

# Domestic Abuse: different models of supporting survivors

Gavin Butler

Senior Manager, Adult Safeguarding and  
Domestic Abuse

Cheshire West and Chester Council



# Domestic Abuse: a strategic approach

- Knowing the nature and extent of the problem, and being able to test hypotheses
- Intervening earlier, assessing risk accurately
- Service provision: Commissioning and providing services for every part of the family affected by domestic abuse
- Having a sense of what works, and where the evidence is equivocal
- Governance and accountability
- Specific issue: perpetrator programmes



# Numbers

- Challenges in managing performance, eg DA instances: is an increase a good thing?
- **Input/output data eg:** children; 16/17 year olds; DVPO; referalls to refuge; training inputs; offenders being managed; recovery programmes; Sarc attendances
- **Outcome data:** Raise referrals; reduce repeats; increase CJ outcomes; reduced recidivism
- Comparison: other authorities; Safe Lives Insights etc

# Service provision: survivors

- High risk: IDVA; MARAC etc
- Refuge, urgent accommodation: core, dispersed, male survivors, people with complex dependencies
- Outreach; floating support
- Recovery programmes: Gateway (high referral, retention rates etc)
- Parenting support, child on parent issues



# Service provision: Perpetrators

- Navigate Safer (IOM): integrated team, Police; IDVA; NPS
- Perpetrator programmes: ISRC and BBR, provided by CRC, mixed convicted and 'voluntary' participants
- Circa 50% attrition rates, long programmes
- High quality risk assessments, but need to continually manage information getting back to referrer
- Some impact on CP



# Focus on perp programmes

- International evidence is mixed: Cambell Collaboration in 2009 said '*current evidence raises doubts about effectiveness*'
- But, NICE say Perpetrators should be '*...offered a referral to specialist support services*' (standard 5, out for consultation)
- UK Evidence is mixed: Durham/Mirabal observed improved parenting outcomes from Respect accredited programmes (but not reduced re-offending)
- UCLAN critical of 'purely gendered' approach and promote a trauma informed approach, promoting more diagnostic approach (IPV/SCV etc)
- Very mixed picture of VPP commissioning locally (and nationally?)
- Need to regard 'failure to attend' as evidence



# Where next?

- New VAWG strategy due any day (?)
- Domestic Abuse more prominent than ever in the media: understanding of abuse being wider than violence is growing, especially around controlling behaviour
- Service standards: what should survivors expect? What about perpetrators?

# Discussion

