

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC

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| Report to: | CABINET |
| Report of: | Strategic Director for People |
| Date of Decision: | 18th October 2016 |
| SUBJECT: | BIRMINGHAM DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2017 - 2020 |
| Key Decision: Yes | Relevant Forward Plan Ref: 002389/2016 |
| If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box) | Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Relevant Cabinet Member(s) | Cllr Paulette Hamilton – Health and Social Care |
| Relevant O&S Chairman: | Cllr John Cotton – Health, Wellbeing and the Environment |
| Wards affected: | All |

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| 1. Purpose of report: |
| 1.1 To outline the proposed Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2017 – 2020. |
| 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval to commence consultation on the proposed strategy. |

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| 2. Decision(s) recommended: |
| That the Cabinet:- |
| 2.1 Approves the commencement of the formal public consultation on the proposed Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2017 – 2020. |
| 2.2 Notes that a further report will be brought back to Cabinet in February 2017 to seek formal ratification of the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2017 – 2020. |

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3. Consultation

Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended.

3.1 Internal

- 3.1.1 The Cabinet Members for Children, Families and Schools, Housing and Homes, and Transparency, Openness & Equality have been consulted on the contents of this report and are in agreement with the recommendation.
- 3.1.2 The Housing and Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee have received a report detailing progress to date in relation to the development of the strategy documents.
- 3.1.3 Officers from City Finance, and Legal and Democratic Services have been involved in the preparation of this report.

3.2 External

- 3.2.1 The Violence Against Women and Children Steering Group has received regular updates on the development of the strategy to date and support the principles.
- 3.2.2. Formal consultation, if agreed, will build upon the initial engagement that has taken place with strategic, multi agency partners and key stakeholders.
- 3.2.3 It would allow full and meaningful consultation to be undertaken with the general public, and those who have experienced and / or have been affected by domestic abuse. It would also allow consultation with marginalised groups including Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) communities, those with protected characteristics, and the wider community.

4. Compliance Issues:

4.1 Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?

- 4.1.1 The proposed Strategy is consistent with the Council's Vision 2020 priorities, in particular, Safety and Opportunity for all Children, A Healthy Happy Population, and Thriving Communities.
- 4.1.2 Consulting on the proposed Strategy is consistent with the Council's values relating to putting the Citizen first and at the heart of everything we do. It also contributes to the Council's overarching goals of Fairness and Democracy.
- 4.1.3 Domestic abuse is a key strategic priority for Birmingham Community Safety Partnership and the proposed Strategy adopts a Whole Family approach as set out in the Birmingham Early Help Strategy.

4.2 Financial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed Strategy itself.
- 4.2.2 The resources required to produce the proposed strategy were contained within currently approved resources.
- 4.2.3 The proposed Strategy will inform the development of a Commissioning Strategy for Domestic Abuse Prevention services (see 5.5 and 5.6). The detailed Commissioning Strategy will initially cover Council – commissioned services and this will include a detailed assessment of the financial envelope and any associated implications.
- 4.2.4 As part of the Commissioning Strategy development, the intention is to hold discussions with other domestic abuse commissioners to explore the opportunity to align our commissioning plans going forward.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The Care Act 2014 together with associated regulations and statutory guidance contains a general duty to promote an individual's well-being.
- 4.3.2 The Children Act 1989 together with associated regulations and statutory guidance contains a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need.

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 4.4.1 An initial Equality Assessment (EA) was carried out in August 2016 (Appendix 5). At this time, no potential adverse impacts have been identified.

5. **Relevant background/chronology of key events:**

- 5.1 The Birmingham Violence Against Women Strategy 2013 – 2015 is now out of date. The Domestic Violence and Abuse Review 2016 highlighted the continued need to provide, or enable, a comprehensive and sustainable approach to keeping people experiencing domestic abuse, and their children, safe.
- 5.2 The Commissioning Centre of Excellence and Birmingham Community Safety Partnership are working jointly and with key contributions from partner agencies across Health, Criminal Justice and the Voluntary Sector to achieve a collaborative and co-ordinated multi-agency and city-wide approach to the prevention and early identification of domestic abuse.
- 5.3 Domestic abuse affects every area of Birmingham life and every ambition for the City whether this is Citizen's health, education, safety and opportunity or the City's economy and community cohesion. Tackling domestic abuse is therefore a shared priority for each of all strategic partnerships in the City. At the same time, our public services are shrinking and we need to find new ways of keeping our population safe and healthy and enabling our communities to thrive.

- 5.4 The Strategy sets out Birmingham's commitment to preventing domestic abuse and seeks to address the barriers that all Citizens face in gaining support and protection and achieving the equality that is needed to end domestic abuse.
- 5.5 In line with national guidelines, the Strategy will cover domestic abuse in:
- Adults, children and young people who are experiencing (or have experienced) domestic abuse,
 - Those who are perpetrating domestic abuse,
 - Children who are exposed to domestic abuse and,
 - The general population (for the purposes of prevention more broadly).
- 5.6 Our strategic vision is informed by the latest national policy direction¹. To reduce domestic abuse, the key aims for the Government include:
- Challenging the deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours, and by educating, informing and challenging young people about healthy relationships, abuse and consent;
 - Making early intervention and prevention a priority, identifying individuals in need before a crisis occurs, and intervening to make sure they get the help they need for themselves and for their children;
 - Services in local areas will work across boundaries in strong partnerships to assess and meet local need, and ensure that services can spot the signs of abuse in all family members and intervene early;
 - Individuals will be able to disclose experiences of violence and abuse across all public services.
- 5.7 To achieve this, we have identified the following priorities for Birmingham:
- a) Changing Attitudes
 - b) Early Identification and Early Help
 - c) Safety and Support
- 5.8 The proposed Strategy (Appendix 1) has been developed along with a Plan on a Page to provide an at a glance view of the key commitments (Appendix 2). These documents have been developed by means of a Needs Assessment (Appendix 3) and Needs Assessment Update (Appendix 4) which detail an assessment of domestic abuse in the City. Supporting this, an initial Equality Assessment (Appendix 5) was undertaken.
- 5.9 A draft Consultation document including questionnaire (Appendix 6) has been designed to explore the views of strategic, multi agency partners, key stakeholders, Citizens, and the wider community. It is proposed that the consultation will run from Monday 31st October 2016 closing on Friday 6th January 2017.
- 5.10 The consultation findings will be used to update the EA prior to returning to Cabinet in February 2017 to seek approval for ratification of the final Strategy.
- 5.11 To compliment the proposed Strategy and contribute to the delivery of its key outcomes, the next stage would be to develop a clear and robust Commissioning Strategy outlining the proposed service model for the future.
- 5.12 The Commissioning Strategy will be led by the Commissioning Centre of Excellence, developed within the available financial envelope and in the context of any Council or Directorate savings plans.

¹ Home Office (2016) *Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 – 2020*

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>)

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| 6. Evaluation of alternative option(s): |
| 6.1 There are broadly two options: |
| 6.1.1 Option 1: Do nothing – this option has been discounted as the most recent strategy is now out of date (2013 - 2015). |
| 6.1.2 Option 2: Develop a new, city-wide Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy which recognises the impact of domestic abuse on those who have experienced it, including children, and outlines the response required to enable Birmingham to be a City where everyone lives free from domestic abuse |
| 6.2 Option 2 is the preferred option. |

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| 7. Reasons for Decision(s): |
| 7.1 A report will be brought back to Cabinet on 14 th February 2017, which will include the findings of the consultation and will seek ratification of the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy for Birmingham. |

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| Signatures | <u>Date</u> |
| Cllr Paulette Hamilton Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care | |
| Peter Hay Strategic Director for People | |

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| List of Background Documents used to compile this Report: |
| Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment 2013 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 – 2020 (Home Office 2016) NHS Mandate 2016/17 (Department of Health 2016) QS116 Domestic Violence and Abuse (NICE 2016) |

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| List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any): |
| 1. Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2. Domestic Abuse Prevention Plan on a Page 3. Needs Assessment 2013 4. Needs Assessment Update 2016 5. Initial Equality Assessment 6. Consultation Document including Questionnaire |

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| Report Version | v0.10 | Dated | 06/10/16 |
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