

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date: 22nd July 2019
Title of report: Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-21

Purpose of report

This report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee with a further update on the development of the new Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy in order that committee views can inform the final paper to Cabinet

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?)	Yes – to be presented to Cabinet on 10 th September 2019
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Report requested by Scrutiny
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Richard Parry, Strategic Director 11/07/2019 Amanda Evans, Service Director 11/07/2019 N/A N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Carole Pattison

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

Following agenda items presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 3rd September and 5th November 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 the new strategy. This presentation will inform members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee about the progress and sign off of the Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019/21; its associated strategic priorities and key areas of work that are planned for Year 1. Following strategic discussions about additional resources for domestic abuse support, an additional £400,000 budget was allocated.

2. Information required to take a decision

A decision is not required as the Domestic Abuse Strategy is on the Council's Forward Plan and is going to Cabinet on Tuesday 10th September 2019.

3. Background Information

Domestic abuse is a complex social problem that can have major human and financial impacts on children, adults, families and communities. Domestic abuse affects people from all demographics and backgrounds and the damage caused to health and wellbeing can often last throughout the person's life course. In addition to the disruption caused by domestic abuse to individuals and families, there are also significant costs involved in addressing domestic abuse across all agencies so a strong partnership response is required to be able to tackle this.

The strategy has been developed using a model adopted from the SafeLives organisation which creates a new style of approach and shift in emphasis moving towards a 'whole picture response' to domestic abuse that encourages a focus on prevention. This uses the following four key features:

The Whole Person	seeing and responding to the whole person, rather than addressing a series of issues
The Whole Family	looking at victims, survivors, those who harm, individuals connected to the victim/perpetrator including extended family
The Whole Community	all communities of geography, identity and online spaces have responsibility for preventing domestic abuse
The Whole Society	the general public and those who influence them – the media, politicians, employers, key opinion formers and commentators for example – understand their role in protecting the safety and well-being of those at risk

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.' However, it is recognised that domestic abuse is a cross cutting area that links to a number of policy themes and therefore requires the contribution and

oversight of multiple Council and Partnership Boards. As part of the engagement plan, the strategy has been shared more widely so that key stakeholders and groups are cited on strategy development, plans for implementation and the partnership capabilities required to respond to this agenda.

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

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership agreed that the new strategy should once again run for a period of three years (2019-21). 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

The strategic vision for the next three years is:

“For everyone to understand their responsibility and contribute to tackling domestic abuse in Kirklees”

Which links directly to one of the shared outcomes in the Kirklees Corporate Plan which is for:

“people in Kirklees to live in cohesive communities, feel safe and are safe/protected from harm.”

5.3 Strategic Priorities

The vision is underpinned by four strategic priorities which are:

- **Act before someone harms or is harmed**
- **Identify and stop harmful behaviours**
- **Increase safety for those at risk**
- **Supporting people to live the lives they want after harm occurs**

For each priority there will be a robust action plan with an agreed set of measures which will be supported by service specific performance measures. In addition to this, there will be a separate action plan to ensure the partnership capabilities are achieved.

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.

6. Timescales

The strategy received formal sign off by the Communities Board on 10th May 2019 so to allow for further engagement and Cabinet discussion, a formal launch is provisionally booked for 30th Sept 2019.

7. Communications

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership have linked in with the Council's Policy Team and the Communications and Marketing Team for additional expertise. A full Communications Plan is drawn up to support the engagement period over the summer which includes:

- Forward plan for attending key groups such as Cabinet and CMG+
- Plans for the formal launch (provisionally booked for 30th September 2019) which will include a press release and the opportunity for a media presence. It is also hoped that we will be able to launch a new Council HR policy at the same time
- Staff engagement sessions and elected member training programme
- Raising awareness of domestic abuse is a key part of preventative work that is planned locally, as well as supporting all other campaigns that may be developed regionally through the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- There is always a robust communications plan put in place when any domestic homicide reviews have been approved by the Home Office and are due to be published

8. Implications for the Council

Domestic abuse cuts across a number of Boards and therefore tackling the issue effectively, will contribute to all seven of the Council's shared outcomes defined in the Corporate Plan, but in particular:

- Children have the best start in life
- People in Kirklees are as well as possible for as long as possible
- People in Kirklees live independently and have control over their lives and
- People in Kirklees live in cohesive communities, feel safe and are protected from harm

SafeLives outlines a framework to set out the comprehensive and enduring whole picture approach that needs to be in place to tackle domestic abuse in a bid to eradicate it. This model is equally as applicable in a partnership setting and in Kirklees, we believe this is an innovative way to enable all stakeholders and communities to better understand the role we all have in this crucial agenda. Following on from this there are a number of strategic priorities that have been agreed across the partnership which will be supported by a detailed action plan and a set of capabilities that all those within the sector will need to apply. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership is an effective group that will be responsible for driving the

strategy locally, and for monitoring the impact across a number of key agencies (Council, Police, Health and the Voluntary & Community Sector).

It is accepted that the majority of those affected by domestic abuse do not report their experiences to the police and of those incidents reported to the police, only a minority are resolved through the criminal justice system. Whilst some victims will be supported where they meet safeguarding and risk thresholds, not everyone will receive support. Therefore partner agencies have a significant role to play in addressing domestic abuse, whether the violence is reported to the police or not, and in particular to intervene early and prevent further abuse. Partners across Kirklees work dynamically to deal with the changing landscape of domestic abuse but the scale of the issue does present challenges particularly as statutory services have faced unprecedented budget restraints in recent years. It is therefore more vital than ever that new approaches are implemented and that the progress of the Kirklees strategy and subsequent priorities can be measured through a range of partnership intelligence and data.

8.1 Working with People

Kirklees supports SafeLives' 'The Whole Picture - our strategy to end domestic abuse, for good' and in particular, the pro-active approach to widen the response to domestic abuse. This includes challenging the whole of society to deconstruct stereotypes to encourage communities to have a low tolerance and high urgency about identifying abuse. This also extends to looking at geographical communities, online spaces and employers/businesses so that they understand the risks posed by those who abuse and their role in protecting those at risk of harm. SafeLives state that 'domestic abuse is never all of someone's experiences or situation' and with this in mind, the Kirklees Strategy will aim to provide the best provision of services for those who have already experienced abuse and violence at all levels of risk by promoting a 'whole family' approach so that the needs of the individual are not considered and acted on in isolation. Furthermore, the early intervention and prevention focus (ie. acting before someone harms or is harmed) will provide an opportunity to work far more with our communities, elected members, schools, health providers, businesses and voluntary sector services to raise awareness of the issue and increase confidence for people to report and confidence to respond when a disclosure may be made. It is paramount that communities and society are strengthened to support people experiencing domestic abuse to be safe, well and resilient but this will also need a sustainable, strong infrastructure of statutory services and provision to be in place for those most vulnerable and at highest risk.

8.2 Working with Partners

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8.3 Place Based Working

Domestic abuse rarely affects just one person and every case will include different family dynamics; types of abuse and levels of risk posed by the perpetrator. In this sense, the SafeLives model seeks to encourage agencies to employ an effective, restorative and empathetic response that is tailored to the needs of the person and/or family's circumstances that helps them become safe in a way that is right for them. Demographic and socio-economic factors within Kirklees are hugely varied so it is hoped that the new approach will support place based working through initiatives that are planned around Community Hubs, Schools as Community Hubs and an elected member engagement/training programme to support them in their roles as community leaders. Early plans are also being considered to enable a pilot roll out of some evidence based projects that seek to work directly within communities and strengthen their knowledge and confidence in how to respond to domestic abuse.

8.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) – see above

8.2 Economic Resilience (ER) – see above

8.3 Improving Outcomes for Children – see above

8.4 Reducing demand of services – see above

8.5 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Financial - in January 2019, the Executive Team agreed to support the agenda by committing £400k of additional funding so work is ongoing to review the infrastructure of services and commissioning arrangements (such as the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate contract which is due for re-tender this year). In addition to this, the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership will continue to seek funds from partner agencies to enable continuation of joint programmes and any new, evidence based initiatives

HR – as part of the new strategy, it is intended that the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership work closely with HR colleagues to create a specific policy for staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse (either as victims or perpetrators). The roll out and implementation of this will be supported by comprehensive training for managers.

9. Consultees and their opinions

Consultee	Date	Opinion
Council's Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	3 Sept 2018	For info/update
Council's Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee	5 Nov 2018	For info/update
Council's Executive Team	8 Jan 2019	For info/update
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	18 Apr 2019	For info/update
Victim/Survivor Forums	1& 2 May 2019	Supported
Adult Social Care Strategic Directors	9 May 2019	Endorsed
Portfolio Holder & Chair of Communities Board	9 May 2019	Endorsed
Vice Chair of Communities Board	9 May 2019	Endorsed
Communities Partnership Board	10 May 2019	Approved
Council's Executive Team	11 June 2019	Endorsed
Joint Health and Wellbeing Board	13 June 2019	Endorsed
Council's Leadership Management Team	1 Jul 2019	Endorsed
Safeguarding Adults Board	11 June 2019	Endorsed

10. Next steps

- For Cabinet to approve the strategy (and the planned launch)
- Review of infrastructure and commissioning arrangements

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

Please see table that outlines this under item 9 in this paper.

15. Service Director responsible

Amanda Evans – Service Director for Adult Social Care Operations