

Monitoring Outcomes of the Scrutiny Report: Support Services for Victims of Sexual Violence. Response to Recommendations

Commissioning:


Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
A	The panel recommends that strategic commissioning arrangements to be put in place for sexual violence support services and that alongside these commissioning arrangements the commissioning of domestic violence support services should also be considered and undertaken.	Agreed	<p>Joint strategic commissioning arrangements for Sexual Violence are in place, across the Partnership in Brighton and Hove and integrated with Sussex wide arrangements (police, NHS, East and West Sussex) A single lead commissioner for Community Safety overall is integrating commissioning arrangements for Sexual and Domestic Violence. A citywide Senior Officer Commissioning group is now also established and implementing Intelligent Commissioning arrangements.</p> <p>The Sussex Wide Commissioning Group (of which B&H is a part) are now preparing specifications to move towards establishing 3 to 5 year contracts for all sexual violence services. If achieved, sustainability of services will be improved.</p>
B	The panel recommends that the strategic commissioning arrangements put in place are undertaken jointly by Brighton and Hove City Council, the CYPT, the police, and the health agencies in the city, and that where necessary other agencies are also included in these strategic commissioning arrangements.	Agreed	
C	The panel recommends that all statutory agencies in the city contribute funding to the strategic commissioning process for support services for victims of sexual violence as all statutory agencies benefit from victims being properly supported.	Agreed	
D	The panel recommends that a single lead commissioner be responsible for overseeing the integrated strategic commissioning of support services for victims of sexual and domestic violence.	Agreed	

Development of and Funding of Support and Other Services:

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
1	The panel recommends that a dedicated programme of support services for young women aged 16-25 is developed and funded as a matter of high priority.	Agreed	A dedicated service for 16-25 year olds is commissioned for the current year. Survivors Network is the third sector provider. To be further considered by the Senior Officer Commissioning Group within Partnership commissioning decisions for 2012 and beyond.
2	The panel recommends that consideration is given to funding group counselling services for men who have had unwanted sexual experiences.	Agreed	Funding allocated for the current year to be considered within Partnership commissioning arrangements for 2012 and beyond.
3	The panel recommends that consideration is given to funding a HIDVA worker in the Accident and Emergency department at the Sussex County Hospital, and that this is funded from within mainstream budgets.	Agreed	A Health Independent Domestic Violence Advisor in A&E is funded for the current year by the PCT. This recommendation (to continue funding the post) will be considered within the Partnership commissioning decisions for 2012 and beyond.
19	The panel recommends that all statutory agencies, when funding independent local support services in the city should award funding for a three to five year period.	Agreed	To be considered within Partnership commissioning decisions for 2012 and beyond.
20	The panel recommends that all statutory agencies in the city consider how they can support and offer mainstream funding to the independent support services in the city for those affected by sexual violence and domestic violence.	Agreed	The joint commissioning arrangements in the city are supporting and funding independent support services in the city. To be further considered for 2012 and beyond.
21	The panel strongly recommends that the city recognises sexual violence and abuse as being a major public health issue. In light of	Agreed	The joint commissioning arrangements already in place are based on a strong understanding of the impact of sexual violence on public health and well being, crime and disorder and

	<p>this commitment, health agencies in the city should review what independent support services they are currently funding to support those affected by sexual violence. In order to facilitate this, a copy of this scrutiny report should be taken to a future meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership and to the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>		<p>safeguarding. The analysis is incorporated within the strategic needs assessments and service mapping on which the recommendations of city wide outcomes and commissioning priorities will be based. Reports with those recommendations will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board in due course.</p>
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Building Capacity of Independent Sector:

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation		Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
6	<p>The panel recommends that the capacity of the local independent support services be greatly strengthened so that the needs of all of those in the city that have experienced sexual violence can be addressed.</p>		Agreed	<p>Significant support is provided to the third sector organisations in the city who are providing rape crisis, counselling and ISVA services in the city. As well as one to one support, there are regular meetings which are successfully encouraging a consortium approach to the development and delivery of services.</p>
15	<p>The panel recommends that partnership structures which involve all statutory agencies and independent support services are further developed to ensure the strategic development of services for those affected by sexual violence.</p>			
18	<p>The panel recommends that mechanisms are found to support the continued development of networks and partnerships between third sector service providers.</p>			
7	<p>The panel recommends that the operations of the SARC and its referral pathways are strengthened as a matter of high priority.</p>	Agreed		<p>An Operational Group is established which brings together the third sector providers from Brighton & Hove with the statutory clinical and forensic service providers. Referral pathways and other operational arrangements continue to be monitored.</p>

SARC Management Board and Sexual Violence Expert Reference Group:

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
8	The panel recommends the commissioning of a feasibility study considering the introduction and funding of an independent 24 hour signposting and support service.	Agreed	To be considered as a possible Sussex wide service within commissioning recommendations for 2012 and beyond.

Future Work Force Development Plans:

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
10	The panel recommends that all frontline staff and professionals within the city are trained to enable them to respond appropriately to cases of sexual violence.	} Agreed	These recommendations are now incorporated within commissioning recommendations to increase workforce skills of front line staff to recognise, risk assess and respond appropriately to those who experience domestic or sexual violence.
11	The panel recommends that all women who come into contact with frontline staff and professionals are informed about the independent women-only specialist support services available in the city.		

Standardisation of Monitoring and Recording:

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
12	The panel recommends that the monitoring and recording of cases of sexual violence be standardised across the city to ensure clear and consistent recording and monitoring.	} Agreed	Police recorded sexual offences together with monitoring information from the SARC and local support services, together with regular strategic assessments of rape and other sexual offences is the basis of analysis which informs our local and Sussex wide interventions. Seventeen Indicators are agreed, some of which will be incorporated within the city performance plan. The Safe In The City Partnership Board will receive quarterly and year end reports of performance against those indicators.
16	The panel recommends that steps are taken locally to agree a method and process for monitoring and measuring NI26. In order to facilitate this process the panel recommends that a copy of the scrutiny report be taken to a future Community Safety Partnership and Local Strategic Partnership Meeting.		

Services working with Vulnerable Adults:

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
17	The panel recommends that support is given to both the independent support services and the organisations representing groups of vulnerable adults to enable them to work together to develop services which meeting their clients' needs.	Agreed	Adult Social care are a key partner to the considerations of recommendations of outcomes and commissioning priorities. The specific needs of vulnerable adults are considered within commissioning recommendations, which are being taken forward by the Senior Commissioning Group.

Children and Young People Recommendations:

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Agreed or Not	Action taken or likely date of action
4	The panel recommends that the specialised therapeutic support services for children and young people who have been affected by sexual violence be reviewed as a matter of high priority in order to ensure that the needs of children and young people affected by sexual violence are being met.	Agreed	The city's Children and Young People's Plan includes a Strategic Improvement Priority to 'strengthen safeguarding and child protection, early intervention and prevention'. The Plan highlights domestic violence as part of a commitment to commission targeted services to protect the most vulnerable groups of children and young people at risk of harm, abuses or neglect including those at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation. The recommendations from the scrutiny review of sexual violence, highlight further key strategic issues in relation to services for children and young people. These and related recommendations from the Youth Services Review, Staying Safe Sub-Group and domestic and alcohol commissioning pilots, are being addressed by the Lead Commissioners for Children's Services who is a member of the newly established Senior Officer Commissioning Group.
5	The panel recommends that the specialised support services for children who display sexually harmful behaviour be reviewed as a matter of high priority to ensure that the needs of these children and young people are being met.		
9	The panel recommends that children's services reviews and considers how it responds to and supports children and women from families where domestic and sexual violence has taken place in order to ensure that a holistic approach to such cases is taken.		
13	The panel recommends that a much greater emphasis be placed on positive perspectives of masculinity to be promoted to young people.		
14	The panel recommends that a programme of prevention and early intervention work be developed to meet the needs of a range of individuals in a range of different contexts. As part of this programme, education and awareness raising programmes about what healthy relationships are and consist of should also be undertaken.		

