

Message from Deborah Lightfoot – LSCB Chair

Welcome to the November edition of the LSCB newsletter. This month we focus on domestic abuse and the impact upon children. Last week, the Kingston Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) 2014 was published. The impact on children of domestic abuse is a major safeguarding risk which was highlighted in February 2014 by the organisation CAADA (Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse). This report can be accessed here - http://www.caada.org.uk/documents/In_plain_sight_effective_help_for_children_exposed_to_domestic_abuse.pdf. The report highlighted that for children exposed to domestic abuse they often feel to blame; are directly harmed themselves; have behavioural problems; exhibit abusive behaviour and can have mental health and/or substance misuse problems. **In Richmond and in Kingston approximately 60% of all children who are made the subject to child protection plans live in family situations where domestic abuse is a feature of their daily lives.**

Did you know?

1 2 women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner (Homicide Statistics, 1998) – 1 woman killed every 3 days

2 In 90% of domestic violence incidents in family households, children were in the same or the next room (Hughes, 1992)

3 In over 50% of known domestic violence cases, children were also directly abused – NSPCC (1997) found a 55% overlap; Farmer & Owen (1995) found 52% overlap

(source: www.refuge.org.uk/get-help-now/what-is-domestic-violence/domestic-violence-the-facts/)

What is Domestic Violence and Abuse?

The government definition for domestic Violence and abuse is, 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional. 'Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.' However this is not a legal definition (Source:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/142701/guide-on-definition-of-dv.pdf)

Kingston Domestic Homicide Review 2014

This Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) report examines agency responses and support given to a resident of the Royal Borough of Kingston prior to her murder on 26th September 2011. This Review found that there were points where serious issues needed to be addressed. The Learning for local agencies included; risk assessment, recording and sharing information, evaluating cyber stalking, not communicating as professionals by email, and considering responses to risks of child abduction and threats to kill. The LSCB will be working with local agencies to disseminate this learning. The findings have been discussed by all agencies and a set of recommendations developed to improve systems and processes. These have all been completed. For the full report please visit http://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200331/saf_er_kingston/1106/domestic_homicide_review_s

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARACs are regular meetings set up where local agencies share information about high risk domestic abuse victims in order to prevent serious harm by putting in place holistic support and is a coordinated community response to domestic abuse.

For more information on MARACs in **Kingston** – please visit www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200201/working_within_adult_safeguarding/241/domestic_violence_risk_assessment_and_maracs/4

For more information on MARACs in **Richmond** – please visit www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/community_safety/domestic_abuse/domestic_abuse_information_for_agencies/domestic_abuse_multi-agency_risk_assessment_conference.htm

The Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse website (www.caada.org.uk) will provide you with general information about MARACs

Teenage Relationship Abuse

Since March 2013, the Government definition of domestic abuse now includes 16-17 year olds. In 2011-2012, the British Crime Survey highlighted that 16-17 year olds are the most likely group to suffer from domestic violence and abuse however very few cases are known. Domestic abuse is still a hidden issue especially for teenagers.

Please see below a list of information sources on Teenage Relationship Abuse:

- thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/have-your-say
- www.loveisrespect.org/is-this-abuse/dating-violence-statistics
- www.barnardos.org.uk
- www.womensaid.org.uk

Local Support in Kingston and Richmond

- www.hestia.org/domestic-abuse/ - Kingston
- www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200314/domestic_and_sexual_violence - Kingston
- www.richmond.gov.uk/domestic_abuse - Richmond
- www.refuge.org.uk/richmond/ - Richmond

Kingston and Richmond Young People's Safeguarding Campaign

A team of young people are leading on a safeguarding Campaign across Richmond and Kingston. Working in partnership with the LSCB and AFC, the young people are focusing their campaign on teenage abusive relationships. The campaign aims to raise awareness of what constitutes abusive relationships, build resilience in teenagers to protect themselves and signpost them to appropriate support when necessary. The Campaign will utilise social media, street theatre, workshops, a web-site, branded merchandise and a high profile event at the Rose Theatre on Monday 16th February. The team would like relevant stakeholders to have a presence at their event. For more information please contact Steve Curtis - steve.curtis@achievingforchildren.org.uk or 02085473267

Events in November

- **16 days of Actions** - The Richmond Domestic Abuse Forum are currently planning activities for the 16 days of action to end violence against women and girls which starts on **Tuesday 25th November till Wednesday 10th December**. For more information please visit: www.richmond.gov.uk/richmond_domestic_abuse_forum
- **White Ribbon Day Event** on **Saturday 29th November** from 10am to 2pm at the **RFU Stadium in Twickenham**. For more information please contact Michael Allen - Michael.Allen@richmond.gov.uk or 0208 831 6198