

Children and Young People Select Committee
Review of Domestic Abuse (DA) and its Impact on Children Task and Finish Review
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Cllr Carol Clark	Contact details: carol.clark@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Judy Trainer	Contact details: 01642 528957 judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk
Departmental Link Officer: Maria Murrell Service Manager, Fieldwork	Contact details: 01642 527463 maria.murrell@stockton.gov.uk
Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<p>This review is relevant to all of the Council’s Policy Principles but in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention • Developing strong and healthy communities through the provision of mainstream and preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them. <p>Council Plan 2019-22 objectives - Children and Young People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable children, backed up by outstanding social work practice <p>Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child in Hartlepool and Stockton feels safe, secure and is protected from harm; enabling them to reach their full potential 	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>Children and young people are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse. They are affected both as witnesses to abuse which might be directed at a relative, as victims of the emotional damage this causes, and as direct victims of domestic abuse themselves. Interventions need to be planned to take account of the fact that, where children are involved, their best interests will be paramount. Children and young people can also be perpetrators of domestic abuse on their parents or in their own relationships.</p>	

DA does not only lead to children and young people being referred to safeguarding and some children placed in our care, but also impacts on what we call 'children in need'.

The impact for our children and young people can be significant but there is also a significant impact on resources: our own resources, commissioned DA services, health, police etc.

A Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017- 2022 has been developed which aims to improve physical, psychological and social outcomes. By promoting preventative measures, alongside early intervention, support and protection, the Strategy aims to reduce the effects of harmful behaviour for victims and their families.

The overall aim of this review is to better understand the impact of domestic abuse on children and the effectiveness of interventions to inform the Domestic Abuse Strategy and future commissioning decisions.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- What is domestic abuse?
- What is the impact of domestic abuse on children?
- How is the incidence of domestic abuse recorded? What is the prevalence in Stockton? Is this an accurate picture?
- How do referrals operate? How is risk identified and managed? What are the numbers of repeat referrals and what does this tell us?
- What sort of needs assessment underpins our actions on domestic abuse?
- Do we have a clear understanding of the demographics of domestic abuse?
- How was the Domestic Abuse Strategy developed and what are the local priorities?
- How is coercion and control reflected in the Strategy?
- What services are available locally for victims and perpetrators, how are they commissioned and their impact assessed? Do we have a clear picture of what works?
- What specialist support is provided for children and young people (including the management of physical and mental impact)? Do we have a clear picture of what works?
- How are services funded? Have cost-benefit analyses been carried out on interventions?
- What examples are there of innovative practice, locally and nationally?
- How confident are we that professionals are trained to watch out for the signs of domestic violence and abuse?
- What is Operation Encompass and how effective has this been?
- How well do Adults' and Children's Services work together on this issue?
- Who are the key partners, what role do they play and how well are they working together?
- How are the needs of marginalised groups recognised and met?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Cabinet, key partners

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

5 months with a report to Cabinet in January 2020

What information do we need?

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017 – 2022 and Action Plan

Consultation and data analysis

Summary of services available in Stockton

Evaluation of Operation Encompass

Domestic Abuse Bill 2019

The economic and social costs of domestic abuse. Research Report 107 January 2019. Home Office

Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Relevant sections)

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

SBC Children's Services

Contextual presentation (local and national picture); definition of DA; role of the social worker, Assessment Teams, Domestic Abuse Worker and the Family Group Conference Team

SBC Public Health

How need is assessed, how services are commissioned

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Tees Wide Work and impact

Police

Prevention and support services
Operation Encompass background and progress

Harbour

Support to individuals and families in Stockton and the impact
Feedback from victims/ perpetrators

How will this information be gathered? (e.g. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)

Meetings, case studies, client questionnaire (via case holders to seek feedback from victims/ perpetrators).

How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?

As above.

How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics.

The Council is under a duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The review will contribute towards meeting the Council's requirements under this Duty, particularly in relation to the outcomes for more vulnerable children.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 23 includes the key strategic priority: "All children and families get the best start in life". Specifically that all children should:

- Have a positive attachment to their parents/carers
- Have good emotional health and wellbeing and be resilient and aspirational
- Live safely and be protected from harm

The review will contribute towards meeting the Council's objectives.

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

To better understand the impact of domestic violence on children and the effectiveness of interventions to inform the Domestic Abuse Strategy and future commissioning decisions.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	Prior to tri-partite	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	29 August 2019	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member, Director, Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Scope and Project Plan and Appoint Task and Finish Group	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee and Task and Finish Group appointed	11 September	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	N/A		
Obtaining Evidence	Background/ Context Local and National Picture	September 2019	Task and Finish Group
	Current initiatives/ support	October 2019	
	Next Steps	October 2019	
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	November 2019	Task and Finish Group
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	November 2019	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	November 2019	Task and Finish Group Chair Cabinet Member, Director, Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report by Select Committee	Approval of final report by CYP Select Committee	4 December 2019	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	17 December 2020	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	23 January 2020	Cabinet