

Review of Domestic Violence and Abuse

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Domestic violence and abuse can have devastating effect on individuals, their families and also have a significant impact on the work of the Council and partner organisations. Council therefore asked the Council Cabinet to work with Police and Crime Commissioner and the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board to conduct a review of domestic abuse.
- 1.2 The review led by the Neighbourhoods Board received evidence from a range of organisations dealing with domestic abuse. The Board makes a series of recommendations to address this growing crime.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and approve the report on Domestic Violence and Abuse as detailed in Appendix 2.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Board has now completed a review on domestic abuse as requested by Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The report has been shared with partner organisations who gave evidence to the review.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services Phil O'Brien – Statutory Scrutiny Officer
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Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There are likely to be costs associated with delivering some of the recommendations contained in this report. However these have yet to be evaluated, it was Scrutiny Board's desire to keep costs of implementation to its recommendations to a minimum due to Council's financial pressures.

Legal

- 2.1 Article 6.3 of the Council Constitution allows overview and scrutiny boards to assist the Council and the Council Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy.
- 2.2 There are likely to be a number of legal implications arising from this report as action is taken to address domestic abuse, and which will only be clearer as the detail surrounding each of the agreed proposals is resolved.

Personnel

- 3.1 The report makes 20 recommendations some of which are likely to have personnel implications. For example, recommendation 10 is that the Council develops and adopts a DVA employee policy. There are also likely to be training and staff briefing.

IT

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The initial scoping report outlined a number of areas for the review including access to services, under-reporting and barriers faced by those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act.
- 5.2 As a major employer in the city, we know there are people experiencing domestic abuse amongst our employees and there will also be perpetrators. We have a duty of care to support any of our employees affected by domestic abuse, and we see this as very much being an issue of equality and leadership.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None directly arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 Any reduction on the level of domestic abuse will have a significant impact on positive outcomes for individuals and therefore on the cost of Council services. Changing attitudes and tolerance to domestic abuse across all our communities will improve outcomes within those communities and thus for our city. These outcomes link to all of the Derby Plan and Council Plan outcomes.