

Report of: Shaid Mahmood, West North West Area Leader

Report to: Outer North West Community Committee

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Domestic Violence Workshop

Purpose of report

1. This report introduces the themed section of the Community Committee meeting on Domestic Violence for Outer North West Leeds.

Main issues

2. The Outer North West Community Committee was asked to identify a number of themes for the 2014/15 municipal year and agreed that this should be done through the sub groups as the Committee thought them best placed to consider ideas and suggestions for topics, based on local knowledge, needs and priorities.
3. Through discussions with the Community Champion for Community Safety and in conjunction with the Environment and Community Safety sub group, the theme of Domestic Violence was identified as a key area of investigation for the committee.
4. The local Community Safety Partnership, Safer Leeds, had also identified domestic violence as a key priority area within the Safer Leeds Strategy 2013/14. Linked to this, The Safer Leeds Executive agreed to develop a new Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and Action Plan for the city and set up a multi-sector Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy Group to lead on this task.
5. In addition, the Scrutiny Board for Safer and Stronger Communities developed terms of reference in September 2013 for an inquiry into tackling domestic violence and abuse and produced its findings in June of this year.
6. The inquiry highlighted that domestic violence and abuse is an issue for every community and can affect individuals from any background or socio-demographic. As such, it is vital that any misconception that domestic violence and abuse only occurs in certain areas and to certain people is addressed immediately.

7. A summary of key issues and a community engagement plan are appended to this report to support discussions.

Recommendations

8. The Community Committee workshop, with the support of services and partners, will explore Domestic Violence in our communities, what the community has in place to respond to domestic violence and how the Community Committee can raise awareness of domestic violence in the local area.

Background information

Link to the June 2014 Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board investigation into Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse:

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Scrutiny%20Inquiry%20into%20tackling%20domestic%20violence%20and%20abuse%20-%20final%20report.pdf>