



Derby City Council

**NEIGHBOURHOODS BOARD
29 APRIL 2014**

Report of the Chair of the
Neighbourhoods Board

LATE ITEM

Scoping Report for Review on Domestic Abuse

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The recently issued National Crime Survey showed that, although not exclusive to women, around 30% of the female population has been subject to some form of abuse since the age of 16 including domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- 1.2 In Derbyshire, domestic violence crimes now account for around 1 in 10 crimes, in 2007/08 it was 1 in 20 recorded crimes, and Derby has the highest recorded rates, followed by Chesterfield, Erewash and South Derbyshire. The Council therefore resolved at its 5 March 2014 meeting, to request the Council Cabinet to work in partnership with Neighbourhoods Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner to conduct a review on domestic abuse to:
 - a. consider and evaluate the levels of domestic abuse within the City
 - b. 'dip sample' the way that cases have been managed and their outcomes
 - c. discuss and disseminate the best possible levels of professional practice within the City
 - d. consider setting up a strategic countywide group to enhance the work of domestic abuse specialists, such as the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates
 - e. make recommendations to Cabinet about future resources, training and awareness
 - f. urge Government to consider seriously the call by domestic violence specialists that 'coercive control' be made an offence'

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consider and agree the draft scoping report for the review on domestic abuse.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Overview and scrutiny boards may conduct topic reviews on items that fall within their portfolios and submit reports with recommendations to the Council Cabinet and or Council for their consideration.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:
- “any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:
- psychological
 - physical
 - sexual
 - financial
 - emotional”
- 4.2 This Government definition (which is not a legal definition) was extended from March 2013 to cover 16–18 year olds and to include coercive control. The latter reflects the range of systematic abuse suffered by victims which may not include violence exclusively but also other coercion such as financial control. It also covers so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage and victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.
- 4.3 The Council resolved at its March meeting to conduct a comprehensive review on domestic abuse as it is concerned about alarmingly high levels of abuse particularly amongst the female population nationally and locally. This is a major piece of work which requires input from a wide range of agencies and therefore needs to be started early in the new municipal year. Once the Board has drawn together an overview of the local picture it will consider how it may wish to target or phase the review.
- 4.4 This picture will include the profile of victims and perpetrators, crime and incident types, service statistics and intelligence, needs assessments, risk assessment and emerging issues in Derby. This can then be considered in light of current provision across sectors, to help identify gaps particularly for those assessed as standard and medium risk. The Board may also wish to consider the Council's workforce and the awareness of domestic abuse.
- 4.5 The review also consider possible preventative measures by raising the awareness of the issue amongst groups identified as 'at risk'.

- 4.6 In order to fully address the areas identified by Council, the review could look at levels of abuse amongst:

Adults

- male
- female
- elderly

Children

- Within the home
- Within group settings
- 16-18 year olds as a separate group

- 4.7 The Board will also want to consider including sexual violence, honour based violence, forced marriage and FGM within the review.

- 4.8 Evidence to the review may be sought from the following agencies (not exhaustive):

National strategy:

- Home Office: Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Action Plan
- National Charity: Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA)
- National Charity: Women's Aid

Local strategy:

- Derbyshire and Derby Governance Board and Co-ordination Group: Lead for Derbyshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy and Action Plan
- Office of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Derby Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Community Safety Plan

Local audits and reviews:

- HMIC Everyone's business: Improving the Police response to domestic abuse
- CAADA audit of MARAC arrangements
- Local Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews

Local service delivery:

- Derbyshire Constabulary: Public Protection team and D Division Domestic Abuse Unit, Local neighbourhood policing teams to provide neighbourhood information, Statistics to provide statistical information on levels of domestic abuse in the city and explain how it is recorded, and what action is taken
- Derby City Council: Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate team, Adult Safeguarding Team, Children and Young People's Multi-agency Teams, Priority Families Teams and Child Protection Team, Youth Offending Team, Refuge contract provision
- Derbyshire Probation to consider response to perpetrators
- Criminal Justice organisations: Crown Prosecution Service, Domestic Violence Court, local judges and magistrates to consider experience for victims and for success in prosecution

- Derbyshire County Council: Community Safety Partnership arrangements
- Local and national voluntary sector groups including Hadhari Nari (part of Women's Aid); Derby Women's Centre; National domestic violence help line; Victim Support; Women's Refuge Society, Women's Work
- Legal firms offering legal advice to individuals suffering from abuse
- Counsellors offering support to those affected by domestic abuse to understand the impact on the daily lives of the victims
- Related service provision – Drug and alcohol, mental health, GPs, Derby hospital and maternity services, housing specialists, crime prevention

Partnership and multi-agency arrangements

- Derby Children's Safeguarding Board and Derby Safeguarding Adults Board
- Partnership Bodies such as Derby Health and Well-being Board and the Children, Families and Learners Board
- Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC)
- Derby Domestic and Sexual Abuse Action Group (DDSAAG): could facilitate dip samples / case reviews

4.9 A detailed timetable will be established in due course for the board to consider the evidence and submit its report in due course which include an early start in the next municipal year with completion by the end of December 2014 .

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Diane Sturdy Tim Clegg, Director of Partnerships and Streetpride
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There could be a cost associated with conducting a thorough review especially if the board decides to seek evidence from external bodies to cover any expenses. This will be contained within research budget allocated for scrutiny work.

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.

Personnel

- 3.1 Domestic abuse affects the health and wellbeing of the victims. This has an impact on their ability to function within the workplace and society. Dealing with the outcomes of abuse, imposes a financial burden on support services and an individual's ability to attend work.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The review will look at the specific difficulties faced by people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act, such as people in same sex relationships, older and younger people, disabled people, minority ethnic people and so on. The review will also look into the under reporting of domestic abuse amongst men and what support is available to them.
- 4.2 Despite several areas of help available to survivors, the review will look into how accessible this support is in relation to physical access, but also languages, including British Sign Language and the languages of our newer communities. It will also look into whether the helplines available offer text phone services for Deaf people to access them.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 Tackling violence and abuse will improve health of those affected.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising from this report

Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising from this report

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 As a Council in partnership with our communities and through strong leadership we want to deliver good quality services that meet local needs by having better outcomes for our communities. The health, safety and well-being of the people of Derby are key priority outcomes for us as a Council.
- 9.2 We work with our partners to ensure that we manage any risks to the safety of residents with a clear focus on protecting vulnerable children, young people and adults.