

ITEM NO: 14

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE		
DATE OF DECISION:	5 JULY 2010		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

On 25th March 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) endorsed the recommendations of the Safer Communities Scrutiny Panel following their inquiry into how the incidence of domestic violence, including sexual violence and so called 'honour' based violence, can be reduced, particularly focussing on the services for standard and medium risk cases. Their recommendations were received by Cabinet on 19th April 2010. The nine scrutiny inquiry recommendations and the Cabinet's response to them are set out in Appendix 1 of this report to meet the requirements in the council's constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the Cabinet's responses as set out in Appendix 1

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As part of the council's constitution the Executive need to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by OSMC and formally respond to their recommendations.

CONSULTATION

2. The Southampton Domestic Violence Forum (SDVF) and respective partner organisations that are directly affected by the recommendations have been consulted. In addition, the Safe City Partnership has been given the opportunity to consider the recommendations. The Children and Young People's Trust, Economy and Enterprise Board and NHS Southampton City were consulted on their relevant recommendations.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None.

DETAIL

4. From January to March 2010 the Safer Communities Scrutiny Panel undertook a Domestic Violence Inquiry. OSMC considered the final draft of the inquiry report on 25th March 2010 and approved it for submission to the Executive. The scrutiny inquiry, containing nine recommendations, was

received by the Cabinet on 19th April and this report sets out the formal response of the Executive to the recommendations.

5. The approved objectives of the inquiry were:
 - a. To examine the kind and level of support needed for low/medium risk cases as well as the high risk cases that have been stabilised
 - b. To examine the impact of domestic violence on children and young people
 - c. To examine ways to improve prevention activities and awareness raising on domestic violence, sexual violence and honour based violence issues
6. OSMC considered the inquiry panel's final draft report at its meeting on 25th March 2010. It resolved that the Safer Communities Scrutiny Panel met its terms of reference for the review and agreed that the inquiry report should be forwarded to the Cabinet to enable the Executive to formulate its response to the recommendations contained within it.
7. The panel commended the nationally recognised achievements in a city of the size of Southampton to reduce domestic violence through strong partnerships, even extending outside of the city boundaries where good relationships with neighbouring authorities ensure that victims are never without refuge.
8. The panel recognised that significant improvements have been achieved in high risk cases with extensive joint-working across the city through the use of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) which bring together many agencies across the city on each high risk DV case. However, the panel agreed that the focus on higher risk cases has led to a gap in provision for medium and standard risk cases.
9. The inquiry's recommendations set out a number of proposals to support the continuing prevention and reduction of domestic violence incidents in the city.
10. Appendix 1 sets out the inquiry recommendations and the associated response proposed by the cabinet member, following consultation with colleagues and advice from officers and partners. It is recognised that this response is made in the context of recommendations to partnerships in the City and thus actions are accepted in principle and on behalf of multiple partners not just the Council.
11. The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Councillor Smith, has been nominated as the lead cabinet member to respond to the scrutiny inquiry recommendations.
12. The recommendations have all been accepted and already are or will be implemented. They include an indication of the timescales for implementation.
13. *Recommendations 5 and 6* have been consulted with the Children and Young People's Trust. The responses to these recommendations have been directed by Children's Services and Learning.
14. *Recommendation 7* requires action from NHS Southampton City; the chief executive, Bob Deans, responded to this recommendation.

15. The response to *recommendation 8* includes feedback from the Economy and Enterprise Board in relation to raising awareness in the business community.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

16. No additional costs were identified during the course of the inquiry.

Capital

17. No additional capital costs were identified during the course of the inquiry.

Revenue

18. All actions proposed in response to the recommendations within the inquiry report can be progressed by re-focussing officer or partners' time, work programmes and existing budgets.

Property

19. None

Other

20. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

21. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. This report is presented in accordance with section 7.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules which requires the Executive to submit its response to inquiry recommendations.

Other Legal Implications:

22. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

23. The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework and, if implemented, the recommendations will help to deliver priorities within Southampton's Domestic Violence Strategy and the Southampton Safe City Partnership Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Response to Domestic Violence Inquiry recommendations
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	Final report of the Domestic Violence Scrutiny Panel
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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	None.	
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Background documents available inspection at:	Corporate Policy and Performance Southampton City Council 1 st Floor West Wing Civic Centre Southampton SO14 7LY
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KEY DECISION?	NO
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WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	Accepted or rejected	Current Activity	Proposed future action	Lead agency/ partnership or officer	Target date for completion
<p>Recommendation 3: The SDVF should agree a more coordinated approach to key processes such as the use of risk assessments, training and information sharing</p>	Accepted	<p>Although risk assessments (CAADA and DASH models) are used by multiple agencies and there has been staff training, the application of risk assessments is not consistent across all service areas. SDVF accept the need for more coordination and will establish a process to identify related training needs in the city</p> <p>Information Sharing at high risk level is routinely undertaken but SDVF will seek to strengthen information used to improve both direct case responses and drive service delivery.</p>	<p>Risk assessment training is being organised for Family Intervention Project (FIP) workers at the end of July. Identified FIP workers will then be lead professionals on issues of domestic violence. SDVF have also organised training on talking to people about their alcohol use for DV services. DV will also be a stronger focus for the Think Family Pathfinder in the city and thus strengthen family support for DV survivors</p> <p>SDVF feel that the wider roll-out of this risk assessment needs to be a gradual process to ensure that high risk services receiving referrals can manage demand.</p> <p>A Children & Young People at Risk Triage pilot will start in September with a view to improving information sharing and responses to reports completed by the police where children or young people are identified at a DV (or other) incident. A formalised programme for improving key processes including training, risk assessments and wider information sharing will be developed by SCC and SDVF – to form part of the SDVF Strategy (refresh).</p>	<p>SDVF</p> <p>Police and Children Services & Learning and Health Visitors</p> <p>SDVF / SCC</p>	<p>September 2010</p> <p>Commence September 2010</p> <p>December 2010</p>

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<p>Recommendation 4: Agree and share key information to provide more data at standard and medium risk levels across the partnership to overcome gaps in data. This should be supported by a programme of problem solving analysis to better understand the reasons and causes of high levels of DV reporting and hot spots to help target stretched resources to maximum effect.</p>	Accepted	<p>SDVF have identified this as an area for development and made links into the SCP strategic assessment process.</p> <p>The SDVF support the need to explore further, evidence of higher than average reporting of domestic violence in some areas of Southampton</p>	<p>Improved data collection and analysis for the SCP will include DV data and should lead to improved problem-solving analysis for the 2010/11 SCP annual Strategic Assessment. Information collated from the specialist courts data, IDVA, MARAC, Southampton Police, Southampton Women's Aid and refuges will be part of the annual strategic assessment.</p> <p>Violent crime problem profiles will be commissioned by SCP to include location data and a DV focus – to also specifically address the issues identified as data gaps by the Scrutiny Inquiry.</p>	<p>SDVF & SCP</p> <p>SCP Analysts</p>	<p>December 2010</p> <p>September 2010</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: Children and Young People's Services to explore the extent and options for each school's child protection liaison officer (CPLO) to include a focus on DV in the promotion of healthy relationships in the curriculum.</p>	Accepted	<p>Children's Services and Learning (CSL) have accepted the recommendation and confirmed that training for CPLOs will include issues of domestic violence.</p>	<p>CPLO training to be provided at termly meetings.</p>	<p>CSL/ Alison Alexander</p>	<p>2010/11 Ongoing</p>

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<p>Recommendation 6: Awareness of DV issues to be raised with the School Governor's Forum with the recommendation that Safe! Pack and Star projects are delivered at school and college cluster groups to stretch limited resources to a wider number of schools.</p>	Accepted	<p>CSL agree with the recommendation to promote SAFE! Pack further, along with other school and college work in the City.</p>	<p>Action is to be discussed at Governors Forum steering group meeting on 15 July, this subject will then be added as an agenda item at the next full Governors Forum on 7th October.</p>	<p>SDVF members and CSL / Alison Alexander</p>	<p>October 2010</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: The SDVF and Health Service are urged to work more closely to improve the identification of DV in their patients and develop appropriate pathways for responding.</p>	Accepted	<p>This is an area that NHS Southampton has already prioritised. Processes are in place for early identification of DV in relation to children and young people. Identification and relevant pathways for responding are incorporated into service specifications for maternity, health visiting and school nursing services, Walk in centre and other out of hours provision. Outcomes from this are monitored. Training is provided and there are good links to the MARAC process.</p>	<p>There is more work to be done in the identification of adults who are at risk who are not parents. A working group has been established to progress this work and an action plan is being developed. This will be overseen by the Southampton City Primary Care Trust Safeguarding governance group and will share accountability for actions with SDVF.</p>	<p>SDVF & Lindsay Voss/Jaki Metcalf Designated Nurses Safeguarding NHS Southampton City</p>	<p>Timescales to be set</p>

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<p>Recommendation 8: The Safe City Partnership and SDVF should develop and agree a communication strategy to raise awareness of DV more widely to communities, businesses and partners.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce agree with this recommendation and currently use a link to national NHS website 'Health at Work' as a subtle way to highlight how to support those experiencing DV.</p> <p>http://www.hampshirechambers.co.uk/newsdetails.php?id=1421</p> <p>The Council and Safe City Partnership have prioritised 'public reassurance' for multiple communications and campaigns in 2010/11. DV will form part of this activity</p>	<p>To further explore the potential to publicise SDVF information material on this website and sharing of the SDVF newsletter & other local material.</p> <p>SDVF and Police to establish closer links with Business partnerships in the city e.g. Businesslink to identify ways in which local business can support awareness of DV and identify ways of engaging the private sector in reducing the impact of DV on employers, as well as supporting employees who may be affected by DV. Identified actions to be included in the SDVF Strategy.</p> <p>DV awareness in communities and across partners will also form part of the SCP communications activities in 2010</p>	<p>Chamber of Commerce & SDVF & Police</p>	<p>December 2010</p> <p>By Dec 2010</p>

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<p>Recommendation 9: If the Government publishes a consultation paper on the setting up of a DV Perpetrators Register, the scrutiny panel which will be responsible for scrutinising Crime & Disorder matters is to be a statutory consultee.</p>	Accepted	The new coalition government are currently deciding a way forward regarding the violence against women agenda.	If a national consultation takes place SDVF will coordinate the response and involve relevant parties.	SDVF & SCP	Await national guidance