

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 24 June 2014
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Community
PORTFOLIO: Community Safety and Physical Environment
SUBJECT: Review and scrutiny of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-17
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide a DA topic brief review to the Safer Policy and Performance Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Attached as Appendix 1 Topic Brief.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No policy implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No financial implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified.

6.4 A Safer Halton

To help identify the issues surrounding domestic violence.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None identified.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

TOPIC BRIEF

Topic Title: Review and scrutiny of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-17

Officer Lead: Chris Patino

Planned start date: April 2014

Target PPB Meeting: September 2014

Topic Description and scope:

- Identify level of Domestic Abuse and identify where Halton is in relation to neighbouring LA's.
- To look at existing cooperation between relevant organisations to work to reduce incidents (as per domestic abuse strategy 2014).
- Explore adoption of white ribbon status for the borough of Halton
- Identify areas of good practice across the sub region of Cheshire

Why this topic was chosen:

- Present levels in Halton have been identified as a particular problem.

Key outputs and outcomes sought:

- Recommendation of adoption by the Council of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-17
- Identify the true level of the problem.
- Seek external funding/partners to help deliver the Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Increase awareness of support services on offer
- Raise confidence levels of victims to report offences

Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve:

- Safer
- Health and wellbeing

Financial issues

A need to identify any additional funding needed to progress the action plan.

Nature of expected/desired PPB input:

Member led scrutiny review by Cllr Darren Lea and other Councillors of the Board, Emma Sutton-Thompson, Cheshire Police, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Cheshire & Merseyside (RASASC), Sarah Ashcroft (Domestic Abuse coordinator), Mike Andrews, RSL's (Lynn to clarify any volunteers).
Meetings, scrutiny and facilitators.

Preferred mode of operation:

Monthly two hourly meetings with a completed action plan by September 2014 for Executive Board approval in October 2014.

Agreed and signed by:

PPB chair

Officer

Date

Date