

Question asked at 10 January 2023 PCCC and responses

Question: I would like to know with the recently published DHR (Domestic Homicide Review) in Norfolk and Waveney, where in the priority's and strategy for N&W ICB does addressing Domestic Violence and abuse within a health care setting sit?

Response: Following the referenced Domestic Homicide Review published in 2016 and subsequent further tragic domestic homicides in the Norfolk and Waveney locality, the ICB (formerly the 5 Norfolk and Waveney CCGs) has continued to strengthen the identification and response to domestic abuse within primary care services.

The portfolio for Domestic Abuse sits within the ICB's Adult Safeguarding Team (supported where appropriate, by the Designate Safeguarding Children's Team - DSCT). The Adult Safeguarding Lead is responsible for the portfolio and delegates some functions and responsibilities to the team, which includes a Named GP for Safeguarding Adults employed for 3 days a week, (equivalent roles exist in the DSCT). The Executive Director of Nursing has overall executive responsibility for the safeguarding duties.

The ICB is committed to an integrated, multi-agency approach to meeting its duties under legislation relating to domestic abuse, such as the Care Act 2014 and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and is an active member of both Community Safety Partnerships that are in the Norfolk and Waveney footprint and as such, is in alignment with the overarching domestic abuse strategies.

The ICB's safeguarding teams work with the services it commissions to ensure that these organisations are aware of and meet their responsibilities in respect of identifying and responding to domestic abuse, as outlined in the NHS Standard Contract.

The ICB is engaging with the Regional Lead for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office's on-going work to address the findings of its report "A Patchwork of Provision".

The Serious Violence Duty (SVD), which comes into effect on the 31st January 2023, requires specified authorities (which includes ICBs) to develop, plan and publish a strategy before 31st January 2024. The NWICB is actively engaged in the two workstreams covering our footprint for this piece of work and whilst not replacing the statutory guidance for the Domestic Abuse Act, the SVD does include this subject matter, providing the opportunities for even more coordinated approaches to abuse prevention and targeted responses where DA has been identified or disclosed.

Question: Following the DHR what is Norfolk and Waveney ICB doing to improve learning from this review and great tragedy to ensure GP practices and clinicians are better equipped to identify, recognised, and respond to a patient who is suffering from Domestic Violence and Abuse?

Response: Specialist Domestic Abuse training is offered to primary care staff.

A template Domestic Abuse Policy for primary care has been created by the ICB, in conjunction with specialist DA services and disseminated to all practices.

All Norfolk General Practices have been encouraged to sign a pledge to join Norfolk County Council's HEAR campaign: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/hear-campaign> to support employees who might be suffering domestic abuse.

Question: Is there a designated safeguarding lead /commissioner who is looking at exploring interventions to address this matter?

Response: As advised in the first response, the ICB has a named Adult Safeguarding Lead and a Named GP for Safeguarding Adults