

Health and Wellbeing Board

26 July 2016

Refreshed Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015/18



Report of Carole Payne, Head of Children's Services, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To share the refreshed County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015/18, attached as 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 16th 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 14th May 2015.
- 5 The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2015/18 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

3rd 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 2015/18

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;
- Updated local data where available;
- 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 Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to:

- Note the refresh of the County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015/18.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance - Existing resources will be used to implement the strategy. External funding opportunities will be sought where the opportunity arises.

Staffing - No additional staffing implications

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None.

Accommodation - No adverse implications

Crime and Disorder - Implementation of the strategy will have a positive impact on alcohol related crime and disorder.

Human Rights - No adverse impacts

Consultation - Partners and stakeholders of the Safe Durham Partnership and current providers of Domestic Abuse services across County Durham were given the initial draft domestic abuse strategy document on which they could feedback and comment upon. A County Durham and Darlington wide consultation event was held in relation to Sexual Violence which included representation from partners and stakeholders across both areas. The refreshed strategy has been circulated and agreed by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group.

Procurement - No adverse implications

Disability Issues - No adverse implications

Legal Implications - None