



Police and Crime Commissioner Report

Consortium development of Thames Valley wide therapeutic services for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse

Purpose of funding

Overarching aim: To

Specific aim: to develop a continuum of locally accessible age appropriate and, where possible, sustainable therapeutic support for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse and to ensure shared service standards across the Thames Valley.

The work was undertaken by eight specialist domestic abuse service agencies which cover the Thames Valley.

The Consortium partners comprised: Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse, Aylesbury Women's Aid, Berkshire Women's Aid, DASH, MKAct, Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services (A2Dominion), SAFE! Wycombe Women's Aid

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Background

For children and young people the impact of living in a home where there is abuse and fear can be catastrophic and long lasting. Children's emotional wellbeing, behaviour (including anti social behaviour and bullying), attainment, risk taking (including alcohol and substance misuse), and long term life chances are all affected. The younger the child the greater is the risk. National statistics are that:

- approximately ¾ of children on child protection plans are likely to have experienced domestic abuse.
- in two thirds of cases subject to 'Serious Case Reviews' of child death and serious injury there is a family background of domestic abuse (*Brandon et al 2010*).

A local pilot project for early intervention in schools ascertained that 7 out of 8 children on fixed term exclusion came from a home where there was domestic abuse; and extrapolating from local data, domestic abuse is a major contributing factor to children requiring repeat child protection plans.

In 2014 the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner successfully bid for funding from the Ministry of Justice of £123, 000 to develop age appropriate therapeutic services to enable children and young people affected through domestic abuse to recover. In turn the consortium of Thames Valley services, led by Reducing the Risk, bid for and were granted responsibility to invest the funding in as effective a way as possible to ensure quality-assured age-appropriate services across the region.

Approach

The consortium worked to develop a continuum of accessible and where possible sustainable support for all age groups across the Thames Valley and to ensure shared service standards. To achieve this, and make most effective use of the funding, we applied and balanced six criteria:

- i. securing and/or extending current capacity to deliver effective programmes across the region and across the age groups
- ii. filling local gaps in programme provision
- iii. supporting specialist projects identified as a focus for innovation and good practice and/or as meeting a specific need
- iv. investment in projects with longer term benefits
- v. enhancement of current services and service standards through investing in quality assurance
- vi. piloting and strengthening pathways for children and young people to access services and working with partners to achieve this: eg work with schools, Youth services (where these exist), early intervention services.

In addition it was agreed that our work together would form the basis for on-going review, shared learning and pooling good practice.

Activities undertaken

1. The consortium has scoped the region to identify existing practice in work to reduce the impact of trauma on children and young people of all age groups. We also asked Thames Valley domestic abuse co-ordinators to contribute to this and advise on local needs and capacity building. Through this we identified, in particular, gaps in services for Bracknell, In early years work across the region, and in work with teenage boys. Please see scoping table Pages 4-5.
2. We have agreed and made recommendations for core service standards. Please see Page 3.
3. We have identified evidence-based age-appropriate programme(s) /therapies to reduce the impact of witnessing abuse and to promote the emotional wellbeing and resilience of children and young people which together form the basis of provision across the Thames Valley
4. and planned where and how to build on this capacity in order to provide individual and group therapies and programmes in each area.
5. We utilised a tranche of funding for training existing staff as trainers - including training for staff within our own organisations and other local agencies as appropriate, and we have developed approaches to ongoing quality support and quality assurance for trainers in their programme delivery.
6. We discussed all proposed projects in detail together so that each project has benefitted from and been refined through a range of perspectives and expertise
7. and in particular we discussed approaches to building resources for children under five. Young children are at particular risk through being in a home where there is domestic abuse. We have established a consortium initiative to take this forward collectively.

8. We considered how far the programmes we are using meet the breadth of cultural needs in the Thames Valley; and in particular how we could best support the Sunrise Multicultural project in Banbury in developing and quality assuring their innovative community based work.
9. We have agreed a core set of performance monitoring data which could be reasonably easily collated (see appendix); and an on-going commitment to sharing good practice - utilising the Reducing the Risk website to hold and share any evaluations or research which we judge of value.

Recommended Core Standards for the Thames Valley

- 1) The consortium recommends that all programmes/pilot projects should be underpinned by core standards comprising:
 - full assessment prior to participation of a child/ young person to ensure the programme would be safe and appropriate for their needs¹
 - supervision of staff delivering the programme to ensure its quality
 - a process of evaluation.
- 2) In case of individual therapy/counselling it is expected that the counsellor therapist should be qualified, supervised and insured and will produce evidence of capacity to assess whether the therapy is appropriate for the child and of evaluation of the impact of therapy.

We identified a number of programmes as meeting these requirements in terms of safety and quality, and which are already provided in the Thames Valley. They are all either nationally licensed or developed locally to meet need. They are compatible in shared objectives of overcoming trauma, building confidence and developing values, perspective and resilience to recover. All are all evidence based and evaluated. There has already been considerable investment made in their development and delivery. We agreed there was no case for investing in further programmes for rather than extending capacity to deliver these. The programmes identified are:

Primary	Secondary
BB4K	DAY
Choices	Teen choices
PICADA	Young women's Freedom
Helping Hands	Aware
BWA Specialised Primary Work	Recovery Tool Kit CYP, Can you see me

Early years work requires individual response and therapy rather than group programmes and so are not included in this list.

Funding distribution

We considered indicative funding distribution across the region in terms of population. We have achieved a wide spread - but we decided to be flexible to balance geographical distribution with using the funding effectively to meet our Thames Valley wide agenda and considering the merits of each project to achieve this. One challenge in terms of ensuring best value and sustainable impact has been the relatively short time period of the grant. Funding was confined to projects planned and started by 31 March although the majority run over into 2015/16 in terms of completion and whenever possible, we have invested in projects which provide a basis for on-going enhanced practice.

¹ For the majority of programmes the child/young person will normally no longer be in a household where there is abuse

Scoping: quality assured services delivered across the Thames Valley as at 1 October 2014

Thames Valley Area (and population)	Consortia Member	under 5	primary	secondary	Refuge support	adults
Oxfordshire (653900) Cherwell 141900 West 104800 City 151900 South 134300 Vale 121000	ODAS RtR SAFE		BB4K (L) 8 upwards ind support protective behaviours groups	DAY (L) Beauty Cocoon (L) Can you see me Recovery Tool Kit (CYP) Asian boys' group Plus Respect Nazim programme work 6-25 ind support protective behaviours groups	Jigsaw (children in refuge)	Freedom (L) Recovery Tool Kit (L) Springboard (L) WoW
	SAFE		8 upwards individual support and protective behaviours	8-25 individual support		
West Berkshire (153800)	BWA ODAS		DART	DART	Support work	DART Freedom ODAS Recovery toolkit ODAS
Reading (155700)	BWA		Primary programmes 5-11 1-1 and group	(Changing Faces 13-17 Young perpetrators) Teen choices 14-17 experience of abusive relationship 1-1 Giving choices 11-17 abuse in family 1-1	Support work	Choices Family choices Self esteem group
Wokingham (154400)	BWA		As above	As above	Support work	Choice Freedom
Slough (140200)	DASH		PICADA 9-11 (can be extended) (ECHOs 5- 18 Ind)	DAY 14-18	Support work	PICADA mothers group Freedom programme and Freedom P plus

BUCKS						
South Bucks (66900)	DASH WWA		PICADA 9-11 Helping Hands 4-11 (L)	DAY 14-18 Young Women's Freedom 13-17 (L)	Support work	You me and Mum Helping hands support group
Aylesbury (174100)	Aylesbury WA		Helping Hands 4-11 L	AWare 13-17 year old girls	Creative play and development	Freedom programme
Wycombe (171700)	Wycombe WA		Helping Hands 4-11 (L)	Young Women's Freedom 13-17 (L)	Child development workers 3 x therapeutic	You & me mum Helping hands support group Freedom programme (L)
Chiltern (92600)	Wycombe WA		Helping Hands 4-11 (L)	Young Women's Freedom 13-17 (L)		You me and Mum Helping hands support group
Bracknell Forest (133200)	DA coordinator	Some play therapy through schools	(PICADA 9-11 no longer delivered) – <u>need for service</u>			(PICADA mothers) Choices (BWA) Caring Dads
Windsor and Mh'd (144600)	DASH DA coordinator		PICADA 9-11 (model can expand 4-21) (not licensed)	DAY 14-18		Freedom (DASH)
Milton Keynes (248800)	MK ACT	Open Toy Box – 4+ groups with therapist + staff	Open Toy Box – groups with therapist + staff	Escape the Trap 13 – 16 yr olds – 16-18 with Youth workers	Refuge support Counselling Play therapy	Recovery Tool kit First steps to freedom ILAN

Summary of projects funded through the grant

Funding available	123000
Co-ordination costs as specified in competed fund bid	-10000
Plus £2000 additional bid for young carers	2000
Project funding available	115000

Project	context/purpose	age range	area	led by	amount
1& 5 Helping Hands' and 'You and Me Mum' staff training & delivery	extend service capacity	primary (+mums)	Aylesbury & Oxfordshire	AWA&WWA	8655
2 DAY multi agency training and 2015/16 QA	extend and quality assure	young people	Milton Keynes	SAFE	5000
3 Therapeutic group play training C&F team/teachers	enhance & extend services	early year/ primary	Keynes	MKAct	2700
4 therapeutic group play delivery mothers & children	Extend services	Children 4+ & Mums	M-K	MKAct	7600
6 Deliver specialist programme with schools	fill gap + aim to sustain	primary	Bracknell	BWA	15625
7 Funding for Aware	extend service capacity	secondary: girls 13-17	Aylesbury	AWA	4120
8 Consortium project for early years resources across TV	fill gap in provision	early years	ThamesValley	consortium	21333
8 inc creche staff training, seminar, additional therapy	fill gap in services	early years	Oxfordshire	RtR	5000
9 BB4K: funding towards dedicated Oxon post	sustain BB4K & quality	primary (+ mums)	Oxfordshire	PACT	10000
10 Development & delivery of therapeutic programme for boys	extend service capacity	primary: boys (8-11)	Slough S Bucks Windsor Mh'd	DASH	15067
11 Develop work within the Asian community in Banbury	develop and quality assure	11-14 boys	Oxfordshire	Sunrise	5000
12 Enhance refuge facilities for therapy and counselling	enhance capacity	all ages	Oxfordshire	ODAS/A2	5000
13 Refuge facilities for therapy and counselling	fill gap in refuge capacity	all ages	W Berkshire	A2	7250
14 Counselling for young carers who have experience of DA	fill gap in provision	primary and young people	Oxfordshire	RtR	2000
Consortium website page	facility for shared learning and Thames Valley wide development			RtR	650
					115000

Brief outline of projects, the rationale for investing in these, outcomes and achievements, and summary table

The consortium strategy for developing resources across Thames Valley incorporated investing in programmes already in place in order to extend, secure or enhance them though

1. building capacity 'training for trainers' - projects numbered 1-3 below
2. funding direct delivery therapeutic group support – projects numbered 4-7 below

and

3. Identifying specific needs, developing new innovative approaches, and supporting or enhancing specialised local areas of practice (projects numbered 8-14 below)

Funding was used both to build the capacity of consortium members and that of other agencies.

In total the projects funded will have directly made a difference to an estimated :

- **382 children**
- **40 parents**

and provided training for 54 staff

In addition 11 of the 14 projects will have long term benefits in enhancing the quality and range of services available and increasing capacity to provide therapeutic services across the Thames Valley – and an additional 2 will enhance parent's ability to respond to their children's needs in the longer term.

1 Training for trainers: building staff capacity to deliver programmes

Using funding for training the trainers would seem to provide best value for money in building long term capacity to meet the therapeutic needs of many children and young people through a short term grant. However it also poses some challenges. In particular our experience of delivery of training for trainers to staff from other agencies shows there are some risks:

- Training the Trainer does not guarantee subsequent delivery of programmes - agency priorities can change
- the emphasis on safety and importance of assessment prior to delivering a course may become diluted over time
- trainers may not be fully supported and supervised so that quality and ongoing trainer and course development is potentially compromised
- opportunities to pool and collate data and learning are difficult to organize and sustain

We considered using some funding for a coordinating capacity to support the on-going delivery of programmes but agreed that the amount and short term nature of the funding available meant that the funding was better used for direct investment in training and service delivery.

This led us to weighing the benefits of keeping delivery 'in house' for domestic abuse specialist organisations - which would ensure quality and safety and enable easy pooling of data and learning but limit quantity - and providing training more widely. Our solution was to combine investment in training for specialist staff from our own services with training for staff from other agencies with, where required, some innovative measures to ensure on-going quality.

Please note that all these projects have both immediate benefits through courses delivered within the scope of this funding bid, and longer-term benefits in increased capacity to help children and young people in the Thames Valley to recover from the impact of abuse which is not fully captured in the table at the end of this section.

Funding was used to deliver 'Training the Trainer' in the following programmes:

1 **You and me Mum** (Woman's Aid) training the trainer courses for 6 staff in total from Aylesbury and Wycombe Women's Aid to enable provision of community based programmes for up to 10 parents to help their children to recover and to promote their resilience and wellbeing.

Outcomes and achievements: Feedback from the workers who attended said that discussing real stories and 'freeze framing' along the journey was extremely useful. The training gave workers the confidence to start this much-needed programme (please also see section on programme delivery).

ii **Helping Hands** (Women's Aid) training for 6 staff in total to enable provision of community based therapeutic groups for children.

Outcomes and achievements: Feedback from the workers who attended was very positive and the training will enable them to be members of the pool who deliver this programme. A member of staff from Wycombe Women's Aid made some valuable suggestions for 'tweaking' delivery of the programme which have been incorporated.

2) **DAY programme training for trainers** (multi agency Oxfordshire) – to extend and quality assure therapeutic support for young people affected through domestic abuse.

In the consortium bid to the PCC we anticipated that SAFE's expertise might be utilise to extend their work with protective behaviours but in the event SAFE had been awarded sufficient funding for this work from other sources. We agreed that we would instead draw on SAFE!'s expertise in therapeutic work with young victims of crime to fund a DAY programme training for trainers which would be open to staff from a range of agencies but coordinated through SAFE! The training would be free to participating agencies but trained staff would be required to participate in quality assurance through six monthly meetings of the trainers coordinated through SAFE! as a form of peer mentoring for quality assurance and mutual learning.

Outcomes and achievements: The DAY programme training for trainers was delivered to staff from twelve different agencies in Oxfordshire including children and family centres, early intervention services, Youth Offending, a Youth Group, education and housing services and domestic abuse services. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive both about the quality of the training and its usefulness:

- "The training way very very good, and pitched perfectly".
- "Would highly recommend this training and programme to anyone working with young people".
- "The training itself was inspiring and very well run. I loved the ideas - use of media and current popular culture stuff for teenagers etc made it really accessible and thought-provoking"
- "I have used the training and resources in my day-to-day work. I have used the 'abusers profile' material with young people so that they recognise signs of these characteristics in the future."
- "I have used the materials offered and tailored them to each young person I've worked with."
- "the topics and discussions that came up during the training have stayed with me and influenced my work."
- "I have worked with young people, since doing the training, who have been victims, witnesses and perpetrators of DV and have been able to use all the knowledge I have gained from the training to inform my assessments and interventions. I have regularly used the resources we have been provided with from the training."
- "I have used the information and resources gained from the training in my every day work as well as group work. The feedback I have received regarding the information and resources shared have been very powerful."

The trainers will be meeting in late August/early September as part of on-going quality assurance, to pool their experience of using the programme magerial individually and in groups and potentially to explore running some joint groups.

3) Group therapeutic play (Milton Keynes):

MK Act has worked with the Open Toy Box to develop approaches to group therapeutic play in the refuge for children aged 4+ supervised by and facilitated through a Open Toy Box qualified play therapist –and has begun to make these skills and approaches more widely available.

i. MKAct Training for Milton Keynes Central Children and Family Practice team in group therapeutic play. This was to complete training to all three Family Practice Teams in the area. The training was for 12 participants each with an average caseload at any time of 15 families.

MK Act will continue to provide consultancy and advice.

ii MK Act Training for 12 teachers and teaching assistants in group therapeutic play from the primary schools based around the refuge. This would allow staff to give continuity of support to the c 25 children from the refuge attending these schools and to extend the approach to other children attending the schools who might need therapeutic support.

Outcomes: Feedback illustrates the capacity of the training to inspire and transform; to provide specific skills and tools, and its benefits for work with children and families:

- I have enjoyed your training and all the insights I have gained. The techniques have been interesting to use for the first time in the school - it has been wonderful to see how much it has enabled the children of DV to open up and express themselves in various ways. My colleagues want to know what I am doing and I am not sure how to explain it; like you said, they have to experience it to understand it! Thank you so much. Our school is already experiencing the benefits.
- Thank you for sharing some of your knowledge and wisdom. The training has rejuvenated my interest in my work
- Thank you so much for forwarding the faces, I looking forward to using these with the parents on our parenting course and with a family I am seeing next week.
- your training course has been amazing and I wish we could have 12 weeks OR that we could meet every Friday as it has really helped me to work differently with the children and families. The tools I have come away with have been fantastic
- I have found this training eye opening and it has helped me to become a reflective practitioner as you put it, and I agree...I am thinking about things and how best to support the children and families I work with. It has changed my views and how I think about what I am doing and offering. I want my whole team to have this training as I feel it would really benefit all of our families.

2 Direct delivery of programmes – either to extend capacity or fill gaps to ensure a continuation of provision across the Thames Valley

4 Delivering community based play therapy programmes (aged 4 plus) – and support for Mums (Milton Keynes)

This project is to extend into the community and make more widely available a therapeutic approach to supporting children through play.

The approach has been developed and quality assured by a qualified play therapist working with refuge staff to support children and mums in the refuge. MKAct would now like to extend provision into the community working in partnership with other professionals (see also training section).

Outcomes and achievements: Introduction of 24 Mums to therapeutic play and provision of 4 x 12 week play therapy programmes for their children – c 48 children (depending on family size)

Long term benefits: Mums will have skills to continue the approach and support their children at home for as long as needed.

MK Act will fully evaluate the work in due course and share learning with the consortium.

5 You and Me, Mum Programmes (Wycombe)

The funding covered the delivery of two programmes to help mothers support their children and help them recover.

Outcomes and achievements: Six women attended the first programme and there is waiting list for the second. The programme has been extremely beneficial: the mothers have fully engaged and been able to identify how much the domestic violence has impacted on their parenting as well as not allowing them to parent in the way they want to. A theme of the feedback has been that sharing experiences and understanding the impact on their children has highlighted the importance of really listening to what their children are saying and responding in a way that ensures that the children know that they are being listened to.

Longer term benefits: The programmes have and are making a real difference and Wycombe Woman's Aid Plan to continue to deliver them

6 Bracknell specialised primary work delivered by BWA.

This programme was funded to fill the principal local area gap in primary age provision across the Thames Valley. It also entailed developing new pathways and partnerships with local schools and early intervention professionals.

Outcomes and achievements: By 31 March 29 children aged 4-11 had been referred and 26 supported (the parents declined support in two cases and one was received after the closing date) There has been strong evidence of impact for the children through feedback from Family Support Advisor referrers eg

- "significant improvement in behaviour" since attending the group.
- "improvement in the child's confidence when communicating", linking this to BWA's support of the child's emotional literacy
- "great improvement of a child's confidence and social skills".

There have also benefits in relation to reduced risks to children. Two child protection referrals were made because of increased knowledge of the risks to two children gained through the programme. In addition information was shared with the social workers of two children already on a child protection plan –in one case leading to preventing further contact with the perpetrator. Awareness and new local pathways to these services have been developed: Six local primary schools are aware of and linked to the project, and referrals were received from Family Support Advisors, a parent and a social worker.

Long term benefits: Steps have been taken towards sustaining the service. BWA anticipated that a successful pilot might lead to developing some local income streams to sustain the work. They have been contacted by Children's Social Care, CAF workers and the FSA's asking if the project will be continuing and made aware of a minimum of 10 new referrals. They are confident this number will significantly increase if Education, Children's Social Care and Health are proactively approached about a new. The consortia has, as part of project development, contributed a small amount of funding to help match fund local sources to support continuation.

7 Aware (Aylesbury Womens Aid)

This programme was funded to increase capacity to meet additional need in Aylesbury for support for teenage girls.

Outcomes and achievements: 10 young people attended with very good feedback. This included all the girls saying that they thought they would now recognise the difference between a healthy and non-healthy relationship and appreciation from parents about the benefits for their daughters. Pathways and partnership were strengthened with a local secondary school and with the Buckingham Health Trust School Nursing Team: both were very positive about continuing the link with AWA and future programme delivery.

3) Special projects and service development

8 Consortium project to develop work with pre-school children

Our scoping revealed a significant gap across the Thames Valley in therapeutic support for pre school age children who have experienced domestic abuse. It is important to address this if as evidence indicates that the younger the child the greater the risk of harm through being in a household where there is abuse and we also have specific case evidence of the need and impact of lack of provision.

MKAct has considerable expertise in providing support through group therapeutic play for age 4 upwards, and some individual play therapy is also offered by PACT. If possible we would like to extend the scope to younger children.

We considered investing in play therapy training to provide dedicated capacity for work with children who have experienced domestic abuse but professional training is expensive and represents a considerable investment in one person. We did not identify any staff within the refuge who might have time to fully utilise this training in their practice and more broadly early years services are subject to restructure and the risk attached to investing considerable sums in training one or two staff members who might subsequently move on seemed high.

Instead the consortium agreed to establish a shared resource on which to draw for therapeutic support for young children across the region - most to be used for one to one work and in particular play therapy with existing non specialised play therapists– who would nevertheless have expertise in working with young children who have experienced trauma. The fund could, at the discretion of member organisations, be used for associated approaches. In particular Oxfordshire have planned

- a small practice seminar, drawing on the expertise of the Toy Box, to share good practice in work with preschool age children.
- development of training for creche workers in awareness and understanding of the impact of abuse on the behavior of young children and how best to respond.

Consortium members are recording the uses of the fund, including beneficiary numbers and any learning and outcomes. This will be collated by Reducing the Risk.

Outcomes: It is estimated that the funding would cover individual support for approximately 50 children together with benefits of a new course for crèche workers and cumulative shared learning through the project.

9 Bounce Back for Kids (Oxfordshire)

This ten week programme for groups of 6-8 children aged 4-11 with associated programmes for the non-abusing parent, was first developed and evaluated by PACT in Oxfordshire and adopted as the approved programme of choice by the domestic abuse strategy group and early intervention hubs. However past initiatives to roll it out comprehensively through training for trainers have lost momentum; and provision of the programme across the county is patchy. PACT have recently reviewed the programme and developed a refreshed model, which is excellent but expensive to deliver as a single agency.

In discussion with PACT the consortium decided to contribute to the cost of a post with responsibility for liaising with current providers, and the 81 trained staff in Oxfordshire, to share the refreshed model, to co- deliver and quality assure programmes in all the early intervention hub areas, to consider and help with barriers to engagement including respect for cultural needs of the family, and to collate data and learning for on-going review and refreshment. This would enable a cost effective approach to building on, extending, enhancing and quality assuring existing capacity.

Outcomes: The project will provide for up to 64 vulnerable children, with a separate and aligned course for their parent.

Longer-term benefits: The project will provide the groundwork for a refreshed and continued approach to delivery.

10 Children's specialist worker with a specialism in the impact on boys of witnessing domestic abuse: DASH.

This project is designed to enhance our understanding of the impact on boys of witnessing abuse and our capacity to provide effective therapeutic resources to alleviate the impact and help recovery. The funding enabled the appointment of a specialised children's therapeutic worker in DASH children's services team, with a remit to:

- research and gain a full understanding of the impact on boys of witnessing domestic abuse – this is in light of data which shows that the suicide rates in adolescence for boys who have experienced domestic abuse in the past are 3.5 times higher than girls.
- develop an enhanced group programme for primary aged boys (aged 8-11), based on research findings and the AVA model and pilot this
- network with partners to build clear multi agency pathways and processes, and to circulate information about the assessment process
- evaluate the project and provide a report on the problems faced by boys between the ages of 8 and 11 and the most effective ways of supporting them.

Learning from the project will be used to refine the enhanced programme and its delivery – in particular with primary age school children, will inform other areas of DASH children's work, and will be shared with partners across the Thames Valley.

Outcomes: During the course of the initial project c 40 boys will be supported through 5 eight-week programmes.

Longer-term benefits: These will include greater shared understanding of the needs of this age group, a tool kit to help inform their support, and an enhanced programme for primarily aged boys.

11 Sunrise Multicultural Centre. (Oxfordshire)

Sunrise is a family resource for the local BAME community in Banbury. Through its broader work of supporting families, building resilience and aspiration, and influencing values and perceptions of individuals, families and community, it also responds to disclosure of abuse by adults and children and provides mentoring and signposting. The consortium funded direct provision of services, and in particular work with teenage boys for the Asian Community, It also explored with Sunrise how the fund could best be used to draw on its understanding of and trust with the local community to enhance its work to safeguard and support young people experiencing abuse. We considered the possibility of developing a specialised programme but rejected this on the grounds that most of the young people who disclose are still in the family and a therapeutic programme could increase risk rather than alleviate impact. We therefore agreed a fund to help Sunrise:

- support professional development and mentoring training for staff,
- draw on expert supervision in relation to aspects of abuse - or forming an advisory group if helpful,
- funding to attend conferences or enable further links with other multicultural projects across the UK
- and an end of year report on the 'Sunrise model' with view to evaluation, identifying learning and potential transferability

Outcomes: support for 25 young people over the course of the project

Long term benefits: These will include enhancing the service through staff training and additional expertise to support the work; evaluation of learning; and an associated report with potential for transferability.

12 & 13 Therapeutic facilities in Oxford and West Berkshire refuges.

Both refuges are supported by a well-qualified children's worker but have no adequate facilities for therapy and counselling. Both refuges considered options for further training but in practice have little additional capacity to offer to deliver further courses. We agreed that the best investment to enhance the wellbeing of children and families in the refuges was to provide space for appropriate therapeutic work through the current children's worker. In the case of the West Berkshire refuge this took the form of match funding a project to develop a garden room for this purpose, and in Oxford the funding was to purpose equip an existing room as a therapeutic resource for children, mothers and families.

Outcomes and longer term benefits. The new facilities will enable therapeutic support for c 96 children in total over the first year; and will continue to benefit children and families in the refuges in the longer term.

13 Counselling for young carers (Oxfordshire)

An additional £2000 funding was granted to the consortium when a particular need was identified for individual work with young carers. These young people are doubly traumatised through their sense of responsibility for their parent's emotional wellbeing and the group programmes are not suitable to meet their needs. This is an innovative project in partnership with Oxfordshire's young Carer's service, and working with a qualified counsellor who is providing her service at half price and not charging expenses in order to maximise use of the funds. In order for therapy to be safe young people must have left the abusive relationship.

Outcomes and achievements: It is anticipated that 13 young carers will be supported through this pilot project – and that it will be fully evaluated with view to sharing any learning more widely.

Future of this Thames Valley Consortium work

The consortium members have agreed to continue to meet to share learning from this work and in particular from the pilot projects.

The opportunity this funding has created has also enabled broader proactive sharing of perspectives and good practice amongst Thames Valley domestic abuse services. We anticipate this mutually beneficial relationship will also continue.

A page on the Reducing the Risk website is being developed as a Thames Valley service provider facility – and will also be used for sharing learning and good practice for this work. The next meeting of consortium members is in September.

Please see table of projects and benefits on Page 14

Project - direct support	number supported	additional anticipated	rationale					
			i	ii	iii	iv	v	vi
4 MKACTION therapeutic play delivery		48	x		x			x
6 Bracknell specialised primary work	26	10		x		x		x
7 Funding for Aware	10		x					x
8 Consortium project:Thames Valley early years resources		50		x	x	x		x
9 BB4K: funding towards a dedicated Oxfordshire post		64	x			x	x	x
10 DASH post with focus on support for boys		40		x	x	x	x	x
11 Boys programme/work within Asian community (also see under training and quality assurance)	25				x	x	x	
12 Refuge facilities for therapy & counselling Oxfordshire		80	x			x		
13 Refuge facilities for therapy & counselling West Berkshire		16	x			x		
14 Counselling for young carers who have experienced DA	1	12			x	x		x
total children 2014/15 and completion of project 2015	62	320						
4 MKAct introduction for Mums to therapeutic play		24	x			x		x
5 You and me Mum' parents helped to support children	6	10	x			x		
total parents 2014/15 and completion of project 2015	6	34						
Project staff training/quality assurance								
1.i 'You and Me Mum' staff training	3	3	x			x		
1.ii Helping Hands' staff training	5	1	x			x		
2 DAY multi agency training and 2015/16 QA	12		x			x	x	
3 MKAct therapeutic play: training C&F team/teachers;	6	18	x		x	x		x
11 Sunrise: mentoring training		6			x	x	x	
Total Staff trained	26	28						

Key

- i. securing and/or extending current capacity to deliver effective programmes across the region and across the age groups
- ii. filling local gaps in programme provision
- iii. supporting specialist projects identified as a focus for innovation and good practice and/or as meeting a specific need
- iv. investment in projects with longer term benefits in addition to outcomes for children currently participating
- v. enhancement of current services and service standards through investing in quality assurance
- vi. piloting & strengthening pathways for children & young people to access services + work with partners to achieve this: eg schools/ early intervention.