**Dundee Public Social Partnership**

**Tests of change proposal – Scottie Centre**

**October 2020**

**Background**

There has been a growing recognition that in Dundee we have a hidden group of vulnerable women who are involved in sexual exploitation. This specific group of individuals often bring unique and diverse challenges. Often experiencing substance use issues, mental health challenges, trauma, violence, stigma, high overdose risk, BBV risk, homelessness and due to the range of challenges and complex needs can often be difficult to engage with.

We have been working in the Stobswell area with (Maryfield Community Team) Police Scotland, NHS Keep well Team, and WRASAC since early 2019. There was an identified need and a willingness from services to come together to offer more support within the community which is the main centre (Stobswell). We have had good support from Brooksbank who manage the Scottie Centre. This has allowed us to offer some evening sessions, where Police Scotland engage with women on the street and encourage them to attend the drop in at the Scottie Centre.

Services on offer: A safe supportive space that the woman will feel at ease in which will facilitate support. Advice, information, Attack Alarm, Condoms, Naloxone, Essential items, BBV testing and advice. General Health checks. Funding dependent we can provide phones and data.

**Proposal**

To build upon our work out with the Scottie Centre. We have been joint working with Police Scotland, NHS Health Team and WRASAC. We are proposing to build the team around the project. This will include ‘Same day prescribing’ of OST from the NHS treatment team. Penumbra will be involved in supporting any Mental Health needs.

The test of change would target those who are:

* Involved in sexual exploitation
* Experiencing Substance use issues
* Experiencing multiple barriers
* Have multiple complex needs

The work would consist of two strands:

1. Evening outreach work. Coordinated by WAWY, Police Scotland, NHS Health team and WRASAC. The main thrust of this session is to engage with women and promote the Scottie Centre service, allowing trust to be built and to support the woman during the day to address their specific needs. We are planning fortnightly sessions from 7.30pm -10.30pm
2. Follow up support. This will be a blended support model including remote, over the phone support and face to face mainly out with the Albert St Boots Community Hub. This is where most of the support will take place. Addressing needs i.e. access to treatment, housing/ benefits, food poverty, mental health, general health and well being.
3. We have the support from NHS treatment service ISMS to identify a link worker who will support the project. Having this link is essential to allow for shared information including risk assessment. This will also facilitate smooth and timely access to OST.

Outputs and outcomes would be developed to ascertain the effectiveness of the test of change; an example of what these could be is:

**Outputs**

* Numbers attending evening drop in sessions at Scottie Centre.
* Numbers engaging with follow up support.
* Numbers of onward referrals – NHS treatment / Housing / Mental Health.
* Numbers of participants who are engaging with the wider support network offered within the Albert St Hub.

**Outcomes**

* Decreased risk factors. Safer drug use, safer sexual exploitation work.
* Improved safety factors, engaged with services, have phone, attack alarms, condoms and naloxone.
* Decreased need to be involved in sexual exploitation.

**Recommendations**

1. The test of change has already commenced but this is an opportunity to enhance the work and build a wider team. This includes quick access to OST and NHS treatment services and Mental Health support from Penumbra.
2. Improvements could be measured by monitoring output and including outcomes that will be collected when Daisy is implemented ( Dec 20 ) We Are With You will keep local outcome data.
3. To develop a pathway for vulnerable women who are involved in sexual exploitation.