



DONCASTER SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE STRATEGY 2018-2021

**Approved by Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Theme Group September 2018**

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Foreword

Sexual abuse is a sensitive and complex issue that takes many forms. It is not an easy subject to talk about but it is essential that we do. The organisations and partners in Doncaster are determined and committed to work together to address it.

Sexual abuse destroys the lives of individuals and has far reaching consequences for their families and our communities. It is not limited to any particular geographic area or social background but it is clear from the increased awareness arising from a string of high profile media cases that it is prevalent throughout the UK.

This strategy advocates that the best way to tackle sexual abuse is through effective co-ordinated inter agency and partnership working to a clear and coherent plan, doing everything possible to prevent sexual abuse and as well ensuring that there is a swift and proportionate response with practical and tailored support provided to children and young people that become victims. To that end an important part of this strategy is working with our communities to inform them about the dangers of sexual abuse and the early warning signs to look for. We potentially have vulnerable people in relationships that they themselves do not recognise as exploitation and abuse and we want to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to come forward and report.

This strategy describes how the Doncaster partnership intends to continuously improve our effectiveness in tackling sexual abuse and this new strategy builds on what we have learned, both locally and more widely.

It is particularly reassuring to see the large increases in referrals and use of the available support services for victims of sexual violence, the increases are across all ages and gender, and shows that Doncaster is effective in raising awareness and safeguarding some of the most vulnerable people.

The strategy confirms how we intend to continue our vitally important awareness raising campaign focusing on those who are vulnerable in our local communities. It outlines how agencies work together to deal with specific cases when potential sexual abuse concerns are reported, and our continuing plans to disrupt this kind of activity and prosecute the people who perpetrate this crime.

Doncaster partnerships continue to strive to reach all areas of the community, and build trust and confidence to encourage the reporting of these crimes. All forms of sexual violence will be dealt with sensitively and the perpetrators tackled robustly.

We will listen to and learn from the victims, their families and friends who have been affected by these terrible experiences. It is vital that we translate what they tell us into positive action, so that we can tackle these crimes more effectively whilst ensuring that children and young people who are damaged by this experience get the professional help and support they need.

I look forward in due course to reporting on the good work that has been done to protect those at risk of harm from sexual abuse.

*Chief Superintendent Shaun Morley
Chair of Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership and Chair of the Doncaster Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership*

1.0 Introduction

This new strategy for sexual violence and abuse (SVA) reflects the coordinated response already developed in Doncaster for domestic violence and abuse (DVA). This work is also led by the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership to maximise the use of available resources when there are similar objectives, but also ensure there is specific focus given to the distinct nature of the two strategies. One of the most important aspects of responding effectively to SVA is that it cannot be achieved by any single agency operating in isolation. This strategy therefore sets out a 'call to action' and an agreed way of working with adult victims, perpetrators and with any other person, including a child or young person, affected by the consequences of sexual violence or abuse.

This strategy seeks to focus our commissioning arrangements and provision of services, and sets out how we will further improve our response to SVA over the coming years.

1.1 Our Strategic Vision

“An abusive and violence free Doncaster”

Moving towards a Doncaster free from sexual violence and abuse means **preventing** abuse and violence before it starts, **responding** to it when it happens, and **rebuilding** from the impact it has.

In fulfilling this vision individuals and families¹ should be seen as equal partners with professionals supporting them; whether this is a rapid response to protect victims or to challenge unacceptable harmful behaviour from perpetrators.

Children and young people also have a right² to have their voice heard with an entitlement to information which assists them to participate and engage with services that support their needs as a witness³ of SVA.

We continue to work in an environment of rapid change and competing priorities which means that we have to constantly look at ways of working with new models for investment, integrated commissioning and delivery of services. We have worked in an integrated way for a number of years on domestic abuse and we now need to strengthen our focus and work around sexual abuse with equal rigour and therefore need to have:

- better ways of hearing what victims and what perpetrators tell us
- better information sharing on individual cases through Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) and Adult and Child Safeguarding arrangements
- working practice focused on agreed shared outcomes
- effective collection and use of data and other intelligence
- mechanisms to listen to staff working with individuals and families affected by SVA and from those working in the community
- a comprehensive training plan for practitioners around sexual abuse

This will enable us to understand needs more fully; provide a better understanding of individuals and families' vulnerability or behaviours and thereby target resources more effectively where they are needed most.

¹ Families in the context of this strategy is anyone living with or affected by domestic abuse, which may or may not include children under the age of 18yrs old (24yrs SEND).

² United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989

³ Definition of witness is C&YP affected as a result of direct observation and non-direct means – similar to DVA

1.2 Definition of Sexual Violence and Abuse and focus of this strategy

Definition

Sexual Violence and Abuse results from an abuse of power which may involve: intimidation; coercion; threat and force. This includes the use of any unwanted sexual attention and may involve: child sexual abuse; rape of an adult; rape of a child; sexual assault; female genital mutilation; harassment; ritual abuse; sexual exploitation; sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult; grooming; internet safety; sexting.

The focus of this strategy is **sexual violence and abuse for all ages**. However, to avoid duplication of work across Doncaster partnerships some work will be carried out under the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board while some work will be overseen by the Doncaster Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership.

Work of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and online safety

Tackling Sexual Exploitation remains one of the most important challenges for the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board. As a result the Board has produced a Child Sexual Exploitation strategy 2017-2019 which sets out the commitment of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board and its partners in doing everything possible to prevent sexual exploitation, child criminal exploitation and support the victims of abuse. This strategy also includes online safety. The Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board CSE subgroup are in the process of developing a task and finish group to devise a plan to ensure all partners and the voluntary and community sector are engaged in a campaign to raise awareness of online grooming, online sexual abuse and sexting. CSE training is also provided on a monthly basis by the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board. Therefore Child Sexual Exploitation and online safety is not duplicated in this strategy.

Safeguarding Children and Young People who may have been Sexually Abused

The Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board has produced a policy with clear information for practitioners about intra-familial sexual abuse and other types of sexual abuse, such as rape, that may take place within a family and what action professionals who suspect such a situation should take, and what evidence can be collected. This includes the role of specialist professionals who can offer support to the child or young person, other family members, and involved professionals.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

This is cross cutting issue that must be addressed across the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board and the Doncaster Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership. We are aware that there are a number of countries which carry out the practice of FGM and culturally it remains acceptable within the family even if they move to Britain. In a number of countries the practice is widespread and socially accepted and affects 125 million girls in 29 countries. In some of these countries, such as Somalia; Guinea; Djibouti; Egypt; Sudan and Sierra Leone, anywhere from 88% to 98% of girls and women are subjected to FGM. In half of the 29 countries, the majority of girls were cut before age 5. In the rest of the countries, most cutting occurs between 5 and 14 years of age.

Although the ethnic mix of Doncaster's population shows that only a very small number of girls and young women could be affected by FGM, we have to assume there is always the possibility that FGM is practiced in South Yorkshire and could affect girls and young women in Doncaster. This could include the practice being undertaken here in Britain, or taken out the country and then returning to the UK.

With this assumption comes responsibility to act, firstly to prevent girls and young women become victims and secondly to respond to protect and help victims recover if it does

happen. This means we have to support the workforce to recognise indicators of vulnerability to the practice of FGM and how to respond swiftly to victims or potential victims. The Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board has plans to ensure FGM will be built into joint Workforce Development Action Plan and will be linked in with South Yorkshire Police Procedure/DSCB Multi Agency Procedures.

2.0 The National Context

2.1 National Research⁴ and Data⁵

Contemporary academic research about the nature and the impact of trauma that results from sexual violence and abuse is continually developing with evidence from practice constantly evolving and informing our knowledge and understanding. There is an emerging collective academic agreement that the trauma caused by sexual violence can result in increased vulnerability over the short and long term. This has resulted in the need for practice to be underpinned by trauma informed responses to ensure appropriate support for victims of SVA and elicit their engagement with that support, including their access to justice.

2.1.1 Academic research and evidence from practice tells us that:

➤ **Sexual Violence and abuse is much more common than people think**

The Crime Survey England and Wales estimated that 20% of women and 4% of men have experienced some type of sexual assault since the age of 16, equivalent to an estimated 3.4 million female victims and 631,000 male victims.

3.1% of women (510,000) and 0.8% of men (138,000) aged 16 to 59 experienced sexual assault in the last year, according to the year ending March 2017 CSEW; no significant change from the previous year's survey.

According to the NSPCC 1 in 20 children in the UK have been sexually abused. Over 2,900 children were identified as needing protection from sexual abuse in 2015/16 and 1 in 3 children sexually abused by an adult did not tell anyone.

Indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching (11.5% of adults aged 16 to 59, 3.8 million victims) was more common than rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) (3.4%, 1.1 million victims). (ONS March 2017)

➤ **It represents a form of gender inequality**

Most perpetrators of sexual violence are men and most victims are women. Sexual violence is both a consequence and a cause of gender inequality. Human rights and gender inequality legislation, including the Gender Equality Duty, require public authorities to address violence against women.

➤ **The most vulnerable in society are disproportionately affected.**

Adult sexual violence is more likely to be experienced by people with a disability, people involved in sex work and people who were abused as children.

➤ **It causes fear in communities**

⁴ Darling, A. (2016, May 15). Female child sexual abusers – how are they getting away with it in organisational contexts?

⁵ *Crime in England and Wales 2016 (ONS) CPS VAWG Data*

Women are more concerned about rape and sexual assault than any other crime

➤ **It causes severe and long lasting harm to survivors**

Direct physical health consequences of sexual violence include physical injury, sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy. Long term consequences can include post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and panic attacks, depression, social phobia, substance misuse, eating disorders, self-harm and suicide.

➤ **It causes harm to society**

The overall cost to society is estimated at more than £8 billion each year. Leaving aside the inability to measure human suffering, the price tag to health services is estimated at £76,000 for each individual rape.

➤ **Victims don't always get the support they need**

It is estimated that 90% of people who suffer rape do not tell anybody about it. This means that victims do not get the support that they need to deal with the sexual violence they have experienced. Where victims do try and access support, it hasn't always been available.

➤ **It is an important and dangerous element of domestic abuse**

Many people believe that strangers normally commit adult sexual violence. In fact, perpetrators are normally known to the victim and many are partners or family members. Rape is associated with the most severe cases of domestic abuse and is a risk factor for domestic homicide. This is significant for assessment of risk and direct practice.

- Response to domestic abuse incidents must take account of multiple incidents as a potential pattern of abuse, rather than investigating single incidents in isolation
- Increased focus on teenage relationships and the support needed for young people experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships
- The impact of domestic abuse on the adult victim and on children – even once they have achieved safety – is often severe and long-lasting.
- Perpetrator services need to proactively identify risks posed by perpetrators to victims and identify other forms of behaviour that are wider than their intimate relationship, including criminal activity and abuse in the community.

➤ **Offenders brought to justice**

A CPS report in 2017 did highlight some improvements in bringing offenders to justice. The report stated that there has been an 11.8% increase in completed rape prosecutions in 2016/17 compared to the previous year (5,190 up from 4,643), and an 11.2% rise in convictions (2,991 up from 2,689). The report also showed that there has been the highest ever volume (13,490) of completed sexual offence prosecutions, excluding rape, with a 12.5% rise in defendants compared to the previous year. The conviction rate is now 79.5% - the highest rate ever recorded.

Child sexual abuse prosecutions have risen by 82% and convictions by 89% over the decade, and by 15.5% and 15.7% respectively over the last year, the highest volume ever.

Despite this there are still offenders not brought to justice, especially as only 15% of serious sexual offences against people over 16 are reported to the Police.

2.2 The National Strategy for Sexual Violence and Abuse

The national strategy *'Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 – 2020'* although focused on women and girls, the Government is clear that abuse happens to men and boys as well, and that the definition and responses available apply regardless of gender.

Over the last five years the Government has introduced a range of new tools to support agencies to protect victims of sexual abuse and manage perpetrators effectively, including:

- Introducing a new criminal offence of Revenge pornography
- Introducing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Protection Orders and an FGM mandatory reporting duty
- Strengthened measures to manage sex offenders or those who pose a risk of sexual harm

The sexual abuse outcomes and key messages within the national strategy are:

- That there should be a reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls together with increases in reporting, police referrals, prosecutions and convictions.
- Local commissioners to deliver a secure future for rape support centres, Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage Units, whilst all services move to an early intervention and prevention approach as the norm, not only a crisis response.

Linked to the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020 is the National Statement of Expectations. This National Statement of Expectations (NSE) sets out what local areas need to do to ensure their response to VAWG issues is as collaborative, robust and effective as it can be so that all victims and survivors can get the help they need. This includes:

1. Putting the victim at the centre of service delivery;
2. Having a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep victims safe;
3. Taking a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning, acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG;
4. Being locally-led and safeguarding individuals at every point;
5. Raising local awareness of the issues and involve, engage and empower communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG.

The strategic outcomes and objectives contained within this document aim to embrace these national expectations.

3.0 South Yorkshire and Doncaster's context

South Yorkshire context

South Yorkshire wide activity in relation to sexual violence and abuse has been led at a sub-regional level by the South Yorkshire Rape and Sexual Offending Steering Group currently chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

While we need to improve our collection and analysis of data, the data available for South Yorkshire⁶ 2017-2018 tells us that:

- Recorded crime for rape offences for people aged 18years & over has increased across all districts on the previous year. An increase in the reporting of non-recent offences is likely to be a contributory factor to the general increase with 26% of cases between January 2017 and December 2017 being reported 3 or more years after the offence.

⁶ S Yorkshire RASO performance data reports available through OPCC

- In Rotherham there has been an increase in the number of detections for rape offences. In Sheffield and Doncaster there have been reductions in the number of detections. However, the total number of detections for South Yorkshire remains the same as the previous year. As a result of an increase in the number of offences recorded but the same number of detections, the detection rate has reduced
- 328 adult victims of sexual assault were seen at the SARC in 2017-18, a 25% increase on 2016-17; the majority of service users were female (93%); of those cases seen, 64% had a forensic examination; 75% of referrals came from the police, there has been an increase in the proportion of self-referrals which suggests an increased public awareness of the service; the largest proportion of service users were between the ages of 18-25 and the second highest proportion were between 26-45; the majority of those seen at the SARC were referred on to follow up support services;
- In the Child SARC the majority of cases were acute (74%) and all but one acute case received a forensic examination; the majority of service users were female (84%); Sheffield had the greatest number of service users followed by Doncaster, Barnsley and the lowest number from Rotherham. Recorded rape offences for under 18s was however highest in Rotherham; the increased reporting of non-recent child offences is likely to have contributed to the increase.
- The rape offences conviction rate, with the exception of quarter 1, has been above the level of ambition set at 60% by the CPS. The change in volumes of convictions on the previous year is 9% but this is much lower than the 29% change in numbers of recorded rape offences and 21% change in other serious sexual offences. This is probably due to the time taken for a case to reach trial.

Doncaster's Context

In 2013 it was agreed that since not all sexual abuse occurs in the context of a domestic relationship, it was important not to merge the two issues, and a stronger focus on Sexual Abuse was needed. A separate Sexual Abuse Theme Group was established, a strategic review of Sexual Violence and Abuse was carried out and a separate strategy on Sexual Violence and Abuse developed.

Whilst developing the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy for 2017 to 2021, the Partnership agreed that a separate strategy was still required for sexual violence and abuse to maintain an equal and specific focus on these issues, and the Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2017 to 2021 was to ensure strong links to the existing strategy for sexual violence and abuse.

However, following a review of its various partnerships groups it was decided that the Domestic and Sexual Theme Groups would be merged. This merger resulted in the formation of the SSDP Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership to ensure strategic leadership of both issues.

3.1 What we know about SVA locally

The Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership is reviewing data and other local intelligence to understand the current position but will commission a specific analysis of all intelligence across sexual, and domestic abuse, so that there is a clearer picture of the issues and response required from the partnership.

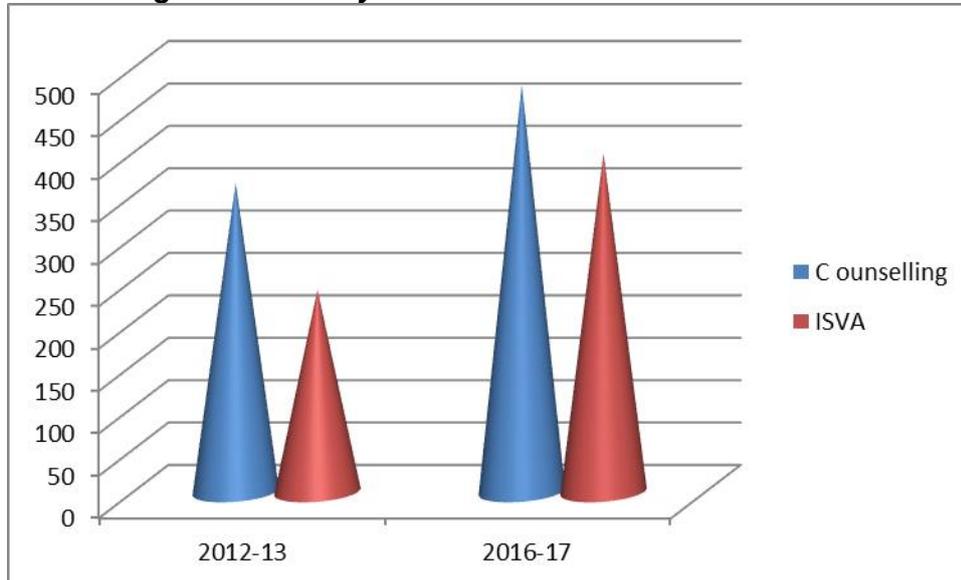
This is expected to clarify and further identify key performance indicators to establish a baseline. We will use this indicator set and baseline to improve the multi-agency and inter-agency response to sexual abuse and violence. This intelligence will also serve to measure the progress and the impact of this strategy.

3.1.1 Local data and intelligence

A summary of the accessible data for sexual violence and abuse in Doncaster highlights:

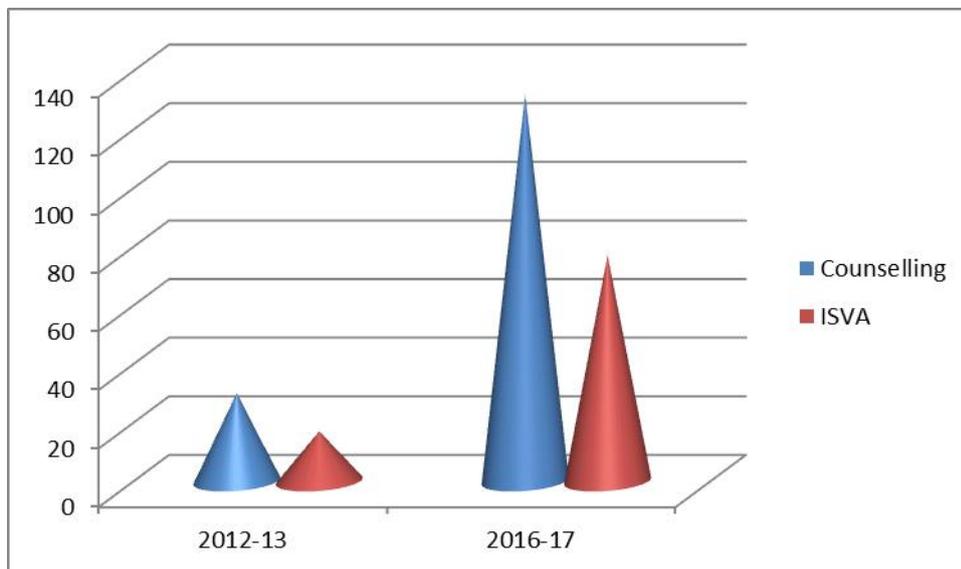
- **Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (DRASAC)**

There has been an increase in Doncaster residents accessing rape and sexual abuse counselling and advocacy



Referrals into the organisation have increased over the 5 year period. Referrals into the counselling service have increased by 32 percent between 2012-13 and 2016-17. ISVA service referrals have increased by 68 percent, during the same timeframe. Increased service awareness, issue awareness and media coverage are believed to be the catalyst behind the increased referral numbers.

There has been an increase in service users under the age of 18 years

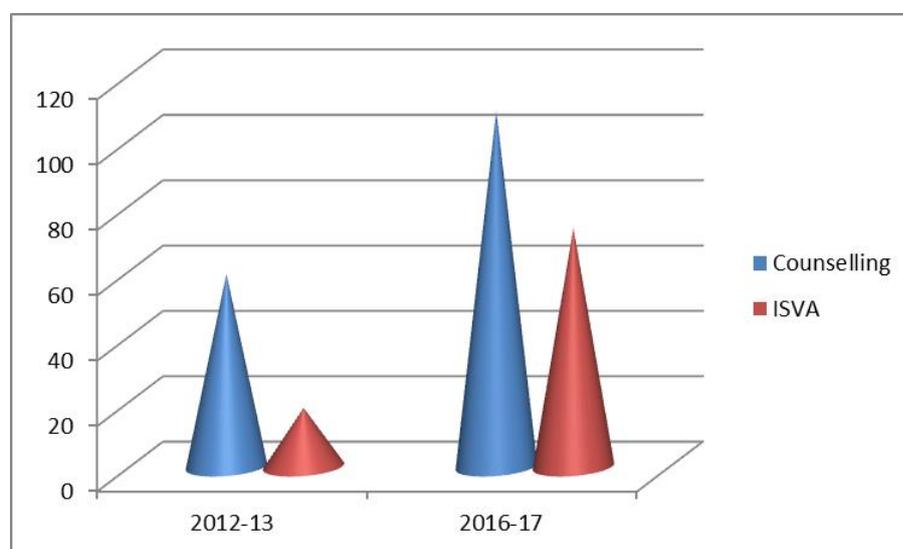


The number of referrals received into DRASACS services for clients under the age of 18 has risen significantly. During the 5 year period, between 2012-13 and 2016-17, child referrals have risen by **340 percent** into the ISVA service and **353 percent** into the counselling service.

The increase in referrals for clients under 18 years is believed to be a result of the extensive promotional work of DRASACS services to a range of relevant partners including: CAHMS

and DCST. Analysis of referral source data suggests that referrals from services categorised; as children and family services, into the ISVA service have increased by **767 percent** and by **1750 percent** into the counselling service.

There is an increase in men and boys accessing sexual abuse support



The numbers of men and boys accessing the service has increased significantly during the 5 year reporting period. Referrals have increased by 85 percent for men and boys into the counselling service and 306% into the ISVA service.

This increase in referrals is believed to be a result of a number of factors. The awareness raising work undertaken to promote the organisation and the media coverage of high profile cases involving male victims have encouraged men and boys to access DRASACS services.

Service Intelligence identifies

- Incoming referral and sign posting sources are becoming increasingly diverse. It is believed that this is a result of the increased awareness amongst partners of DRASACS response to victims. This diversity of referral sources has led to clients presenting to DRASACS with complex and multiple needs.
- The majority of adult DRASACS clients access the service because of what happened to them as a child.
- Adult clients are far less likely to attend the counselling service if they have been referred indirectly by a third party. However this does not apply to child referrals.
- The types of offences clients are suffering are changing, including clients who have suffered sexual abuse via technology. This abuse can be in a variety of formats and on a variety of platforms.
- The number of referrals received by DRASACS rose dramatically in the wake of Operation Yewtree. Since 2011, the referral rate has continued to rise. The demand for DRASACS services is higher than ever, with waiting times currently at 6 months.
- ISVAs are undertaking more institutional advocacy with clients, supporting clients with 'Right to Reviews' and challenging Police, CPS and CICA decisions. There are a number of contributing factors in the ISVA internal and external environment which have led to this change;
 - The creation of specialist Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RaSSO) barristers within the CPS.
 - CPS led 'Rape Scrutiny Panel' which reviews 'failed' prosecutions.
 - Publication of 'Victims Code' by Ministry of Justice (2015)
 - Commissioning of the ISVA service by Police & Crime Commissioner
 - Automatic referral into ISVA for people who report sexual offences to the Police
 - Promotion of the professional ISVA service with statutory agencies

- Societal view of ‘victims’ of sexual abuse
- Without an ISVA, some people would still not have a voice to either report or to receive the enhancements they are entitled to under the ‘Victims Code’

3.1.2 The cost of sexual violence and abuse

It is not possible to fully disaggregate for this strategy the cost of sexual violence and abuse to show this separate from domestic and sexual violence/abuse. However we know the overall cost to be significant and cut across all public services, along with the additional costs to victims directly. The real and quantifiable cost which impacts on service providers is the length of time and intensity of provision required to promote recovery and build resilience where abuse is identified at relatively high levels of vulnerability. We do know that for every rape victim the cost is estimated to be £75,000 and using national figures⁷ for DSVAs the extent of abuse shows:

- It is estimated that upwards of 6048 women and girls aged 16 to 59 in Doncaster have experienced an incident of sexual assault in their life and 2430 of these experienced sexual assault in the last 12 month period
- The overall wider public cost of domestic and sexual violence/abuse in all cases for Doncaster is estimated to be over £121 million
- The cost of prosecuting local cases of domestic abuse and sexual abuse is estimated to be £3.9m
- The cost of support for children and young people known to children’s social care is calculated at £7.5m in cases where domestic abuse, which may include sexual abuse, is a factor, along with other complicating factors
- In high risk cases the wider human and emotional cost for adult victims in Doncaster could be three times the cost of services.

In some sense there is no need to quantify the costs but to recognise that the cost of doing nothing is not an option. What is important is what we do about the significant issues that relate to violence and abuse and how this affects individual victims; families including children and the impact it has on communities in Doncaster.

3.2 Where we are now and implications for the future

Activity to date, in relation to sexual violence and abuse has, in the main, focussed on access to justice with some support being available locally to specific groups impacted by sexual violence and abuse. We are committed to equality and diversity and recognise that domestic and sexual abuse has specific gender and cultural issues, as well as additional vulnerabilities for people with disabilities, or who are older or younger than the average victim profile. However, we need to do more to understand and respond in specific situations, differentiating support for specific needs and circumstances. The attitude towards women and girls generally requires a specific focus and in some cases protection from physical mutilation. In addition gender and traditional roles in some communities should not maintain inherent inequality which harbours potential sexual violence and abuse, including female genital mutilation.

Much of the national policy and research resonates with the local picture. A strategy to tackle SVA requires a whole system and whole place approach through;

- A shared philosophy and common practice through approaches that are trauma informed
- Commissioning which requires services to operate in a complex environment with a knowledge and understanding of the impact of trauma leading to multiple needs

⁷ National VAWG Ready Reckoner

- Direct action with the people who live and work in Doncaster on sexual violence and abuse and on wider issues such as drugs and alcohol misuse; homelessness; anti-social behaviour; active citizenship and community well-being.

4.0 What we want to achieve and how we will do it

The intelligence from national research and policy and what we currently know has developed a picture of what we need to do and the objectives we want to achieve.

As partners it is essential that we share a common purpose and work towards joint outcomes that raises the profile of sexual violence and abuse, challenges community attitudes and response to sexual violence and abuse; and also meets the needs of victims, while holding perpetrators to account.

This strategy sets out our strategic outcomes with an emphasis on integrated and joint working. It also challenges us to take a whole place approach to some common issues which continue to inhibit long term and sustained change.

4.1 Strategic Outcomes and Key Objectives toward 2021

Our outcomes and objectives have been developed taking into consideration the 5 national statements of expectation and the national Violence against Women and Girls strategy: Preventing violence and abuse; Provision of services; and Pursuing perpetrators⁸. Government's explanation of Partnership Working and our own local aspirations are threaded throughout the strategy to develop a culture of thinking and working differently to fulfil our mutual goals.

4.1.1 Outcome 1 – Communities, professionals, businesses and families are aware of sexual violence and abuse and no longer accept it.

Objectives:

- Provide education to children and young people so they recognise abusive forms of behaviour, understand they are unacceptable and know the consequences of them. They are equipped to make healthy relationship choices now and in the future.
- Increase the visibility and communication of sexual abuse and gender inequalities with the public that challenges the social and cultural norms and attitudes that perpetuate acceptance and inequality.
- Work in partnership with local businesses to raise awareness of sexual abuse and violence, act to prevent and respond appropriately to sexual violence and abuse.
- Influence and support the development of policies and procedures in all workplaces to support agencies to act responsibly for the wellbeing of their employees.
- Equip stakeholders to identify and challenge the acceptance of sexual abuse and harassment, unwanted attention and violence in families and whole communities.
- Increase and instil confidence amongst victims including children and young people to report incidents of sexual abuse as early as possible and know their voice will be heard and responded to.
- Take action to raise awareness of female genital mutilation with communities and practitioners and encourage reporting and action to prevent it happening.

⁸ Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020 (March 2016)

4.1.2 Outcome 2 - Individuals and Families who are vulnerable to or experience sexual violence are identified earlier and receive effective support to stay safe; reduce repeat victimisation and recover.

Objectives:

- Identify individuals and families vulnerable to sexual violence or suffer actual abuse (including female genital mutilation), assess the level of risk and the impact this has, act swiftly to safeguard and protect all victims.
- Explore the value of adopting a South Yorkshire needs and risk assessment for use with victims of sexual abuse and violence.
- Ensure that services are meeting the needs of victims by listening to them and using their experiences to drive change and improvements.
- Ensure services are accessible to all including people from minority, isolated or marginalised groups, people with disabilities, children and older victims and survivors, and LGBTQQI people.
- Improve the quality and use of data, research and local intelligence across the partnership to inform commissioning and target resources more effectively and efficiently to address levels of need and risk.
- Provide the workforce in contact with those who may be affected by sexual violence with the knowledge and skills to increase their understanding and identification of risks to respond to individual needs and behaviours within individuals and families.
- Provide a range of services to support the holistic needs and recovery of victims which are appropriate to their age, gender, and ability or other circumstances (e.g. physical, legal, cultural, social, or emotional wellbeing).
- Improve the response to victims and perpetrators from professionals so they are effectively supported and protected from sexual violence the first time they seek help, extending this to their family to promote resilience and recovery. This includes monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system.
- Ensure an effective and efficient multi agency response through MARAC; MAPPA and VISOR to those victims who are at greatest risk and in need of immediate protection, but offers choice to support short and longer term recovery.

4.1.3 Outcome 3 – People who use sexually abusive and/or violent behaviour are challenged and provided with effective support to change, face the consequences of their actions and the risk they pose effectively managed.

Objectives:

- Identify abusers at an earlier stage in their offending behaviour so they understand the consequences of their actions before they come into contact with the criminal justice system and are motivated and supported to change their behaviour.
- Utilise the various Criminal and Civil Justice options including legislation to ensure the safety of victims, bring offenders to justice, and protect children and young adults in need of care and protection.
- Build existing partnership approaches to improve working practice to manage risk, disrupt offending behaviour and ensure that offenders including serial perpetrators face the consequences of their actions in a timely manner.
- Develop non-criminal justice based perpetrator programmes to support identified abusers to understand the importance of behavioural change and increase their awareness of the impact of their offending on their victims before they come into contact with criminal justice agencies.
- Support victims through criminal justice processes to prevent retraction and increase successful prosecution rates.
- Ensure families of perpetrators are appropriately supported to reduce their stigmatisation and trauma once a perpetrator has been identified / prosecuted.

Our outcomes and objectives are clear with specific actions to address these in the 2018/2019 action plan. This action plan will be reviewed annually along with the performance scorecard to measure progress.

5.0 Our Finances and Resources

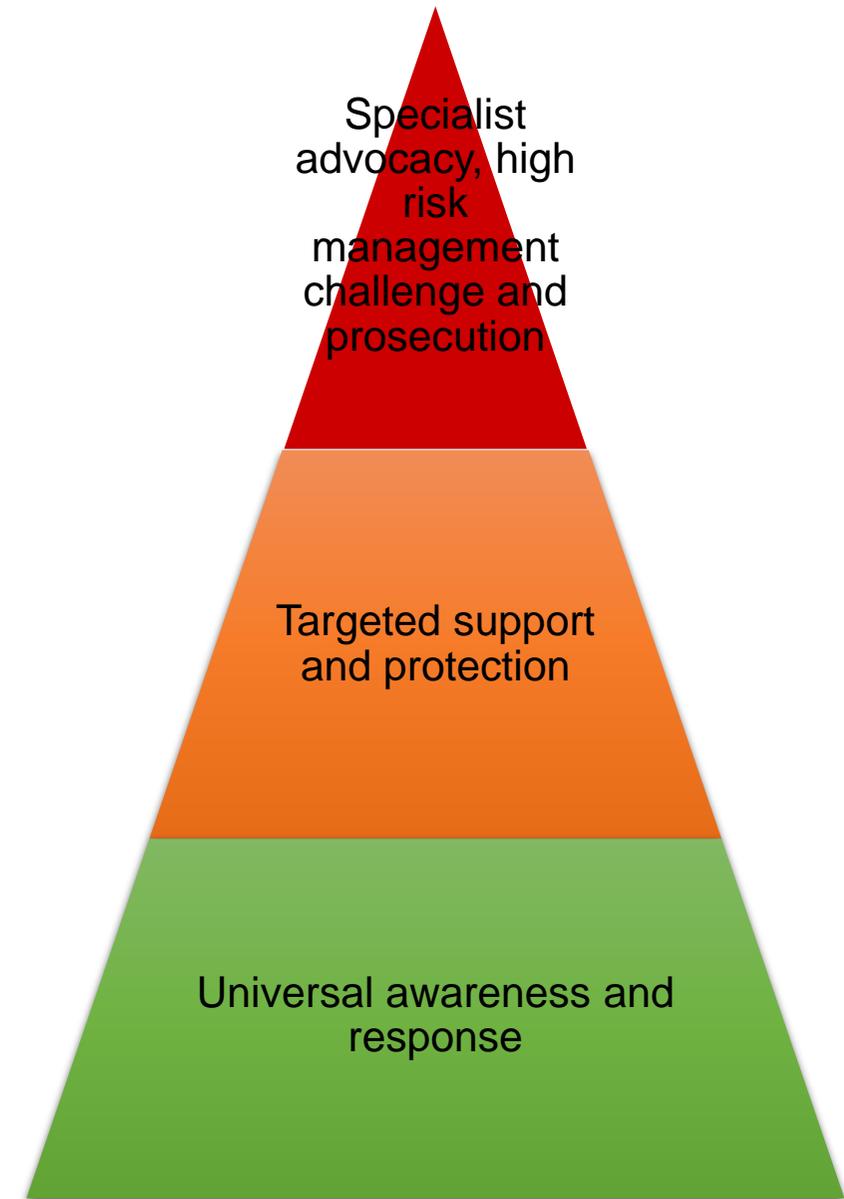
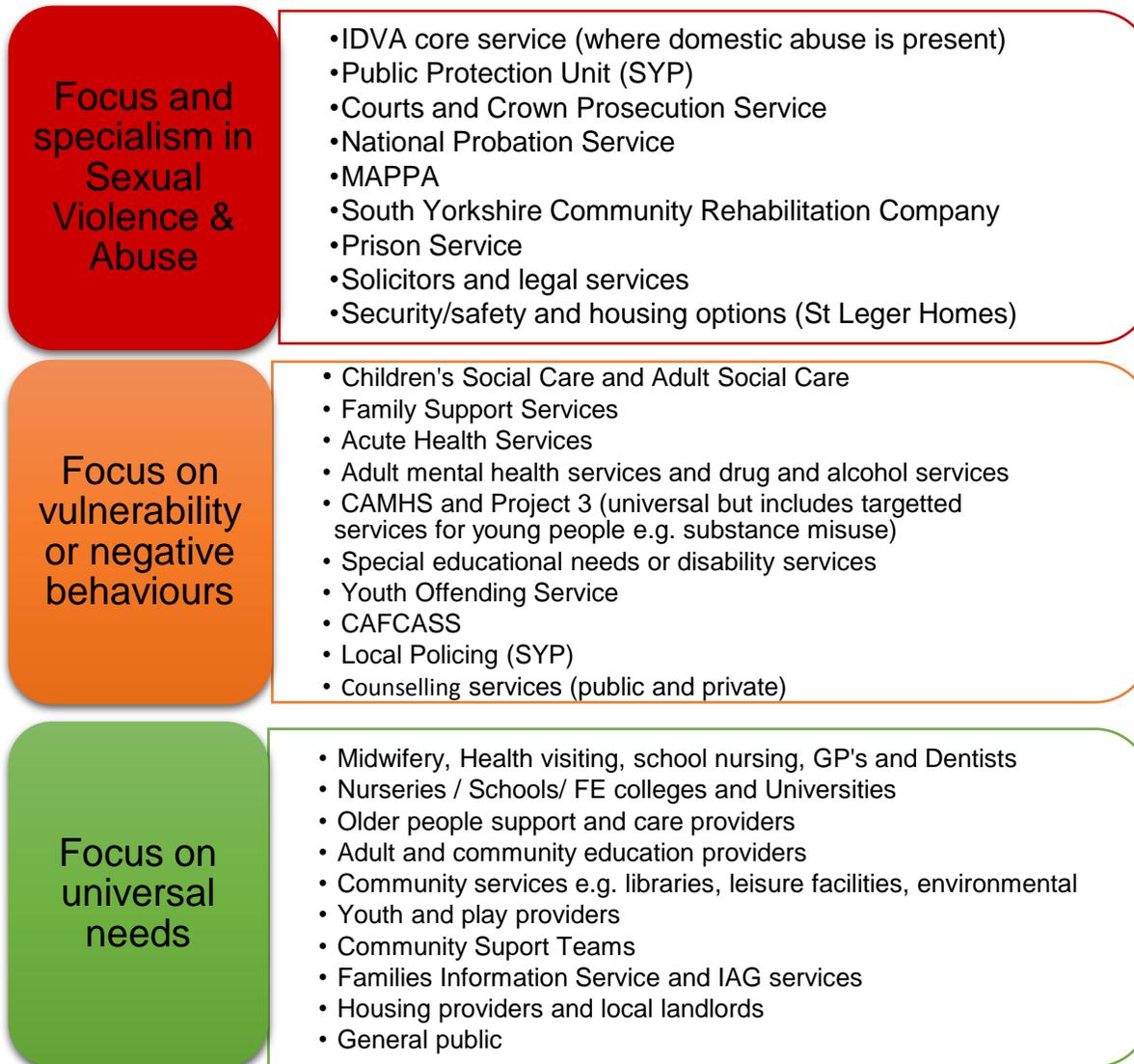
We have a clear understanding of the services we expect to focus on the immediate response to risk from perpetrators and the short and longer term recovery for victims. We also know the universal⁹ services that we expect to have awareness of sexual violence and abuse and respond appropriately following assessment.

The first diagram shows the focus of core funded mainstream services, along with other local support when sexual violence and abuse is suspected or identified. It should be noted that each service whatever the risk will work together as part of a team with the individual and family to address needs and behaviours. All services will maintain a focus on the rights of individuals and families to access universal services such as learning opportunities, health services and community services, while providing any targeted or specialist intervention or support.

The second diagram details additional services which are currently available but have short term funding. The ambition is to move away from short term funding so these additional targeted and specialist services become mainstream.

⁹ Universal Services are those who support basic needs or requirements to live a happy, healthy, sociable and prosperous life. They include education, health and community services.

Core funded mainstream services and other local support



Additional Sexual Violence and Abuse Services

Service name and type Key: W = women; G&B – girls and boys; YP = young people	Commissioner and contract duration - start and end dates	Adult victims	Perpetrators	Children and Young People
<p>Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (DRASACS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counselling - Therapeutic support for men, women and children who have been impacted by sexual violence. Counselling extends to parents/carers/supporters of those who have suffered rape or sexual abuse. Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) - Practical support for men, women and children who have been impacted by sexual violence. The ISVA service works in close partnership with the criminal justice system, supporting clients from initial report through court and beyond. Practical support also extends to accessing a range of partner agencies to ensure that clients receive the holistic support they need. 	<p>Funded through various grants & contracts including CCG/DMBC/Ministry of Justice/Big Lottery/Children in Need</p> <p>Commissioned by South Yorkshire PCC 2017-2020 & Grant from DMBC 2018-19</p>	<p>x</p> <p>x</p>		<p>x</p> <p>x</p>
<p>Amber Service (Changing Lives) – sex worker and support service</p> <p>The Amber service (since 2013) are a trusted presence in Doncaster’s red light district, and able to identify and effectively engage with on and off-street sex workers. The service supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals to address trauma, improve their health and wellbeing, achieve stability and take steps towards exiting sex work/exploitation. People to engage with specialist mainstream services to enable them to meet their multiple and complex needs holistically. This involves accompanied referrals. We support the journey from crisis and chaos towards stabilisation, recovery, health and resilience by building up positive social networks. <p>Referrals are made from other services as well as on street outreach.</p>	<p>April 2018-April 2020</p>	<p>X</p>		

6.0 Governance and how partners will work together

6.1 Governance of the Strategy

This Strategy is owned by the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) on behalf of Team Doncaster. The SSDP Board has the strategic lead for Sexual Violence and Abuse at strategic and operational levels, including collaboration with service users.

This Strategy and the annual action plan will be led collectively by the Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategic Board (DSVASB) holding lead officers and partner agencies to account for its implementation and for the impact of service delivery.

A Theme Group will be tasked by the DSVASB to support the delivery of the strategy and to produce performance reports which the DSVASB will monitor and report directly to the SSDP

At times the DSVASB will identify complex problems or poor outcomes within the arena of sexual violence and abuse and related issues. Under these circumstances there will be discussion between the Chair/s of relevant Boards to agree how this work will be progressed under a joint agreement. This will be determined by their respective priorities and responsibilities or statutory duties. This may result in joint commissioning arrangements but will be led by one strategic board to avoid confusion or duplication of effort

Performance reports and outcomes of any reviews will also be circulated to other Boards for information and comment and to ensure SVA specifically is aligned with any specific priorities and work programmes across Doncaster.

6.3 Individual Partner responsibility and accountability

The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership through the Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Board will provide leadership to improve the outcomes and well-being of adult victims, children and young people witnessing sexual violence and abuse; alongside challenging and holding to account perpetrators.

However, it is the responsibility of individual partners to evidence the work they do to improve performance and measure the impact of their service provision through their own governance or contractual arrangements.

In the majority of circumstances partners are able to achieve this through the intelligence and analysis available through service level information to respond to presenting needs. Individual partners will therefore continue to focus on specific key performance areas for which they are responsible, but agree to work to common objectives and approach through this strategy.

The agreed ways of working and guiding principles to support this work are detailed in section 6.4

6.4 A Common approach

To ensure sexual violence and abuse is dealt with appropriately in all its forms across Doncaster and partners fulfil their duties to protect, the following scenarios have been detailed to ensure victims are supported and perpetrators are held to account whatever the situation. It is the role of the Doncaster Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Board, together with the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that these referral pathways and procedures are working effectively.

- **Sexual violence and abuse in an intimate domestic relationship for victims over 18 years old** is defined as Domestic Violence and Abuse and should be responded to in this way, while also addressing the specific sexual violence or abuse incidents.
- **Sexual violence and abuse in intimate domestic relationships for victims between 16 and 18 years** is child sexual abuse and should be considered under child protection arrangements, while also addressing the domestic abuse incidents
- **Sexual violence or abuse of a child under the age of 18 years** by a family member or other perpetrator, which may also involve child sexual exploitation; should be considered under child protection arrangements.

6.4.1 Individually tailored support

A number of victims of sexual violence and abuse are not in contact with their family and will require a high level of individual and bespoke support through an integrated service and agency response in both the immediate and longer term.

In all other cases integrated working with the family might provide the most effective model of identifying vulnerabilities and supporting individuals and other family members who need help or protection. This may often include removal of a family member if they are the abuser, and prevention of further contact.

Individuals and families should have multiple access points for help and support for sexual violence and abuse and every worker in Doncaster irrespective of which agency or organisation they work for across children's and adults' or services for the community should have the opportunity to identify and respond appropriately to victims of sexual abuse and violence.

6.4.2 Shared Principles

The following principles have been developed to guide agencies in their response to meeting the aims and objectives of the strategy. There is recognition of the need for safeguarding and also on longer term recovery:

- 1) Listen to the voice of the person that has been abused and understand their journey and life experience. Engage them in the design and delivery of the services they need.
- 2) Take a strengths based approach to working with individuals, families and communities recognising their skills, knowledge and experience.
- 3) Develop early intervention and prevention approaches to working that respond more quickly to risks, vulnerability and prevent escalation
- 4) Involve the workforce and individual workers in understanding needs and issues of working with adult victims, children and young people and perpetrators to inform practice and service delivery
- 5) Deliver evidence and research based practice that is focused on outcomes and learning from what works including innovative practice.
- 6) Joint commissioning through pooled budgets or shared resources to understand needs, support planning, deliver services and measure impact.

6.5 Partnership response to complex issues, poor outcomes or performance

As a partnership we know that a strong collaborative approach is vital to seeing sustained impact on sexual violence and abuse. We need to understand some problems in more depth and formulate a joint response. Many indicators are linked together and therefore a focus on one alone will have no real impact in the longer term if the root causes are not commonly understood and addressed in combination.

For this reason the DSVASB will concentrate its efforts by identifying each year one or two priorities for a 'deep dive' review on which to target its combined resources. This will follow an annual review of the outcomes through the action plan or performance scorecard which could lead to a focus on:

- a specific outcome area; or
- a focus on a combination of indicators, or
- a theme that promotes a culture of working that leads to sustained and consistent practice across a number of organisations

6.5.1 How priorities will be identified for 'Deep Dive' review

It is vital that all partners understand the complexity of some issues and challenges of delivering on some outcomes. It is therefore important that the decision making of any 'deep dive' reviews to address some issues are open and transparent and inclusive of all partners. It is important that the focus is on the issue or poor outcome rather than individual partners and therefore the method and practice should reflect this approach.

Collectively the DSVASB will identify annually one or two key issues that they want to address which could be identified through data or other intelligence. There will be a clear rationale why this is important and what the outcome of the review is seeking to achieve.

Any decision for a deep dive review will take account of, but not be limited to:

- Strategic fit – national, regional or Borough wide
- Impact on the population
- Long term trend or future impact of a poor outcome
- Resource implications
- Agency and named lead

The practice of reviews will take account of the guiding principles and agreed ways of working in Section 6.4.2. A methodology will be agreed appropriate to the type of review.

7.0 How partners will measure progress and success

The Partnership agrees that tackling sexual violence and abuse is a shared priority for all agencies and in order to achieve value for money, it is important that we quality assure the work we do both in terms of the individual service user's experience, but also the overall effectiveness of services. We are innovative in our approach and through the Government's publication of the National Statement of Expectations, will self-assess and benchmark our provision.

In addition to this there are a number of different ways the partnership will measure progress and the impact of the strategy.

7.1 Annual Action Plan

This Strategy has an action plan to progress the objectives in this strategy. This will be reviewed throughout the year by the DSVASB with an annual report detailing progress and the impact this has made. This annual review will determine the following years plan.

Where there is concern over progress in an area of practice or outcome the partnership may decide on a 'deep dive' review to understand the issue in more detail and help overcome any challenges or barriers identified.

7.2 Progress of Performance Indicators

Annually the partnership will formally review agreed performance indicators to monitor improvement. This review may identify areas where improvement has slowed or the trend causes concern. The partnership will discuss with the lead partner who has responsibility for these specific indicators their plans for improvement with the intention to provide support to change the current or trend position. It may be that the partnership identifies this area of work for 'Deep Dive' review.