

Agenda Item 12a

Council Meeting of: 7 December 2021

Udy/Payter-Harris

AGENDA ITEM 12 (a) - Tackling Male Violence Against Women and Girls in Portsmouth

Amendment

Delete paragraph four and replace with:

We acknowledge the collaborative work conducted by Hampshire Police and The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner alongside the night time economy, to spread best practice throughout the city. In particular, we would like to thank all those involved in the “Is This Love?” campaign (which raises the awareness of domestic abuse), and more recently the swift response to drink spiking incidents. However, Full Council notes that there is a lack of mandatory training for elected members surrounding the disclosure of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

After “Therefore, the Council asks”, delete the second bullet point and replace with:

That the Licensing department and Public Health work alongside the Police, to look at developing a training scheme that helps staff and management of licensed venues in dealing with complaints of sexual harassment. Collaboratively this group should consider creating resources for all venues, to be used in yearly training. At the next available Licensing Committee there should be a chance to discuss amongst members the measures local stakeholders are taking to make Portsmouth a safe place for a good night out. Whilst this council is aware that the Licensing Committee cannot mandate conditional training as part of a licence application, it seeks to create an open dialogue with the night time economy about creating such training on a voluntary basis.

The amended motion to therefore read:

Portsmouth City Council notes that male violence against women and girls is a prevalent, persistent and serious issue. One in three women globally have been subjected to physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes. Violence takes many forms and occurs in both public and private spheres.

More than four-fifths of young women in the UK have been subjected to sexual harassment, according to a survey for UN Women UK. Domestic abuse affects 1 in 4 women and 2-3 women are murdered every week at the hands of a partner or ex partner.

Full Council notes existing initiatives to help tackle violence against women and girls, including the work of Safer Portsmouth Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety portfolio.

A total of £324,851 has been secured from the government to improve lighting and the redesign of secluded areas as part of the Safer Streets scheme.

We acknowledge the collaborative work conducted by Hampshire Police and The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner alongside the night time economy, to spread best practice throughout the city. In particular, we would like to thank all those involved in the “Is This Love?” campaign (which raises the awareness of domestic abuse), and more recently the swift response to drink spiking incidents. However, Full Council notes that there is a lack of mandatory training for elected members surrounding the disclosure of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

Portsmouth City Council believes that dealing with this issue should not require women to behave differently. Instead it is the root cause that needs to be tackled: namely challenging the behaviour of men who perpetrate violence. Male violence in all its forms must be eradicated, so women feel able to live their lives freely, without fear of harm.

Therefore, the Council asks:

- Cabinet to conduct a “Safety Audit”, allowing residents to share their views about how public lighting and CCTV could be improved to promote safer streets and a safer public domain for women and girls.
- That the Licensing department and Public Health work alongside the Police, to look at developing a training scheme that helps staff and management of licensed venues in dealing with complaints of sexual harassment. Collaboratively this group should consider creating resources for all venues, to be used in yearly training. At the next available Licensing Committee there should be a chance to discuss amongst members the measures local stakeholders are taking to make Portsmouth a safe place for a good night out. Whilst this council is aware that the Licensing Committee cannot mandate conditional training as part of a licence application, it seeks to create an open dialogue with

the night time economy about creating such training on a voluntary basis.

- The Governance and Audit and Standards Committee be asked to strongly encourage and recommend attendance by all elected representatives to complete training sessions on handling disclosures of domestic abuse delivered by Safer Portsmouth Partnership and on handling disclosure of sexual violence through 'Responding to Sexual Violence: A community Approach' Or such similar training provider, with confirmation of attendance being noted by the City Solicitor.
- Through Cabinet for cross-party work with local services and provisions to raise awareness of domestic abuse, such as promoting the “Is this love?” campaign on a yearly basis and work together to actively challenge misogynistic behaviour pledging to call it out when it occurs.
- Cabinet to initiate steps to raise the positive profile of women and girls in Portsmouth to be established, such as installing street art to celebrate them.
- For Portsmouth City Council to write to the Hampshire & IOW Police and Crime Commissioner and the Secretary of State for Justice, to demand more punitive sentencing for male perpetrators of violence, so that more women and girls receive justice.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Claire Udy

Signed _____

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

Signed _____

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