

Domestic Abuse

The Safer Southwark Partnership

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Definition of domestic abuse

- “Domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviour which is characterised by the exercise of control and the misuse of power by one person, usually a man, over another, usually a woman, within the context of an intimate relationship. It can be manifested in a variety of ways, including but not restricted to, physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, and the imposition of social isolation and is most commonly a combination of them all.”
- We however recognise that the abuse of power can take place in a range of personal relationship contexts, including:
 - Heterosexual men abused by heterosexual women
 - Same sex relationships
 - Relationships involving a personal/family/otherwise carer
 - Parent/other adult relationships with children
 - Former partners and relationships
 - ‘Honour crimes’
 - Between young people under 18 in the context of ‘dating violence’



Legislative framework

- The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- The Children Act 2004
- The Homelessness Act 2002
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002
- The Local Government Act 2000
- The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The NHS and Community Care Act 1999
- The Children Act 1989
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Key legislation

- The Safer Southwark Partnership, the local community safety partnership, has a duty to tackle crime and disorder in the local area, including domestic violence (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)
- The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act and the Children's Act (2004) placed a duty of care on local authorities to provide services to victims of domestic abuse, including children. Duties have recently increased to include a duty to conduct domestic violence homicide reviews
- The Housing Act 1996 allows local authorities to prevent domestic violence in the context of housing management functions (s.153A), also to respond to homelessness (Homelessness Act 2002)

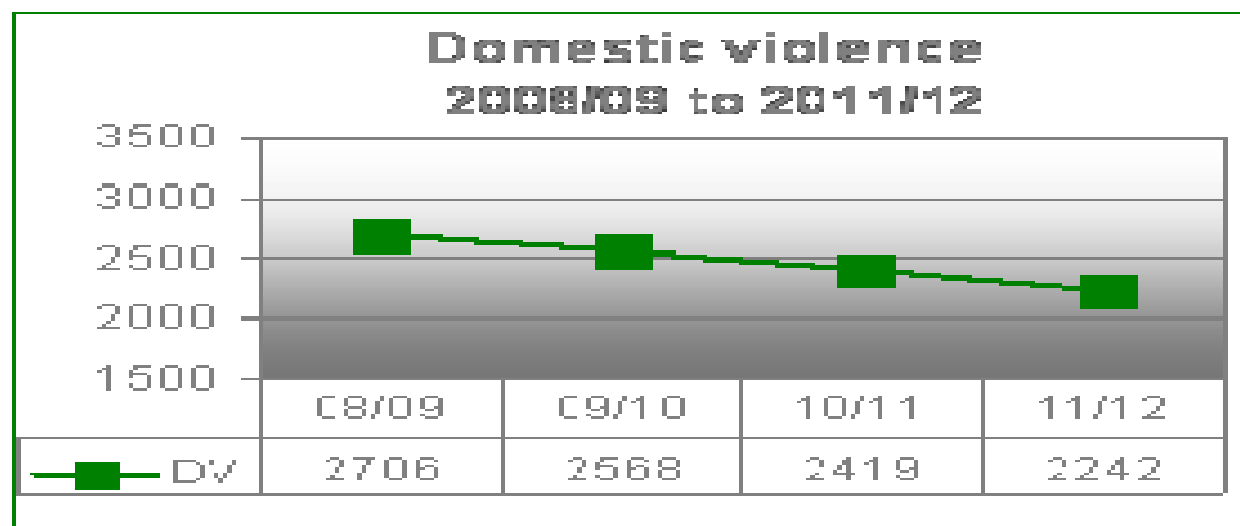
Best practice provision

- Local authorities play a vital and central role in tackling domestic violence - providing services, developing policies, raising awareness and facilitating partnership working
- Most domestic abuse services are delivered outside of the council, so the commissioning role is critical e.g. independent domestic violence advocates (IDVAs), refuges, sanctuary scheme
- Coordination of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) – a multi agency response to the most high risk victims of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse in Southwark

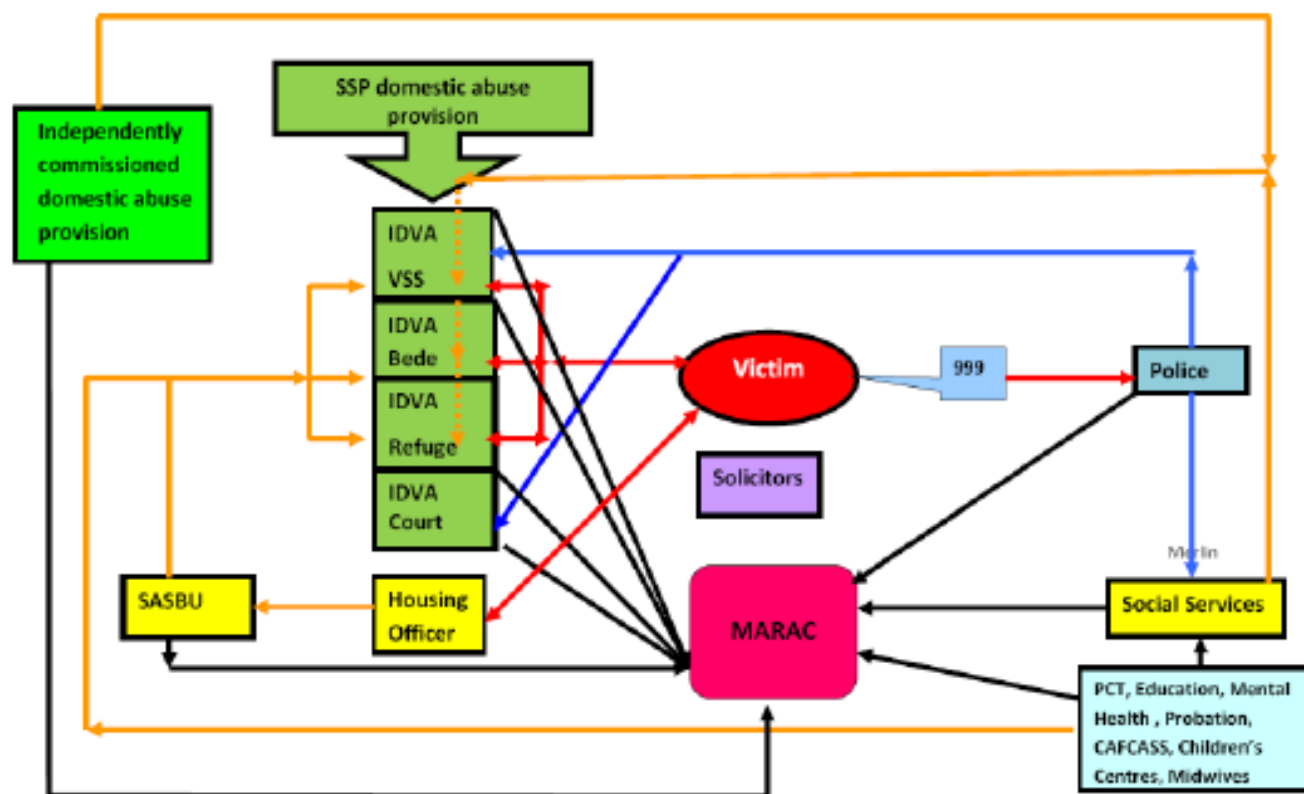
- Domestic abuse is a very serious issue for Southwark:
 - Domestic abuse and violence against women and girls is a key priority in the council's Violent Crime Strategy 2010-15, adopted in December 2010 and the Safer Southwark Partnership's (SSP) Rolling Action and Commissioning Plan 2011-12
 - One in every five recorded crimes in Southwark is classified as violence against the person (10,553 reports in 2010/11). One in every four of these violent crimes is linked to domestic abuse (2,419 in 2010/11)
 - In Southwark, 40% of Merlin referrals are domestic abuse related; 30% of these trigger initial assessments
 - In 2011, 225 cases were heard at the MARAC, involving 254 children and young people

Domestic abuse in Southwark



- Our recent strategic assessment showed that:
 - One third of total reported incidents occur at the weekend
 - The peak time period for domestic abuse is between 17:00 - 01:00. 49% of all incidents occur during this time
 - The peak months for reported domestic abuse are May to July, with a third of all incidents reported
 - Nunhead and Peckham are the peak wards for reported domestic abuse

The review

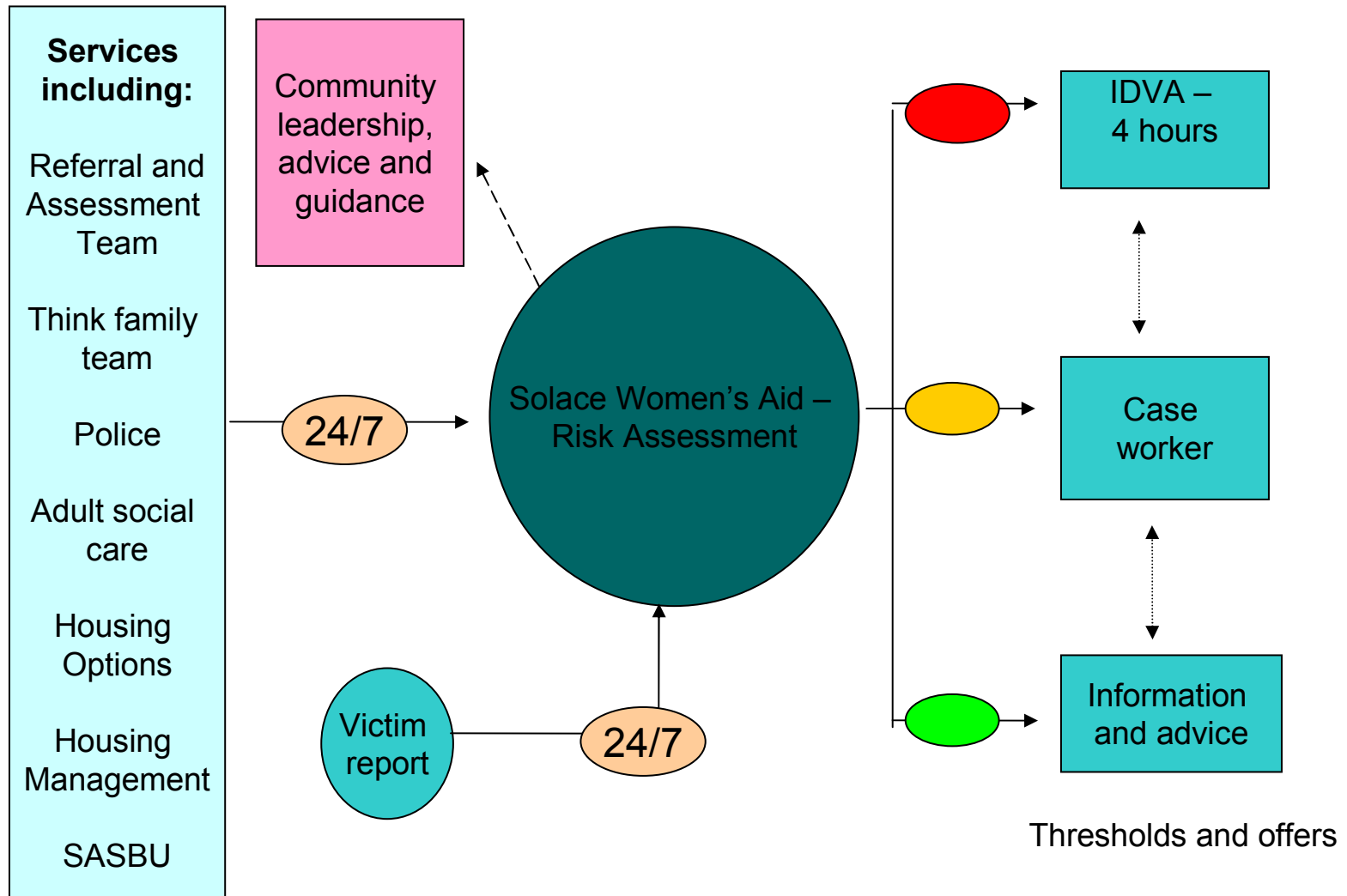




Progress

- Community safety partnership services has been identified as lead commissioner. Old services decommissioned and a a new service commissioned
- Solace will provide the service from April 1 2012. It will include several key improvements, including:
 - A borough wide service, with a new centre for domestic violence and a single point of entry – one phone number, one email
 - 24/7 access to the service
 - Improved response time to high risk victims
 - Improved outcomes in reducing victimisation and risk
 - A perpetrator programme
 - Specialist support programmes for children and young people
 - Other benefits including a service user forum, a volunteer programme etc

New service pathway





Progress

- A MARAC improvement plan has been developed and delivered:
 - Referrals are improved in quality and appropriateness
 - Increased partnership working
 - Focus on perpetrators
 - The MARAC has been assessed by CAADA and significant improvement was noted
- The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) solution Reducing And Deterring Adult Reoffending (RADAR) will work with offenders whose offences had a domestic abuse flag



Progress

- Successful bidding for DAPHNE funded projects – SHER and HEDGEHOG. The projects support young people in preventing domestic/dating abuse and sexual exploitation
- A community budgeting event to tackle violence against women and girls in Peckham and Nunhead – raising awareness and increasing community involvement
- We are conducting our first domestic homicide review



The future

- Implementing and embedding the new service
- Further DAPHNE bids in partnership with Solace
- Progressing the lead commissioner arrangements
- Future possibilities in relation to perpetrators for example tenancy conditions, contact centres



What you can do

- Signpost those who need services to Solace and share the new service details
- Help to raise awareness of domestic abuse
- Attend the launch event for the new service



Any questions...
