

7 Minute Briefing: Multi-Agency Audit – Domestic Abuse



7 Recommendations

- Practitioners to be directly involved in future audits and multi-agency audit meetings.
- To review the methodology for future audits to encourage a wider perspective and 'think family' approach.
- To consider the need for multi-agency training in respect of mental capacity and domestic abuse.
- Seek assurance that all agencies are familiar with the DASH risk assessment.
- To consider the development of 'joint paperwork' for documenting MDT's.
- To share the audit outcomes with the DA Board so that learning can be reflected in future development days or focussed training opportunities.

6 Areas for Development

- Information sharing and seeking.
- "Think Family".
- Identification and response to domestic abuse including understanding the level, nature and severity.
- Domestic Abuse linked to Mental Capacity Act and coercion and control.
- Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDTs) documentation and recording needs to be strengthened.

5 Audit Grading

- 1 Good
- 3 Inadequate
- 1 unable to be graded due to insufficient partnership information (however the findings and learning were considered by the panel).

Good Practice

- ❖ Single agency: recording, strengths-based practice, identifying and meeting individual outcomes.
- ❖ Multi-agency: critical reflection in practice.
- ❖ GPs being IRIS trained.
- ❖ Role of GP was pivotal in the audit and acted in a very timely way.

4 Methodology

The Safer Walsall Partnership Domestic Abuse Coordinator was invited to the meeting to obtain an insight into the findings of the partnership audit and to further understand the partnership response in the Borough.

This was the first time of including a frontline practitioner from Childrens Social Care in the adult's audit. This brought a new, positive and different perspective to the audit and provided additional depth to the discussion, supporting the Think Family agenda.

1 Introduction

This audit was undertaken to provide an insight into the effectiveness of multi-agency practice where domestic abuse concerns had been identified with adults with care and support needs.

This topic was chosen as a practice theme due to data demonstrating an increased number of safeguarding referrals over the last 12 months in relation to Domestic Abuse and Walsall Safeguarding Partnership requiring assurance about the quality and effectiveness of the practice response.

2 The audits focused on responses to the following questions:

- Was the risk identified, responded to and reduced in a timely way?
- Is there a holistic view of the adult's experiences?
- Are assessments timely, comprehensive, analytical, of high quality?
- Is coordination between agencies effective?
- Are adults and wider networks appropriately involved? Is there evidence of application of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)?
- Were the appropriate services identified, referred to and involved in a timely manner?
- Have there been improved outcomes for the adult/carer as a result of agency intervention?

3 Sample of Experiences Audited

5 adults with care and support needs where domestic abuse concerns had been identified.

- 3 of which, where domestic abuse occurred within intimate relationships.
- 2 of which, where domestic abuse occurred within the wider family context.

4 were female, 1 male.

All 5 had additional support needs such as physical support, hearing impairment and mental health/psychological support needs.

The male was also a perpetrator of high-risk domestic abuse.