

Swindon and Wiltshire Community Safety Partnerships Diversity Impact Analysis for the Domestic Abuse Reduction Strategy 2013 - 2014

1 What's it about?

Refer to equality duties

What is the proposal? What outcomes/benefits are you hoping to achieve?

The Community Safety Partnerships in Swindon and Wiltshire are committed to working together to seek resolutions to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse.

This strategy builds on the achievements of the previous strategies and sets out the next stages in addressing the issue, in both existing work and plans for future work. It is intended to complement and help strengthen existing provision rather than replace existing projects or initiatives.

Creating a consistent understanding of domestic abuse across all partner organisations, five priorities have been identified. These are:

- Victims and survivors
- Children & Young People
- Perpetrators
- Training & Awareness raising
- Future development

The strategic aims will be achieved through actions which will be set out in the localised Community Safety Partnership implementation plans.

This strategy is underpinned by a commitment to providing equality of access to services and support to everyone in our communities regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, religion and or belief.

Who's it for?

The application of the strategy is for the whole of the population of Wiltshire & Swindon. In particular victims, survivors, children and young people and perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. Organisations and communities that support, witness and respond to Domestic Abuse. These include:

Members of Swindon & Wiltshire Community Safety Partnerships.

Members of the public in Swindon and Wiltshire, including those affected by domestic abuse.

Local businesses.

Members of the Public Sector organisations in Swindon & Wiltshire.

Members of voluntary sector organisations in Swindon & Wiltshire.

Perpetrators of domestic abuse.

How will this proposal meet the equality duties?

The strategy clearly supports the Community Safety Partnerships responsibility to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment & victimisation

Advance equality of opportunity

And foster good relationships between different communities and groups.

The strategy makes it clear that domestic abuse victims are not confined to age, gender or ethnic group. The definition of domestic abuse incorporates abuse between family members (including children to parents/grandparents and between siblings), partners in intimate relationships and includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

The strategy states that 'partner agencies recognise their obligations to promote race, equality and diversity in the method, quality and style of service delivery.'

What are the barriers to meeting this potential?

Partners understand that they need to be mindful of possible barriers within organisations, or for individuals (victims), these could include:

Communication/ability to data share across organisations in relationship to protected characteristics

Agreement to share information, either between organisations or because of fears on behalf of the victim

Partnership working and competing priorities of partnership organisations

Finances and resource

Cultural understanding (communities and organisations)

Mistrust/uncertainty of the response of statutory organisations and services by community members. Stigma and impact of reporting

Myths and stereotypes surrounding domestic abuse which may affect willingness to acknowledge understand or act

Willingness of and ability of organisations and individuals to take responsibility.

2 Who's using it?

Refer to equality groups

What data/evidence do you have about who is or could be affected (e.g. equality monitoring, customer feedback, national/regional/local trends)?

The population of Swindon & Wiltshire is estimated to be 680000 (51% women).

National estimates are that 1 in 4 women (approx. 85000 in Swindon & Wiltshire) and 1 in 6 men (approx. 55000 in Swindon & Wiltshire) will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives.

Equality monitoring is undertaken at entry points to services and at reporting. Geographical analysis is undertaken.

Wiltshire and Swindon data from April 2011 March 2012

Domestic Abuse reported incidents – 4231
Domestic abuse crimes recorded – 2353
Repeat incidents (as percentage of reported incidents) – 28%
Domestic abuse crimes detected – 39%

January – December 2012 inclusive

Wiltshire MARAC figures:

Total number of cases heard – 276
Number of children involved in cases heard – 388
BME – 3
LGBT – 2
Disability – 2
Male Victims – 2

Swindon MARAC figures:

Total number of cases heard - 237
Number of children involved in cases heard - 347
52 repeats + 22%
BME - 36
LGBT - 1
Registered disabled - 13
Male victims - 8

Wiltshire Police figures (Wiltshire only):

Total number of DA related crimes – 2441 victims
Of which female victims – 1862
Of which male victims – 510
BME – 99 (from a total of 2437)

Data collected for the Wiltshire Joint Needs Assessment:

2,229 DA incidents reported to Wiltshire Police from July 2011 – June 2012. This represents an increase of a further 429 incidents (23%) on the same period in the previous year.

Whole population data from an equality perspective is available. Some groups appear to be under represented in service use (BME groups, older people, disabled people, lesbians, gay men & bisexual people, women and men, transgender people). Are there specific subsections which need consideration (travellers, mental health?)

How can you involve minority groups and people with protected characteristic in developing the proposal?

A county wide consultation was undertaken with information being disseminated through all partnership, voluntary and charity organisations, the press, social media, internet and posters. Information regarding the strategy consultation was also specifically made available throughout all libraries, schools (for teachers, parents and older pupils), community groups, parish and town councils, councillors and service providers as well as through all partners internal communications.

Respondents to the consultation were not asked to declare if they had any protected characteristic, therefore there was no evidence of how many respondents were from these groups. This is something that will be considered in future consultations.

Who is missing? Do you need to fill any gaps in your data?

We do have some concerns about the data reliability as detailed under the 'who is using it' section and also with the consultation involvement data.

Further data analysis for future strategies will be considered.

3 Impact

Using the information in parts 1 & 2 does the

proposal:

a) Create an adverse impact which may affect some groups or individuals. Is it clear what this is?

- i. Encouraging wider reporting from a diverse range of people and organisations may initiate greater reliance on services and inability to immediately cope or respond to the diversity of referrals.

b) Create benefit for a particular group. Is it clear what this is? Can you maximise the benefits for other groups?

Having a specific focus on the needs of Children and Young People in the strategy may generate an adverse impact for other equality groups. This is justified through the need to prevent future domestic abuse by working with Children & Young people.

What can be done to change this impact? How can impacts be mitigated or justified?

- i. Additions to the strategy are being recommended.
- ii. This consideration will need to be understood and responded to within the implementation plans of the strategy.

Does further consultation need to be done? How will assumptions made in this analysis be tested?

No additional consultation is identified in order to progress with strategy. Specific implementation plans may require additional consultation.

4. What changes have you made in the course of this DIA?

Changes to strategy are recommended to encourage broader understanding of implications of Domestic Abuse.

Under 'training and awareness raising' it is recommended that the wording on one bullet point is changed to 'to undertake targeted campaigns in local communities to raise awareness that domestic abuse is not restricted or confined to age, gender or ethnic groups'. And the following bullet point to 'to promote a zero tolerance of domestic abuse in all its forms.'

What will you do now and what will be included in future planning?

Changes to the draft strategy as per above recommendations will be made.

Ensure that the resources are available, if requested, to ensure access to information and support for all equally. This may include alternative formats for people with sensory impairment; alternatives to written materials and interpreters for services users for whom English is not their first language.

Consideration will be made to future consultations as to whether respondents are asked to provide information relating to protected characteristics.

When will this be reviewed?

To be aligned to the strategy review dates when agreed or January 2015 if not before.

For the record	
Name of person leading this DIA: Jacqueline Jasper, Safer Communities and Licensing Team, Wiltshire Council	Date completed 18 March 2013
Names of people involved in consideration of impact: Lin Williams, Domestic Violence Reduction Co-ordinator Swindon Borough Council Hayley Mortimer – Domestic Abuse Reduction Co-ordinator Wiltshire Council Pippa McVeigh – Public Protection Manager Safer Communities, Wiltshire Council Pete Chamberlain – DI Public Protection Wiltshire Police Rex Webb, Equality and Diversity Advisor, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services Nick Stephenson, Change Manager Equality and Diversity, Swindon Borough Council	
Name of director signing DIA: Maggie Rae Chair of the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership Gavin Williams Chair of the Swindon Community Safety Partnership	Date signed  