

Respect

The Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Services

22nd May 2020

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Respect recognises that social distancing guidelines developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to present major challenges for frontline service providers. As we transition out of this management phase and the enforced lockdown the re-introduction of "in person" services will present many new challenges. Alongside this is the experience of service users who may continue to find access to domestic abuse interventions difficult.

Respect-Accredited Members' and Drive Service Provision Update for the week ending 22/05/20.

Service provision

Thirty services surveyed for this briefing have continued to offer adapted yet uninterrupted service during this time. As the direction from government has shifted to "Stay Alert" the priority to offer in person appointments to those assessed as high risk or high harm perpetrators is gaining momentum. Five services are identifying if they have appropriate facilities to engage offer in person appointments with another exploring the capacity to deliver a small group. In each instances the offer is risk assessed and considered only in the context of current guidance from government.

Referrals and Caseloads

Referral volumes remain consistent with no further services noting increases in referrals. The pressure on caseloads has remained with no service currently reporting that they are exiting or completing clients. Where the formal part of the intervention or programme is complete clients are being advised they must await a final in person sessions to mark completion. It is considered that this is necessary to make final assessments on risk and outcomes achieved by clients.

Staff Wellbeing and Resilience

Service Managers in three services have reported taking on additional responsibilities during lockdown and are having to undertake client work in addition to their normal duties in order to meet increasing demand in referrals and the extra resource required to deliver interventions online or via phone.

Furloughing and Funding

One service has reported returning staff members to work following furlough with seven other services still utilising the furlough scheme. This does not denote demand on service but is more a reflection of the income to cover costs currently.

Sixteen services are accessing additional Covid 19 specific funding from statutory bodies and philanthropic funders.