

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 12th September 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: White Ribbon Campaign

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Members of the Board on the White Ribbon initiative.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) the Board comment on a draft action plan**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Board has previously considered the White Ribbon campaign. There is a notice of motion going to full Council on 18th October 2023 asking Council to support the development of an action plan and pursue accreditation (appendix one).
- 3.2 White Ribbon is a UK charity whose objectives are to engage boys and men to end violence against women and girls. Their objectives advise most violence is from males and aims to raise awareness, address attitudes and behaviours to change outcomes. They work towards having White Ribbon Ambassadors who are dedicated male volunteers who engage with men to raise awareness. They have White Ribbon Champions who are both male and female to ensure voices of survivors are heard. They also have accreditation for larger organisations to provide a strategic platform in raising awareness and changing cultures and support organisations for smaller organisations with less than 250 staff but wish to focus on violence against women and girls in promoting a positive and respectful culture; this could be small businesses but also other types of organisation such as schools and sports clubs.
- 3.3 The motion if agreed will require an action plan to be developed to support accreditation. Attached is a draft action plan (appendix two) that responds to the accreditation requirements which encompasses work of the Domestic Abuse service and would report into Halton's Domestic Abuse Partnership. Key elements of the action plan cover:-

- Awareness raising and e-learning offer to engage staff, Council Members, schools
- A planned event in November delivered by Halton's Domestic Abuse Partnership in collaboration with Safe Lives, the organisation Halton is actively working with
- A communication and engagement plan to ensure information is available to ease navigating support for victims and system learning from lived experience

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications at this stage.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Domestic Abuse impacts children and young people life chances. The awareness raising aims to change behaviour thus improving outcomes for future generations of children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There is collaborative learning across Halton's system in better understanding Domestic Abuse and the impacts.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The impacts of domestic abuse are far reaching impacting the health system and wellbeing of those effected by Domestic Abuse.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Halton experiences high risk, high harm, high volume domestic abuse which impacts neighbourhoods and communities. Measures to raise awareness and tackle domestic abuse are welcomed in striving to build strong resilient communities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None to report.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None to report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None at present.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None to report

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.

Appendix One – Notice of Motion for White Ribbon October 2023

NOTICE OF MOTION

To be submitted to the meeting of Full Council to be held on: 18 October 2023

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in accordance with Standing Order Number 6.

	Name (in capitals)	Signature
Proposer:	CLLR BEVAN	
Seconder:	CLLR N. PLUMPTON WALSH	

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE

This Council agrees that it is committed to challenging all forms domestic abuse and to promoting a culture in which people can be protected and the victims of domestic abuse be supported.

Council notes that in March, on International Women’s Day, Jess Phillips M.P read out names in the House of Commons of 109 women and girls who had lost their lives in cases where a male perpetrator had either been charged or convicted of their killing. Of the names read out 2 were unnamed, unknown women. The youngest victim was 15 and the oldest was 92 years of age. This list does not include women who have survived attempts on their life or those deaths in which cases never see anyone charged. We believe that this illustrates the scale of the problem, and Council agrees to commit to taking action to challenge domestic abuse.

Council agrees to:

- 1) Take steps to prepare an Action Plan to submit the Council as a candidate for White Ribbon accreditation, so that the Council can proactively engage in a range of actions to tackle the causes, and effects of domestic abuse, and to promote support for victims, and to challenge the behaviour of perpetrators.
- 2) We will proactively promote awareness and an end of domestic abuse with local schools, and through the operation of Council services, where we can do so.
- 3) We will make available to all Council members and staff, the means for them to undertake an awareness course on domestic abuse, so that

the early signs of it can be identified, and staff and members made aware of how to react to incidents.

- 4) We will hold an annual awareness event in conjunction with White Ribbon Day annually in November, the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women, to encourage men and boys to pledge never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women.
- 5) We will take steps to ensure awareness for women who are experiencing violence to know where to get help through effective promotion of services available.
- 6) We will continue to promote the Safer Streets Campaign raising awareness of how both Men and Women can play their part in making Halton's streets safer in partnership with Cheshire Police.

(NB This motion must be submitted to the Chief Executive, c/o the Committee Services Manager, at least seven clear working days prior to the date of the relevant Council meeting.

In accordance with SO6, if the subject matter of the motion comes within the province of any Panel, Board or Committee or Committees it shall without introductory speeches by the mover or seconder upon being moved and seconded stand referred without discussion to such Panel, Board or Committee or Committees, or to such other Panel, Board or Committee or Committees as the Council may determine, for consideration and report. However, the Mayor may, if s/he considers it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.)