

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date: 5 November 2018
Title of report: Crime and Disorder - Domestic Abuse Strategy

Purpose of report:

This report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with an update on the development of the new Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy.

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?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Report requested by Scrutiny
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Richard Parry, Strategic Director – 24/10/2018 Amanda Evans, Service Director – 23/10/2018
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Naheed Mather

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

Following an agenda item presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 3rd September 2018 about the issue of domestic abuse in Kirklees and the partnership response to this, it was agreed that a further update would be provided with regards to the development of the new strategy.

2. Information required to take a decision

A decision is not required

3. Background Information

The current Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015 – 18 'Taking up the Challenge Towards Freedom' is currently being reviewed by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership using the principles of Outcome Based Accountability to support the development of a refreshed strategy from 2018/19 onwards.

4. Governance

The area of Domestic Abuse is governed by the Kirklees Communities Board and is a priority in the Safer Kirklees Partnership Plan under the strand of 'Protecting People from Harm.' Given the cross cutting nature of Domestic Abuse and the impact this has on all communities and groups of people, it is also linked to the key objectives set out in the Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan; the Children's Safeguarding Board's Business Plan as well as complementing wider Kirklees strategic groups such as the Health & Wellbeing Board and other connected agendas (Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent, Modern Day Slavery and Female Genital Mutilation).

Reducing the prevalence of Domestic Abuse is a key priority for Kirklees and the main group established to lead on implementing the Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy and associated action plans is the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP). The DASP is an effective, multi-agency group of senior representatives from all relevant agencies and is committed to addressing the impact of domestic abuse in Kirklees.

5. Current position

5.1 Length of strategy

At the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership held on Monday 22nd October, partners agreed that the new strategy should once again run for a period of three years. Not only this does this guarantee continued alignment with HM Government's 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and the OPCC West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy, it was also felt that this was a proportionate length of time to be able to drive and implement improvements, as well as allowing sufficient timescales to consider any future commissioning arrangements.

5.2 Vision

A draft vision was shared at the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership which is a more succinct version of what is set out in the current strategy. Whilst this may be subject to slight further changes, it was felt that fundamentally, the vision from 2015 is still relevant today and for the future:

'In Kirklees, no-one has to live in fear of domestic abuse and victims and their families are able to access high quality and timely support delivered by well trained and supportive staff and volunteers. Where there are early indicators of abuse, early

intervention and targeted services will aim to reduce the impact on individuals and families.'

5.3 Outcomes and Priorities

It is intended that the vision will be underpinned by three main strategic outcomes which are likely to be:

- Victims are safer
- Children are safer
- Perpetrators are supported to address their behaviour

For each strategic outcome, there will be an agreed set of measures which will be supported by service specific performance measures.

In order to achieve successful implementation of the strategy, there will be a robust action plan owned by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership which will focus on the following five priorities:

- Partnership working
- Preventing violence and abuse
- Provision of services
- Victim / survivor support
- Pursuing perpetrators to reduce offending

Not only are these the same priorities set out in the national and regional strategies but they will also provide additional structure to drive the work required to achieve the Kirklees strategic outcomes.

5.4 Data and Intelligence

The new strategy will draw on a wide variety of data sets to demonstrate the current picture of domestic abuse in Kirklees. This will enable specific areas of concern, such as potential under reporting; 'hidden victims'; demographic and geographical trends to be identified. This is critical for the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to enable the work set out in the action plan to be truly intelligence led. One of the challenges already identified through the current strategy is that the high volume of data from such a variety of sources can make meaningful, ongoing analysis difficult so a key element of the new strategy will be to establish a consistent data set to allow better performance monitoring.

5.5 Strategy Content

Early indications of what is likely to be prioritised in the new strategy based on work to date and consultation with partners includes:

- Ensuring that the voice of the victim/survivor informs the strategy through consultation and research
- Developing the data and outcomes framework to improve performance measurements and provide better accountability
- Securing ongoing IDVA provision and commitment to MARAC sustainability
- Increasing offer for early intervention and prevention work
- Engaging with the work/development in Community Plus and Schools as Community Hubs

- Working with 'Hidden Victims' i.e. LGBT and male victims
- Increasing opportunities through WY and local bids for accommodation and children affected by domestic abuse
- Improving opportunities to share learning and best practice through Domestic Homicide Reviews, the Crown Prosecution Service's Scrutiny Panel and the OPGC's Police Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel

The new Strategy will also contain a foreword from the Chair of the Communities Board, Cllr Naheed Mather as well as sections to fully explain the following:

- Cross Government definition of domestic abuse
- Regional and national context
- Local governance arrangements
- Self-reflection on the work of the current strategy (i.e. key achievements and/or barriers to achieving any aspects of work)
- Continued challenges and opportunities

6. Timescales

It is intended that a draft version of the new strategy will be shared with members of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership in December 2018. Following consultation with this group, the strategy will then be presented at the Communities Board early in the New Year. There will also be dates arranged for communicating to the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Through January and March 2019, there will be the opportunity for members to view the draft strategy and provide additional input if required. It is hoped that the strategy will receive final sign off from the Communities Board no later than 31st March 2019.

7. Communications

Whilst the Adults Safeguarding and Quality service are leading on the new strategy, they have linked in with the Council's Policy Team for additional expertise and there will be a full Communications Plan drawn up to support the engagement period. This will include how the strategy will be formally launched following sign off.

8. Implications for the Council

None

8.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

8.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

8.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

8.4 Reducing demand of services

8.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

9. Consultees and their opinions

Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership

10. Next steps

For the draft strategy to be shared at the December meeting of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership

11. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee:

- Notes and comments on the progress of work undertaken to develop the new Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy

12. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder recommends that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee:

- Notes and comments on the progress of work undertaken to develop the new Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy

13. Contact officers

Saf Bhuta, Head of Service for Safeguarding and Quality

Alexia Gray, Service Manager for Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Partnerships

14. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Paper: Crime and Disorder - Domestic Abuse (3rd Sept 2018)

15. Service Director responsible

Amanda Evans – Service Director for Adult Social Care Operations