

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Monday, 20 December 2021

Decision No: (CAB 21/22 32921)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Heritage
SUBJECT:	Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation
AUTHOR:	Barratt, Stephen

THE DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet approve the Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation.
- (ii) That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director Communities, Culture and Homes, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Heritage, to make minor changes to the Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation during its period of effect.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council is required by s 57 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse, or their children, resulting in them being able to reside in safe accommodation, be it their own or new accommodation.

The Strategy will facilitate the work of the Council, in partnership with the Southampton Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board ("the Board"), in tackling domestic abuse in Southampton. This will be achieved through the Coordinated Community Response model (adopted by the Strategy), which shifts responsibility for safety away from individual survivors to the community and services existing to support them.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

It was considered whether the Council's existing strategy for tackling domestic and sexual abuse (Southampton Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse Multi Agency Strategy 2017-2020) could be revised and renewed to meet the requirements of the Act. This option was rejected because the production of an entirely new strategy, following consultation with the new Board, presented the opportunity for the Council to adopt the Coordinated Community Response model. A whole-system strategy,

dealing with other community-based domestic abuse support provision and issues associated with sexual violence and violence against women and girls, is due to be brought to Cabinet for approval in or around September 2022.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

Cabinet considered the following recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting held on 16th December, 2021.

- i) That the dashboard of performance indicators that were being developed to support the strategy was circulated to the Committee when it was finalised.
- ii) That consideration was given to including within the strategy our ambitions for Sanctuary Schemes to support people who do not live in social housing.
- iii) That the developing Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy included a focus on healthy relationships.
- iv) That, reflecting the importance of appropriate terminology, the term domestic abuse was utilised throughout the strategy instead of domestic violence.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 20th December, 2021

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:
Judy Cordell

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in <i>(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)</i>
Call-in Procedure completed <i>(if applicable)</i>
Call-in heard by <i>(if applicable)</i>
Results of Call-in <i>(if applicable)</i>