



## Report to Policy Committee

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Author/Lead Officer of Report: *Alison Higgins*

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**Report of:** *Greg Fell*

**Report to:** *Strategy and Resources*

**Date of Decision:** *November 20<sup>th</sup> 2023*

**Subject:** *Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls Annual Report*

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>(Insert reference number)</i>				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<p><i>“The <b>(report/appendix)</b> is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph <b>(insert relevant paragraph number)</b> of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i></p>				

### Purpose of Report:

*To propose that the Annual Report on Addressing Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls 2022/23 is noted and endorsed.*

**Recommendations:**

- *That the Annual Report on Addressing Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls 2022/23 is noted and endorsed.*
- *That the Annual Report's recommendations should be considered during the development of the new Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the city which will be developed in consultation with partners and stakeholders over the coming year.*

**Background Papers:**

*Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls Annual Report 2022/23*

<b>Lead Officer to complete:-</b>	
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>Anna Beeby</i>
	Legal: <i>Patrick Chisholm</i>
	Equalities & Consultation: <i>Ed Sexton</i>
	Climate: <i>n/a</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	<b>SLB member who approved submission:</b> <i>Greg Fell</i>
3	<b>Committee Chair consulted:</b> <i>Tom Hunt,, Leader</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 Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.

<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Sam Martin</i>	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Head of Commissioning Vulnerable People</i>
<b>Date: 08.11.23</b>	

## 1. **PROPOSAL**

It is proposed that the first Annual Report of work on Addressing Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls is accepted and endorsed.

- 1.1 Thousands of people every year are affected by domestic and sexual abuse in Sheffield including many children. People affected by domestic and sexual abuse can also be adults with care and support needs s evidenced by the data on disability above. They may also have long term conditions or be in need of treatment for substance misuse issues. Support to be safe and recover from domestic or sexual contributes to the Adult Health and Social Care Strategy and the overall goal to help the people of Sheffield to lie long, healthy and fulfilled lives.

## 2. **HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?**

Domestic and Sexual Abuse ruins the lives of too many people in the UK and in our city of Sheffield. The vast majority of immediate victims are women and girls, but we know that many men are also affected. Abuse has a hugely damaging impact on children and on families. By recognising abuse, calling it out, helping victims and changing attitudes and cultures we can reduce the impact domestic and sexual abuse has on individuals, families, and wider society.

The annual report demonstrates how tackling Domestic and sexual abuse, and violence against women and girls, can be effective if we work together: the Council, the Police, and the NHS, but also voluntary services and community groups, businesses, individuals, and groups of people who want to make a difference.

If we work together, we can:

- Change attitudes and cultures so that abuse is recognised, called out and not tolerated
- Protect and support victims and their families through emotional and social support, and practical help to keep them safe
- Deal with perpetrators and find ways to change their behaviour and attitudes.

- 2.1 The Annual Report contributes to One Year Plan goals of:
- Enabling adults to live the life that they want to live
  - Supporting young people in Sheffield to develop and flourish
  - Give everyone the best start in life

## 3. **HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

Consultation on the Annual Report has been conducted through the performance management of commissioned providers and through the

3.1 structures of and under the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board.

## **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **4.1 Equality Implications**

4.1.1 The report outlines the reach of the services commissioned and the projects undertaken in terms of Sheffield's diverse communities. Most service users are women but male service users are up to 12% of users in victim / survivor services for adults. Services work with between 4% and 30% of clients who are LGBT+. Black and minoritized users make up to 57% of users in women's refuges with the lowest proportion – 16% being in perpetrator support. Many users report that they are disabled indicating a clear link between experience of abuse and impact on health.

### **4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications**

4.2.1 A report on income and expenditure for 22/23 is included in the report.

### **4.3 Legal Implications**

4.3.1 Some of the functions described in the report are statutory duties e.g. provision of support in safe accommodation for victims / survivors of domestic abuse and their children. The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board

### **4.4 Climate Implications**

4.4.1 None. The report is a backward look.

### **4.4 Other Implications**

4.4.1 None

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 The alternative would be not to have completed an annual report.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

This is the first annual report produced on the work undertaken on addressing domestic and sexual abuse / violence against women and girls.

6.1 The report illustrates the range of initiatives and commissioned services that are in place. It highlights the outcomes of commissioned providers, the work undertaken in relation to statutory duties and strategic achievements. It also illustrates the findings of an independent

assessment of the city's responses to domestic abuse.

- 6.2 The report describes how services are under pressure and that demand is likely to grow as public awareness increases. It proposes that limited resources mean that innovative solutions to meeting needs must be identified and suggests that the development of guided self help resources and a network of community champions may help to mitigate the resource gaps evident. It also recommends the ongoing commitment to campaigns such as White Ribbon as a framework for addressing violence against women and girls and achieving lasting change in attitudes and behaviour across the city.
- 6.3 It also recommends that business cases are developed for further investment various support elements that are currently under pressure:
- support for children and young people to recover from the impact of abuse
  - therapeutic support to aid the recovery of adults such as counselling services
  - behaviour change programmes for perpetrators
  - community based domestic abuse support for adults
- 6.4 It is recommended that these issues are considered during the development of the new Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the city which will be developed in consultation with partners and stakeholders over the coming year.