

People Scrutiny Commission

28th November 2019



Report of: Public Health and Community Safety – Safer City Team

Title: Developing a strategy for commissioning Domestic and Sexual Abuse services

Ward: All

Officer Presenting Report: Thara Raj

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Recommendation: For people scrutiny

The significant issues in the report are:

Domestic and Sexual abuse services are being recommissioned with new contracts due to be in place from August 1st 2021.

A Health Need Assessment has been undertaken and the key findings and recommendations are shared in this report.

A process of early engagement has begun which has included going out to localities to listen to those affected by domestic and sexual abuse and their families, community organisations and specialist providers.

Information that has been obtained is being reviewed and possible models developed, we are working with Locality to gauge where there are opportunities for coproduction.

A Formal Consultation will begin on the 16th December 2019 and continue until 3rd March 2020 and discussion with the scrutiny panel would be valued in relation to ways this could be run.

Equalities issues are very pertinent to this area of work and are being considered at each stage of the process.



1. Summary

This report seeks to share with the scrutiny panel the journey we are undertaking in order to recommission domestic and sexual abuse services in Bristol and to seek their comments and input.

2. Context

Domestic and sexual abuse is a significant issue in Bristol as well as nationally and is having a major impact on those directly affected and their families. Efforts to tackle it have historically focused on victim support and crime reduction rather than prevention and we hope to address that imbalance whilst also making sure that support is in place for those who need it.

(i) Domestic and Sexual abuse services are being recommissioned with new contracts due to be in place from August 1st 2021.

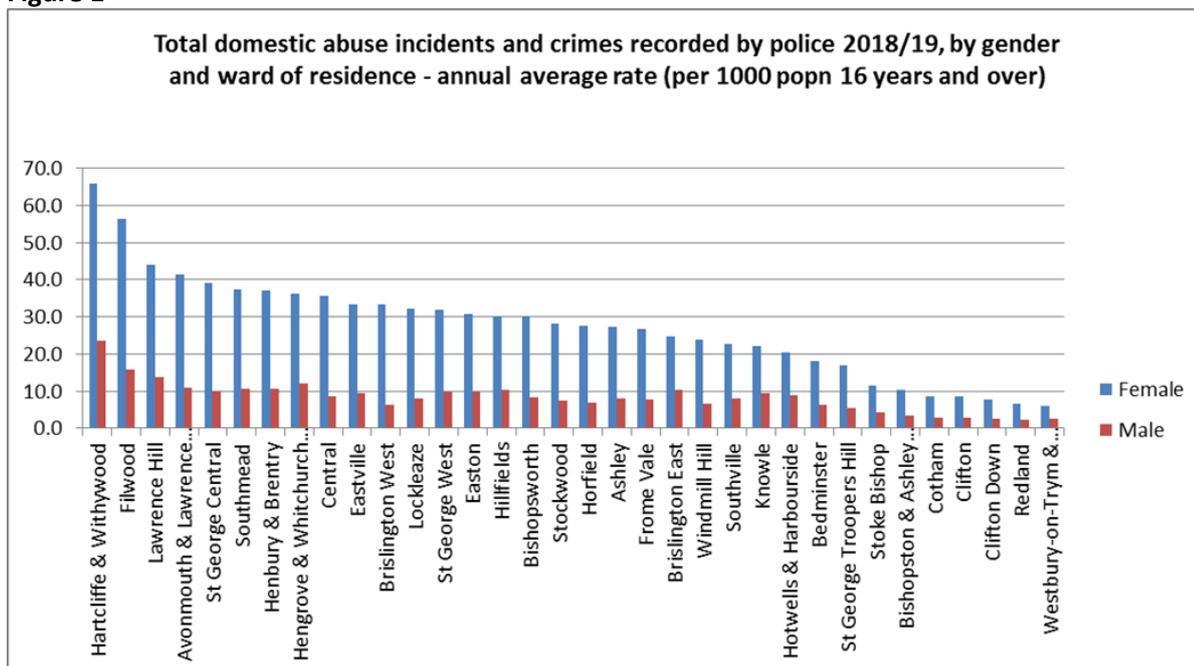
Bristol City Council commission a range of support services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the city. These important services have been in place for a number of years and form a vital part of Bristol’s infrastructure. We are currently reviewing service provision in Bristol in line with current NICE, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) recommendations and in view of current need.

A Health Needs Assessment has been completed and this has highlighted the following:

Domestic Abuse

- It is estimated that over 17,000 aged between 16 and 59 are likely to experience DVA in the last year: Most will be female (>11,000)
- It is estimated that more than 60,000 of adults have experienced DVA since age of 16: more than 50,000 DVA partner abuse
- In 2018/19 there was a total of 10,021 recorded domestic abuse crime and incidents (Police data)
- Women are 3.4 times more likely to experience a domestic abuse related crime and incident (Police data)
- When we consider the police reports by ward there is a significant variation in reported incidents across the City. (See Figure 1 below)

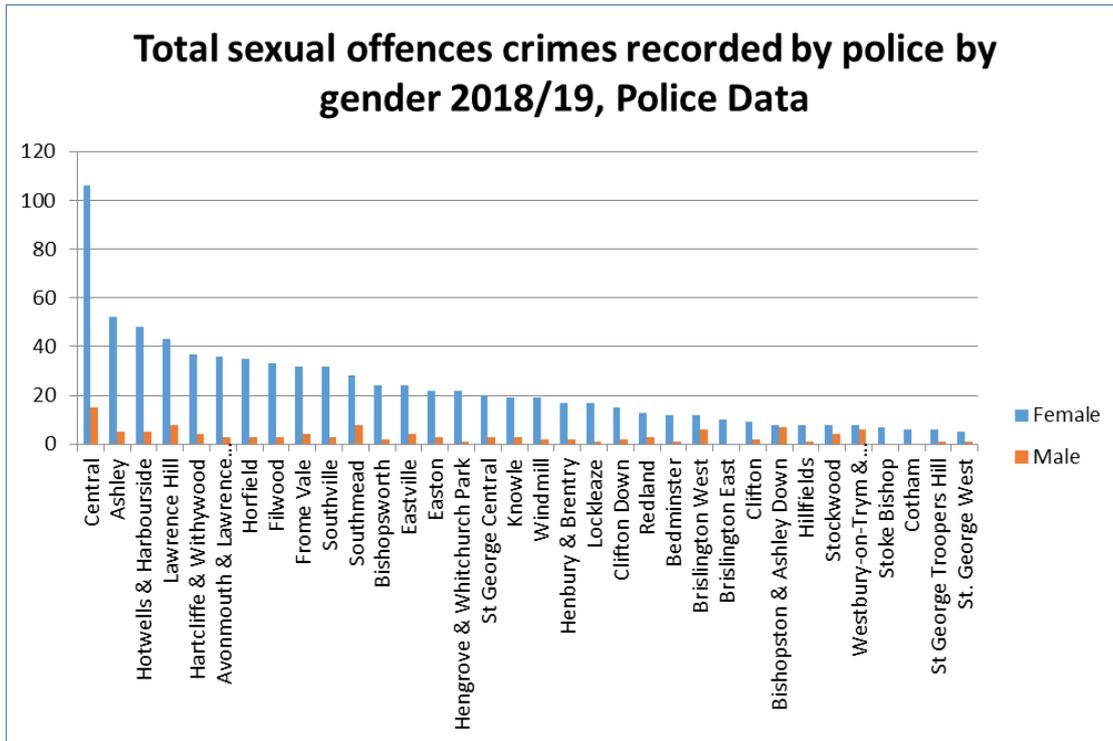
Figure 1



Sexual Abuse

- It is estimated that up to 6200 could have experienced sexual assault in last year; approx. 4000 women.
- In 2018/19 there were a total of 1025 sexual offences recorded in Bristol: This is a rate of 2.2 per 1000 for the city (Police data)
- The majority of recorded police offences happened in the central ward of Bristol (Police data)
- Estimates highlight that approximately only 1 in 5 offences are reported to police
- The chart (Figure 2) below displays the number of crimes per ward , with recorded crime for this offence being highest in Central Ward

Figure 2



(ii) The recommendations of the needs assessment included:

- Exploring opportunities for prevention at every level including work with schools and communities.
- Development of a shared strategy .
- The importance of Early Intervention work to prevent crisis situations arising.
- Partnership working was discussed and the success of co-location of services was highlighted. A clearer pathway for survivors of DVA needs to be developed as part of the recommissioning process.
- Specialist workers for equalities groups such as people with learning disabilities and Gypsy, Roma and travellers, should be considered
- Recognising the high demand for counselling for survivors of sexual abuse.

The challenge is meeting these needs when current service provision is already stretched.

Task	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21
Early engagement	14/10/19	30/11/19	13/12/19																				
Service Models - 1st Draft			16/12/19	13/01/20																			
Early Provider Engagement				20/01/20																			
Consultation of Commissioning Strategy and Service Specification						30/03/20																	
Analysis of consultation, finalising paperwork, contract development etc.													16/10/20										
All paperwork finalised													01/11/20										
Publish Tender																							
Contract Award																							
Implementation																							
New Service																							01/08/21

(iii)The Process

The table on the left gives an overview of the timeline to which we are working.

A Commissioning Board has been set up chaired by the Consultant in Public Health (Thara Raj) and is made up of internal (Bristol City Council) and external partners (including NHS England/Improvement, the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner).

We are also working with ‘Locality’ (an independent organisation) to look at how we can co –produce potential service models with communities.

A Locality workshop was held in September 2019 that brought together key stakeholders at the start of the journey and elected members were part of that event. During October and November 2019 early engagement events have been held in Hartcliffe, Filwood, Southmead and Barton Hill, views were sought from those living and working in communities with the highest rates of reporting of domestic and sexual abuse. An evening event was also held in the centre of Bristol. Over 40 people attended these events and common themes are being identified. There will be other opportunities for engagement as the work progresses.

An online survey has also been undertaken to give further opportunities for people to give their views on what Bristol City Council’s future provision should be for those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

The following questions have been used:

1. What would you do if you, a friend or relative needed support around domestic or sexual abuse?
2. How can we make sure that everyone gets help when they need it?
3. What sort of help do you think is needed? And what would be the one thing that we must provide?

The next step is to draw all the findings together and to develop model(s) for consultation.

3. Policy

This aligns with the corporate strategy because it follows the principle of 'contributing to safer communities including zero-tolerance to abuse or crime based on gender, disability, race, age, religion or sexuality.' Providing support for survivors of domestic and/ or sexual abuse will improve their 'physical and mental health and wellbeing' and this proposal also align with the corporate strategy's commitment to give children the best start in life by supporting survivors and hence aiming to break the cycle of violence and abuse. It also aligns with local work to address Adverse Childhood Experiences. Prevention of domestic and sexual violence is key to achieving this aim within Bristol.

4. Consultation

a)Internal - The commissioning board has representatives from other Council departments and it is planned to share the consultation on the Source.

b)External – We are still planning the formal consultation stage, we expect to have an Online survey and to hold some consultation events - we anticipate that these will be held at venues across the City in order to engage those who may find it difficult to come to a venue in Central Bristol. We also plan to go out to meetings of Equalities groups.

We would welcome the scrutiny commission's views on how we go about the consultation.

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

The needs assessment that has been carried out has looked at each of the protected characteristics and identified what more can be done to promote equality in relation to providing services for those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

The commissioning process will be considering the specific needs of different equalities groups for example we recognise that both women and men experience domestic abuse but that their support needs are likely to differ, we recognise that language may be a barrier to seeking help and we know that pregnancy is a key time when domestic abuse may begin in a relationship.

We have been in discussion with the Council's equality team about how we can engage equalities communities in the consultation and how we can make use of the Voice and Influence Partnership to help with this.

As part of the commissioning process an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out.

Appendices:

None

Bibliography

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

The background papers that have been used in the development of these recommendations are:

- Draft Bristol City Council Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment, October 2019

Other documents:

- Home Office –Strategy to end violence against women and girls 2016-2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>
- Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) is an evidence based programme of training and support in primary health-care practices to increase identification of women experiencing domestic violence and their referral to specialist advocacy services.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22730555> & <http://www.irisdomesticviolence.org.uk/iris/>
- IDVAs in Hospital Emergency Departments-[http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cry for Health full report.pdf](http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cry%20for%20Health%20full%20report.pdf)
- NICE Guideline PH 50 Domestic Violence and Abuse: Multi Agency working
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph50>
- NICE Quality Standard 116 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs116/chapter/Introduction>
- Sexual Violence Support Services – Voscur carried out a sexual violence needs assessment for Avon and Somerset https://www.voscur.org/system/files/Needs%20Assessment_0.pdf