

**Safer and Stronger Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**21<sup>st</sup> June 2016**



**Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence  
Strategy 2015-2018**

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**Report of Lynn Wilson, Consultant in Public Health**

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**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to share the refreshed County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015-2018 attached at Appendix 2.

**Background**

- 2 The County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy has been refreshed by Durham County Council Public Health team on behalf of the Safe Durham Partnership. The refreshed strategy brings together the previous County Durham Domestic Abuse Strategy and the County Durham aspect of the County Durham and Darlington Sexual Violence Strategy, which have been adopted by the Safe Durham Partnership since 2012.
- 3 Following a review of governance of the Safe Durham Partnership late in 2014, it was decided to disband the SDP Vulnerability Group and transfer the sexual violence agenda into the remit of the previous Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group. As these two agendas were to be managed within the same governance structure it was the logical solution to bring together the previously separate strategies.
- 4 A governance review of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Sixteen high level objectives were identified for the Partnership going forward. These were endorsed by the Safe Durham Partnership at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015.
- 5 The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2015-2018 includes the sixteen high level objectives which fit beneath the headings of Prevention, Protection, Provision and Pursue. The Action Plan will be monitored and maintained via the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Implementation Group with escalation to the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group when necessary. Actions will be added to and closed off on a rolling basis, with additional activities included beneath the high level objectives when identified by the group as a priority.
- 6 The refreshed strategy and supporting action plan have been approved by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group at its meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 where it was requested that the strategy be escalated to the board for endorsement.

## County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy refresh 2012-2018

7 The key changes to the document include:

- the bringing together of the domestic abuse and sexual violence agendas into one strategic document;
- national and local policy and research information has been updated;
- the high level objectives have been updated following the governance review in January 2015;
- where updated local data is available this has been refreshed;
- priority groups are unchanged as these remain relevant.

8 The vision remains unchanged but has been brought together in the one strategic document:

*Our vision for domestic abuse is that all agencies work together to seek to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in County Durham and continue to provide and further develop a co-ordinated community response that provides high quality preventative, support and protection services and effectively deals with perpetrators.*

*Our vision for sexual violence is that it will not be tolerated and that perpetrators will be brought to account for their actions. Victims of sexual violence will be supported, treated with dignity and respect and made to feel safe within their community whilst seeing their offenders brought to justice.*

### Recommendations and reasons

9 The Safe and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny are recommended to:

- a. Receive for information the refresh of the County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015-2018.

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**Finance -**

No implications

**Staffing -**

No additional staffing implications

**Risk -**

None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty -**

None.

**Accommodation -**

No adverse implications

**Crime and Disorder -**

Implementation and success of the strategy will have a positive impact on domestic abuse and sexual violence.

**Human Rights -**

No adverse impacts

**Consultation –**

This action has been approved by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group

**Procurement -**

No adverse implications

**Disability Issues -**

No adverse implications

**Legal Implications -**

None