

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

25TH JUNE 2014

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

SUMMARY

The previous Domestic Abuse Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees expired in March 2014. The attached Strategy for 2014-2017 has been developed following a comprehensive review and consultation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve the Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Strategy (2014-2017) and its accompanying first year Action Plan.

DETAIL

Consultation

1. The Board has previously had sight of the Draft Domestic Abuse Strategy and that paper identified the process and consultation that had been gone through to develop the Draft.
2. The Strategy in its Draft format was then shared with for comments:
 - The Health & Wellbeing Partnership
 - Local Safeguarding Children Board
 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Committee
 - Health & Wellbeing Commissioning Groups for Adults and Children
 - Safer Stockton Partnership
 - Domestic Abuse Strategy Group
 - The Youth Offending Board were offered the opportunity to view the Draft
3. All Groups were asked to specifically provide commentary on the Vision proposed in the Strategy, the Measurement and Outcomes Section and the Action Plan. All groups were also offered the opportunity to provide any additional commentary on the Draft to Emma Champley in the Public Health Team
4. **Vision** - The Vision for Stockton was agreed by all consulted. There was one suggestion that the words 'of it' should be included following the word 'fear' but as this was only one suggestion no change has been made.

5. **Measurement and Outcomes** - Debates took place in a number of meetings regarding the real ability to correspond measurements to outcomes and it was acknowledged that in this area of work it would only be possible to have proxy measures at a strategic level. The measures identified in the Strategy are those suggested by the Groups consulted and are those that are likely to be able to be collected robustly throughout the life of the Strategy. It is hoped that robust measures will be increased during the Strategy's timespan as data improves in this area.
6. **Action Plan** - Some small additional actions that could be achieved in the year were added to the Action Plan, for example, consultation with Ambulance Service staff, but there were no significant changes to the Action Plan following consultation.
7. It is to be noted that a significant amount of additions were submitted by Thirteen but the majority of these were rejected on the grounds that:
 - Much of the wording was copied from another area's Strategy so approval for re-use would have been required
 - The suggested wording would have fundamentally changed sections of the Strategy being consulted upon
 - Thirteen provided a long list of national legislation relevant to Domestic Abuse to be included. It was not considered that this would enhance a local Strategy's content.
8. A preview event was held at The Arc in Stockton on 10 June. 85 individuals attended and were provided with the Draft Strategy and Action Plan, along with the opportunity to provide any feedback. No changes have been suggested following this event.
9. It is important to note that the Draft Domestic Abuse Strategy has been warmly welcomed by all those who have had the opportunity to review its content. Feedback received indicates that it sets the right tone in terms of promoting a preventative agenda whilst acknowledging the very real need to continue to respond to those at high risk.

CABINET

10. Once approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Strategy will be presented to Cabinet on 17 July 2014.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. All activity identified with the Action Plan will be carried out within current budgets and provision.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no legal implications associated with the paper.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. There are no risks associated with this paper.

CONSULTATION

14. Significant consultation has taken place for development of the Strategy. Further consultation outlined above has taken place relating to the Draft Strategy.

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Attachments:

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-2017
Domestic Abuse Action Plan 2014-2015