

Vocal Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum

Tuesday 20th August 2024

10.00am – 11.30pm

Zoom

Attendance

Present

Name	Organisation
Anne Stebbings	Manchester Rape Crisis
Duncan Lyons	We Are Survivors
Jo Charleson	Salford Women's Aid
Samera Khan	LGBT Foundation
Yvonne Dronsfield	Salford Women's Aid

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Michelle Warburton	Salford CVS (Chair)
Helen O'Brien	Salford CVS (minutes)
Sandrine Beaunol	Salford CVS

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Amy Moss	Trafford Domestic Abuse Services
Gayna Williams	We Are Survivors
Gemma Aitchison	Yes Matters UK?
Joni Fox	TLC: Talk Listen Change
Maggie Langhorn	Salford Foundation
Rabia Nadeem	TRC Sexual Abuse Manchester

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Michelle Warburton (Salford CVS) welcomed everyone and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Item 1: Minutes of meeting held 29.04.2024

As no one from the previous meeting was present, the minutes were read and noted.

Item 2: Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy Priorities

Marie Donaghey from Salford City Council was due to present this agenda item, but she did not arrive to the meeting. Salford CVS were later informed that Marie was off work sick.

Item 3: Domestic Abuse Protection Order

Michelle presented information on the new Domestic Abuse Protection Order which will replace Non Molestation Orders, improving things for the victim.

- Criteria is expanded to include emotional and financial abuse

- Can be implemented for longer
- Applications do not need to be from Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and can be from any organisations working with an individual
- Higher sentencing breaches
- Victims do not have to attend court
- Roll out in stages from September/October – this was delayed due to elections. This is happening in Bury, Wigan and Manchester to start with, 12 weeks apart. If judiciary are ready, it will roll out across GM.

Anne and Duncan have both not anything further to this information at present. Michelle will provide any updates on this via the Community Safety Partnership and GM Gender Based Violence Board.

Item 4: Update from Strategic Partnerships – Tackling Domestic Abuse Board / SSCP DA Subgroup

Neither of the Vocal Representatives were present at today's meeting so no feedback was given.

Item 5: Your Updates

Anne – Manchester Rape Crisis have general services based in Ardwick. They have been keen to implement outreach services across the 10 GM boroughs. They are present in Stockport and Rochdale. Recently, Manchester Rape Crisis has now been able to set up outreach in Salford via Salford Foundation. 49 women are on the wait list for counselling. Manchester Rape Crisis will be at Salford Foundation one day a week. Women can still go to the Ardwick site if they wish.

Item 6: Key themes, issues or trends to share with strategic partnerships

Michelle asked the attendees what key themes that them as organisations or their service users would like to be fed back to strategic partnership meetings.

- 3 clients from We Are Survivors have reported that in a domestic abuse situation, they have been treated like the antagonist by the police. A review of body worn cameras have shown new and inexperienced officers have been making assumptions. There is a lack of equitable treatment

Action: Michelle to feed the information to the Community Safety Lead or directly to GMP and copy Duncan into any emails.

- Victims applying for non molestation orders have to supply supporting evidence/letters which also go to the perpetrator. Currently, the support organisation details are also disclosed. This should be information that is retracted.

Action: Michelle to take issue of disclosing support organisation details during non molestation order to the Community Safety lead at Salford City Council for advice and will inform Samara of any feedback.

Item 6: Future meeting topics

Due to the increase of incidents/clients who aren't believed, Michelle will invite GMP to have a conversation at a future Vocal Forum meeting so the Forum can help them to do things more efficiently.

Michelle will chase Salford City Council re: Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy Priorities to appear at another meeting.

Action: Michelle to share to Baird report with the Forum contact list

Item 7: Any Other Business

Sandrine Beaunol from Salford CVS informed everyone about the Elevate Salford programme.

Elevate Salford is a three year programme which is due to end in December 2025. It supports people with learning, skills and work in 9 key priority groups which includes victims of domestic abuse. Sandrine explained that Elevate Salford is looking for organisations to join the partnership, particularly those working with carers and domestic abuse victims. There are already 12 organisations in the programme.

The organisations involved do not have to meet all of the targets needed to support a client, they just need to support in their particular area and then they move onto other organisations in the partnership for further support.

For more information:

<https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/elevate-salford>
Sandrine.Beaunol@salfordcvs.co.uk

Next Forum meeting: Tuesday 12th November 10.00am – 11.30am

Meeting ended: 10.48am