



Report to: Police and Crime Panel

Date: 14th July 2023

Subject: West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board - Update

Report of: Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Panel on the West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Mayoral pledge of keeping women and girls safe, and in conjunction with the Police and Crime Plan, the West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse (DSA) Board supports the long-term ambition of keeping West Yorkshire just, safe, and inclusive.
- 1.3 The Police and Crime Team continues to work with our partners and stakeholders to shape this vision to ensure it reflects the engagement, knowledge, and expertise of all organisations who work in the community safety field. We will continue to work alongside those with lived experience, and who have been harmed by crime, to inform and develop services for West Yorkshire.
- 1.4 The sustainability of governance and management of the interventions and projects reported to this board are reviewed through various steering groups, other partnership boards and thematic district VAWG Groups. The delivery of these projects will also be reviewed through quarterly monitoring returns.

2. Statutory Guidance

- 2.1 The statutory guidance extracted from the Home Office is issued under section 84 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('the 2021 Act'). It is intended to increase

awareness and inform the response to domestic abuse. It sets out the definition of domestic abuse, 'personally connected', and children as victims of domestic abuse.

- 2.2 It also conveys standards and promotes best practice. Section 84(4) of the 2021 Act requires persons exercising public functions, to whom the guidance relates, to have regard to the guidance in the exercise of those functions. Some organisations may also have specific statutory duties to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.
- 2.3 The guidance is aimed at organisations who are working with victims, perpetrators and commissioning services, including the police, local authorities, and the NHS. It is also of relevance to organisations dealing with consequences of domestic abuse such as employers and financial institutions, including but not limited to police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

3. Overview

- 3.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Panel on the West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board.
- 3.2 The multi-agency Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board is chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime; its members are representatives from the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise (CVSE) sector specialising in support and services for victims and survivors, Local Authority leads from each district's commissioning or delivery services, health partners, and national representatives from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office.
- 3.3 The Board aims to share and learn good practice for working with victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse across West Yorkshire. The Board also seeks to:
 - Explore opportunities for collaboration in delivery and information.
 - Oversee and implement actions arising from the reviews, legislation and policy reviews related to domestic and sexual abuse.
- 3.4 The Board acts as a reference group for the Partnership Executive Group (PEG) and Community Safety Partnership Forum on domestic and sexual abuse, providing a level of expertise around domestic and sexual abuse for West Yorkshire.
- 3.5 There is a standing item where each district provides updates, which is supported by a strategic approach of sharing knowledge successes, risks, issues, and actions.

- 3.6 The Policy Manager leading the workstream for women and girls also provides a national policy update to all partners and attendees at the Board. This document examines the updates relating to key areas of national policy and news surrounding VAWG and addressing domestic abuse and sexual violence (since July 2022). The agenda and any ad hoc items for discussion agreed by the Deputy Mayor are circulated to attendees in advance of the Board as well as any supplementary performance papers, documents, and district level updates.
- 3.7 The format of the group is founded on and facilitated by listening and engaging with those who lead on their respected workstreams and supports keeping all positionalities and communities in West Yorkshire safe.
- 3.8 The broad aims of the Board will be therefore to take forward the recommendations from the commissioning review into domestic abuse services across the region, share practice, explore opportunities for joint work, and act as a catalyst creating links to HMIC's action plan and LCJB work.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Members of the group are supported by an expert evidence base to continuously learn and improve. The group will be attended by representatives from CVSE sector organisations with a domestic or sexual abuse specialism, or who provide services directly to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Membership will be drawn from the following:
1. The five Community Safety Partnerships (representing each district)
 2. West Yorkshire Police
 3. Local Criminal Justice Board
 4. West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
 5. NHS England (Offender Management)
 6. Public Health England
 7. Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
 8. Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office
 9. CVSE sector providers in domestic and sexual abuse

5. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Benefits and Implications

- 5.1 The Combined Authority celebrates the differences of all the people we serve, work with, and employ. The organisation will hold itself to the highest standards in relation to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion and we will evidence our commitment in the following ways:

The Combined Authority will not tolerate behaviours, actions or words that

discriminate on the grounds of race, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership or disability.

All training for employees on equity, diversity, and inclusion will be mandatory.

All staff will be set an annual objective about how they must promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in their work, and we will monitor compliance of line managers with this requirement.

We will monitor and report the protected characteristics of our employees to ensure we represent the communities we serve, and we will set targets where analysis shows we have more work to do.

We will monitor and report use of our services to ensure fair and equal access in line with the census data and we will set targets where we identify gaps.

- 5.2 Equality, diversity and inclusion underlies, as a cross-cutting theme, both the Police and Crime Plan and the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy. Domestic and sexual abuse offences disproportionately affect women and girls; work to achieve the goals of these documents, including under the DSA Board, therefore supports the goal of an inclusive West Yorkshire. The work impacts equality and inclusion not just in addressing issues for women and girls, however, but in recognising the intersectional issues which mean some positionalities within this group may experience further disproportionality in violence and abuse. This includes, for example, women and girls with a disability, from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, or who are LGBTQIA+.

6. Implications for young people in West Yorkshire

- 6.1 The references of the projects and interventions listed in this paper are not limited to a specific age group. Together, with the Violence Reduction Unit and West Yorkshire Police, the Mayor has invested in young people to ensure we deliver the Police and Crime Plan and the issues raised at this board.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to consider in this paper.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications to consider in this paper.

9. Background Papers and Appendices

1. National Update Paper for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
2. VAWG Performance Statistics
3. Draft DSA Board Agenda
4. [Safety of Women and Girls Strategy](#)
5. [Police and Crime Plan](#)
6. [Statutory Guidance](#)

10. Contact Information

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