

Domestic Violence Data and Refuge provision

Currently South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership, and consequently Gedling, have no analytical capability. As a consequence, the generation of a detailed report at a ward level is not achievable. Further, the information / data recorded by the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) and by Women's Aid Integrated Services (WAIS) is not recorded at a ward level.

Work is in development to address this but there is currently no timescale for such action. The Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager is currently working with partner organisations to collate Gedling data sets to produce a report in March and have in place the mechanisms for populating future reports on a quarterly basis however this data may only be available at Borough level and not ward level.

It is therefore proposed that a update report is provided to Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a future meeting.

In respect of refuge provision, there are currently 4 providers of refuge in Nottinghamshire;

- Midlands Women's Aid based in Broxtowe BC area
- Women's Aid Integrated Services based in Ashfield DC area
- Nottinghamshire Women's Aid based in Worksop
- Newark Women's Aid based in Newark

Refuge is open to those escaping domestic abuse from across the UK not only the county in which the survivor and their family may be living. Midlands Women's Aid for example report that 99% of the survivors accessing their refuge provision come from outside of their local authority area. In the majority of cases survivors self-refer into refuge. www.refuge.org.uk is a website offering advice to survivors and there is a supporting Freephone advice line. The service is run as a partnership between Refuge and Women's Aid and can act as the gateway to services and refuge space nationally.

There are also local services, e.g. Women's Aid Integrated Services in Nottinghamshire who have a Freephone advice line.

All vacancies in refuge nationally are promoted on Routes to Support which is a national data base recognised by all refuges.

Local authority housing departments receive emails informing them of vacancies in the accommodation in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County.

The Homelessness Reduction Act refer back process is utilised to support families to be resettled in the most appropriate accommodation for them which sustains their tenancies.

In some cases however, there is no immediately available refuge provision or the distance from the home / family network is significant and survivors will present to Housing Needs teams at local authorities. If the assessment process identifies an immediate need then emergency accommodation is arranged.

David Jayne
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