



## Response to MPA DVSB queries from Ealing BOCU

At Ealing's presentation to the MPA Domestic and Sexual Violence Board on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the DSVB recognised the efforts that have been made by Ealing to secure improvements in the borough response to domestic and sexual violence. However there are a number of issues the DSVB requested to be followed up on. The issues and answers are listed below:

- *SCD2 to feedback on any learning on success.*

The reasons for the success at Ealing in relation to attrition rates remain unclear. The figures are those produced by the CPS, as such the MPS has no ratification role within them. Ealing CPS and SCD2 DI meet monthly and there is discussion around all cases. SCD2 DI has requested all staff within the CJ process to provide commentary on each case, whether successful or not. This is part of the CPS requirement for counsel, but is on occasion difficult to obtain. The aim of Ealing CPS and SCD2 is to examine if there are any themes that assist in identifying good practice.

- *BOCU to explore any disproportionality regarding male victims.*

According to the MPA report the proportion of male victims of DV incidents was 39.1%, while the proportion of DV victims of crime which were male was 19.9%. The 39.1% is a fair reflection of DV incidents where males are present as informants and victims. In terms of the 19.9% this actually reflects 2 issues for Ealing:

- 1) Ealing has 6 DV relationships which are responsible for over 100 allegations per year both incident and crime. In these the male partner is both victim and suspect on frequent basis. This has affected the DV male rates for the BOCU although intervention for each relationship is being managed by MARAC.
- 2) It also reflects the drive to report all Cross allegation DV incidents at Ealing between partners. This is reflected in the arrest rate for Ealing as staff is expected to arrest both parties where cross allegations are made.

The challenge for the BOCU is the 22.7% SD rate for male victims. This is being reviewed at present with the CPS to see ways of improving the detection rates.

- *Update on funding and commissioning outcomes and ways forward.*

2 DV advocates are now being funded by Ealing Council. They are being interviewed at the moment and will start in July. At present Ealing are utilising Hounslow DV advocates supporting DV processes locally. Funding streams for support agencies have been identified by the council and funding remains for 2011/12. Planning meetings are already occurring to prevent advocate losses 2012/13.

- *Update on any work regarding engagement, awareness raising and HBV/FM.*

The Eastern European DV Refuge lead has started holding monthly clinics at Southall to promote DV Services for Eastern European victims and provide both a surgery, civil advice and 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting if required. This is only recently begun so success and reporting rate changes have not been established yet but it is expected that reporting rates from this community will increase.

School training continues around HBV/FIM for 14-18 year olds see engagement with schools example.

Engagement continues with Southall Black Sisters to identify alternative promotion methods around DV / Hate and Race crime. 3<sup>rd</sup> party opportunities are being considered via schools officers utilising school email systems. Athena Day (held 22 June) has been used to promote DV services and prevention messages with local Asian communities via radio and press.

- *SCD2 to update on SCD2 and Rape Crisis relationship building and any referral pathways.*

The Rape Crisis Manager visited SCD2, shortly after the MPA meeting. All SOITs are fully aware of the opportunities that West London Rape Crisis offer to victims. Emphasis has been placed on the need to ensure any relevant referrals are made and discussions held around what services are available to victims.

- *BOCU to share any examples of successful practice on engagement with schools and any actions taken to fill gaps.*

Training has been conducted with all secondary schools across Ealing BOCU over the last 3 years around DV / HBV awareness. This has been via schools officers holding training presentations. Gaps remain on private schools and colleges. This is being developed with these establishments so awareness sessions can be provided.

Ealing Missing persons unit is trialling a missing person proforma from 1/7/11 that will provide more specific debrief information from missing people,

specifically young females, so that any HBV / FIM , Hate crime issues are identified and actioned.

- *BOCU to share good practice in Ealing to bring together SNT and CSU.*

The BOCU have appointed Detective Sergeants in the CSU to each SNT sector to allow direct communication for issues. This is supplemented by each DS on Ealing BOCU being aligned to a ward to allow CID advice / support to be offered at a ward basis.

Where MARAC referrals exist the ward is informed and on occasions become part of the long term solution. So for example we have a couple who have reported DV issues over the last 10 years down to both parties mental health, drugs and alcoholic lifestyles. In the last 6 months alone they have made in excess of 20 calls to police (all Non crime incidents ranging from a bad valentine present to arguments over the remote control). The SNT ward covering the home address took responsibility with the CSU. They held a meeting with the couple and have set an agreed method in how these people would report incidents to police via their mental health worker unless urgent. This is intended to reduce calls to police and ensure only risk issues are dealt with. As a result over the last 2 weeks there have been no incidents reported to police.

- *SCD2 to feedback on any analysis of why attrition appears high for under 18 year olds and any actions taken to remedy this.*

There is no clear reason as to why attrition is higher in relation to victims under 18 years. However offences involving victims under 18 years are often particularly challenging as there are additional issues around their willingness/ability to support investigations. For example, without the support of a parent/guardian young adults and children find the process extremely daunting and in some cases it can in fact be detrimental to them to pursue the investigation. In addition, in some cases there is the active rejection by parents/guardians of police investigations due to cultural, religious and moral concerns about the sexual activity of young people. SCD2 does provide effective support to young victims of sexual offences and recognises that they have specific needs. It is clear to both SOITs and investigators that parental knowledge and intervention is not always appropriate. SCD2 seeks to manage the dual responsibilities to victims and parents/guardians through case by case consideration of the needs of young people, recognising that they are still developing as individuals. However, any wider public risk management forms part of an SCD2 assessment of the progression of a case.

