

Choose one organization and explore the barriers and challenges to interacting with other organisations within a multiagency setting

ECAY4005

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Introduction

This presentation today will explore the police and focus on domestic violence. It will cover how the police deal with domestic violence and explore the barriers and challenges they face within multiagency working.

This poster will look at:

- The police
- Domestic abuse
- Safeguarding
- Multiagency working
- The barriers and challenges they face within the multiagency setting

Police

According to Brown (2021) ‘the duty of the police is to protect the public by detecting and preventing crime’ (Brown, 2021). The police have both common law and legislative powers (Brown, 2021). Brown (2021) suggests there are four types of police personnel:

- Police officers
- Police community support officers (PCSOs) and other support officers
- Police specials
- Civilian staff

Police officers are there to protect members of the public and protect public property, they prevent crime and improve the quality of life for the public (Modise, Raga, 2022). The role of the police are to stop anything that may endanger the safety and security of a community, they investigate crimes and bring justice to offenders (Modise, Raga, 2022).

The domestic Abuse Act 2021 “intends to increase awareness and inform the response to domestic abuse”(Home Office, 2022). The Home Office’s (2022) statutory guidance to Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Chaper 6, p.104) states that ‘the collage of policing has developed a guidance- Authorised Professional Practice which will set out principles and standards for police to investigating domestic violence’. (Home Office, 2022). This guidance defines the standards for a police officer to take a constructive approach in all stages of the polices response to domestic violence and guarantee that victims this includes children are protected (Home Office, 2022)

Domestic violence

According to Khatoon, Fatima, *et al* (2020) “Domestic violence (DV) is a global health problem of pandemic proportion”. Domestic violence can take shape in many forms these include emotional, psychological, sexual violence and physical abuse (Khatoon, Fatima, *et al*, 2020). Domestic violence can cause serious injury and result in death in some cases, it affects not only the victim but can affect their children and other family members resulting in medical health issues (Anne, Ganley, nd, p.15). At the end of March 2023 The Crime survey for Wales and England ‘estimated that 2.1million people aged 16 years and over (1.4 million women and 751,000 men) encountered domestic abuse’ (Office of National Statistics, 2023). The office of National Statistics reported that by the end of March 2023 the police recorded 889,918 domestic abuse-related crimes, a number which was similar to the previous year (Office of National Statistics, 2023).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is important it's there to protect children and vulnerable adults' health, wellbeing and human rights (Tate, 2016). If an organisation works with children or vulnerable adults they need to have a safeguarding policy in place and follow certain procedures (Tate, 2016). According to NHS England (2023) a few examples of vulnerable groups are:

- Those with learning disabilities
 - People who are living away from home
 - Asylum seekers
 - Victims of domestic abuse
 - People with serious mental health condition
- Mind (nd, p.8) advise that if you have concerns regarding someone, do not keep it to yourself. Go check the organisation's safeguarding procedures and policies.

Mind (nd, p8) suggests following Ann Craft Trust’s tips to:

- Recognise
- Respond
- Refer
- Record



(Calgary United Way, 2019)

Multiagency working

According to the NSPCC (2023) “Multi-agency working is key to effective safeguarding and child protection”(NSPCC, 2023). To agencies working together in a multiagency setting it is important to have cooperation to reduce the risk of cases ‘slipping through the safeguarding system and putting an end to domestic violence in the early stages or to prevent it happening in the first place’ (College of Policing, 2018). The police department should ensure that the force have a well-developed and clear **Information sharing agreement (ISA)** with other agencies (Collage of Policing, 2018). The ISA’s should regularly be reviewed by supervisors and reviews from other agencies should be taken into account particularly for information containing sensitive and personal details (Collage of Policing, 2018)



(S.H.I.E.L.D, 2019)

Challenges that occur with safeguarding in multiagency work

Safeguarding within multiagency setting where there is domestic abuse involved has proved challenging (The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, 2022, pp6). The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (2022) suggested that every stakeholder they had spoken to approved the review and agreed that the safeguarding system they currently had in place was ‘not getting it right’ in the area of domestic abuse (The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Pancel, 2022, p.6). According to the Department of Education (2021, p.11) agencies that work across multiple areas may find themselves needing to adapt their practice due to who they were working with, this could lead to confusion and extra work loads, due to this it made it more problematic to work together effectively (Department of Education, 2021, p.11). The Department of Education (2021, p.17) suggested that a common barrier is clarity over what personal safeguarding information can be shared and with who it can be shared with. It can cause stress for people who are making a request for safeguarding where there could be potential risk to a child missed (Department of Education, 2021, p.17)

Conclusion

To conclude the police have an important role in detecting and preventing crime. They play and important part in protecting a victim and the children of a domestic violence case. Domestic violence is a global problem and can take shape in many forms. Domestic abuse can lead to medical health issues and can sometimes lead to death. Safeguarding is very important and is there to protect children and vulnerable adults wellbeing and human rights. In all organisations there needs to be policy and procedures put into place with regards to safeguarding. Multiagency working is when agencies work together and cooperate to help safeguarding a child or a vulnerable adult. When multiple agencies work together there sometimes can be problems with communication and this can cause barriers.

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