

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 21 February 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: White Ribbon Campaign

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Scrutiny Board on the progress made towards achieving the White Ribbon Local Authority Award for Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **the update be noted; and**
- 2) **the Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Every year three million women and girls experience rape, domestic violence, forced marriage, stalking, sexual exploitation and trafficking, female genital mutilation (FGM) or honour crimes in the UK. There are clear connections between violence against women and social problems such as child poverty, social exclusion and homelessness and the vast majority of violence against women is perpetrated by men.
- 3.2 More specifically, violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence are also significant problems at a national and local level. Whilst there is significant partnership working ongoing to target domestic abuse and violence against women, such as the Specialist Domestic Violence Court, third party reporting and early intervention work with families, clearly there remains a need to raise further awareness of the issues associated with domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.
- 3.3 The principles of the award are that local authorities should express a commitment to involving men in anti-VAWG and produce a preliminary action plan on how this commitment will be achieved.

The action plan should be aimed at reducing incidents of violence against women such as discrimination, harassment or victimisation and fostering good community relations. It should also have a specific White Ribbon emphasis of increasing male participation in anti-VAW events and strategies as well as raising awareness and the profile of these issues amongst men.

- 3.4 The WRC team will work with the authority on the development of an action plan, providing feedback and suggestions as necessary. The authority should appoint a senior individual to act as a liaison point with the WRC and to oversee implementation. It is suggested that the senior, nominated officer for Halton is the Council's Community Safety Manager, supported by the local Domestic Abuse Coordinator.

4.0 WHITE RIBBON PLEDGE ACTION PLAN

4.1 The action plan will need to set out how we will:

- Involve and educate men and boys in an anti-VAWG strategy and encourage men and boys to sign the WRC pledge “never to commit, condone, or remain silent about men's violence against women in all its forms.”
- Identify White Ribbon ‘ambassadors’ within the Council and partner organisations.
- Raise awareness and provide training on VAWG within the Council, incorporating the VAWG message into Council informational and promotional materials where appropriate.
- Deliver events to promote the Council’s anti-VAWG commitment, by organising and supporting local activities to assert the unacceptability of VAWG. Examples include:
 - White Ribbon’s “These heels are made for walking” and “These hands are not for hurting!” events, demonstrating solidarity with anti-VAW
 - campaigns as well as work with sports teams or music venues
 - Football, rugby and other sporting events to raise awareness with young
 - People in innovative ways.
- Involve the local community in our WR campaign through a variety of venues and facilities including Libraries, Schools, Sport clubs, gyms, Social Landlords etc. and by encouraging other

organisations and clubs to sign up for the White Ribbon award and sponsor special events e.g. White Ribbon Cup tournament.

- Involve local businesses as partners with substantial resources and contacts through which anti-VAWG can be promoted.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority. However this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are limited financial implications in achieving White Ribbon status. There is an annual cost of £400 for achieving and maintaining the award, which can be met from within existing Council and partnership budgets.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None at present

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.