

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING BOARD**

**November 2022**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-27**

**SUMMARY**

This report updates the board on consultation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy overseen by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and asks the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2022-27.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The report recommends for the Board to:

1. Note the consultation process and outcomes of the consultation of the strategy.
2. Approve the Stockton-on Tees Domestic Abuse Strategy

**DETAIL**

1. The Domestic Abuse Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees (2017-22) ends in 2022. The Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) has overseen the development of a strategy for 2022-27 on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. The development of the strategy was informed by
  - Review of the previous strategy
  - In depth needs assessment with a particular focus on children and young people and housing.
  - Review of national guidance and statutory requirements
  - Local need
  - Victim survivor voice
3. The vision of the strategy is for Stockton-on-Tees to be a place where,
  - *Everyone - children, young people, and adults - at risk of, experiencing or affected by domestic abuse is listened to, supported, and protected to live their life free from abuse.*

- *All victims of domestic abuse have access to inclusive, quality, affordable and appropriate safe accommodation, and support.*
  - *Perpetrators of domestic abuse are held to account and supported to change their behaviour.*
4. The consultation of the draft strategy has taken place in November 2022 and involved extensive public and stakeholder consultation through presentation at meetings and an online consultation through viewpoint.
  5. Service users and those affected by domestic abuse have been involved throughout the development of the strategy. A service user survey has been conducted in March 22 as part of the domestic abuse health needs assessment which has informed the development of the strategy. Service users were also invited to provide feedback through the service user panel led by Harbour. Important points raised by the panel in July 22 such as emphasis on the impact of domestic abuse on family members, the role of the health service and training for the wider workforce are reflected in the strategy.
  6. The Strategy links to various other areas of strategic work and has been developed in this context. Members of the following strategic groups were consulted as part of the development process:
    - Health and Wellbeing Board,
    - Adults' Health and Wellbeing Partnership,
    - Children and Young People's Partnership,
    - Safer Stockton Partnership,
    - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Corporate Management Team.

Members of the above groups were also invited to share their views via the online stakeholder consultation. The strategy was also presented to Councillors at a Member briefing session. At the time of writing the report 12 stakeholders and Councillors have provided feedback.

7. The public consultation involved sharing the strategy with a panel of members of the public. At the time of writing the report 40 residents have provided feedback.
8. Feedback through the consultation has resulted in a number of changes to the strategy to review the period of the strategy and change to 2022-28 to reflect that the strategy is launched at the very end of 2022. Feedback also advised to reflect in more detail how service users and victim-survivors were involved in the development and consultation of the strategy and to explicitly set out the link of the strategy to addressing inequalities. The strategy has also been amended to draw out more emphasis on the harm caused by repeat offending and to repeat victims. Further feedback focused on ensuring the implementation of the strategy is supported by a strong action plan and to ensure explicit reference to the planned work on improving the analysis and use of collective intelligence to inform action across the system. Feedback also suggested specific and targeted interventions to raise awareness, address trauma and emotional harm, which will also be reflected in the action plan.

9. Verbal feedback and feedback through the consultation has informed the final version of the strategy which is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
10. An initial / soft launch of the strategy is proposed at the Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2022 with plans for a launch event in the new year together with the action plan which will be a living document, developed and owned across partners.
11. The next step will be to agree a way of capturing progress against the strategic outcomes making best use of the collective intelligence across the system to further inform action and decision-making.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Tanja Braun/ Mandy MacKinnon  
**Post Title:** Consultant in Public Health/ Strategic Health and Wellbeing Manager  
**Email address:** [Tanja.Braun@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Tanja.Braun@stockton.gov.uk)