

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY FOR HILLINGDON 2018-2021

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Philip Corthorne
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Social Services, Housing, Health & Wellbeing
Officer Contact(s)	Jacqui Robertson, Community Safety
Papers with report	Domestic Abuse Strategy

HEADLINES

Summary	Hillingdon Council and partners are committed to preventing and tackling domestic abuse and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions. Hillingdon's Domestic Abuse Steering Executive has therefore worked closely with partners, victims and their families to develop a new domestic abuse strategy for Hillingdon to prevent and intervene early, ensure effective service provision, pursue perpetrators and work together as a strong partnership to keep residents safe from harm. Cabinet are asked to endorse the strategy.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People</i> .
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents', Education and Environmental Services
Relevant Ward(s)	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet endorse Hillingdon's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2021

Reasons for recommendation

The strategy will help to keep residents and their families safe from harm.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The option not to have a partnership domestic abuse strategy was not considered.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Hillingdon Council and partners are committed to preventing and tackling domestic abuse and holding perpetrators to account for their actions. Led by Cllr Jane Palmer, the Domestic Abuse Steering Executive comprising the Council and partners from the Police, the NHS and voluntary organisations have developed a new partnership domestic abuse strategy for the Borough, informed by the views of partners at the White Ribbon Day events in November 2017 and from the experiences of victims and their families.
2. The strategy sets out that all partners are committed to preventing and eradicating all forms of violence and abuse against women, children and men in Hillingdon and support those victimised to achieve their full potential in life. This is an inclusive strategy, which encapsulates the many crimes, violence and abuses which disproportionately affect women and girls but rightly recognises that men and boys are victimised too and that women can be perpetrators.
3. In summary there are four principle priorities, which provide the framework for the partnership Domestic Abuse Steering Executive:
 - Prevention and early intervention;
 - Service provision;
 - Pursuing perpetrators and;
 - Partnership working.
4. The strategy will be driven by the Domestic Abuse Steering Executive, reporting to the Safer Hillingdon Partnership (SHP). An action plan is in place broken down into Year 1, 2 and 3 targets and milestones and will be used to assess its effectiveness, reach and impact. The recommendations from the two statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are at the heart of the strategy and action plan. Update reports on progress against the action plan will be presented to the Safer Hillingdon Partnership.
5. The Safer Hillingdon Partnership (SHP) agreed the strategy with minor amendment at its meeting on 13 March 2018. The strategy supports the Safer Hillingdon Partnership's priority of tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
6. The new domestic abuse strategy covers a wide range of issues and concerns and follows international (UN), UK and London-wide evidence based good practice.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

Benefits to Residents

8. The domestic abuse strategy will:

- help keep residents and their families safe from harm by preventing and reducing 'repeat victimisation', preventing patterns of offending and reducing the number of serious crimes perpetrated against residents;
- ensure timely intervention of support for victims and their children;
- increase the reporting of domestic abuse and other forms of violence and abuse to the police or other agencies to get a better picture of where/when offences are taking place and to ensure the right resources are focussed in the right places;
- raise community confidence in partners to prevent and tackle domestic abuse;
- lead to the early identification of perpetrators, holding them to account and working to rehabilitate them and change their harmful behaviour to prevent them from committing further crimes against residents and their children.

Consultation carried out

9. The development of Hillingdon's domestic abuse strategy has involved a wide range of partners and informed by the experiences of victims and their families. This has included:

- two mapping and consultation exercises conducted on 27 and 28 September 2017 and attended by a range of statutory and Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) organisations providing services to Hillingdon residents, including under-represented groups;
- a consultation event held on 25 November 2017, which was attended by 120 female service users of differing ages and cultural backgrounds;
- consultation with statutory organisations, VCS and residents at the White Ribbon events on 22 and 28 November 2017, which was attended by approximately 200 people;
- The Domestic Abuse Steering Executive and multi-agency sub-groups have been consulted and undertaken work to develop the strategy.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within. Any additional costs arising from the implementation of the Strategy that cannot be contained within current approved budgets will need to be considered as part of the council's future MTFF.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil