

Item 5

REPORT TO CABINET

6TH JANUARY 2005

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD
SERVICES.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT

SUMMARY

Victim Support County Durham manages the victim support project at 31, Upper Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe on behalf of the Sedgefield Borough Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership. The project team is made up of three members of staff funded via the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Victim Support has raised with the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership issues relating to increased costs they face given the expansion of the service and their VAT registration limit. Consequently the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership has asked that Sedgefield Borough Council to take on management responsibilities for the domestic violence project including employment of staff. There will be no financial implications for the Borough Council arising from taking on these staff.

RECOMMENDED

That the Borough Council take on management of the Domestic Violence Project, including the employment of staff on behalf of the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT – 31 UPPER BEVERIDGE WAY, NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Tackling Domestic Violence is a key objective within the Sedgefield Borough Crime & Disorder Strategy, indeed the issue is considered so significant that the Borough Council is currently in the process of developing its own strategy to address issues of domestic violence via Prevention, Protection, Justice & Support.

Victim Support County Durham manages the victim support outreach project at 31, Upper Beveridge Way, Newton Aycliffe on behalf of the Sedgefield Borough Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership. The project team is made up of three members of staff funded via the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership. The team comprises a Co-ordinator and two Outreach Workers, one of whom is part time.

Victim Support has raised with the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership issues relating to increased costs they now face given the expansion of the service and their VAT registration limit. Consequently the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership has asked that Sedgefield Borough Council to take on management responsibilities for the domestic violence project including employment of staff.

The three staff in question have contracts of employment up to 31st. March, 2006.

The Borough Council would take on responsibility for these staff as from February, 2005.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Domestic Violence projects within the Borough are funded by Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Single Regeneration Budget, Durham County Council and Sedgefield Borough Council in addition to Building Safer Communities Grant.

Funding for the Domestic Violence Project at 31, Upper Beveridge Way is met in full by the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership using Building Safer Communities Grant. That grant is secure for 2004/5 and 2005/6 which matches the contract of employment period. The Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership will determine whether the project continues beyond March, 2006 by which time Building Safer Communities Grant will have been absorbed within the countywide Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. Arrangements will be made via the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership for budgets relating to this service to include provision which takes account of any possible redundancy costs should the service not be maintained beyond 2005/06.

CONSULTATIONS

Staff within the Project have been consulted on the proposal and have raised no objections.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Domestic Violence is a key issue in Sedgefield Borough. We have the second highest report rate within County Durham, however, reports of repeat cases are falling.

Taking on management of the Project staff within the Community Safety Section of Neighbourhood Services Department will provide an opportunity for the Council to consolidate vital outreach services within its broader strategic approach to domestic violence.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

There are no Overview & Scrutiny implications.

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Wards: **All**

Key Decision Validation:

Background Papers:

1. Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy
2. Correspondence with Victim Support County Durham

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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