

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety

**SUBJECT:** Cheshire Police Integrated Anti Stalking Unit (IASU)

**WARDS:** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider the report from the Cheshire Police Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit regarding the work that it carries out in Halton.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) the report 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 A specialist unit aimed at protecting victims of stalking and managing perpetrators has been launched in Cheshire. Representatives from the Unit will attend the meeting.

Only the second in the country and the first of its kind in the North West the Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit is being run by Cheshire Police in partnership with North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

All agencies are working together to help stalking victims and the risk caused to them by perpetrators through a range of interventions.

The unit will operate from a base in Warrington and will initially focus on those affected by stalking in the Warrington and Halton areas.

It will involve an experienced and dedicated team of police officers and mental health professionals and outreach workers along with victim advocates who provide practical support, safety planning and advice for stalking victims regardless of whether the stalker's identity is known.

The team of specialists will assess each stalking allegation on a case-by-case basis before deciding on a suitable method of intervention.

The team will be able to discuss the best course of action and provide expert advice on whether psychological interventions, social support or legal sanctions are needed. The unit will offer victims one-to-one support while working closely with the perpetrator to ultimately manage the risk of further harm to the victim and the wider community.

In addition, the unit will identify perpetrators who could be suitable for therapeutic interventions, if clinically indicated or be referred to mental health, alcohol and drug support services. The team will also decide whether the case should be automatically put into the criminal justice system.

The unit will include a Detective Constable, Consultant Forensic Psychologist, Unit Manager, two outreach workers, an Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker and a Support Officer (administrator). It is being funded over two years through the Police Transformation Fund.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **None**

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 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.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

**None**

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

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

#### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

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

#### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

**None**

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

**None**

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

**None**

#### **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

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