

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV) Adult Mental Health Services, Newham

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Project Aim

Increase referrals to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Agencies and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) by 50% by September 2015



Background

According to the 2012/13 Crime Survey for England and Wales, 30.0 % of women and 16.3% of men had experienced any domestic abuse since the age of 16.

The incident rates of anxiety and severe depression are increased in people who experience DASV. Over half of the women referred to mental health services have a history of domestic abuse, rising to 80% of those admitted to secure units (Bowstead, 2000; ReSisters, 2002; DH 2003).

In the London Borough of Newham, 226 referrals of high-risk cases were made to MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference), between January and December 2013. This falls below the number of local referrals predicted for this period (450) by Safe Lives, a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse.

Although NICE guidance (2014) supports the practice of routine enquiry for DASV, explicitly addressing this area of patient care remains taboo even amongst mental health professionals. It is hoped that this project will raise the profile and understanding of DASV amongst local staff and service users, leading to improved care for those at risk of or experiencing it.

Testing of Change Ideas

- Routine enquiry to be implemented as part of assessment process
- Awareness raising of subject matter
- Staff focus groups to identify barriers to broaching the subject
- Development of a supportive tool as an *aide memoire*

Measures

Outcome:

- Weekly referral numbers to MARAC

Process:

- Community Mental Health Team referrals rates to 'one stop shop' per week
- Triage Ward referral rates to 'one stop shop' per week

AIM

Increase referrals to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Agencies and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) by 50% in 6 months.

Driver Diagram

