

Grants Committee

Priority Two: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence – Presentation by Signhealth

Item: 5

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Summary

Signhealth delivers DeafHope London, under Priority Two of the Grants Programme, a specialist service for deaf female survivors of domestic abuse and violence, and their children.

The service is delivered by trained deaf women. Services include specialist Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) support, survivors' workshops and therapy for clients with complex needs. DeafHope also provides early intervention and prevention workshops in deaf schools, youth groups and other settings. Caseworkers use British Sign Language and other international sign languages.

DeafHope London is commissioned to deliver:

- Specialist Deaf referral information for all London Borough Officers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs)
- IDVA and outreach 1-2-1 support for deaf women and young people
- Prevention/early intervention workshops in schools/youth groups to boys and girls (Young DeafHope)
- Psychological therapy for clients with complex needs, anxiety and/or depression
- Survivors' Workshops - Deaf-led support groups
- British Sign Language (BSL) and other accessible information about domestic abuse for Deaf community
- Deaf awareness training/support for London Borough Officers and mainstream domestic violence providers

Anticipated outcomes:

- Reduced levels/ repeat victimisation of sexual and domestic violence
- Improved wellbeing
- Increased safety and independence
- London Borough Officers and IDVAs have a quality Deaf referral route
- Multi-agency providers have a better understanding of how to meet Deaf access

Christopher Reid, Director of Operations and Marie Vickers, the Service Manager, have kindly agreed to talk about the work of DeafHope, their achievements to-date and the challenges deaf women face when accessing services such as refuge provision and housing services.

Recommendations

The Grants Committee is asked to:

- **Note** the presentation from Deafhope London.