

Group Work Write Up – LDAN DV Network Event

The case study:

Please discuss each case study in relation to the following questions:

- Identification and management of risk?
- How would you go about care planning/ safety planning?
- What might be the key challenges/ barriers for effective joint working across the sectors and how would you address these?

Simon and Andrea have been married for 5 years and have 2 children, Joe (5years old) and Elsa (3 years old). The family have recently moved into their first family home, having spent the last 6 years living at Simon's parents 2 bedroom house. Simon has recently found employment as he had been on long term sick for the last 4 years. Andrea has started drinking heavily again and is occasionally taking internet purchased prescription drugs. Simon is spending more time out of the house after work drinking with friends and Andrea feels under increasing amounts of pressure in dealing with the domestic family life. She has asked if Simon can help her more around the house but he doesn't see this as his role because he is out at work all day. Simon often calls Andrea a 'bad mother' and is often not happy when she occasionally makes plans to see her friends or family. He has recently started hitting Andrea when she is drunk. Andrea approached her GP about how to deal with her drinking and has been referred to her local alcohol treatment service.

Identification and Management of Risk

Risk to children

- Accessing drugs/alcohol. Storage of tablets – could children access?
- Neglect, children unsupervised
- Witnessing violence and drug/alcohol use
- Risk of emotional neglect
- Physical risk of violence

Risk to Andrea

- Physical and emotional abuse
- Controlling behaviour leading to isolation
- Can she access services under these conditions? Concern about her safety if she accesses service whilst still living with Simon
- Andrea doesn't know exactly what she is buying from the internet, amount of "drug" in tablets, risk of overdose
- Combined risk with alcohol consumption
- Risk of escalation

Management of Risk

- Parenting programme – find out if there already is social services involvement
- MARAC referral– although more info would be needed
- Explore relationship
- Explain services available
- Safety planning
- Risk assessment

- Referral to DV floating support
- National DV Helpline
- Counselling/DV group
- Harm minimisation, safety for children
- Childcare so Andrea can access services
- Liaison with health services
- Engagement with treatment services

How would you go about care planning/safety planning?

Children

- Safeguarding process for children
- Look at children's access to services

Andrea

- Recognition of DV
- Risk assessment
- Duty of care – identifying risk and acting on it
- Referral to local alcohol programme
- GP needs to be part of care planning as concern about combined use of drugs/alcohol. Look at effects of alcohol use and un-prescribed medication
- Substance misuse risk assessment
- DV risk assessment linking with DV services and/or info about DV services
- Specialist refuge?
- Physical & mental health assessment
- Parenting programmes
- MARAC referral
- Look at support networks, sources of income
- Harm minimisation
- Look at history of DV and substance misuse
- Educate and challenge Andrea towards empowerment

Simon

- perpetrator programme/ support

What might be the key challenges/ barriers for effective joint working across the sectors and how would you address these?

Challenges/Barriers

- Getting the DV agency and local alcohol treatment service to work together
- Some GPs are responsive, others are difficult to engage with substance misuse/DV cases
- If Andrea agrees to work with DV agency she may identify her alcohol use as a problem but not her domestic situation

- Will Simon engage with perpetrator programme? If so what resources in the borough?
- Gradual introduction & awareness of DV for Andrea
- Local alcohol agency needs to have awareness about DV links in the area and be aware of what is appropriate
- Couples work – is it safe?
- Andrea may be concerned about social services input in relation to her children
- Andrea may also be concerned about partner finding out that she is accessing services
- How would she access services given the control she is under?
- Are there other childcare arrangements available?
- Services holding onto information
- Fear of the unknown for victim
- Safeguarding
- Different service ethos

Solutions

- MARAC
- Joint working protocols
- Named people to contact in each service
- Shadowing across services
- Training/partnerships
- Communication between different services
- Confidentiality