

Agenda Item No: 8

**DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE – UPDATE ON WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN
AND PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER TRAINING**

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **21ST December 2017**

From: **Sarah Ferguson (Assistant Director, Housing,
Communities and Youth)**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Key decision:** **No**

Purpose: **To update Committee on actions to take forward the White Ribbon Campaign, and agree to receive a further report at Committee in February 2018.**

To seek approval to deliver training on domestic abuse and sexual violence for Councillors in order to raise awareness

Recommendation: **It is recommended that Committee:**

- a) Agrees to receive a more detailed report on the White Ribbon campaign in February.**
- b) Accepts the offer of specialist training for Councillors**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contacts:</i>	
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Domestic abuse is a high risk / harm / cost issue which impacts all communities, individuals and agencies across Cambridgeshire. There is now an agreed countywide partnership strategy and action plan in place, and the County Council is committed to contributing to this work.
- 1.2** As part of this commitment, at its October meeting, Communities and Partnership Committee agreed to take forward activity which will secure White Ribbon status for Cambridgeshire County Council. The Committee also nominated Cllr Kevin Cuffley as the County Council's Community Safety Champion.

2. MAIN ISSUES – THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

2.1 The White Ribbon Campaign

The mission of White Ribbon is to end male violence against women. To wear a White Ribbon is to pledge never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence. The message to men is to practice tolerance, respect and kindness, and to stand up against male violence, bullying and sexism in all forms.

White Ribbon is a UK campaign, driven by men, that uses 25th November as their main campaign day. White Ribbon aims to sign up local authorities, public sector organisations and private sector organisations and works on the basis of having male ambassadors in these organisations.

The ethos of the campaign is that men will join women and women's organisations in taking action to end men's violence against women and girls (and other men and boys).

2.2 What is Cambridgeshire County Council committing to?

In order to become an accredited White Ribbon organisation, CCC commits to implement the White Ribbon action plan. An initial meeting has been held with Cllr Cuffley and key officers to take this forward. It has been agreed that a working group will be established formed of key officers, and chaired by Cllr Cuffley to shape the plan. It is expected that progress in many areas will be good as the County Council has a strong base to build on from work it is already engaged in. As an example of this, In order to support employees experiencing domestic violence, Manager's Guidance has been developed and this was endorsed by Unison on 1st December 2017.

Other Local Authorities and public bodies are already active in this area. Cambridge City Council are already accredited and taking forward awareness and communications activities within the City. The Community Safety Partnerships and district council officers have been briefed on White Ribbon and are looking to develop this further within their own organisations.

Members are asked to note the progress being made to take forward the White Ribbon campaign, and to receive a more detailed report and the developed action plan at its February Committee.

2.3 Training for Councillors

Following on from the Members briefing session in November, it is proposed that a more in-depth half day training event is held for interested councillors. This would provide valuable training and relevant information, and would enable Members to be better equipped to advise local residents who may be experiencing domestic abuse, as well as promoting the issue throughout the County.

- 2,4 The Communities and Partnership Committee are asked to agree to the holding of this training which can be done in house with no additional cost.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Resource Implications

- Training can be delivered at minimal or no cost

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

Not applicable at this time.

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The Local Authority has statutory responsibilities to support those impacted by domestic abuse under the following legislation:

- Human Right Act 1998
- Children's Act 1989 and 2004
- The Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The Council has a duty to provide appropriate services to vulnerable groups, as established by the Equality Act 2010.

- Women
- Those with disabilities
- Ethnicities
- Sexuality.

The recent (2017) VAWG needs assessment has shown that the above groups constitute the greatest cohorts of need across the county.

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

In order to effectively communicate with both staff and Cambridgeshire residents it is vital that there is a communications strategy in place and that all relevant members and officers are briefed on the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence work within the County Council. The communications team will form a core part of the White Ribbon working group.

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The priorities presented herein would enable communities to develop their resilience to issues of domestic abuse. The proposals would also facilitate the capacity of communities to prevent domestic abuse from occurring in the first instance.

Discussions with relevant Members have already been undertaken with regards to the contents of this paper.

3.7 Public Health Implications

Domestic abuse and sexual violence has an adverse impact on both mental and physical health of those who experience it.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name: Tom Kelly
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name: Paul White
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name: Adrian Chapman
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name: Matthew Hall
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name: Adrian Chapman
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name: Tess Campbell/Liz Robin

Source Documents	Location
White Ribbon Campaign	https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/award/