

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**23 JANUARY 2020**

**REPORT OF CRIME  
AND DISORDER  
SELECT COMMITTEE**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Lead Cabinet Member – Access, Communities & Community Safety – Cllr Steve Nelson**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE OLDER RESIDENTS LIVING AT HOME**

**SUMMARY**

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's review of Protection of Vulnerable Older Residents Living at Home.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)**

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019-2020. The review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Crime and Disorder Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Cleveland Police provide assurance around the measures put in place to address the failings highlighted in the Force's recent HMICFRS PEEL assessment around identifying vulnerable victims and providing adequate safeguarding.
- 2) Thirteen extend its older people support service to tenants in the Borough's dispersed bungalows on a needs basis (in line with neighbouring Local Authorities).
- 3) Thirteen provide assurance around the provision and installation of robust locks that give its tenants adequate security in their own homes, and for any learning on the provision of locks to be cascaded to other local Registered Providers / private landlords.
- 4) Thirteen provide further assurance around the mechanisms in place to monitor if the number of calls / visits to those tenants requiring support were being conducted.
- 5) Thirteen liaise with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Adult Social Care around the identification and provision of recognition equipment for vulnerable tenants.

- 6) Thirteen consider specific training on dealing with older vulnerable people for its Neighbourhood Co-ordinators, in addition to more in-depth anti-social behaviour training.
- 7) Catalyst collate a list of local befriending initiatives offered by the VCSE sector and partner organisations (including SBC OneCall, Thirteen and Cleveland Fire Brigade), for circulation to vulnerable older people living at home (which can also be advertised via Stockton Information Directory).
- 8) OPCC and Cleveland Police consider and strengthen their partnership working with Age UK Teesside.
- 9) SBC consider ways in which its current community transport can be used to facilitate access for older people to community-based activities / groups.
- 10) Catalyst undertake an audit of VCSE organisations to establish transport capacity which may support greater accessibility for older people.
- 11) SBC and Catalyst produce an easy-read document listing the main contacts for support / advice which can be circulated via Stockton News and by local VCSE organisations to older people living in their own homes across the Borough.
- 12) There is a continued push for greater buy-in of E-CINS to foster a joined-up approach across all organisations in identifying and sharing details of those older people who they consider to be 'vulnerable'.

## DETAIL

1. Concerns had been raised in relation to crimes in local neighbourhoods, specifically those against vulnerable older people living at home. On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Council's Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed to refer the issue to the Crime and Disorder Select Committee for further review.
2. The review specifically aimed to support local older residents who may be vulnerable due to their individual circumstances, including age and housing arrangements. An assessment of local relevant public services and how they contribute to the protection of the vulnerable would be undertaken. Similarly, the review would examine local community infrastructure and consider whether more support is needed to help promote safety and wellbeing of vulnerable residents.
3. The aim of this review was to understand:
  - the wider context of crime data and police resources in the Borough;
  - how key local service providers promote the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable residents living in their homes;
  - the role of the voluntary and community sector;
  - local community-based initiatives to promote community safety.

The review would use an evidence-based approach to assess the issues affecting more vulnerable older people (with a focus on those aged 80 and above), and identify where additional support can be provided, where appropriate.

4. The Committee took evidence from a range of organisations including:
  - Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner (including details of the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS))
  - Cleveland Police
  - Cleveland Fire Brigade

- Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)
- SBC Adult Social Care
- SBC OneCall
- Thirteen Housing Group
- Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commission Group (HaST CCG)
- Catalyst
- Age UK Teesside
- Stockton-on-Tees Over 50's Forum

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

5. The recommendations contained within the report have been made with the intention of strengthening the protection of vulnerable older residents living at home, and it is therefore expected that these measures, with the support of all key local service providers, contribute to enhanced partnership-working and the continuing promotion of safety and wellbeing for the Borough's more vulnerable population.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

6. There are no direct implications in the report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. Possible financial impact of any changes to the current Council's community transport provision which may be used to facilitate greater access for older people to community-based activities / groups.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no legal implications identified at this stage.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

9. The review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

10. This review concerned the protection of vulnerable older residents living at home across the whole Borough, therefore was not Ward-specific.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11. None.

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