

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**27 APRIL 2016**

### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND HEALTH**

## **STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO DOMESTIC ABUSE**

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of the current arrangements regarding strategic co-ordination of activities to prevent and respond to domestic abuse and to seek the Board's approval for a Domestic Abuse Steering Group to be established reporting to the Board.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Board approves the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Steering Group.
2. Members identify named representatives for the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. Up to 2013 Stockton on Tees had a Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and a Domestic Abuse Forum. These groups were not being consistently attended by a number of partner agencies which significantly reduced their effectiveness.
2. During 2013 the following activities took place:
  - A review of all of the established partnership meetings and groups that had a role relating to the newly formed Health & Wellbeing Board, this included the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and Forum. As a consequence of this review a number of partnership meetings were disbanded and the work of those groups brought into the Board's supporting Partnership and Commissioning Group structures.

This has worked well in a number of areas and has enabled a much more broad and beneficial discussion on key topics such as alcohol, obesity and smoking cessation to take place with a wider range of partner organisations.

- Production of a Domestic Abuse Strategy (2014-2017) for Stockton on Tees. The strategy was written in line with the most recent evidence base and incorporated the results of consultation that took place with those who experienced domestic abuse, children affected by domestic abuse and perpetrators of abuse. Social care and health care staff were consulted with, as were residents of the Borough via the Local Authority's Viewpoint survey, and over 100 wider stakeholders submitted their views during a Strategy development event. The Domestic Abuse Strategy Group had oversight of the development of the strategy. An Action Plan was developed for 2014/2015 based on key action themes that emerged from consultation.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

3. Following feedback from the Safer Stockton Partnership in 2015 a Domestic Abuse Operational and Tactical meeting was established. The purpose of this meeting is to provide greater scrutiny of the current rates of domestic abuse within Stockton identifying any patterns, areas of concern and emerging issues which may influence the future delivery of operational and support services as well as guide future iterations of the Strategy and Action Plan. As part of this meeting a strategic analysis intelligence document is produced by Community Safety. Representatives on this group are from SBC Community Safety, Public Health, Children's Services and Housing Options, Harbour Support Services (The commissioned specialist support service in Stockton-on-Tees), Cleveland Police, the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and The Thirteen Group.
4. In an attempt to address the high level repeat victim rate a problem solving group was established in 2014. This group was made up of representatives from Police, SBC Community Safety and Security, Housing, Social Care and Harbour Support Services. The aim of the group is to identify and work with the top 10 repeat callers/victims of domestic abuse in Stockton that were not currently open to the highest level of intervention through MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference). The group adopted a problem solving approach to working with victims and perpetrators in an effort to reduce the number of repeat calls encouraging individuals and families to access additional support through services. The MARAC meeting meets every three weeks in Stockton and is chaired by Cleveland Police.
5. Following a Cleveland wide review of operational problem solving approaches to reducing repeat victims of Domestic Abuse (Operation Recidivism), a number of models have been trialled within Tees authority areas and further work is ongoing in relation to revisiting the problem solving approaches applied within each authority area.
6. A Domestic Abuse Champions network was established in 2014 and meets on a 6 weekly basis. Managed by Harbour Support Services, the network brings together trained Domestic Abuse Champions from within a range of organisations across the borough to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse. The DA Champions then provide support and signposting advice to colleagues and members of the wider public. Membership includes organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and The Thirteen Group.

## **INFORMATION TO INFORM DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSAL**

7. Strategic oversight of domestic abuse is currently conducted by a number of Boards and Partnerships and a meeting of the Chairs of the Health & Wellbeing Board, Safer Stockton Partnership, Tees Adults Safeguarding Board, Adults Health & Wellbeing Partnership and Children & Young People's Partnership recently took place to discuss this. The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board was invited but was unable to attend. Discussion centred on the cross-departmental and organisational activity that is required to prevent and respond to domestic abuse.
8. It was acknowledged that whilst there is a considerable amount of work being carried out by a range of partnerships, organisations and individuals, there needs to be a single partnership in place to bring this work together. This partnership would ensure that the

aims and objectives of the strategy are being addressed and provide additional scrutiny to ongoing work as well as assist in the identification and resolution of any emerging issues. For this purpose, it was proposed that a Domestic Abuse Steering Group be established reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board. For this proposal to be effective it was agreed that:

- a, Consistent attendance at the Partnership must be maintained
- b Member organisations of the Partnership must ensure representation of a level sufficiently senior to be able to make decisions on behalf of the organisation
- c Organisations must commit to contributing to the Action Plans to prevent and respond to domestic abuse and ensure actions are taken forward and completed
- d Other Partnerships and Boards where domestic abuse is discussed agree to the strategic drive and oversight of domestic abuse taking place within the Domestic Abuse Steering Group overseen by the Health & Wellbeing Board as system leader.
- e A wider working protocol be developed between the Safer Stockton Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board, the Adults Health & Wellbeing Partnership and the Children & Young People's Partnership and the Health & Wellbeing Board to provide clarity regarding decision making and reporting mechanisms, based on the existing protocols between both Safeguarding Boards and the Health & Wellbeing Board.

### **Membership**

9. It is proposed that the following organisations and Local Authority departments are represented on the Domestic Abuse Steering Group:

Cleveland Police  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
Tees Esk & Wear Valley Mental Health Trust  
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust  
Hartlepool & Stockton on Tees Clinical Commissioning Group  
Harbour Domestic Abuse Support Services  
Catalyst  
Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company  
National Probation Service Cleveland

Local Authority departments:

Public Health  
Children's Services  
Adult Social Care  
Community Safety

Cabinet Member Representation:

Adult Services & Health  
Children & Young People  
Access, Communities & Community Safety

### **Structure**

10. A structural diagram is attached as Appendix 1.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. There are no financial implications associated with this proposal.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. There are no legal implications associated with this proposal.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

13. There are no risks relating to this discussion document.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Peter Kelly  
**Post Title:** Director of Public Health  
**Telephone No:** 01642 527052  
**Email Address:** [peter.kelly@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:peter.kelly@stockton.gov.uk)



Appendix 1

