

# Violence Against Women and Girls Forum Brighton and Hove Minutes

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Attendance:

Jo-Anne Walsh- Director Oasis Project **CHAIR**  
Jo Gough, CEO RISE. **VICE CHAIR**  
Rose Hawkins- Strategy and Partnership Officer for DV/SV/VAWG for BHCC  
John Reading, Third Sector Manager, BHCC  
Jen Matauic, Senior Women's Support Worker at Streetlight UK.  
Lucy Hughes, co-CEO of Mankind  
MCBRIDE, Kerry (SUSSEX COMMUNITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST)  
Mehdi Fallahi- Detective Sergeant. Brighton and Hove SIU  
Ali Hudson-Jones - H&R MARAC Co-ordinator  
Lizzie Barnard, Veritas Justice Project Coordinator  
Babi Abis - Women Specialist worker at Threshold (BHT)  
Gail Alsop, interim service manager, FDFB B&H children services  
Maria Guinazu- Substance Misuse Worker from Oasis Project  
Agnes Munday, Health Promotion and Training Lead for CGL Drug and Alcohol Services.  
Rebecca Rieley, Systems Change Lead at Fulfilling Lives  
Rory Finn, Health Promotion Practitioner at Terrence Higgins Trust, Brighton & Hove  
Jay Breslaw CEO Survivors Network  
Micky Richards, Strategic Commissioner DVA, SVA and VAWG  
Jo Malcolm-Lynch - Student Wellbeing Coordinator, University of Sussex  
Holly Peters, Probation, East Sussex Womens Lead  
Sally Kendal, Business Manager, Brighton & Hove Safeguarding children partnership  
Kitty Gardner - ISVA at Survivors' Network  
Julia Gray, Senior ISVA at Survivors Network and lead for Black and Minoritised Survivors.  
Karen Shaw, practice manager Front Door  
Hannah Cashman, Team Leader of the Witness Service at Lewes and Hove Crown Courts  
Eleanor Marsh, Project Support Officer for the Joint Unit for DVA, SVA and VAWG in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove  
Kim Wells - Youth Participation Team Manager  
Paula Hearne, Wellbeing Service, Primary Care Mental Health Practitioner Lead  
Marianne Lemond - Student Experience and Equalities Manager, Student Wellbeing Team, University of Brighton  
Mel Potter- Sex Workers Outreach Programme Oasis  
Melanie Barnard. Mankind co-CEO  
Gill Field Designate Nurse Adult Safeguarding Sussex CCGs  
Mark Melling Professional Lead Nurse for SPFT.  
Millie Kerr- Lead practitioner for Anti-Racist practice partners in change team, in children's services.  
Mary Crowther Lead Practitioner with Children's Services with a lead for domestic abuse.

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b> (Jo-Anne) <b>Introductions</b> (15 minutes)	Jo-Anne outlined that we had a last minute cancellation from Jahnine the speaker we had planned for today as she is unwell. We will re-book for the new year.	Jo-Anne to arrange a new date with Jahnine and confirm this to group.

	<p>Jo-Anne asked the forum to agree the minutes from last time. Micky flagged one error relating to the information included about the commission. Micky will correct this information in her update below.</p> <p>It was flagged that the notes stated that Veritas worked in East Sussex, but it is actually Pan Sussex in delivery.</p>	
<p><b>Michaela Richards</b> Strategic Commissioner DVA, SVA and VAWG</p>	<p>Micky's updates- The commission was in 5 lots- B&amp;H Domestic abuse, B&amp;H Refuge, East Sussex Domestic Abuse and 2 Pan Sussex lots (being led by Office of Sussex Police Crime Commissioner) which are Sexual Violence Pan Sussex, Stalking Pan Sussex. Award decision will be before Christmas but standstill until Jan 2021. New contracts live from April 2021. East Sussex Refuge contract not re-commissioned until approximately May 2021 for delivery in Oct 2021. Micky was extremely reassured by the processes- fair and considered. Involved individual scoring and then in a panel for 2-3 days to consider as a group.</p> <p>MHCLG- have awarded each Local Authority 50K to help prepare for new duties in DA bill. Due to be passed sometime in Spring 2021. New duty to provide safe accommodation for any victim fleeing DA. All LAs will need to do a mapping and needs assessment of safe accommodation already in place to meet the local need. Allocation of number of places will be based on population in each LA. Allocation of 1 family refuge space for every 10k people in the population. Brighton- likely to require 25 spaces locally. This will not be for those that are local specifically but the idea being that the whole network of refuge spaces will provide enough to meet the need across the LAs. This new duty will come with funding for 3 years. We are looking to spend the 50k on a post/consultant to get us ready for the DA bill. B&amp;H, West and East Sussex have pooled their money and are negotiating with MHCLG about when this needs to be spent.</p>	
<p><b>Safeguarding Adult Review</b></p>	<p><b>Jo-Anne-</b> There is a SAR from Hastings which has now been published on the safeguarding website. The case highlighted the housing issues around supporting people with multiple and complex needs (MCN). We may look to invite someone to a future VAWG forum to speak to this review.</p> <p><a href="#">Adult C SAR - published December 2020 - East Sussex SAB</a></p>	

**Micky-** it's the group we often fail the most and it's not through lack of agencies trying to support. Within the commission we have asked providers to ensure that people with MCNs are considered regarding how the service design and model would support this client group. One of the aspects of the re-commission tender questions was specifically about trauma informed working and environments. In Eastbourne Refuge a Substance Misuse worker and possibly a MH worker will be placed in the Refuge to support residents, it would be very useful if this could be mirrored in B&H. Part of the MHCLG needs assessment will not only be about the number of units needed but also the type of units to meet their needs of those with MCNs. Micky feedback on the need's assessment template strongly on this aspect of the work.

**Holly Peter-** Probation- Women's lead for East Sussex. Question- If someone has been banned due to SM in the past would that be revisited, and would they be offered spaces now with this extra support? Has a few case examples of cases with MCNs who do not want to leave area due to leaving multiple support networks, but Refuge has not worked in the past.

**Micky-** the recommissioning of East Sussex Refuge is not happening until next year and she is not leading on this However we would definitely look to avoid saying someone is 'banned'. If you are managing a Refuge with multiple families with children, they do still need to be managing those risks of having MCNs. Other ways of working could be that there are dispersed units of Refuge or being a step on from inpatient detox etc. Rather than saying that providers must accept all people with MCNs.

**Jo Gough-** highlighted 2 sources of useful information-  
[No Woman Turned Away - Womens Aid.](#)  
[Lankelly Chase | Gender Matters](#)

Also highlighted a JSNA completed locally- just about to be published with a focus on women and complex needs. We are hoping for a focus steering group on complexity as an outcome.

Refuge- is a national network to meet the needs of those that need to move out of area. Safeguarding and risks assessment have to take into account the safety of the other residents and staff when assessing. RISE have been running 4-5 years initiatives including dispersed units are better suited to meet the needs of those with complexity.

	<p><b>Rebecca-</b> Question about joined up working on the funds from MHCLG as housing departments also getting a stream of money. Housing first provision is due to be increased and can we work across/connect this and the DA bill funds?</p> <p><b>Micky-</b> the funds from MHCLG are very specific and not very flexible. Micky is working with housing colleagues about extending the navigator project as part of using housing funds.</p> <p><b>Jo-Anne-</b> very high standard around assessments of needs/risks for Refuge. This mix of vulnerable people and families and those with MCNs is mirrored within the temporary accommodation. So the system feels very disconnected. Bringing it back to Ms C (SAR) a lot of the frontline work was noted as excellent, but the system was presenting challenged.</p>	
<p><b>Jo-Anne introduces Update from services</b></p>	<p><b>CGL- Agnes Munday-</b> Drug and Alcohol services from April 2020 the are now run by cgl rather than Pavilions. Cgl are starting to run face-to-face sessions where possible and this will increase in the new year.</p> <p><b>Survivors Network- Jay Breslaw-</b> Rape Crisis Centre. SV across Sussex currently. Also MOJ funds looking specifically at those with MCN needs and people that might need a different approach from services. ISVA- Independent Sexual Violence Advisor through CJ process. 2 new starters due in post soon with a focus on those with MCNs.</p> <p><b>Detective Sergeant Mehdi Fallahi-</b> Brighton safeguarding. Deal with HR DV cases. Overlock down undertook an operation on how victims were affected and possibly struggling to engage with services. We put together a list of HR victims and risk assessed a home visit to ensure they knew support was available. Previously run an Op Cranberry over Christmas and he is looking for other services who might be interested in talking about what could be done over Christmas. Mehdi will email Rose and Jo-Anne with that offer and this can be forwarded to the group- see below</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Operation Hope Op Cranberry.msg</b></p> </div> <p><b>Jo Gough- RISE-</b>lead on current Portal Contract sub contract to Survivors Network and CGL. Current contact</p>	

ends March 2021. Hoping very much to be here after April. Other large funds also end in March 2021. We have received Covid funds but this needs to be spent by the end of March 2021.

**Rebecca- Fulfilling Lives**-service delivery element of the service will end in June 2021- B&H, Eastbourne and Hastings. Working with MCN cases in those areas. Have been planning endings over the last 6 months and working with other agencies in this planning. FL will have another year until June 2022 to share the learning and working with decision makers about systems change work to embed the learning from the project. Release a document report on impact women and how lockdown has affected them. Useful blog and resources from FL- [Behind Closed Doors – Fulfilling Lives South East Partnership \(fulfilling-lives-se.org\)](https://fulfilling-lives-se.org)

**Mel- Sex Workers Outreach Programme Oasis SWOP**-working with Sussex Police who are looking to improve data collection about concerns experienced by Sex Workers. Increases in stalking and sex offences for sex workers, but outside of their sex work. They want to look at the issues faced and better respond to Sex workers.

**Oasis- Jo-Anne Walsh**- also part of the adult treatment since April 2020. Seen a huge risk in presentation for alcohol treatment. About 300% increase in the first few months of lockdown for alcohol treatment. Working hard to manage this demand. We are doing some face to face. Mellow parenting group is face to face. Our young women's therapy service is re-opened for referrals. There is a small capacity for this as only one worker. Parental project in East Sussex with a focus on fathers. This ends in Dec and was funded by DWP. Good event last week with 30 people attended. Looking at the line between parenting conflict and DV. National Pause project report regarding having a child removed. Intervention has received criticism as only offers very short intervention if women refuse taking long term contraception. Looking forward project is the local intervention run by Oasis but this will be ending next year. There is well accepted stats about the premature mortality rates in that client group and we have to do better in this area. The work being done by Sarah locally is excellent to stabilise and create safety for this group of women. Working hard to have this re-funded as a priority.

	<p><a href="https://www.oasisproject.org.uk/adult-services/looking-forward/">https://www.oasisproject.org.uk/adult-services/looking-forward/</a></p> <p>Looking Forward - Oasis Project Looking Forward Delivered by Oasis Project in partnership with Fulfilling Lives South East Looking Forward supports women across Brighton and Hove who have previously had a child or children permanently removed.</p>	
<b>AOB</b>	<p>Guest speaker to be re-booked for the new year as a standalone session due to level of interest- date will be circulated once confirmed.</p> <p>Resources shared in the chat by Agnes Munday-</p> <p>Free courses for mums: <a href="https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/families-children-and-learning/family-learning-online-classroom/family-wellbeing-courses">https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/families-children-and-learning/family-learning-online-classroom/family-wellbeing-courses</a></p> <p>Family wellbeing courses For the latest course dates and times please check our upcoming courses and workshops.</p>	Jo-Anne
<b>Future meetings 2021 via Google Teams</b>	<p>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2-4pm</p> <p>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 10-12</p> <p>Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 10-12</p> <p>Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 10-12</p>	Rose to send out meeting invites- all to cascade to networks/teams