

<b>ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
<b>10 JULY 2018</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Service Director, Community and Safety	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
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**DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY – PROGRESS IN 2017/18**

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Deadline date:</b>
<p>It is recommended that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scrutinise the progress of the delivery of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s Violence Against Women’s and Girls (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence) Strategy during 2017 - 2018.</li> <li>2. Comment on priorities for 2018/ 2019</li> <li>3. Note the intention to bring a further paper to Adult and Communities Scrutiny in September 2018 to consider Peterborough City Council’s plan for accreditation to the White Ribbon Campaign.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report was requested by Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee given the high priority placed on the issue of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence by Peterborough City Council, the progress being made by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership across the County, and as a key priority in the Safer Peterborough Partnership Crime and Disorder Plan.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 Peterborough City Council is a partner in the development and delivery of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2017 - 2021. The purpose of this report is to update members on the Countywide work carried out during 2017 - 2018 to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence in line with the countywide strategy, in the context of local priorities of the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee, sitting as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No 2.2 Functions determined by Statute: To review and scrutinise crime and disorder matters, including acting as the Council’s crime and disorder committee in accordance with Sections 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

2.3 This report links in to the Corporate Priority: Keep all our communities safe, cohesive and healthy.

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

#### 4.1 *Governance*

In 2017 Countywide governance arrangements for Community Safety were reviewed and as a result the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Group was established. The group reports into the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Safety Strategic Board, but also acts to inform and support the development of local priorities through the work of the five District based Community Safety Partnerships, and the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

The key objectives of the Delivery Group include signing off the Countywide Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) needs assessment, setting out a VAWG Strategy for the county and overseeing the delivery of the associated action plan.

The Group is comprised of a wide range of partners, chaired by Detective Superintendent Martin Brunning, Head of Public Protection (Cambridgeshire Constabulary), with Sarah Ferguson, Assistant Director Housing Communities and Youth (PCC and CCC) acting as Vice Chair.

A DASV Operational Group was also established to coordinate delivery of the DASV action plan bringing together operational managers from key agencies across the County with responsibility for domestic abuse and sexual violence

#### 4.2 *Strategy development*

In 2016 a VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Needs Assessment was commissioned by the OPCC (Office of Police and Crime Commissioner) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and was finalised in September 2017. Following this, a VAWG Strategy for 2017-2021 for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was produced underpinned by an action plan to focus on delivery.

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) partnership produces an Annual Report to outline the key achievements of the strategy, and areas of progress and development for the coming year. This paper provides an overview of these achievements and also the challenges for the DASV Partnership during 2017/18. It will highlight key points from the 2017/18 DASV Annual report and indicate the priorities for 2018/19.

#### 4.3 *Shared operational services*

At an operational level 2017/18 also saw the establishment of a Countywide IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy) service, under the management of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Manager. This involved bringing staff previously employed by Peterborough Women's Aid back into the employment of Peterborough City Council but under management and supervision of the Countywide service, and the existing Cambridgeshire team.

#### 4.4 *Performance and Progress*

The Delivery Group consider a number of indicators as a guide to what is happening in terms of domestic abuse and sexual violence. In 2017/18 key data includes:

##### *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough*

- 540 referrals to the IDVA service with a 64% engagement rate (target is 70%)
- 39% of clients called the police again to report an incident – approx. two thirds of these were due to clients following their safety plan

- The Sexual Assault Referral Centre had 191 over 18s and 102 under 18s who used the service, an increase on the previous year from 129 and 81 respectively.

#### *Peterborough*

- 180 victims called Peterborough Women's Aid for Support
- The new Refuge outreach service in Peterborough provided support to 332 victims between September 2017 and March 2018
- There were 140 adult safeguarding referrals to the Peterborough MASH with a domestic abuse element, and 98 referrals relating to sexual violence.

- 4.5 There has been an increase in IDVA referrals over recent years. Most notable is the increase of 25% in the last year in those cases presented at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), where the victim has been assessed as at high risk of homicide across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

In terms of effectiveness, the IDVA service is a crisis intervention service, so cannot track longer term outcomes, however, the service can demonstrate numbers of victims who are now more informed and have a safety plan. The service is working on a process to gather outcomes data via an exit interview, which will be available at the end of the year.

When considering police reports, we would expect an increase in awareness of domestic abuse to increase the number of crimes being reported to the police, although this does not necessarily indicate increased domestic abuse and sexual violence in the general population.

- 4.6 The VAWG strategy is split into four main areas: Prevent; Protect; Pursue; Prepare. Key achievements for 2017/ 2018 in each of the four main areas are listed below:

#### **Prevent**

- The personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) service have produced guidance on Relationships and Sex Education for schools to purchase.
- Work with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust and Addenbrooke's to develop Domestic Abuse policies.
- Awareness materials have been produced and sent to a wide range of agencies and professionals, and are available to download from the website.
- Initial Break 4 Change programme, addressing APVA (Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse), delivered by the Youth Offending Service and attracting young people and their families from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Embrace counselling for children aged 13-19 (up to 24 with additional needs) who have witnessed domestic abuse is in place, funded through a 3 year Home Office grant.

#### **Protect**

- The Family Safeguarding model of work has started in Peterborough Children's Services which incorporates specialist advisers and supporters of both victims and perpetrators.
- Two previously separate MARAC processes have been brought together and there is now a Countywide single MARAC now operational daily.
- There is a now a countywide Perpetrator Panel which where appropriate will consider domestic abuse perpetrators leaving prison.

#### **Pursue**

- New Local Policing Plan in place from May 2018, which means the closure of the specialist DAISU unit and a move to local policing teams.

#### **Prepare**

- Specialist Stalking and Harassment IDVA Post is currently out to advert, which will work from the Victim's Hub.
- DASV Champions have been nominated by a range of agencies and 6 network events have been held with very positive feedback. The champions will continue to meet on a quarterly basis. This was very well received by professionals in Peterborough.

The full annual report of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership is available to Members on request.

- 4.7 One of the priorities within the action plan highlights the need to work more closely with communities where there may be less awareness of the issue, and how and where support can be accessed. The Joint Mosque Group have led work across Peterborough to build understanding and responses to domestic abuse and sexual violence within the Muslim community. This work was kick started by a well attended workshop in September 2017 which has led to the development of a comprehensive action plan, considered by the DASV Delivery Group. Children of Adam have also been proactive in looking at ways in which they can support and develop support networks for victims in the City.

The DASV Partnership Manager has been working with the Community Cohesion Manager to take forward both these areas of work, with a further meeting to plan a next set of actions taking place on 30th June.

- 4.8 In addition to the core system wide changes and developments which have taken place in the last year outlined above, Members may be aware that the partnership were awarded a one year grant for £700k from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), which ended on 31st March 2018.

The following describes what has been achieved to date in the 8 main areas of work:

- Outreach workers at Cambridge Women's Aid and Refuge (covering the County and Peterborough) – to date, 1317 victims, (74 male, 1243 female) who had 1231 children living with them, have been supported with additional safety, advice, information and advocacy
- Domestic Abuse pathway mental health nurses supported specialist staff and victims to understand the mental health needs of clients
- Bobby Scheme – 259 victims' homes were provided with increased security, this included 329 children
- Counselling for Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre and Peterborough Rape Crisis – 23 women received specialist sexual violence counselling
- Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation – housing associations are considering accreditation, and 6 workshops have been held to date, with 51 attendees from 11 housing organisations
- 'Move on' support was provided for a range of needs from transport costs to goods for new homes
- 'No Recourse to Public Funds' support – supported over a dozen women and their children access support they would not have otherwise had
- Development of Domestic Abuse /Sexual Violence awareness materials for diverse populations – these have been widely distributed across the county and can be accessed free of charge from our website. Films have been produced on You Tube about the IDVA service and the outreach service, which can be viewed in Polish, Urdu, Punjabi, Russian and British Sign Language. More will be developed where needed.

- 4.9 Individual organisations who make up the Partnership may pursue their own organisational wide developments - for example, seeking accreditation to the White Ribbon Campaign. This is a national campaign whose mission is to end male violence against women once and for all. To wear a white ribbon is to pledge never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence. Their message to men is to practise tolerance, respect and kindness, and to stand up against male violence, bullying and sexism in all forms. The ethos of the campaign is that male violence is a men's issue, and not one purely for female specific services.

Any public facing organisation, such as local authorities, can apply for White Ribbon accreditation, through submission of a comprehensive action plan outlining how they will marshal their resources to challenge domestic abuse. Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Council have secured accreditation, and it is also being actively looked at by East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Work has started at officer level to explore Peterborough City Council also securing accreditation, and an initial discussion has taken place at Cabinet Policy Forum. It is proposed to bring a paper to Adults and Communities Scrutiny to consider potential White Ribbon accreditation for Peterborough in September 2018.

#### 4.10 *Priorities for 2018/ 2019*

Countywide areas of Focus for 2018/19

The above outlines the significant developments which have been made across the partnership.

Going forward, the priorities for 2018/19 include:

- Consider options around a “single front door” model for Domestic Abuse
- Secure funding for outreach provision to continue after March 2019
- Establish a countywide DHR (Domestic Homicide Review) process
- Support Peterborough City Council to achieve White Ribbon accreditation (if agreed)

During 2018/ 19 the priorities highlighted in the SPP plan are as follows:

- Intervening earlier to prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence from happening and challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervene as early as possible to prevent it
- Providing support to victims and their families where violence occurs
- Taking action to reduce the risk to victims of these crimes and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice

Over the next 12 months we will prioritise a number of areas of work in support of these priorities.

- We will ensure that domestic abuse and sexual violence services are able to respond to increasing demand for services
- We will support in the development of a countywide partnership response to reduce the harm, risks and costs of domestic abuse, child abuse (including child sexual exploitation), serious sexual offences, trafficking and modern day slavery, which keeps victims safe from future victimisation
- Enhance community engagement and awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence support services to include the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender community with the aim of increasing the number of victims accessing support and reporting incidents to the Police
- Develop a local offer to meet the needs of children and young people who are, or at risk of becoming, perpetrators and/or victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, to improve specialist support services
- There is a need to work towards increasing referrals from mental health care settings, ensuring all mental health professionals are providing their service users with the opportunity to access domestic abuse and sexual violence support services
- Review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations from Domestic Homicide Reviews and hold partners to account for their actions.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 None required for the purpose of this report.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 Members scrutinise progress made and activity in Peterborough, and comment on the next year’s priorities.

**7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 To provide an opportunity for Members to consider and comment on Countywide and Local activity to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence.

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 NA

**9. IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial Implications**

9.1 NA

**Legal Implications**

9.2 NA

**Equalities Implications**

9.3 NA

**Rural Implications**

9.4 NA

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1
- DASV Annual Report (Draft) – Available on request
  - DASV Delivery Board Terms of Reference
  - DCLG Grant Evaluation Report, Shirley Magilton – Available on request
  - [http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/the\\_dasv\\_partnership/84035](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/the_dasv_partnership/84035)

**11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None