

## SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE

### Summary

The first evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse will consider submissions from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) departments, Public Health (Adults, Health and Wellbeing), and Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in our Care (Children's Services).

### Detail

1. This initial evidence session will outline some key elements in relation to domestic abuse and its impact on children. Information will include:

- Domestic abuse legislation and the legal framework relating to children
- Prevalence and known impacts
- Local Authority duties
- Strategic vision for Stockton-on-Tees
- Early help support
- Social work interventions
- Multi-agency work
- Commissioned services

Two presentations have been prepared and are included within these meeting papers. The SBC Strategic Health & Wellbeing Manager and the SBC Assistant Director – Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in our Care are scheduled to be in attendance to give a summary of these submissions and address any subsequent Committee comments / questions.

2. In advance of this session, Members may wish to familiarise themselves with some relevant background material in relation to this scrutiny topic:

- Home Office: Domestic Abuse – Statutory Guidance (Jul 22)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62c6df068fa8f54e855dfe31/Domestic\\_Abuse\\_Act\\_2021\\_Statutory\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62c6df068fa8f54e855dfe31/Domestic_Abuse_Act_2021_Statutory_Guidance.pdf) (page 52: impact on child victims)
- GOV.UK: Victims in their own right? Babies, children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse (part 3: opportunities to identify and intervene early)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/babies-children-and-young-peoples-experiences-of-domestic-abuse/victims-in-their-own-right-babies-children-and-young-peoples-experiences-of-domestic-abuse-accessible#part-3-opportunities-to-identify-and-intervene-early>
- Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2028  
[https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/3841/Domestic-Abuse-Strategy-2022-28-Accessible/pdf/Stockton-on-Tees\\_Domestic\\_Abuse\\_Strategy\\_2022-28\\_Final\\_Accessible.pdf?m=1674053753577](https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/3841/Domestic-Abuse-Strategy-2022-28-Accessible/pdf/Stockton-on-Tees_Domestic_Abuse_Strategy_2022-28_Final_Accessible.pdf?m=1674053753577)

3. Attention is also drawn to a previous Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children undertaken in 2019-2020 by the SBC Children and Young People Select Committee. The final report was presented to Cabinet in January 2020 and can be accessed at <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202001231630/Agenda/att37946.pdf>.

The ensuing Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations was presented and agreed by the Children and Young People Select Committee in August 2020 – see <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Select%20Committee/202008261700/Agenda/att38920.pdf>.

4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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