

Equalities Monitoring – Services

C – Community Safety

Annual Report - 2018-19



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1. Introduction

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act set up Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) throughout England and Wales to make key agencies work together to reduce crime and disorder. These partner agencies are the Local Authority, Police, Fire Service, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Probation.

The Bracknell Forest CSP has worked hard since then to make Bracknell Forest a safer place. The BFC Community Safety Service, which manages the business of the CSP and ensures compliance with its statutory obligations, has an impact in improving the wellbeing of the community by working with partners to reduce crime and disorder. This includes working to eliminate victimisation, discrimination and harassment for all people within the community.

The purpose of equalities monitoring is to ensure that BFC is providing a fair and equitable service to all residents. While the Community Safety Service works to eliminate inequalities in all work that it does, this report will consider four key areas of crime and disorder which can impact all residents, but which have relevance to residents with the following protected characteristics:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

These 4 key areas are:

Domestic Abuse
Modern Slavery and Exploitation
Anti-Social Behaviour
Prevent

2. Key Issues

Domestic Abuse (DA)

Definition

DA is: 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members* regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional (Home Office, 2013)

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour (Home Office, 2013)

Coercive behaviour is: a continuing act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim (Home Office, 2013)

The Government definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

* Family members are: mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, directly-related, in-laws or step-family

Legislation and Guidance

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

Serious Crime Act 2015

Draft Domestic Abuse Bill:

In 2017, the government was elected with a manifesto commitment to introduce a landmark Domestic Abuse Bill to transform the approach of the justice system and wider statutory agencies. The bill aims to ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences, safe in the knowledge that the state will do everything it can, both to support them and their children and pursue the abuser. The manifesto included specific commitments to provide for a statutory definition of domestic abuse, establish a Domestic Abuse Commissioner and strengthen civil protection orders. A draft Domestic Abuse Bill was announced in the June 2017 Queen's speech.

In spring 2018, the government conducted a public consultation on [Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse](#) which attracted over 3,200 responses.

The [government response](#) to the consultation and the draft Domestic Abuse Bill were published in January 2019. The government response set out 123 commitments, both legislative and non-legislative, designed to promote awareness of:

- domestic abuse
- protect and support victims and their families
- transform the justice process to prioritise victim safety and provide an effective response to perpetrators
- to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse across all local areas, agencies and sectors

The draft bill underwent pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, chaired by the Rt. Hon. Maria Miller MP. The Joint Committee published its [report](#) on the draft bill on 14 June 2019. The Joint Committee made 43 recommendations; the government has wholly or partly accepted or undertaken to consider 33 of these.

What information do we have access to which indicates who may be the most vulnerable groups in the community in the area of Domestic Abuse?

- Police Niche data
- Berkshire Women's Aid data
- MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) data

What are we doing to reach those groups so that we ensure that all people have access to support if experiencing Domestic Abuse?

- Awareness raising includes signposting for all victims of domestic abuse including signposting for male victims
- Berkshire Women's Aid (local service provider) values include *'we believe in providing support to anyone who needs it, regardless of their sex, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability'*
- Domestic Abuse Forum representation from Army Welfare and survivor(s) of domestic abuse
- Current BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee) project across East Berkshire – part of a wider Thames Valley project which aims to:
 - a) Assess, improve and better co-ordinate the multi-agency response to violence against women and girls (VAWG) in BAMER communities across the region
 - b) Generate and map localised knowledge and networks to facilitate systemic change, and to provide a robust evidence base to inform future commissioning and support third sector grant applications
 - c) Improve awareness of VAWG issues in Thames Valley's BAMER communities; engaging and empowering these communities to identify and challenge these abuses, and to ensure they know where and how to access timely and appropriate support
 - d) Ensure the needs of Thames Valley's BAMER communities experiencing VAWG are met through improved and better-informed service provision and pathways

What could we still do to ensure that all people with protected characteristics have access to support?

- Identify and work more closely with communities identified (part of the BAMER project)
- Seek funding to ensure wider service provision to support victims with protected characteristics not normally collected or disclosed
- Continue to promote local domestic abuse services to community Councillors as well as through public awareness-raising, practitioner forums and colleague/partner networks

Modern Slavery and Exploitation (MSE)

Definition

Modern slavery is where one person controls another by exploiting a vulnerability. It is often linked with human trafficking, where a person is forced into a service against their will – usually forced work or prostitution. The control can be physical, financial or psychological (Hope for Justice, 2019).

Legislation and Guidance

With the introduction of The Modern Slavery Act in 2015, local authorities have a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking.

Additional guidance has been provided by the Local Government Association (LGA) for local authorities:

Tackling Modern Slavery: A Council Guide

Tackling Modern Slavery: Council Case Studies

Councillor Guide to Tackling Modern Slavery

What information do we have access to which indicates who may be the most vulnerable groups in the community in the area of MSE?

Thames Valley Police produce a quarterly infographic for all CSPs including Bracknell Forest which summarises information about suspected victims based on the statutory returns to the Home Office as well as intelligence submissions to police. The infographic includes the type of exploitation, nationality, age range, gender and whether under 18 or over 18.

National research has also been conducted as follows:

- Between Two Fires: Understanding the Support Needs and Vulnerabilities of People from Albania, Vietnam and Nigerian who have Experienced Human Trafficking into the UK
- A Few Doors Down: The Links Between Modern Slavery and Substance Misuse
- Responding to Modern Slavery and Exploitation within the Homelessness Sector
- Still in Harm's Way: An update report on trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care in the UK

What are we doing to reach those groups so that we ensure that all people have access to support if experiencing MSE?

- The Bracknell Forest CSP has a Modern Slavery Strategic Group in place which is working to ensure statutory compliance by BFC. This includes awareness training for all practitioners and partners who are public-facing
- The government's support programme (the National Referral Mechanism or NRM) requests age and gender when notifications/referrals are submitted
- Any suspected victims who consent (consent from children is not required), including those with protected characteristics, are referred to the Victims First – Willow Project who support all victims, their family/friends and their caseworkers
- BFC safeguards suspected victims aged 17 and under at risk of exploitation or who are being exploited through its Makesafe Team (Exploitation Prevention) and their risk strategy groups for those at all levels of risk
- Adults at risk of exploitation including those with a learning disability and/or autism are referred into the CSPs Partnership Problem-Solving Group which includes police, the Willow Project and the appropriate BFC service should the person have a protected characteristic
- The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is currently running an Early Intervention Youth Fund project which aims to reduce violence perpetrated by and against young people related to exploitation (local and County drug lines)
- BFC Procurement are undertaking research into good practice used by its largest suppliers to prevent modern slavery and exploitation in their supply chains. This good practice will be shared with other smaller suppliers. This will involve awareness of MSE with contractors in the construction and service industries who employ people who may not have English as their first language

What could we still do to ensure that all people with protected characteristics have access to support?

- BFC is about to undertake an MSE programme across all departments including the identification of champions, appropriate training and the compilation of a referral pathway. In addition, MSE e-learning will be mandatory for all new starters in relevant service areas. This will improve equality of treatment by

enhancing our ability to identify and respond to suspected victims with protected characteristics who encounter council services

- It is aimed to include equalities monitoring information on the CSP's annual consultation with the community on CSP priorities (which include MSE) to help identify which sectors of the community are not being reached
- Better use of leads in hard-to-reach communities needs to be made to ensure that MSE awareness reaches everyone
- TVP and the Home Office should be encouraged to collect and provide further equality monitoring information on referrals to the NRM and intelligence submissions (apart from gender and age) to enable better identification of hard-to-reach groups
- All public awareness-raising should be accessible to all with protected characteristics including those with sight loss, those who have English as a second language and those with a learning disability
- BFC should continue to promote MSE awareness and support services to councillors as community representatives as well as through targeted public-awareness-raising messages, practitioner forums and colleague/partner networks
- BFC Community Safety will be raising awareness of MSE on relevant national days through several routes including online. It will need to ensure that these messages are accessible to all including those with protected characteristics
- TVP were recently successful in securing a stock of key fobs with the Modern Slavery Helpline details printed on them. These will be distributed to those at risk of MSE through CSC, Housing and ASC

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Definition

ASB covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This could be an action by someone else that causes harassment, alarm or distress. It also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance.

Some examples of ASB include: nuisance, specifically rowdy or inconsiderate neighbours and street drinking.

ASB is defined as acting in a manner that has "caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household" as the perpetrator (Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

Legislation and Guidance

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

In October 2014, the government introduced the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which introduced new powers to enable the local authority and partner agencies to better tackle ASB and enable victims and communities to feel safe in their own homes and neighbourhoods. These new measures provided simpler, more effective powers to tackle ASB.

What information do we have access to which indicates who may be the most vulnerable groups in the community in the area of ASB?

- Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Matrix. A key focus is on how we can provide effective support to victims of ASB, ensuring that together we understand better the impact ASB can have on their lives and ensuring processes are in place to protect them from further harm. Priority is given to the identification and protection of high risk or vulnerable victims. A vulnerable person is one whose experience of ASB, and resulting harm is likely to be more significant because of their individual personal circumstances



ASB Risk
Assessment Matrix.d

- The partnership problem-solving group (PPSG) is a multi-agency group which discuss and agree actions to reduce the negative impact that problem individuals and families have on victims through their ASB. The work of the PPSG identifies desirable outcomes and determine what interventions will be used to achieve this, taking into account vulnerabilities and protected characteristics. Depending on the vulnerability and protected characteristic, appropriate representation is invited to meetings to support the outcomes sought
 - Thames Valley Police Command and Control database
 - Thames Valley Police ASB spreadsheet
 - Thames Valley Police Niche database (crime recording)
 - Equalities Monitoring Form (Community Trigger Applications)

What are we doing to reach those groups so that we ensure that all people have access to support if experiencing ASB?

- The ASB Risk Assessment Matrix enables the Community Safety Service to act quickly and effectively in order to tackle ASB targeted at vulnerable groups and those with protected characteristics using the powers available in legislation (see E of the Matrix in the column alongside)
- Continue to ensure that our web pages are clear, informative and up-to-date and include information on how to obtain information in a different format

- Continue to promote the dedicated team telephone number and mailbox for all enquiries

What could we still do to ensure that all people with protected characteristics have access to support?

- Have Your Say events (hosted by TVP)
- Targeted community events
- Continue to promote ASB services to community Councillors as well as through public awareness-raising, practitioner forums and colleague/partner networks

Prevent

Definition

The 2011 Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

Legislation and Guidance

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015: Section 26 places a duty on certain bodies (“specified authorities” listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This guidance is issued under section 29 of the Act. The Act states that the authorities subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.

2011 Prevent Strategy (revised 2015)

Prevent Duty Guidance 2015 (revised 2019)

Channel Duty Guidance 2015

Counter Extremism Strategy 2015

Contest 2018

Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authority & Partner Agencies 2018

What information do we have access to which indicates who may be the most vulnerable groups in the community in the area of Prevent?

- Thames Valley Police Command and Control database
- Thames Valley Police Niche database (crime recording)
- Thames Valley Police Hate Crime and Vulnerability toolkits
- CTLP (Counter Terrorism Local Profile): Delivered annually by Counter-Terrorism Policing of the South-East (CTPSE)
- Daily Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU) bulletin

What are we doing to reach those groups so that we ensure that all people have access to support?

- Connection to statutory and community groups to identify emerging trends and concerns
- Prevent lead is an active participant, collaborator and member of the CCEP (Community Cohesion Engagement Partnership)
- Faith and Belief forum
- Hate crime data
- Ongoing awareness raising and training
- Monthly scheduled Channel Panel meetings
- Prevent Steering group every 4 months with action plan monitoring

What could we still do to ensure that all people with protected characteristics have access to support?

- Continue to promote/educate Councillors/professionals and carers as well as through public awareness-raising, practitioner forums and colleague/partner networks
- Continue to support local and national initiatives
- Support activities through Involve
- Regularly review and evaluate the Prevent Action Plan and membership

3. Conclusion

The Community Safety Service encourages and supports people from all protected characteristics to access crime and disorder prevention and reporting. Further as evidenced above, it makes significant effort to ensure that we reach all these groups.

Equalities monitoring data capture needs to be encouraged to be used by our partners such as TVP and the Home Office to ensure that we are better informed of the most vulnerable people with protected characteristics. This will enable the Service to better target these groups.

As work begins against the new CSP priorities as part of its 2019-2022 plan, efforts will be made to ensure that any groups with protected characteristics that we become aware of, particularly those who are experiencing 'hidden' crimes, are proactively targeted so that they receive the same support as those without.