

	<u>Agenda Item: #</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	27th November 2018
TITLE:	Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018-2023 This report has been amended to correct factual errors in the original version. For further details, please contact Kalvinder Kohli.(Kalvinder.kohli@birmingham.gov.uk)
Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer	Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety & Equalities

Report Type:	Decision: To agree the recommendations.
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1. Purpose: To provide an update on the progress made against the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy (DAP) since its launch in June 2018. As shown in appendix 1.

2. Implications:		
BHWP Strategy Priorities	Detect and Prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences	✓
	All children in permanent housing	
	Increase the control of individuals over their care through Integrated Personal Commissioning (Personal Health Budgets and Direct Payments)	
	Increasing employment/ meaningful activity and stable accommodation for those with mental health problems	
	Improving stable and independent accommodation for those learning	

	disability	
	Improve the wellbeing of those with multiple complex needs	
	Improve air quality	
	Increased mental wellbeing in the workplace	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		
Joint Commissioning and Service Integration		
Maximising transfer of Public Health functions		
Financial		
Patient and Public Involvement		
Early Intervention		✓
Prevention		✓

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board retains oversight of delivery of the Domestic abuse prevention strategy and action plan. This is to ensure that there is a balance between whole system cultural change, changing attitudes early identification and early help, safety and support.
- 3.2 The board invites stakeholder organisations contributing to the action plan to a future meeting to review progress and agree future delivery arrangements. This is to also include confirmation of action leads for the key work strands within the plan.
- 3.3 Six monthly progress updates are given to the board from the agreed action leads during the life of the strategy.

4. Background

4.1 The Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018-2023 – Changing Attitudes Changing Lives received Cabinet approval in February 2018 and was launched in June 2018. The vision within the Strategy was to make;

“Birmingham a place where domestic abuse is not tolerated: where everyone can expect equality and respect in their relationships and live free from domestic abuse”

4.2 Whilst Birmingham is the largest local authority in Europe it has also seen an increase in the numbers of mainly women, experiencing domestic abuse in the city, with an estimated 41,000. The Domestic Abuse Strategy recognises the serious impact that domestic abuse has for both women and children and how growing up in an abusive environment can have profound consequences on the family's well-being long into the future. Locally domestic abuse is a major factor for 77% of children needing local authority support, care or protection. And last year domestic abuse was the second highest reason for homelessness.

4.3 As well as the vision which is ambitious, the aim of the strategy is to make tackling domestic abuse everyone's business. It's focus has shifted towards a more proactive prevention approach, identifying domestic abuse as early as possible to limit its impact in the future. The strategy outlines a layered prevention model and focuses on 3 key priorities:

- **Changing attitudes**- by challenging the attitudes & behaviours that foster it.
- **Early Identification and Early Help**- intervening early to prevent harm & reduce the impact of domestic abuse on victims and families.
- **Safety and Support**- Ensure that victims of domestic abuse are protected from harm and supported to recover.

4.4 To underpin the Strategy a joint action plan was developed by a range of partners and sets out the strategic direction for the next five years. It is overseen by the Birmingham Violence against Women and Childrens steering group (VAWC). The actions are split into whole system and priority actions, the detail of which will continue to be developed over a period of time. The action plan followed the principles that :

- There is a strategic, system wide approach to responding to domestic abuse and preventing it in the future:
- Women, children, and groups sharing protected characteristics who experience domestic abuse are at the centre of any action or interventions
- There is a clear focus on abusers in order to keep victims safe,
- Communities are involved, engaged and empowered to seek, design and deliver solutions to domestic abuse.

4.5 The plan is ambitious and sets out a complex whole system culture change to tackling domestic abuse rather than focussing on more of the same. The commitments and pledges received by senior leaders at the launch were welcomed and by getting these we have been able to start the complex work of changing the whole system culture towards domestic abuse. We recognise that this is a challenging process that will take time to deliver on; hence the plan covers a 5 year period.

4.6 Despite this, some progress has been made in implementing the action plan, with

the setting up, next year of a domestic abuse hub where homeless women fleeing abuse will be provided with tailored and wrap around support. A significant piece of work has also been undertaken with the Childrens Trust and Women's Aid to look at the way child protection cases are managed and how women and children are better supported. New guidance as a result of this work has been developed.

Appendix 1 provides an updated version of the joint action plan providing details of what partner stakeholder organisations have done to date to deliver on the Strategy.

4.7 Whilst some good progress has been made we need to ensure that this is consistent across all of the stakeholder organisations. This has been challenging and needs a more robust process in place to hold partners to account. [To begin this process a report was presented to VAWC on 24th October outlining some immediate actions. These included reshaping the Action plan so that clear leads are identified on all actions, pulling out all year 1 priorities and adding specific timeframes for delivering the actions. Tasking meetings are also being set up to ensure the delivery of the plan with all partners. The report was approved by VAWC and progress on these actions is being presented at the next VAWC meeting on 21st November.](#)

4.8 Meetings with senior key partners are also being arranged to follow up the commitments they gave at the strategy launch in June and confirm their commitment to delivering the action plan. So far meetings have been held with DCI Suzanne Baker, the new lead for domestic abuse with the West Midlands Police and with Chief Executive of CCG Paul Jennings. As a result of these initial meetings commitment has been given by the police to work with the Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid on the new domestic abuse hub and the CCG will jointly with us, look at workforce policies regarding staff and domestic abuse.

5. Future development

5.1 To drive the strategy through and ensure that the vision for domestic abuse within Birmingham is delivered, emphasis will be focussed on delivering on the actions within the plan.

To date this has proved challenging and it is proposed that the Violence against Women and Childrens group be tasked with this and will hold stakeholder organisations to account.

6. Compliance Issues

6.1	Strategy Implications
Domestic Abuse is a key strategic priority for the City and the Strategy sets out our challenges and offers the opportunities to deliver the aim of a safer city for women and children affected by domestic abuse.	
6.2	Governance & Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birmingham Health and Well-being Board and Birmingham Community Safety Partnership are jointly responsible for and committed to; ensuring that Birmingham's vision for domestic abuse becomes a reality. The implementation and delivery of the Domestic Abuse Action plan lies with the Violence against Women and Children Steering Group. (VAWC). 	
6.3	Management Responsibility
Head of Commissioning- Kalvinder Kohli	

6.	Risk Analysis		
At the launch of the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy in June 2018 partners signed up to a number of commitments in support of delivering actions in the strategy. However not all of these have been followed through and there is a risk that if partners do not take ownership or drive actions forward ,the implementation of the strategy will be delayed or not delivered. This will have huge detrimental impact on women and children suffering from domestic abuse in the City.			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Lack of consistent partner sign up	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings with partner organisations are being arranged to mitigate this risk.• Issue will be raised at next VAWC meeting on 24TH

			<p>October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is also a recommendation within this report to the Health and Wellbeing board to help manage the risk.

Appendices

1. Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018-2023 and Joint Action Plan.

Signatures

**Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board
(Councillor Paulette Hamilton)**

Date: