

CABINET – 11 FEBRUARY 2026

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. John Palmer

Question:

Shropshire Council has the autonomy to decide to further prioritise and substantially increase funding for local specialist services to tackle domestic abuse, and offer much more support.

I know the council actively invests already, and in September 2025 allocated Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government-funded community grants to Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service, and West Mercia Women's Aid, which also runs a 24/7 helpline. (Shropshire Newsroom story 22 September 2025: <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2025/09/shropshire-council-invests-in-local-organisations-to-tackle-domestic-abuse-and-community-isolation/>)

As the wonderful Safeguarding minister Jess Phillips said when launching the Government's strategy to halve violence against women and girls on 18 December 2025, this is a national emergency.

Will Cabinet be more ambitious, and further aim to help change culture, and further invest from local council tax payers' pockets, to much increase the capacity of support and help?

And does it wholeheartedly support education to prevent misogyny for boys in our schools?