

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting23rd January 2020

1. Title of Item/Report

Children and Young People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented the outcomes of the Children & Young People Select Committee Task & Finish review examining domestic abuse and its impact on children.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The following areas be considered as part of the current training mapping exercise being led by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group:

a) Harbour to train the Link Worker in Children's Services in the ALTER programme to assist Children's Services to work with those deeply entrenched perpetrators who will not complete the full perpetrators programme.

(b) Relevant Domestic Abuse training for social workers and other professionals, including identifying risk using the most appropriate tools as part of the ongoing training mapping process through the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

(c) Domestic Abuse Awareness Sessions for all Councillors.

(d) Awareness raising with all key agencies on the need to make referrals into the Children's Hub.

(e) Education and awareness raising programmes in schools and that the ongoing work to prepare schools for the statutory duty to provide relationships education should ensure that there is an appropriate focus on coercive and controlling behaviour.

2. As part of the contract monitoring process for the domestic abuse service:

(a) There should be an ongoing analysis and reporting of the effectiveness of the early help and children's social care link workers and the impact of Domestic Abuse services.

(b) Consideration should be given to the establishment of trigger points requiring Harbour to advise when they have a backlog of assessments and how this is to be managed and that any ongoing issues with unmet demand be addressed during the review of the contract.

3. Where consent is not given and/or clients do not meet the criteria for early help or social care intervention, the referrals by professionals are to go back to the referrer to do some brief intervention/awareness and support work (this will require specific training across key agencies).

4. Clear communication pathways be established between adults' and children's services to ensure a joined up approach when working with families.

5. The Domestic Abuse Steering Group be requested to seek further feedback on the effectiveness of Operation Encompass and specifically the length of time between the Police being made aware of a problem and the school being notified.

6. Recognising that domestic abuse is not a recording category as part of the Child Protection Plan process, other recording systems be revised to facilitate more accurate recording of its prevalence which will, in turn, help to better understand the effectiveness of interventions.

7. Consideration be given to appropriate forms of collaboration and joint working across the relevant partnerships across the Tees Local Authority areas to identify areas of potential further collaboration.

3. Reasons for the Decision

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20. The Task and Finish Review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Children and Young People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight 31 January 2020

Proper Officer
27 January 2020