



Meeting: Domestic Violence and Abuse Steering Group

Subject: Domestic Abuse Bill statutory duty on tier one authorities

Date of meeting: 17th March 2021

Report by: Bruce Marr Head: Harm and exploitation Service

1. Summary

The Domestic Abuse Bill is due to become law in April 2021; although it has yet to receive Royal Assent. Part 4 of the DA Bill places a new statutory duty on Tier One Local Authorities.

2. Purpose of report

For the DVA steering group to be informed of the new statutory duty on the Local Authority and its partners and to approve membership requirements.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 For the DVA steering group to approve that the DVA Steering Group takes on responsibility of the "Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board" as required under the legislation.
- 3.2 For the DVA steering group to approve the "key partners" of the DA Local Partnership Board as identified in paragraph 4.4
- 3.3 To approve the draft terms of reference **chair and chair and vice chair???**

4. Background

4.1 The DA Bill:

4.1.1 Places a duty on each Tier One local authority in England to:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it must consult as it performs certain specified functions.
- Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for domestic abuse support in their area for all victims (and their children) who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area (annually).
- Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment (every 3 years).
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions).

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
 - Report back annually to central government.
- 4.1.2 Requires the Secretary of State to issue statutory guidance, having consulted the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, local authorities and such other persons as considered appropriate.
- 4.1.3 Requires all local authorities in England to have regard to the statutory guidance in exercising their functions under Part 4.
- 4.1.4 Requires tier two councils to co-operate with the Tier One authority, so far as is reasonably practicable
- 4.2 The board must consist of key partners with an interest in tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims, including their children and must include at least one person:
- 4.2.1 representing the tier one authority¹
 - 4.2.2 appearing to the authority to represent the interests of victims of domestic abuse
 - 4.2.3 appearing to the authority to represent the interests of children of domestic abuse victims
 - 4.2.4 appearing to the authority to represent the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area
 - 4.2.5 appearing to the authority to represent the interests of persons who provide, or have functions relating to, health care services in its area
 - 4.2.6 appearing to the authority to represent the interests of persons with functions relating to policing or criminal justice in its area
- 4.3 The board can include other representation not listed above to support their local approach to tackling domestic abuse and the membership should reflect the specific needs of a local area.
- 4.4 The membership of the current DA steering group appears to meet this new requirement with the confirmation that the key partners on the board includes:
- 4.4.1 The local authority Domestic Abuse strategic lead to represent Portsmouth City Council (PCC)
 - 4.4.2 The PCC and OPCC² jointly commissioned domestic abuse provider to represent the interests of victims of domestic abuse and charities and other voluntary organisations
 - 4.4.3 The Head of Safeguarding Children, Children Social Care to represent the interests of children
 - 4.4.4 A safeguarding representative from Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group to represent the interests of persons who provide health services and
 - 4.4.5 A Chief Inspector from Hampshire Constabulary to represent the interests of the police and criminal justice

¹ And at least one representative appearing to represent the interests of Tier Two authorities within the Tier One authority area

² Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

4.5 The proposed draft terms of reference are designed to make clear how and why representatives were selected and the process which bodies can go through to express their interest in becoming a member of the Board.

4.6 To assist tier one authorities in meeting the new duty the MHCLG³ have awarded Portsmouth £496,809 to assist with the administrative burden and support costs for the provision of safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their children.

³ Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government