

Domestic Abuse Strategy Workshop

May 2025

Workshop Feedback

Victim/Survivor

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alliance – oversight• Multi-agency working – services that care, services that work together• More aware of authentic voice• A commitment to change & improvement	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community training• Long term strategy that allows ongoing work – not time limited• Therapeutically trained staff that really understand trauma & impact• Increase in preventative work• Working together – hearing other services who have specialisms• One stop/one door/one phone number
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alliance• MARAC• Safeguarding partnerships• DA Act• Children as victims	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budgets• Retaining staff long term• Meaningfully engaging with victim/survivors• Perceived negativity of service• Reduction in services

Perpetrator

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probation and police information sharing• MARAC• CJ specific interventions• Caring Dads• Women's perpetrator provision• Causeway	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claires Law disclosure timescales reviewed• MATAC• Greater use of family hubs• MASH – Physical co-location/integration of services• Weekend/out of hours provision
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DARDR (DHRs)• VAWG• DA Alliance	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intervention Pathway – non-CJ and non-fathers• Female perps who are also victims• Child on parent violence• No-managing complexity• Changing landscape of CJS – funded perpetrator programmes• Education rather than criminalisation of young people

Equity, Equality and Diversity

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated male frontline service• Awareness has improved for male DA• Alliance has creative positive collaborations• Level 2 DA training	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LGBT+ dedicated service• More male victim awareness campaigns – 2nd November day• Pride involvement• Education young people• More education about marginalised groups• Minority ethnicity dedicated service• Disability dedicated service
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer Wirral Partnership• Housing• Welfare	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conscious / unconscious bias• DA Act – definition is inclusive, narrative is not including media and social media• Disparity of funding

Housing

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise target hardening for prevention• Fund elements of DA Hub from Housing Act• Complex needs tender due to go out – 10 bed female• Expansion of the refuge outreach support in T/A• DA Hub – prevention help/MARAC process• Partnership	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need more appropriate housing• Emergency beds through local solutions for young people• Ideally to have more self-contained units rather than hotels• Preventative work with young people to prevent cycle, help them to manage their own tenancy
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DA Act• Safer Accommodation Strategy – ends 2025 to be reviewed• Homelessness Strategy – review 2025• Childrens and Young People’s Homeless action group	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing crisis – supply/demand• Using hotels• Other vulnerable groups – banding• Single people with DA – single complex females• Social media – disclosing where people are• Going back into relationship – cycle starts again• Financial constraints• Legislation (current or historic abuse)

Prevention

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-agency• Data and insight• Work in schools – PLF• Skills and expertise• Training available• Health relationships working• DA question at health contacts (is this consistent?)• More dialogue about DA	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More education / healthy relationships• Identification at younger age = support earlier• Professional curiosity• Further training – general awareness• Knowing what to do about it where do we go?• Move away from stereotypes• Measuring success – how?
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insight – cycle of DA• Council plan – focus of prevention/healthy lives• Health and wellbeing strategy• Poverty• Inequalities	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding for programmes/interventions• Fear of getting it wrong• How do we join the pieces together• Getting the message out – how to recognise DA• Perpetrator – focus on awareness raising• Recognising changing dynamic/relationships• Are we targeting the right communities/people based on insight• Stigma• Processes around early identification

Insight

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Variety/breadth of partner data	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One story/journey including voice within insight content• Converting partnership data to collective insight
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross council / strategies / departments (other priorities)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– DA is impacted and impacts all• Pathfinders link – pick up most complex across multiple partners and improve involvement, knowledge and shared action	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data protection• “Same person appears in separate partner systems”• Duplication – multiple agencies on same topic, align resources/action• Agreeing strategy and collective action• One partnership – can act separately

High Risk

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily MARAC – risk management more timely• Improved data collection• Improvement from GP's with info sharing	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perpetrator management• Information sharing out of area• Re-write harmful practice protocol/training
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High risk – feds into MARAC steering group• Alliance	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where does the alliance feed into• Volume / complexity• Staffing• Poor attendance from statutory members• Little perpetrator management• Response to high risk/high harm

Children

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operation encompass• Lots of resources available (early help), Paul Lavelle, ‘lets talk’• Good information sharing between services• Early Help Offer (51% increase)	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding coercive and controlling behaviour• ‘One chance rule’ – to be shared• Better use of contact points• Work from CLA – preventative work with families
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MARAC• MAPPA• Drug and alcohol services	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intergenerational – long term complex cases, CP plans and getting work done with families.• Peer on peer abuse• Staffing challenges – difficult to build relationships• Lack of capacity with services such as Leapfrog etc.• Fear amongst families (barrier)

Governance & Workforce

Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-agency approach• Training for domestic abuse alliance members• Professionals who are passionate• Buy-in from internal colleagues at operational levels	Even better if? Priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buy-in from senior leaders across council• Consistent approach• Realistic governance and workstreams that can be sustained with tangible outputs• Domestic abuse champions training for wider internal workforce• Staff forum/network
Links to other forums & strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community safety strategy – due for review, chance to align prioritise• Pan-Merseyside strategies• OPCC VAWG Agenda• Health wellbeing strategy	Challenges? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-term grant funding – unsustainable• Getting the correct level of seniority around the table• Domestic abuse sits across several council departments/thematic areas – have to get approach right in all those areas and be a priority