

Title: Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027

Produced By:

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Given To:

Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board

Purpose of Report

To share the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Overview

The existing Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy (2019-2021) is drawing to a close. The existing Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet on 10 September 2019.

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership has reviewed achievements under the 2019-21 Strategy, and notes that:

- partners have attracted significant investment and commissioned a range of interventions to support our work across individuals, families and communities;
- we also have a range of robust multi-agency working arrangements that aim to coordinate victim safety and hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour;
- we continue to face barriers with working together to engage some victims and survivors in support – given that domestic abuse is a complex social problem that has an impact on local council services (across children’s, adults, housing and community based services), the third sector, health organisations, housing providers and the Criminal Justice System, survivors and their children may be caught within local structures, unclear of how to navigate services to get the help they need, and may receive conflicting messages.

To strengthen our response, the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership agreed that it would be useful to incorporate a ‘whole system’ response to delivering services, to ensure that all agencies that provide services to victims of domestic abuse, perpetrators and their children respond in a consistent and coordinated way.

2022-2027 Domestic Abuse Strategy

The Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027 has been prepared with and endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership. The Strategy clearly outlines how outcomes will be measured, the principles that underpin our approach, strategic priorities for the Partnership and how governance arrangements will drive the work of the Strategy forward.

Crucially, the DASP has identified the work to be shared with the public through the Strategy as a public facing document. A more detailed workplan, which clearly identifies gaps in our current provision and intelligence and activities to drive the strategy forward, will support the strategy and be monitored by the DASP on a quarterly basis. The workplan will include arrangements for an annual review of the strategy, with constructive challenge to be sought from regional partners.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended to be a broad strategy that captures activity delivered by all partners to improve our response to domestic abuse, including those that are driven forward and delivered by single agencies in addition to those commissioned by the Partnership.

With this in mind, the Strategy includes:

- A foreword by Councillor Pattison in her capacity as Chair of the Communities Board, with statements of support to be provided by West Yorkshire Police and the Kirklees Health and Care Partnership;
- An overview of the impact of domestic abuse, with the focus on understanding the harm caused by perpetrators and how this may ripple across multiple victims, children and the broader community;
- Our shared vision and strategic aims, which include responding to voices of lived experience, intelligence, supporting our workforce, supporting our specialist services, working with our communities and our partnership commitment to tackle domestic abuse through internal processes in addition to participating in broader partnership activities;
- Principles that underpin our work, including working with the whole person (recognising intersectionality and the impact of trauma), whole families, whole communities, influencing the whole society and recognising domestic abuse as a form of violence against women and girls;
- Outcomes that partners are working towards, both strategic and at case management level;
- Strategic priorities, each of which will be supported by a working group to drive forward activity:
 - Priority One: Whole Family Approach to domestic abuse
 - Priority Two: Supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour
 - Priority Three: Partnership response to victims with multiple needs and/or protected characteristics
 - Priority Four: Supporting victims to maintain or access safe and stable housing
 - Priority Five: Multi-agency working arrangements
- Governance arrangements, setting out the oversight of the Domestic Abuse Partnership through the Communities Board, links with other strategic boards and arrangements for commissioning, monitoring performance and opportunities for learning.

The Strategy also includes Annexes to outline achievements under the previous strategy; an overview of prevalence data; our approach to developing the new strategy; and a link to the Kirklees Early Help vision.

Current Picture and Next Steps

The draft Strategy has been presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committee by Council and partner representatives (including colleagues from the Clinical Commissioning Group).

The Strategy has been formally endorsed by the Communities Board, who are responsible for governance and oversight, and will then be presented to Cabinet.

Challenges and Implications for the Partnership

Working with People

The Strategy outlines how our whole system, including the third sector, health organisations, housing providers, social care and the Criminal Justice System, works in a consistent and coordinated way to:

- See and respond to the **whole person**, whether that be victims and survivors (including children), perpetrators or others affected by domestic abuse
- Work with the **whole family** to minimise the harm caused by perpetrators and build resilience
- Work with the **whole community** to minimise the harm caused by perpetrators and support victims and survivors to live the lives they want; and
- Influence the **whole society** through the media, politicians, employers, key opinion formers and commentators by challenging victim blaming and damaging gender stereotypes.

Place Based Working

The Strategy refers to the work we do in Places, recognising our partnership arrangements to respond to local communities, including Place Partnerships, Primary Care Networks, community hub models of working and Local Neighbourhood Policing teams.

Financial, HR, Communications issues (including value for money)

The 2022-2027 Domestic Abuse Strategy has no immediate financial implications for Partners.

Over the course of the strategy, the Council will be working with partners to establish joint commissioning arrangements and the Strategy includes an aspiration to develop pooled funding arrangements.

Current commissioning arrangements in relation to domestic abuse are supported by Council funding, grant funding arrangements with the West Yorkshire Mayor's Office (most of which are short term) and an annual grant from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which relates to support for victims of domestic abuse, and their children, in safe accommodation.

HR

The 2022-2027 Domestic Abuse Strategy has no immediate HR implications for the Council.

The Strategy includes a partnership commitment to:

- Provide domestic abuse training to support our employees to respond appropriately to people who report domestic abuse, including arrangements for routine and/or targeted enquiry as appropriate; and
- Implement a domestic abuse policy and procedure/guidance for how the organisation will respond to employees who are victims/survivors, or perpetrators, of domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership will monitor compliance with these commitments over the course of the strategy.

Communications

The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for gathering feedback and intelligence, which will highlight the need for targeted campaigns on specific issues and/or within specific communities.

The Strategy itself will be formatted by the Council's graphics team to ensure that the document is accessible and has a consistent look and feel to other Council policies. We are doing this work in conjunction with ongoing work on the Communities Plan to avoid duplication of effort.

Officer Recommendations

For Health and Wellbeing Board to note the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Partners are asked to consider the implications of the strategy for their organisations and work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Author & Contact Officer

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