



Young People's Violence Advisor

Suggested role profile for Champions without case management responsibilities

The Department for Education recently awarded funding to SafeLives to deliver a new Young People's Programme in partnership with other charities¹. This has been designed in response to the recent extension of the definition of domestic abuse to include 16 and 17 year olds. It is based on the assumption that there will be an identified person in each local authority area, who we have called a Young People's Violence Advisor, who will act as a local champion for this work. SafeLives' funding will allow us to offer free specialist training, support, advice and evidence collection as well as get feedback from young people via 2 young people's panels.

The aim of this note is to outline the typical responsibilities that we would anticipate a local Young People's Violence Advisor would assume, and summarise the support that the Programme hopes to offer them. The announcement of the change in the definition of domestic abuse was not accompanied by any announcement regarding additional funding for the local work with 16 and 17 year olds. Therefore areas will need to decide how they can resource it and whether it is carried out by an existing member of staff. Equally, local areas may wish to amend this profile to suit their local arrangements including potentially the management of a direct caseload by the postholder. We have created an alternative role profile which includes case management which can be found on our website www.safelives.org.uk in the Young People's Programme section.

Background to the Programme

The Programme is a response to:

- The change in definition for domestic abuse, lowering the age range and potentially bringing young people into the MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) – IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) 'care pathway' (March 2013).
- The inclusion of MARACs in Ofsted's joint inspections of the multi-agency arrangements for the protection of children in a local authority area.
- The introduction of Domestic Homicide Reviews (April 2012), as well as SCRs.
- The findings from SafeLives's national dataset: 67% of teenagers in adult IDVA services are experiencing strangulation, rape, broken bones and stalking.²
- Stalking legislation and the fact that stalking by children and young people tends to be significantly more violent than that carried out by adults.³
- The need to respond in an integrated way to young people experiencing sexual exploitation, gang-involvement, forced marriage/HBV and online stalking and abuse.⁴

Programme aims

¹ Barnardos, Leap Confronting Conflict, Marie Collins Foundation and Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)

² *Place of Greater Safety* (SafeLives, 2012)

³ Taskforce on VAWC: *Child Sexual Abuse sub-group report* (DH, 2010)

⁴ Saville, Rochdale & Office of the Children's Commissioner's *Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups*: 16,500 young people at high risk of sexual exploitation; 70% of perpetrators were in gangs.

Children are the perpetrators in at least one third of cases of sexual abuse of [other] children and older adolescents perpetrate 20% of sexual offence convictions against all ages of victim.

88% of young people are in some form of an intimate partner relationship. 25% of girls experience physical partner violence; 11% severe; 33% of girls experience sexual partner violence; 75% of girls and 50% of boys reported some form of emotional partner abuse (NSPCC, 2009).

New technologies: ¾ of 5m stalking victims are targeted online, increasing the number of cases of young people who have been groomed online.

HBV/forced marriage: 11% of victims were under 16 years & highest proportion victims (16%) were 17 years (Karma Nirvana, 2008).

The Young People's Programme aims to make young people experiencing domestic abuse safer by offering free training, support and data collection to a named Young People's Violence Advisor, in each local authority area in England. The aim is that each local MARAC and Safeguarding Children service will work together to embed an appropriate local practice response to teenage domestic violence and abuse. The training and advice will link issues of sexual exploitation and gang involvement, cyber stalking and HBV/forced marriage into a locally recognised referral/care pathway for young people which integrates safeguarding children processes and MARAC.

The Programme also aims to develop a national Young People's Dataset to inform local service delivery and policy development nationally.

The Programme will assist Young People's Violence Advisors in each local authority area, to gain the necessary expertise and have the practice and data evidence to promote greater recognition of the severity of the abuse young people experience and the multiple risk factors they face. If successful, this Programme will create a step change in the welfare of vulnerable young people. For more information please go to:

http://www.safelives.org.uk/Young_People/The_Young_Persons_Violence_Advocacy_Programme.html

Support offered

Young People's Violence Advisors will be supported by a team of Young People's Advisers employed by SafeLives and reporting to a national Programme Manager. We expect that each Adviser will aim to support about 30 Young People's Violence Advisors. They will help:

- To access the Programme's Foundation Young People's Violence Advisor's training course (7 days) followed by four Continuing Professional Development one-day courses in sexual exploitation, gangs/young people who cause harm to others, HBV/forced marriage and cyber stalking.
- With tailored advice and assistance, practice materials, local and national networks, innovative practice, workshops, annual conferences and a national Helpdesk for practice issues.
- By offering training and support to gather measurement data which SafeLives will analyse and return to each local area. The data will be aggregated into a new national dataset to provide a profile of young people's experiences of serious violence and abuse, evidence the impact of interventions, identify emerging trends and inform commissioning and policy.

About the role

Suggested responsibilities for the Young Peoples Violence Advisor

1. Identify the local agencies, professionals and forums which would need to be involved in identifying the cases of young people experiencing serious harm from interpersonal violence and abuse, and ensure that they are linked into an agreed care/referral pathway that includes both safeguarding and MARAC.
2. Engage local agencies, professionals and forums in developing such a care pathway. Examples of agencies, professionals and forums include:
 - Services: police units/teams, LA children's social care, LA education, YOS, GPs, A&E, sexual health, CAMHS, maternity services and voluntary sector services.
 - Professionals: MARAC Chairs and Co-ordinators.
 - Quality assurance/monitoring bodies: the LSCB and Health and Wellbeing Board, the Director of Public Health.
3. Assist the MARAC to develop:
 - By having appropriate representation for young people at MARAC meetings, such as CAMHs and YOS.
 - The facility to call on advice from local specialist agencies with regards to teenage domestic violence and abuse, linking issues of sexual exploitation and gang involvement, cyber stalking and HBV/forced marriage.
 - Where possible the YPVA would attend MARAC for these cases
4. Attend the Young People's Violence Advisor foundation training course and the five Continuing Professional Development one-day courses in intimate partner violence and abuse, sexual exploitation, gangs/young people who cause harm to others, HBV/forced marriage and cyber stalking.

5. Identify the specialist services who can be called on to advise on a young person's case.
6. Develop and distribute publicity materials to encourage young people to self-refer or for their families and friends to request referral.
7. Use the tools provided by SafeLives to embed data collection locally, and begin collecting the data.

Suggested skills and experience

A practitioner already working in the local authority area who has:

- Good child protection training and experience: the Programme will provide specific training in domestic abuse and the different types of related abuse which young people experience.
- An ability to build good relationships and partnership working between practitioners in children's safeguarding services, the domestic abuse arena, youth offending and MARAC.
- Experience of managing a caseload of direct work with young people and children experiencing serious harm.
- An ability to act as a champion for young people and to make practice and care pathway guidance fit in with local structures and practice.
- A commitment to attend the training and gather the data.

Key relationships

- Partnership: LA Children's Social Care, MARAC, Police, YOS, CAMHS, other local specialist and universal services for young people, Young People's Programme Regional Development Officer.
- Stakeholder: LSCB and other accountable bodies and local specialist and universal services, SafeLives.
- Networking: the other Young People's Violence Advisors, the Young People's Programme team including training, data and communications.