

## DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - RECOMMENDATION/RESPONSE PROFORMA

**TITLE/PROJECT NAME:** "A HIDDEN TRUTH?" (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)  
**DATE ISSUED:** 19 JULY 2007  
**LINK OFFICER/SERVICE:** ANGELA SHEEN (ADULT & COMMUNITY SERVICES)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE FROM EXECUTIVE/CHIEF OFFICER/PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TIMESCALE	COMMENT/OS REVIEW PERIOD
1. Nominate an officer at a senior level to act as a champion for domestic violence issues.	Rachael Shimmin David Williams Darren Archer (DAAT) Cllr Morris Nicholls Cllr Claire Vasey Harry Cronin – Tees , Esk and Wear Valley Mental Health Trust (TEWV) Derwentside District Council will propose a champion Chf Supt Ian Scott – Durham Constabulary.	Partner members of the County Durham Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group who have not yet advised of their possible contribution to the plan to be offered a further opportunity to comment.	Chair of the Domestic abuse Forum Executive Group, David Williams	Jan 08	Partner agencies have been asked to comment on their possible contributions to the recommendations.
2. Consider designating members (one executive and one non-executive) as domestic violence champions.	Harry Cronin Executive Director.  Any member nominations from Derwentside District Council would need to be subject to formal consideration and nomination.	Partner members of the County Durham Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group who have not yet advised of their possible contribution to the plan to be offered a further opportunity to comment.	David Williams	Jan 08	Partner agencies have been asked to comment on their possible contributions to the recommendations.
3. Consider whether a Member Panel (similar to Corporate Parenting Panel for Looked After Children) in relation to safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults should be established.	Recommendation to be submitted to the safeguarding Adults Board for consideration.  TEWV agree with the proposal for such a panel.	Report to be prepared for SAB.	Angela Sheen	Mar 08	To be actioned for SAB 14.4.08 .

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	<p>For recommendations 3 to 19 Derwentside District Council are happy to be involved subject to agreement on arrangements and requirements.</p> <p>Durham Constabulary would agree with such a proposal.</p>				
<p>4. Review existing officer arrangements in relation to domestic violence so as to strengthen and bring greater clarity to the role.</p>	<p>To be undertaken as part of restructure of DCC Adult and Communities Services.</p> <p>Review with Tees, Esk and Wear Valley's Clinical governance arrangements.</p>	<p>Issue to be considered as part of restructuring proposals.</p> <p>Paper to TEWV's Clinical Governance Committee.</p>	<p>Rachael Shimmin</p> <p>Harry Cronin</p>	<p>By Dec 07</p> <p>Dec 2007</p>	<p>Achieved. Senior Community Safety Officer role relocated into Safeguarding and practice Development Team, taking all domestic abuse related work.</p>
<p>5. Consider how member awareness about domestic violence issues can be raised through seminars and briefings. This should also specifically include domestic violence in the BME and LGBT communities and in the wider context (i.e. elder abuse and the impact of domestic violence on young people).</p>	<p>Budget proposal to be made to recommend funding to action.</p> <p>Paper to TEWV's Clinical Governance Committee.</p> <p>Durham Constabulary agree with such a proposal.</p>	<p>Budget proposal to be made to Cabinet and be subject of the consultation process.</p>	<p>Rachael Shimmin</p> <p>Harry Cronin</p>	<p>Oct 07</p> <p>Dec 2007</p>	<p>Proposal did form part of the public consultation document in respect of DCC budget. Formal decision awaited.</p>
<p>6. Ask for data about the nature and extent of domestic violence at a local level to be provided on a regular basis to councillors. Member Area Panels may provide the most suitable means of</p>	<p>To be included in Community safety reports.</p> <p>TEWV and Durham Constabulary agree with this proposal.</p>	<p>Domestic abuse information to be included in Community Safety Reports for MAP's.</p>	<p>DCC Community Safety Team</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Routine information is now available from the police and will be included in MAP reports from Jan 08.</p>

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disseminating this information.					
7. Initiate a review of training provision for Council staff working in the field of domestic violence and identify any gaps in provision within this area. The development of training opportunities for professional staff working in this field should be considered with the Council's partners, with a view (wherever possible) to providing joint training in multi-agency settings. This training should also specifically address LGBT and BME issues.	Budget proposal to be made to recommend funding to action.  TEWV to consider joint training initiatives.  Durham constabulary agree with proposal.	Budget proposal to be made to Cabinet and be subject of the consultation process.  Discuss in Domestic Abuse Executive Forum.	Rachael Shimmin  Harry Cronin	Oct 07  Jan 2008	Proposal did form part of the public consultation document in respect of DCC budget. Formal decision awaited.
8. Consider whether there are opportunities to raise awareness about domestic violence in local communities and to "signpost" victims and/or perpetrators to appropriate support by means of "Countywide," (the Council's free newspaper). District/Borough partners should be encouraged to do likewise.	Article to be prepared to coincide with the International Day of Action against Violence Against Women.  TEWV and Durham Constabulary agree with the proposal.	Article to be prepared.	Angela Sheen	By Nov 08	To be actioned. District / Borough and other partner agencies
9. Ask officers to review and update existing web pages on the County Council website. The pages should include information about domestic violence in the LGBT and BME communities and that perpetrated upon young people and by women against men. Web pages should signpost victims of domestic violence to appropriate support organisations and to relevant policy documents. We would further	DCC web pages to be updated.  Consider web linked to TEWV website.  Durham Constabulary d/v policy is available to the public already.	DCC Community Safety Team to update web pages.  TEWV to provide information.  No further action required.	Angela Sheen  Harry Cronin	March 08  Dec 07	Content of DCC web pages reviewed and additional information to be included identified. Update will be completed by March 08.

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suggest that Durham Constabulary make its domestic violence policy document more readily accessible (in electronic form).					
10. Develop and implement a Domestic Violence Policy for its own staff, subject to any other existing workload demands on Human Resources Division, perhaps as part of the wider health at work agenda.	To form part of DCC HR programme.  TEWV agree.  Durham Constabulary agree with such a proposal.	DCC policy to be developed as part of HR programme.  Develop TEWV Trust policy.	Kim Jobson  Harry Cronin	Yet to be determined  April 2008	No further update.
11. In relation to existing educational material for use in schools:  (i) Review (with its partners where appropriate) the roll-out and use of existing material about domestic violence (including the "Victims of Silence" video and supporting material)  (ii) Ensure that the educational material also addresses issues such as forced marriage; domestic violence in same sex relationships; and domestic violence between young adults.  (iii) Encourage greater take up by schools of domestic violence information by highlighting their duty under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to make arrangements with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.	Materials are available for schools to utilise.  TEWV agree with such a proposal.  Durham Constabulary would ask the Council to support and assist in making sure the existing d/a resources are utilised within our secondary schools. Training will be needed for Education staff around the issue of forced marriage, as this was not covered in the initial training.	Schools to be encouraged to make use of existing resources	David Williams	Ongoing	The focus of the County Domestic Abuse Conference is to be on forced marriage and 'honour based violence.'
	Whilst this is agreed to in	No further action			No further action

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<p>12. With its partners, seek to review the effectiveness of any future publicity material about domestic violence and, in planning any future campaigns, seek to put in place appropriate measures to do this. Any review should consider the need for publicity material targeted at:</p> <p>(i) Those victims for whom English is not a first language  (ii) The LGBT community  (iii) Young adults</p>	<p>principle, given the funding implications and the existing priorities for funding relating to providing core services, this is not a priority at this time.</p> <p>TEWV agree with such a proposal.</p>	<p>required.</p> <p>Communication Plan</p>	<p>Harry Cronin</p>		<p>required at this stage.</p>
<p>13. Consider (with partners) whether existing local data about domestic violence is sufficient; the recently introduced research provision to analyse the information is adequate; and whether opportunities exist for data collection mechanisms to better capture information about domestic violence in the LGBT and BME communities and about young people and men (in heterosexual relationships) as victims.</p>	<p>It is agreed that data from agencies other than the police is required.</p> <p>TEWV agree there is a need to share data.</p> <p>Durham constabulary agree with such a proposal.</p>	<p>Data issues to be considered as part of the Community Safety Strategic Assessment.</p>	<p>County Durham Community Safety Board</p>	<p>Jan 08</p>	<p>A data improvement plan is to be a priority</p>
<p>14. Consider how existing mechanisms within the Council to capture and analyse incidences of abuse against vulnerable adults can be made more robust.</p>	<p>To form part of the work programme of the Safeguarding Adults Board.</p> <p>TEWV agree there is a need to share data.</p> <p>Durham Constabulary agrees with such a proposal.</p>	<p>Serious incident review policy and procedure to be developed.</p>	<p>Lee Alexander</p>	<p>During 2008</p>	<p>Multi agency serious incident policy being developed. Serious incident register to be developed.</p>

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15. With its partners, seek to ascertain how domestic violence-related suicides can be identified and lessons learnt.	TEWV to consider issues in local suicide prevention networks.  Durham Constabulary agree with such a proposal.	Paper to suicide prevention networks	TEWV/PCT	April 2008	Work in progress.
16. With its partners, consider whether there is a need to gather information locally about domestic violence in the LGBT and BME communities; by women against men; and between adult siblings or adult siblings upon their parents/carers. The provision of funding (preferably partial, with partners) to commission studies into these areas, about which little is currently known, should form part of this consideration.	The possibility of collecting such data to be considered as part of the data improvement plan.  TEWV agree to the need for an agreed data collection process.  Durham Constabulary would support such data collection if possible.	Discuss in D A Forum Executive group	Forum Chair	During 2008	Data improvement plan agreed as a priority by the County Durham Community Safety Board.
17. Review its involvement in the County Durham and Darlington Domestic Violence Core Strategy Group, with a view to strengthening its participation, whilst at the same time seeking to bring greater clarity to the role of the Group; its channels of communication; lines of responsibility; and effectiveness.	TEWV agree with this proposal.	Structural arrangements for domestic abuse to be reviewed.	Rachael Shimmin	Jan 08	Achieved. The structural arrangements for domestic abuse have been reviewed and an Executive Group established. The future service design will take place as part of the work being undertaken as part of the LGR reorganisation.
18. With its partners, seek to encourage minority community representation (i.e. LGBT and BME communities) on the Core Strategy Group.	REC attends the Core Group when resources allow. Traveller's liaison has been invited to attend.  TEWV agree.  Durham Constabulary	Partners to be encouraged to participate in the Forum Core Group	Angela Sheen, Chair	Ongoing	Traveller's liaison are to attend from Jan 08.

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	comments that the group is already open to any practitioner in the field.				
19. In consultation with its partners, in any refresh or review of the Local Area Agreement, seek to identify whether opportunities exist to strengthen the LAA in relation to tackling domestic violence and providing greater support specifically for <u>victims</u> .	<p>The issue of domestic abuse as a county priority and that of funding for domestic abuse services has been considered by the Executive Group.</p> <p>TEWV and Durham Constabulary agree with this proposal.</p>	County Durham Domestic Abuse Executive Group to write to the LAA Board to recommend the national indicator for domestic abuse be included as a priority.	Rachael Shimmin	Jan 08	Achieved. The Local Area Agreement is currently being renegotiated and partners, including the County Durham Domestic Abuse Executive Group have recommended domestic abuse be a priority.
20. Via its involvement in the Supporting People Partnership, seek to support the development of a Refuge in the Sedgefield Borough Council area, should local partners wish to develop such a facility.	<p>DCC and Durham Constabulary feel that this recommendation is not applicable as to date no such development has been proposed.</p> <p>TEWV AGREE</p> <p>Not an issue for Derwentside District Council to be involved in.</p>	No action required at this time	N/a	N/a	No partner agencies have expressed an interest in developing refuge provision in Sedgefield Borough. Should an agency wish to pursue such an initiative this would be supported by some partner agencies.
21. Through its involvement in the Supporting People Partnership, should strongly support ongoing funding for those Refuges across County Durham, which provide a valuable sanctuary for those who flee domestic violence.	<p>Executive members sit on the partnership and will ensure funding for refuges continues to be supported.</p> <p>TEWV agree with such a proposal.</p> <p>For recommendations 21 to 30 Derwentside District Council are happy to be</p>	Executive members to support continued funding of refuges	Executive members	Ongoing	The recently established Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group is made up of Chief Officers who sit on all of the strategic groups across the County and have agreed to champion the domestic abuse agenda in these

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	<p>involved subject to agreement on arrangements and requirements.</p> <p>Durham Constabulary agrees with such a proposal.</p>				arenas.
<p>22. Seek, via the Supporting People Partnership, to encourage:</p> <p>(i) The development (either within the County or regionally), of refuge provision for victims from the BME or LGBT communities and for men fleeing violence from women</p> <p>(ii) The provision of a refuge or similar for those with older male children fleeing violence</p>	<p>No such proposal has been put forward by any agency.</p> <p>TEWV agree.</p> <p>Durham Constabulary comment that no needs have been identified, however should such a proposal be put forward the constabulary would be happy to consider.</p>	No further action required.			No action required at this stage.
<p>23. Review its representation and involvement with Domestic Violence Forums and other Groups to ensure that it is fully engaged in the work of those Forums/Groups and represented appropriately at meetings of those bodies.</p>	<p>As outlined above the approach to Domestic Abuse has been restructured and an Executive Group established. This group will ensure their agencies play a full and active role in the agenda.</p>	Ongoing monitoring of involvement	Corporate Directors	Ongoing	No further update.
<p>24. With partners, consider how opportunities can be developed in the County to allow victims of domestic violence to access services in multi-agency settings, similar to the Croydon Family Justice Centre initiative.</p>	<p>The service provision across the County and funding arrangements need to be considered and addressed at a strategic level.</p>	Service design for domestic abuse services to be considered as part of LGR.	Executive group	Ongoing during 2008	No update.
<p>25. Review its own existing engagement</p>	<p>This will be addressed as</p>	Service design for	Angela Sheen	Ongoing during	No update.



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mechanisms so as to better promote the role of service users (adults, children and those from minority communities) in shaping domestic violence service provision and should seek to encourage partners to do likewise.	part of the service design considerations. TEWV and Durham Constabulary agree to such a proposal being considered.	domestic abuse services to be considered as part of LGR.		2008	
26. Consult with its partners to determine whether there is a need to develop perpetrator programmes in relation to: (i) LGBT perpetrators (ii) Women who are perpetrators (against men) (iii) Young adults who are perpetrators	At present there is no evidence to highlight a need to develop programmes in these areas, therefore this not a priority area for funding.  Durham Constabulary comment that no such need has been identified either locally or nationally to support the funding involved in doing this.	No further action required.			No further action required.
27. Initiate a debate with its partners about, and itself consider, how support can be better provided for those victims of domestic violence such as "bought brides" who have no recourse to public funds.	An area the Constabulary is already starting to look at. DCC to support the work.  TEWV agree with this proposal.	Extent of the issue to be scoped.	Durham Constabulary	Ongoing	No update.
28. Given the changes introduced by Section 120 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which amended the definition of "significant harm" in the Children Act 1989 to include: "Impairment of health or development caused by witnessing ill treatment of another," consider	The child protection procedures have been reviewed and updated and take account of the amended legislation.	Ongoing monitoring to continue to ensure responses remain appropriate.	David Williams	Ongoing	Robust safeguarding procedures are in place.

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whether its existing safeguarding children provision is sufficiently resourced to meet anticipated need.					
29. Ask the County Durham Drugs and Alcohol Action Team Board to consider how the DAAT can better address the needs of both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence where alcohol and/or drugs are implicated.	<p>The Chair of the board has agreed to champion the domestic abuse agenda. Various initiatives are underway across the County to highlight the issues relating to domestic abuse and substance misuse issues.</p> <p>TEWV and Durham Constabulary agree with such a proposal.</p>	Joint paper to be prepared for the DAAT Board	Darren Archer / Angela Sheen	Sep 08	Various initiatives are underway, such as the alcohol and domestic violence awareness raising project in Easington. The joint paper will consider next steps and issues at a Countywide level.
30. A review of the recommendations in this report be undertaken 6 months after their consideration by Cabinet.	Achieved.				Update provided.