

**SCRUTINY REMIT: ADULT SOCIAL CARE/COMMUNITY SAFETY & WASTE
MANAGEMENT CRIME AND DISORDER 2017 TOPIC GROUP TITLE**

DATE DUE AT OSC: 29 SEPTEMBER 2017
COMMITTEE APPROVED: OSC:
WORK PROGRAMME: Q3 2017

OBJECTIVE: To examine the effectiveness of the Crime & Disorder Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Partnership, in relation to identifying, responding and preventing various forms of domestic abuse.

BACKGROUND: *annual C&D scrutiny; members added to the work programme Sept.2016 and agreed in June 2017 that the focus would consider Domestic Abuse.*

Hertfordshire has published a Domestic Abuse Strategy 2016-19, 'Breaking the Cycle', (July 2016). The Strategy constitutes Hertfordshire's response to its 2014/15 review of domestic abuse services conducted by SafeLives and commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The SafeLives review highlighted good practice but also made extensive recommendations, including around governance and structure, ensuring an effective multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse, across Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire embraced the SafeLives Review and established an Improvement Programme that included introducing new governance arrangements, reviewing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and conducting multi-agency consultation. The result is a clear and evidence-based agenda for breaking the cycle of domestic abuse, underpinned by shared commitment to the Strategy's goal for 'women, children and men in Hertfordshire to be kept safe from domestic abuse and have the opportunity to lead healthy and happy lives'.

An Equality Impact Assessment in line with the Equality Act 2010 has been undertaken to inform the development of the DA Strategy and determine the impact and mitigations needed to provide equitable support for diverse groups. We have identified that there is generally under-reporting from a range of victims from different equality groups, in particular the BME and Traveller communities. This proposal enables the DA partnership to raise awareness and enable victims to come forward, receiving effective support and access to specialist accommodation based services.

Within this national strategic context, and in order to deliver on local priorities, Hertfordshire is committed to preventing the escalation of DA at every opportunity. This funding will be specifically focused on hard-to-reach communities with in Hertfordshire, to ensure that everyone in the county has the same level of access to high quality services.

Hertfordshire's Domestic Abuse Strategy has a clear multi-agency governance structure. This network of domestic abuse professionals, across the public and voluntary sectors, is key to ensuring strategic direction and plans are informed by local knowledge and good practice. A strong and well- informed network is also

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crucial to ensuring that service users are offered astutely judged and well-coordinated pathways. Domestic abuse is complex. Which service is most appropriate for any particular individual or family can only be ascertained through informed professional judgement about the nature of the risks and needs in combination with a good understanding of the available services.

Where the various public and voluntary sector agencies know about, understand and trust each other’s services, they do already refer and introduce service users to the appropriate service yet gaps in knowledge can mean that opportunities are missed. We will only achieve our intended outcomes by working together, particularly with the universal services residents use on a daily basis such as schools, hospitals and GPs. We will therefore work across the public and voluntary sectors to strengthen our collective understanding of risk and need, the different kinds of support available and how best to handle referrals, introductions and service pathways. The network needs to embrace not only specifically domestic abuse services but also other relevant services that have a different focus or label.

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. How effectively does the Crime & Disorder Partnership respond to domestic abuse?
2. How effective is the Domestic Abuse Partnership at working together to ensure victims are identified, families are supported and perpetrators are brought to justice?
3. How effective is the Domestic Abuse Partnership at identifying and supporting victims from vulnerable groups?

OUTCOME/S:

That members are able to identify the developments of domestic abuse arrangements across Hertfordshire, whilst also recognising the challenges and complexities around the nature of the work area and identifying clear outcomes of measuring success.

CONSTRAINTS:

- The focus will be domestic abuse and will not include safeguarding

RISK & MITIGATION AFFECTING THIS SCRUTINY:

RISK/S: What happens if partners are unable to fulfil commitments they have made to the Crime & Disorder Partnership.

WITNESSES i.e. individuals	EVIDENCE i.e. organisations e.g. HCS
Sue Darker Adult Care Services	VCS Representative
Jenny Coles Children’s Services	District & Borough Council
DCS Mick Ball Hertfordshire Constabulary	

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Tracey Cooper CCG Safeguarding Lead	
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METHOD: 1 day Topic Group	DATE/S: 7 Dec 2017
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SITE VISIT: venue	DATE: week before??
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MEMBERSHIP:

Susie Gordon; Susan Brown; William Wyatt-Lowe TBC

SUPPORT:

Scrutiny Officer: Charles Lambert

Lead Officer: Helen Gledhill/Sarah Taylor

Democratic Services Officer: Elaine Manzi

HCC Priorities for Action: how this item helps deliver the Priorities *delete as appropriate*

1. Opportunity To Thrive ✓
2. Opportunity To Prosper ✓
3. Opportunity To Be Healthy And Safe ✓
4. Opportunity To Take Part ✓

CfPS ACCOUNTABILITY OBJECTIVES: *delete as appropriate*

1. Transparent – opening up data, information and governance ✓
2. Inclusive – listening, understanding and changing ✓
3. Accountable – demonstrating credibility ✓

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