

CABINET – 11 FEBRUARY 2026

RESPONSE TO 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?

Response:

Shropshire Council on behalf of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), has recently published a draft Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy for public consultation.

The strategy has a vision to end domestic abuse, a goal to reduce domestic abuse across Shropshire within the next three years, and sets out how we will achieve this by collaboration and co-ordinated community responses.

The strategy was developed by all Partners including those from our Lived Experience Advisory Group. I encourage you to engage in this consultation and share amongst your networks, so we have a wide range of feedback from all people and all communities. The deadline for responses is 2 March 2026.

By working in partnership, we are able to share and maximise resources and increase our capacity to provide the right support at the earliest opportunity and at the right time to people who need it.

We recognise in the draft strategy that the Government has committed to halve violence against women and girls (VAWG) and we reference the recently launched national strategy “Freedom from Violence and Abuse” which we wholeheartedly support.

We eagerly await news from the Government of any funding to be allocated against this strategy to enable local areas to implement the actions within it. The uplift to the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant announced as part of the overall financial settlement for local government earlier in the week may also result in additional funding for domestic abuse services locally.

Shropshire Council is committed to education that prevents misogyny and helps children and young people understand the importance of respectful language and healthy relationships. This commitment is reflected in our role as contract lead—working alongside Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and Telford & Wrekin—on behalf of the West Mercia Community Safety Partnerships under the Serious Violence Duty.

Through this partnership, we have commissioned West Mercia Women’s Aid, The Right Path, and Everyone’s Invited to deliver interactive talks, workshops, and small-group sessions in schools for both young people and the professionals who support them, as well as community-based one-to-one and group work. The aim of this programme is to challenge misogyny and dismantle harmful stereotypes