



**Metropolitan Police Authority**

**Domestic Violence Board**

**4th March 2008**

**Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea**

**Response**

**to**

**Domestic Violence**

**This report has been compiled at the request of the MPA Domestic Violence Board to give information on how RBKC BOCU in partnership with others responds to domestic violence.**

**The report will describe how the BOCU works to;**

**Keep Survivor's safe**

**Tackle Domestic Violence**

**Hold Offenders to account**

**Prevent domestic violence**

**Work in partnership with organisations and communities to improve its response to domestic violence**

**Areas of best practice and innovation will be highlighted. Also the challenges that the borough faces in providing an effective response to domestic violence.**

## **Borough Facts**

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has a population of 178,000. It is the most densely populated local authority in the United Kingdom with an average of 147 people per hectare, compared to 48 people per hectare in other London boroughs.

The borough is one of the most ethnically diverse in the United Kingdom and residents speak over 100 languages including English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Bengali, and Somali. It is interesting to note that over 25% of the total population are classified as 'white non British' and includes nationalities such as American, South African, Australian, French and other citizens of other European Countries.

There is a large variation in wealth distribution across the borough. Average property prices and household incomes are far higher than anywhere else in London. However the Golborne, St Charles, Notting Barns and Colville wards in North Kensington are amongst the 20% of the most deprived wards in England.

Whilst the average resident is 37 years old compared to 35 across London, this masks considerable variation between wards. For example, 29% of residents in Golborne ward were aged 0-19 in 2001 compared to the borough average of 19%.

The borough has a low house ownership rate at 44% compared to 57% across London. A high proportion of residents live in privately rented accommodation; 57% compared with a 30% average across London. Like the rest of London, there are over 50 Registered Social Landlords who provide housing to 17% of the borough's residents. The Notting Hill Carnival is one of the biggest street carnivals in Europe attracting up to 1.5 Million people during the event.

An estimated seven million tourists visit the borough each year. Popular sites visited are the South Kensington museums and the Earl's Court exhibition centre. Internationally renowned stores like Harrods and stalls in the Portobello Road market are popular shopping areas.

## **Ethnicity Breakdown. (2001 Census)**

The borough has an unusual demography with a very large white population (nearly 80%) but with a small White British ethnicity at 50%. There is a larger 'Chinese/other population than the London average and a smaller 'Black, Asian, and Mixed population.

Black or Black British: 7%

Asian or Asian British: 4.9%

Mixed: 4.1%

Chinese or Other Ethnic group: 5.5%

White: 78.6%

The Moroccan Community in North Kensington is the biggest in Europe.

The majority of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) population live in North Kensington with the highest concentrations in Golborne and Notting Barns wards.

## **Education**

There are over 10,000 pupils in the borough attending state schools. Nearly 4,100 pupils attend private schools. 54% of pupils are from BME communities and over 100 languages are spoken within schools. 50% of pupils who attend the borough's schools live outside the borough.

## **Politics**

Originally two separate metropolitan boroughs with their own town halls and administrations, it has today a single united local government authority, the Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council, based at Kensington. The borough is divided between two constituencies represented in the House of

Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Kensington and Chelsea held by Malcolm Rifkind for the Conservative Party and Regents Park and Kensington North, currently held by Karen Buck for the Labour party. The borough is predominantly Conservative with 45 of the 54 councillors represented.

## **A. KEEPING SURVIVORS SAFE**

- 1.** The borough response to all matters of domestic violence incidents whether crime related or not are managed in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- 2.** Upon receipt of a request for police assistance in what is considered to be a domestic related incident, police response is graded accordingly. Where appropriate, officers are dispatched to the scene and initial risk is co-ordinated and managed by the Integrated Borough Operations(IBO) supervisor. Relevant intelligence checks are conducted and the information is passed onto the officers attending the scene.
- 3.** Once at the scene officers will assess the situation and take any positive action as deemed necessary to ensure the safety of all parties concerned. Where a power of arrest exists and there are reasonable grounds to justify arrest, perpetrators will be arrested immediately if at the scene. Where an arrest is not made because the perpetrator has left the scene, arrest enquiries will be made and all reasonable measures taken to trace the suspect and effect an early arrest. Where an arrest is not effected, officers will take intervention measures to ensure the safety of the victim and any children for example by arranging emergency refuge and arranging for children to be taken into police protection.
- 4.** Officers reporting domestic violence matters will complete a book 124D and record a risk identification and assessment using the risk assessment model SPECSS + which is contained within the form 124D. Officers will use all available options to manage risk and to prevent re-offending and any escalation. An example of this would be where extensive enquires are conducted in order to ensure an offender is detained at the earliest opportunity.

- 5.** Details of the Woman's Advocacy Trust are available to all police officers and 24-hour support is available with the victim's consent. Out of hours support and other measures including emergency refuge, support and legal advice. Access to the service can be made by the reporting officers who are equipped with the Trust's business cards which can be given to the victim. These are also attached to book 124D.
- 6.** Assistance is also available from Victim Support and EAVES Woman's Aid (Community outreach, family and parenting Services, legal advice and support).
- 7.** Front line officers attending domestic violence incidents are supported and supervised by core team Sergeants and/or Duty officers who will ensure that officers have complied with SOP's for domestic violence including positive action, risk assessment, evidence gathering. In serious cases where, for example, there is a credible threat to life and the initial risk is shown as medium or high, the Duty Officer will be informed and reassess the safety measures implemented. In all serious cases a member of the Criminal Investigation Department/Community Safety Unit and, if appropriate, the 'on call' Detective Inspector will be consulted in order to implement risk management and investigation strategy. In cases where a matter of domestic violence is being reported to a Station Reception Officer at one of the three borough police stations, the report is supervised by a section Sergeant. The supervising officer will assign a uniform police officer to take a section 9 statement and ensure that the 124D is completed in full.
- 8.** Our local policy in line with SOP requires that officers arrest all perpetrators where evidence of a criminal offence exists, which challenges and holds them accountable for their actions. However, positive action requires enhanced levels of victim care, which means that the safety of victims is paramount particularly where children are involved. This includes effective intervention to support victims through the Criminal Justice process and provide advice and referral to independent advocates at this critical time of their lives as their needs will be complex. Any failure to comply with positive action policy is supervised initially by the Detective Sergeant in the Community Safety Unit (CSU) and subsequently brought to the attention of the Daily Management

meeting. Any cases where the initial action of the reporting officers has been deemed to be outside the requirements of the SOP are subject to quality assurance and monthly publication to all staff by the Crime Management Unit Detective Inspector. Furthermore all matters of domestic violence are discussed in detail at the Daily Management meeting. The meeting is chaired by the Borough Commander and attended by the Borough Crime Manager. In cases where the initial risk is deemed to be higher than standard, risk management actions and strategies are discussed and directed towards a CSU supervisor for compliance by the Crime Manager

- 9.** All allegations of domestic violence are allocated to the CSU and are supervised by a Detective Sergeant who sets an investigation/action strategy for the Investigating Officer (IO) prior to final allocation. These entries are made on the details section of the Crime Information Reporting System (CRIS). The supervision of investigations are conducted by the CSU Detective Sergeant weekly in accordance with procedures and will set further strategies for risk management and investigation where appropriate. Investigating officers fully adhere to the requirements of the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) Victims are updated of the investigation progress at regular stages. The CSU Detective Sergeants supervise this daily and any failures are brought to the attention of the Detective Inspector who will discuss these with the officers concerned. Furthermore, the requirements of VCOP are noted as complete by a Detective Sergeant where crimes are submitted for completion by the IO.
- 10.** In all matters where the initial risk assessment has been shown as medium or high, the supervising Detective Sergeant will instruct the IO to conduct a secondary risk assessment in accordance with procedures. The Detective Inspector is informed and oversees the investigation.
- 11.** Where the survivor has initially refused the assistance of advocacy support services, the IO will fully explain the services available and their benefits and will consider appropriate alternatives where necessary. Agency/partnership support is subject to ongoing review by the IO and supervisors throughout the investigation.

- 12.** The CSU manage Non Molestation Orders, Harassment Orders, Warnings and Restraining Orders. The details are entered onto the Crimint Plus system and 61C dockets (local filing system) are created and logged in a register. Copies of the orders are available for officers at all times in the event of a breach.
- 13.** The borough recognises that high risk victims need to be managed as part of a multi-agency risk management strategy. The borough together with partner agencies currently holds a monthly Domestic Violence Incident Panel meeting (DVIP). The Borough Commander chairs this meeting currently and the purposes are to increase the safety of domestic violence victims and their children by effective information sharing and action by partner agencies. The DVIP will be replaced in the spring by the setting up of a borough Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) based on the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) model.
- 14.** In cases where there is a cross over of domestic violence and vulnerable adult abuse ( see [attached appendix \(1\)](#) for definition), the Safeguarding Adults Procedures are followed. This policy applies to the Council and is a joint multi agency agreed approach to the investigation of vulnerable adult abuse. This links closely to the standard operating procedures for both domestic violence and vulnerable adult abuse investigations. In line with this policy, and where appropriate, a multi agency approach is managed by an assigned Adult Protection Enquiry Co-ordinator (APEC), who is a senior social worker. The borough CSU has a dedicated Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator (Detective Sergeant) who works alongside the APEC and reviews all cases referred by Social Services and other agencies. The Co-ordinator will assign a CSU Officer to attend strategy meetings where appropriate, and formalise agreement, risk management measures and investigation strategy. The CSU have four constables who have completed training in conducting video Achieving Best Evidence Interviews (ABE). As well as this there are four dedicated SOIT Officers within the Public Protection Group who are ABE trained and will assist the CSU if necessary. These interviews are conducted in all cases of domestic violence and vulnerable adult abuse where the mental capacity of the victim is in question and other appropriate cases such as if there is a child victim/witness connected to the incident.

- 15.** The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) is recognised as a low reporting borough in terms of forced marriage and honour-based violence. Collated figures reveal that during the period 01/04/2006 to 31/03/2007 there were 2 flagged crime reports relating to forced marriage and honour based crime within RBKC. In September 2006 the CSU produced a full local review of procedures and guidance for police officers. This was in response to concerns that the low reporting figures could be attributed to under reporting, lack of awareness/training externally and internally and gaps in intelligence.
- 16.** The attached report has been written with specific consideration towards prevention, intelligence, enforcement, partnership, and training. Attached to the report is the borough's minimum standards of investigation into honour based crime and forced marriage. [Appendix \(2\)](#).
- 17.** Kensington and Chelsea Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) has prioritised actions to tackle domestic violence in the Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008. The Partnership agreed a domestic violence strategy and have allocated funding to meet the 5 strategic priorities. (Please see section 46 for more information). The partnership has allocated funding to voluntary sector providers to keep survivors safe. These include the following:

#### **Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service**

- 18.** In summer 2006 an Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service for the RBKC was commissioned. This has been jointly funded from the Local Public Servants Agreements, reward grant and community safety partnership funding. The Service receives £80,000 per annum. Prior to this allocation, although the Woman's Trust Advocacy Service was based in the borough, it was funded solely by Westminster City Council and local residents had to be redirected to other local support services. The funding has therefore allowed this crucial service to be fully set up and established for the residents of RBKC.
- 19.** Feedback from service users has been positive. One victim said: *"(the Woman's Trust Advocacy Service) made a 200% difference and joined up all the services. I am now a single mother with two young children and using the service has made a big difference for the children too. If I have a problem she's*



*there to help me solve it. Now my children don't have to hear me on the phone talking about things and getting upset as she does it for me. It's not just my personal effort anymore; I have help and can spend more time supporting my children. They (Woman's Trust) have provided me with really vital information like how long I have to press charges and go to court after there has been an incident. This is definitely the only way to sort out the long term problem, or at least contain it."*

### **Domestic Violence Survivors Support Group**

- 20.** The Partnership funds a weekly support group, provided by Victim Support, for women affected by domestic violence. This has been running for two years. The facilitated group provides women the opportunity to share experiences, build up support networks and learn new skills. (NB: Further details will be provided in the final draft detailing outputs and outcomes of this service.)

### **Sanctuary project**

- 21.** Sanctuary schemes are physical works (target-hardening) undertaken to the properties of victims of domestic violence to help them remain in their home following removal of the abuser.
- 22.** In RBKC sanctuary responses involve target-hardening the whole property, rather than a single room, which is the norm elsewhere. This approach has been adopted due to the relatively high numbers of flats in the borough and has the added advantage of reducing the risk of burglary.
- 23.** There are two sanctuary type schemes operating in Kensington and Chelsea: RBKC Housing Needs Department commissioned Housing Advice Service Kensington & Chelsea (HASKC) to provide a Sanctuary Project in 2004 and in the years since (funding of £20,000 has been available in 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2007/08). Referrals to the Sanctuary Project come from a variety of sources including voluntary sector specialist and non-specialist domestic violence services and statutory sector organisations. HASKC provide Sanctuary Project target hardening works alongside housing advice services and support vulnerable victims of domestic violence and their children to remain in their own home. This is undertaken with the support of the Floating Support Services

funded by Supporting People and provided by Eaves Woman's Aid and Hestia Housing and Support.

- 24.** Since April 2004 the Environmental Health Department has been working in partnership with the Community Safety Team in the management and implementation of the Safe as Houses Security Project undertaking target-hardening measures to vulnerable occupiers living in fear of crime. A large percentage of those persons benefiting have been victims of domestic violence.
- 25.** Recent measures have been put in place to streamline referral process through the CSU and Community Safety Team. The Crime Prevention Design Advisor, together with the Burglary Reduction Manager, co-ordinate all domestic violence Sanctuary responses ensuring works are undertaken to Home Office standards and supporting greater co-ordination of responses between partners.
- 26.** Further, £20,000 additional funding has been secured for 2008/09 from RBKC Environmental Health Services for sanctuary services.

### **Refuges**

- 27.** Within the borough are two woman's refuges. The refuges not only provide safe accommodation but also vital floating support and outreach services. Both refuges are involved in all partnership groups in relation to domestic violence and have excellent working relations with local services, which is located in both North Kensington and Chelsea.

## **B. Tackling Domestic Violence**

- 28.** In recognition of the links that exist between domestic violence and sexual offences, Kensington borough has formed a Public Protection Unit (PPU) that comprises the Community Safety, Sapphire, Misper and Jigsaw Units. This is in line with the Met Modernisation Programme. The close co-operation and collaboration between the four units means that victims and perpetrators are managed more effectively, increasing victim safety and ensuring perpetrators are held to account wherever possible. An experienced Detective Inspector has the dedicated role of managing this command. Close liaison does take place between RBKC CSU and our Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) at

Kensington. Allegations of sexual offences flagged domestic violence are investigated jointly by the CSU and sapphire units. All officers currently working within the sapphire unit have had previous experience of CSU work. RBKC benefits from a local Haven based in Paddington where the immediate needs of the victim can be fully met at the initial stages of investigation. The Woman's Trust Advocacy Service provides specialist support to victims in matters of sexual assault.

- 29.** **Digital Imaging.** Following successful bids to the Home Office and local Community Safety Team for projects to tackle domestic violence, the CSU have successfully implemented the introduction of high quality digital camera packs for use by response officers attending incidents of domestic violence. The CSU is also equipped with the digital cameras as well as Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) approved copying and printing systems. This replaces the previous ice flow system, which was inadequate.
- 30.** The previous ice flow systems available to borough officers did not provide for clear, workable and unchallengeable images of victims injuries. When the (CPS) review injuries of victims prior to a charging decision, images that are contained on disc, which can be easily viewed, and are an accurate impression, are far more likely to be accepted as best evidence. This is further apparent where the CSU are working with CPS Direct where a simple copy of a Polaroid image faxed to them, does not provide a fair reflection of the injuries/damage etc. Digital Images downloaded to a computer document, can be sent directly to CPS under these circumstances therefore assuring the correct evidence is available for review.
- 31.** Previous images systems available to reporting officers during initial investigation can be challenged in the Courts.
- 32.** High quality colour prints are to be produced utilising newly purchased printing equipment. This is currently being implemented. Two copies of each image are to be contained within the case papers in order to ensure that the court receives colour images and not black and white photocopies. Due to complications in previously providing colour images with case papers this system will ensure that the court receives the required images at the early

stages of a trial. Feedback from Magistrates at the Court Management Group has indicated that the provision of quality colour images at court will significantly assist in the early and appropriate disposal of cases reaching the Special Domestic Violence Court (SDVC).

**33. The objectives of this project are:**

- Increase the rate of domestic violence offenders brought to justice.
- Increase the detection rate of domestic violence allegations in line with Policy.
- To develop good practice investigating techniques for officers attending domestic violence incidents in order to capture essential early photographic evidence where the attendance of a Scenes of Crime Examiner (SOCO) is not relevant or possible.
- To assist in prosecutions of offenders where the victims have withdrawn their support for a prosecution.
- To improve conviction rates at SDVC by implementation of digital imaging system.
- Improve reporting/investigation by non-CSU officers at scene of domestic violence incidents
- To highlight the boroughs commitment to tackling domestic violence by gaining the full support of the Crown Prosecution Service and the Special Domestic Violence Court (SDVC).
- To improve reporting/investigation by non-CSU officers at scene of domestic violence incidents.
- To implement a digital image system that is manipulation proof, has a full audit trail and is Crown Prosecution Service Policy approved in order to eliminate the possibility for the image evidence to be challenged at trial. The total funding to date for this project has been £6,600. (£4,000 Home Officer funded and £2,600 local funded).

### **34. Impact**

- An increase in domestic violence incidents being reported to local police. A positive impact on sanctioned detection rates by professional intervention of specialist CSU Officers.
- Improve conviction rates at the SDVC by positive intervention in particular with repeat offenders. Since the implementation of the system, the domestic violence sanctioned detection rate for the borough has increased by 10%.

### **Operations:**

### **35. Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaign (DVEC) June 2006.**

- This operation was promoted and funded by the Home Office Police Standards Unit (PSU). The PSU exists to deliver the Government's commitment to raise standards and improve operational performance in the police and in crime reduction generally, in order to maintain and enhance public satisfaction with policing in their area. Its core objective is to identify and disseminate best practice in the prevention, detection and apprehension of crime in all forces in order to reduce crime and disorder, as well as the fear of crime. The initiative which ran for the duration of the World Cup allowed RBKC Police Community Safety Unit to:
- Improve sanctioned detection rates by positive intervention.
- Improve arrest rates by providing an enforcement car and to capture best evidence. This vehicle was equipped with specialist digital imaging equipment.
- As well as a range of evidence gathering kits, first aid kits and support information leaflets. The vehicle was resourced for seven days per week

during the competition by officers attached to the borough CSU. All responses by the enforcement team were supervised by a Detective Sergeant.

- The initiative was also set to improve conviction rates at SDVC by intervention of specialist CSU officers.
- Improve reporting/investigation by non-CSU officers at scene of domestic violence incidents.

### **36. Impact**

- An increase in domestic violence incidents being reported to local police.
- A positive impact on sanctioned detection rates by professional intervention of CSU officers. Improve conviction rates at SDVC by intervention of CSU officers in particular with repeat offenders.
- Positive media coverage in relation to police & partner activity to tackle domestic violence was beneficial in the reduction of domestic violence crimes. This was of particular relevance during the World Cup as many domestic incidents were alcohol fuelled as alcohol consumption increased during this sporting event. Scenes of crime were visited by officers specialised in the investigation of domestic violence and where necessary were assisted by borough Scenes of Crime Officers. This ensured high evidential standards and therefore reduced attrition rates. Activity against domestic violence perpetrators enabled police/ local authority to convey a positive crime prevention message that domestic violence is not to be tolerated. The additional funding provided centrally through the PSU assisted in providing additional enforcement measures to aid a reduction in these offences.

**37. Operation Athena:** The borough CSU is committed to improving performance in the investigation of domestic violence. The CSU have contributed to a London wide initiative Operation Athena that was conducted both in May and November 2007. The objectives of the operations were to improve detection rates, reduce repeat offending , offer specialist support to victims and improve

arrest rates. Arrest enquiries were conducted at numerous address and 20 offenders detained. CSU officers in conjunction with the boroughs Task Force carried out the enquiries. Victims were visited and offered full support with the Women's Advocacy Trust Service assisting where appropriate. CSU officers providing advice to core team officers attending domestic violence incidents supported this operation, in order that investigative strategies could be determined and evidential opportunities obtained. In addition to this, the unit also conducts a monthly 'arrest day' where any outstanding offenders are subject to further research and subsequent arrest enquiries carried out.

- 38. Tactical assessment:** During the weekly Borough Coordinating Tasking Group (BCTG) meeting matters of domestic violence in the previous week are discussed amongst senior managers and department heads. (The borough crime manager attends this meeting as a CSU representative). Resources can be requested for example, where a known domestic violence offender poses a risk to the public and/or is committing other notable offences, he/she maybe subject to pro-active targeting.
- 39. Positive action:** The borough implements the positive intervention policy as defined in the SOP on domestic violence. To ensure compliance of this directive, each domestic violence incident that police attend is supervised initially by a core team Sergeant and Duty Officer. The reports are then supervised by the CSU Detective Sergeant and the Detective Inspector in the CSU. Each incident is analysed in the Daily Management Meeting chaired by the Borough Commander. Any incidents where there has been a failure to comply are highlighted and remedial action put in place.
- 40. CPS:** Investigations into domestic violence, which require a charging decision, are presented to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). During office hours CPS are represented locally and in non-threshold case matters, appointments for charging decisions are made. CSU officers have developed positive working relationships with the CPS lawyers. This has resulted in improved evidential presentation, all of which are supervised by a CSU Detective Sergeant prior to submission. However there are concerns at the reluctance of the CPS to prosecute cases, where the victims have either been unwilling to

assist, or have withdrawn after making an initial statement. An example of this is where there is a history of domestic violence or the allegation is of a serious nature and it is considered that there is a significant future risk to the victim by the offender or others connected, and there is additional supporting evidence available.

- 41. Injunctions:** Should an injunction/non-molestation/restraining order be an appropriate means to tackle a matter of domestic violence, full support in obtaining these are given by CSU officers, the Woman's Trust and Victim Support. Where these orders are obtained with the assistance of advocacy support, copies are retained by the agency and also forwarded for filing within the CSU. (See point 12)
- 42.** RBKC is supported by Territorial Policing to deliver effective performance in relation to domestic violence. The borough is assisted in the following ways;
  - Weekly performance data is provided in relation to sanctioned detection and arrest rates.
  - comparative data with other boroughs.
- 43.** Regular Detective Inspector Meetings are held by the CSU Service Delivery Team. At these meetings more detailed data is provided such as CAD to CRIS conversion rates and sanctioned detections and the ratio of charges and cautions. Polices, procedures and issues impacting on performance are discussed. Best practice is also identified and disseminated during the meeting. Territorial Policing Violent Crime Unit conduct a daily review of serious violent crime that falls within the public protection arena.
  - Flagging up to individual boroughs those crimes that are of critical concern.
  - Offering support and advice.

The CSU Service Delivery Team website is a central reference point for policies, guidance, legislation etc relating to domestic violence. CSU Service



Delivery Team provides an advice service and will review investigations upon request.

## **Sexual Offences Investigation Technique.**

44. The Borough Sapphire unit is resourced with four dedicated Sexual Offence Instigation Techniques (SOIT) Officers. These Officers are attached to the sapphire unit and provide care to victims of sexual assaults and rape. In addition to this resource the borough has funded a 24-hour on call SOIT response. This ensures that victims have a trained officer available in all cases of out of hour's incidents and /or where a sapphire SOIT Officer is unavailable. Further there are trained SOIT Officers attached to each of the boroughs four core teams.
45. In 2002 Kensington and Chelsea CDRP recruited a domestic violence Services Coordinator. The post holder sits within the joint co-located police and council Community Safety Team.
- The Domestic Violence Services Coordinator takes the lead in developing strategic and operational responses to tackle domestic violence sitting on the all domestic violence specialist forum and a range of other partnership forum including:
  - Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board (LSCP) and sub-groups.
  - Alcohol Strategy Steering group
  - Hidden Harm Steering Group and domestic violence Substance Use Partnership Group ensuring the mainstreaming of the domestic violence agenda locally.

## **Communications Campaign**

46. In December 2007, a prominent time for an increase in domestic violence incidents, a beer mat campaign was launched to highlight the issue and provide useful information to both victims and perpetrators. One hundred thousand beer mats were circulated throughout pubs, bars and clubs in the borough.

47. Other communications have included the new domestic violence directory for professionals published in 2006, the leaflet 'Are you safe at home?', and various other promotional materials at prominent times of the year such as White Ribbon Day , the international day , 25<sup>th</sup> November , where people wear a white ribbon to show that they do not condone men's violence towards Women, and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

### **Conferences**

48. In 2005 and 2006, two free domestic violence conferences were arranged for professionals in the borough. These were used to raise the profile of the issue and highlight important information. These were attended by over 400 professionals from the borough from over 40 different service areas. Speakers included the Kensington and Chelsea Borough Commander, Professor of criminology Betsy Stankso, Beryl Foster OBE, Standing Together, and Davina James- Hanman, director Greater London Domestic Violence Project.
49. Feedback from the events were excellent with 100% wanting to be informed of future events.

Comments included;

- 'I think these conferences are a great opportunity to network across borough which is so important'.
- 'This experience has widened my knowledge and has made me more aware'.
- 'It was a very interesting day and very informative'.

### **Consultation**

50. Robust formal mechanisms are in place to ensure service user feedback from all CDRP commissioned services. This is used to inform service development and future commissioning decisions.

## **C. Hold Offenders to account**

### **Positive Intervention**

- 51.** RBKC adhere to the principles laid out in the SOP's for investigation of domestic violence. RBKC operates a robust arrest policy where there is evidence of an offence within the domestic violence remit alleged. It is also the case that where either or both parties are under the age of 18, and it is considered by a senior officer that the domestic violence policy should apply regardless, positive intervention will be applied and the CSU will progress the investigation. Once the perpetrator is removed on arrest from the scene or detained elsewhere, they are held at a dedicated custody suite on the borough for processing.

### **Disclosure**

- 52.** CSU investigators have received training on the principles and best practice for initial disclosure where a suspect has requested legal representation. Disclosure is provided by the IO in writing and will contain sufficient information to the legal representatives. Correct disclosure based upon available evidence tends to avoid situations where a suspect is advised to make a 'no comment' interview.

### **Threshold Test**

- 53.** The Threshold Test requires Crown Prosecutors to decide whether there is at least a reasonable suspicion that the suspect has committed an offence, and if there is, whether it is in the public interest to charge that suspect. It is applied to those cases in which it would not be appropriate to release a suspect on bail after charge and the evidence to apply the full Code Test is not yet available. The Full Code Test (All required evidence to ensure a likelihood of a prosecution is required by the Crown Prosecutor for a charging decision) is applied in cases where the Threshold Test does not apply and the suspect is

suitable for bail. In cases which are initially assessed as standard risk or higher, and it appears to the investigating officer that a risk management strategy needs to be implemented, consideration will be made to apply the Threshold Code Test and the support of the Custody Sergeant be obtained for a remand in custody. CSU officers under these circumstances are expected to attend the first 'in custody' court appearance in order to support CPS prosecutors in opposing court bail or if appropriate ensuring the most robust bail conditions are applied in order to protect the needs of victims and witnesses.

54. In cases where the CPS will not apply the Code Test due to lack of available evidence and support from the victim for example, and the IO believes that there is a significant risk to the victim/s and or witnesses, an appeal under CPS guidelines will be made, This is fully documented in line with procedures. This especially applies where the IO believes that there is sufficient evidence to apply the Code Test and that a victimless prosecution should proceed.

### **Bail Conditions**

55. All cases of domestic violence investigated by the CSU are subject to ongoing review and supervision by a Detective Sergeant and Detective Inspector. In matters where the full code is to be applied and a risk management strategy is to be implemented, appropriate pre charge bail conditions will be applied. The same principle will apply to post charge cases. The requirements of the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP) are adhered to in these circumstances and victims provided with information at the earliest opportunity and generally prior to the release of a suspect on bail. This is an essential feature of risk management.

### **Cautioning**

56. A formal caution will be considered at court as bad character evidence against a domestic violence perpetrator. A formal caution will be considered in cases where the principles of the warning should apply and it is an appropriate method of disposal. RBKC CSU do not sanction the process of the issuing of repeat cautions to offenders where they are subject to a repeat allegation by a victim in the same relationship. CSU Officers at RBKC are instructed to adhere to this principle and where there are otherwise exceptional circumstances, the

Detective Inspector in charge of the CSU will be consulted for advice. Figures for September 2007 for RBKC charge to caution rate was 57%, the third highest in the Metropolitan Police. (57% of cases charged).

### **Special Domestic Violence Court.**

57. Kensington and Chelsea Police are founder members of the SDVC at West London Magistrates Court, the first SDVC in London. The court was the first in the country to hear domestic violence trials and has now been running for over 4 years. Kensington and Chelsea Police send an officer to the SDVC, which sits every Thursday. This has been of great value to resolving delays and avoiding unnecessary remands. All cases of domestic violence are heard at the court on a Thursday other than overnight remands where the suspect would appear on a non-domestic violence court day. This good practice is demonstrated by the way in which Kensington and Chelsea police officers attend SDVC properly briefed on their role. The CSU send a dedicated officer where possible, which has improved the continuity and relationships with the partners who support the court. This officer has recently received a commendation from the SDVC Management Group for her work [copy attached appendix \(3\)](#) During a visit to the SDVC by The Attorney General a CSU Detective Sergeant gave a presentation in respect of the borough's response to domestic violence in conjunction with multi-agency partnerships. Further, the Detective Inspector and his deputy attends the quarterly Court Management Group meetings. Members include representatives of CPS, Probation, SDVC, Standing Together, Witness Care, and Woman's Trust Advocacy Service, Victim Support. Standing Together has trained the Police Witness Care Unit at Kensington and Chelsea in domestic violence awareness and safe practice and included those workers in the Domestic Violence Witness Support Group (DVWSG). This is a grouping of all agencies from RBKC and the London Borough of Hammersmith who may support witnesses in domestic violence cases at West London Magistrates Court (WLMC). In all cases of domestic violence, consideration is given by the CSU towards a Special Measures application to the court by the CPS. This is subject to ongoing review by the investigating Officer, the CPS, Advocacy Trust and Victim Support. These

measures can have a significant impact on the case outcome and ensuring vital evidence is given at court.

### **SDVC Protocol and Statistics appendix (4).**

#### **Impact Statements**

- 58.** Impact statements are a means to formally tell the court at the conclusion of a hearing of the effect the overall incident has had on the victim. These are normally taken by the IO however in order to assist on the obtaining of statements, measures are being taken to provide training to members of the Woman's Advocacy Trust. Final sentencing is highly influenced where this evidence is available.

#### **Partnership and Advocacy**

- 59.** In cases where the domestic violence victim is also considered to be the subject of vulnerable adult abuse, the Safeguarding Adults Policy is adopted. A multi agency approach is implemented. Representatives of relevant agencies are invited to participate in the investigation and action plan in order to ensure that the needs of the victim are met. This is a vital element of partnership working to deal with offenders especially where the police are unable to proceed with any form of legal intervention due to the burden of proof required. For example if a vulnerable domestic violence victim is being financially abused by a family member and lacks the capacity to provide evidence, third party allegations can be made and proceedings put in place by RBKC Social Services to reduce and remove any further risk to the victim. The Woman's Advocacy Service is instrumental in dealing with offenders if the victim has requested assistance on obtaining an order against the offender and is unwilling to seek the assistance of police at that time.

#### **Domestic Violence Perpetrators Programme**

- 60.** At the end of 2007 the Domestic Violence Management Committee (DVMC) agreed to fund a pilot perpetrators programme. This is in line with a key priority in the RBKC domestic violence strategy to hold abusers to account. This service will be provided by the Domestic Violence Intervention project based in

Hammersmith. The violence prevention programme for male perpetrators is a 32-week group work programme which uses a range of therapeutic methods including dynamic role play to challenge men's violent and controlling behaviour. This work is aligned with the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) programme provided by the London Probation Service and provides an invaluable service for perpetrators who would not normally be able to attend the IDAP.

## **D. Preventing Domestic Violence.**

### **Risk Management Strategy**

61. A risk management strategy is implemented in all cases of domestic violence where the supervising officer and or the IO consider that it is required in order to meet the needs of relevant parties. The extent of the strategy is clearly dependant upon the circumstances of individual cases and is not exhaustive. Risk management is subject to supervision and in all cases where the initial risk is deemed to be medium or high, the Detective Inspector will review action taken to manage the risk and the circumstances will be reviewed at the Daily Management Meeting. Under SOP, the model RARA (Remove, avoid, reduce and accept) is adopted by both front line Officers and CSU Investigating officers. The principles of the model will be followed in all cases of suspected domestic violence.

### **Special Schemes**

62. Where it believed by a supervising officer and or the IO that there is a significant and likely risk to relevant parties, a special schemes application will be made to the Borough Crime Manager. The applicant will include information on the scheme that provides adequate detail for officers attending to a request for assistance by a victim/witness in order to ensure the relevant response is achieved. Special schemes are subject to ongoing review and this is the responsibility of the IO. Where an application is made off borough, the IO will ensure that the scheme has been entered on the relevant borough's Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) system.



## **Panic Alarms**

63. The use of panic alarms in medium and high-risk cases is a valuable facility where it is believed that the level of police response is sufficiently urgent. The installation of panic alarms on the borough is managed by a dedicated CSU officer. IO's obtain the authority of the crime manager and applications are submitted indicating whether the level of threat, based upon risk assessment, requires either a type two or type one system. Level two systems are monitored privately over 24 hours. Should the alarm be activated, the installing company will notify police for an immediate response. Level one alarms are monitored locally and will apply to higher risk cases. The borough has a pool of five emergency alarms for high risk cases and authority for installation can be given by the Duty Officer if required. Should an alarm be activated, all local units are alerted via Airwave radio system for immediate response. The borough also has the facility to request a community panic alarm in some cases. These can be applied to domestic violence cases. The alarms are monitored over 24 hours by the RBKC local authority control room who will notify police on activation.

## **Crime Prevention Design Advisors**

64. A request for the Borough Crime Prevention Design Advisor (CPDA) will be made in cases where there can be local measures applied for example to increase security at a victim's home address. In some cases where the cost of security measures is significantly high, an application can be made to the local authority for funding. The CPDA will also assist in recommending private security firms who will survey properties and provide discounted alarm systems. Once again local authority funding can be applied.

## **Mobile Telephones**

65. The CSU have a pool of mobile telephones available for victims should they not possess a means to contact the police urgently and the CSU wish to have regular contact with the victim. The phones can be used to contact emergency services. This may also be a valuable option where police have had to seize the victims phone for examination.

### **Safer Neighbourhoods**

66. The use of Safer Neighbourhood Teams is an essential support mechanism for the CSU in providing assurance to the victim and maintaining a positive relationship with police. This especially applies where the matter concerns a vulnerable adult. In some cases, Safer Neighbourhood Team representatives are invited to attend multi agency strategy meetings where action plans relating to victims are discussed and agreed.

### **Domestic Violence Incident Panel**

67. The Borough Domestic Violence Incident Panel meets monthly in order to discuss and share information on high-risk cases of domestic violence. It is fully understood that in serious cases, a multi agency approach should be adopted to risk management, prevention and positive action. The meeting is currently chaired by the Borough Commander and is due to be replaced by a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) based on the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CADDAA model).

### **Advocacy and Victim Support.**

68. The Woman's Advocacy Trust and Victim Support services are requested to assist where appropriate in all cases regardless of risk status. These support agencies provide essential services to victims of domestic violence including legal advice, counselling, housing support, refuge placing, skills learning and chaperoning during court appearances. The victim support representative attends the CSU weekly in order to discuss individual cases with the IO. The Woman's Advocacy Trust has attended CSU meetings in order to discuss best practice and share information. There are plans to provide training to the Woman's Advocacy Trust in the taking of victim impact statements. A Sapphire SOIT Officer will carry out this training. Impact statements are normally the role of the IO, however there are occasions where due to specific circumstances for example where a victim is uncomfortable around police that a member of the trust is best placed to take the statement. Impact statements are means to formally tell the court of the effect of the violence has had on the victim. This evidence is presented prior to final sentencing.

## **Education in Schools**

- 69.** Domestic violence awareness sessions, provided by local social workers with the assistance of voluntary sector partners, have been held in selected local schools. This was carried out in two forms, by domestic violence role-play adapted for the audience age range, followed by a question and answer awareness session, and by educational sessions held by designated social workers with the support of local agencies. It is hoped that this approach will be incorporated into all school programmes in the future. This is an example of working in partnership with organisations and communities to improve response to domestic violence.

## **Work in partnership with organisations and communities to improve domestic violence responses.**

- 70.** Kensington and Chelsea Crime and Disorder Partnership prioritise police and partnership actions to tackle domestic violence. The Community Strategy 2005-2015 contains a commitment to tackle and reduce domestic violence and the Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008 contains domestic violence specific targets and commitments. The Draft Partnership Strategic Assessment 2008-2009 has identified domestic violence among its top ten priorities. Challenging targets will be developed over the coming weeks for inclusion in the Community Safety Plan 2008-2011.
- 71.** Kensington and Chelsea CDRP, together with partners and keys stakeholders, have developed and signed off the boroughs domestic violence strategy 2007-2010. This provides the framework for delivering all domestic violence responses across the borough under the 5 key priorities:
- Improve the co-ordination, quality and effectiveness of services.
  - Improve support and safety for women and children experiencing domestic violence.
  - Hold individual abusers accountable for their behaviour in such a way that reduces risk.

- Reduce the tolerance of domestic violence in the community.
  - Educate the future generation of adults by providing children and young people with relevant knowledge and skills.
- 72.** The Domestic Violence Management Committee (DVMC) assumes executive responsibility for the development and implementation of the domestic violence strategy and performance of work programmes and is accountable to the CDRP. The group is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and attended by members of Family and Children's Services and Health Housing and Adult Social Care. In addition, its membership includes the Borough Commander and Partnership Superintendent, Executive Directors of the Local Authority, and other key stakeholders including voluntary sector representatives.
- 73.** The DVMC has strong strategic and tactical links and joint working procedures with other relevant forum in the borough such as the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership, The Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership, the Youth Offending Team (YOT) Management Committee. Further, the CDRP and Drug and Alcohol Action Team have jointly commissioned The Stella Project to coordinate the development of joint working protocols between drug and alcohol and domestic violence specialist service providers which will be supported by a training programme. This programme of work will conclude in March 2008.
- 74.** The Domestic Violence Partnership Group (DVPG) (previously known as the DV Steering Group) are a multi agency group formed to co-ordinate and develop services to effectively meet the needs of victims and children experiencing domestic violence. Their portfolio includes direct service provision, action intended to hold abusers accountable, and work to reduce the tolerance of domestic violence amongst the general public. They will, when reformed this year, work to achieve the borough domestic violence action plan.
- 75.** The borough has a long established Domestic Violence Incident Panel (DVIP). The DVIP's core functions are to:

- Review high risk domestic violence cases in order to:
- Ensure that all possible strategies for increasing victim safety are implemented.
- Ensure the victim is receiving all necessary support.
- Ensure sanctions are fully explored and applied, where possible, in a co-ordinated way, in order to deter repeat offending.
- Implement and monitor local policies in relation to specific cases.
- Ensure that agreed actions are carried out.

Membership of the DVIP is drawn from practitioners and service managers of all key stakeholder organisations from the voluntary and statutory sectors. Membership includes representatives from:

- RBKC Housing Needs
- Tenant Management Organisation
- RBKC Family and Children's Services
- RBKC Adult Protection
- RBKC Substance Misuse
- Primary Care Trust K&C
- London Probation Service
- Metropolitan Police
- Woman's Trust
- Eaves Woman's Aid
- Victim Support K&C
- Hestia Housing and Support
- RBKC Community Safety Team
- RBKC Education Welfare Service
- The group meet monthly and is chaired by the Borough Commander.

**76.** In June 2007, in response to best practice developments, the DVMC agreed to enhance the DVIP through the development of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC) to replace the DVIP. A tendering process

was initiated to identify a suitable independent provider of MARAC coordination services, which concluded in December with the award of the contract to Standing Together. At the time of writing, Standing Together are implementing the development of the MARAC within Kensington and Chelsea and the MARAC should be fully functional by 1 April 2008.

[See Attached appendix \(5\) \(MARAC referral form\)](#)

### **Effective Links between Safeguarding Adults and Domestic Violence Work in RBKC**

- 77.** The RBKC Safeguarding Adults Management Committee has representation from the Community Safety Team and the Community Safety Unit. In addition the Safeguarding Adults lead for the borough attends the DVIP to ensure vulnerable adult cases get signposted to the appropriate social work team in order to coordinate the enquiry as is required under the local policy.
  
- 78.** The Detective Sergeant from the CSU attends the boroughs best practice forums on vulnerable adults and is a member of the boroughs Safeguarding Adults Management Committee. The dedicated Detective Sergeant also attends serious case reviews conducted by Council. [Appendix \(6\)](#). The CSU Detective Sergeant is also a sub committee member for the Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures Review Network (SAPPREN). This group is made up of senior representatives of both from RBKC and Westminster Council. The group is currently re-writing the joint Safeguarding Adults policy and operating procedure.
  
- 79.** The CSU and Safeguarding Adults lead for RBKC has recently made successful links with the Community Safety team to raise the profile of Safeguarding Adults within the community safety agenda. The outcome of this has been:
  - Developing links with the boroughs Partnership Tasking Group. This group is made up of middle managers from the various business groups including Transport, Families & Children, Environmental Health, HHASC, Tenants Management Office(TMO) and the Met police.

- The development of a public awareness strategy on safeguarding adults is to be developed.
  - The tasking of the Crime Prevention Design Advisors in safeguarding enquiries as in a similar way to domestic violence cases as well as makes better links with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
- 80.** The Safer Surer Policy Board is part of the RBKC Crime and Disorder strategic structure. It is an executive arm, which looks at community safety issues. Members include the Borough Commander, the cabinet member for the community safety portfolio and the Chief Executive Officer who chairs the meeting. The Safeguarding Adults Coordinator reports to this board on an annual basis as a way to integrate the safeguarding adults work into the Crime and Disorder Strategy. In addition The Safeguarding Adults annual report is sent to the boroughs Chief Community Safety Officer, which includes statistics on domestic violence and cases involving vulnerable adults.
- 81.** In the year 2006- to 2007 the borough police training programme included presentations to both uniform and non-uniform police officers on domestic violence and vulnerable adult abuse. The safeguarding adults coordinator and the CSU Detective Sergeant undertook this joint training in order to increase awareness and improve performance.
- 82.** The Detective Sergeant from the CSU and the RBKC vulnerable adults lead have developed a crime reporting protocol for social work staff in order to ensure that the reporting and communication of alerts are correctly brought to the attention of police. The Detective Sergeant has conducted a presentation to RBKC Social work staff in order to present this document and discuss best practice around the areas of domestic violence and vulnerable adult abuse investigations.
- 83.** Attached appendix RBKC Monitoring report [appendix \(7\)](#) and reporting protocol. [Appendix \(8\)](#)
- 84.** The CDRP receives a range of funding from a variety of sources to support the delivery of its targets and commitments. This is matched by significant

mainstream investment by statutory partners. The Community Safety team oversees the budget management ensuring that evidenced based services and projects are commissioned to meet the reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the misuse of drugs. The Community Safety Team had at its disposal the following budgets for 2007/08



- 85.** There are, however, some considerations that need to be taken into account that restrict the flexibility of the use of this funding. The DIP and Preventing Violent Extremism allocations are ring fenced. In addition, the SSCF allocation contains some capital restrictions.
- 86.** In 2007/08 the CDRP allocated £145,000 to fund domestic violence projects and services.
- 87.** The Domestic Violence Management Committee have strong links with the Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Board (LSCPb). There is a commonality of membership and understanding between strategies. Furthermore, key stakeholders are actively engaged within the Domestic Violence Partnership Group and DVIP ensuring resilient coordination of operational activity.
- 88.** The local Safeguarding Children’s Partnership has recently carried out an audit of domestic violence. The focus of the audit was to consider cases where children or young people are involved or present and the subsequent professional responses to ensure their safety and well being. At the time of writing the report is in draft and under consultation. Findings and



recommendations from this will be included in the final report to MPA Board members.

## **DATA RECEIVED**

**89.** Between April 2006 – March 2007, the number of incidents, arrests, cautions detections are as follows: -

- 1554 Domestic violence Incidents
- 853 Domestic violence offences
- 563 Incidents resulting in arrest
- 279 Incidents involving repeat victimisation
- 34.5% Sanction Detection Rate
- 144 Sanction Detection Cautioned
- 150 offences with charges
- No offences of domestic homicide

The data above indicates that within the period, the volume of arrests verses DV reported incidents were impressive at 55.4% and above the met average of 45% resulting in an overall sanctioned detection rate of (34.5%) above target set at 30%. Of the offences where a judicial disposal was achieved, the charge to caution rate was 51% again above the met average at 49.7%. For the period April 2007 to date, the CSU has continued to improve on its performance in all measured areas with a current sanctioned rate of 41% against a target of 40%, arrest rate of 63.5% against a target of 60% and a charge to caution rate of 56% against the Met average of 43.5% (7<sup>th</sup> highest in the Met). The current percentage of repeat victimisation is 13.8% against the Met average of 18.1%. RBKC is currently the best achieving borough in the Met in this area.

RBKC recognises the need for continual improvement in all measured areas. The Senior Management Team have set a bespoke borough sanctioned detection target of 45% for the financial year 2007 to 2008.

**90.** There were two offences of domestic violence also flagged as honour based violence or forced marriage.

**91.** A breakdown of these offences in age groups are as follows:-

- Age 00 – 17 there were 21 victims
- Age 18 – 29 there were 297 victims

- Age 30 – 39 there were 241 victims
  - Age 40 – 49 there were 197 victims
  - Age 50 – 59 there were 59 victims
  - Age 60 - Onwards 32 victims
  - Of an unrecorded age 10 victims
92. The number of Male victims in this time period recorded was 208 whilst female victims were 639.
93. A breakdown of the Ethnic appearance of the victims shows the following results:
- 476 were White European
  - 58 were Dark European
  - 164 were Afro- Caribbean
  - 55 were Asian
  - 31 were Oriental
  - 44 were Arab/ Egyptian
  - 14 were unrecorded ethnicities
94. The current Sanction Detection Rate from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2007 until –23<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 is 41.5% and the current charge to caution ratio is 56%

**Policy compliance, implementation and quality assurance.**

95. There is a discrepancy between the number of domestic violence incidents responded to and the number of those incidents, which are subsequently reported on CRIS. The conversion rate from CAD to CRIS in 2006/2007 was 84% above the MPS average of 75%. A number of reasons have been identified in discussions at CSU seminars held by the Violent Crime Directorate. This includes situations where a call is received and recorded on CAD and there are subsequent linked CAD's created for the same incident. A domestic violence incident CAD should only be closed when the relevant CRIS number is entered. This can apparently be overwritten by an entry cross-referring the linked CAD. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Integrated

Borough Operations (IBO) Inspector in order to improve compliance. This is subject to future review.

96. The Operational Performance Unit (OPU) is based at Kensington Police Station. This unit provides borough performance data and prepares the Enhanced Policing in the Community (EPIC) presentation. See Paragraph 99
97. The Crime Management Unit will screen in all domestic violence investigations to the CSU Detective Sergeant. Prior to screening they will ensure that relevant flags are entered onto the report. CSU Detective Sergeants prior to allocation for investigation will ensure that appropriate flags are input onto the CRIS report relating to the incident. This also applies to the removal of incorrect flags where for example, the age of either or other parties involved is outside of the corporate domestic violence definition.
98. **Management Information.** Information is taken from a variety of sources across the borough, including CRIS, CRIMINT and the three custody computer systems. They also take information from the corporate statistics site - METSTATS - and from Performance Information Bureau (PIB) to provide information to the whole borough and comparisons with other boroughs. The resulting report is published monthly and is available for anyone to look at in 'Forum' under 'Performance Information.

#### **Enhanced Performance in the Community. (EPIC)**

99. This is a monthly review of activities across the borough carried out in the form of a presentation to all Inspectors and above. This is a middle management performance review led by the Borough Commander and includes discussion around the borough's efforts in tackling domestic violence and performance issues. Good work and performance is highlighted and the meeting allows best practice to be shared across the teams. The borough's key targets are looked at and all teams can see how they are contributing to each objective. Areas needing improvement can be focused on and all have an opportunity to contribute to constantly improve our performance.
100. Book 124D compliance is monitored by CSU Detective Sergeants. Where compliance is unsatisfactory the relating crime report is updated accordingly

and the officers supervisor notified. Issues in non- compliance are brought to the attention of the Daily Management Meeting. It is the responsibility of the reporting officer to ensure that information collected on the 124D is also entered onto CRIMINT Plus and Merlin where appropriate. The detail in the CRIS report should note respective reference numbers accordingly. Consistency in this area is again monitored by the CSU Detective Sergeants and non- compliance is highlighted to the reporting officer and if necessary to a supervisor. The CSU Detective Sergeant has conducted presentations to both uniform and non- uniform Officers during the 06/07 training cycle. The presentation includes instruction on the correct completion of book 124D. The Detective Inspector and his deputy have also presented 124D compliance and completion to officers on the current probationary process prior to them being posted to borough. It is intended that similar instruction will be the subject of the forthcoming training cycle.

- 101.** The CSU has sent instructions to all borough officers on the process for the completion and notification of location of book 124D. There are often compliance issues largely due to the borough comprising of three main stations where the CSU is based at Notting Hill. In some circumstances Book 124D's are not delivered to the CSU as instructed and are left with custody records or placed in internal mail. This clearly causes problems if investigating officers are unable to trace the book. The instruction in all circumstances is that the completing officer must show on CRIS that a 124D has been completed and its exact location. Non-compliance is subject to quality assurance by the CSU DS and reports will be graded as unsatisfactory if appropriate. Further issues arise where a domestic violence matter is being reported by non borough Officers, for example the report is being taken by a police traffic officer who comes across the incident direct or reported at a Station Office on another borough. It is often that 124D compliance is very poor under these circumstances. It is instructed that in circumstances of this kind, the IBO Supervisor is to pass on clear guidance where it is not possible to assign a BS unit to assist. Upon receipt in the CSU, the book 124D is entered into a register and assigned a unique reference number. This registered is maintained by a dedicated CSU Officer. All 124D books are archived locally.

- 102.** There has not been a domestic violence homicide on the borough since April 2005. This homicide has been subject to review led by the previous Borough Commander in line with the MPS model. All relevant partner agencies were involved in the review processes. A number of recommendations were made, in respect to various agencies. Examples of police learning were.
- In cases where the victim alleges the partner as a 'suspect' in multiple cases of any type of crime the underlying domestic violence thread must be assessed, considered and necessary action taken.
  - It is recommended that specific attention be drawn in the 'Threat to life' policy to the threats made within the domestic violence context.
  - Training for all responders and CSU investigating officers in compliance with Police Notice 15/2000, domestic violence SOP.
- 103.** All three recommendations of this review have been actioned.
- 104.** The CSU's establishment is made up of one Detective Inspector, two Detective Sergeants and twelve Constables divided into four teams of three Constables. Each team is aligned to a four- week shift pattern, which provides for seven-day cover. The Detective Sergeants have line management responsibility for two of the teams. The demographic make up is one male Detective Inspector, two male Detective Sergeants, five female Constables and six male Constables. There are currently two Constables on the TDC programme. These Officers are not on a six-month placing and are expected to remain on the CSU for a minimum of one year subject to staffing changes made by the Crime Manager. There is currently one female Police Constable who is part time and on a six month placing within the unit. The CSU Detective Inspector has requested this vacancy to be filled at the earliest opportunity. As well as this there is currently one vacancy within the unit. All Officers within the CSU are required to undertake specific training at the earliest opportunity from joining the department. This includes a one- day domestic violence seminar, a one-week CSU course. Officers on the Trainee Detective Constable program once successful in the Detective Constable exam will attend a five-week investigators course. Further training is provided to Officers where places become available and are allocated accordingly. These include interviewing skills training and Achieving best evidence (ABE).

- 105. The CSU does not have dedicated administrative support staff. Administrative responsibilities are the responsibility of the Detective Sergeants. Each CSU team is tasked with a number of administrative tasks in addition to their investigative responsibilities.
- 106. The Domestic Violence Champion is the Borough Commander Mark Heath.
- 107. Further specific information requested is contained within the main report.

### **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP)**

- 108. Specific information requested is contained within the main report.

### **Partnership Working**

- 109. Specific information requested is contained within the main report.

### **Training**

- 110. RBKC DV training includes a mandatory one- day domestic violence session, which must be completed by all officers of Inspector rank and below. This training session includes instruction on all key aspects of managing domestic violence with specific emphasis on the victim, offender profiles, sexual offences, risk assessment, risk management, book 124D, evidence gathering, victim support and supervision. This course has been completed by 99% of all 569 Police Officers on the Borough. There are seven officers untrained and due to complete by January 17<sup>th</sup> 2008. These are new officers to the borough. It is noted however that only 18% of Special Constables have received this training. This is clearly an area of concern and has been raised with the Training Unit Manager. Progress will reviewed in March 2008 by the CSU Detective Sergeant. The issue is partly complicated by the fact that Special Constables tend to work evenings and weekends where the delivering of the entire course is problematic. Further there is no requirement for Police Staff, Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) or Police Staff Station Reception Officers (SRO) to complete this training. This again is an area of concern and has been raised with the Training Manager. Victim Support representatives do deliver training to PCSO's in the area of risk management, assessment and support.

Another area of concern is that PCSO's and Police Staff SRO's do not receive instruction locally on the completion of book 124D and the obtaining of statements. Currently where for example, a report is being taken by an SRO at a Police Station, a supervising Officer is expected to assign a police officer to complete the book in full and ensure policy compliance.

- 111.** Officers aligned to Core Teams and Sectors are welcome and encouraged to work attachments within the CSU. This is a positive move towards highlighting the principles of managing domestic violence where the staff member can pass on their learning to colleagues within their teams.
- 112.** Training available to CSU Officers includes the one-week CSU course, 2-week Investigators course 5-week Investigators course, two tier interviewing course, ABE course and advanced ABE course. Further, one-day seminars are held where new members to the CSU are required to attend. At present all CSU officers except one who is new to the unit, have attended the one week CSU course. CSU Detective Constables and officers on the Trainee Detective Constable programme are required to complete the two tier interviewing course, ABE course and the 5 week Investigators course.
- 113.** The CSU Detective Sergeant has presented sessions at the borough's training days to both uniform and non-uniform officers of inspector rank and below. The presentations were made in order to add further guidance in support of the one-day domestic violence course. The presentations included the Safeguarding Adults procedures and policies and were jointly delivered over a three-month period with the Councils Adult Protection Coordinator. In addition to this the CSU Detective Sergeant has delivered joint partnership training on domestic violence and vulnerable adult abuse to new staff members joining Victim Support and all levels of social workers and associated staff employed by the borough. The CSU Detective Inspector and Sergeant have also had input on newly recruited probationary Officer training days.
- 114.** Following recent agreements with the Safeguarding Adults Co-coordinator, CSU Officers are to be invited to attend joint Investigative training with Social Work Staff in order to improve knowledge in the area of Vulnerable Adult Abuse. These sessions also have a specialised police input.

115. There are plans to provide training to the Woman's Advocacy Trust in the taking of victim Impact statements. This training will be carried out by one of the sapphire dedicated SOIT Officers.

### **Employee Domestic Violence**

116. There have been no incidents of domestic violence involving police /officers staff recorded on the borough during the period referred to this in this report. In all cases the SOP relating to domestic violence involving staff are adhered to. The case will be investigated within the CSU and conducted by a DS. The investigation will be overseen by the CSU Detective Inspector and the Borough Commander informed and updated regarding the investigation strategy. The safety of the victim is paramount and any necessary measures put in place. Any access to records and intelligence are restricted and sanitised as appropriate to ensure confidentiality for the victim.
117. Any perpetrators of domestic violence are dealt with in the same manner as any other perpetrator and are held accountable for their actions. The Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) would be informed from the outset and kept updated of the investigation and intervene as required.
118. Assistance to staff who is having welfare problems is usually provided by line management and Occupational Health as appropriate. The CSU is available for advice to both managers and staff on any matters within the remit of the unit. The assistance of support services is also available.

### **Project Umbra**

119. Project Umbra represents the MPS' strategic response to domestic violence. As such all activity carried out within the borough in relation to domestic violence supports the six strands of the project.

### **Continuous Improvement**

120. The introduction of digital imaging equipment has greatly enhanced the boroughs response in tackling domestic violence. It is recognised as good practice in other Forces to have frontline facility of Head Cameras in order to



assist in presenting accurate and precise footage of domestic violence incidents to the Courts. For example where a young child at the scene is communicating with an attending police officer who may otherwise not be able to provide evidence. This would further assist in cases where a victim has withdrawn support for a prosecution. At present funding for domestic violence initiatives such as above is only available locally. The twice-annual operation Athena is recognised for its success in tackling domestic violence and promoting awareness in the community. Additional funding Met wide would enable boroughs to run more regular operations for example quarterly.

### **Improved corporate training**

- 121.** As mentioned within the report it is recognised that there are significant gaps in the available training to police staff on domestic violence. In order to support the local efforts to address this issue the borough recognises the need for corporate support in this area.
- 122.** There is a clear discrepancy between Sanctioned Detection rates between MPS boroughs. It is believed that this is partly attributed to inconsistencies in CPS charging decision. A corporate response and liaisons with CPS at the highest central level may assist in resolving this issue and provide a more consistent approach.

### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 123.** In delivering domestic violence services RBKC and partner agencies continually work to ensure that all members of the community have the same opportunity to access our support and services.
- 124.** There is a diverse multitude of members from the community who work in partnership with the police and the Council and is represented by a diverse section of agencies and community members ensuring that diversity implications are always considered when planning activity and services.
- 125.** The borough of Kensington and Chelsea have an Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Advisory group which was founded in April 2000 with aims to work in partnership with police and other agencies to develop a variety

of ways to combat crime against the LGBT community. Members of the group come from a variety of backgrounds whilst some members are police officers with a dedicated Chief Inspector who acts as Co Chairperson for the group. However most members of the group are made up of LGBT residents or representatives of local businesses. Some members of the group participate in outreach work and as such encourage the victims of LGBT Hate crime to report the crime directly to the police, whilst this is sometimes difficult for the victim to report any LGBT hate crime the group provides information on other anonymous methods of reporting the crime such as via organisation like Victim support, GALOP (who offer advice and advocacy for LGBT victims of hate crime and also act as third party reporting sites), Broken Rainbow (which is a service for LGBT people who experience Domestic Violence). The borough also has two part time LGBT Liaison officers who work very closely with the group and review every homophobic crime report daily.

- 126.** The Advisory group meets monthly and reviews all homophobic crimes including same sex domestic violence and any other areas of concern that have occurred in the borough and offers advice and support to the victims if required.
- 127.** Also the Chief Inspector involved in the Advisory group attends the Borough Coordinating Tasking Group (BCTG) who meet every two week to discuss crimes on the borough and any homophobic crimes that come to notice are relayed back to the group.
- 128.** In the period of 01/04/06 to 01/04/2007 there were 8 reported same sex domestic violence cases and in the period of 01/04/07 to date there has been a reported 19 same sex domestic violence cases in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Same sex domestic violence victims do get offered the support from Broken Rainbow, which is an organisation, which supports Lesbian gay bisexual and transgender people and their families who may experience domestic violence.
- 129.** Within the Community Safety Team there sits a LGBT Liaison Officer and a Community and Race Relations Officer (CRRO). The role of the community and Race Relations Officer is to focus on medium to long term issues affecting the community in the borough, the role has a high profile within the Crime and

Disorder Reduction partnership and works in partnership with the council and other partner organisations, the voluntary sector and community partners to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour against vulnerable individuals and communities.

- 130.** The CRRO also links in with the Race Equality Partnership (REPKC), which is an independent organisation, which provides a platform for black and minority ethnic communities to express their needs and aspirations and to work co-operatively to create a better future.
- 131.** And the CRRO acts as a link officer between the Racial Incidents Tasking Group (who hand pick Racial and faith Hate crimes on the borough, scrutinise review and offer advice and support to police officers and Victims).

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# Appendix 1

## Vulnerable Adult Abuse

A single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust (which can include a relative, carer or service provider) which causes harm or distress to a vulnerable adult

There are five recognised types of abuse:

- ❑ Physical (for example, hitting, slapping, burning, pushing, restraining or giving too much medication or the wrong medication),
- ❑ Psychological (for example, shouting, swearing, frightening, blaming, ignoring or humiliating a person),
- ❑ Financial (for example, the illegal or unauthorized use of a person's property, money, pension book or other valuables),
- ❑ Sexual (for example, forcing a person to take part in any sexual activity without his or her consent – this can occur in any relationship) and
- ❑ Neglect (for example, where a person is deprived of food, heat, clothing or comfort or essential medication)

A person may suffer from only one form of abuse, or different types of abuse at the same time.

*This does not cover acts of abuse or violence from strangers, nor does it cover the targeting of older people on 'pension day', or burglary artifice. It is necessary for there to be some sort of relationship (which could be familial or a care provider) and some expectation of trust between the victim and suspect.*

## **Appendix 2**

### **Borough approach to Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence**

#### **Introduction**

RBKC is recognised as one of the low reporting boroughs in terms of forced marriage and honour-based violence. Collated figures reveal that during the period 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2006 there were 6 flagged crime reports relating to forced marriage and honour based crime within RBKC. Low reporting figures could be attributed to underreporting, lack of awareness/training externally and internally and gaps in intelligence.

This report has been written with specific consideration towards Prevention, Intelligence, Enforcement, Partnership, and Training. Attached to the report is the Boroughs Minimum Standards of investigation into Honour based crime and Forced Marriage.

#### **Prevention**

Given the low number of reports received on this borough, preventative tactics are currently confined to ensuring that any such reports are thoroughly investigated in accordance with minimum standards and that victim's of such crimes are properly supported and protected from further crimes. Prevention of further violence towards victims is reduced through proper risk assessment, risk management and Community Safety Unit intervention.

However, there may well be a gap in awareness and/or under-reporting that will need to be addressed by a media campaign, and/or education programme. This can be further addressed by the subject of Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage being introduced into the Boroughs training cycle. RBKC under the Vulnerable Adults Policy and Standard operating procedures have close partnership links with Social Services, Advocacy projects and Victim Support. Under the guidelines set out

in the Vulnerable Adults Policy the boroughs Social Services are bound to inform Police of matters falling within the Policy including HBV and FM. In terms of strategy, specific guidelines are set and provide for a robust and workable means to assess and manage risk. The borough has a Domestic Violence Incident Panel where incidents of this nature with the appropriate risk grading can be the subject of risk management strategy. Further to this, regular consultation is carried out with the Racial Incidents panel. I have asked the Borough Domestic Violence co-ordinator and Community safety Team to assist in identifying appropriate Community Groups in order to develop our partnership response.

## **Intelligence**

The investigation into Honour Based Crime and Forced Marriage in Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is the responsibility of the Community Safety Unit. A Detective Inspector, two Detective Sergeants and currently ten Constables staff this unit. The Unit is closely lined to the Sapphire Unit, Public Protection Unit and Misper Unit. This link ensures that information is available to be disseminated appropriately and responded to by the most appropriate Unit. For example where an Honour Based Crime or alert may have a sexual offence aspect to it, specific specialised intervention can be directed towards detecting crime and managing risk. A further example of this is where the Missing Persons unit, are investigating a disappearance reported by the victims family and the Community Safety Unit are further investigation an Honour based incident involving the same family. Clear and precise exchange of information protocols is a key element to early intervention. RBKC CSU also operate to SOP in relation to Vulnerable Adult Enquiries. It is clear that many HB and FM incidents will fall within this definition. Third party reporting through Social Services and advocacy projects also provides for early intelligence.

On a daily basis all domestic violence, Vulnerable adult, and FM flagged CRIS reports and CRIMINT entries are viewed by the CSU and intelligence disseminated as appropriate throughout the borough and further if appropriate. This includes a weekly circulation of our most prolific and violent domestic violence offenders on borough bulletins. In addition, the most serious cases are reviewed and considered with our partner agencies, and the Domestic Violence Incident Panel.

Attached is the borough minimum standards of Investigation for incidents and allegations of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence. Within that instruction is the requirement to create a restricted CRIMINT and CRIS entry, and therefore supporting the gathering and dissemination of intelligence.

## **Enforcement**

Officers on response teams will normally attend to the initial reporting of incidents relating to Forced Marriage and Honour based violence. Where information is provided by a third party, Community Safety Officers will intervene from the outset or provide advice to non CID Officers and outside partnership agencies. Attached is the RBKC Minimum Standards of Investigation, which has been disseminated to all officers. The Document deliberately focuses on the actions of front line staff. Once an allegation is received the investigation will pass to the CSU/Sapphire Teams.

Responsibility for the subsequent investigation of allegations of FM and HBV will then fall to the officers employed within the Community Safety Unit Team unless there is an additional allegation of a Sexual Offence in which case it will fall within the remit of Sapphire, to ensure compliance with Sapphire SOP. Both teams remain under the supervision of one DI. Compliance with the Divisional Instruction and supervision will fall to the DI/DS supervisors on CSU/Sapphire.

## **Partnership**

### **RBKC partnerships**

**Social Services** can assist CSU in gathering information about an individual and their family. They may have documented evidence of previous incidents. They can assist in protecting a young person if they are at risk of significant harm and provide safe, appropriate accommodation for individuals wishing to flee a forced marriage or the threat of one.

**Local schools and colleges** can alert authorities if they are concerned that an individual may have been taken abroad for the purpose of a forced marriage. They may also have further information about an individual's family.

**Local support, advocacy services.** Community based organisations; advocacy services, youth and children's groups have a wealth of expertise and knowledge. These organisations can offer victims long-term support, counselling and advocacy. CSU will work with established Women's groups who have a history of working with survivors of domestic violence and forced marriage.

**Racial Incident Panel** oversees CSU investigations into racially motivated incidents/crime. Advice can be sought from the panel in relevant FM and HBV incidents.

**The forced marriage unit** are available for advice and assistance to individuals who fear they may be forced into a marriage overseas or who already been forced to marry.

**Borough Domestic Violence Co-Coordinator** providing a borough based response and intervention where HBV and FM falls within the domestic violence remit.

Cases may also come to the attention of Strategic Health Authorities, Primary care trusts, GP's, NHS trust and Mental Health trusts.

Child protection team where cases fall within their remit.

Further support can be obtained from the British High Commissions abroad and National Support Agencies.

## **Training**

Training on Honour based violence and Forced Marriage is currently limited to initial instruction prior to Officers joining the borough and CBT thereafter. The Community Safety Unit within the borough have presented domestic violence training during the borough training cycle. Future presentations are to include training in relation to FM and HBV as well as instruction on the attached Standard Operating Procedures.

Clearly there is still a need to raise awareness in dealing with such crimes amongst our front line staff, including SROs. To ensure that appropriate training is provided.



CSU Officers on the Trainee Development programme and police Constables attached to the unit are to receive local instruction on the investigation into FM and HBV. Consideration should be taken into the level of training on the subjects available externally such as inclusion in the one week CSU course and trainee detective 2-week course.

Consideration could also be given in the Violent Crime Directorate providing additional supportive training to CSU managers for dissemination to their teams and borough officers.

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Minimum Standards of Investigation into Honour Based Crimes of Violence and Forced Marriage.

## **Definitions**

'Murder in the name of so-called honour' are murders in which, predominantly women, are killed for actual or perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a family or community, causing shame. They are sometimes called 'honour killings'.

The honour code means that women must follow rules that are set at the discretion of male relatives and which are interpreted according to what each male family member considers acceptable. Breaking the rules is seen as destroying the good name of the family, and is deserving of punishment at the discretion of male relatives.

Honour is an unwritten code of conduct that involves loss of face on someone's part if offended against, especially in groups where loyalty is considered paramount.

Honour Based Violence cuts across all cultures and communities: Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South and Eastern European for example. This is not an exhaustive list. Where a culture is heavily male dominated, HBV may exist.

Cultures in which HBV exists sometimes also practice forced marriage, and do not accept that a woman can have a partner before marriage, or that she can choose her own spouse. Remember that where there is a forced marriage, there is also likely to be "rape".

Do not confuse a forced marriage, with an arranged marriage. Arranged marriages often work very well. Forced marriages exist where there is not the free consent of both parties.

The reporting of such crimes on this borough remains relatively low; Officers need to be aware of the requirements upon them once such an allegation is received. The minimum standards are set out below. Further information is available on the Intranet. This can be accessed via the Community Safety Unit Service Delivery Team website. Available information includes, The Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Guide for Police Officers, Useful contacts and help organisations. These should be referred to in all cases. Further to this, in all suspected cases, during CSU hours, the Community Safety Unit is to be consulted for advice and notified of the circumstances. Outside of these hours (0800-2000) the on call Detective Inspector is to be informed.

Responsibility for the investigation of such crimes will belong to the Community Safety Unit, unless within that allegation there is also an allegation of a sexual Offence in which case it will Investigated by the borough Sapphire Unit to ensure compliance with Standard Operating Procedures.

#### **Information Received. Initial Action**

- **Recognise and record the victim's wishes**
- **See the victim on their own in a secure and private place**
- **Reassure the victim about confidentiality**
- **If under 18 years old, refer to the Child Abuse Investigation Team**
- **Submit crime and intelligence reports**
- **Seek the advice of the Community Safety/DV Unit supervisor**

- **Complete a risk assessment of the threat and refer it on for action. Use the Form 124D and Domestic Violence SPECSS+ Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model**
- **ABE/video interview the victim on first report**
- **Obtain a full account of the family tree, both immediate and extended**
- **Seek specialist advice from other units if required**
- **Agree a means of discreet future contact**

### **DO NOT**

- **Send the victim away believing that it is not a police matter**
- **Approach the family or community leaders**
- **Share information without the consent of the individual**
- **Attempt any form of mediation**

You could be putting the life of the victim at serious risk

A comprehensive and detailed Crime report and CRIMINT are to be completed, supervised and restricted. This includes where there is no obvious crime in which case a non-specified Faith/religion/belief incident is to be recorded on CRIS. Appropriate flags are to be added.

Where possible obtain detail of victims date of birth, passport, school, National insurance number, employment details, drivers licence number. Arrange medical examination and obtain digital images of injuries if relevant.

Secure all relevant evidence to support the allegation.

## Appendix 3

### Letter of Appreciation

On behalf of Standing Together and the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Management Group we are delighted to write to you to thank you for your continued positive approach to your work when you are the officer at court on the SDVC day.

In particular we want to acknowledge your role in the case of LS, over the lunchtime period on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Following information that further assaults and threats were preventing a victim from appearing in court for a trial that day, you rang the victim to encourage her to attend with the reassurance of screens and a safe escort to and from the court and back home again. She came to court, gave her evidence and the defendant was found guilty. You later arranged for local police to put a warning on her address to ensure her continued safety. Standing Together have described your actions to enable this young vulnerable witness to support the prosecution, as over and above the call of duty. Your actions went that extra mile and we cannot do justice to the amount of time and care that you put into this case.

This was indeed an impressive piece of work.

## Appendix 4

### **Protocol for the Specialist Domestic Violence Court at West London Magistrates Court – Kensington and Chelsea Police.**

#### **Introduction to the SDVC Protocol**

The SDVC protocol is an agreed document between agencies that are committed to participate in the West London Magistrates' Court (WLMC) Specialist Court pilot for dealing with defined domestic violence cases starting October 17, 2002. The Protocol has the approval of the Lord Chancellor's Department.

All signatory agencies – Kensington and Chelsea Police are one of the protocol signatory agencies, have agreed that the aim of this protocol is to improve the court management of domestic violence cases and it is accepted that this means that changes in perception and practice must be made.

Signatory agencies have agreed the following aims for the pilot:

To increase the effectiveness of the judicial system in providing:

- Protection and support to victims and witnesses of domestic violence
- Appropriate sanctions to perpetrators

To further increase co-ordination of agencies, including the Crown Court, involved in supporting victims and witnesses and dealing with perpetrators.

To explore the potential for linking civil courts in to the criminal justice process at WLMC.

West London Magistrates' Court deals with cases arising from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC), and whilst the PSA is specific to the LBHF, all defined domestic violence cases coming before the West London Magistrates' Court will be subject to the Protocol.

#### **Bail Information**

If after the first hearing there is a bail application or change in bail condition the WS will proactively contact the relevant Metropolitan Police Community Safety Unit for the investigating officer(s) to call the victim/witness.

#### **Support Pre - Trial Date**

K&C VS will offer ongoing support for all victim/witnesses referred by the Kensington and Chelsea Police. Their referral information will be included on the letter sent by the Kensington and Chelsea CJU for every vulnerable witness. They will request from the WS pre-trial court visits and special entry to the court if necessary.

## **Case Identification**

A process has been agreed where the incident, if it falls within the definition set out in Section II, will be identified at the earliest opportunity by the police officer attending the scene/when the matter is first reported/otherwise comes to Police attention, as a domestic violence case and the CPS, Police, and Court will designate it a Specialist Court case. If on the date of the first hearing it becomes clear to the Specialist Court that a case falls into the wider definition of “family violence” then it can be scheduled to other Courts if necessary.

- The police will identify the incident as a domestic violence incident in line with the agreed definition.
- Police CSU- to place a green DV sticker label on the Court Charge Sheet (57B).
- Police CJU- to label the file with the Specialist Court code.

## **Court Case Management**

All defendants charged with a defined domestic violence offence and released on bail from the Police Station will be bailed to the Specialist Court.

All defendants charged with a defined domestic violence offence and remanded in custody from the Police Station will appear at Court in accordance with the normal procedures but where the appearance is on the day of the Specialist Court will be listed in that courtroom.

## **Cover For SDVC**

On the day of the Specialist Court, a Police Liaison Officer or Police Officer will be present in the courtroom or its environs from Hammersmith and Fulham Police. (This arrangement will be subject to amendment at the first full review meeting). Kensington and Chelsea Police will deal with matters by telephone. This paragraph refers to hearings other than trials. The police officer in the case will always be required to attend at the trial.

## **Bail Conditions**

If a bail application or bail variation has been made subsequent to the first hearing the WS will proactively contact the relevant victim support service and CSU for the investigating officer to contact the victim/witness.

In cases where a person bailed to attend a Probation assessment fails to attend, the Probation Service will inform local police (CSU and the arresting officer) who will prioritise finding and arresting the offender.

(This is an extract from the main multi-agency protocol).

E:\Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea\POLICE\2003-4\2004-5\SDVC Protocol obligations for K&C police.doc

## **Volume of cases going into the court**

- The proportion of defendants arriving at the SDVC from the borough of Kensington & Chelsea has been increasing over the years.
- During the first 2 years, K&C defendants constituted approx 35% of all defendants arriving, and this has increased to 42% since April 2006.

## **Convictions**

- The conviction rate of defendants from Kensington & Chelsea in the SDVC has also been increasing.
- During the 4th year of the SDVC (Apr 06 – Mar 07) 56% of K&C defendants were convicted. This further increased to 57% of defendants during the first 6 months of the 5th year of the court.
- This compares to a conviction rate of 52% and 45% respectively in the SDVC, indicating that K&C defendants were more likely to be convicted.
- The conviction rate for DOMESTIC VIOLENCE cases completing during the quarter of Jul-Sep 07 in the entire London area as provided by the CPS was 58.7%. K&C cases completed during this period show a 61.5% conviction rate.

## **Charges**

- ❖ Common Assault is the most common charge to arrive at the SDVC, constituting 65% of all charges from K&C in the 4th year (Apr 06 - Mar 07).
- ❖ The next most common charge to arrive at the court was Harassment (10 charges within the year).
- ❖ ABH and GBH constituted 6% (n=8) of the charges arriving during the 4th year. During the first 6 months of year 5 (Apr-Sep 07), the same number of ABH & GBH charges arrived at the court, constituting 13% of all charges arriving during the same period.
- ❖ Over half of Common Assault charges were convicted during year 4. During the first 6 months of year 5, over 90% of Common Assault charges were convicted.
- ❖ Criminal Damage charges were the most likely to result in conviction during year 4 (7 out of 9 convicted).
- ❖ Charges of ABH, when not committed to Blackfriars Crown Court had a 50% conviction rate in the SDVC in the 18 months between Apr 06 – Sep 07. Of the 13 charges of ABH, 5 were committed to Blackfriars (1 convicted, 1 not convicted, 3 still ongoing).
- ❖ There were 3 defendants who were listed to the SDVC on charges of GBH. One defendant did not appear and a warrant is still outstanding. The remaining 2 defendants were committed to Blackfriars and were not

convicted.

### **Police bail**

- ❖ The safety of survivors is strongly linked to defendants being remanded in custody and produced at the SDVC.
- ❖ During Year 4 (Apr 06 – Mar 07), 43% of defendants arriving at the SDVC were brought from police custody.
- ❖ During the first 6 months of year 5 (Apr-Sep 07) the proportion of defendants brought from police custody rose to 52% of all defendants.

### **Sentencing**

The majority of defendants from K&C convicted in the SDVC between Apr 06 – Sep 07 were given a Community Order as part of their sentence. Nearly half of these defendants were also required to attend the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) as part of their sentence.

### **Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP)**

The Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) is a sentence suitable for male perpetrators convicted of domestic violence offences. Perpetrators can be ordered to attend the IDAP as part of a Community Order, or can have a conditions of attendance included within a prison release licence.

The IDAP is nationally accredited and is delivered by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) or the Probation Service. Women's Safety Workers from DVIP also work with the current and former partners during the perpetrator's attendance on the IDAP. Perpetrators are required to attend 28 group weekly sessions delivered by programme facilitators. Probation Offender Managers also undertake regular sessions with the perpetrator throughout the IDAP in order to assess and manage risk as well as returning the offender to court should the perpetrator breach the order.

The partnership at the West London SDVC has taken the view that attendance at an IDAP would be a positive outcome for a) offender accountability, and b) victim safety. Successful completion should contribute to reduced re-offending and the length of the order enables offender behaviour to be monitored over at least 28 weeks. The SDVC has therefore encouraged the use of IDAP where appropriate by ensuring assessment in Pre-Sentence Reports and by including full information in training for Magistrates.



### **Since the start of the SDVC at West London:**

- The number of IDAP Orders given to K&C defendants has been steadily rising.
- During the first year of the court an average of 3 IDAP Orders were made by the court per quarter (defendants from K&C). By Year 4 this had increased to an average of 5 orders per quarter.
- Nearly 30% of K&C defendants ordered to IDAP have now completed the Programme.
- A further 40% of defendants are currently on group or awaiting group, or undertaking 1-2-1 work with their Probation Officer in relation to domestic violence.
- The increase in orders made has been despite a period of transition of the delivery of the programme between DVIP and Probation. Resource issues delayed the start of the programme for some men and increased waiting lists for programme starts were observed to affect sentencing decisions in the court. However for those men ordered to attend IDAP and being placed on waiting lists underwent work with their Probation Officer on a one-to-one basis in preparation for the group work.
- More recently quality assurance procedures of Pre-Sentence Reports have become more rigorous resulting in every offender being assessed for IDAP and recommendations are made based on this assessment. This may have contributed to the number of IDAP Orders being maintained despite the effects of lack of resources and transition of the delivery of the programme.

### **Examples of good practice in the SDVC (based on observations by Standing Together**

- Standing Together observe the practice of the SDVC every week, from which observations are made and issues are taken to the Court Management Group meeting. The following are some examples of good practice observed.
- At the sentencing hearing of Smith the District Judge asked about severity of the incident and stated that she was concerned about the basis of plea in light of the probation report and requested that the issues of previous convictions be clarified in relation to the defendants' pattern and history of violent offending. The CSU Police Officer in attendance at court assisted with enquiries and an appointment was made for the defendant to be re-finger printed. The matter was adjourned so that sentencing could be made on the basis of accurate and up to date information.
- In the case of Cooper the Police and advocacy service worked together in order to secure a full and accurate Victim Personal Statement which was used during sentencing.

- Despite the defendant Arnold being found not guilty at trial, the District Judge commended the police for bringing the case for adjudication stating that it was exactly the right sort of case to bring to court. The defendant was served with a civil injunction/non-molestation order after the hearing.
- On the day of the trial of defendant Spurway the court had information that both the victim and defendant would not be appearing. However the defendant did attend and the police officer at court and the advocate persuaded victim to attend to support the prosecution. She did, gave her evidence with Special Measures (behind a screen), and the defendant was found guilty.

### **Victims / Witnesses supported at court**

Victims and witnesses are supported at court by Women's Advocacy Trust and previously by Victim Support. The Witness Service based within the WLMC also supports cases the borough.

- Between April 06 – March 07, 70 cases from K&C involved the victim being supported through the court proceedings. This represented nearly 80% of cases arriving at the court. This figures also indicates a 63% increase on the previous year.
- In 21% of cases supported during this period, the victim was required to attend trial and was supported through this process.
- The cases supported involved approximately 155 contacts with the victims in relation to the court proceedings, equating to an average of 2 contacts per supported case.

Feedback from one victim who attending the court to give evidence at trial included the following quote:

*“Talking to [Victim Support Worker] and [Witness Service Co-ordinator] and [CSU Police Officer] before the trial really helped me and I felt safe among them with the support they provided.”*

## **Introduction**

This report provides a summary of data from the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) at West London Magistrates Court, which has been in operation since October 2002. The court deals with domestic violence cases from the boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea.

This report refers to cases that come from Kensington & Chelsea borough specifically but also includes data from both boroughs to reflect the performance of the court.

The periods of time covered in this report are:

April 06 – Mar 07; the 4th year of the SDVC's operation

April 07 – September 07; the first 6 months of the 5th year of operation

## **Key headlines for Kensington & Chelsea cases in the SDVC at WLMC**

During the 4th and 5th year of the SDVC there has been:

- An increase in the proportion of defendants arriving from K&C borough
- An increase in the percentage of defendants convicted
- An increase in the percentage of early guilty pleas
- A decrease in the number of NEO dismissals

## **Table 1: Key indicators of the SDVC by year (K&C only)**

Apr 06 – Mar 07\*

(4th year of SDVC)

## Appendix 5

### STANDING TOGETHER

#### RBKC MARAC – CASE NOMINATION FORM –this consist of...

- VICTIM NAME,
- Date of birth
- Address
- Does victim have a disability
- If so please specify, Ethnicity
- Details of doctor (and maternity service if pregnant)
- PERPETRATOR NAME and DOB
- Relationship to Victim
- CHILDREN(S) and DOB
- Is child perp's? Y/N
- NAMES,Address (if different from victim)
- School (if known).RISK FACTORS\*
- from CAADA risk assessment checklist (\*attached)
- 4 incidents or more in last 12 months
- Assessed as high risk of harm
- Number of risk factors identified
- Reasons for referral to MARAC and risk issues and concerns
- Is person aware of MARAC referral? Y/N
- Has consent been given? Y/N
- Referring office
- Agency, Telephone, E mail, Date

## Appendix 6

### Multi-agency adult protection management committee

#### Serious Case Review Protocol

This serious case review protocol concerns the circumstances and process by which case reviews can be requested and undertaken. It is modeled on the guidelines for serious case reviews set out in Chapter 8 of “Working Together to Safeguard Children” that is included in the London Adult Protection Procedures.

The authority and responsibility for the consideration and undertaking of serious case reviews is made by the multi-agency adult protection management committee.

The protocol deals with cases that are covered by the multi-agency adult protection policy and that give rise to a need for a serious untoward incident investigation and that meet the criteria below.

The protocol should be read in conjunction with the multi-agency adult protection policy and in particular Part 1: section 10 Confidentiality and information sharing protocol.

- a. Purpose of a serious case review
- b. To establish whether there are lessons to be learned from the case about the way in which local professionals and agencies work together to safeguard adults
- c. To identify what those lessons are, how they should be acted upon and what is expected to change as a result and as a consequence
- d. To improve inter-agency working and better safeguard vulnerable adults
- e. To learn from cases which exemplified good practice and effective inter-agency working
- f. What a serious case review is not
- g. A case review is not an enquiry into why an adult died or was seriously harmed, or who is culpable. That is a matter for the Coroners Court, Criminal Court and Employment procedures as appropriate

# Appendix 7

## Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

### Adult Protection Monitoring Report January '06 - December '06

The information on this report looks at alerts received between July'06 and Dec'06 and how they were progressed. Some comparisons have been made with the previous 6 months. Here is a summary of the key information.

#### Alerts Received

We received 178 alerts in this period compared to 147 alerts between Jan'06-June'06 which is an increase of 21%.

Information about the alleged victim from the social work team

#### From January '06 to June '06

- a. · 97 Older People Community Teams
- b. · 10 Residential Placement Monitoring (under 65)
- c. · 3 Learning Disability Community Team
- d. · 9 Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
- e. · 4 St Mary's Hospital
- f. · 7 Residential Placement Monitoring Team (65+)
- g. · 2 St Charles Hospital
- h. · 9 Physical Disability HIV Team
- i. · 9 Mental Health Team
- j. · 1 Dual Diagnosis Team
- k. · 3 Substance Use Team
- l. · 2 Leaving Care Team

**Total 147**

## **Information about the alleged victim from the social work team**

### **From July '06 - December '06**

- a. · 73 Older People Community Teams
- b. · 19 Residential Placement Monitoring (under 65)
- c. · 17 Learning Disability Community Team
- d. · 8 Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
- e. · 3 St Mary's Hospital
- f. · 6 Residential Placement Monitoring Team (65+)
- g. · 16 St Charles Hospital
- h. · 22 Physical Disability HIV Team
- i. · 9 Mental Health Team
- j. · 5 Dual Diagnosis Team

### **Total 178**

- ❑ Of the 8 alerts recorded at Chelsea & West Hospital 7 were for older people, 1 was for a younger adult with physical disability
- ❑ Of the 16 alerts recorded at St Charles Hospital all were for older people
- ❑ Of the 3 alerts recorded at St Mary's 2 were for older people and 1 for a younger adult with physical disability
- ❑ Total for Older People= 134 which is 75% of all alerts.

National Monitoring from July'04 shows that nearly 30% of adult protection referrals are for older people and 20% for people with a learning disability.

### **Age between January '06 and June '06**

- ❑ 18-30 is 10
- ❑ 31-64 is 16
- ❑ 65-74 is 26
- ❑ 75-84 is 31
- ❑ 85+ is 64

### **Total 147**

### **Age between July 2006 to December 2006**

- ❑ 18-30 is 17
- ❑ 31-64 is 51
- ❑ 65-74 is 23
- ❑ 75-84 is 39
- ❑ 85+ is 48

**Total 178**

**Gender from January - June'06, Female is 106 and Male is 42**

**Gender from July '06 – December '06, Female is 113 and Male is 65**

### **Ethnicity from January - June'06**

- ❑ White - 111 which is 75%
- ❑ Black or Black British - 16 which is 10%
- ❑ European - 8 which is 05%
- ❑ Asian or Asian British – 4 which is 3%
- ❑ Other- 8 which is 3%

**Total 147 which is 98%**

### **Ethnicity from July - December '06**

- ❑ White - 126 which is
- ❑ Black or Black British – 19 which is
- ❑ European – 14 which is
- ❑ Asian or Asian British – 9 which is
- ❑ Other – 10 which is

**Total - 178 which is 97 %**



## **Source of the Referral**

### **Jan - June'06**

Service User 42

Partner 4

Friend 8

Neighbour 2

Family 20

GP 1

Comm Health 4

Hospital 5

Police 5

Care Home 12

Care Agency 16

Vol Org

Housing

Social Services

Other 28

### **July - Dec'06**

Service User 59

Partner

Friend 4

Neighbour -

Family 22

GP -

Comm Health 8

Hospital 3  
Police 2  
Care Home 21  
Care Agency 19  
Vol Org 1  
Housing 1  
Social Services 28  
Other 10

**Total is 178**

**Location of Alleged Abuse**

**Jan-June'06**

SU's Home - 89  
Relatives Home - 1  
Care Home - 26  
Day Centre - 2  
Hospital - 5  
Supportive Accommodation - 13  
Public Place - 8  
Other- 3

**Total 147**

**July-Dec'06**

SU's Home - 116  
Relatives Home - 3  
Care Home – 30  
Day Centre - 2

Hospital - 5  
Supportive Accommodation - 10  
Public Place - 3  
Other – 9

**Total 178**

Type Across Service User Groups Jan-June'06

Physical Abuse - 32  
Financial - 74  
Psychological/Emotional - 27  
Sexual Abuse - 4  
Neglect - 24  
Institutional - 5  
Discriminatory - 1  
Unspecified -0

**Total 167 multiple abuse recorded**

July-Dec'06

Physical Abuse - 53  
Financial - 74  
Psychological/Emotional - 42  
Sexual Abuse - 17  
Neglect - 20  
Institutional - 3  
Discriminatory – 0  
Unspecified -0

**Total 209 26 multiple abuse recorded**

**Nationally physical abuse is the most commonly alleged followed by financial abuse**

Spouse/Partner - 6

Relative - 23

Friend - 11

Care Worker - 37

Health Professional - 6

Other VA - 4

Stranger - 6

Neighbour - 0

Other - 18

N/K – 36

**Total 147**

Spouse/Partner - 6

Relative - 38

Friend - 19

Care Worker - 56

Health Professional - 5

Other VA - 5

Stranger - 5

Neighbour - 4

Other - 4

N/K – 35

**Total 178**

We identified that 12 of the alleged perpetrators were acting as unpaid carers.

# Appendix 8

## Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea

### Protection of Vulnerable Adults

#### Reporting Allegations of Abuse to the Police

- When complaints about alleged abuse suggest that a criminal offence may have been committed, it is important to report this to the police. If the service user has mental capacity and does not want any police action to be taken, then a report should still be made advising the police of the service users wishes. This is to ensure the police have a record for intelligence purposes.
- The Community Safety Unit is not the first point to report non-emergency crime allegations. Allegations of crime need to be reported to The Police Operator on 0207 376 1212 who will direct you to the relevant Control room. From there the crime allegation may be taken over the phone, or the police may dispatch a uniformed police officer to take the report. There may be occasions where you could be directed to report the matter personally at a local Police Station. Should the matter be an emergency you should telephone 999. A useful guide can be found at [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk). Some crimes can also be reported on line at this site.
- Once the crime report has been taken, it is then allocated to the relevant investigating team, which for vulnerable adults is usually the Community Safety Unit.
- The Community Safety Unit is available for consultation as to whether the police need to be involved or not e.g. if no crime has been committed but concerns remain that a crime may be committed (e.g. verbal abuse which may lead to physical violence), The Community Safety Unit may be approached for advice and if appropriate can attend a strategy meeting to advise on a protection plan.
- It is important for RBKC & CNWL staff who are arranging strategy meetings that this is done in consultation with the CSU or relevant police team to check their availability. Proper planning of meetings is vital to ensure police attendance bearing in mind there is a 5-day time scale. It is not good practice to arrange the time and then expect the police to be available at short notice.

#### Relevant Police Contact Numbers

The Police Operator: - 0207 376 1212

Community Safety Unit: - 0208 246 0226