

Education in Schools



During the 2009 performances, young people were asked to fill in a survey which explored young people's views on relationships and domestic abuse. The results will be published in June 2009.

Solomon Theatre Associates have been touring Wiltshire Schools with 'The Power of Love', a theatre in education production exploring healthy relationships. The production was developed by the South West Domestic Violence Forum to be incorporated within the PSHE curriculum.

The production was originally delivered to ten schools across Wiltshire during January and February 2008. Funding was secured for a tour during February 2009 to a further 14 schools. 100% of the schools rated the performance as good to excellent.

Some students views of the 'Power of Love' (source Trafalgar School, Downton):

'When the characters Lucy and Steve came back onto the stage for the workshop session, Steve was greeted with boos and hisses as we all felt strongly about what we had seen.'

'The year group really supported each other and worked together to raise many points about the need for respect and trust in relationships.'

'Some students felt very strongly about Steve's abusive behaviour and tried to convince him to change his ways.'

News in brief

Funding

Agencies have committed to a pooled domestic abuse fund to serve the duration of the strategy. Funds are from Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire.

Children and Young People's Plan

Domestic abuse has become one of the ten priorities in Wiltshire's Children and Young People's plan 2008-2011. For actions, milestones and success indicators as well as specialist plans and strategies related to young people go to www.wiltshirepathways.org.

Domestic Abuse Awareness Wallet Cards launched by Minister

In January 2008, Ben Bradshaw MP launched two new wallet cards to help raise awareness of domestic abuse. They were designed locally to target friends and family members of victims to encourage them to speak out, as well as repeat victims to help give them the confidence to break the cycle of abuse.



24 hour snapshot

Wiltshire undertook its first snapshot survey into domestic abuse on Thursday 22nd March 2007. Twenty nine organisations took part and 115 forms were returned (11 nil returns). The results showed that during the 24 hr period, a total of 90 hours and 50 minutes was spent in dealing with domestic abuse. Staff costs during the 24 hours were in excess of £1600 equating to an approximate annual cost of £586,920.

Sanctuary Scheme

The adoption of the sanctuary scheme in Wiltshire is now available across the County. This initiative enables victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes should they choose to do so. The scheme is carried out in conjunction with the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Wiltshire has been invited to join the national network of Domestic Violence Co-ordinators

National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)

On the 27th August 2008, Wiltshire's Chief Constable Brian Moore supported the expansion of the NCDV services into Wiltshire. NCDV is a registered charity that provides fast, free advice and support to all victims of domestic violence regardless of age, race, gender, sexuality or financial circumstances.

For more information about news in this bulletin contact hayley.mortimer@wiltshire.gov.uk



DOMESTIC ABUSE BULLETIN 2007- 2009

Welcome to Wiltshire's first domestic abuse bulletin highlighting the activities and initiatives that have been implemented throughout the past couple of years, to help raise the profile and awareness of this hidden crime. As we are about to embark on the new Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2011, we will strive to build upon all the good work that has been initiated.

Superintendent Paul Williams, Wiltshire Police, Chair of Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Reduction Group

Wiltshire Winners at National Justice Awards 2008

As a result of achieving 100% for two of their Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) targets and making substantial improvements towards another (see table over), the LPSA working group was nominated for a National Justice Award. On 21st October 2008 at the awards ceremony in London, the group were rewarded for all their hard work by winning the Partnership of the Year category.



LPSA representatives at the Criminal Justice Awards ceremony in London

Lynn Gaskin, Service Director Community Safety, Wiltshire Council, said: "This is a very real achievement not only for Wiltshire but for the excellent partnership working that it represents. I am very aware that all the individuals involved are not only extremely hard working but also dedicated to raising the profile of the issues of domestic violence and improving services for victims and their families".

Letter from the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown

Following the group's win, the Prime Minister sent a personal letter to offer his congratulations to the team. His last paragraph urged the group to continue its excellent work saying *'you are inspiring others through your example and by making a real difference'*.

The success of the group has meant it will continue, renamed, as the Domestic Abuse Reduction Group for the new Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership.

After the national awards, the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board held its own local awards ceremony where members of the LPSA Working Group were presented with a Local Justice Award for Partnership of the Year 2008.

The Justice Awards are held annually and are the leading awards for criminal justice staff and volunteers who go the extra mile to serve people in their local communities.

Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2011



The strategy, written by Hayley Mortimer, Wiltshire's Domestic Violence Reduction Co-ordinator, continues to build upon all the previous activities delivered locally, setting out a co-ordinated approach to how we can effectively deal with the impacts of domestic abuse on individuals, families and communities. It is the result of extensive consultation with key stakeholders including service users.

For a copy of the strategy go to:
www.speakoutwiltshire.com

Following the consultation on the strategy, there was overwhelming support for Wiltshire to adopt the term Domestic Abuse but still recognising the official Home Office definition.

The Home Office defines Domestic Violence as: *'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality'*.
Home Office November 2005

(Family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related in-laws or step-family.)

Successes of Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) Working Group

The LPSA working group was formed in November 2006 to identify and prioritise activities in Wiltshire that would help to contribute to driving performance around the LPSA outcomes.

LPSA Targets

Outcome 1 – to increase reporting of domestic violence

During the LPSA year, performance exceeded the target of a further 421 reports to achieve 974 against the baseline year (2,644). In total 3,618 incidents were reported to the police.

Outcome 2 – To reduce repeat offences by 8%

By the end of March 2008 the repeat victim rate had fallen to 39.3% with continued reduction, mainly as a result of the implementation of the Wiltshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference. The target was only missed by 1.1%.

Outcome 3 – To record a successful outcome rate of 70% (cases resulting in a conviction)

The year-end performance exceeded this target by 1.5% recording 71.5%.

Wiltshire's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A Wiltshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) was identified as a priority action, recognising that its implementation could positively contribute towards achieving their performance targets. In July 2007 Wiltshire established its first MARAC panel to discuss very high risk victims and to prevent further violence.

From July 2007 – March 2008, 82 cases were reviewed, in which 96 children were involved. Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) MARAC training was delivered in September 2007.

A dedicated database, MODUS, was purchased in January 2008 with funding from the Home Office. This database houses the case details from the MARAC and enables a consistent way of collating data which will ensure compliance with the Home Office reporting requirements.

Emma Harrold was appointed as the MARAC administrator in September 2007.

MARAC case study success

Members of the MARAC were recently pleased to learn that a forced marriage victim who was involved in one of their cases, has been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

Jo Motto, from Victim Support, was praised for her sterling work, liaising with the various agencies and generating documents to support the application.

"This year we've supported a victim who came to the UK on a spousal visa following an arranged marriage. She was subjected to continuous abuse but due to her immigration status had few options available to her. With the backing of the Wiltshire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and assistance from local and national agencies we were able to obtain indefinite leave for her to remain in the UK. The change in her has been amazing - she's now a different woman; confident, happy and looking forward to living and working in the UK free from abuse".

Jo Motto, Wiltshire Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, Victim Support Wiltshire

Practitioner's Event

This half day was held on 16th May 2007 for frontline practitioners to share national, regional and local best practices, new programmes and initiatives as well as encouraging networking opportunities through a market place.

Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)

Wiltshire was successful in achieving SDVC accreditation at Chippenham and Swindon Magistrates Courts in April 2008. Accreditation has recently also been granted in the south of the County and will commence following the opening of the new Salisbury Court House in Autumn 2009.

The SDVC programme combines a multi-agency approach to helping victims between the criminal justice agencies, support services and specialist roles for example, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs).

Defence solicitors from across Wiltshire attended a SDVC awareness event in May 2008, organised by the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board to provide an opportunity for defence advocates to gain a greater insight into the newly accredited SDVCs programme.

Awareness Raising Activities

Awareness week held in November helps to raise the profile of domestic abuse and encourages people to come forward for support and advice.

An important part of the week is the practitioners' conference which provides an opportunity for networking as well as sharing best practice and latest information sharing.

The 2007 conference was held at the Arc Theatre in Trowbridge with the theme 'a multi-agency approach'. Speakers from across the country shared their knowledge and skills and included the Worth Project, Standing Together and TULIP. The event ended with a powerful production of 'Lady in Red' performed by the Certain Curtain theatre company.

The 2008 conference was held at Swindon's Steam museum and attended by over 200 people. Speakers included Shazia Qayum from Karma Nirvana, Sally Jackson from Portsmouth City Council, Neil Fellowes, a victim and Daniel Blake from Action on Elder Abuse.



2008 conference in Swindon



Waitrose donated £1000 for gift vouchers and flowers for victims in Salisbury



2008 awareness week began with a celebration lunch for the LPSA Working Group hosted by Jane Scott, Leader of Wiltshire Council and John Thomson, cabinet member for community services.

Awareness Walks

In both 2007 and 2008 local practitioners, Wiltshire Council Safer Communities staff, Police, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Criminal Justice Agency and voluntary agency staff walked across Trowbridge Park and through the town centre to raise awareness.



To mark the success of the LPSA Working Group, the 2008 walk ended with a celebration tea and presentation of certificates to the LPSA working group by Chief Superintendent Julian Kirby.

Domestic Abuse Radio Campaign

The radio campaign first broadcast for five weeks through December 2007 and January 2008 and for three weeks in March 2008, was run again for four weeks in March, April and May 2009. The 20 and 40 second commercials aim to raise awareness, educate and encourage people to seek support and to report incidents. GWR, Spire FM and 3TR all took part.

(note - GWR FM is now Heart FM)



Pamper packs for victims staying in refuges were sponsored by The Body Shop and local pharmacies

Looking Forward 2009:

- Launch of the Domestic Abuse strategy - 22nd May
- Awareness Week 23rd - 27th November
- Wiltshire's and Swindon's 6th annual conference - November
- International end violence against women's day - White Ribbon Day 25th November
- Findings of the Wiltshire's young people's survey. Exploring young people's perceptions on relationships and domestic abuse - results to be published June 2009
- Launch of the new SDVC to follow the opening of the new Salisbury Court House in Autumn 2009
- Investment into specialist domestic abuse services to support victims to be in place by October