

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	APPOINTMENT OF A LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD PURSUANT TO PART 4 OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021.		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	16 AUGUST 2021		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR VASSILIOU CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND HERITAGE.</b>		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	Executive Director Communities, Culture and Homes	
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
NOT APPLICABLE			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
<p>Cabinet is requested to consider the appointment of a local partnership board ('the Board') consisting of key partners with an interest in tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims, including their children, pursuant to s 58 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('the 2021 Act'). The role of the Board is to provide advice to Southampton City Council ('the Council') on the exercise of its duties under Part 4 of the 2021 Act and the provision of other local authority domestic abuse support in its area. This will include the preparation of a draft strategy pursuant to s 57 of the 2021 Act and a system-wide strategy, addressing the 2021 Act in general and any other relevant need in the Council's area.</p>			
<p>It is proposed that the Board will be known locally as the Southampton Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.</p>			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	To appoint the Board to provide advice to the Council about the exercise of its functions under Part 4 of the 2021 Act and the provision of other local authority domestic abuse support in its area.	
	(ii)	To adopt the proposed Terms of Reference of the Board ('the Terms of Reference'), attached at Appendix 1 of this report.	
	(iii)	<p>To delegate authority to the Executive Director Communities, Culture and Homes, having sought the advice of the Board, to:</p> <p>(a) prepare and consult upon a draft strategy ('the Part 4 strategy') as required by s 57 of the 2021 Act;</p> <p>(b) carry out any functions required to give effect to the Part 4 strategy;</p>	

	<p>(c) carry out any functions required to support the provision of other local support in the Council's area;</p> <p>(d) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Part 4 strategy;</p> <p>(e) report on progress and how funding has been used in relation to the exercise of the Council's functions under Part 4 of the 2021 Act to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government;</p> <p>(f) appoint a chair and vice chair to the Board (the Executive Director Communities, Culture and Homes may appoint themselves as chair);</p> <p>(g) add or remove representatives to the Board, ensuring the minimum representation requirement (as set out by s 58(2) of the 2021 Act) is met and considering the inclusion of a wider representation to support the Council's local approach to tackling domestic abuse;</p> <p>(h) make any minor adjustments to the Terms of Reference as and when necessary; and,</p> <p>(i) do anything considered necessary in order to fulfil the Council's legal obligations pursuant to the 2021 Act.</p>
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	The Council is required by s 58(1) of the 2021 Act to appoint the Board.
2.	Delegating authority to the Executive Director Communities, Culture and Homes to carry out functions required to support the provision of other local support (ie system-wide support) in the Council's area will facilitate a 'single system' approach to the provision of support in relation to Domestic Abuse, with centralised oversight of key multi-agency services.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
3.	While relevant draft statutory guidance asks authorities to consider using existing structures to meet the duties set out in Part 4 of the 2021 Act, it is considered that the existing multi-agency domestic and sexual violence group cannot adequately meet these duties.
4.	The 2021 Act requires the Board to advise the Council about the provision of other local authority support in its area. Accordingly, the option of limiting the function of the Board to the provision of advice about support in relevant safe accommodation has not been considered. The Board will advise the Council on the provision of system-wide support in relation to domestic abuse.
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
5.	<p>Section 57(1) of the 2021 Act provides that the Council must carry out the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in its area;</li> <li>(b) prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area; and,</li> <li>(c) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.</li> </ul> <p>The Board must be convened pursuant to s 58(1) of the 2021 Act to provide advice to the Council about carrying out functions (a) – (c) above, and about the provision of other local authority support in the Council's area. Further detail about the role and responsibilities of the Board is set out in Appendix 1.</p>

	<p>In relation to the provision of other local authority support in the Council's area, it is intended that the Board will advise on the preparation of a system-wide multi-agency Domestic Abuse strategy to be published in 2022.</p> <p>The Board will report bi-annually to the Safe City Partnership.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
6.	<u>N/A (the role of the Board is advisory).</u>
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
7.	<u>N/A (the role of the Board is advisory).</u>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
8.	<p>The Council is required to undertake the proposals set out in this report by Part 4 of the 2021 Act, in particular:</p> <p>(a) s 57 (requirement to prepare, give effect to and monitor a strategy based on an assessment of the need for accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse in the Council's area);</p> <p>(b) s 58 (requirement to appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board to advise the Council about its functions under s 57 and the provision of other local authority support in its area).</p>
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
9.	<p>In exercising its duties, regard will be paid to the Council's obligations pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, in particular, the duty set out in s 149 of the Act. Regard will also be paid to the Council's duties under s 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the duty to exercise its functions with consideration to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.</p>
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
10.	<p>Failure to appoint the Board as requested will result in failure by the Council to meet the requirements of Part 4 of the 2021 Act.</p>
11.	<p>The Council is not required to follow the advice of the Board. In deciding whether to do so, the Council should follow normal decision-making processes.</p>
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
12.	<p>In carrying out its advisory functions the Board will take into account and act fully and wholly in accordance with relevant Policy Framework Plans and Strategies, in particular the Southampton Safe City Strategy (Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ss 5-6), Youth Justice Plan (s 40 Crime and Disorder Act 1998) and Health and Well Being Strategy (s 116A Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007).</p>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**Appendices**

1.	Proposed Terms of Reference
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
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**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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**Other Background Documents**

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None