

Behind Closed Doors Event
3rd October 2008

Services For Young People Affected by Domestic Abuse in Berkshire East

Exiting Services:

- ✓ Refuge accommodation in Slough and Bracknell run by East Berkshire Women's Aid (three houses), Kinara Asian Women's Service and Berkshire Women's Aid. All provide emergency accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic abuse and have child workers.
- ✓ All three LSCB's identify domestic abuse in their business plan and is in each Children & Young People Plan's.
- ✓ MARAC currently in place in Berkshire East.
- ✓ The NSPCC Berkshire Project, based in Slough, provides an accessible, child focussed therapeutic service for children and young people who have suffered abuse. Support aims to help children and young people move on by working with them to explore their past experiences and express their feelings. As part of this process, the Project sometimes work with the non-abusing parents or carers. Referrals are received from local Social Services, health and education professionals, parents and young people themselves.
- ✓ Mothers 4 Mothers are a Thames Valley support group for mothers (and women in the paternal role) whose children have been sexually abuse. There is support for both the mothers as well as the children and siblings.
- ✓ Boys to Men is a programme run in Bracknell on a yearly basis through the Youth Offending Service. It is a 6 week programme designed for young men, who are reaching maturity and who, may have had inappropriate behaviour modelled to them. The youths are referred by both statutory and voluntary agencies and are assessed for their suitability to attend the course.
- ✓ In RBWM there is a YISP – Youth Inclusion Support Programme, a free, voluntary prevention programme for young people aged 8-17 years old at risk of offending and anti social behaviour.
- ✓ RBWM has a sub group of the Domestic Abuse Forum looking specifically at services for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator also sits on the three LSCB's and some of the sub groups.

Gaps:

- ✓ There is currently no support for young people to address their behaviour as perpetrators of domestic abuse (other than the Boys to Men Programme).
- ✓ There is currently no education pack within schools around domestic abuse, however the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator is part of a Thames Valley wide group looking to roll out the work done in Oxfordshire through the No Joke! project.

Future plans:

- ✓ We have recently received training from Sutton Borough Council on delivering support groups for children affected by domestic abuse, which will be run alongside a group for mothers. The training ran over three days (8th, 15th and 22nd September) and we are currently looking at how to then deliver these groups in each of the three local areas.
- ✓ By the end of November it is planned that we will have a leaflet available for children (9-13yrs) who have witnessed domestic abuse with information and advice on it.

Sophie Crowe
September 2008