

Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 17th January 2023

Title of report: Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2027

Purpose of report:

This report provides an overview of the new Strategy including.

- New approaches to delivery and commissioning arrangements to deliver the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Place based work working aligned with the Inclusive Communities Framework

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – No Private Report/Private Appendix – Yes/No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Mel Meggs Strategic Director Childrens Services 13/12/2022 Eamonn Croston 19/12/2022 Julie Muscroft/John Chapman 19/12/2022
Cabinet member http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/you-kmc/kmc-howcouncilworks/cabinet/cabinet.asp	Councillor Pattison 17/02/22 & 15/12/2022 Councillor Khan – 21/02/2022 & 09/01/2022

Electoral wards affected: all

1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an overview of the Strategy and new approaches to delivery, including:

- Building community capacity through arrangements funded by Place Partnerships aligned with the Inclusive Communities Framework
- A new approach to commissioning services

1.2 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- note the information provided in this report and support the adoption of the strategy.

2 Information required to take a decision

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-27

2.1 The Strategy was considered by Executive Team on 1 February 2022. Following this meeting, the Strategy has been presented to and endorsed by:

- Portfolio leads for Communities (17/02/22), Health and Social Care (21/02/22) and Children's Services (25/02/22).
- Leadership Management Team (28/02/22)
- Communities Board (02/03/22 and final sign-off 14/06/22)
- Place Partnership Leads (03/03/22)
- Scrutiny Committee (15/03/22)
- Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board (30/06/22)
- Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (15/07/22)

2.2 Throughout this period of consultation and review, very minor amendments were made to the Strategy and the final version was approved by the Communities Board on 14th June 2022.

2.3 The Executive Team has previously requested that the Domestic Abuse Strategy be presented to Cabinet as a good practice example. Accordingly, the Strategy has been scheduled to be presented to Cabinet on 17 January 2023.

2.4 An annual update on Domestic Abuse is to be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in February 2023, alongside the Community Partnership Plan and annual Strategic Intelligence assessment.

3 Co-producing our response with specialist domestic abuse support Services

3.1 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities provides a grant of £921,466 to support victims of domestic abuse, and their children, in safe accommodation. This grant provides a significant increase in funding and with it, the opportunity to consider our domestic abuse provision across the system. While the DLUHC grant is the largest source of domestic abuse funding in Kirklees, the

grant is narrow in scope. This is an annual grant, and a similar amount has been confirmed by Government for 22/23 and 23/24.

3.2 Our current arrangements for commissioning domestic abuse support services have been developed over time in response to the availability of small and /or short-term funding streams, resulting in small, short-term contracts, which are narrow in scope. This presents significant challenges for both the Council and local providers in terms of administration, service delivery and navigation by service users, staff retention and promotion/visibility of services.

3.3 In line with the outcomes required for the Strategy we fund a range of services, predominantly within the voluntary sector, we are focused on strengthening and improving delivery in the following areas:

- provide trauma-informed support to medium-high risk victims of domestic abuse, and their children, to recover from abuse and to access the support they need from other services (building on the successes of the existing Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor Service, community-based complex needs intervention, therapeutic support service for children and young people and therapeutic support for victims).
- develop a skilled workforce that can use a trauma-informed 'Team around the Family/Couple' approach to support perpetrators of domestic abuse to address the root causes of their abusive behaviour and access support with a range of needs (building on existing group work programmes to provide tailored 1-1 support).
- take the lead in coordinating the range of support required for those on their caseload and actively participate in multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
- Reduce the need to navigate complex delivery arrangements with existing providers to minimise duplication and maximise best use of resources; and
- participate in multi-agency arrangements at a strategic level and support the Domestic Abuse Partnership to identify and redress gaps in available support.

3.4 The grant provided by DLUHC provides an opportunity to rethink our approach to commissioning domestic abuse support services. With support from Procurement, the Domestic Abuse Team within Communities and Access Services have facilitated sessions for local providers of domestic abuse support services (for victims, children, and perpetrators) to reflect on existing commissioning arrangements, the potential for pooling budgets and reducing the number of individual contracts. Further exploring how we could enable local services to work together even more closely to support victims and children, and encourage behaviour change in those who cause harm. We will bring a further report on the outcomes and recommendations from this work report to Cabinet.

4 Building community capacity Place Partnerships' Funding

4.1 A budget of £400,000 was allocated by the Council to the seven Place Partnerships to tackle domestic abuse through building local community capacity and resilience.

4.2 In March 2021, Cabinet approved the use of this funding to recruit four Domestic Abuse Consultant and Community Engagement roles on a two-year fixed term

contract, each linked to one of the four place-based Community Hubs. The Consultants commenced on 25 October 2021 and, since November 2021, as a cohesive Domestic Abuse Community Engagement Team (DACET) have conducted 263 engagement activities reaching 2,768 people. Of these:

- 70 awareness raising sessions have been delivered to 739 people based within the community, resulting in attendees reporting that they had a greater awareness of domestic abuse; would feel more confident about approaching services for help; and more equipped to support someone who was experiencing domestic abuse.
- 101 awareness raising sessions and issue specific briefings have been delivered to 1062 professionals in Kirklees, resulting in attendees reporting that they had a greater awareness of domestic abuse; would feel more confident about approaching services for help; and more equipped to support someone who was experiencing domestic abuse.
- 92 meetings have been held/attended with 967 professionals, anchors, community leads and members.

- 4.3 Over the last 12 months, the place-based team have worked in alignment with the development of the Inclusive Communities Framework as an early adopter and collaborated with communities to raise awareness of domestic abuse giving a voice to local people, many previously unheard, about domestic abuse and what it means to them and their communities. Through these activities the team has encouraged and supported a better understanding of the complexities of domestic abuse beyond physical violence including a deeper understanding of coercive control fostering greater confidence to recognise and appropriately respond to people affected by domestic abuse, working alongside local people to build confidence and resilience.
- 4.4 Over this period, West Yorkshire Police have recorded a significant increase in coercive controlling behaviour crimes being reported, from 88 in 2021/22 to 313 in 2022/23 YTD.
- 4.5 DACET is data and intelligence led, using police incident reporting data to highlight the availability of support services and other resources in areas with high reports; and to target areas where there are no reports, working with local community organisations to build confidence in support services and police.
- 4.6 Crucially, DACET has also worked closely with schools and Education Safeguarding to develop domestic abuse training for young people that could be delivered as part of their PSHE curriculum. Designated Safeguarding leads have been trained and supported to deliver the training inhouse so that it can be a sustainable and ongoing part of the young people's curriculum. Feedback has been collected by schools to measure the impact of the training on children and young people and confirm that children now feel more knowledgeable about domestic abuse and who they can approach for support.
- 4.7 DACET also works closely with partners to support local initiatives, such as supporting Police to establish Safezones and working with the University to support research into stalking.

5 Implications for the Council

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.

Working with Partners

The Strategy has been developed in partnership with colleagues from voluntary and community services, health agencies, housing providers and criminal justice agencies. Partnership commitment for the strategy is to be demonstrated through statements of support to be provided by both health and police colleagues. This is a partnership strategy, and the delivery plans reflect the contribution and collaboration across the system.

Place Based Working

The Strategy refers to the work we do in Places, recognising our partnership arrangements to respond to local communities, including, Primary Care Networks, community hub models of working and Local Neighbourhood Policing teams. Extensive Place Based work now underpins the delivery of the strategy with local communities, complimenting and informing the work of our partners.

Climate Change and Air Quality

No change in impact.

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

The 2022-2027 Domestic Abuse Strategy has no immediate financial implications for the Council and is aligned with and supports our legal duty to support victims in safe accommodation.

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.

In addition to existing Council funding, we expect to receive an annual grant from Government that will aid delivery and the current short term (annual) nature of funding presents challenges to our commissioning, grant making and to the security of services, particularly for our voluntary sector partners. This is currently 'ring fenced' to domestic abuse, but this may change moving forward.

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.

From a Council point of view, our approach to domestic abuse training is being finalised in partnership with workforce development, work around corporate safeguarding, Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership and Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Partnerships team is currently working with HR to develop guidance outlining how we as an organisation can support employees who may be experiencing domestic abuse and where managers can access further advice and support. It is anticipated that this guidance will be subject to consultation with trade unions and through employee networks.

The Strategy itself is attached in its finalised form at Appendix 1.

6 Next steps and timelines

DA Strategy to be presented to Cabinet for Council approval	17/01/23
Further report on recommended changes to commissioning to be presented to Executive Team	Date TBC

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet

- note the information provided in this report and support the adoption of the Domestic Abuse strategy

This action is recommended to give Cabinet oversight of the good practice developing in response to domestic abuse in Kirklees.

8 Contact officer

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