Services for children and young people - update

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Statistics…..

- At least 750,000 children a year witness domestic violence
- In London 30% of domestic violence murders are witnessed by children
- 52% of child protection cases involve domestic violence

Intolerance of children

- Poll commissioned by Barnardo's
- 49% agree that children are increasingly a danger to each other and adults
- 43% agree something has to be done to protect us from children
- 49% disagree with the statement that children who get into trouble are often misunderstood and in need of professional help

Teenagers

- 40% of teenagers are involved in abusive relationships
- Up to 70% of teenage mothers are involved in abusive relationships
- Adolescents experience similar levels of domestic violence as adults
- Exacerbated by the fact that adolescents are more acceptant of, and dismissive about, this form of behaviour than their adult counterparts

Recommendations from Southwark Survey and EVAW poll 2006

1. Improve adolescent, adult and professional awareness of domestic violence, highlighting that it can occur in both adult and adolescent relationships
2. Improve service provision so services that are already working with young people incorporate awareness about adolescent domestic violence in their work
3. Attitudes that underpin gender violence need to be challenged at the same time as doing more to safeguard girls and women

Integration of understanding and services

- Domestic violence is not an isolated issue. We must understand how other key issues interlink for young people.

- Teenage pregnancy
- Gangs
- Sexual violence

Good news!

- Until recently, recognition of the needs of children living with domestic violence in the UK has been largely confined to refuge services.

- 2 new projects funded by Comic Relief…..

Community Groups

- An integrated community group programme for children and their mothers who have experienced woman abuse.

The London Model

1) An inter-agency collaborative model

2) Single point access referral through Group Coordinators

3) Group co-facilitators from diverse member agencies - facilitators with an understanding of the issue of woman abuse and the impact on children.

4) Groups are offered at different sites in the community - group locations is a key consideration

Benefits of a collaborative approach

- Raised awareness across agencies of impact and issues for mothers and children
- Increased individual expertise and knowledge
- Skills obtained at group are transferable to other settings
- Enhances a gendered approach to this type of work
- Agencies are starting to come together and take shared responsibility for domestic violence
- Communication across agencies improves and sound relationships develop
- Staff from different agencies jointly collaborate to achieve best outcomes for mums and children
- Cost effective

Next steps

- Recruitment of trainers and coordinators
- Promotion of model to each borough
- London wide training early 2009
- Trainers to train facilitators
- First groups rolled out within six months

Respect young people's project

- To develop a toolkit for those working with the 13-19 year olds around their violence in relationships.

- 1. Development Phase - relevant research and practice synthesised to produce a service model and materials for work targeted at 13-19 year olds who are using violence and abuse in relationships.
  2. Pilot Phase - the above will then be piloted, evaluated and revised.
  3. Dissemination Phase - training for regions with the rollout of training package and toolkit and a national conference.

Contact

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