

Vocal Domestic Abuse & Sexual Harm Forum

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

10.00am – 11.30am

Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Present

Name	Organisation
Alison Lloyd	Greater Manchester Rape Crisis
Antony Owen	Talk Listen Change
Duncan Lyons	We Are Survivors

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Andy Mossop	Salford CVS (Chair)
Helen O'Brien	Salford CVS (minutes)

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Amy Moss	Trafford Domestic Abuse Services
Charlotte Clayton	Trafford Rape Crisis
Chris Speed	We Are Survivors
Elizabeth Tangata	Warm Hut UK
Maggie Langhorn	Salford Foundation
Rabia Nadeem	Trafford Rape Crisis

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Andy Mossop (Salford CVS) welcomed everyone.

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting from 22nd July were agreed as an accurate record. All actions were complete.

Andy explained that it was agreed at the previous meeting that the Forum would remain hybrid and information from these meetings will feed into the Reps meetings. Andy tried to arrange for an NHS worker to attend today's meeting but they weren't able to attend.

Item 2: DA Housing Advisory Core Group feedback

Andy attended the DA Housing Advisory Core Group on 1st December. It is a Council commissioned meeting. Andy was unable to share provider decisions but he could share that there was an agreement for uplift on all staff salaries including VCSE providers. There will be potential reductions in funding available for DA Safe Accommodation but they can't be sure as the spend has to be decided three months prior to the actual spend. The Salford Compact has six months for changes to contracts including stopping contracts.

Broader priorities have emerged from Safe Accommodation, in particular mental health. The support is not integrated properly in Safe Accommodation. There is scope to procure VCSE for mental health provision. This discussion is ongoing as it depends on whether money will be available. Andy hoped to share exactly what is being funded but has been told this is still confidential. Andy will share with this Forum once permitted.

Andy represents on a variety of Boards and a lot of them recently have cancelled or postponed due to QCQ care or Ofsted inspections, therefore there isn't much update.

Salford Women's Aid have released their report which highlights the lack of provision for children amongst domestic abuse services.

Action: Andy to share Salford Women's Aid report with Forum contact list

Item 3: Key themes, issues or trends

Andy asked the attendees to share any key themes, issues or trends that have emerged since the last Forum meeting.

Antony introduced himself as the new Domestic Abuse Service Manager for Talk Listen Change.

Duncan reported that the downward spiral in the quality of police work is the ongoing trend. Basic victim rights are not being fulfilled. Duncan said that such incidents occur where police officers are told not to talk to clients but are then turning up at client's homes. Duncan added that general communication updates are poor. There is a lot of push back when using the criminal justice secure pathway, this is possibly due to it being outsourced and they are pushing back on such things as not reporting a crime to a different area where the crime was committed. A positive thing that was introduced was the access to an escalation process through GMP. If issues are pushed through that channel then things progress, but the push shouldn't have to occur in the first place, this is an extra step. This is negative on the client and clients can refuse to continue with the process, with low quality policing can happen at the beginning of the journey and deter people from continuing. Duncan said that he has been trying to look at trends and whether this is with certain divisions or certain crimes to gather data when reporting issues.

Andy said he will consider the correct people he can report this update to.

Alison explained that they are finding similar issues happening at Greater Manchester Rape Crisis. An ISVA is currently off work and their cases aren't being progressed due to someone not constantly pushing forward. Alison also mentioned juryless cases and the upcoming announcements. Alison said that they have to get things right if they are going to push cases through more quickly, and they are supposed to be giving the victim the best journey possible and should be victim led and trauma informed.

Duncan added that some police don't follow the victim led journey, are trauma informed, and are not aware of their own policies and procedures. Duncan said that it would be good to speed up the process to a degree but this creates more problems and back log. Alison added that if it is managed well and money is pumped into it, then the speed up process would be good for clients.

Duncan said that there are constant delays, and as a team they are discussing the management of expectations of clients who are relying on a judge to be trauma informed and experienced. Alison added that reducing back log isn't just an administration improvement. There are cases which are being cancelled and postponed until 2026 as there are no judges available or there isn't any capacity as there needs to be judges with experience for certain cases. Duncan said it is good speeding things up but if the infrastructure isn't there before, during, or after (aftercare) then the fallout will be tremendous. The aftercare doesn't come from the VCSE sector.

Alison shared the cost estimate: [Sexual Violence Cost Estimate - City Vision](#)

Duncan ended by saying that the demand is increasing and the expectation of it is decreasing. It used to be a five day turnaround for officer assigning and now it is weeks or months to get everything in place for interview. Duncan said that they are having to speak to people honestly about the process and the length of time it may take but their ISVAs are with the client throughout the whole process.

Alison mentioned TLC's Drive project and that GMCA do not want to use it. The Drive project is aimed at perpetrators of domestic abuse who pose a serious risk of harm to those they are in relationships with. TLC reach out to perpetrators and disrupt patterns of abuse. Both Alison and Duncan said that the money spent could be used more efficiently.

Item 4: Your updates

Alison said that she is the CEO of Greater Manchester Rape Crisis and was new to the role this year. It is a women-led organisation and offer a range of confidential support services for survivors of rape and sexual assault. Alison previously worked at We Are Survivors and worked for ten years in the criminal justice system.

Duncan explained that We Are Survivors are a service for males, non-binary, and trans clients. They offer peer to peer support and staff supported groups and activities. They now offer a friends and family service which includes therapy and group support. Duncan has recently achieved his IDVA qualification and is awaiting his certificate.

Antony has been at TLC since June and began work on the Domestic Abuse programme. He is now the Service Manager.

Item 5: Next meeting

The next Forum meeting will be on Tuesday 24th February at 10.00am.

Action: Helen to send meeting dates for February and April to Antony

Andy will try and get an NHS worker to attend the next meeting to talk over the emerging priorities.

Meeting ended: 11.05am