

**DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE - REVIEW OF DOMESTIC ABUSE
RESOURCE AND OUTREACH PROVISION**

To: **Communities and Partnerships Committee**

Meeting Date: **7th March 2019**

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

Electoral division(s): **All**

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

Purpose: To update Members on progress to sustain investment to support victims of domestic abuse, and seek views from Committee on the review of service delivery models with partners

Recommendation:

- For Members to comment on the future review with partners, including how the impact of joint work can be maximised to deliver improved outcomes for vulnerable clients
- For Members to note progress in sustaining and developing the service offer to victims through securing external funding

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contact:</i>
Name: Julia Cullum Post: DASV Partnership Manager Email: julia.cullum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 07917 235538	Names: Cllr Kevin Cuffley Post: Vice-Chair Email: kevin.cuffley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 706398

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence continues to be an issue which has a devastating impact on victims. The significant increase in reported abuse over the last few years is a positive sign that the issue is more publicly recognised and that victims increasingly feel able to report when it occurs. Finding the most effective way to respond to both victims and perpetrators continues to be our organisational and partnership focus. Domestic abuse continues to be one of the most significant factors for children coming into contact with Children's Services, and remains an often hidden and under-reported problem within services meeting the needs of vulnerable adults.
- 1.2 In light of the above it is increasingly important that Cambridgeshire County Council, in conjunction with its partners, ensures that resources are directed in the most effective way to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic abuse.
- 1.3 As part of ongoing work, in May 2018 the Committee considered progress against the key priorities for the 2017 – 2021 Violence Against Women and Girls (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Strategy, which seeks to address the issues across four priority areas: Prevent; Protect; Pursue; and Prepare. The report highlighted the areas of focus for Cambridgeshire County Council for 2018/19, which included a focus on sustaining the outreach provision which had been funded through a Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government grant until March 2019, and which was delivering positive results in its early stages. A full update on progress in delivering the strategy will be brought back to Committee during 2019.
- 1.4 This report outlines work underway to review the current configuration of dedicated domestic abuse services, and provides an update on progress to sustain outreach provision.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Review of Domestic Abuse Resource

- 2.1.1 In order to address the issues highlighted in 1.1 and 1.2 above, a review is underway of what dedicated specialist Domestic Abuse resources are needed to secure the best outcomes for vulnerable children and adults. The review is being undertaken in two phases, and is being overseen by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Board.

2.1.2 *Phase One (December 2018 – February 2019)*

This stage of the review is considering with whom and where we need to intervene to make the most impact, and as a consequence improve outcomes for the most vulnerable and reduce demand on services.

The review has started by looking at outcomes which can make the most impact on clients whom, without effective support, may need increased levels of intervention from the Council. The review also considers a range of management information which describes current demands within the relevant service areas.

The draft set of key outcomes which Phase One is considering are as follows:

Intended outcome
A decrease in the numbers of children being adversely affected by domestic abuse
A reduction in the numbers of incidences of child to parent violence
A decrease in children in families presenting as homeless due to domestic abuse
Improved understanding about what a healthy relationship is amongst young people
An increase in the number of vulnerable adults adversely affected by domestic abuse referred to specialist domestic abuse agencies
Victims who have used the IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy) service feel they are safer, better informed and have an increased sense of wellbeing
An increase in the number of adults with care and support needs referred to specialist domestic violence services.

The review will seek to consider the optimum use of available Council resource which is most likely to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people, and vulnerable adults who come into contact with Council services. The review will consider current and emerging best practice, in order to develop a model of delivery which is most likely to make an impact where it is most needed.

2.1.3 Phase Two (February 2019 – September 2019)

Any change in resources in one part of the system could have an impact across the wider partnership. Phase Two of the review will consider the potential impact of any proposed changes within Cambridgeshire County Council resources, and widen to assess the current spend of dedicated resource across the partnership. Phase Two takes a more fundamental look at how public sector resources are working to make an impact in domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) and if any wider public sector reform is needed.

2.1.4 To support this work, and with the funds received for the secondment of one of the DASV Partnership Managers to Standing Together (see 2.2.6 below) a dedicated research and evaluation resource will be allocated. This post will also review the needs assessment and performance management framework for the partnership.

2.1.5 Members are invited to comment on any specific areas of enquiry they would like to be considered in the review work.

2.2 Future of Outreach Provision and Successful Funding Bids

2.2.1 Since the last report to Committee in May 2018, the DASV Partnership Team have sought opportunities to develop and sustain the outreach provision and other services which have been expanded across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the last two years, the potential

loss of which has caused concern for Members. As a result of this work, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been successful in gaining £1.6m of additional resource for DASV work over 18 months. This has been through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Domestic Abuse Fund and the Home Office Fund for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse.

2.2.2 Home Office Fund to Support Children who have Experienced Domestic Abuse (CADA)

£891k was awarded in October 2018 for children in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which amounted to 11% of the total available funding nationally.

2.2.3 The core focus will be on ensuring that children (aged 0-18) are identified and can access specialist, community-based services which provide one to one and group therapeutic-focused counselling services to improve their mental health and prevent further escalation of risk and need. There will be provision to support the recovery between the child and the protective parent/victim, in order that they are able to recover together.

This will enable young people to address 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' and reduce the impact of these experiences in their future lives. This in turn reduces the future potential cost on the public purse through drawing on statutory services.

The project also includes:

- Specialist support to children giving evidence in the criminal justice system, in order to improve the experience for them and gain best evidence. These children will be referred at the point at which they give a statement via video recorded evidence. The posts will also support children where their parent's case is going through court
- Support for children and their mothers (or fathers) to recover from the trauma they have experienced to enable them to develop their relationship and long term recovery, delivered individually and with group interventions
- One to one trauma based cognitive behaviour therapy for children aged 7-12 to enable them to process the trauma experienced from the domestic abuse they have experienced
- Increased security in the homes of children who have experienced domestic abuse to enable them to stay in their homes and maintain education, friendships and community support
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) support for young people aged 13-18 who are in abusive relationships, to enable increased safety and separation

2.2.4 The work will be integrated into the model of victim support services commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and will be overseen by a CADA Steering Group in place with representation from all relevant partners.

2.2.5 MHCLG – Domestic Abuse Fund – Total Funding £1.45m (£700k for Cambs and Peterborough)

The "Whole Housing Approach" to domestic violence and abuse will enable Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to establish a whole system approach to housing and domestic abuse, bringing greater synergy and definition across all aspects of housing. This will work across

two main sites - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and West London - and will not only support the local system, and the victims of domestic abuse and their children, but will also enable the development of definition, clarity and tools across the UK.

The work includes resource to work with the local housing providers, the private rented sector and where properties are privately owned, to ensure, as far as possible, victims and their children are able to stay in their own homes, As well as supporting victims stability, it will also enable economic stability and would relieve pressure on local social housing.

2.2.6 The bid will also look to develop managed housing reciprocal arrangements in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as seen in London Boroughs, in order to prevent homelessness for those suffering domestic abuse. The new funds will ensure the continuation of the Bobby scheme to support victims to stay in their own homes with confidence, also resulting in community links being maintained, and reducing the chance of children having to move schools and disrupting their education.

The bid will enable mobile advocacy for victims of domestic abuse and enable us to support our marginalised and rural victims, as well as victims with multiple needs. This would enable support for victims to remain in their own homes safely. This funding will enable the current seven outreach posts to continue until the Autumn of 2020.

The Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation (DAHA) will be continued across the county, working with local authorities and housing providers.

Included in the bid is project management provision, and an opportunity has arisen for one of the DASV Partnership Managers to assume this role through a secondment to the Domestic Abuse charity Standing Together. This will be a full time secondment between April 2019 and March 2020, and will be leading on housing and perpetrator management across the area.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

Domestic abuse costs public sector services £66bn each year. In many cases it also affects the ability of victims to work and earn a living for themselves and their children.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The partnership exists to enable victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, predominantly women and their children, to be safe and live their lives free of abusive behaviours. This improves both their physical and psychological health and wellbeing.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

Those vulnerable due to domestic abuse and sexual violence require support to enable them to live safely, free from risk of abuse and violence. In particular children, those with disabilities and those who require additional support are particularly vulnerable.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

The funding received is time limited and will end during 2020. This includes support for domestic abuse victims who are not “high” risk. This also includes specialist support to children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse.

4.1 Resource Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The additional funding received is time limited and will end during 2020. This includes support for domestic abuse victims who are not “high” risk. This also includes specialist support to children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 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

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

- Women
- Disabilities
- Ethnicity
- Sexuality

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

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

In order to effectively communicate with both staff and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 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.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The priorities presented herein would enable communities to develop their resilience to issues of domestic abuse through increasing and enhancing levels of awareness amongst

Members.

4.7 Public Health Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
The proposed priorities will positively impact on the psychological and physical health of Cambridgeshire residents.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes or No Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes or No Name of Officer: Paul White
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes or No Name of Legal Officer: Debbie Carter-Hughes
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes or No Name of Officer: Jo Dickson
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes or No Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
None	N/A