



Developing A Community – The London Borough Of Hounslow

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Community Care and Development

Assignment 1 – Viva Voice

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Community and Community Development

- Community is term that derives around joining people together with shared interests, places, activities, services and culture.

Communities mostly need support and development in 3 key areas:

- People – this includes who is responsible and who is involved
- Programme – this includes how the community operates within activities and events
- Platforms – this is where communities interact using face-to-face or online spaces (GOV.UK, 2021).

London Borough Of Hounslow – Key Statistics

People

- There are roughly 275,000 people living in the borough
- 50% of people are from a black and minority ethnic background

Place

- Almost 40% of the borough is green
- There are roughly 60 wildlife spaces
- Between 2010-15, Hounslow had the highest economic output in the UK

Relationships

- 14% of residents claimed to have volunteered in 2016 in comparison to 19% nationally
- 8% of households are lone parent families

(Future Borough Strategy, 2018-2035)

What Is Domestic Violence/Abuse?

Domestic violence/abuse can affect anyone, although it does affect women and girls in the majority. It can severely harm a person's physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

- Sexual abuse
- Economic abuse
- Physical abuse

(Violence Against Women and Girls 2019 – 2021),

Domestic abuse can include:

- Controlling and threatening behaviour
- Emotional harm
- Stalking
- Psychological abuse

Domestic Violence Statistics In The Borough

- In 2015-16, the London Borough of Hounslow had 2691 domestic violence cases and just over 350 cases were collected in the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- There was an incline of the number of domestic abuse cases by 24% between the year 2013 and 2016
- Under 15% of offenders are convicted of Domestic Abuse
- Within the years 2014 and 2016, there was an 19% increase of MARAC referrals
- White Ribbon Borough status was awarded to the London Borough of Hounslow. The borough was recognised for its exceptional support to reducing violence against women and girls

(Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2016).

Domestic Abuse As A Priority For The Community

Domestic abuse is a major public health issue that happens globally on a daily basis. In the UK, the UK health service funds £1.88 billion for domestic violence/abuse services for girls and women. It is known to be one of the main factors for violent crime, which affects all communities.

The Hounslow Community Safety Partnership Board established a public health approach to its new priority of becoming a 'Model Violent Crime Prevention Borough', which plans to address domestic violence being one of the main drives for violent crime in the borough. (Hounslow Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-22).

The Hounslow Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 to 2022 agrees to:

- Reducing the levels of domestic violent crime
- Reducing recurring victimisation; and
- Increasing the level of support for children and families that has experienced Domestic Violence/Abuse

Within the Hounslow Corporate Plan 2021, Domestic abuse is protected by the 2019- 2021 Corporate Plan which states that "People are Safe", "Children Reach their Potential" and "Residents Receive the Right Support". It also has priority in the Hounslow Children's Safeguarding Partnership and Hounslow Adults Safeguarding Board

Health promotion of Domestic violence/abuse

Social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook are the most common ways to promote campaigns to raise awareness of many issues such as domestic violence/abuse. They can be used to support reducing the amount of domestic abuse in the borough, which would be a social-norms change, and to educate the issue by encouraging communities to talk about it more (behavioral change).

Health promotion in social media can also help to:

- Develop the understanding and views around domestic abuse among all communities, especially where it is most prevalent
- Improve the nature and effects of domestic abuse among health professionals
- Contribute to reducing the normalisation of domestic abuse and how it has been accepted

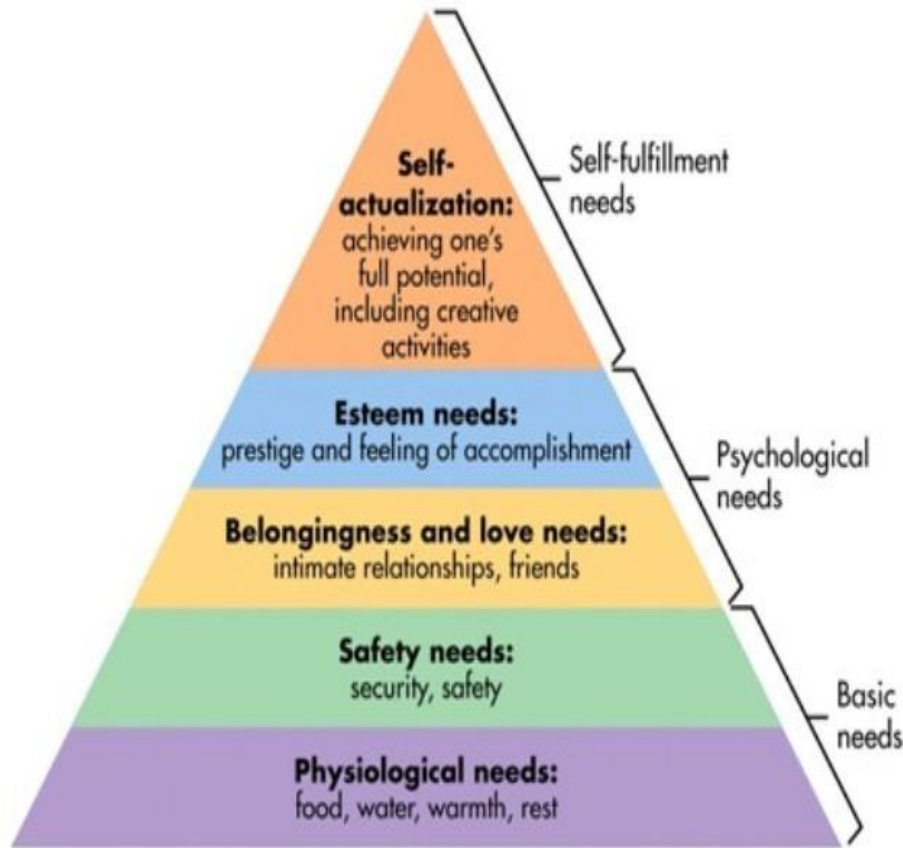
(NICE, 2022).

Legislation And Policy

In January 2019, the Government responded to the draft and consultation of the Domestic Abuse Bill.

The Domestic Abuse Bill set out to have 123 commitments which were both legislated and non-legislated. It was created to promote and support the awareness of domestic abuse including protecting the most vulnerable and their families, improve the justice system process to make victim safety priority, to deliver an effective response to offenders, and to enforce regularity and better enactment in the response to domestic violence/abuse among all local communities, agencies and sectors (GOV.UK, 2022).

Maslow's Law



Maslow's hierarchy of needs demonstrates how different needs are shown in order for oneself to be fulfilled. In the second tier, 'safety' one of the most important needs just after physiological needs. In domestic abuse situations that are high-risk, the most basic needs can be unfulfilled because of the extremely controlling behaviour of an abuser (Corso, S.P., Mercy, J. Thomas et. al, 2007).

It is important to understand that before domestic abuse victims can move on to the psychological and self-fulfilment needs of the pyramid to become a survivor, the basic needs should be filled first. One of the main ways this can be done is by seeking the right support through family, friends or support services in the local area.

Recommendations

Local partnerships should promote more awareness on domestic violence using various tools that help victims and other people to raise more awareness on this issue. They should also:

- Get all local partners involved at an early stage
- Connect strategies to recognised models and theories
- Acknowledge that improvement takes awhile to be accepted
- Ensuring the right collaborations will bring benefits

Domestic Violence Charities In Hounslow

Hounslow Domestic and Sexual Violence Outreach Service

This service provides confidential and free support and advice to anyone affected by any form of abuse and violence living in the borough. Other main charities in the borough include:

- Hounslow One Stop Shop
- EACH counselling and support
- National Domestic Violence Helpline
- Women's Aid
- National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline
- Southall Black Sisters.
- Hestia – Bright Sky App

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