



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Dawn Walton
Director: Commissioning, Inclusion & Learning

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Report of: *Jayne Ludlam*
Report to: *Cabinet*
Date of Decision: *20th June 2018*
Subject: *Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2018-22*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>People</i>		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Safer Stronger Communities</i>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>252</i>		
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Report:

- To approve the new Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy for the city.
- To approve the intention to ensure seamless service provision for victims by re-commissioning the community based domestic abuse services as one contract to begin delivery in April 2019.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet

1. Approves and adopts the Sheffield Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2018-22, which is attached to this report.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning in consultation with Director of Commercial and Financial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance to:
 - a. *approve the procurement strategy for the recommissioning of the Council's community based domestic abuse service as set out and in line with this report.*
 - b. *thereafter to enter into contract(s) for the services as set out and in line with this report.*
 - c. *take all other necessary steps not covered by existing delegations to achieve the outcomes outlined in this report.*

Background Papers:



Domestic And Sexual
Abuse Strategy for C

Lead Officer to complete:-

1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Paul Jeffries</i>
		Legal: <i>Henry Watmough-Cownie</i>
		Equalities: <i>Ed Sexton</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	EMT member who approved submission:	<i>Jayne Ludlam</i>
3	Cabinet Member consulted:	<i>Cllr Chris Peace Cllr Jackie Drayton</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Alison Higgins</i>	Job Title: <i>Strategic Commissioning Manager Domestic and Sexual Abuse</i>
	Date: <i>28th March 2018</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

The previous Domestic And Sexual Abuse Strategy (<http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/resources/local-strategies/>) was published in May 2014. The action plan for the strategy was agreed by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board to have been fully implemented in March 2017. A new strategy has been prepared following extensive consultation and with reference to findings from the Domestic and Sexual Abuse needs assessment that was published in 2017 <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/resources/danac/>.

Cabinet Member Cllr Cate McDonald and the People's Portfolio Leadership Team have approved the draft strategy which is intended to give direction to a range of new developments and opportunities addressing domestic and sexual abuse.

- 1.1 The new strategy also proposes that to ensure seamless service provision for victims by re-commissioning the community based domestic abuse services as one contract to begin delivery in April 2019.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

The new strategy will contribute primarily to the priority in the Corporate Plan of Thriving neighbourhoods and communities. The priority commits the Council to 'work to improve levels of reporting in areas such as hate crime and domestic abuse. We will support people to come forward and provide good quality, responsive domestic and sexual abuse services for those who need them.

- 2.1 Domestic and sexual abuse affects thousands of people each year in the city. They are cross cutting issues, affecting individuals, families, children and young people, work places, schools, communities, and impacting on health, wellbeing both immediately and long into the future. These issues are increasingly being recognised as public health challenges that can and should be prevented. The new strategy aims to build on the wealth of good work being undertaken to combat and address domestic and sexual abuse, link to local priorities, local known need, address emerging issues and develop good practice.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

Consultation has been extensive.

- Members of the Domestic Abuse Service User Reference Group conducted a 'roadshow' around victim services during the summer of 2017 consulting on the themes for the strategy. The group also commented on the draft strategy.
- The Equality Hub Network held a special workshop on the draft strategy in November 17 and the participants were also offered the opportunity to comment online.

- Drafts were presented to the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Provider Consultation Group, Joint Commissioning Group and Operational Group.
- Comments were sought from the Director of Public Health and the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Children's Board and the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board.
- The final draft was agreed by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board, the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board, the Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
- A citizenspace consultation was also held with the aim of informing the action plan to be developed once the strategy has been agreed.

3.1 Feedback received resulted in various changes and additions being made, and some issues being given greater focus, emphasis or priority. A key addition following consultation was a specific priority in relation to eliminating violence against women and girls in order to explicitly acknowledge the disproportionate impact in relation to gender. However the strategy remains inclusive in relation to men and boys.

3.2 An issue raised by service users was that they felt that the transition between existing services could be difficult for them and impact on engagement with support. Service Users said they want to build a trusting relationship with the person supporting them and not have to move between services unnecessarily. It is therefore proposed in the strategy that we will re-commission our community support services in order to provide as seamless a service as possible to promote recovery. Thus the intention is to move away from contracts focussed on risk level and procure the community based domestic abuse services as one contract to begin delivery in April 2019.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

In exercising their discretion, Members must always be mindful of their duty contained in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, that is the duty to have due regard to the need to:-

- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited or under the Act:
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

This includes having due regard to the need to:-

- (a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by relevant protected characteristic that are connected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- (b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.

Section 158 of the Equality Act 2010, permits the taking of positive action where this is a proportionate means of meeting the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic which are different from the needs of persons who do not share that protected characteristic.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed¹ in relation to the draft strategy which shows the impact on all protected groups to be positive and this is attached as Appendix 2.

The strategy acknowledges the need for a gendered approach to responding to domestic and sexual abuse and has a specific priority on eliminating violence against women and girls as mentioned above. However the strategy recognises that domestic and sexual abuse can affect anyone and proposes a greater emphasis on prevention including work with perpetrators of abuse.

- 4.1.1 The strategy states that we know that people in some groups are more likely to be victims of abuse. For example, a higher proportion of women from a 'mixed/multiple' ethnic group are likely to experience abuse compared to the general population. The number of women who are likely to experience domestic abuse increases for those women who are unemployed and also doubles for women with a long standing illness or disability. We know that around 24% in local support services have a disability, 63% are not working and between 18% and 24% of those in support service report a mental illness.
- 4.1.2 The strategy recognises there are 'hidden victims' in Sheffield, that identifying and responding to the needs of such victims is a challenge for agencies, and that people do not therefore get the support they need. The impact of domestic and sexual abuse can vary depending on other issues a person may face. And the experience of abuse can bring about other problems – some victims (and perpetrators) experience severe and multiple disadvantages and therefore have complex needs. The strategy commits us to ensuring that that no one is turned away, and that any barriers are removed so that those with greatest needs are able to access services. This includes, but is not limited to, addressing the

¹ Reference number 252

support needs of victims of all genders, all ages, all sexualities, people with physical and learning disabilities, people with mental health issues, substance misusers, and a diverse range of community groups and migrants.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

The strategy describes the current financial commitment to responding to domestic and sexual abuse by the Council and its partners which currently amounts to around £2 million pounds a year. However, the cost of domestic and sexual abuse to the city's public services is estimated to be many millions per year.

4.2.1 Nonetheless, as a result of the current difficult financial situation the aims of this strategy will need to be met through existing funding arrangements or through external funding opportunities. The strategy acknowledges that there is some uncertainty ahead as a result of the governments planned changes to the funding of supported accommodation and the use of housing benefit. However we are optimistic that by working closely with our local refuge providers we can find a resolution that enables the continuation of services. Sheffield has protected, maintained and extended domestic and sexual abuse services since 2014 and while our focus must move towards prevention, the demand for support services is still rising. These services are vital, and make a real difference to the lives of many people in Sheffield, that is why, despite the current and future cuts to the budget of the Council and our Partners, our aim is to do all we can to maintain and protect investment to this important area of work.

4.2.2 As stated above the intention is to re-commission the domestic abuse community support services in order to provide as seamless a service as possible to promote recovery. We currently commission a High Risk Domestic Abuse Service and a Medium and Standard Risk Domestic Abuse Service. The High Risk Service provides specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advocate staff to support high risk victims plus training elements and the Sanctuary scheme for 'target hardening'. The Medium and Standard Risk contract provides the city's Helpline and Outreach service plus group work programmes. At present service users move between services dependent on their risk level. Thus the intention is to move away from contracts focussed on risk level and procure the community based domestic abuse services as one contract to begin delivery in April 2019.

4.2.3 The current combined value of the two contracts is £910,000 per year, £103,500 of this is contributed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and £48,000 by the Clinical Commissioning Group. Going forward we will be pursuing extra funding from a variety of sources.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The development of a Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy for Sheffield is aimed at contributing to the social, and economic, wellbeing of Sheffield residents. The Council has a general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to act in any way that it sees fit, provided that the activity is not restricted by any other enactment. This general power may be relied on to underpin the aims of the draft strategy

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the 1998 Act) places the Council under a duty to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in the area. These considerations are relevant to the contents of the draft strategy.

Section 6 of the 1998 Act requires the Council in partnership with other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies for reducing crime and disorder and re-offending and combatting substance misuse. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 requires the preparation of a Partnership Plan setting out a 3 year strategy, the priorities identified by the Partnership under an annual strategic assessment, and recommendations as to how resources should be allocated to implement the strategy and meet those identified priorities. One of the priorities identified by the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership is 'Protecting the Most Vulnerable'. The draft strategy is will assist the Council and the Partnership to meet this priority.

Recommissioning of services will be undertaken with the support of Commercial services and in accordance with national and European procurement law.

4.4 Other Implications

None

4.4.1

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The alternative would be to not have a Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy for the city. This was rejected as these are important issues which have an impact on thousands of people across the city every year. The issue is referenced in the Corporate Plan and is recognised as an issue the city wishes to address. Strategic direction for this area of work is therefore essential.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The wording of the draft strategy has been agreed by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, the People's Portfolio Leadership Team, the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board and the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board. It has been consulted on widely with stakeholders including service users. It will provide a strategic framework for addressing issues that have an impact on thousands of people every year in the city, put prevention at the centre of new developments and drive improvements in responses across services.

- 6.1 Consultation with service users has informed the recommendation that the community based domestic abuse services are recommissioned as one contract to begin delivery in April 2019 in order to provide seamless support from disclosure to recovery from abuse.

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