

General Purposes & Audit Committee Supplementary Agenda



**5. Presentation on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
(Pages 3 - 18)**

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Violence Reduction Network

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV)

Report for GPAC

Risk Register DASV

	There is a risk that...	Consequence / Impact	Risk Owner Accountable for Delivery	Mitigating Actions Taken	Risk Rating (Impact x Likelihood)
1	<p>A rise in domestic abuse resulting in greater numbers of murders and serious harm.</p> <p>Referrals December 2020: 44 high harm high risk (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference aka MARAC).</p> <p>**C19 --- The 4th January 2021 National Lockdown Restrictions is leading to additional increases in domestic abuse incidents resulting in an even larger increase in the demand on the Council's Domestic Abuse Support Service (DASS)**.</p> <p>Reviewed - 25/02/2021.</p> <p>(Risk generated 25/06/2018).</p>	<p>Death or serious injury to clients and their children / families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial loss due to increase in the pressure on inter-related services as well as DASV. • Legislative action. 	Debbie Jones	<p>Action plans for Safer Croydon Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Justice Centre (FJC) Advocates for domestic abuse sufferers <p>Chief Executive Group set up</p> <p>White Ribbon Borough and petition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FJC team working with victims and putting in place new advocacy measures • Plans in place for prevention and support • Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy. • The work of the Family Justice Centre. • MARAC and DAPP processes in place Occurring weekly to manage increased referral volume. 	<p>5 x 5 = 25</p> <p>RED</p>

	There is a risk that...	Consequence / Impact	Risk Owner Accountable for Delivery	Mitigating Actions Taken	Risk Rating (Impact x Likelihood)
1	Cont		Sarah Hayward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning of DRIVE service provider. • Contingency location identified if move is delayed. • Active management of workloads and pressures on staff. • Working with the Police and other public agencies to increase referrals. • Feb 2021 - The council sought agreement to a refreshed approach from the partners in the Community Safety Partnership to the recommendations from Domestic Homicide reviews. This should give new focus from partners to learning the lessons from domestic homicides in the borough. sought agreement to a refreshed approach from the partners in the Community Safety Partnership to the recommendations from Domestic Homicide reviews. This should give new focus from partners to learning the lessons from domestic homicides in the borough. • The Council's domestic violence conducts annual refresh of their own specific strategy and work programme 	<p>5 x 5 = 25</p> <p>RED</p>

FJC

DASV provision

- The FJC is a centrally located resource offering a multi-disciplinary approach to services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their children.
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- The service seeks to offer victims wrap around support and to prevent individuals having to go from agency to agency, telling their story repeatedly, in order to access the advice they need.
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- The FJC is run by a multi-agency team that works to provide families with access to support by;
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- Listening and responding to the needs of service users, including children, in a safe way.
- Facilitating access to a wide range of domestic abuse and sexual violence expertise, support and services in order to meet the needs of service users and their children.

DASV Provision cont.....

- The multi-disciplinary team provides:
 - holistic assessment of need and risk;
 - advice and support on all aspects of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
 - legal advice and support to obtain injunctions
 - support and advice to access emergency safe accommodation;
 - support to access specialist services and advice, including no recourse to public funding issues, support for children, and rape and sexual abuse;
 - drop-in and appointment service
 - a domestic abuse helpline for survivors and practitioners
 - Coordinate MARAC (Multi agency risk assessment conference)

FJC/MARAC Referrals

- FJC referrals:
 - April 2019 – March 2020 = 1751
 - April 2020 – March 2021 = 2072
 - *18% increase*
- MARAC referrals:
 - April 2019 – March 2020 = 796
 - April 2020 – March 2021 = 861
 - *8% increase*

Domestic Homicide Reviews

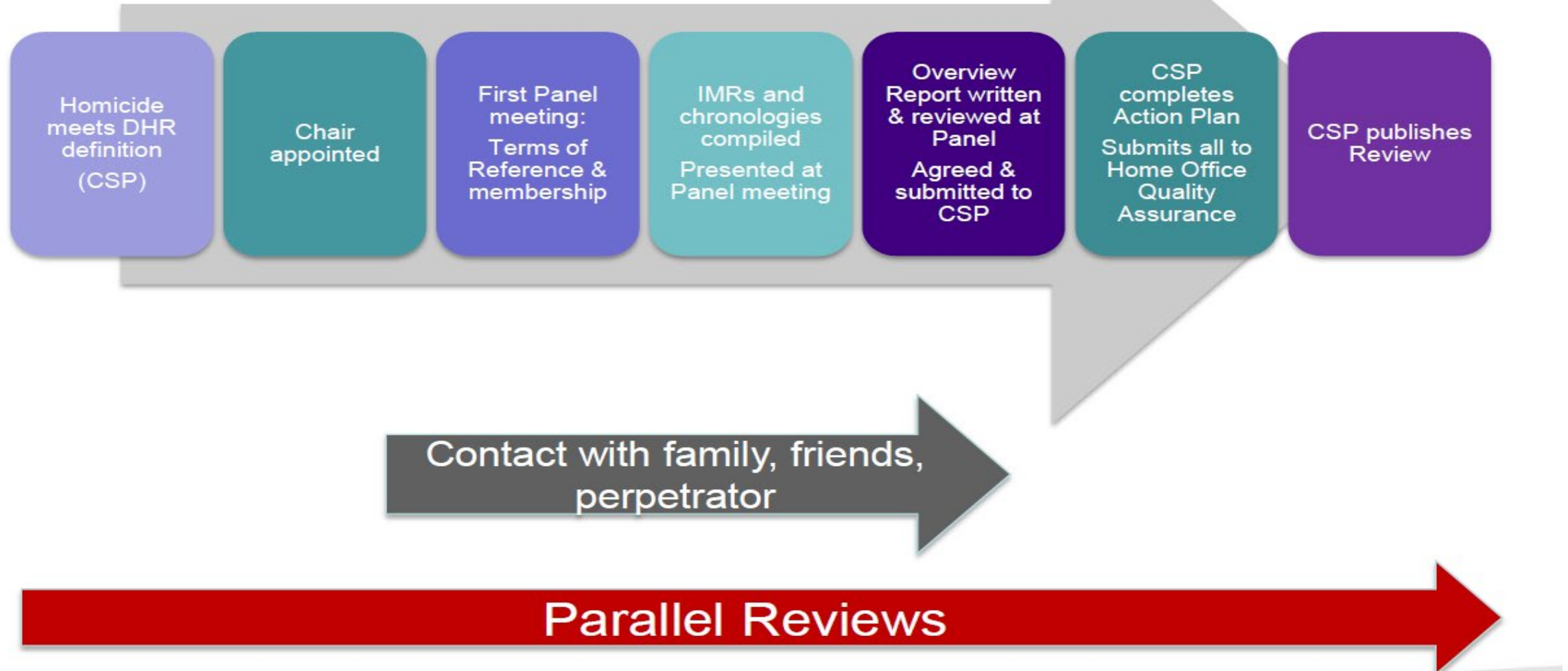
Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

- A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. Since 13 April 2011 there has been a statutory requirement for local areas to conduct a DHR following a domestic homicide that meets the criteria. *Home office definition*
- The purpose of this analysis is to promote key learning and trends from the sample of DHRs with the aim of informing and shaping future policy development and operational practice both locally and nationally.

DHR cont...

- Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to conduct DHR's
- On average Croydon has 2 DHR's per year
- From June 2020 Croydon has had 5 DHR's, an increase of **150%**
- This trend has been reflected nationally.

DHR Process



DHR Cost

- Average cost of DHR in Croydon is £9,313
- Lowest costs of a DHR in Croydon was £6,180
- Most expensive cost of DHR in Croydon was £13,425
- SRP have agreed up to £15,000

Shared Funding

- Agreement at previous SCP meeting that the cost of reviews would be shared with external partners
- Clarity needed on contribution % from each agency
- No agency shared costs received in past two years (that we're aware of)

Mitigation Actions

- **The FJC – Croydon's domestic abuse service remained opened** through the whole of lockdown for f2f appointments and drop in's if needed.
- **Weekend working for the first 6 weeks** - to be able to offer clients appointment at weekends if needed.
- **Late night opening** – FJC remains open from 8-7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- **MARAC and DAPP were changed from fortnightly to weekly** to discuss the most high risk case of victims and perpetrators.
- **'Safe Spaces' Supermarket Campaign** – partnership campaign organised with the police and the council comms team
- **Pharmacy campaign** – Croydon's domestic abuse posters placed in 74 pharmacies in partnership with the SNT and the Licencing Team.
- **Daily contact with the Comms Lead** – Twitter, Facebook and IG posts on a regular basis to reach as many victims as possible. Over 10,000 hits on our supermarket campaign social media post.
- **External funding** – Home Office/MOPAC.

Forward risk

Forward Risks

- . Coronavirus household isolation instructions have increased risk for those who are experiencing domestic abuse. The UN calling Domestic abuse the '*shadow pandemic*'
- . National Domestic Abuse helpline have experienced over 100% increase in calls since March 2020
- . Violence against women and Girls organisations are predicting unrepresented figures of Domestic abuse once Lock down is lifted.
- . We locally expect a significant rise in referrals to the FJC/MARAC post lockdown
- . Staffing capacity
- . Local Authorities accessing external funding
- . Increased Homicides/ significant injury
- . Increased pressures on Children and adult services including housing.
- . Increased incidents of harmful practises – modern slavery, trafficking.