

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO SSP  
November 2022**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Domestic Abuse Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the development of the Domestic Abuse Strategy which is overseen by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group, a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and would like to consult the Partnership on the draft strategy.

**RECOMMENDATION**

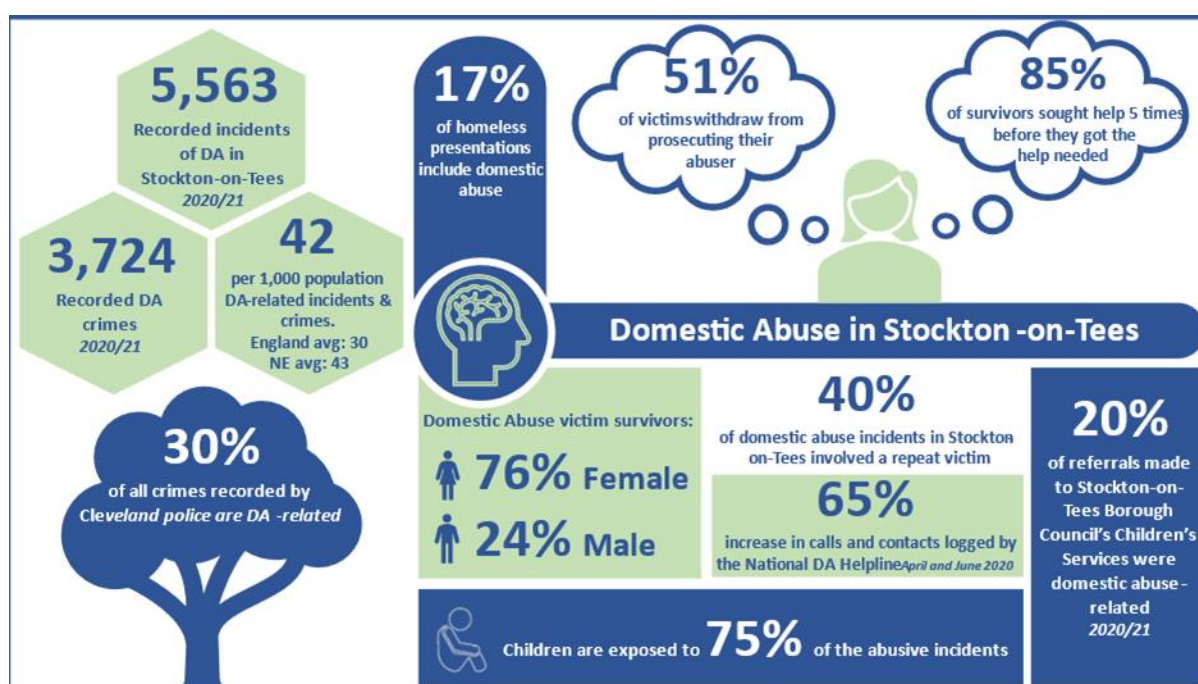
The report recommends the SSP to:

1. Acknowledge the statutory requirements for the development of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and recognise the work of a multiagency working group in the development of the strategy.
2. Review and provide feedback on the proposed Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2022-27.

**DETAIL**

1. The Domestic Abuse Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees (2017-22) ends in 2022. The Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) has delegated the task to develop an updated strategy to a working group.
2. The purpose of the working group was to
  - Provide expertise and contribute actively to the development of the strategy.
  - Identify local needs and priorities and engage with stakeholders.
  - Pay regard to statutory requirements such as the Domestic Abuse Act including the representation of the voice of victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
  - Comply with statutory requirement for a local safer accommodation strategy
  - Follow national policy and guidance.
  - Produce a draft strategy for consideration of the Domestic Abuse Steering Group by August 2022.
3. Membership of the working group includes the Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Safeguarding leads for children and adults from local authority and NHS, Children's services, Housing, Community Safety, the Domestic Abuse Service (Harbour) and public health. The working group meets monthly since March 2022.

4. The development of the strategy was informed by the following
  - 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
5. The changes in the Domestic Abuse Act and the statutory requirements for local authorities to provide accommodation-based support are key drivers for the revised domestic abuse strategy.
6. A high level of domestic abuse related incidents and crimes were recorded in 2020/21 in Stockton- on-Tees: 5563 incidents.



7. The proposed strategy for 2022-27 has been developed with the following vision:

*Our vision 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.*

8. Priority areas of focus for the strategy are proposed as:
  - Prevent domestic abuse
  - Intervene early
  - Support and protect victim-survivors
  - Hold perpetrators to account and prevent harmful behaviours
  - Share data and intelligence
9. The consultation of strategy involves a public consultation and consultation with councillors; partnerships; committees and other groups. This will include consultation with the Adults Health and Wellbeing Partnership; Children and Young People Partnership; Health and Wellbeing Forum, Tees Adult Safeguarding Board and Hartlepool and Stockton Children's Safeguarding Board during November, with a view to present the strategy for approval to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 30 November 2022.
10. The online consultation is open between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, should members of the SSP wish to contribute through this forum, please use the following link [https://stockton-consult.objective.co.uk/public/ah/ph/partner\\_da](https://stockton-consult.objective.co.uk/public/ah/ph/partner_da)
11. The launch of the strategy is planned for December following the approval of the strategy by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
12. An action plan and outcomes framework to measure progress are in development and will sit alongside the strategy to describe how the strategic intent will be delivered and monitored.

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