

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 06 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman to advise the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

3 - 6

4 ACTION NOTES

To confirm the action notes of the meeting held on 19 July 2016.

7 - 8

5 EMT HOUSING PRIORITIES

Verbal update from Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director, Place.

9 - 42

6 DRAFT DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION STRATEGY

To include tracking of "Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence" Inquiry

7 **HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM REVIEW**

John Hardy, Commissioning Manager - Prevention, Commissioning Centre of Excellence

8 **WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17**

For discussion.

9 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 11 October 2016 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 2, Council House, Birmingham B1 1BB.

10 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

11 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chairman are matters of urgency.

12 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 19 July 2016, Committee Room 2

Present:

Councillor Victoria Quinn

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Matthew Gregson, Roger Harmer, Des Hughes, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke, Gary Sambrook, Sybil Spence, Ron Storer and Margaret Waddington

Also Present:

Cllr Peter Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes

Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options

Pete Hobbs, Service Integration Head, Private Rented Sector

Rob James, Service Director, Housing Transformation

Amanda Simcox, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Mike Walsh, Head of Service, Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation

Benita Wishart, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE AND CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED:-

To note the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2017:-

Labour Group

Councillors Victoria Quinn (Chair), Gurdial Singh Atwal, Matthew Gregson, Des Hughes, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke and Sybil Spence.

Conservative Group

Gary Sambrook, Ron Storer and Margaret Waddington.

Liberal Democrat Group

Roger Harmer.

Cllr Matthew Gregson was appointed to be Deputy Chair of the Committee.

3. APOLOGIES

No apologies were submitted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:-

To note the Committee's terms of reference.

6. DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED:-

i) That the Committee meets on the following Tuesdays at 1400 hours in the Council House:

2016	2017
6 September	17 January
11 October	14 February
8 November	7 March
12 December	11 April

(ii) The Committee approved Tuesdays at 1400 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions

7. CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES

(See document No 2)

Following an outline from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes, the discussion covered the need for citizens to be higher on the agenda, especially in the planning and designing of their neighbourhoods.

In response to questions, the committee heard that:

- A briefing note will be provided on the work ongoing outside the city centre to assist homeless and rough sleepers. This will include how many bed spaces are available and funded through the Supported People Programme.
- The Homeless Health Inquiry and the outreach contract the Council has with Midland Heart and other organisations will be discussed at a future committee meeting.
- The issues with off road bikes etc will be part of the Community Safety Partnership discussion.

8. NEW HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SCHEME

(See document No 3)

Mike Walsh, Head of Service, Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation and Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options explained the problems with the IT system had resulted in the implementation of the new housing allocations scheme being postponed. Testing should be completed in September and the re-registration and the contacting of the 21,000 on the waiting list will not take place until the IT system is deemed to be fit for purpose.

In response to questions, the committee heard that:

- Moving from four Housing Advice Centres to one does not impact on the re-registration.
- There is already an on-line portal where everyone bids for properties on-line.

9. PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

(See document No 4)

Pete Hobbs, Service Integration Head, Private Rented Sector, outlined the services his team of 20 staff provides, including dealing with requests for assistance from private tenants, landlords and the mandatory licensing scheme.

- In response to questions it was agreed that the Empty Properties Strategy will be forwarded to Members.
- The Cabinet Member offered Members the opportunity for them to contact his office if they would like him to attend or visit a Housing Liaison Board, Forum etc.

10. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document No 5)

The work programme will be updated and circulated to Members before the September committee meeting.

11. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL INN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

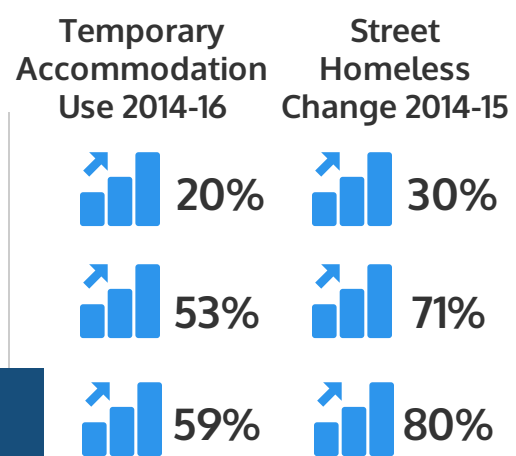
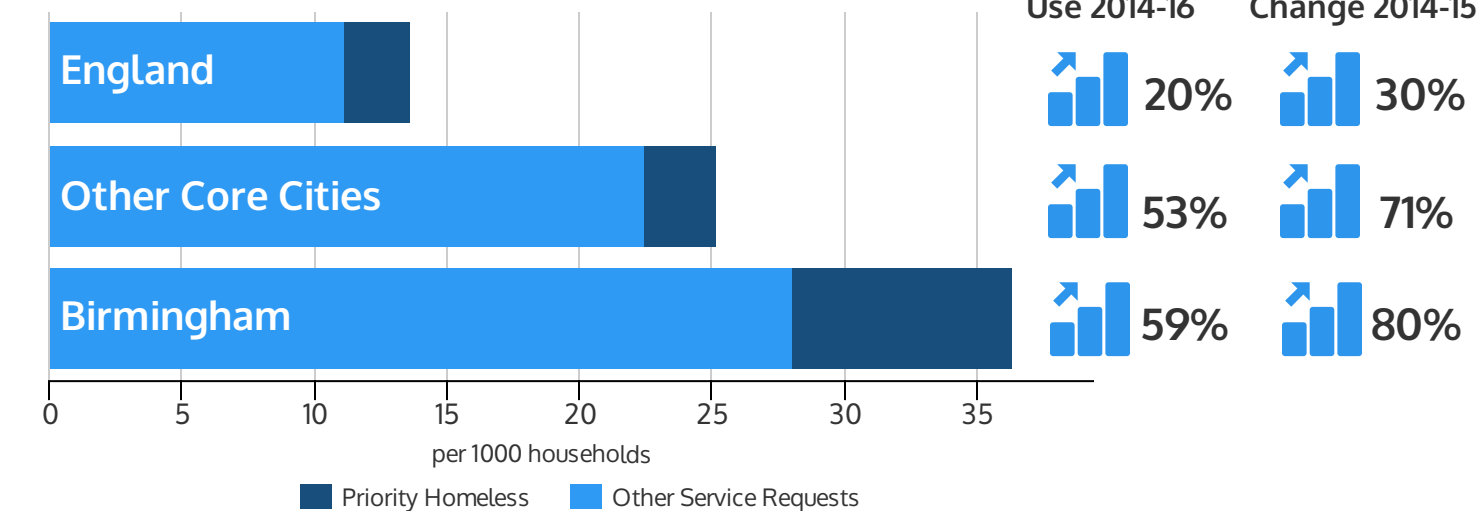
None.

13. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1630 hours.

Housing Need Service Requests 2016



Housing for Birmingham

Social Housing Need Met 2015/16



Households requiring up to 3 bedrooms

34% of need met



Households requiring 4 bedrooms or more

6% of need met

Affordability

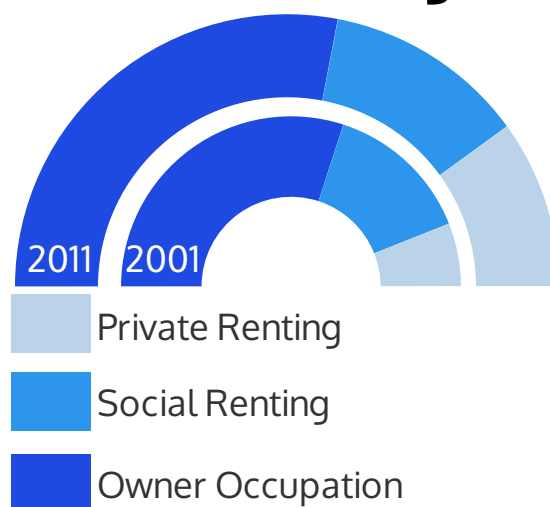
Income to house price ratio

6.8 Birmingham

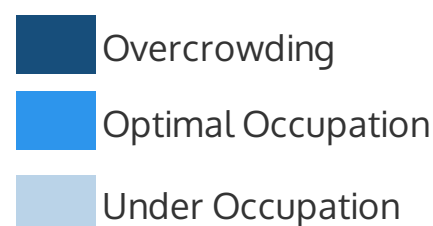
6.4 Other Core Cities

7.6 England

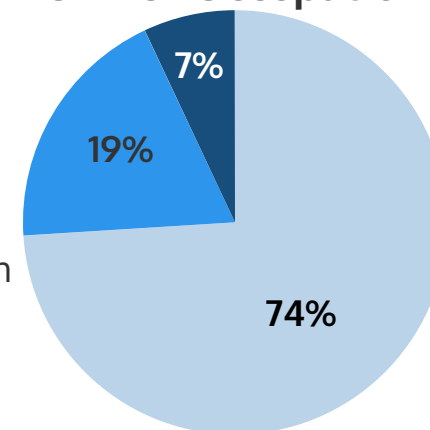
Tenure Change



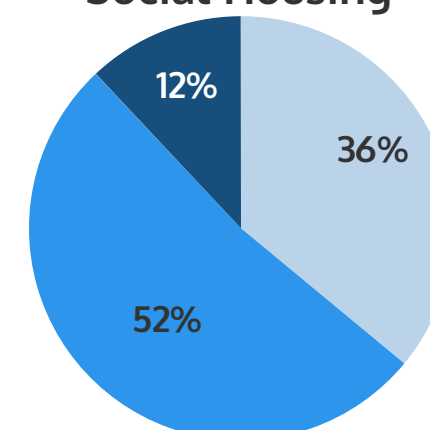
Occupancy Rates



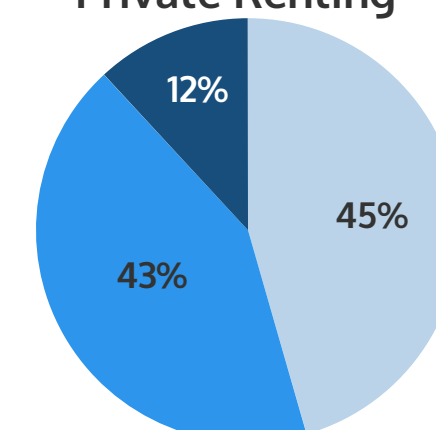
Owner Occupation



Social Housing

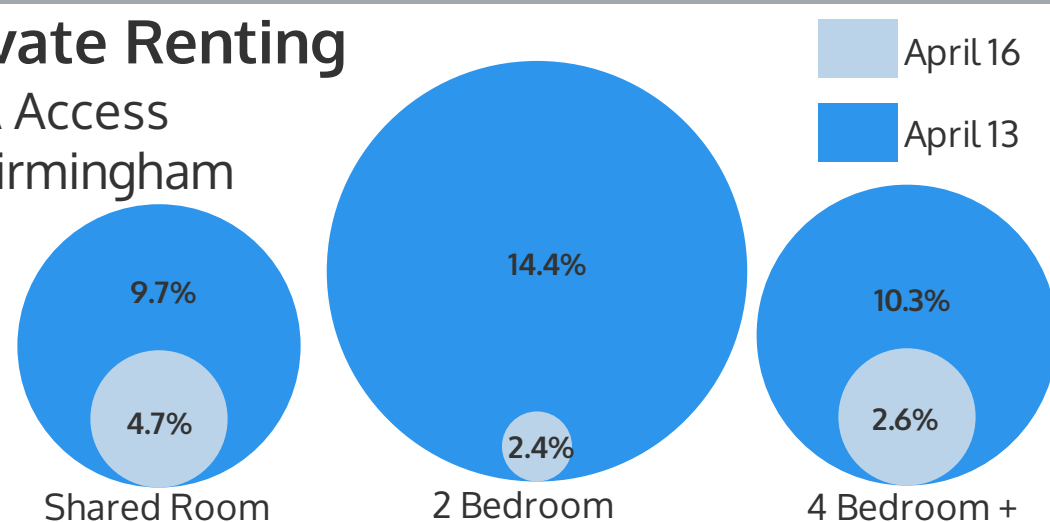


Private Renting

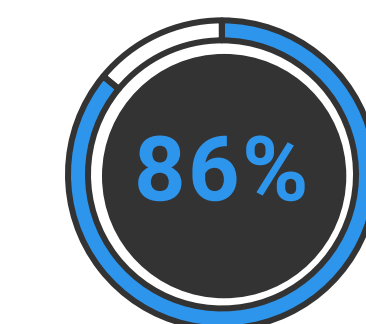
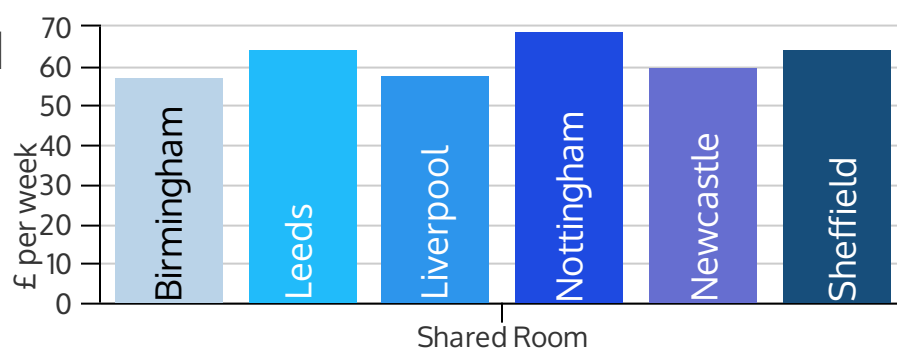


Private Renting

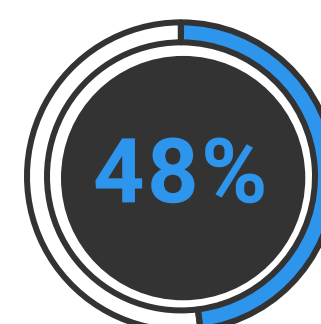
LHA Access in Birmingham



LHA Shared Room rate for selected Core Cities (2016)

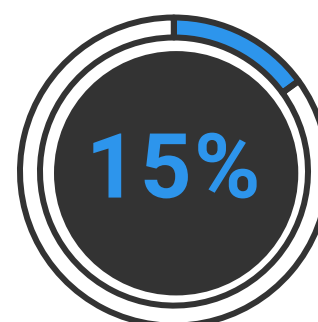


Households affected by benefit cap reduction to £20,000 who have children

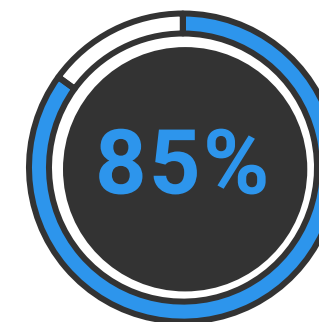


Households affected by the benefit cap losing £50+ a week from their housing benefit

Welfare Reform

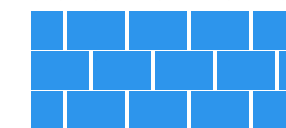


BCC Lettings to single person households who will only receive a shared room LHA rate from 2018



Unemployed 18-21 year olds in receipt of housing benefit, who need to start learning or earning to retain it

House Building & Household Growth



89,000 new homes needed by 2031 to meet household growth



51,100 net additional homes the city can accommodate



3,113 net additional homes completed 2015/16 includes 1,000 student units

Types of Homes required



28% 4 bedroom or larger



2,800 homes for older



1/3 affordable housing

2/3 market housing

**Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy
2016-2020
(Pre-Consultation Draft)**

DRAFT

Produced for Birmingham Strategic Partnerships by Birmingham City Council
Commissioning Centre of Excellence
August 2016

Contents

Introduction	2
Part 1: What We Know	5
Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment	5
Barriers to Support and Protection	6
Statistics for Last Year	7
Cost of Domestic Abuse.....	8
Lessons from Domestic Homicide Reviews	9
On the horizon.....	9
Part 2: What We Think.....	10
Citizen's Voice.....	10
Practitioner's Voice	10
Victim's Voice.....	10
Statement of Principles	11
Part 3 – What We Will Do	12
Vision	12
Priority 1: Changing Attitudes.....	13
Priority 2: Early Help	15
Priority 3: Safety & Support.....	19
How will we know that we are getting it right?	22
Performance Dashboard	22
Further Information.....	23

Introduction

Domestic abuse touches the lives, directly or indirectly, of most people in Birmingham. Indeed, the sheer scale of domestic abuse causes untold harm to individuals, children and families, communities and damages the social fabric of the city.

Although Birmingham's services have a strong history of partnership working in addressing domestic abuse, there is now evidence that domestic abuse in the city, as elsewhere, is increasing and more victims, both adult and child, are known to be at risk than ever before. At the same time, our public services are shrinking and we need to find new ways keeping our population safe and healthy and enabling our communities to thrive.

We know a great deal about domestic abuse, not least that left unchecked, domestic abuse gets worse over time and therefore the case for identifying victims and intervening earlier to reduce harm is clear. However, the long-term ambition of this strategy is for a city free from domestic abuse and we must therefore take all practicable steps to eliminate domestic abuse, reducing harm and demand for services along the way. Success on this scale depends upon achieving changes in attitudes and behaviour across individuals, across ages and across cultures and will depend, as the recent City Council Scrutiny report suggested, on all communities taking a lead on prevention.¹

A city free from domestic abuse will require every person expecting their relationships to be based on equality and respect. Domestic abuse will affect many of these relationships whether these are between intimate partners or within families. This strategy seeks to be inclusive of these wider experiences such as forced marriage, honour-based violence, child to parent abuse and violence in young people's own relationships. It also seeks to remove the barriers to support and protection that many more marginalised groups experience, such as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women, LGBT victims, disabled victims and younger and older victims. Each of these forms of domestic abuse is rooted in the abuse of power and control and are intrinsically linked to equality. In this way, the role of gender in abusive relationships cannot be ignored and tackling domestic abuse, alongside violence against women, requires a response which takes account of the broader gender inequalities which women face.

What we've achieved since the last domestic abuse strategy

Our last strategy in 2013 identified a number of gaps in our responses to domestic abuse:

Gaps	What We Did
<p>Victims, family, friends and professionals didn't know where to go for help with domestic abuse.</p> <p>Many professionals working across the city didn't understand domestic abuse beyond the physical violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We funded the Women's Aid helpline which responds to over 1600 victims each year We have delivered multi-agency training and described what agency's training should look like to help staff understand coercion and control. Our Safeguarding Children Board now asks agencies working with children specifically about how they are training their staff on domestic abuse (Section 11) We have signed up to West Midlands Domestic Violence and Abuse Standards
<p>Young women experiencing domestic abuse needed their own service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Aid now runs a young women's service and has recently received Lottery funding to run the first young women's refuge in the country.
<p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans(LGBT) people experiencing domestic abuse needed their own service to deal with domestic abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We funded a domestic abuse worker specifically for the LGBT community. Birmingham LGBT have the only domestic abuse worker in the region
<p>Services are often fragmented and un-coordinated despite the best efforts of individual agencies involved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic abuse specialists now sit with other professionals to identify the risk of domestic abuse to children. We have strengthened the arrangements for undertaking Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences where the responses to high risk victims are co-ordinated.
<p>Victims don't always want to tell the police about their experiences but may trust other professionals more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twenty five GP practices are involved in a project to enable the early identification and response to domestic abuse victims who go to their GP but would have been reluctant to disclose their abuse. Birmingham City Council has now taken Civil Orders against domestic abusers for ten years, where criminal action was not possible

Gaps	What We Did
There were not enough services for victims at high risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We increased the numbers of independent domestic violence advocates supporting high risk victims.
Adequate options for victims with multiple needs arising from substance misuse or mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We developed good practice guidelines on working with women and mothers with multiple needs
Many professionals didn't know what services were available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have domestic abuse forums now across the city, bringing agencies and staff together from across the different sectors to share best practice, build their skills and understanding and running local campaigns and initiatives.
Only 53 per cent of victims asking for refuge were able to get refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlike many other areas in the country, Birmingham has protected and slightly increased its refuge provision until 2017

Despite these improvements, still more than four women, on average, are killed by their partners each year in Birmingham and serious harm from domestic abuse is increasing. Birmingham is not alone in this as domestic abuse is increasing across the country. However, Birmingham is committed to preventing domestic abuse and this strategy shows how we intend to do it.

Part 1: What We Know

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

The starting point for our strategy is understanding domestic abuse and its impact on individuals, families and communities in Birmingham.

Domestic abuse takes place between adults, in families and in relationships. The abuse can be psychological, emotional, financial or physical and involve sexual violence, threats, stalking, harassment, coercion and control. Coercion involves assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim. Controlling behaviour involves an abuser's control over their victim's everyday life; making them dependent on them; isolating them from support and preventing their independence, resistance and escape.

Domestic abuse in Birmingham, as elsewhere, can happen to anyone, irrespective of where a person lives, their ability, education or place in life, their gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion or beliefs. However, we know that there are factors that increase the risk of harm.

Domestic abuse may be between adults but it profoundly affects children. Some children are directly abused. Most children living with domestic abuse witness it. The majority of children identified to be in need in Birmingham are living with domestic abuse. However, all children are adversely affected by how an abuser controls the home and everyone in it.

In recent years, we have found that significant numbers of young people also experience domestic abuse in their own relationships, which impacts disproportionately on girls and, for some, links to harms such as teenage pregnancy. We are also beginning to know more about child to parent abuse, particularly affecting mothers, which has largely been hidden from view because of the understandable reluctance that mothers have in reporting it.

Domestic abuse causes significant health problems beyond the physical injuries we normally associate with it and will often lead to mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, self-harm, eating disorders, attempted suicide and substance misuse. For example, women experiencing domestic abuse are fifteen times more likely to misuse alcohol and nine times more likely to misuse drugs than non-abused women. Women and mothers will often have been coerced into substance misuse and we know from serious case reviews that children are most at risk of harm where there is a combination of mental ill-health, substance misuse and domestic abuse in the household.

The consequences of domestic violence include poverty, unemployment and homelessness. It impacts on employers and the local economy by limiting victims' ability to access or sustain education, training and employment. In these ways, abusers create untold harm to the families and communities in which they live.

Barriers to Support and Protection

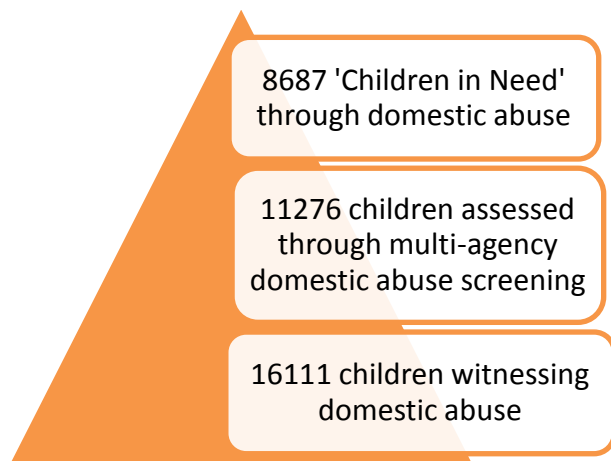
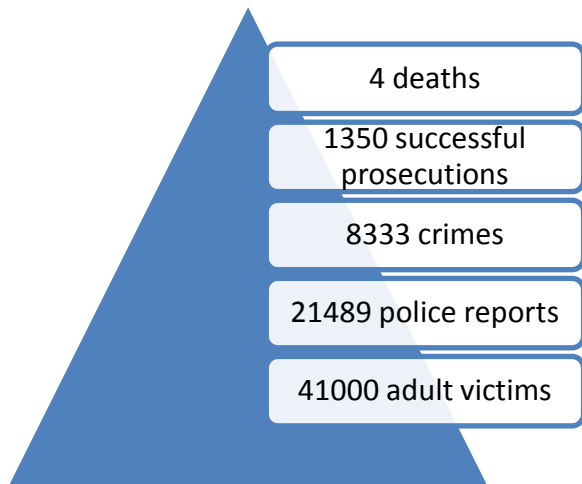
We recognise that some sectors of society can experience multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage or additional barriers to accessing support. These include women and girls from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) men and women and disabled people.

Domestic Abuse Victims	Facing additional barriers
Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women	Whilst there is no evidence that BME women experience higher levels of domestic abuse than the wider population, the abuse of BME women may be compounded by factors such as forced marriage and honour based violence or interfamilial violence. BME women may experience particular isolation from sources of support as a result of language, cultural isolation, experiences of racism and in some cases insecure immigration status. Suicide rates for many BME women are three times greater than the wider population. BME men and women who have physical or learning disabilities or who are LGBT have increased risk of forced marriage. Women with no recourse to public funds face particular barriers by being barred from access to most public services and often have to face a stark choice between violence and destitution. Providing the choice of specialist BME domestic abuse services can help overcome fears of racism and cultural isolation.
Older women	Older women are less likely to identify their experience as domestic abuse, less likely to be economically independent of their partner, less likely to be aware of services available, more likely to be isolated through ill-health and less likely to seek help. When help is sought, their experiences are often seen as elder abuse which may miss the particular dynamic of domestic abuse.
Disabled women	Disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than other women and likely to endure domestic abuse for longer periods of time as a result of the barriers they face including isolation and reliance upon carers and caring arrangements. Few disabled women had ever sought help for the abuse and reported a lack of awareness, lack of trust of sources of support, self-blame, fear of loss of independence or believing they couldn't be accommodated due to their needs.
LGB&T	Gay and bisexual men face a significantly higher risk of partner violence from male partners and familial abuse. 49 per cent of gay and bisexual men have experienced domestic and familial abuse. Up to 80 per cent of Transgender people have experienced domestic abuse. All LGB&T victims of domestic abuse face additional barriers in gaining support from actual or perceived homophobia and from greater potential isolation from family support and are less likely to seek support except from a dedicated LGBT domestic abuse service.

This strategy seeks to address the barriers that all people face in gaining support and protection and achieving the equality that is needed to end domestic abuse.

Statistics for Last Year

Domestic abuse in Birmingham is increasing



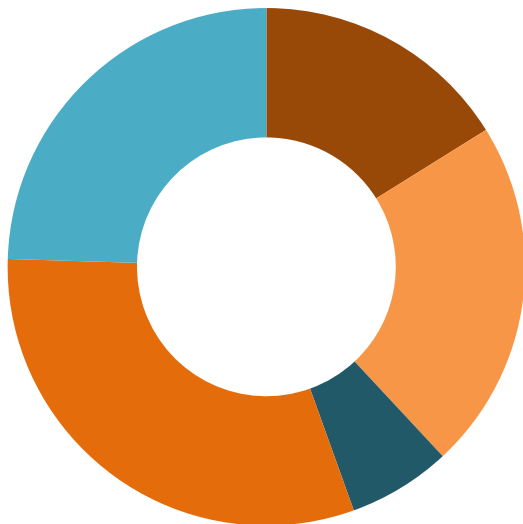
Over the last year, both the numbers of victims of domestic abuse and the demand for services have increased:

- Police reports of domestic abuse increased by 7%, domestic abuse crimes increased by 11% and most serious violence increased by 14%.
- The number of abusers prosecuted and convicted has increased but still only accounts for 16% of crimes reported.
- The number of high risk victims being dealt with at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) increased by 36%. The proportion of black and minority ethnic victims facing high risk is particularly increasing.
- The number of children being assessed through domestic abuse joint (multi-agency) screening increased by 29%.
- 77% of Children in Need in the city experienced domestic abuse

Previous strategies have sought higher reporting of this hidden crime, but they have also sought a reduction in the most serious of violence. Unfortunately both of these are increasing. Much of this local increase is consistent with the national picture which has seen violence against women increasing since the economic crash in 2009.

Cost of Domestic Abuse

Estimated Cost of Domestic Abuse to Public Services in Birmingham

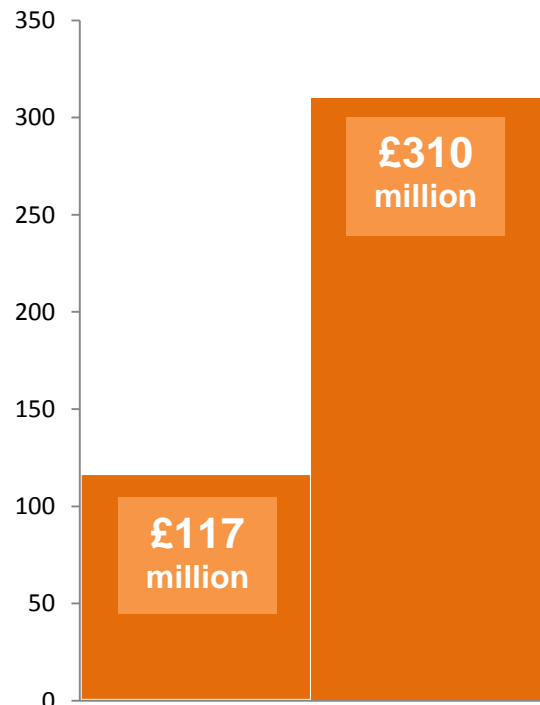


- £25m Criminal justice
- £34m Health
- £10m Social Care & Housing
- £48m Civil legal
- £38m Lost Economic Output

The annual financial cost of domestic abuse to Birmingham's services is estimated at £117million. However, domestic abuse has a serious and lasting impact on a victim's sense of safety, health, well-being and autonomy, and can severely restrict their ability, and their children's future ability, to fully participate in society. The combined service and human and emotional costs, increases this figure to an estimated £310million.

Birmingham currently spends heavily on the impact of domestic abuse, particularly in relation to health, policing and social care. By contrast, little investment is made in either prevention or early intervention in domestic abuse.

Estimated Cost of Domestic Abuse with and without human cost



Lessons from Domestic Homicide Reviews

Over the last five years, the Community Safety Partnership has reviewed every death in Birmingham through domestic abuse and examined what agencies knew; how they responded and how we could all work better in the future to prevent such deaths. The reviews have shown us that more needs to be done in the following areas throughout our services¹:

- We need to understand domestic abuse, not as a series of individual and violent incidents, but as a relationship of coercion and control affecting everything that the victim and the family does. This has been described as an abuser's "micro-management of everyday life".
- We need to ensure that our responses are safe, empowering and supportive to victims, and their children.
- We need to stop blaming the victim but understand the safety strategies that are being used and respond to the threat and control which the victim and family faces.
- We need to rethink how we keep children safe. At the moment, we rely too heavily upon an abused mother to keep her children safe and think too little about how we, as agencies, can keep the family safe. We need to empower our staff to know that they can make a difference without the need to take a child into care.
- We need to understand the threat that an abuser poses to those close to him. This is particularly true for mental health and substance misuse services who will often be working closely with an abuser and not want to jeopardise their relationship by enquiring too closely about domestic abuse.
- No matter what service we are responsible for delivering, we need to identify and ask about domestic abuse, and keep asking until it becomes routine for us and safe for victims to tell us.
- We need to stop domestic abusers from being invisible to our services and we need to control and manage them more effectively. Too often we are not tying up an abuser's history of violence with their current behaviour and then not being able to correctly identify the threat that the abuser poses.
- We need to make sure everyone knows where to go for help and recognise that many people face barriers to gaining the help and support they need.
- We need to listen to and act on disclosures from friends, families, colleagues and the wider community and seek help.
- We need to understand that domestic abusers are most violent when their victim tries to end a violent relationship or seeks help. The majority of our domestic homicides (intimate partners) have been killed when they have sought help or tried to leave. If a victim is taking these brave steps, we must wrap protection around them.


On the horizon

On the horizon, there are renewed challenges facing both victims and the services that they need. The city's services face unprecedented challenge as a result of austerity, welfare and social housing reform. The Needs Assessment accompanying this strategy demonstrates the impact that this has for individuals, particularly women and families experiencing domestic abuse.

¹ Dying to Tell You BCSP 2016

Part 2: What We Think

Over the autumn, we will be consulting widely on this draft strategy with people, practitioners and policy makers and your thoughts will populate these pages and help us shape the final strategy.



"I kept going to all these places for help but they weren't listening. I went to the GP and she said I was depressed and gave me pills. I took the pills and he said I was mad and used this against me too. I wasn't depressed, I just needed help to get away."

Citizen's Voice

Practitioner's Voice

Victim's Voice

Statement of Principles

As signatories to the West Midlands Domestic Violence and Abuse Standards,

- We will prioritise the safety of victims and their children in every aspect of decision making and intervention. We understand that victims and their children are at most risk when they end a violent relationship or seek help and will work to protect them when they do.
- We understand that without effective intervention domestic abuse often escalates in severity. We will make every effort to reach and identify adult and child victims earlier.
- We will treat victims with respect and dignity. We will listen to them and believe their experiences of violence; take seriously their concerns and seek to understand and strengthen their safety strategies.
- We will seek to gain informed consent from victims where possible when there is an intention to share information.
- We will respect confidentiality and privacy wherever possible and understand the increased risks associated with information sharing in the context of domestic violence and abuse.
- We will maximise choices for domestic abuse victims and empower them to make informed decisions about their lives wherever possible.
- We will actively work to develop competent services which are sensitive to the diverse range and needs of the individuals and communities we serve.
- We will send clear messages that perpetrators of domestic abuse are accountable for their behaviour and that victims are never to blame.
- We will work co-operatively with the range of services that victims and their children need.

Part 3 – What We Will Do

Vision

Birmingham aspires to be a city where everyone lives free from domestic abuse and expects equality and respect in their relationships.

To achieve this, Birmingham will:

- Strengthen its co-ordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse and ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity.
- Prevent domestic abuse for our next generation by working with children and young people to build healthy relationship skills based on equality and respect
- Work with the wider community to ensure that domestic abuse is confronted and addressed in every aspect of Birmingham life so that victims have confidence to disclose and abusers will know that they will be held to account.

Shared Priorities

Domestic abuse affects every area of Birmingham life and every ambition for the city whether this is our people's health, education, safety and opportunity or our city's economy and community cohesion. Tackling domestic abuse is therefore a shared priority for each of our strategic partnerships in the city. Over the coming months, each of our strategic partnerships will be asked to agree their role in delivering against this strategy and their commitments will be declared here.

Priority 1: Changing Attitudes

We aim to prevent domestic abuse by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?



Increase in healthy relationship skills



Decrease in social tolerance of domestic abuse

Why changing attitudes is important?

It is clear from the surveys of attitudes of young people that our society has not progressed far in what to expect of a healthy and positive relationship and in ending domestic abuse. The availability and influence of on-line pornography is one of a number of factors influencing how boys and girls view each other as their own relationships take shape. It is important that we counter these messages and give young people a chance to value equality and respect in their relationships.

Schools are the first place we go to when we want to change attitudes but they themselves are under enormous pressure to prevent a range of social ills, ranging from childhood obesity, child sexual exploitation, bullying, teenage pregnancy, substance misuse to involvement in gangs. However, living with domestic abuse is all too often the cause of other concerns and this strategy needs to help schools identify when and how they can intervene and what impact this could have on their other responsibilities for school behaviour, attendance, attainment and safeguarding.

Birmingham's play and youth services have reduced significantly in recent times but they have been able to demonstrate very positive engagement with children and young people around positive relationships and this strategy needs to harness and spread the good practice from these initiatives.

Public awareness campaigns have been a feature of the city's landscape for many years and the local domestic abuse forums in the city have done much to engage with

local services to extend the reach of these campaigns. Every day scenarios can be the most successful in encouraging discussion and disclosure and in this way, much more could be done to reach into every aspect of Birmingham life, whether it be hairdressers and beauty salons or places of worship, with one clear message about domestic abuse.

We have seen that forced marriage and honour based violence continues to be a major concern for the city, particularly in respect of women, people with learning disabilities and the LGBT community and there have been a number of voluntary and community organisations working to raise awareness and to challenge the practices. This strategy will support voluntary and community organisations in their engagement with those communities affected and share the best practice from the recent project of community engagement around female genital mutilation.

One area of Birmingham life which has not had multi-agency attention is the workplace. For some workers, their work may be the one place that they can still feel like themselves and won't want their employer to know. For many others, their abuser will threaten them at work and their abuse may stop them doing their job as they would want to. Employers need to create safe spaces for employees to disclose with confidence that they will be supported and where they are abusers themselves, for their behaviour to be challenged. Whilst some agencies have policies for supporting workers experiencing domestic abuse, through this strategy we will encourage all major employers across the city to adopt a common approach.

We will do this by:

- Widening community engagement and public awareness of domestic abuse by encouraging community led preventative approaches, working closely with community and voluntary organisations and faith groups
- Seeking non-traditional sources of awareness raising (such as hairdressers/ beauty salons/vets/ supermarkets)
- Refreshing guidance to schools and youth settings on dealing with domestic abuse
- Engaging with schools to agree a Birmingham-wide whole school approach to domestic abuse through strengthening equality and respect
- Providing targeted community engagement around forced marriage and honour based violence and with victims currently under-represented in services such as disabled people and LGBT people.
- Developing a workplace standard and encourage Birmingham wide adoption of workplace policies on domestic abuse.

Priority 2: Early Help

We aim to intervene early to prevent harm and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on victims and families

What outcomes do we want to achieve?



**Domestic abuse is identified earlier.
Domestic abuse victims (adults and
children) are able to recover from
abuse**



**Escalation and harm from domestic
abuse is reduced**

Why early help is important

Recent research has shown that compounded adverse childhood experiences (ACES)² such as domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, child abuse and neglect have a tremendous impact on an individual's lifelong health and opportunity. The need for interventions to ensure that children have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments is all the more evident.

Likewise, evidence of the nature of domestic abuse highlights that when left unchecked and without intervention, the scale and severity of domestic abuse normally increases. It follows that the earlier agencies engage and provide safe options for victims and children, the better.

Our domestic homicide reviews have helped us identify places that have not traditionally been referral points for domestic abuse, such as GP practices and hospital emergency departments. These are places that victims frequently use and meet with professionals that they often already trust.

Our partner agencies are considering how their routine work could help identify and support those victims of domestic abuse who have not yet sought help. For example,

² <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/infographics/the-truth-about-aces.html>

our Fire Service attends over 27,000 homes per year undertaking safe and well visits and is now training its staff to identify and respond safely to domestic abuse.

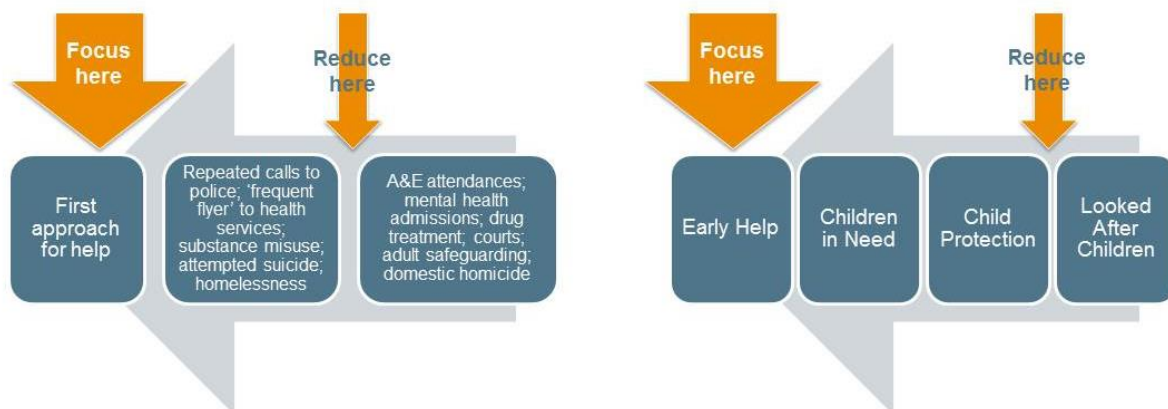
But responding effectively to domestic abuse at the ‘front door’ requires a good system behind the scenes so that all services know, not just how to respond themselves, but what to do next, knowing who to refer to and there being services available to refer into when they are needed. We refer to these as **care pathways**.

Transforming and Mainstreaming Practice

We often hear about the need to transform our responses to an issue and recommending transforming practice in domestic abuse may seem like yet another change required of change-weary services. However, empowering our statutory services to respond better and earlier to domestic abuse may be the one thing that makes all the other changes possible.

We have seen in the Needs Assessment that domestic abuse is core business for all of our services. For the police it represents 33 per cent of assaults with injury; for children’s services, domestic abuse is a feature for 77 per cent of children in need; for health services victims and families are needing to deal with the health consequences of abuse without ever revealing the cause; domestic abuse accounts for 22 per cent of all homelessness. In this way, how we respond to domestic abuse makes or breaks every other system.

Across the Adult’s Workforce & Across the Children’s Workforce



Transforming our response to domestic abuse means that there should be ‘*no wrong door*’ for domestic abuse and relies upon a new approach and an increased commitment to:

- Understanding the nature of coercive control and how to engage better with those experiencing domestic abuse
- Understanding the gendered nature of most domestic abuse
- Creating safe environments for disclosure
- Early identification through routine and direct questioning
- Workforce development through training, supervision and management to understand and respond to domestic abuse better

- Familiarity with risk and threat assessment and understanding the fluid nature of risk in domestic abuse
- Having clear pathways to specialist support for victims
- Creating an empowering, person-centred culture rather than an agency-centred culture
- Recognising the role of the specialist domestic abuse services which is critical, but not exclusive, in this model.

We will do (this) by:

Removing barriers to safety through:

- Introducing an '**Ask Me**' scheme where a victim can disclose abuse in places that she trusts and where staff have been trained to provide an initial safe response. This could be any service from dentists to housing to school support.
- Expanding early identification and early help with **trusted professionals** such as Birmingham's GPs with care pathways following to specialist services for those that need them
- Mapping of Birmingham's domestic abuse care pathways across our services to improve and optimise their effectiveness
- Developing service specific best practice guidance, pathways and toolkits to support front-line delivery

Transforming and Mainstreaming Practice through:

- Providing a city wide workforce development plan featuring the lessons from domestic homicide reviews and providing standardised learning outcomes for all domestic abuse and forced marriage training provided to agencies working with children, adults and families. Working with our safeguarding boards to prioritise agency roll out of workforce development through Section 11 (children) and Section 175 (schools) and annual assurance statements (adults)
- Supporting the development of a 'Hub'-style model for domestic abuse as well as reviewing how each of the city's Hubs respond to domestic abuse.
- Supporting the Social Emotional and Mental Health Pathfinder which seeks to transform education for children and young people with multiple needs, including domestic abuse
- Ensuring that victims with multiple needs receive the unified support they need by mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse services sharing skills and developing their approaches together.
- Evaluating the child to parent abuse pilot currently being undertaken in Youth Offending Service with a view to extending the programme across wider services

- Exploring the added value of automatic police notifications in cases of domestic abuse and explore alternative models of enabling Right Service Right Time for children and young people exposed to domestic abuse
- Exploring the added value and outcomes for children and young people subject to multi-agency joint screening and explore alternative methods of enabling Right Service Right Time for children and young people exposed to domestic abuse
- Defining what works and what is safe practice for 'whole family' approaches to domestic abuse such as 'Think Family'
- Developing an integrated and multi-agency commissioning model in line with the government's forthcoming guidance (National Statement of Expectations) and which strikes the balance between provision of high risk protection and support for victims and children with earlier intervention and recovery models for both adults and children.

Priority 3: Safety & Support

We aim to ensure that victims and children are safe and protected from harm

What outcomes do we want to achieve?



Increase in number of adult and child victims who feel and are safe



Reduction in the risk of harm from domestic abusers

Why safety and support is important?

The recent review of domestic abuse in the city found that we were placing too much reliance upon victims to keep themselves and their children safe and insufficient focus on managing the behaviour of domestic abusers, both through criminal justice and through child and adult safeguarding. Abusive fathers often remain invisible in child protection proceedings although they are often the ones creating the risks. To reduce the number of domestic abuse victims, abusers must be challenged to change their behaviour through effective enforcement, deterrence and management.

Recent changes in the law such as the introduction of coercive control, Domestic Violence Protection Orders and extension of anti-social behaviour powers and the requirement for probation services to work with all offenders irrespective of the length of their sentence, each pave the way for our strengthened response to managing abusers. West Midlands Police have provided a welcomed commitment to actively 'manage' over 600 high risk, serial or repeat domestic abusers. However, many of our agencies are well placed to help the police either by having powers to take action themselves, or by working together to make sure that actions work. For example housing providers can take injunctions against abusers for anti-social behaviour and evict abusers from social housing and domestic violence services can support victims to gain injunctions.

At the same time, it is important that victims and children are supported and protected whilst heightened action is taken against their abusers. The focus on early intervention cannot be at the cost of those that we know to be facing high risk now and a balance of activities taken to stem the escalation of risk and effectively manage the risk when it is known.

Steps have been recently taken to strengthen our Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs) which deal with high risk cases of domestic abuse. These steps have included introducing governance and accountability; investment in administration and encouraging agencies other than the police to refer their high risk cases. The Needs Assessment Update identifies that Birmingham still has low overall numbers, fewer disabled victims and fewer LGBT victims dealt with through MARAC than our population would expect. The introduction of more robust domestic abuse offender management provides an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between MARAC, child protection and offender management and enable a holistic approach to keeping families safe. However, in order to put MARACs on a footing with other well-functioning areas, investment in co-ordination is also required.

The drive to establish a more coherent, consistent and co-ordinated approach to managing domestic violence abusers across our agencies and minimising their harm may be a uniting factor across public services. However, this response does not just lie in the management of our highest risk or serial abusers: it begins with the first response of our front-line agencies whether police, housing, social workers or community based services:

- taking domestic abuse seriously and not minimising the abuse
- recognising factors of coercive control
- identifying the risk
- not relying on victims to manage the risk alone, particularly when separation is increasing this risk
- assuming the victim will not support prosecutions: collecting evidence robustly and maximising use of third party reporting
- all agencies identifying previous violent history of the abuser and sharing information with the police
- using each agencies' powers, whether in housing, legal, children's or adult's services, to protect victims and children
- understanding the predominantly gendered nature and impact of domestic abuse

We will provide safety and support by:

- Developing a new way of working which strengthens our focus on domestic abusers and that is capable of dealing with abusers at the earliest opportunity as well as when behaviour becomes more entrenched. This will involve developing a multi-agency framework for managing domestic violence abusers and offenders capable of managing, diverting, disrupting and wherever possible prosecuting abusers, each undertaken with the aim of protecting adult and child victims of domestic violence
- Strengthening the relationship between multi-agency public protection systems, particularly MARAC, DV Tasking, Child Protection and Integrated Offender Management, actively involving all social landlords, children's services and partner agencies
- Establishing clear pathway for civil interventions

- Drawing on good practice from other areas, such as Strathclyde Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Partnership and Islington Persistent Perpetrator Panel
- Supporting the commissioning and roll-out of perpetrator programmes in line with *RESPECT* accreditation
- Guaranteeing an independent support service for all victims at high risk
- Strengthening multi-agency services for high risk:
 - Agreeing a common tool across agencies for assessing risk and threat from domestic abuse, following the outcome of the review being undertaken by the College of Policing.
 - Increasing the numbers of agencies with targeted staff able (with training and care pathways in place) to identify high risk
 - Increasing multi-agency referrals to MARAC from child protection agencies beyond the police
 - Establishing secure case management information system for MARAC
 - Sustaining and where possible extending refuge provision in the city
 - Being clear that services cannot keep victims and children safe without addressing their other needs
 - Being clear that targeting of services **only** to high risk, fails to recognise the fluid nature of risk. Only 2 of our 21 deaths in the last 5 years had been assessed as high risk.

How will we know that we are getting it right?

Performance Dashboard

Prevention: Changing Attitudes

- Number of schools committed to a whole school approach to promoting healthy relationships and West Midlands Domestic Abuse Standards
- Increase reporting to domestic abuse helpline
- Increase reporting of domestic abuse (and sexual violence) to police
- Increased reporting of forced marriage to police
- Increased reporting of honour based violence to the police
- Increased number of organisations with workforce policies on domestic abuse

Prevention: Early Help

- Increased number of referrals to domestic abuse services from range of services, including mental health, primary care, Accident and Emergency services, safeguarding adults, substance misuse and housing services
- Increased number of adults receiving specialist domestic abuse support, particularly from under-represented groups such as older women, disabled women and LGBT victims
- Increased number of children receiving specialist domestic abuse support (Increased provision for children's recovery)
- Reduced number of children experiencing domestic abuse admitted to care
- Reduced number of children in need experiencing domestic abuse
- Clearly defined Birmingham budget across agencies capable of securing care pathways from early identification, maintaining refuge provision and meeting diverse needs through targeted services to under-represented or vulnerable groups

Prevention: Harm Reduction through Safety and Support Measures

- Reduced deaths through domestic abuse
- Reduced domestic abuse related attempted murders
- Reduce 'most serious' domestic abuse related violent crime
- Reduced repeat domestic abuse offenders
- Reduced serial domestic abuse offenders
- Reduced high risk domestic abuse offenders
- Increased proportion of police reports of domestic abuse that are treated as crimes
- Increased proportion of domestic abuse related arrests
- Increased number of finalised domestic abuse cases (Birmingham Court)
- Increased proportion of domestic abuse cases successful (Birmingham Court)
- Increased use of civil orders
- Increased use of restraining orders (Birmingham Court)
- Increased use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders
- Increased Forced Marriage Protection Orders
- Increased use of sanctuary scheme
- Reduced repeat homelessness (through prevention and early intervention)
- Reduced use of bed and breakfast for domestic abuse victims and children
- Increased numbers of domestic abuse victims and families rehoused through social landlords protocol (rather than homelessness)
- Increased multi-agency referral to MARAC
- Independent specialist support available to 100% high risk victims

Further Information

Evidence to support the data and findings of this prevention strategy are included in the following supportive suite of documents available at <http://birminghamcsp.org.uk/>

- Birmingham Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment (published 2013)
- Birmingham Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment Evidence Update (July 2016)
- Interim report of consultation and engagement with citizens and stakeholders (full report available September 2016)
- Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy Interim Equality Assessment (full assessment available September 2016)
- Birmingham City Council Social Cohesion and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence (2015)

ⁱ Birmingham City Council (2015) Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence

(PRE-CONSULTATION DRAFT) Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2016-2020

Vision: Birmingham aspires to be a city where everyone lives free from domestic violence and abuse

To achieve this, Birmingham will:

- Strengthen its co-ordinated multi-agency response to domestic abuse and ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity.
- Prevent domestic abuse for our next generation by working with children and young people to build healthy relationship skills based on equality and respect
- Work with the wider community to ensure that domestic abuse is confronted and addressed in every aspect of Birmingham life so that victims have confidence to disclose and abusers will know that they will be held to account.

	Outcome	Action	Measure	Target	Responsible Partnership & Alignment to Strategic Plan
Changing Attitudes	Increase in healthy relationship skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote healthy relationship programmes and whole school approaches with schools, colleges, youth settings and universities• Support the development of curriculum materials on violence against women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of schools committed to a whole school approach and West Midlands Domestic Abuse Standards	Increase	BHWBB: make children in need safer BEHP: children and young people able to attend, learn and maximise their potential at school; young people ready for and able to contribute to adult life
	Decrease in social tolerance of domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Widen public awareness campaigns and community engagement encouraging community led preventative approaches working closely with community and voluntary organisations and faith groups• Targeted engagement around forced marriage and honour based violence• Targeted engagement with under-represented groups including LGBT victims and disabled people• Introduce ‘Ask Me’ schemes for safe disclosure in everyday settings• Introduce domestic abuse workforce policies across the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victims seeking advice from domestic abuse helpline (and diversity)• Police reports of domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based violence• Number of organisations with workforce policies	Increase Increase Increase	BCSP: Deterrence and Prevention
Early Help	Domestic abuse is identified early and escalation prevented	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transformation of mainstream approach to domestic abuse including city wide workforce development plan accompanied by best practice guidance and toolkits• Introduce early identification and referral pathways with ‘trusted professionals’ and across health and social care settings• Support the Social Emotional & Mental Health Pathfinder• Re-ignite cross-over workforce development between domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health• Review added value and outcomes for children from joint screening and automatic police notifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children experiencing domestic abuse admitted to care• Children in need experiencing domestic abuse• Referrals to DA services including mental health, primary care and A&E, safeguarding adults, substance misuse and housing services	Reduce Reduce Increase	BCSP: Deterrence and Prevention BHWBB: make children in need safer
	Domestic abuse victims (adults and children) are able to recover from abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directly support recovery from abuse for victims and their children• Develop Domestic Abuse Hub style model and review how each of the city’s hubs respond to domestic abuse• Integrated multi-agency commissioning• Evaluate for potential roll-out of child to parent abuse programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbers of adults receiving DA specialist support particularly from under-represented groups such as older women, disabled women and LGBT victims• Numbers of children receiving DA specific support• Clearly defined Birmingham budget across agencies capable of securing care pathways from early identification, protecting refuge provision and meeting diverse needs through targeted services to under-represented or vulnerable groups	Increase Increase	BHWB: Improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children BEHP: Healthy, happy and resilient children living in families BCSP: Supporting the Vulnerable
Safety and Support	Reduction in risk of harm from domestic abusers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an multi-agency abuser management framework of co-ordinated multi-agency action to prevent abusers continuing to harm• Support commissioning of RESPECT accreditable perpetrator programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of high risk, serial and repeat DA offenders• Number of successful prosecutions• Number of civil orders, restraining orders, Domestic Violence and Forced Marriage Protection Orders, sanctuary schemes	Reduce Increase Increase	BCSP: Prevention and deterrence BEHP: Families make positive changes to their behaviour
	Domestic abuse victims (adults and children) feel and are safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen multi-agency services for high risk and high need including homeless prevention and refuge• Strengthen relationship between public protection processes of MARAC, child protection, DV Tasking and Integrated Offender Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of deaths, attempted murders and most serious violence through domestic abuse• Number of repeat homelessness through DA• Number of DA households in B&B• Number of moves through DA between social landlords• Multi-agency referral to MARAC <div>Page 33 of 52 Page 33 of 52</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of high risk victims receiving independent support	Reduce Reduce Reduce Increase Increase 100%	BCSP: Supporting the Vulnerable BHWBB: reduce statutory homelessness BEHP: children and young people protected from significant harm

Report of:	Cllr Hamilton, Cabinet Member Health and Social Care
To:	Housing and Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	6 September 2016

Progress Report on Implementation: Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence

Review Information

Date approved at City Council:	14 April 2015
Member who led the original review:	Councillor Mariam Khan
Lead Officer for the review:	Mashuq Ally
Date progress last tracked:	19 November 2015

1. In approving this Review the City Council asked me, as the appropriate Cabinet Member, to report on progress towards these recommendations to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. Details of progress with the remaining recommendations are shown in Appendix 2.
3. Members are therefore asked to consider progress against the recommendations and give their view as to how progress is categorized for each.

Appendices

1	Scrutiny Office guidance on the tracking process
2	Recommendations you are tracking today
3	Recommendations tracked previously and concluded

For more information about this report, please contact

Contact Officer:	Paula Harding
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Telephone:	0121 464 8696
E-Mail:	paula.harding@birmingham.gov.uk

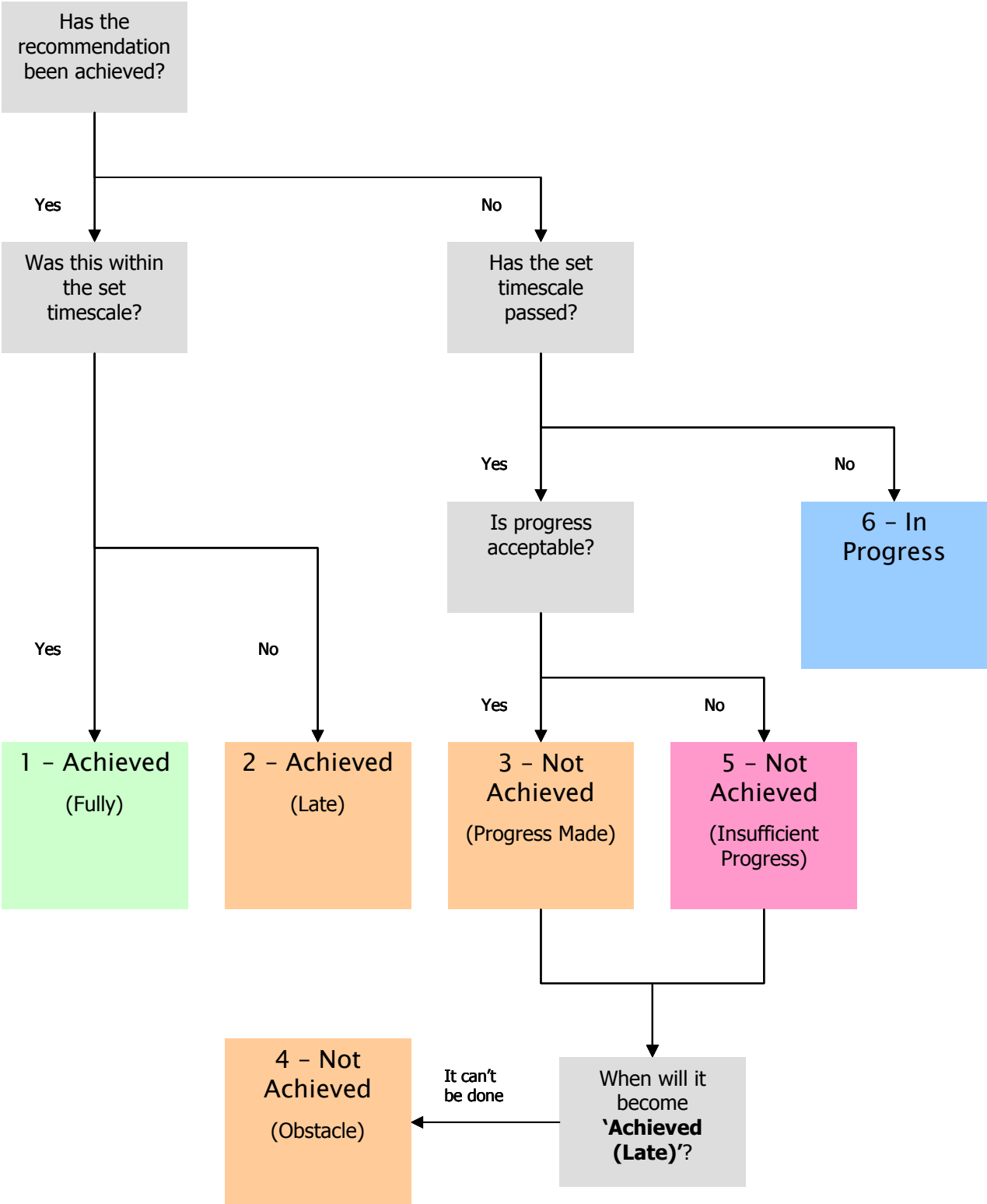
Appendix I: The Tracking Process

In making its assessment, the Committee may wish to consider:

- What progress/ key actions have been made against each recommendation?
- Are these actions pertinent to the measures required in the recommendation?
- Have the actions been undertaken within the time scale allocated?
- Are there any matters in the recommendation where progress is outstanding?
- Is the Committee satisfied that sufficient progress has been made and that the recommendation has been achieved?

Category	Criteria
1: Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2: Achieved (Late)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented but not within the timescale specified.
3: Not Achieved (Progress Made)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but there has been significant progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
4: Not Achieved (Obstacle)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but all possible action has been taken. Outstanding actions are prevented by obstacles beyond the control of the Council (such as passage of enabling legislation).
5: Not Achieved (Insufficient Progress)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved and there has been insufficient progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
6: In Progress	It is not appropriate to monitor achievement of the recommendation at this time because the timescale specified has not yet expired.

The Tracking Process



Appendix 2: Progress with Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R01	<p>That the City Council encourages community led preventative approaches within its own services and amongst its partner organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Involving working closely with community and voluntary organisations and faith groups; b) Utilising and updating the most recent contact information about community champions and community leaders; c) Mobilising communities and encouraging them to tackle attitudes to relationship violence with a view to preventing relationship violence and bringing about cultural change in the longer term. 	<p>Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care</p>	November 2015	3

Evidence of Progress

Following this scrutiny recommendation, the Community Safety Partnership and the Esme Fairburn Charitable Foundation have jointly supported the development of Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid's community engagement initiative on preventing domestic abuse in Black and minority ethnic communities and engaging with communities specifically in forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). This project builds on and extends Women's Aid's successful model of community engagement in FGM which

- developed peer research which provided a rich narrative about affected communities attitudes to violence against women and what could be done to prevent it
- recruited and supported community champions (women, men and young people) fostering trust and collaboration with local communities
- worked with schools and colleges, delivering workshops and providing support to young people affected
- trained local professionals from a range of disciplines in effective responses.

Many other agencies have been actively working across the city to engage local communities including:

- Amirah Foundation *SayNo Project* was funded by the Community Safety Partnership to encourage more young people to talk about, discuss and get involved in a social media campaign outlawing violence against Women and Girls. The Amirah Foundation has been running a social media campaign and going into schools to talk to young people about attitudes and social pressures
- Amirah Foundation's *Fighting Back Campaign* involving a series of oral histories exploring changing attitudes and responses to domestic abuse over the last 50 years
- Amirah Foundation's Brothers Against Violence Campaign shortly to launch to involve men in the campaign to stop violence against women.
- Ashramoseley Housing Association's campaign around forced marriage including showings of their film *Land Gold Women* and launch of an interactive board game to raise awareness of domestic abuse
- Muslim Women's Network forced marriage and FGM campaigns working with faith leaders, the Al Quba Trust and St Alban's Academy and developing awareness raising videos on FGM
- Birmingham LGBT's campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse in LGB and T relationships which will feature in Birmingham again in the Autumn
- The Community Safety Partnership's *This is Abuse Campaign*, supported by local multi-agency domestic abuse forums. The campaign used a variety of media to raise awareness of the new law on coercive control including advertising on all pharmacy bags across the city, inside buses and trains and promoted through social media and in diverse news outlets.
- For the Commemoration Day of Memory for Victims of Forced Marriage on 14th July, Ashram Moseley, Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid and Karma Nirvana each held events with local communities
- For the national day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25th November, many agencies held

local events and the Muslim Women's Network commenced a campaign highlighting the deaths of women through domestic abuse.

- West Midlands Police *Salon Saviours* campaign to train beauticians, hairdressers and nail technicians in the signs of abuse and the support networks available.

This is not an exhaustive list and many more organisations not listed here are actively working across the city to engage local communities, demonstrating how community engagement can be successful by fostering a spirit of trust and collaboration.

However, much more needs to be done to match the spirit of this recommendation. The ambitions of the new (currently draft) domestic abuse prevention strategy are for a city where everyone lives free from domestic abuse and expects equality and respect in their relationships. Success on this scale depends upon achieving attitudinal and behavioural change across individuals, across ages and across cultures and will depend on all communities taking a lead on prevention, widening public awareness and challenging abuse where it happens. Whilst our specialist services have shown resourcefulness in securing charitable funding to support their work, change on the scale that is needed will not happen without sustainable resource and this will be the challenge of the new strategy to harness resources to support sustainable change.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R02	That the City Council strengthens its leadership role for the city by reviewing the domestic violence strategy and enabling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) coherent pathways for victims and children, across sectors, to access the support and protection they need; b) strengthening the engagement of schools and other educational establishments, including academies, committing to participating; c) integrated working between Birmingham Youth Services and Think Family Team and Children's Services and homelessness; d) youth service providers from both statutory and third sector involvement in the delivery of informal education programmes with young people. 	Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety Cabinet Member for Children's Services Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care	November 2015	3

Evidence of Progress

The domestic abuse prevention strategy is being prepared for consultation. A pre-consultation draft is included as a separate report to this Committee.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R03	That the City Council and its partners encourage schools and educational establishments to take a 'whole school approach' to children and young people developing positive relationships and provide guidance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the delivery of school based educational programmes and awareness campaigns aimed at educating young people about healthy relationships in both 	Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety Cabinet Member for Children's Services	November 2015	3

	primary and secondary settings drawing on the expertise of the specialist domestic violence sector; b) working in partnership with youth service providers and in facilitating informal education delivery that promotes healthy relationships and brings about a change in attitudes to relationship violence; and c) working with parents to educate parents about attitudes to relationship violence.			
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Evidence of Progress

This recommendation features significantly in the draft Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy to be consulted upon between September and November 2016.

In the preparation of the draft strategy, engagement was held with 450 heads or designated safeguarding leads through three safeguarding conferences during June. The conferences revealed that a number of schools are already involved in the delivery of programmes to promote healthy relationships such as:

- Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme is being piloted in 6 Birmingham schools: a programme to help tackle rape, dating and domestic violence, sexual harassment, bullying and other forms of violent and abusive behaviour. MVP aims to empower young people to take an active role in promoting a positive school climate and develop bystander skills to safely intervene and prevent violence. The programme is currently being rolled out across Scotland with the support of the Scottish Executive.
- Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid Positive Relationships Programme Women's Aid which last year delivered a 6 week preventative programme to over 1800 students across primary, secondary, pupil referral units and youth groups. Briefings have reached 380 teachers and provided 23 sessions for parents. This level of delivery was supported by funding from the Community Safety Partnership which ceased in March 2016, pending a new commissioning framework for the partnership.
- Miss Dorothy programme which involves learning about personal behaviour and safety for seven to eleven-year-olds. It is designed to tackle issues including bullying, crime, social inclusion and good citizenship, indirectly addressing domestic violence (primary)
- UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools award (primary)

Clearly schools are being called upon to engage in a wide range of initiatives to tackle a wide range of social ills. Rather than promote any individual programme above others, the new strategy will seek to develop curriculum materials, engage schools in reviewing the value of individual programmes and continue to promote a whole school ethos to positive relationships. Through the conferences, a number of school leads and school advisors have volunteered to help develop curriculum materials and to support the adoption of whole school approaches in this area.

In addition, addressing domestic abuse has been identified as a significant issue for the Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Pathfinder. The Pathfinder is developing a unique model of integrated provision across education, children's services and health to more effectively meet the exceptional complex needs of young people and families from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, with multiple social problems. As domestic abuse is a common feature within the cohort of children attending the five special schools involved in the Pathfinder, a partnership with domestic abuse specialist services is being developed as part of the approach.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R04	That an assessment of progress against the recommendations made in this report be presented to the relevant O&S Committee.	Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety	November 2015	1

Evidence of Progress

Appendix ③: Concluded Recommendations

These recommendations have been tracked previously and concluded.

They are presented here for information only.

concluded

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Date Concluded by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Tracking Assessment

Information Briefing

Report from: John Hardy
Report to: Housing and Homes O&S Committee

Date: 6 September 2016

Homeless Single System Programme

1. SUMMARY

Birmingham has a number of services for homeless households across both the statutory and non-statutory provision. Many of these services have been recognised as good practice both locally and nationally. However, despite this we are seeing double the number of rough sleepers and unprecedented numbers in Temporary Accommodation.

It is becoming apparent that the areas of good practice alone will not be able to meet the challenges and pressures due to changing demography, an increasing complexity of need and the need to deliver better services with less resource.

To this aim we are planning to undertake a radical, transformational review of homelessness as a whole aimed at reducing long term homelessness. The review will involve not just the City Council but how we work better with all relevant statutory and third sector partners particularly on better prevention.

2 PROPOSED SUPPORT FROM HOUSING AND HOMES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- Receive regular programme progress up dates for overview and scrutiny
- Identification of good practice from other Local Authorities/Services
- Provide support and recommendations related to policy development identified through the programme
- Help shape and deliver programme aims and subsequent policy development or transformational change through challenge and review.
- Support the delivery and maintenance of good practice.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Reducing Homeless and Street Sleeping

Appendix 2: Stages of Homelessness Systems Approach

Contact Officer:

John Hardy

Telephone:

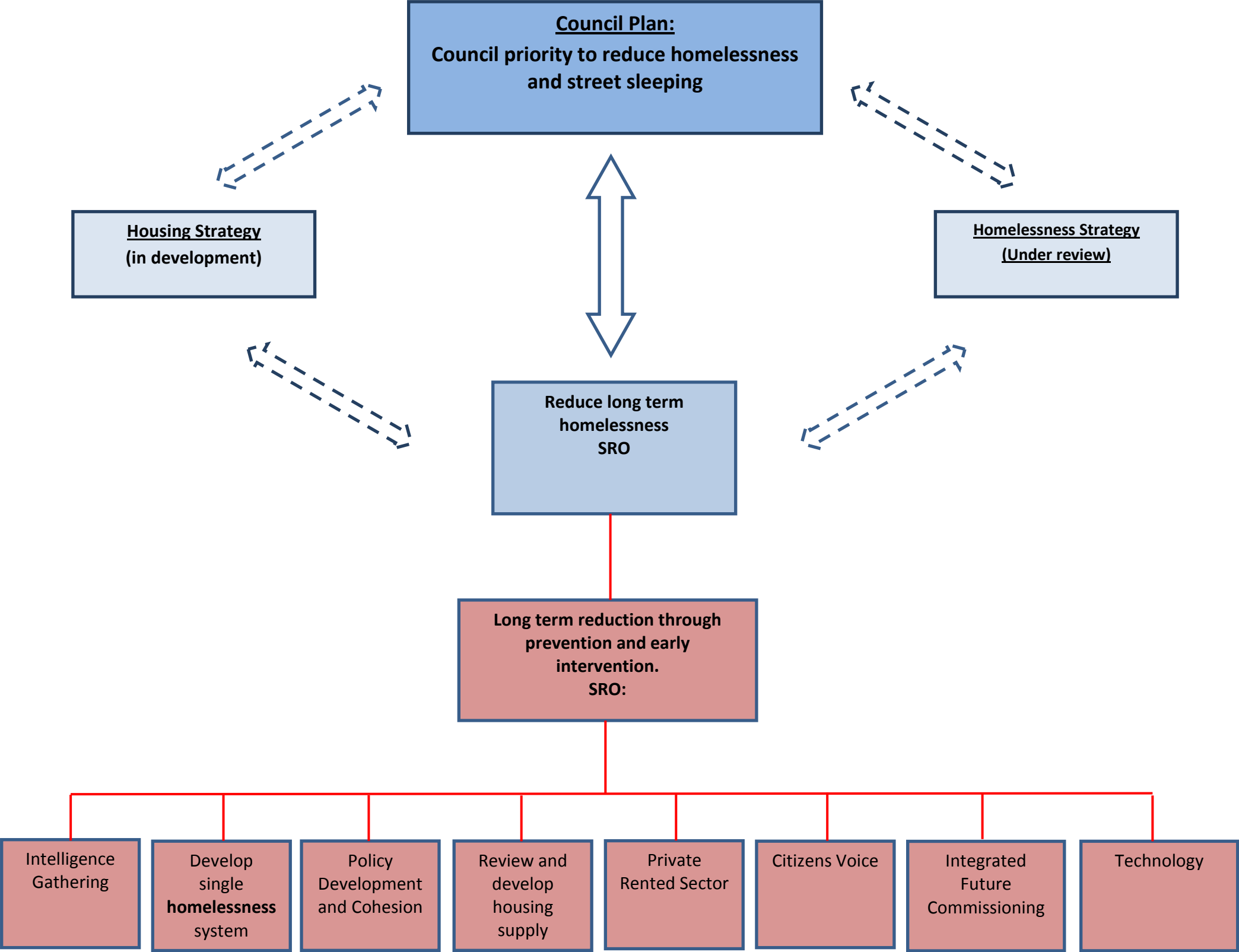
Commissioning Manager –Prevention
Commissioning Centre of Excellence
Directorate for People - Birmingham City Council
Telephone: 07766 924719

E-Mail:

Email: john.hardy@birmingham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Reducing long term homelessness and street sleeping

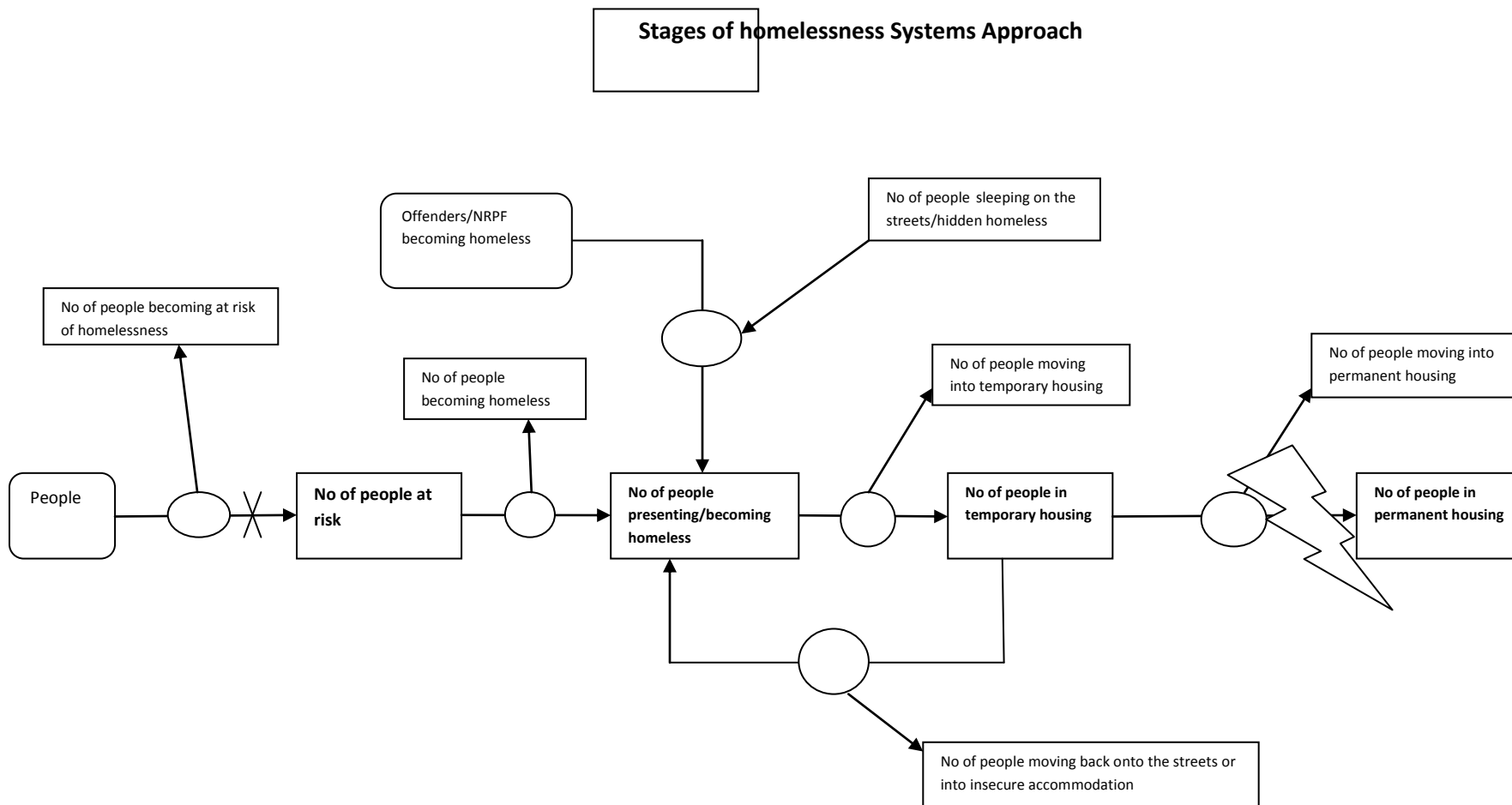
Version 0.2 ^{24th} Aug 2016



Project	Objective	Key Activity	SRO	Members
Intelligence Gathering	To provide, research, analysis and modelling in order to inform the longer term, collective strategic direction and service planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demographic analysis 2. Homelessness presentation and acceptance data 3. Out of Birmingham homelessness 4. Root cause analysis 5. Identify extend of ong term and repeat homelessness 6. Identify the 'hidden' homeless 7. Assess impact of 2017 changes to housing benefit 8. Research affordability models 9. Model the impact of 2017 HB caps across all Council stock 		
Single Homeless System	Develop an integrated whole system for homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tackle Root causes 2. Development of an integrated provider function across the whole homeless system providing the right services at the right time and in the right place. 3. Development of joined up preventative and early intervention strategies using an asset based approach 4. 		
Policy Development and Cohesion	To ensure all future Council policy considers homelessness implications and current policies do not adversely affect homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council/Cabinet Policy Approvals – Influence 2. Establish effective homeless radar system (re-visit Fuzzy-Logic model) 3. PRS Discharge – gain approval 4. Prevention Policy - Develop 5. Social Services - Influence 6. Children's Services - Influence 7. Rent Setting - Influence 8. Affordability -Develop 9. Strategic Tenancy Policy - Review 10. Landlord Tenancy Policy - Influence 		
Review and develop housing supply options	To review the reality of current supply across all tenures and maximise access to mixed tenures as stable alternative housing options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review accommodation options <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Direct Access hostels b. Supported Housing c. Housing First d. Shared Housing Models 2. Develop housing supply options to support the Housing Options service 3. Reduce the pressure on overall housing need <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop Under-occupation Scheme b. Reduce time taken to turn around void properties c. Reduce number of abandoned properties d. Develop Sub-letting task force e. Reduce tenancy fraud 		
Private Rented Sector	Improve access to the Private Rented Sector	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce current As-Is position statement 2. Research alternative PRS models 3. Lessons Learned Omega 4. Review Birmingham use by other Authorities 5. Review Stock Condition survey and SHMA 6. Develop a council wide set of standards for Council rentals in the PRS 7. Explore possible improvements in LHA levels 8. Develop PRS Models Options Appraisal 		

Citizens Voice	Ensure that the development of systems are service user focused	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stakeholder engagement 2. Service user experience 3. Consultation exercises 		
Integrated Future Commissioning		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review prevention service provision 2. Model and project prevention service need 3. Gap analysis 4. Identify future commissioning intentions 		
Technology		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify technology needs to support the single homeless system 2. Move forward Housing Advice and Homelessness IT requirements 3. Develop Business Requirements 4. Procure technology 5. Implement technology change 		

Appendix 2





Housing and Homes O&S Committee: Work Programme 2016/17

Chair: Cllr Victoria Quinn

Committee Members: Cllrs Gurdial Singh Atwal, Andy Cartwright, Matthew Gregson, Roger Harmer, Des Hughes, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke, Gary Sambrook, Sybil Spence, Ron Storer, Margaret Waddington

Officer Support: Scrutiny Team: Benita Wishart (464 6871) and Jayne Power (303 4810)
Committee Manager: Marie Reynolds (464 4104)

1 Meeting Schedule

Date	Item	Officer Contact / Attendees
28 June 2016 Committee Room 6	Informal Meeting: Work Programme Discussion	Benita Wishart/Jayne Power, Scrutiny Office
19 July 2016 Committee Room 2	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set out key priorities 	Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer
	New Housing Allocations Scheme	Mike Walsh, Head of Service – Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation, Commissioning Centre of Excellence
	Private Rented Sector	Pete Hobbs, Service Integration Head, Private Rented Sector
6 September 2016 Committee Room 2	EMT Housing Priorities	Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director, Place
	Draft Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy – to include tracking of the “Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence” review	Cllr Mariam Khan, Paula Harding, Senior Service Manager Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion
	Homelessness System Review	John Hardy, Commissioning Manager – Prevention, Commissioning Centre of Excellence



Date	Item	Officer Contact / Attendees
11 October 2016 Committee Room 2	Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality <ul style="list-style-type: none">To set out key priorities relating to Housing and Homes remit	Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer
8 November 2016 Committee Room 2		
12 December 2016 Committee Room 2		
17 January 2017 Committee Room 2		
14 February 2017 Committee Room 6	Report on the Community Safety Partnership – annual report (a statutory responsibility). To include: off road bikes TBC	Geoffrey Taylor
7 March 2017 Committee Room 2	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide an update on key priorities - TBC	Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer
11 April 2017 Committee Room 2		

2 Further work areas of interest

- 2.1 The following work programme items could be scheduled if members wish to investigate further (to be discussed).

3 Other Meetings

Call in Meetings

Petitions



*None
scheduled*

Councillor Call for Action requests

*None
scheduled*

It is suggested that the Committee approves Tuesday at 2.00pm as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

4 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Housing and Homes O&S Committee's remit.

Reference	Title	Portfolio	Proposed Date of Decision
001959/2016	Acquisition of Private Sites and Empty Homes	Housing and Homes	20 Sept 2016
002032/2016	Tender Strategy for the Provision of Major Adaptations for Housing (PO344) – Public Report	Value for Money and Efficiency	20 Sept 2016
002066/2016	Provision of Temporary Accommodation through Private Sector Leasing PO328 – Public	Value for Money and Efficiency	20 Sept 2016
001895/2016	Yardley Brook Full Business Case (FBC) approval	Housing and Homes	18 Oct 2016
001961/2016	Land Appropriations to support Housing Growth	Housing and Homes	18 Oct 2016
001962/2016	Private – Land Appropriations to support Housing Growth	Housing and Homes	18 Oct 2016
001429/2016	Disposal of Surplus Properties	Leader	18 Oct 2016
001813/2016	Birmingham Development Plan 2031	Leader	18 Oct 2016
000542/2015	Policy for the Use of Private Rented Sector to Meet Housing Needs	Housing and Homes	15 Nov 2016
001227/2016	Building Birmingham: BMHT Development Programme for 2016/7 and 2017/8	Housing and Homes	15 Nov 2016

