

Briefing to: Sefton Safer Communities Partnership

Briefing from: Steve Martlew, Localities Service Manager

Date: 12 March 2020

Subject: Domestic Abuse Update

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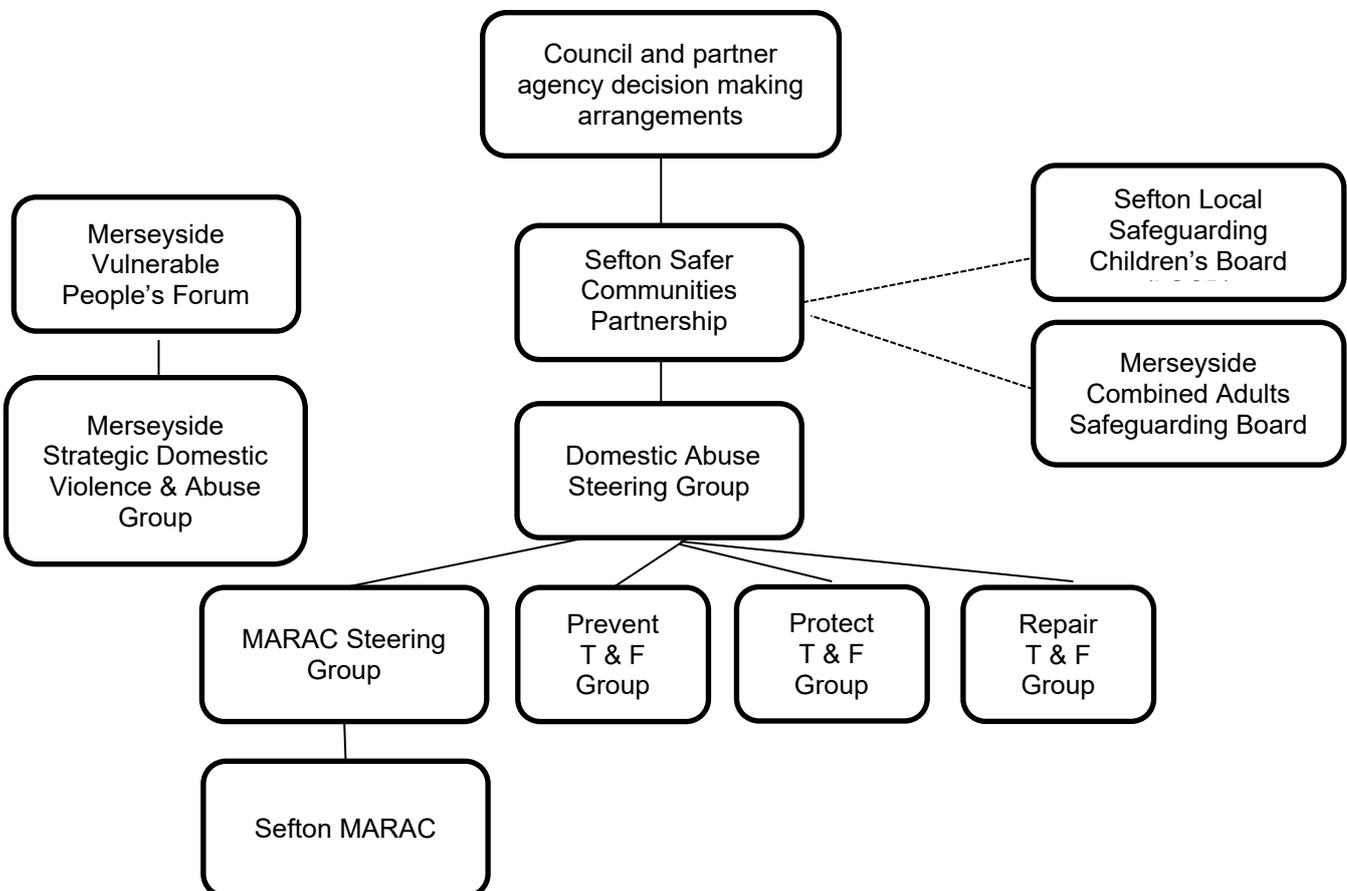
1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update SSCP with regards to Domestic Abuse. SSCP are asked to agree to the recommendations at the end of the report.

2. Governance Review

2.1 Following recent poor attendance at both Operational and Executive Groups as well as times of limited resources a brief governance review of Domestic Abuse has been completed. The recommendations are to merge both the operational group and the executive group into a single Domestic Abuse Steering Group. There will be individually themed task and finish groups, aligned to the 3 themes within the DA Strategy (Prevent, Protect, Repair) that will contain relevant staff from agencies, not necessarily those that attend the Steering Group. This will be enable organisations to shape outcomes that are within their sphere of expertise. All other governance arrangements will remain the same. Table 1 demonstrates the new arrangements.

2.2 New Governance Arrangements



3. LCR Dispersed Accommodation Project 2020/21

3.1 MHCLG have approved the successful funding application from Knowsley Council on behalf of the LCR to extend the Dispersed Accommodation project into 2020/21. The funding bid was for £400K and MHCLG have agreed funding of £340K. They were not prepared to fund the £60K target hardening element of the application as they felt this was capital works. SSCP will recall this project is not refuge provision but helps support DA victims in a managed move that will provide stability and sustainability for the future. Throughout the life of the scheme so far Sefton have made 34 referrals to the project.

4. Target Hardening

4.1 As mentioned in paragraph 3.1 the funding for carrying out target hardening will no longer be available from April 2020. Target hardening is a key tool available to assist with safety planning and risk reduction for DA victims. The cost to procure a 3 year target hardening contract, based on current referral levels to the service would be approximately £30k. Given there is an underspend in the SSCP budget that would cover this cost we are requesting that this underspend be used in order to ensure there is no break in this valuable service.

5 Domestic Abuse Conference

5.1 The annual Sefton Domestic Abuse Conference takes place on Thursday 26 March 2020 from 9.30am-16:00 at Linacre Methodist Mission, 123-129 Linacre Road, Bootle, L21 8NS

The link to book onto the event is below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/domestic-abuse-conference-tickets-93292399077>

Theatre group Aftathought will provide a performance, there will be workshops for delegates to take part in and the guest speaker is Dr Emma Katz from Liverpool University who will speak on Coercive and Controlling behaviour.

6. Recommendations

6.1 SSCP are asked to approve

The change in governance structure

The use of SSCP underspend in 2019/20 to fund a 3 year target hardening contract

To book onto the annual DA Conference and circulate amongst relevant staff in their organisations.

Steve Martlew
Locality Service Manager
5 March 2020