

# Agenda Item 13e

Ordinary Council Meeting of: 19 March 2024  
Cllr Kirsty Mellor/Cllr Mary Vallely

## **AGENDA ITEM 13e - Notice of Motion - International Women's Day - Tackling Gender Inequality in Portsmouth**

Amendment:

To add at the end of the 'This council notes' section:

- The government Domestic Abuse Commissioner Nicole Jacobs has recently warned that the crisis in local government finances is likely to lead to the loss of vital, specialist domestic abuse services.
- The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has also called on Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to provide councils with emergency funding to maintain specialist domestic abuse services, backed by guidance on the necessity of resourcing this provision for the fulfilment of their statutory duties.

To add at the end of the 'This council believes' section:

- Women's voices should also be central to the development of health hubs, including engagement with local women particularly in areas of the city where there are higher levels of inequality.

To add at the end of the 'This council resolves' section:

- vi. To ask Cabinet to consider committing to the long term provision of council commissioned domestic abuse services and ensure funding for those services is not cut when contracts come up for renewal or extension.
- vii. To ask Group Leaders to write to Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, calling for more resources to be made available for councils to properly fund domestic abuse services and for the government to place a legal responsibility on local authorities to provide those services; and
- viii. To ask the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel to undertake a comprehensive review aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of women's experiences within the healthcare system. This review should focus on and make clear the unique challenges and barriers

that women encounter in accessing and navigating healthcare services and make recommendations as to how these can be addressed.

Proposed by Councillor Kirsty Mellor

Signed\_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by Councillor Mary Vallely

Signed