

23 March, 2017

To the Chair and Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

**COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY –
DOMESTIC ABUSE REVIEW**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Chris McGuinness, Portfolio holder for Communities, the Voluntary Sector and Environment	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present the summary of discussions and recommendations of the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel review into Domestic Abuse. The remit of the review was to address and consider challenges, gaps, how things were working since the last domestic abuse review was undertaken in 2014/15 and what were key partners and organisations roles within this agenda. The Panel also had the opportunity to consider the revised Domestic Abuse Strategy in its draft form as part of the consultation and supported its direction and focus.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. There is no exempt information contained in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. It is recommended that the Panel comment on and agree the recommendations in the attached report.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy.

BACKGROUND

5. The Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel chose, as an area for review, Domestic Abuse and undertook the work between August 2016 and January 2017. The recommendations included in the review report at Appendix A are based on information and evidence heard during the meetings.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

6. There are no alternative options within this report as the intention is to provide the Committee an opportunity to consider the findings and recommendations of the Panel

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

Outcomes	Implications
<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>The work of Overview a Scrutiny has the potential to have an impact on all the Council's key objective</p>
<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

12. There are no specific risks associated with this report. The Committee may wish to consider the extent to which the recommendations should be consistent with and have been developed from the research arising from Members' investigations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. A Local Authority has general duties towards adults and children in need. S17 of the Children Act 1989 provides that it shall be the general duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need; and so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 places a duty on LAs to investigate and make inquiries into the circumstances of children considered to be at risk of 'significant harm' and, where these inquiries indicate the need, to decide what action, if any, it may need to take to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.
14. Specific legal implications relating to recommendations made will need to be considered if any proposals are brought forward. This will include our public sector equality duty in s149 of the Equality Act 2010 which requires public authorities when exercising their functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimization; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people who share relevant protected characteristics and those who do not.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations detailed in the attached report. Any financial implications relating to recommendations made will need to be considered if any proposals are brought forward.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific human resource implications arising directly from this report. Any human resource implications relating to recommendations made will need to be considered if any proposals are brought forward.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no technology implications arising from this report. Any technology implications relating to recommendations made will need to be considered if any proposals are brought forward.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

17. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities. Any specific equality implications relating to recommendations made will need to be considered if any proposals are brought forward.

CONSULTATION

18. Information and evidence was heard at the review meetings which were attended by relevant Council officers.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

19. None

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