



Report of: Director of Communities and Environment

Report to: Executive Board

Date: 18th September 2019

Subject: Domestic Violence and Abuse Progress Report 2018/19

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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

1. Main issues

- This report provides the Executive Board with an overview of activity in the city to reduce the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and abuse. It follows on from a report to Executive Board in December 2017.
- This report provides summary information on the prevalence of reported domestic violence and abuse in the city, the challenges this presents to Leeds City Council and its partners and the impact of this abuse on the wellbeing of citizens.
- This report asks the Executive Board to note progress and to consider and agree actions to address the challenges outlined in this report.

2. Best Council Plan Implications

- The work detailed in this report links directly to the some of the key priorities outlined in the Leeds Best Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21.
- This update on progress relating to domestic violence and abuse contributes to improving outcomes in many of the Best City Priorities specifically Safe Strong Communities, Inclusive Growth, Health and Wellbeing, Child Friendly City, Age Friendly Leeds and Housing. The specific KPI that this report relates to is “increasing the number of self-reported incidents of DVA”.

- Domestic violence and abuse creates huge costs to services and causes losses in economic output due to employee absenteeism. Victims from poorer backgrounds are more likely to face barriers when seeking help and may not have access to the financial resources needed to leave an abusive relationship. Tackling domestic violence and abuse contributes to the council's Inclusive Growth Strategy and equally the work undertaken to promote inclusive growth will be of benefit to some of the most vulnerable victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- The links between health and domestic violence and abuse are widely recognised. The delivery of the city's Health and Wellbeing Strategy will benefit from the contributions made to tackle domestic violence and abuse in clinical settings and through public health initiatives.
- The work outlined in this report supports the approach taken in the city to highlight Leeds as a Child-friendly and Age-friendly city as well as promoting Safe, Strong Communities. It contributes to the Best City Plan outcomes relating to 'being safe and feeling safe' and also 'enjoying happy, healthy, active lives'. In addition, one of the Best Council Plan's key performance indicators is 'Increased self-reporting' of domestic violence and abuse incidents'.
- Over this year, the council's delivery of the Inclusive Growth Strategy and commitment to building safer, stronger communities has increasingly focused work in Priority Neighbourhoods. The work aims to relieve some of the difficulties for those communities affected by poverty and to make practical improvements to the environment and the lives of people living in those areas. For people living with domestic violence, barriers to support may be exacerbated by practical issues such as low income, immigration status and language barriers. More work will take place in Priority Neighbourhoods to ensure domestic violence victims and perpetrators are helped to access support, including building stronger links with Early Help Hubs, GP surgeries and specialist domestic violence and abuse services.

3. Resource Implications

- In addition to the human costs of domestic violence and abuse the financial costs to public services and the economy are widely recognised and outlined in section 2 of this report. The work delivered in Leeds is achieved through drawing on the pooled resources from the council and stakeholders to deliver joint initiatives and solutions to address this demanding complex issue. The work is also supported by the allocation of grant funding (Community Safety Fund) provided by the PCC to Safer Leeds.

4. Recommendations

- The Executive Board is asked to note and comment upon the progress described in this report and to consider and agree actions to address the challenges outlined in this report specifically those identified as key issues at paragraph 5.3.
- The Executive Board notes that the Director of Communities and Environment is responsible for the implementation of the actions set out in this submitted report.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides an outline of work and progress across the city in response to domestic violence and abuse, it also outlines some ongoing challenges.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The human cost of domestic violence and abuse is enormous, touching many lives and inflicting devastating consequences on the physical and mental health of victims. It frequently impacts on the lives of children and cuts across all ethnic groups, ages and social backgrounds.
- 2.2 In addition to the significant harm and disruption of domestic violence and abuse to victims and their children, the costs to public services and the economy are also widely recognised. In England and Wales in 2016/2017, the cost of domestic violence to public services was estimated at £66,192 million. This includes costs of £14 billion arising from lost economic output and reduced productivity. The estimated average cost to services for a single victim of domestic abuse is £34,015. The highest estimated unit cost relates to domestic homicide with costs of harms, health services and lost economic output of £2.2 million.
- 2.3 On average each year 3,000 referrals to Children's Social Work Service have a primary need of domestic violence (roughly 30% of the total). Domestic violence will be a contributory factor in many other referrals. Analysis of babies who had entered care in Leeds in 2013 and 2014 showed that domestic violence was present in 60% of cases, with a further 10% where there was historic domestic violence in the family. (Bane, 2013/2014). Analysis of adolescents entering care in Leeds in 2015 showed 47% of cases where there was domestic violence between families, and 74% of families where there were physical assaults between parents and young people. (Barker, 2015).
- 2.4 Domestic violence and abuse has a significant impact on the overall crime rates in the city. In 2018, domestic violence and abuse crimes made up 27.5% of all violence crimes in Leeds; 10.3% of all sexual violence related crimes and 11.5% of all criminal damage offences.

2.5 National context – Introduction of the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019

- 2.6 In February 2017, the Prime Minister announced plans to tackle domestic violence and abuse and introduced a new Domestic Abuse Bill. A national consultation was undertaken and the government's response to this identified the following nine measures to be taken forward:

- *Provide for a statutory definition of domestic abuse;*
- *Establish the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner;*
- *Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Order;*
- *Prohibit perpetrators of domestic abuse from cross-examining victims in family courts;*
- *Create a statutory presumption for special measures in the criminal courts;*
- *Enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing;*
- *Ensure guidance for the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme is statutory;*
- *Ensure that local authorities grant new secure lifetime tenancies to victims who need to move and already had secure lifetime or assured tenancies;*

- *Extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales to further violent and sexual offences.*

2.7 The above measures require primary legislation to implement through the draft Domestic Abuse Bill which will now be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament.

2.8 The Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Programme focuses on four main priority areas:

- Changing attitudes and perceptions (raising awareness and providing challenge with individuals and communities)
- Supporting victims (adults, children and families)
- Challenging behaviours (working with perpetrators)
- Enabling effective change (workforce development and organisational responses)

2.8 The focus of this report is to report on progress and challenges under those four headings.

3. Main issues

3.1 Changing Attitudes and Perceptions

3.1.1 The 16 days of action and White Ribbon campaign aim to raise awareness of violence against women and girls. In Leeds, the campaigns are used to raise awareness of domestic violence more generally. The theme for the Leeds 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaigns in 2018 focused on older victims. Victims over the age of 60 are much less likely to leave an abusive relationship than younger victims and may face a range of challenges which prevent them from seeking or accessing support. An event was held for practitioners and, subsequently a set of good practice principles was produced and shared with services in collaboration with Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board.

3.1.2 An information pack was sent to over 500 organisations and a range of messages were disseminated via press releases and social media to create discussion and debate around older people and domestic violence and abuse. Feedback indicated that colleagues and members of the public appreciated the opportunity to focus on an issue that has historically, been particularly stigmatising for older victims to talk about.

3.1.3 A series of community events took place across community and third sector organisations to support the 'older victims' theme. These events were particularly important in raising awareness in community settings where many older victims access services.

3.1.4 The White Ribbon Campaign was launched at the full council meeting on the 14th November 2018. Members of the public were encouraged to 'sign the pledge' by councillors at Leeds City Station and Briggate and over 400 visitors and staff signed the pledge at Merrion House. Website analytics show that webpage views trebled during the 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaign.

3.1.5 Leeds City Council attained White Ribbon City Status through re-accreditation by the White Ribbon Campaign. The status lasts 2 years and activities will take place during this period to deliver the Leeds White Ribbon City Action Plan.

- 3.1.6 80 new Domestic Violence and Abuse Ambassadors were recruited in 2018 making a total of 164. The Ambassadors play a major role in supporting colleagues to effectively respond to domestic violence and abuse across the city. The Ambassadors are from a range of council departments and external organisations and are trained to be a first point of contact within their organisations and encourage conversations, disseminate information and signpost people to support. The Ambassadors also support the 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaigns and assist in delivering initiatives such as the 2018 'City Centre Sweep' where Ambassadors visited over 120 restaurants, clubs and bars in the city centre to disseminate posters and help cards.
- 3.1.7 Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews suggests that BME community groups may work with very high risk, isolated victims who do not engage with mainstream services. It is therefore important that these groups benefit from training to increase staff and volunteer awareness and understanding of domestic violence and abuse. Work in the council such as the Migrant Access Project is underway to raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse among community based services working with victims who are newly arrived to the UK and unaware of the help available.
- 3.1.8 Work has been delivered with the Refugee Forum, Bahar and the Refugee Council to increase awareness among staff and volunteers. The Refugee Council is working towards the Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark with all staff and managers receiving training to assist them to identify the signs and indicators of abuse and support early intervention to help victims and their children.
- 3.1.9 The Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage Steering Group has refreshed its action plan and delivered a range of awareness raising sessions across the city in multi-agency partnerships with Karma Nirvana. Karma Nirvana report that there has been a significant increase in calls from Leeds to their helpline since this work began.
- 3.1.10 Karma Nirvana also promoted their 'When is a spoon, not a spoon?' campaign in the local media to raise awareness of a safety initiative for girls at risk of being taken out of the country and forced to marry.
- 3.1.11 In order to build on this foundation, there will be a strong focus raising awareness of honour based abuse and forced marriage and improving responses going forward.
- 3.1.12 The website www.leedsdomesticviolenceandabuse.gov.uk continues to provide a 'one stop' information centre for victims, perpetrators, children and practitioners with **23,000** hits in 2018. The site is well used by professionals and usage peaks during domestic violence and abuse campaigns. Work is ongoing to increase and improve specialist support social media presence and further improve website content. Website analytics show that webpage views trebled during the 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaign.

3.2 Supporting Victims

- 3.2.1 The Front Door Safeguarding Hub (FDSH) involves over 15 agencies meeting on a daily basis at a daily Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meeting. The aim of the meeting is to share information and co-ordinate responses to high risk cases of domestic violence and abuse. Action plans are established for each case with agreed interventions relating to victims, children and perpetrators.

- 3.2.2 Since the FDSH was established in April 2015, there has been an annual increase in referrals from all agencies. In 2018, **3654** victims at high risk of harm from domestic violence were supported. This is a **62.5%** increase on 2017 figures and indicates the growing awareness of risk factors and referral procedures among practitioners.
- 3.2.3 Sources of referrals have increased across children's services and primary care services by **54%** and **76%** respectively which is likely to be a result of intense workforce development programmes and good practice initiatives.
- 3.2.4 Whilst the increase in referrals is positive, it presents a challenge in terms of the volume of cases being heard at daily meetings and places a strain on resources.
- 3.2.5 To respond to this challenge, an independent review was undertaken to identify opportunities to manage demand. The review identified a number of areas for development and a programme of work is now being taken forward to test solutions and change ways of working. The aim being to have better outcomes for victims and families and to increase the provision of effective interventions with perpetrators.
- 3.2.6 A new IT system has been in development at the FDSH to improve recording and outcome reporting. This was launched during Safeguarding Week 2019 and will add value and increase efficiency within the FDSH infrastructure.
- 3.2.7 Schools receive notifications from the FDSH at the beginning of each school day about pupils who have been present at an incident of domestic violence attended by the police in the last 24 hours. In 2018, **4599** notifications went to schools leading to improved support for children in the immediate aftermath of an incident.
- 3.2.8 Better co-ordination of health services input has improved collaborative responses across the health economy and improved systems have created access to key health information systems.
- 3.2.9 Health staff at the FDSH notify GPs of concerns for all victims heard at the daily MARAC meeting. In 2018, over **3302** notifications to GPs were made. Concurrently, there has been an increase in referrals to the daily meetings from GPs. This is extremely positive as GPs are well placed to identify domestic violence and abuse and many practices are now undertaking routine enquiry to identify victims as early as possible.
- 3.2.10 On-going monitoring of notifications to GPs has helped to identify those GP surgeries with higher numbers of high risk patients. Targeted work is being delivered to these practices to train GPs, nurses and other practice staff and attain the GP Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark.
- 3.2.11 The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as Clare's Law) gives any member of the public or professional (on behalf of a client) the right to be told or ask the police if a partner or ex-partner poses a risk. Applications can be made by males or females over the age of 16 in heterosexual or same-sex relationships. If police checks show that the partner or ex-partner has a record of abusive behaviour or there is other information to indicate the applicant may be at risk, then the case is taken to the panel to agree on if and what information should be shared with the victim. The daily MARAC meeting also identifies cases for the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Panel (also known as Clare's Law Panel).
- 3.2.12 In 2018, 168 applications were heard at the Clare's Law Panel. Following a West Yorkshire wide awareness campaign we have seen a 41% increase in Clare's Law cases from Jan- July 2019 compared to the previous year.

- 3.2.13 Recent learning from local and regional Domestic Homicide Reviews has affirmed the benefits of the long-standing Leeds approach, which recognises that health care professionals are ideally placed to deliver effective domestic violence and abuse interventions. On this basis, work with health partners has been pivotal in developing initiatives to promote early identification and test new initiatives.
- 3.2.14 Leeds has pioneered Routine Enquiry in Midwifery and Health Visiting with many other areas following suit. Routine Enquiry involves training practitioners to ask every female patient seen alone about domestic violence and abuse. It is widely recognised as good practice. After a successful pilot to test Routine Enquiry in a Garforth GP surgery in 2015, Routine Enquiry is now being rolled out to all 108 GP surgeries across Leeds. This initiative will form part of a bespoke Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark for GP surgeries. To date 36 surgeries have completed their Routine Enquiry training and 14 more are registered for training in the coming months. Surgeries are targeted based on the numbers of FDSH notifications they receive, their involvement in Domestic Homicide Reviews and their proximity to a Priority Neighbourhood.
- 3.2.15 Considerable interest in Routine Enquiry has developed among GPs with over 700 Leeds GPs attending an event in June 2018 to promote Routine Enquiry. In addition, a delegation of GPs visited from London to learn more about the Leeds approach.
- 3.2.16 In support of this approach, NHS England have funded a pilot initiative to provide a specialist Domestic Violence Worker to take referrals from GPs to offer discreet support to victims in health settings. NHS England North also hosted a conference in April 2018 to promote roll-out of the Leeds model across the North of England. This attracted considerable interest in the local media including Radio Leeds and Look North.
- 3.2.17 Health commissioners have played a key role in ensuring domestic violence and abuse remains a priority in clinical settings through the inclusion of domestic violence service standards in contracts for key services. These service areas include Health Visiting, Midwifery, Sexual Health Services, School Nursing, Special Community Public Health Nursing Services, Oral Health Promotion Services and GP Health Checks Services. This leads to improvements in front line responses to domestic violence and abuse such as trained health practitioners who can identify indicators of abuse, undertake risk assessments and understand referral pathways into specialist services and MARAC meetings.
- 3.2.18 The commissioned specialist domestic violence and abuse service, Leeds Domestic Violence Service (LDVS), is a consortium comprising Leeds Women's Aid, Behind Closed Doors and Women's Health Matters. The service delivers refuge provision, advice and support services, a 24 hour helpline, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to support clients at high risk and through the court process, drop in sessions, group and peer support, outreach and resettlement services.
- 3.2.19 In 2018, LDVS received **5525** helpline calls, supported **1,132** victims and provided **250** drop in sessions. Demand has increased year on year as the service has become more widely known. Despite the challenge of responding to a high volume of referrals, the service has strived to improve access to more victims with additional and complex needs. Increasing the provision of interpreters, childcare and transport for service users has led to significant increases in take up of services. As a result, the service has seen an increase in complex cases, with female victims in particular, experiencing a wider range of issues requiring more intensive support.

- 3.2.20 The service has engaged with Children's Services to contribute to Family Group Conferencing, Early Help and activities relating to the prevention of children going into care.
- 3.2.21 A significant challenge facing the service relates to the impact of Universal Credit (UC). The main issue being that new applicants have to wait up to 6 weeks for UC to be paid. Personal service charges cannot be paid until then, leaving service users in rent arrears. Some victims leave before UC is paid having accumulated rent debts which has a financial impact on the financial health of the organisation.
- 3.2.22 Research indicates that a significant proportion of domestic violence and abuse goes unreported. Work in the Priority Neighbourhoods provides opportunities to make service offers to isolated victims and families who might not usually engage with specialist services. Programmes of work have included promoting routine enquiry in GP practices, delivering training to local organisations and developing community awareness raising plans. This programme of work will continue to be a priority over the next year.
- 3.2.23 Four LCC Community Hubs will be piloting the delivery of domestic violence and abuse awareness training to increase the capacity among front line staff to respond to signs and disclosures of domestic violence and abuse. All these hubs are within three of the Priority Neighbourhoods and will be working towards the Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark to attain a series of service standards.
- 3.2.24 Locality based domestic violence and abuse case conferencing meetings have been established in five Clusters by Families First in partnership with the Police, Targeted Services Leaders and Safer Leeds. The aim of the meetings are to offer Early Help support to those cases that have been assessed as medium or low risk. The meetings are held every 3 weeks and are co-chaired by the area Inspector/Sergeant and the Targeted Services Leader.
- 3.2.25 The police provide information about cases to be discussed no later than 5 days prior to the meeting. The cases are domestic violence/abuse incidents that have been reported to the police in the three weeks prior to circulation (dependent on the frequency of the meeting) that have been assessed as standard or medium risk. Only cases where the victim has consented to support from agencies and for information are considered for discussion.
- 3.2.26 The meeting includes a wide range of partners to enable a team around the family approach and an appropriate package of support and a lead professional identified. The initial evaluation of one cluster was very positive and evidenced positive outcomes for families. A further evaluation will be completed by the end of September 2019 and the approach will be reviewed as part of the on-going programme to improve the Front Door Safeguarding Hub arrangements.
- 3.2.27 Services working with children can play a key role in delivering early interventions to prevent domestic violence and abuse escalating or negatively impacting on outcomes for children. Equally, services working with young people play a crucial role in promoting safe and healthy relationships and helping young people recover after witnessing domestic violence and abuse
- 3.2.28 Early Help Hubs are being developed to enhance services to children and families and act as a single point of contact for Early Help. Workers will be co-located within multi-agency settings including specialist staff with expertise around domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health. The Hubs will be sited at Albion House in West Leeds, Cottingley Children's Centre in South Leeds and at the Compton Centre in East Leeds. Priorities will include workforce development,

promoting best practice, building community capacity and adding value to existing services. The Hub aim is to promote a 'getting it right first time' approach by providing early advice and support, signposting and maximising local resources. Data and intelligence sharing will play a part in informing and prioritising service delivery to support the best use of resources.

- 3.2.29 In collaboration with the Safer Leeds Safeguarding and Domestic Violence team, children's centres have recently refreshed their bespoke training programme entitled "Domestic Violence: the impact on children" which is delivered by an in house pool of trainers to all of their workforce as part of their mandatory training. The training now incorporates a session on coercive control, learning from DHRs, routine inquiry and risk assessment and has been well received by staff.
- 3.2.30 All 58 Children's Centres have attained the Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark and an evaluation showed a positive impact on staff in relation to their understanding of domestic violence issues, how to assess risk and respond to those families who are affected. Centres report that it has helped build successful partnerships with a range of agencies and most importantly, raised the profile of domestic violence in their centre, enabling families to seek the support they need.
- 3.2.31 Having obtained the Quality Mark, each of the 58 Children's Centres has a named DVA Lead and a profile has been developed outlining the requirements for this role.
- 3.2.32 A Care Pathway has been developed which describes how Early Start teams (Children's Centre and Health visiting practitioners) will support families around Domestic Violence as part of the '4 tier Family Offer', including working with perpetrators if they remain within the family home. The care pathway supports delivery of the multi-agency Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Action Plan and organisationally defined responsibilities if an individual discloses domestic violence to a practitioner.
- 3.2.33 The Children's Centres regularly participate in national campaigns such as 16 days of action, White Ribbon campaign and others, and continue to offer signposting support to families.
- 3.2.34 A training workshop entitled 'Working with men who are abusive in relationships' is now being offered to all Children's Centre staff.
- 3.2.35 Support to families who engage with Children's Centres can include welfare support, safety planning, access to groups or parenting programmes to reduce social isolation and promoting access to nursery provision and counselling.
- 3.2.36 Some centres offer venues for the delivery of the Caring Dads programme and a Father Inclusive Practice training programme has been developed and includes working families where there is a known perpetrator and supporting male victims of domestic violence.
- 3.2.37 The Restorative Early Support (RES) Team model has been developed in seven areas of highest social need in the city. The teams work preventatively and aim to build strong relationships with families, adopting a "Formulation" approach to understanding and analysing the issues that families face. This has enabled them to work alongside families where domestic violence is a feature. The team work creatively and often draw on resources from the Caring Dads Service to engage the whole family.
- 3.2.38 Family Group Conferencing (FGC) has developed over the last year to provide further support to families. FGC is a family led decision making process. This approach brings together family and friends to discuss concerns for children and

plan how to keep them safe. The FGC takes place in three stages - information sharing, private family time and sharing the plan with the lead worker. The plan is monitored by someone in the family/ friends network which enables family to have full ownership of the plan they have created. In 2018, **145** families experiencing domestic violence and abuse engaged with FGCs. Approximately, 45% of this work was identified via the FDSH. An automatic referral is made to the FGC service by the FDSH for all families where domestic abuse is an issue. FGCs in this context have been able to take place with the consent of victims and enabling safe participation of all adults for the benefit of children. In **90%** of situations the family develop a plan which is viewed as safe by professionals. The FGC service has achieved the Leeds DV Quality Mark with all staff being trained accordingly. They have 6 DVA ambassadors and another 3 Male DVA Mentors across the service. The FGC team has increased its attendance at the Daily MARAC meetings and Locality DVA conferences.

- 3.2.39 Families First Leeds helps families with a number of complex problems improving outcomes for the whole family and reducing the need for more intensive and costly interventions. In 2018, domestic violence and abuse was flagged as an issue for **1012** families supported by the Families First Programme. The programme links to the Front Door Safeguarding Hub, children's services clusters and the domestic violence locality arrangements. The programme shares information on the families to support a Think Family approach and every family has a lead practitioner. In some cases, this is someone who is already supporting the family. For those families that meet the criteria, a flag is placed on the police data system. A police researcher sends daily reports on police incidents so these can be shared with the clusters to ensure appropriate support is in place. The Families First Programme works with family members holistically and helps address a range of difficult problems through Think Family Work Family principles. This means that domestic violence is addressed as part of a whole family approach leading to long term sustainable outcomes to benefit children and parents.
- 3.2.40 Families First have colleagues from Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) co located with the team. As part of their role they have worked with Safer Leeds to enable them to deliver training to all the Job Centres in Leeds and West Yorkshire to achieve the DVA Quality Mark. The training upskills the workforce to be aware of the impact of DVA and to offer supportive measures to customers such as changing their appointment times and giving more flexibility around appointments.
- 3.2.41 During this year the team have also offered workshops during the 16 days of action on different topics around DVA (honour-based abuse, domestic abuse in young people's relationships, impact on children). The Families First team in conjunction with Safer Leeds have also developed a specialist one day course on domestic violence and abuse within young people's relationships. This gives the workforce an increased understanding of how to support young people, where to signpost to and how to complete the Young Persons DASH risk assessment. The Leeds Safeguarding Children's Partnership have accepted this as a specialist course which will be offered to all workers following the appropriate approval and governance. Domestic violence and abuse is also covered as part of the Early Help qualification that is been delivered through the Families First team and also in the one-day Early Help training.
- 3.2.42 Approximately **27.5%** of referrals to Children's Social Work Service (CSWS) every month have domestic violence and abuse as the primary reason for referral and domestic violence and abuse was a factor in **42%** of babies under the age of one

year old entering care in 2018. CSWS are refreshing their Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark to re-train Social Workers and update existing policies and procedures. This is following a programme of training to increase Social Workers' skills in engaging with perpetrators who live within family settings. This is particularly important for those families who remain together and where engagement with the perpetrator plays a role in reducing the risk to children.

- 3.2.43 CSWS have piloted an Action Learning set approach to workforce development within whole social work teams. This began in South Leeds and is now being rolled out across the city. The programme provides input (theory/evidence) and then action learning in work with families. Input to this is provided by women who have been the victims of domestic abuse as well as men who have behaved violently. It is hoped that this will impact on a whole culture change at team level and across the areas.
- 3.2.44 Following a joint inspection of criminal justice responses to domestic violence and abuse, West Yorkshire Police have worked with partners to roll out the Best Practice Framework. The framework identifies four components of best practice. These are risk assessment and support for victims; training for practitioners, court support for victims and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). The majority of these components are well embedded in Leeds however more work will be developed to improve support for victims in court.
- 3.2.45 The West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board has been rolling out work to promote effective criminal justice system responses to domestic violence and abuse. The programme of work is known as a Whole Systems Response. Initiatives have included a Coercive Control Training Programme for police officers; Domestic Violence Abuse Partnership Cars (unmarked police cars visiting victims after an incident with a Domestic Violence Support Worker); a Domestic Violence Protection Order Team (securing, evidencing and monitoring outcomes and providing IDVA support to victims) and the establishment of an Independent Scrutiny Panel looking at cases not progressing through the criminal justice system. The programme has been evaluated and a report will be produced in the summer of 2019.
- 3.2.46 Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Services (HMCTS) now list four designated Domestic Abuse Courts each week. All Magistrates who preside over these Courts have attended the required Domestic Abuse training.
- 3.2.47 The National Probation Service (NPS) remains committed to staffing all Leeds based Domestic Abuse Courts actively promoting the concept of 'Safer Sentencing' through the completion of risk assessments, liaising with stakeholders, providing updates, supporting the Court in relation to sentencing disposals and prosecuting 'Breaches'. This ensures that sentencers receive accurate and up-to-date information thereby enabling domestic abuse perpetrators to be sentenced to the most appropriate sentence.
- 3.2.48 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) are court orders which put protective measures in place immediately after a domestic violence incident. A DVPO can prevent a perpetrator from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days. This allows the victim some space to consider their options with the help of support agencies.
- 3.2.49 The West Yorkshire DVPO team was established in February 2018 and is based in Safer Leeds. It comprises police staff and an IDVA. The joint working between the DVPO officers and the IDVA helps bridge the gap between victim support and perpetrator intervention. Feedback from victims suggests the IDVA support is very

effective. **49** DVPOs were issued in 2018 with **13** breaches. These are being monitored to assess the extent and effectiveness of their use and the work of the DVPO team is in the process of being evaluated.

- 3.2.50 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) oversees a West Yorkshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Board and the delivery of a West Yorkshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Strategy and Plan. Leeds plays a significant role in the delivery of the plan to increase services available to victims of sexual abuse, increase provision for perpetrators and co-ordinating data sharing across the sub-region.
- 3.2.51 During 2018, Leeds City Council was successful in securing a £465,000 grant from the Department of Communities and Local Government on behalf of the five local authorities in West Yorkshire and the OPCC. The funding supported a range of programmes to develop skills and knowledge across the West Yorkshire domestic violence and abuse sectors to improve responses to victims with complex needs.
- 3.2.52 The Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark was also rolled out across West Yorkshire and a West Yorkshire Quality Mark is now in place across all the local authorities. The Quality Mark work concentrates on improving access to accommodation and support for victims with complex needs with a focus on mental health, substance misuse and issues facing black and minority ethnic (BME) and migrant communities.
- 3.2.53 A series of specialist secondments provided training, advice and support to domestic violence and abuse staff in refuge settings to ensure that intensive support to victims and trauma informed approaches become integrated into service offers. The specialists were practitioners seconded from the mental health, substance misuse and BME sectors and brought invaluable expertise into settings that would have otherwise experienced gaps in provision.
- 3.2.54 Another strand of the work involved Safer Leeds training over 700 practitioners across West Yorkshire around domestic violence and abuse and complex needs.
- 3.2.55 A toolkit for professionals working with DVA victims with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) was also developed, has been disseminated across West Yorkshire and is available on the Leeds DVA website.
- 3.2.56 In November 2018, Leeds City Council were successful in securing a further £500,000 grant from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, again with support from the other four West Yorkshire local authorities, the OPCC and West Yorkshire Police.
- 3.2.57 The funding will help build on the strong foundations established over the last two years to make improve and enhance specialist support to victims with complex needs. In particular, it will support specialist training and support for staff who work with LGBT+ victims and victims with insecure immigration issues. It will also assist the roll out of the West Yorkshire GP Quality Mark and the Leeds model of Routine Enquiry.
- 3.2.58 Leeds City Council has refreshed its policy to support staff who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse. The new policy includes more information for people in LGBT+ relationships. Manager briefings are planned to promote a compassionate response to staff affected by this issue. In addition, work has been undertaken with Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust leading to their development of a similar policy.

3.3 Challenging Behaviours – Work with perpetrators

- 3.3.1 Whilst services to victims are essential, it is necessary to offer help to perpetrators and provide them interventions at the earliest possible opportunity. Services for perpetrators remain a challenge as they are fragmented and have not developed at the same pace as victims' services. Research and feedback from families both emphasise the need to work with perpetrators of domestic violence. Failure to do this can lead to the violent individual moving to a new family and continuing the pattern of violence. Furthermore this approach can lead to an unbalanced approach that places the burden of change solely, and unfairly, on the victim.
- 3.3.2 A Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) report published in 2017 outlining 6 local authorities' responses to domestic violence and abuse identified that service responses focused on victims and children in immediate crisis with inadequate consideration of the perpetrator. The report suggests that this approach fails to address a number of factors including the experiences of children, the root causes of the perpetrator's behaviour and the impact on other family members. This lack of focus on the perpetrator's mind-set and behaviour means there is a high risk of recurrence once an immediate crisis has passed. While support for victims and their children is imperative, provision for perpetrators should also be part of the response to safeguard children and protect victims.
- 3.3.3 Learning from DHRs suggests there is a need to explore how the city can improve responses to young men who experience complex social problems such as mental distress, adverse childhood experiences and trauma, poverty and discrimination, and to identify opportunities to intervene at critical points in the lives of young perpetrators.
- 3.3.4 In light of this, a strategic review of responses to perpetrators began in 2018 with the aim of identifying how the city can make improvements in this area. A report and recommendations will be shared across a number of strategic boards in the city with a view to a programme of work being taken forward with agreed actions.
- 3.3.5 The following paragraphs summarise the services that are currently in place to deliver work with perpetrators.
- 3.3.6 The National Probation Service (NPS) supervise all statutory High Risk of Harm domestic abuse perpetrators who are sentenced through the Courts. Offender Managers can utilise a range of interventions including Building Better Programme, HELP, Resolve, Mentalisation Behavioural Therapy and the Healthy Relationships Programme (Custody). In addition, there are a wide array of monitory/ protective measures that can be implemented including residency at an Approved Premises, Curfews, Exclusion Zones, Substance Testing & Non-Association conditions. It is envisaged that the recent implementation of Location Monitoring will also be an important factor in future Risk Management Plans of domestic abuse perpetrators.
- 3.3.7 The West Yorkshire Crime and Rehabilitation Company (WYCRC) was formed as a result of the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda. WYCRC supervises all statutory offenders in the West Yorkshire area who are assessed as posing low to medium risk of harm to others.
- 3.3.8 WYCRC Senior Case Managers and Case Managers supervise service users subject to statutory supervision by way of community or suspended sentence orders, and prison sentences including licence and Post Sentence Supervision on release. WYCRC staff work in partnership with a range of agencies and partners to ensure that the risk of reoffending and the level of harm posed, is managed effectively, whilst working to protect the public, victims and rehabilitate individuals

who have offended. This includes contribution, attendance and participation within domestic violence and Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements in Leeds.

- 3.3.9 WYCRC also provides Accredited and Non-Accredited Programme service delivery to both CRC and National Probation Service (NPS) service users, on statutory supervision.
- 3.3.10 WYCRC also provides Unpaid Work supervision, for NPS and CRC service users, those sentenced to stand-alone Unpaid Work and Unpaid Work as part of a multi-requirement Community Order. Approximately **25%** of the WYCRC caseload are flagged as Domestic perpetrators.
- 3.3.11 Children's Services currently deliver the Caring Dads Service which offers focused group work with men where there has been domestic abuse reaching **90** men per year. In 2018, **39** men completed a 17 week Caring Dads Programme affecting a total of **102** children. The programme focuses on motivating men to become aware of the practical and emotional needs of their children, reflect constructively on their abusive behaviours and practice and fosters respectful behaviours. The Caring Dads Team contribute to the development of work with men through an offer of consultation and support for Social Workers with structured session plans and advice on tailored interventions. This means that the service user has a more bespoke offer of support rather than a 'one size fits all' approach.
- 3.3.12 Leeds is accredited by Changing Ways (Canada) to provide training within Leeds and to other authorities/organisations to provide the service in their area. There are three training programmes each year and **30** professionals from other authorities have participated in 2018-2019.
- 3.3.13 The programme also delivers innovative responses to engage Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) men and men from migrant communities. Further enhanced offers are made to Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) men. In partnership with the Syrian Resettlement Programme, Caring Dads have delivered sessions, through the support of interpreters, exploring fathering in a culturally sensitive way.
- 3.3.14 A new joint initiative is being planned between the Youth Justice Service and Caring Dads Services. This will focus on those young men/older teenagers who are acting violently towards their partners.
- 3.3.15 Integrated Offender Management (IOM) supports offenders to address issues that contribute to or cause their offending behaviour. Where that fails and offenders continue to commit crime, other, more tactical options are implemented including criminal justice interventions.
- 3.3.16 Perpetrators are selected on the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme via referrals from partner agencies such as the Front Door Safeguarding Hub, National Probation Service, the Community Rehabilitation Company and third sector organisations. Each offender is allocated a designated police officer as their Offender Manager and has a personalised intervention plan. The plans include measures to support people to achieve positive change but also provide support to secure housing and employment. IOM also employs various tactical options to deter those engaged in repeat offending. The Offender Managers work closely with the Police Safeguarding teams, as well as other interested parties, to promote safety of victims.

3.3.17 Many universal services are in contact with perpetrators and can play an important part in providing help. Such services need trained staff who feel confident in engaging in difficult conversations. A number of work programmes have been delivered to increase capacity among generic services to work with perpetrators. Examples of these include:

- A service standard in the Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark requires agencies, where appropriate, to identify a champion to lead on work with perpetrators to develop their organisation's offer. Training is provided to skill up staff to engage with perpetrators, undertake risk and needs assessments, develop safety plans and implement good judgement in relation to information sharing.
- DHR learning has been integrated into work with partners to ensure that Family Group Conferencing, Think Family Work Family, Family Valued and Think Family and Fathers Inclusive Practice work is informed by DHR learning and a focus on how to engage men perpetrating domestic violence and abuse.
- Routine Enquiry with perpetrators is being piloted in the third sector to test how effectively this model promotes early identification and timely intervention with perpetrators to reduce risk.

3.4 Enabling Change - Workforce Development and Organisational Responses

3.4.1 Domestic violence and abuse is widespread and responses need to be made on many levels. Like other safeguarding issues, it needs to be 'everybody's business'. The Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark is a set of service standards devised to drive up the quality of service provision. It was established in Leeds in 2007 and continues to provide a reliable way of improving service responses. It has also been being rolled out across West Yorkshire.

3.4.2 Since 2007, **141** organisations in the city have attained the Quality Mark. In 2018, it was granted to **23** agencies including 2gether RES Team, LCC Adults and Health (Adult Social Care Operations), Jigsaw (Prison Visitors' Centre), Community Links and Palm Cove Society. Some of these services have huge numbers of employees and deliver services to thousands of service users every year. Organisations who have undertaken the Quality Mark tell us that they feel much better equipped to respond to both employees and service users who are affected by domestic violence and abuse.

3.4.3 Over 2018, work between the council and third sector partners has taken place to support organisations working with particularly vulnerable victims. This has included working with the Refugee Forum which has over 40 community group affiliations providing services to migrant communities. Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews suggests that such groups often work with very high risk, isolated victims who may not engage with mainstream services. The Quality Mark has provided a useful tool to engage with large organisations as well as small community groups. It has afforded opportunities to skill up staff and volunteers and equip them to manage risk whilst brokering relationships between vulnerable victims and formal services.

3.4.4 The Quality Mark links closely to an accompanying workforce development programme; **117** training sessions to **1670** practitioners were delivered during 2018. Course content is continually being updated to integrate latest research and is informed by learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews and safeguarding reviews, feedback from the FDSH, practice issues raised by partners and consultation with victims and perpetrators.

- 3.4.5 The impact of the training on practice has been very positive with evaluation suggesting that **95%** of participants saying it has helped them improve their practice to 'a great extent'. The training appears to have impacted on the number of MARAC referrals. After **356** agency staff attended MARAC briefings during the year, there was an increase of **62.5%** in MARAC referrals compared to 2017.
- 3.4.6 On-going training programmes have been delivered to the NHS Trusts providing services in Leeds in a range of health settings. This includes A&E, Midwifery, Health Visiting, Sexual Health Services and mental health services. Feedback and evaluation indicates the training is pivotal in increasing confidence and skills among practitioners to identify indicators and respond to domestic violence and abuse.
- 3.4.7 Training has been delivered to all **150** police sergeants in Leeds with the aim of improving police risk assessments and increasing victim empathy. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with one sergeant stating that it was the best training of his 30 years in the police force. Furthermore, there has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of risk assessments from the police coming into the Front Door Safeguarding Hub.
- 3.4.8 Safeguarding training for Night Time Economy staff has been delivered to night club staff and other city centre staff to ensure effective responses to a range of safeguarding issues. Domestic violence and abuse has been integrated into this training to ensure staff can spot the signs of domestic violence and abuse and respond appropriately.
- 3.4.9 In April 2011, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) became a statutory responsibility for Community Safety Partnerships. Between then and December 2018, **17** reviews were commissioned and **10** completed. DHRs involve partnership and independent scrutiny and analysis of service responses to victims, perpetrators and children leading up to a domestic violence related death. **3** new reviews began in 2018.
- 3.4.10 The 17 reviews involved 14 female and 3 male victims aged between 17 and 87. In 41% of reviews, the victim was aged 50 or over. 3 perpetrators took their own life shortly after killing their partners / ex-partners and 2 children were killed at the same time as their mother. In 4 cases, both the victim and perpetrator were from a BME background.
- 3.4.11 The learning from DHRs has been disseminated widely into workforce development programmes, service planning and commissioning. Safer Leeds, the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board and the Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership have worked collaboratively to deliver a series of interactive sessions to over 400 frontline practitioners, combining learning from recently completed DHRs, Serious Case Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Additional learning sessions had to be organised due to overwhelming demand.
- 3.4.12 Examples of key themes emerging from reviews are:
- Victims and perpetrators with complex needs and who are affected by adverse childhood experiences often need intense long term periods of engagement before accepting service offers;
 - The combination of relationship breakdown, separation and a history of coercive control is a significant high risk factor leading up to domestic homicides;
 - Small community organisations often carry a case load of high risk victims who do not want to engage with formal services;

- Risk assessments should reflect complexity and take account of risk factors that appear to be contradictory such as the victim presenting with high levels of fear whilst also appearing to minimise risk.

3.4.13 Themes from DHRs and other safeguarding reviews have been embedded through the following work programmes:

- A rolling programme of training to deepen understanding of coercive control;
- Work with commissioners to promote safeguarding through contracts;
- Promoting a risk assessment tool for young people;
- Rolling out Routine Enquiry in GP practices;
- Developing locality based community work;
- Establishing a network of Ambassadors to disseminate learning;
- Refreshing and promoting the Think Family / Work Family Protocol;
- Delivering campaigns -16 Days of Action and White Ribbon.

3.4.14 The impact of disseminating learning from DHRs can be captured in several ways. One example of this involved the systematic targeting of practitioners working with young people to promote the risk assessment tool for young people. This learning came out of a DHR involving the death of a 17 year old victim. Following this, **137** young victims aged 16 and 17 were discussed at daily MARAC meetings, an increase of **74%** from 2017.

3.4.15 Learning was also gleaned from a review which involved working alongside a victim who survived a very serious assault and who was willing to share her experiences. The subsequent learning session with practitioners provided insights to mental health teams around high risk indicators, coercive control, safety options and how to respond to perpetrators who present in crisis after relationship breakdown.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 A number of multi-agency sessions have been held, incorporating all council services involved in domestic violence and abuse, third sector colleagues and other public sector partners.
- 4.1.2 Consultation has been undertaken at various points with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Further work is being explored to capture the 'voice of the child'.
- 4.1.3 A Domestic Violence and Abuse Programme Board is responsible for driving forward the work programmes and quarterly feedback from board members informs programmes of work.
- 4.1.4 A Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum comprising a wide range of third sector organisations meets bi-annually to discuss and consult on practice issues and service developments.
- 4.1.5 Safer Leeds works closely with Leeds Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board to identify joint issues and priorities. Domestic violence and abuse is a key issue for all three boards and programmes of work will continue to be jointly developed.

4.1.6 A series of sessions for elected members have been delivered to give progress updates, share learning from DHRs, obtain member views and support members to take work forward. Future sessions for Members will take place in 2019.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 Issues relating to equality and cohesion are integral to this area of work. Domestic violence and abuse links with all groups with characteristics identified under the Equality Act 2010.

4.2.2 Strong links are in place with the Equality Hubs and there has been a particular focus in 2018 on LGBT+ communities. Work will continue with the Equality Hubs and stronger links will be developed through the Migrant Access Project and the Refugee Forum.

4.2.3 A number of the Domestic Homicide Reviews have provided rich information and learning around issues relating to equality, discrimination disadvantage and domestic violence and abuse. These issues have been integrated into domestic violence and abuse work programmes.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The work detailed in this report links directly to the some of the key priorities outlined in the Leeds Best Council Plan 2019/20 – 2020/21.

4.3.2 Domestic violence and abuse creates huge costs to services and causes losses in economic output due to employee absenteeism. Victims from poorer backgrounds are more likely to face barriers when seeking help and may not have access to the financial resources needed to leave an abusive relationship. Tackling domestic violence and abuse contributes to the councils Inclusive Growth Strategy and equally the work undertaken to promote inclusive growth will be of benefit to some of the most vulnerable victims of domestic violence and abuse.

4.3.3 The links between health and domestic violence and abuse are widely recognised. The delivery of the city's Health and Wellbeing Strategy will benefit from the contributions made to tackle domestic violence and abuse in clinical settings and through public health initiatives.

4.3.4 The work outlined in this report supports the approach taken in the city to highlight Leeds as a Child-friendly and Age-friendly city as well as promoting Safe, Strong Communities. It contributes to the Best City Plan outcomes relating to 'being safe and feeling safe' and also 'enjoying happy, healthy, active lives'. In addition, one of the Best Council Plan's key performance indicators is 'Increased self-reporting' of domestic violence and abuse incidents'

4.3.5 Over this year, the council's delivery of the Inclusive Growth Strategy and commitment to building safer, stronger communities has increasingly focused work in Priority Neighbourhoods. The work aims to relieve some of the difficulties for those communities affected by poverty and to make practical improvements to the environment and the lives of people living in those areas. For people living with domestic violence and abuse, barriers to support may be exacerbated by practical issues such as low income, immigration status and language barriers. More work will take place in Priority Neighbourhoods to ensure domestic violence victims and perpetrators are helped to access support, including building stronger links with Early Help Hubs, GP surgeries and specialist domestic violence and abuse services.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.6 Officers recognise the ambition to tackle the Climate Emergency in Leeds as declared at the Council meeting in March 2019.
- 4.3.7 Any CO2 impacts of work proposed in this report will be considered and minimised.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 In addition to the human costs of domestic violence and abuse, the financial costs to public services and the economy are widely recognised and outlined at paragraph 2.2 of this report.
- 4.4.2 The work delivered in Leeds is achieved through drawing on the pooled resources from the council and stakeholders to deliver joint initiatives and solutions to address this demanding complex issue.
- 4.4.3 The work is also supported by the allocation of grant funding (Community Safety Fund) provided by the PCC to Safer Leeds.
- 4.4.5 Additional resources of just under £1 million for work across West Yorkshire has been secured through 2 successful bids to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 4.4.6 The council works closely with partner organisations such as Karma Nirvana to address Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage. Resources to deliver this work have been boosted through Karma Nirvana's successful bid to the government's Counter-extremism Strategy - Building Stronger Britain Together fund to deliver 8 national survivor ambassador roadshows and to deliver 20 workshops across Bradford and Leeds to raise awareness of Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

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

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 An individual risk assessment for each project within the programme has been carried out.
- 4.6.2 Key risks to progress are identified at paragraph 5.3 in this report.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Leeds has a long history of partnership working and delivering innovation to address domestic violence and abuse and this is a testament to the commitment and wealth of expertise among our third sector organisations, public sector services and community groups. Nevertheless, the scale and impact of domestic violence and abuse remains significant.
- 5.2 As described above, much has been achieved including:
- Enhancing existing services' capacity to respond to victims with complex needs;
 - Further developing the FDSH including processes for notifying GPs and schools;
 - Developing innovative practice in GP surgeries;
 - Improving staff confidence in responding to domestic violence and abuse;

- Developing responses to protect children through the Caring Dads Programme;
- Disseminating learning from the Domestic Homicide Reviews to improve understanding of risk factors and indicators;
- Improving service responses through the Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Mark.

5.3 Whilst much progress has been made in 2018, a number of challenges remain. The key issues include:

- 5.3.1 **Capacity to Manage Volume:** The on-going review of FDSH arrangements is identifying resources and opportunities to manage demand. Early interventions in locality based work will be maximised to help prevent standard and medium risk cases escalating. Models for multi-agency work in clusters and Community Hubs will be developed further along with work with local businesses and community groups.
- 5.3.2 **Understanding High Risk Indicators:** Stalking and coercive control is not widely understood as a high risk indicator and incidents are often treated as isolated occurrences rather than as a pattern of abuse. Work will target police officers, health, housing and key third sector services to increase understanding of the nature and impact of psychological abuse and coercive control. Raising public awareness of these issues remains a key priority and so will be the theme for the 16 days of action during 2019.
- 5.3.3 **Complex Needs and Access to Services:** Victims and perpetrators who are socially isolated, have complex needs; those from migrant communities may need intense and long term engagement before fully utilising formal services. Community based services are key to building trust between communities and statutory services and further work will be undertaken to address this through locality working. This funding described at paragraph 3.66 will help to build on the strong foundations established over the last two years.
- 5.3.4 **Support and challenge to DVA perpetrators:** The city's response to perpetrators needs further attention. For example, the Caring Dads service is funded by Children and Families Services and costs £150k pa but at present demand outstrips the capacity of the team and a group based intervention working solely with fathers is unable to offer the range of services and support to meet the needs of all perpetrators. Furthermore, there are significant gaps in support to men without children, women who are abusive and those who are abusive to family members. A strategic review of services to perpetrators will be completed in 2019 and a workforce development programme will be delivered to increase the capacity among universal services to work with perpetrators.
- 5.3.5 Domestic violence is a major issue for children and families driving a significant element of demand and cost for services. Improving early help and targeted support in the ways described above will help to reduce the high cost of failures for children, families and public services. Intervening early can improve child outcomes across their lifetime, can reduce the need for costly social work intervention and becoming looked after. For example, to extrapolate the research on babies mentioned above – each year roughly 100 babies enter care and the Bane research suggests 60% of these families experience domestic violence. Becoming Looked After is costly – roughly £50,000 per year and each child is likely to stay in care for around three years on average. Investing in the right preventative services can help to avoid some of these immediate costs and reduce the lifetime costs of support for children and families damaged by domestic violence.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Executive Board is asked to note and comment upon the progress described in this report and to consider and agree actions to address the challenges outlined in this report specifically those identified as key issues at paragraph 5.3.
- 6.2 The Executive Board notes that the Director of Communities and Environment is responsible for the implementation of the actions set out in this submitted report.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 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.