

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership

To: **Community and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **6th July 2017**

From: **Sarah Ferguson: Service Director, Community & Safety Services**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **The purpose of the paper is to:**

- Brief Members on the work of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership;**
- Ask Members to consider holding a Members briefing or seminar on domestic abuse and sexual violence in order to raise awareness.**

Recommendation: **To seek Members agreement to present a revised Strategy with recommended commissioning priorities in early Autumn 2017.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) can be described as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, sexual, emotional, physical, financial.
- 1.2 The impact of DASV can be profound, and have a lasting impact on children who witness it, as well as the adults who are victims. It affects all of our communities, irrespective of where people live, their socio-economic circumstances or their ethnicity. It is a significant factor for families in cases open to our Children's Services. Tackling the root causes and consequences of DASV is complex, and requires a considerable amount of partnership work. It is essential that in our collective approach we focus on how we prevent domestic abuse through, for example, the promotion of healthy relationships with young people. This needs to be done alongside a clear and explicit strategy about how we protect victims through a robust response in the criminal justice system.
- 1.3 There are well established partnership arrangements across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which support the development of a joint strategy for DASV. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership (DASV Partnership) works across the county to support victims and to reduce the risks, harms and costs associated with these crimes. The DASV Partnership is part of the county wide Community Safety structure in Cambridgeshire – please see current draft structure which sets out the recently developed partnership governance arrangements for this work in appendix 1.
- 1.4 The current partnership DASV Strategy (2014 – 2018) focusses on four core themes:
 - **Preventing** people from becoming perpetrators or victims of domestic abuse
 - **Protecting** victims of domestic abuse and their children, whether or not they choose to report crimes to the police
 - **Pursuing** perpetrators of domestic abuse through the criminal justice system and ensure that they face up to the implications of their actions
 - Supporting victims to **recover** from the consequences of domestic abuse.
- 1.5 Since 2016 the government has moved the DASV violence into a broader Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda, with the publication of the 2016-2020 Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. This aims to highlight the importance of improving prosecutions and supporting victims, along with recognition of the United Nations, Council of Europe and End Violence Against Women Campaign initiatives as part of the cross-government VAWG strategy. In spite of its title, this includes boys and men as well girls and women, but recognises that there is often a gender bias to the crime. Crimes covered under VAWG include:
 - Domestic violence
 - Sexual violence
 - Pornography

- So called 'Honour Based Violence'
- Forced Marriage
- Prostitution
- Trafficking
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Child abuse

- 1.6 Whilst recognising that VAWG is a nationally described and driven agenda, within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, there is an assumption that when we describe Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence' we are incorporating all of the issues identified in 1.5.
- 1.7 Cambridgeshire County Council alongside Peterborough City Council employ a core team who work closely with key agencies including Police, Probation, Health, Children's Services and specialist third sector providers to ensure a multi-agency approach, supporting the delivery of the Strategy. The Team is led by Vickie Crompton and Si Kerrs (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Managers). It consists of a small management team and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service which provides direct support to victims (see below).
- 1.8 The team is funded primarily through Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, but includes funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and public health, as well as one off grant funding. The total budget for the team for 2017 – 2018 is £1.9m, however this includes a DCLG grant of £700k for this year only. The vast majority of this is spent on front line services.

2. DEVELOPING A REVISED STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR 2017 ONWARDS

2.1 *Need and Demand*

There were almost 7,900 crimes recorded across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2015/16 that fell into the category of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. Data for 2016/17 has not yet been released by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Peterborough and Fenland have notably the highest rates of domestic abuse incidents within Cambridgeshire, with both areas having significantly high rates in comparison to the average for Cambridgeshire Constabulary. All the other districts in Cambridgeshire have significantly low rates in comparison. However, Cambridge City has a significantly high rate compared to the Cambridgeshire County Council rate.

- One in ten of all crimes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are domestic abuse related, and 80% of cases go un-reported to the police
- There were 1,260 sexual offence crimes in 2015/16. The highest prevalence is in 16-24 year old females.

Table 1: increase in domestic abuse referrals by agency

Agency	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Cambs IDVA Referrals	913	1203	1198
Cambs Police Incidents	7038	7529	8368
P'boro IDVA Referrals	553	764	884
P'boro Police Incidents	4660	4627	5162
Adult S/G DA cases Referrals	79	83	531*
Bobby Scheme	158	187	164

*Figures prior to 2016-17 are completed investigations but can now capture referral numbers

2.2 *Specialist Service Response*

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVA), deals with all high risk cases of domestic abuse.

There are three main providers of specialist domestic abuse services in Cambridgeshire and two for sexual violence. Cambridge Women's Aid and Refuge are contracted by Cambridgeshire County Council to provide refuges for women and any accompanying children in three locations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Women's Aid provide a refuge service in Peterborough. Outreach services support victims who do not meet the high risk threshold.

For Sexual Violence, Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre and Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group provide a countywide service for victims and joined together as Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership as a contracted service to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- 2.3 In addition, practitioners across services in Children's and Adults service provide a daily response through core teams to supporting victims and perpetrators, working to safeguard children and other victims, mitigate the impact of the abuse and divert behaviour where possible.

2.4 *Revising the strategy and future commissioning priorities*

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner commissioned a countywide Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in late 2016, in response to government guidance. This will form the basis of a revised DASV strategy and inform a future set of clear priorities for the Partnership, and within that, core actions for Cambridgeshire County Council. The Needs Assessment is in the final stages of being drafted, and will be finalised in early August 2017 after further consultation with partners.

Members will be invited to consider the final strategy and priorities later in 2017.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in paragraph 2.3

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

The report above sets out the implications for this priority in paragraph 2.3

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Work with partners will continue to identify how specialist resources and services can be sustained as the financial context for all public services becomes increasingly challenging

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Given the importance and prevalence of domestic abuse and sexual violence, and the new administration formed in Cambridgeshire, Members are asked to consider holding a Members briefing in order to raise awareness of the issue and Cambridgeshire's response with its partners.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes/ N/A Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Sarah Ferguson

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Matthew Hall
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Sarah Ferguson
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Val Thomas

Source Documents	Location
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment 2016/17 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Annual Report 2016/17 (not yet published)	Simon Kerss Babbage House, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Responsible Authorities

Responsible Authorities all have a duty under the 8 Crime and Disorder Act (1998) to work with each other to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area.

Cambridge City Council

Cambridgeshire County Council

East Cambs District Council

Fenland District Council

Huntingdonshire District Council

Peterborough City Council

South Cambs District Council

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough fire and Rescue Service

BeNCH Community Rehabilitation Company

National Probation Service

Key Community Safety Boards & Partnerships

The Responsible Authority's discharge their authority primarily through Community Safety Partnerships. In Cambridge and Peterborough the Responsible Authorities recognise the importance of the wider links between Community Safety and the Public Health agenda. Consequently there are a number of key Boards and Partnerships that identify and action cross-cutting priorities.

Cambs and P'borough Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board

Community Safety Partnerships

Cambs & P'borough Health & Wellbeing Boards

Cambs & P'borough Safeguarding Boards (Adult and Children)

Criminal Justice Board

Youth Offending Board

Crisis Care Concordat Round Table

Countywide Delivery Groups

These groups co-ordinate effective delivery of cross-cutting safeguarding and community safety and public health priorities. Each Delivery Group acts as an identified lead for a countywide priority, and reports to a key Board or Partnership

Prevent

Re-offending / IOM

Road Safety Partnership

Serious Organised Crime

Youth Offending

Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence & VAWG

Substance Misuse

Child Exploitation

Mental Health

Gang Activity / County Lines

The Colours of each Countywide Delivery Group are linked to the Board that they report to.

Yellow boxes offer context to the groups and their links to the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board

