

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE 21 JUNE 2017

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

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.

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**. Cabinet considered the Strategy at its meeting held on 18 May 2017 and a copy of the relevant minute extract is attached as **Appendix C**.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Recommended 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)

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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.