

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting Date

SHROPSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2017 – 2020 (DRAFT)

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

Tackling Domestic Abuse should be a key priority for all the strategic partnership boards in Shropshire. The three-year domestic abuse strategy is being developed by the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Forum (SDAF) on behalf of the Shropshire Community Safety Partnership in consultation with a wide range of agencies, organisations and individuals. The aim of the strategy is to improve services for victims of domestic abuse within Shropshire and respond effectively to domestic abuse. The Strategy builds on previous domestic abuse strategies, and the Governments Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, in order to support victims and to explore ways to encourage offenders to seek the assistance they need to change their behaviour.

2. Recommendations

The Health and Well-being Board is asked to note the report and provide feedback on the draft strategy by 29th September 2017.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

4. Financial Implications

Funding for the delivery of the strategy has previously been provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Organisations and agencies also contribute resources in order to achieve the outcomes set out in the strategy.

5. Background

Domestic Abuse, both nationally and locally is significantly underreported. Those people who experience domestic abuse will often keep it from family and friends and are unlikely to report abuse to public bodies. The strategy will set out how the Domestic Abuse Forum will support the delivery of projects and policies to help victims, and families who are affected by domestic abuse, and help to support new or developing domestic abuse services and projects.

Attached is a draft of the 2017 – 2020 strategy that has been developed by a group consisting of officers from Probation; the Police; CCG; Children’s Services; Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service and West Mercia Women’s Aid. The group agreed that the strategy should have an overarching outcome to ‘Stop Domestic Abuse’, and two key priorities: To prevent domestic abuse from taking place and to ensure that co-ordinated and sustainable services are delivered to victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

6. Additional Information

In 2016–17 the total number of recorded incidents of domestic abuse was 4,316 which represents a significant increase in the number of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse marker from 3,200 in 2015-16. The Shropshire IDVA service, in the 12 months to March 2017, provided a service to 280 individual clients. This also exceeds the number of clients seen in previous years.

7. Conclusions

Domestic abuse is a crosscutting issue for all Partnership Boards in Shropshire. It affects health, housing, parenting, benefits, social functioning, criminal activity, employment, finances and aspirations, and like substance misuse, it is often hidden until a crisis point is reached by which stage problems are complex, embedded and long lasting. Therefore, it is crucial that all the strategic partnerships in Shropshire ensure that domestic abuse is addressed in their strategies.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
N/A
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr. Lee Chapman
Local Member N/A
Appendices Shropshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017 - 2020