

North East Derbyshire District Council

Communities Scrutiny Committee

5 October 2018

Purpose of Report

To consider the report below that was recently considered at Cabinet on Wednesday, 1 August 2018 on the Scrutiny Review on Domestic Abuse

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

1 August 2018

Lead Officer Response, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, into the Scrutiny Review on Domestic Abuse

Report of Councillor J Lilley, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Partnership, Health and Wellbeing

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- That Cabinet note the content of the report and approve the action plan attached at **Appendix 1**.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 This report details the response to the findings of the Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Review presented to Cabinet on 9th May 2018 and provides details, within the action plan at Appendix 1, to address each of the recommendations within the report.
- 1.2 The Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of Domestic Abuse as part of its work programme for 2017/18. The review had been inspired by Chair of the Council's Charity this year, Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse (now renamed The Elm Foundation).

1.3 The review aimed to:-

- Identify the responsibilities and powers of the Local Authority in the area of Domestic Abuse.
- Ensure the District Council is responding appropriately to these responsibilities in addressing issues around Domestic Violence and Abuse in North East Derbyshire.
- Identify if there are any gaps in the services that are provided to North East Derbyshire residents.

1.4 The Review Panel met on six occasions and considered a variety of information to gain an understanding of the subject area, including receiving a scene setting presentation from The Elm Foundation. The Review Panel interviewed a range of officers, including representatives from Derbyshire County Council, the Police and Rykneld Homes. The Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Safety, Equality & Diversity and Health also attended a review interview.

1.5 The recommendations with the report were:

That the Council:-

- Consider the appointment of a dedicated domestic abuse officer and explore opportunities to fund the post to create an effective approach to deal with domestic abuse within the District.
- Increase awareness both for the public, managers and employees of domestic abuse and the services available to address this issue, including:
 - Effective use of the Councils website
 - Publicity through the Councils newspaper
 - Use of literature within the Councils establishments
- Provide an effective and appropriate domestic abuse training programme for North East Derbyshire Officers and Members.
- Consider the results of the Staff Survey on domestic abuse.
- Prepare and publish a clear Domestic Abuse Policy.
- Identifies how the portfolio holder can be supported in championing the issue of domestic abuse.
- Review and strengthen the North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum.
- Consider how the revenues team can be supported to spot flags of financial abuse.
- Ensure that the target hardening and sanctuary scheme is adequately funded.

- Review the provision of housing, homelessness units and refuges in its area to help support people experiencing domestic abuse.
- Consider the requests from The Elm Foundation to reappoint a trustee to their board and write to Parish Councils regarding availability of rooms the organisation could use.
- Explore ways to work collaboratively with other agencies and share best practice.

1.6 In response to the Scrutiny Report officers have produced an Action Plan to address each recommendation made by the Panel. The Action Plan is attached to this Report as Appendix 1.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The recommendation is for Cabinet to agree the actions identified in the Action Plan attached at Appendix 1.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 No issues identified at this time.

4. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Cabinet could consider not approving the Action Plan, however this would not address the recommendations made within the Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Report presented to Cabinet on 9th May 2018.

5. Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications.

- 5.1.1 There are currently no financial or risk implications.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection.

- 5.2.1 There are currently no legal implications.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 There are currently no human resources implications.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Cabinet approve the actions identified in the Action Plan attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	N/A
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Review Action Plan
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
Report Author	Contact Number
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Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Review Action Plan

Item	Recommendation	Action Required	Who by	When by	Progress
1.	Consider the appointment of a dedicated domestic abuse officer and explore opportunities to fund the post to create an effective approach to deal with domestic abuse within the District.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Undertake an options appraisal taking into account the existing resources within the County-wide Community Safety and Domestic Abuse Teams including the current procurement of the County-wide Domestic Abuse Service provision. 2) Establish the resource and workload within Rykneld Homes Limited to ensure a holistic approach and minimise duplication 	Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green	<p>Following County-wide procurement process.</p> <p>30/9/2018</p>	County-wide tender process and evaluation due to close on 17 th July. This contract has a value of £275k and provides county-wide services. Must ensure that any changes to local delivery complement existing arrangements in place.

2.	<p>Increase awareness both for the public, managers and employees of domestic abuse and the services available to address this issue, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective use of the Councils website • Publicity through the Councils newspaper • Use of literature within the Councils establishments 	<p>Develop a communications campaign as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A page on domestic abuse is already available on the website but will look to develop this further. 2) Liaise with the Community Safety department to include regular articles in the NEWS. 3) Utilise Extranet to raise staff and members awareness of this. 4) Work with department to provide more literature on this in council buildings 5) Use social media to raise awareness and promote services available 	Head of Service Peter Campbell and Scott Chambers	Ongoing Communications campaigns	The Communications Team have agreed to the development of the campaign as outlined.
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3.	Provide an effective and appropriate domestic abuse training programme for North East Derbyshire Officers and Members	Work with Derbyshire County Council to ensure effective roll-out of appropriate training on Domestic Abuse to staff and Members	Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green	Establish timetable for delivery by 30/9/2018	The County Council are currently reviewing all Domestic Abuse awareness training following some recommendations. They are currently asking for information regarding which agencies require training. County are taking a paper to their Domestic Abuse Governance Board to determine roll-out of training and methods of access including e-learning packages and face-to-face training
4.	Consider the results of the Staff Survey on domestic abuse	Analyse the results and agree an action plan with HR	Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green and Sara Gordon	30/9/2018	HR are aware and in agreement
5.	Prepare and publish a clear Domestic Abuse Policy	1) Consider the refreshed County-wide Domestic Abuse Policy and consider whether a local NEDDC Policy is required 2) Develop a local NEDDC policy if required	Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green	1)Review 30/9/2018 2)Develop local policy if required 31/12/2018	Derbyshire County Council are currently reviewing and refreshing the county-wide Domestic Abuse Policy. Christine Flinton will ensure that NEDDC is involved and updated regarding progress

6.	Identify how the portfolio holder can be supported in championing the issue of domestic abuse	Discuss the aspirations of the Portfolio Holder and develop a plan including communications and awareness campaigns	Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green	30/9/2018	
7.	Review and strengthen the North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum	Meet with Karl Apps to consider the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act and agree the role of the Forum	Head of Service – Peter Campbell, Karl Apps, supported by Faye Green	31/8/2018	
8.	Consider how the Revenues Team can be supported to spot flags of financial abuse	Continue to ensure all staff have appropriate safeguarding training and are aware of the referral pathways for safeguarding and domestic abuse services	Dawn Clarke	Ongoing training across all Revs and Bens Teams	All Revs and Bens staff have attended safeguarding training which includes spotting the signs of financial abuse. Referrals regarding potential financial abuse have been made in the past and staff remain vigilant. Training will continue to be an ongoing requirement.
9.	Ensure that the target hardening and sanctuary scheme is adequately funded	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review the existing Handyman Scheme to ensure that it is fit for purpose 2) Derbyshire County Council to look at current issues in relation to service provision 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Peter Campbell 2) Christine Flinton (DCC) 	31/10/2018	Discussion taken place with Christine Flinton from Derbyshire County Council in relation to improvements to the existing service provision

10.	Review the provision of housing, homelessness units and refuges in its area to help support people experiencing domestic abuse	Review the current provision of refuge space for NEDDC residents to ensure it is adequate, appropriate and flexible to meet needs.	Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green	31/10/2018	Derbyshire County Council currently have a designated number of refuge spaces available including a male refuge. This resource is fit for purpose and considered adequate by County.
11.	Consider the requests from The Elm Foundation to reappoint a trustee to their board and write to Parish Councils regarding availability of rooms the organisation could use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consider the request to appoint a trustee to the Board of the Elm Foundation 2) Request that the Partnerships Manager review the list of safe and appropriate meeting spaces with Parish Councils 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green 2) Steve Lee 	30/9/2018	
12.	Explore ways to work collaboratively with other agencies and share best practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ongoing through the Community Safety Partnerships 2) Ensure the DCC Domestic and Sexual Abuse Governance Board report back at a local level 3) Consider requesting a place on the DCC Domestic and Sexual Abuse Governance Board 	<p>Head of Service – Peter Campbell supported by Faye Green</p> <p>Christine Flinton – DCC Community Safety Lead</p>	31/10/2018	Discussed with Christine Flinton and agreed to progress