



Strategic Briefing – (PR049)

Early Intervention Response to Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse

The Police Transformation Fund bid was submitted jointly by OPCC Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire Police and OPCC Sussex, WAFE and Respect, with the support of Local Authorities including Lincolnshire County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex County Council. The programme's partners will also work with Northumbria and MOPAC during the process with the Home Office. The programme was recommended by the Police Reform and Transformation Board and reports to the Home Office (Grant Agreement).

The programme will **pilot the 'Change that Lasts' approach to service delivery and community engagement to work with perpetrators** – pilot areas already exist for the Change that Lasts programme for survivors and children. It expands the Change that Lasts approach to specialist early intervention and community based approaches to working with perpetrators. The programme mirrors the strengths-based, needs-led approach to promote values and behaviour change with perpetrators, communities, professionals and services working with domestic abuse. The programme work will enable closer and more coordinated working arrangements between the Police, statutory services and the voluntary sector.

Change that Lasts focuses on professionals, communities and expert services with a focus on early, effective intervention and the right response the first time. The Change that Lasts approach has a unique offer to perpetrator work which too often waits until crisis point or after a pattern of domestic abuse has become established.

The Change that Lasts approach will deliver early intervention opportunities, make efficient use of criminal justice sanctions and offer opportunities for behaviour change to ensure lasting change and freedom from abuse. The proposal is intended to fill a current gap in provision on interventions for perpetrators of domestic abuse, and establish a robust evidence base in two pilot sites in England.

This work draws together the expertise of Women's Aid Federation England, their network of 300 members and services and the national lead for perpetrator interventions Respect.

There are three main elements to the survivor Change that Lasts approach:

1. **"Community Response" – known as "Ask Me"** in the survivor Change that Lasts programme. The principles of ask me is that each interaction and disclosure is an opportunity to encouraging help seeking and sign posting, and ensuring survivors are met with a validating believing response. Ask me ambassadors challenge the cultural context that enables domestic abuse to flourish.

We aim to learn from this response to develop a complementary community responsibility intervention focusing on perpetrators, which aims to change the environment within which perpetrators operate. Taking the notion that violence against women and girls thrives when there is a conducive context enabling it to happen.

<http://discoversociety.org/2016/03/01/theorising-violence-against-women-and-girls/> (Kelly, L, 2016), this model will work on the ground with local communities, providing tools and training to support individuals based in the community (e.g. community centres, clubs, sports and leisure centres) to recognise signs of domestic abuse and to respond to the risk a perpetrator poses in a way that is safe and effective for both themselves as bystanders, and survivors.

2. **“Agency Response” – known as “Trusted professional”** in the survivor Change that Lasts programme – ensuring that women with multiple needs are not passed between organisations and that professionals in allied organisations can recognise abuse and its dynamics and manage it appropriately.

As a result of our interventions “professionals who come into contact with perpetrators will have the confidence and skills to recognise abusive and controlling behaviour, identify their possibilities for action and be able to respond with the correct form of action”. Enhancing the professional’s knowledge to be more aware of assessing risk perpetrators may pose, include the consideration of others at risk and may provide the ‘alarm bell’ moment when managing a perpetrator of domestic abuse.

The Trusted Professional intervention aims to increase the confidence and skills of staff in public and voluntary sector services, who do not deliver a specialist domestic abuse service, but who are likely to have an established relationship with survivors through their work (e.g. substance misuse, mental health and children’s services), to enable them to provide a more holistic and helpful response to survivors. The aim of this project is to develop and deliver a training and upskilling programme aimed at professionals who are likely to come into contact with perpetrators. This will include a ‘recognise, respond, refer’ approach which is safe for the worker and any potential survivors. This ‘whole systems’ approach will ensure that every opportunity is taken to engage with perpetrators about their behaviour and to manage the risk that they pose.

3. **“Expert Support Services” – These are the specialist survivor services in the Change that lasts Model. In this pilot the specialist service will provide** a range of behaviour change interventions for perpetrators. A key element of an early intervention strategy is to have comprehensive, quality specialist services available and accessible for organisations to refer perpetrators to (and for self-referrals from perpetrators seeking to change their behaviour). Respect has a set of nationally agreed standards for work with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse and 20 accredited members providing specialist services across the UK. These focus on both behaviour change and risk management, with survivor safety at their heart.

Developing new mechanisms for identifying and engaging with perpetrators not only provides an opportunity to facilitate change in perpetrators behaviour, but can also increase a survivors space for action, giving her/him access to services and ability to receive support s/he might not have otherwise accessed. This proposal will offer a more integrated and effective way of working with a range of specialist support services to tackle domestic abuse. Each perpetrator will be assessed and an appropriate package of intervention will be devised including behaviour change modules reflecting her/his particular circumstances. Alongside an integrated support service for survivors whose partners are receiving the Change that Lasts perpetrator intervention.

This would be delivered in two pilot sites – 1) Lincolnshire 2) Brighton & Hove and East Sussex in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The original funding has been revised as requested by the Home Office and is just over £1.3m over broken down as follows;

1. 2017-18 - £141,097
2. 2018-19 - £610,684
3. 2019-20 - £615,704

The Home Secretary announced the bid's success under the Police Transformation Fund the 1st November 2017 and it is now published on the Home Office website with the attached list of successful bids.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretarys-speech-to-the-apcc-and-npcc-partnership-summit-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-transformation-fund-successful-bids-2017-to-2018>

Who to contact:

A directory of key contacts for the programme has been established.

Leads for each pilot site/organisation are:

- Lincolnshire - Lincolnshire PCC Marc Jones & Lincolnshire Police Domestic Abuse Coordinator Sarah Norburn.
- Sussex - OPCC Sussex Head of Commissioning Sara Jones & Strategic Commissioner James Rowlands Brighton & Hove and East Sussex.
- Women's Aid Federation England - Director of Operations Nicki Norman.
- Respect – Development Director Neil Blacklock.

A central email has been created DAPerpetratorsPilotLincsSussex@lincs.pnn.police.uk to collate all enquiries to the programme, responding jointly with all partners.



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