

# Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Simon Leftley, Deputy Chief Executive (People)

to

Health & Wellbeing Board

on

1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

Report prepared by: Julie Cole (external consultant) and  
Laurence Doe (Group Manager – Children’s Services)

For information only	X	For discussion	Approval required	
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## Southend Multi Agency Risk Assessment Team (MARAT) – Review of Progress

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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report is for information, to update the HWB on the progress to date of the Southend Multi Agency Risk Assessment Team – the Southend MARAT.
- 1.2. In June 2016, Southend launched the Southend MARAT, a multi-agency risk assessment team, to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and adults affected by high level risk of domestic abuse. A review of progress was completed in November 2016.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. A further review of the progress of the Southend MARAT will be undertaken in April 2017. This review will consider the Southend MARAT, Essex MARAT and Thurrock MASH/MARAC processes and will be a joint SET review process.

### 3. Background & Context

- 3.1. The Southend MARAT approach seeks to transform how high risk domestic abuse is responded to within Southend. All high risk incidents now come directly to the MARAT and the aim is for all victims to have an action plan agreed at a multi-agency risk assessment conference within 14 working days of the referral. Previously, Essex County Council had managed the Southend high risk DA cases within the Essex community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). Due to the volume of incidents across greater Essex, there were significant delays between the incidents taking place, the cases being heard at a MARAC and a safety action plan being produced. Southend Borough Council reached an agreement with key partner agencies to set up a Southend led MARAT structure to manage local cases with the aim of achieving a timelier and more focussed process of action planning in order to

reduce the risks posed to victims of high risk domestic abuse. Resources that were dedicated to the Southend Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team and to wider Essex MARAC arrangements were deployed to the Southend MARAT, as well as some additional investment required.

### 3.2. The objectives set by the partnership were:

- To work collaboratively using a multi-agency risk assessment process to improve risk assessment and safety planning, intervention and review for adults and children at high level risk of significant harm or death as a result of domestic abuse
- To use agency information to inform risk to determine if an adequate safeguarding plan is in place with the victim, adults and children involved
- To ensure any on-going risk posed by perpetrators is mitigated where possible within the safety planning for the victim, adults and children involved
- To ensure high risk domestic abuse incidents are discussed at a Southend MARAC swiftly (target of cases to be heard within 14 working days of the referral into the MARAT) whilst allowing time for services to perform statutory duties
- To ensure MARAC meetings are focussed and purposeful to improve quality of information sharing and risk management
- To ensure multi-agency action plans are reviewed if the level of risk present is not reduced via the MARAC action planning process

3.3. A review of progress was completed in November 2016. The initial successes and challenges were summarised within the review.

### 3.4. The successes so far were identified as follows:

- The Southend MARAT model appears to meet the need identified and to be effective and progress will continue to be monitored via future reviews, including a joint Southend, Essex and Thurrock review in 2017
- A common theme within the review feedback is linked to the strength of multi-agency working within the Southend MARAT/C and the collaborative approach between partner agencies that has been evident from the start
- The quality of action planning has improved
- The addition of holding a case discussion meeting, three working days after the referral, is deemed to be an effective safeguarding mechanism and will be continued
- On-going risk posed by perpetrators has generally been explicitly considered within MARAT action planning
- MARAC meetings are now more focussed and purposeful and are continuing to be streamlined

- Information sharing between partners and volunteering of actions has improved over the three months
- High risk domestic abuse incidents are discussed at a Southend MARAC swiftly

3.5. The challenges for the future were identified as follows:

- Achieving business continuity and sustainability
- Ensuring the model provides value for money
- Information sharing within partner agencies
- Maintaining the quality of action planning
- Accessing the required information and expertise related to mental health issues
- Seeking behaviour change based programmes for repeat perpetrators
- Engaging with the new shared recording system for MARATs

#### **4. Health & Wellbeing Board Priorities / Added Value**

How does this item contribute to delivering the;

- Nine HWB Strategy Ambitions (listed on final page)
- Three HWB “Broad Impact Goals” which add value;
  - a) Increased physical activity (prevention)
  - b) Increased aspiration & opportunity (addressing inequality)
  - c) Increased personal responsibility/participation (sustainability)

4.1 This information supports the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group in their work. The work of the Southend MARAT should add value to the impact goal of increased aspiration and opportunity for victims, children and other vulnerable adults who are impacted by high risk domestic abuse.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendations**

5.1. In summary, the review concluded that whilst it is not possible to eradicate risk completely, the MARAT is a very important process that brings agencies together to take all possible steps to reduce the risk of harm to victims of high risk domestic abuse and their children. This can only work if all agencies continue to commit to the process. The level of collaboration between partner agencies to date has been outstanding.

#### **6. Financial / Resource Implications**

6.1 Business sustainability and continuity is discussed at the Southend MARAT Strategic Board and partners have been requested to make a long term commitment to resource the MARAT process

## 7. Legal Implications

7.1. No issues to highlight at this point

## 8. Equality & Diversity

8.1. No issues to highlight at this point

## 9. Background Papers

9.1. None

## 10. Appendices

10.1. None

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## HWB Strategy Priorities

### Broad Impact Goals – adding value

- a) Increased Physical Activity (prevention)
- b) Increased Aspiration and Opportunity (addressing inequality)
- c) Increased Personal Responsibility and Participation (sustainability)

<b>Ambition 1. A positive start in life</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Reduce need for children to be in care</li><li>b) Narrow the education achievement gap</li><li>c) Improve education provision for 16-19s</li><li>d) Better support more young carers</li><li>e) Promote children’s mental wellbeing</li><li>f) Reduce under-18 conception rates</li><li>g) Support families with significant social challenges</li></ul>	<b>Ambition 2. Promoting healthy lifestyles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Reduce the use of tobacco</li><li>b) Encourage use of green spaces and seafront</li><li>c) Promote healthy weight</li><li>d) Prevention and support for substance &amp; alcohol misuse</li></ul>	<b>Ambition 3. Improving mental wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) A holistic approach to mental and physical wellbeing</li><li>b) Provide the right support and care at an early stage</li><li>c) Reduce stigma of mental illness</li><li>d) Work to prevent suicide and self-harm</li><li>e) Support parents postnatal</li></ul>
<b>Ambition 4. A safer population</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Safeguard children and vulnerable adults against neglect and abuse</li><li>b) Support the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group in their work</li><li>c) Work to prevent unintentional injuries among under 15s</li></ul>	<b>Ambition 5. Living independently</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Promote personalised budgets</li><li>b) Enable supported community living</li><li>c) People feel informed and empowered in their own care</li><li>d) Reablement where possible</li><li>e) People feel supported to live independently for longer</li></ul>	<b>Ambition 6. Active and healthy ageing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Join up health &amp; social care services</li><li>b) Reduce isolation of older people</li><li>c) Physical &amp; mental wellbeing</li><li>d) Support those with long term conditions</li><li>e) Empower people to be more in control of their care</li></ul>

<p><b>Ambition 7. Protecting health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Increase access to health screening</li> <li>b) Increase offer of immunisations</li> <li>c) Infection control to remain a priority for all care providers</li> <li>d) Severe weather plans in place</li> <li>e) Improve food hygiene in the Borough</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ambition 8. Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Work together to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Tackle homelessness</li> <li>o Deliver health, care &amp; housing in a more joined up way</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Adequate affordable housing</li> <li>c) Adequate specialist housing</li> <li>d) Understand condition and distribution of private sector housing stock, to better focus resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ambition 9. Maximising opportunity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Have a joined up view of Southend's health and care needs</li> <li>b) Work together to commission services more effectively</li> <li>c) Tackle health inequality (including improved access to services)</li> <li>d) Promote opportunities to thrive; Education, Employment</li> </ul>
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