

Respect

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

7th May 2020

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Respect recognises that social distancing guidelines developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic present major challenges for frontline service providers. We are also acutely aware that furloughing staff and withdrawing domestic abuse perpetrator services will have a significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of survivors and their children.

Respect-Accredited Members' and Drive Service Provision Update for the week ending 07/05/20.

Service provision

Service provision continues across all services (28). All organisations continue to utilise online video-calling platforms for one to one contact, whilst six services are running groupwork interventions. Challenges in engaging clients online remains, with barriers to engagement focused on lack of available devices or wifi.

Referrals and Caseloads

Five services have reporting increases in referrals and most significantly the proportion of clients self-referring is increasing. There are concerns for services in completing/exiting clients due to potential increased risk as a result of Covid 19 and this is leading to a swell in the volume of "open cases". One provider reported the number of open cases being double what it was prior to Covid 19 lockdown. This is placing acute pressure on staff.

Staff Wellbeing and Resilience

A consistent picture is emerging of the impact of remote and often isolated work being carried out by practitioners. Whilst managers are seeking to provide additional line management, peer supervision and clinical supervision the costs incurred in doing this are significant. As a sector we would seek to put a spotlight on increased support for staff wellbeing.

Furloughing and closure of services

Services who had to furlough staff undertook this within the first three weeks of lockdown and three organisations have now reduced the number of practitioners on furlough as additional funding has become available and the increased demand on services has become apparent.

Additional Financial Support

Respect welcomes the additional funding for the sector that has been made available by philanthropic funders such as Barclays and The National Lottery Fund. As the application pathways are now open, accredited services are consistently reporting that they are submitting bids.