

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD – 6 DECEMBER 2018  
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – 11 DECEMBER 2018  
CABINET – 13 DECEMBER 2018**

**TELFORD & WREKIN DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2019-2021**

**REPORT OF: LIZ NOAKES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HEALTH &  
WELLBEING**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RAE EVANS**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

This report introduces the Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-2021. The strategy proposes a joined up response aimed at tackling domestic abuse across our strategic partnerships, with a clear recognition that no single agency can address this complex issue in isolation.

The strategy recognises that domestic abuse is wider than violence, and therefore the scope includes: controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

The lives of women and children and young people and men are significantly affected by domestic abuse and it is not always easy to identify. Domestic abuse rarely takes place in a vacuum and substance misuse and poor physical and mental health can contribute and can amplify the consequences. Its impact can be seen across many aspects of our community, including child development and attainment, family dynamics, crime rates, our local workforce.

The rate of domestic abuse offences recorded in Telford & Wrekin is high. The strategy aims to raise awareness, identify, prevent, and better support victims of domestic abuse and their children. At the same time as investigating and prosecuting, but also supporting perpetrators to break the cycle of abuse.

The strategy will be delivered through an action plan, based on the following six objectives:

- Use intelligence and robust data to assess need, inform commissioning and service provision and raising awareness campaigns
- Review and develop specialist services and support and implement comprehensive multi-agency pathways, for both victims and perpetrators and children and young people affected by domestic abuse
- Develop practitioner's knowledge on the dynamics of domestic abuse on

the whole family and provide them with the appropriate training and resources to support the family

- Increase awareness and understanding in the community of the impact of domestic abuse, to challenge and prevent domestic abuse
- Review current policies and procedures and raise awareness associated with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honor Based Violence (HBV) and Forced Marriage (FM), within the community and across the professional workforce
- Embed the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews to ensure recommendations are addressed and acted upon

Engagement with professionals has identified as a clear early priority, the need strengthen the local offer of specialist services and support to victims, children and young people affected and also to perpetrators, to change their behaviour.

Raising awareness and understanding of domestic abuse across the community is delivered through the White Ribbon campaign, which is strongly supported by Cabinet members.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet are requested to approve the Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy 2019-2021.

### 3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and support our most vulnerable children and adults</li> <li>• Put our children and young people first</li> <li>• Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained</li> <li>• Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities.</li> </ul>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Domestic abuse can affect anybody, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation, and it occurs across all of society, regardless of age, race, religion, wealth or geography. However, certain people are disproportionately affected, such as women, young people under 25, those with disabilities or mental health problems.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	The domestic abuse strategy action plan will be implemented and monitored from 2019.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	<p>The Council currently provides a number of support programmes both to groups and one to one, including the Freedom Programme, through its Early Help practitioners.</p> <p>The White Ribbon Campaign is supported by the Council within existing resources and through a grant paid by the Police and Crime Commissioner of £2,500.</p> <p>Any additional services identified as being required as the action plan is implemented will need to be considered within the partners existing resources. If additional funding is required this will need to be</p>

		discussed amongst partners and a request made through the relevant governance arrangements of each organisation.
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	No	No issues with the legality of the strategy or indeed the proposed manner of implementation. <i>Oliver Nicholas 19/11/18</i>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	<p>This plan commits to improve and develop the service and support offer for victims of domestic abuse, children and young people affected and perpetrators. As highlighted above additional funding will require discussions between partner organisations to agree funding arrangements for these developments. Any delay in identifying funding streams to support the service improvement will impact on delivery of the strategy ambitions.</p> <p>There are various potential opportunities to apply for Government funding to support the strategy, through MCHLG, Home Office and Public Health England initiatives, which are being actively pursued.</p> <p>Officers are also proactively working with partners and the OPCC to identify possible funding streams.</p>
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	Yes	Borough-wide impact

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

Refer to Appendix 1 Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan for further information.

### **5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **6. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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