

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

DATE 18 MAY 2017

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

COUNCIL DECISION

**Deputy Leader and Adult Social Care & Health – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Jim Beall
Access, Communities and Community Safety – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Steve Nelson
Children & Young People – Leader Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy**

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-22

1. Summary

The multi-agency Domestic Abuse Steering Group has produced a revised Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22) for the borough. The new strategy builds on the work of preceding years and strengthens the focus on working together as local partners, agencies and communities to prevent individuals from becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

Our strategic approach will support professionals to identify and deal with the earliest signs of abuse, stop abuse before it happens, prevent abusive behaviour from becoming entrenched and prevent perpetrators from moving from one victim to the next. Critically, it will provide victims and their families with support before a crisis point is reached.

The draft Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-22 is attached to this report at **Appendix A** and a copy of the Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan 2017-18 is attached to this report at **Appendix B**.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet recommend to Council that the Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22) be endorsed.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To achieve real, sustainable progress to tackle domestic abuse by working together as local partners, agencies, and communities to prevent individuals from becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

The strategy is a call to action all over the next five years to work together to achieve a shared vision for the Borough.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct

and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22)

SUMMARY

1. The multi-agency Domestic Abuse Steering Group has produced a revised Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22) for the borough. The new strategy builds on the work of preceding years and strengthens the focus on working together as local partners, agencies and communities to prevent individuals from becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

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The draft Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-22 is attached to this report at **Appendix A** and a copy of the Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan 2017-18 is attached to this report at **Appendix B**.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Cabinet recommend to Council that the Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22) be endorsed.

DETAIL

3. The following partnerships have been consulted on the Draft Domestic Abuse Strategy:

Adults Health & Wellbeing Partnership
Children & Young People Partnership
Safer Stockton Partnership
Local Safeguarding Children Board
Teeswide Adults' Safeguarding Board (via Business Support Unit)

Feedback has been considered by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and minor amendments to the draft Strategy were agreed.

The action plan for 2017/18 that supports implementation of the Strategy has been developed in consultation with the DA Steering Group.

The Strategy has been endorsed by the Health & Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 26 April 2017.

4. **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

Domestic abuse occurs across the community, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth, and geography of the victim or perpetrator.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of delivering the priorities within the Domestic Abuse Strategy (2017-22) for the borough has been included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Legislation now underpins Domestic Abuse. Coercive or controlling behaviour is a criminal offence, as is stalking. Protection orders for domestic violence, sexual violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) can now be enforced to protect individuals before harm occurs.

7. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

A risk assessment will be carried out but it is anticipated this proposal will be categorised as low/medium risk.

8. **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

This report impacts on the Policy Principles in the Council Plan relating to:-

- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention.

9. **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

A priority of the Domestic Abuse Strategy is to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children, young people and families by working restoratively with families.

10. **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

The following partnerships have been consulted on the Draft Domestic Abuse Strategy:

Adults Health & Wellbeing Partnership
Children & Young People Partnership
Safer Stockton Partnership
Local Safeguarding Children Board
Teeswide Adults' Safeguarding Board (via Business Support Unit)

Name of Contact Officer: Emma Champley
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Education related? No

Background Papers N/A

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

This report is applicable to all Wards and Ward Councillors across the Borough.

Property

N/A.