bristol Domestic Abuse Forum)

Commissioning – The cycle of assessing the needs of people in an area, designing and then securing an appropriate service

Joint Commissioning - The process in which two or more organisations act together to co-ordinate the commissioning of services, taking joint responsibility for the translation of strategy into action

NHS – National Health Service

DVA – Domestic Violence and Abuse, the misuse of emotional, physical, financial or sexual control by one person over another

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation, also known as female circumcision or female genital cutting, involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue

Forced Marriage – where one or both partners feel unable to say ‘no’ to a marriage

Human Trafficking - includes the threat or use of force, coercion, deception and abuse of power to control another person, for the purpose of exploitation

Sex Work – or prostitution is the exchange of sexual services for money

Sexual Violence – includes rape, sexual assault, and any unwanted touching of a sexual nature

Sexual harassment – any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature, this can be physical, verbal or written