

Joint Report of the Director of Children's Services, Director of Environment & Housing and the Director of Public Health

Report to Executive Board

Date: 15 October 2014

Subject: Domestic Violence and Abuse Programme Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

Domestic violence and abuse continues to be a major issue affecting people living and working in Leeds. It affects communities regardless of geography, relative affluence and ethnicity. It is a factor behind a high proportion of children, especially those under 5, being taken into care. Recognising the significance of this issue, the Council has made Domestic Violence and Abuse one of its key priorities over the next year.

This report aims to provide Executive Members with an update on the progress made towards achieving the objectives set out in the Safer Leeds Strategy. It highlights how the issues raised through a scrutiny enquiry have been addressed to date and describes the work done to secure a commitment from partners in the statutory, third and private sector to work with the council to support victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse, to tackle those perpetrating violence, and to prevent Domestic Violence and Abuse occurring.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to note the actions being taken across the council and by partners to tackle Domestic Violence and Abuse and to agree to the direction of travel being taken.

Executive Board is asked to receive and endorse the recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Board.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update Executive Board on the progress made in tackling domestic violence and abuse, both in terms of response to scrutiny board findings and in the wider programme of work aimed at addressing Domestic Violence and Abuse in Leeds.
- 1.2 To obtain support for the approach being adopted.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Domestic violence and abuse has a direct impact on a person's sense of safety. It affects the well-being and quality of life of individuals, families and communities and as a result has significant social and economic costs. It is an issue for every community and can affect individuals from any background or socio-economic demographic. We know that domestic violence and abuse dramatically affects the way children experience life and that domestic violence is a key reason in a very high proportion of all children coming into council care.
- 2.2 The council has a track record in undertaking significant work in this area with a very clear focus on supporting victims and providing education to assist partners and the council to respond appropriately to the issue. The Domestic Violence team was ahead of many local authorities in developing the quality mark which accredits organisations and demonstrates the commitment to understanding and responding to domestic violence and abuse. The team has also designed and implemented a range of training and development programmes which have allowed the city to respond effectively to the issue. Leeds was the first local authority area to have a domestic violence court, which has played an important role in supporting victims to give evidence aimed at improving conviction rates.
- 2.3 The children's social work teams provide support and responses to protect children who are victims and witnesses of domestic violence and indeed the key driver in the development of the Front Door referral point was responding to the needs of children and families by ensuring appropriate and timely action.
- 2.4 Strategic Context
- 2.5 Domestic violence and abuse is linked to the Best Council objective of 'Supporting communities and tackling poverty'. Given the scale of the issue and the significant impact for individuals, children and families, communities and organisations, domestic violence and abuse has recently been identified as one of the priority cross departmental projects. The Cabinet lead for this work will be the Executive Member for Children & Families, working with the Executive Member for Cleaner, Stronger & Safer Communities and supported by key senior officers.
- 2.6 Children and Young People Plan:
- 2.7 The impact of domestic violence on children is long lasting and can be cyclical, children who witness domestic violence are 2.5 times more likely to develop serious social and behavioural problems than other children and they are more likely to be perpetrators or victims of domestic violence as adults. The Children's and Families Trust Board recognises the importance of tackling domestic violence and abuse and

this is reflected in the refresh of the Children and Young People Plan 2011-15 which was approved in May 2013. The plan recognises the impact domestic violence and abuse has on children and the role it plays in achieving the plan's three obsessions: reducing the need for children to come into care; reducing the number of children not in education, employment or training; improving school attendance; and five outcomes:

- All CYP are safe from harm
- All CYP do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life
- All CYP choose healthy lifestyles
- All CYP have fun growing up
- All CYP are active citizens who feel they have voice and influence

2.8 The plan identifies some specific challenges which need to be overcome to ensure that CYP are safe from harm including the extended use of restorative approaches such as Family Group conferencing and the continuing development of local working in Clusters. Importantly the Board recognises the challenge of working to address adult behaviours, including domestic violence and abuse, as a way to improve the safety of children and young people. This is reflected in the Think Family, Work Family which challenges staff to assess the needs of the wider family when working with a child and ensuring that services put this into practice and coordinate their work.

2.9 A significant development in the way Children's social work addresses the high incidence of referrals involving domestic violence has been the establishment of the Front Door arrangements in Westgate House where Children's Social Work Duty and Advice staff are co-located with police and Leeds Community Healthcare to respond to all incidents of domestic violence where children or pregnant women are involved.

2.10 Safer Leeds Domestic Violence Priorities:

2.11 Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse has been identified as a priority issue for Safer Leeds and the following priority and objectives were approved at the May 2014 meeting:

Priority: Reduce the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and abuse.

Objectives:

- Ensure services and interventions are meeting service user needs and expectations.
- Establish a consistent and better developed response to perpetrators.
- Develop and ensure robust and effective information sharing across all stakeholders in order to maximise opportunities for protection and improved service delivery.

- Increase public awareness of domestic abuse and increase knowledge of the support available.

2.12 A city wide Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and Action plan has been developed which sets out the key actions and milestones to deliver the objectives above. The Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group (a multi-agency partnership) works to support and challenge the work done by the city in response to domestic violence and abuse.

2.13 It is also a priority issue for the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board in recognition of the harm caused to children who experience and witness this form of abuse.

2.14 The council is in liaison with and is supported in its ambition by the Police and Crime Commissioner who has identified domestic violence and abuse as one of his priorities for West Yorkshire.

2.15 Current services available to victims of domestic violence and abuse

As domestic violence and abuse affects a wide range of people who are looking for different outcomes and who have different needs, services have been developed to try and provide diverse and complementary support and assistance as required. Alongside statutory services such as social care support, housing options, police assistance and access to legal options, many services are provided by the third sector. Work is on-going to make sure that detailed information on all services is available to victims, professionals and others through the council's website.

2.16 The council commissions two main specialist services which are specifically designed for victims of domestic violence: a refuge service and the IDVA service. Both these services were redesigned and commissioned in the last three years. The services were very much co-produced with providers and other key stakeholders including victims. The refuge consists of dispersed accommodation along with a more traditional hostel to reflect need and preferred options. There is another refuge service not funded through the council which is available to victims too. An integrated outreach, independent domestic violence advisory (IDVA) and resettlement service is commissioned to deliver a 'wrap around' service to victims of domestic violence and their families. This service has the capacity to provide 300 units of floating support at any one time.

2.17 In addition all generic housing related support services are able to offer support to victims of domestic violence and abuse. The former Supporting People programme has been designed and services commissioned to ensure that overall there are a range of providers, locations and types of service to meet need and preference. This includes accommodation based support and floating support which can be provided wherever the victim is living.

2.18 Housing advice and assistance is offered to victims of domestic violence and abuse through the Leeds Housing Options service. A range of support is available including alternative safe temporary accommodation, security installations to make current accommodation safe (where this is the victim's

choice), advice and assistance to find alternative accommodation in the private rented sector, assistance to move out of the Leeds area.

- 2.19 A range of targeted support for victims of domestic violence and abuse is commissioned through the Office of the Director of Public Health. This includes specialist interventions with hard to reach communities such as Gypsy and Travellers and women working in the sex industry along with services designed to reach women living in deprived communities.
- 2.20 Scrutiny Enquiry
- 2.21 In recognition of the importance and complexity of the issue, the Safer Stronger Scrutiny Board undertook a wide-ranging and extensive inquiry into Domestic Violence and abuse. The inquiry involved taking evidence from a wide range of partners, providers of services for both victims and perpetrators, representatives of the third sector and victims themselves. The inquiry made 29 recommendations. These are now being actioned by the council and key partners. The full report is available on the council's website. Attached at **Appendix A** is a summary of the desired outcomes and recommendations along with the response from the relevant directors.
- 2.22 Included within the scope of the review were the following key areas of consideration:
- The use of data and intelligence to measure the scale of domestic violence and abuse in Leeds.
 - The mapping of key stakeholders across the different sectors that have a vital role in assisting to detect victims and perpetrators.
 - Existing funding streams available for tackling domestic violence and abuse and exploring potential opportunities for securing additional resources.
 - Gaining an insight into the experiences of the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.
 - The involvement of the health and social care sector in terms of their knowledge and capacity to detect and share information about victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse
 - How the Council and partners are challenging wider cultural attitudes that tolerate domestic violence and abuse
 - Identifying good practice models in other areas.
- 2.23 Good progress has been made in these areas and positive feedback was received from scrutiny board at its recent meeting in September 2014.

2.24 Data and Intelligence:

- 2.25 Substance misuse, domestic violence and parental mental health are key factors in referrals for Childrens social work services in Leeds. Domestic Violence is the most common referral reason; in 2012 there were 3,628 referrals to Childrens Social Work service which related to domestic violence and abuse, which represented 31% of the total number of referrals.
- 2.26 A 2013 study in Leeds of babies under the age of one, who came into care, highlighted that 87% of the families of those babies included adults with one or more of either substance misuse, mental health problems, learning disabilities and domestic violence and in 66% of all cases domestic violence was present.
- 2.27 Nearly three quarters of children on the 'at risk' register live in households where domestic violence and abuse occurs, and, nationally, 52% of child protection cases involve domestic violence.
- 2.28 In the 12 months to the end of June 2014, there were 14,128 incidents of domestic violence and abuse reported to the Police in Leeds, an increase of 858 on the previous 12 month period. It is widely acknowledged that domestic violence and abuse is underreported to the police and other agencies; therefore the actual number of incidents is estimated to be higher.
- 2.29 The Safer Leeds Executive has agreed that the city should aspire to increase the reporting of domestic violence and abuse whilst reducing the number of repeat victims and repeat suspects.
- 2.30 Statistics obtained from West Yorkshire Police (table 1) illustrates the volume of repeat victims of domestic violence and abuse for the city of Leeds and the West Yorkshire region for the previous 12 month period. At this stage it is not possible to break these figures down to understand of those repeat victims how many are high, medium or low risk.

Table 1:

Incidents of repeat victims of domestic violence and abuse for Leeds and West Yorkshire region (July 2013 – June 2014).

	Incidents with Repeat Victims	
Leeds	4780	33.8%
West Yorkshire	13195	33.6%

- 2.31 The table below (table 2) details incidents of domestic violence, abuse and related crimes for the city of Leeds for the previous 12 month period categorised as 'high',

'medium' and 'standard' using the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and 'Honour'-based Violence (DASH) risk identification checklist.

Table 2:

Incidents of domestic violence, abuse and related crimes within city of Leeds as categorised using DASH risk assessment (July 2013 – June 2014)

DASH Risk Assessment	High	Medium	Standard
Domestic Violence and Abuse Incidents	785	7187	4031
Domestic Violence Related Crimes	693	2325	250

- 2.32 Where domestic violence is reported to agencies in Leeds the majority of victims are female (79.5%). While male victims are clearly a minority, at 20% of all victims there is a need to ensure that as a city we are responding with services that meet needs regardless of gender.
- 2.33 Likewise over the past 12 months where police attend incidents relating to domestic violence and abuse, the perpetrators were male in over 83% of cases. Female perpetrators remain a minority (16%). Services for perpetrators designed to address and change behaviour are more traditionally designed around men although there has been some limited work undertaken with female perpetrators
- 2.34 Both victims and perpetrators of reported domestic violence and abuse are overwhelmingly white British. However it is known that there is under-reporting in some communities and the true picture is not known.
- 2.35 Since April 2011 there have been 15 domestic violence homicides in Leeds, of which 11 have progressed to a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR). DHR became a statutory requirement in April 2011 with the intention of ensuring that public bodies like the police, councils, social services and other community organisations understand and learn from the circumstances that led to a domestic homicide.
- 2.36 Statistics obtained from West Yorkshire Police indicate that children (i.e. categorised as being aged 16 and under) were present at over a third of recorded domestic abuse incidents (35.6%).

3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 A cross directorate Domestic Violence Programme Board has been established to oversee the response to the recent scrutiny inquiry and to lead a cross directorate programme of work.

3.2 This section of the report will focus on the key areas of work that are working towards making the biggest contribution towards achieving the city's objectives relating to domestic violence and abuse.

3.3 Children's Services

3.3.1 An expression of interest is being submitted to the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme (Department of Education). This reflects the council's ambition to be a Child Friendly City. The ambition of working with the Innovation Programme is to accelerate and embed the use of restorative practices and help with the transformation of the traditional responses to child welfare concerns both operationally and strategically. As part of this bid, Children's Services intend to explore the use of restorative approaches with perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

3.3.2 Leeds Youth Offending Service have researched and developed the "PACT". This is an individual or group work programme for young people who are identified as perpetrators (or at risk of becoming perpetrators) of domestic abuse to parents, family members or in their relationships. The Youth Offending Service is committed to working across Leeds to support and train other front line practitioners and agencies so that they too can provide programmes to young people at risk

3.3.3 The Leeds Families First team is an early adopter of phase 2 of the Department of Communities and Local Government's Troubled Families programme. Under the revised criteria for phase 2 of the programme, families experiencing domestic violence and abuse (alongside either poor attendance, crime, worklessness and health issues) are now eligible for inclusion in the families first programme. The Families First team are working with the Children's Front Door to agree a referral route. A number of families involved in the programme will be evaluated using the cost benefit calculator that DCLG has developed.

3.4 Leeds Safeguarding Partnership

3.4.1 One of the key developments currently being worked on is the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership. The project will improve our responses to high risk cases of domestic violence and abuse. This will be done by building on the current Front Door arrangements in Westgate House where Children's Social Work Duty and Advice staff are co-located with police and Leeds Community Healthcare to respond to all incidents of domestic violence where children or pregnant women are involved.

3.4.2 The new arrangements will involve a wider number of partner agencies in the daily sharing of information, joint planning and decision making and delivery of interventions to all high risk victims of domestic violence (whether or not children are involved). Some of these partner agencies will be co-located at West gate House and some will work at arm's length.

3.4.3 Discussions are ongoing to identify the make-up of the team to be based at Westgate, the involvement and contributions of all partner agencies and details of the operating framework for the project. It is likely however that the following key agencies will be involved; Children's Social Work, West Yorkshire Police, Leeds

Community Healthcare, Substance Misuse Services, Fire Service, 3rd Sector Domestic Violence and Offender Management Services, Adult Social Care, Youth Offending Service, Housing Services, Probation (CRC and NPS).

- 3.4.5 The Leeds Safeguarding Partnership will form part of a 'whole system' response from prevention, standard and high risk through to recovery and aftercare. The overall outcome will be a better coordinated response to domestic violence and abuse within the city with a greater focus on prevention, greater resilience in front line services to identify risk and improved pathways to perpetrators to reduce reoffending.

3.5 Improving the Outcome of Court Cases

- 3.5.1 Giving evidence in cases of domestic violence and abuse is often very difficult for the victims who may well not only fear repercussion but also fear the court process itself. Because of this not all prosecutions are successful and as such the Crown Prosecution Services and West Yorkshire Police have been running a pilot in Leeds to try and decrease attrition in DV cases; this comprises of 2 main things:
- From November 2014 there will be monthly meetings between Police & CPS to scrutinise evidence and files for all DV cases going to the magistrate's court and to try and find ways to reduce victim attrition. CPS will highlight issues relating to the quality of the evidence or files and Police can raise any issues from their perspective about CPS approach.
 - Bad character evidence: the Police are now routinely trying to gather bad character evidence by interview, listing history of Police call outs etc. and the CPS is routinely making an early application to allow bad character evidence to be heard (again magistrate's court).
- 3.5.2 This work has resulted in more early guilty pleas which means cases are dealt with more quickly and victims don't need to attend court. They now have a 70-80 % success rate in those cases that reach court. Work will continue to measure the rate of convictions and more detail about the success of this initiative will be available in the future.

3.6 Working with Perpetrators

- 3.6.1 A key aspect of the city's response to reducing incidents of domestic violence and the harm it causes is the work with perpetrators. Research indicates that men are much more likely to engage with services to address their abusive behaviours if they think it will benefit their relationships with their children.
- 3.6.2 The Caring Dads programme is a structured, multi-agency approach to addressing men's abusive behaviours within families. The aim overall is for men to be better fathers and, in so doing, better partners. As of January 2014, 14 facilitators from a range of organisations have been trained to deliver this programme. To date, four groups of men have participated in the programme and engagement with a further three is due to begin in October. The take up of the programme is positive and there are plans to develop the programme in the future.

- 3.6.3 The Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) aims to reduce the offending behaviour of those suffering from substance misuse. Traditionally the programme has been targeted at Class-A drug users engaged in burglary; however plans are being developed to broaden this to include alcohol as a contributing factor to crime particularly where it relates to domestic violence and abuse.
- 3.6.4 Safer Leeds Executive received a presentation in September setting out these plans and it is anticipated that this new mechanism for engaging domestic violence perpetrators in drug and alcohol treatment will be available in 2015.
- 3.6.5 Further work needs to be undertaken to design and commission similar services for those male perpetrators of violence who are not fathers, for female perpetrators and for people who don't misuse substances.

3.7 Victim Satisfaction

- 3.7.1 Domestic violence and abuse is a deeply personal issue and this needs to be reflected in how we support and work with victims. Victim satisfaction is a key measure for how we improve our response to domestic violence and abuse in Leeds. Victims are not a homogenous group and so it is important that we are offering a range of responses to victims and that these are designed through a restorative approach, listening to what victims want and what they feel will work for them.
- 3.7.2 Two key areas of work have been undertaken to measure and strengthen our approach to improving the satisfaction of victims:

- Police Survey:

West Yorkshire Police began a survey of 500 victims in Leeds in December 2013 of which 359 interviews have now been completed.

An interim report has been produced which highlights that victim satisfaction in relation to the initial police involvement was found to be high, with the vast majority of victims indicating that they were "very or fairly satisfied with the way that the police first dealt with the incident."

This is a positive first step in benchmarking satisfaction however it should be recognised that while only a small minority of victims are not satisfied, the reasons that have led to this dissatisfaction might well be serious. As such a detailed analysis of the findings will now be undertaken to understand how the police can continue to improve victim satisfaction and to identify if there are any geographic or demographic differences in the perception of police response to domestic violence and abuse.

- Measuring Victim Satisfaction Across the Partnership:

Leeds currently lacks a universal measure of victim satisfaction which can highlight perceptions of service delivery across a range of partners including the police, Leeds City Council and third sector providers.

- 3.7.3 A recent meeting with commissioned providers of domestic violence services in Leeds has identified a draft set of questions that a wide range of partners could ask victims.
- 3.7.4 Once the process of consultation has been completed and final set of questions has been agreed, the intention is for all partners in Leeds who come into contact with victims to use the questions to measure satisfaction with service.
- 3.7.5 This will create a set of data that can be used to measure victim satisfaction in Leeds and can highlight areas where improvements are needed in the way that services are delivered.

3.8 Review of Commissioned Services

- 3.8.1 Leeds City Council commissions refuge and advice services for victims of domestic violence and abuse. As part of the wider programme of work aimed at improving how the city responds to domestic violence, a cross-directorate review of commissioned services will be undertaken over the next 12 to 18 months. This will include the following key areas of work:
- Extensive consultation with stakeholders including providers, existing service users, elected members and a wider range of partner organisations
 - Review of national guidance
 - Development of new service specifications
 - Undertaking procurement activity as necessary
- 3.8.2 A key aspect of this work will be to ensure that commissioned services have the capacity and flexibility to provide the necessary support to respond to the needs victims and to address the support required by perpetrators to break the cycle of violence.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 There is a multi-agency approach taken to tackling domestic violence and abuse both at a strategic and at an operation level. The overall Strategy Group consists of key partners and therefore progress on identified work streams is monitored and consulted by a wide group of stakeholders.
- 4.1.2 In addition, specific consultation on key developments has been undertaken. Stakeholder consulted to date includes: CAADA; Children's Board; Children's Social Work; Clinical Commissioning Groups; CRC (Community Rehabilitation Company); DIP and IOM; Drug and Alcohol Services; Elected Members; Families First; Housing; Leeds Magistrates; Leeds Safeguarding; Leeds Safeguarding Adult Board; MARAC Strategy Group; NPS (National Probation Service); Police

and Crime Commissioner; Public Health; Third Sector providers; West Yorkshire Police; Youth Offending Team.

- 4.1.3 Consultation and engagement has been on-going with users of both statutory and commissioned services. Such consultation will be used as part of the planned review of all commissioned domestic violence and abuse services.
- 4.1.4 Community Committees provide an opportunity to promote and consult on the response to domestic violence and abuse within localities.

5.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.1 There is a clear recognition that efforts to strengthen the city's response to domestic violence and abuse can have a positive impact on victims, families and communities. Issues related to equality and cohesion are integral to this work.
- 5.2 An equality impact assessment has previously been undertaken as part of the review of services in 2010. This was used to inform the re-designing and commissioning of services and is attached at **Appendix B**. A further EIA will be undertaken as an integral part of the forthcoming review of domestic violence services.
- 5.3 The findings and recommendation from the scrutiny inquiry around services' response to victims from BME and faith communities will be considered within the refreshed equality impact assessment.

6.0 Council policies and City Priorities

- 6.1 Cabinet have identified Domestic Violence and Abuse as a key corporate priority this year. The Cabinet lead for this work will be the Executive Member for Children & Families working with the Executive Member for Cleaner, Stronger & Safer Communities and supported by key senior officers.
- 6.2 This work reflected in the above report is linked to the Best Council Plan objective of 'Supporting communities and tackling poverty' priority on 'Tackling domestic violence and abuse'.

7.0 Resources and value for money

- 7.1 A review of commissioned domestic violence and abuse services will be undertaken in the next 12 to 18 months. This work will seek to ensure that services are working towards the outcomes agreed by Safer Leeds Executive and the Children and Families Trust Board. Any resulting re-commissioning of services will have a particular focus on value for money and will seek to evidence this as part of any procurement exercise.
- 7.2 Plans to develop the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership programme will play a key role in supporting the Councils objectives for achieving value for money. The initiative will form part of a 'whole system' response from prevention, standard and high risk through to recovery and aftercare.

- 7.3 A bid of £200k to the Police and Crime Commissioner Transformation Fund has been successful to develop the work Leeds Safeguarding Partnership model. This money will pump prime the work on the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership. The council will seek further opportunities to access funding through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the future. Additionally an expression of interest has been made to the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Programme as detailed earlier in this report.

8.0 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 8.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with the issues identified in this report. The report is subject to call in.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Risks associated with the delivery of domestic violence programme activity have been identified, reviewed and managed through the Domestic Violence Programme Board.
- 9.2 The identification of new and increasing risks is an on-going process and will continue to be throughout the life of the programme. The risk register is available upon request.

10.0 Conclusions

- 10.1 Domestic violence and abuse continues to be a major issue affecting people living and working in Leeds. The impact on children and families is devastating. It is a major factor in terms of poverty and vulnerability. It affects people of all backgrounds regardless of class, economic situation, ethnicity or age.
- 10.2 Safer Stronger Scrutiny Board undertook a wide-ranging and extensive inquiry into Domestic Violence and abuse, the recommendations of which are now being actioned by the council and key partners.
- 10.3 Domestic violence and abuse has recently been identified as one of the priority cross departmental projects for the Council. The Cabinet lead for this work will be the Executive Member for Children & Families working with the Executive Member for Cleaner, Stronger & Safer Communities and supported by key senior officers.
- 10.4 Work is underway to develop the Leeds Safeguarding Partnership initiative which will establish a multi-agency colocated team providing effective responses to domestic violence and abuse for children, young people (aged 16 and above) and adults. This is part of a whole system approach which will seek to improve outcomes in terms of prevention and support and aftercare as well as in terms of responding to high risk situations.
- 10.5 A review of commissioned domestic violence services will be undertaken to ensure that the city has the capacity to provide the necessary support to respond to the needs victims and to address the support required by perpetrators to break the cycle of violence.

11.0 Recommendations

- 11.1 Executive Board is asked to note the actions being taken across the council and by partners to tackle Domestic Violence and Abuse and to agree to the direction of travel being taken.
- 11.2 Executive Board is asked to receive and endorse the recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Board.

12.0 Background documents ¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.