

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 9th February 2022

Subject Domestic Abuse Bill - statutory responsibility for local authorities.

Report by: Lisa Wills, Strategy and Partnership Manager
Bruce Marr, Head Harm and Exploitation

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full council decision: No

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update the board on the new refreshed Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020 - 2023 which incorporates the new statutory requirement for a Safe Accommodation strategy.

2 Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 2.1 Approves the refreshed Domestic Abuse strategy 2020-2023 (paragraph 3.5).
- 2.2 Agree that all partners provide a data set, agreed with the community safety analyst, including data from GP surgeries, to monitor calls for service and progress against priorities set out in Part 2 of the strategy (section 4).
- 2.3 Agrees the provisional funding allocation to meet the new duty to provide Safe Accommodation (paragraph 3.4) and
- 2.4 Agrees that, if funding levels from the DLUHC change for 2022/23 decisions for the allocation of this funding is delegated to the Domestic Abuse strategic group.

3 Background

- 3.1 On 7th July 2021 the Health and Wellbeing Board were informed of the new duty on local authorities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and agreed governance arrangements and funding allocation received from the DLUHC to meet this new duty.

- 3.2 Since then the local authority has completed the Safe Accommodation Needs assessment, grant funded additional Domestic Abuse provision to meet identified need and have updated the Domestic Abuse strategy to meet the new duty to have a Safe Accommodation strategy.
- 3.3 The Safe Accommodation needs assessment was approved by the Domestic Abuse strategic group on 5th October 2021. There were 15 recommendations summarised as a) undertaking further research and b) provision of Safe Accommodation.
- 3.4 The 2020/21 Portsmouth City Council received a grant of £50,000 to help implement the new statutory duties which was not spent in that year and was rolled forward into 2021/22. In 2021/22 a grant of £496,809 was received for the full financial year, which gave overall funding to the end of 2021/22 of £546,809. At the time of writing the funding for 2022/23 has yet to be confirmed. Table 1 shows how the funding has been allocated to the end of 2021/22 and the proposed allocation for 2022/23 if the funding remains at the 2021/22 level.

Table 1: DLUHC Safe Accommodation funding

Safe Accommodation 2021/22 budget and proposed 2022/23 budget				
	2021/22	2022/23	Outcome	Provider
Needs and strategic assessment				
DA analyst F/T	45,000	45,000	Completion of annual needs assessment and 3-year DA strategy	Portsmouth City Council
Gold refuge provision				
DA navigator (mental health support) F/T, 1 FTE DA navigator and P/T playworker	110,000	100,000	As per current reporting in contract	Stop Domestic Abuse
Up2U: My Choice				
2 FTE DA navigator (My Choice)	70,000	70,000	% of closed referrals who complete programme	Stop Domestic Abuse
Other emergency community safe accommodation				
2 FTE DA navigator, F/T DA Navigator (CHR), F/T DA Navigator (Up2U Keyworker), out of hours support and Up2U training and Q&A	150,000	170,000	TBC	Stop Domestic Abuse
All safe accommodation				
Specialist navigators consisting of adult victim worker for those with complex needs and CYP worker	160,000	100,000	Adult worker: Reduction in risk (open and closed DASH) CYP worker: As per current reporting in contract for CYP in Safe Accommodation only	Stop Domestic Abuse

BAME training	2,500	0	Completion of training. Number of staff trained.	
Counselling	10,000	10,000	Number of sessions offered	YOU Trust
Total:				
Total	£547,500	£495,000		

3.5 The vision and ambition in the updated Domestic Abuse strategy (appendix 1) includes increasing awareness of access to safe accommodation. Data and analysis is covered in part one with part two focusing on the delivery plan for 2022/23. The priorities remain the same with an additional priority to provide safe accommodation and support to those who need it. Completed actions from the current strategy have been removed and in addition to the amber and red actions for existing priorities, this review has identified the need for a sharp focus in the coming year (2022/23) on:

- Priority C - Challenge and support those who use abusive or unhealthy behaviours
- Priority D - Hold to account those who use coercive control and violence
- Priority F - Provide safe accommodation and support to those who need it



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4. Data monitoring

4.1 One of the key actions in the original strategy was to establish a regular monitoring framework with clearly defined system metrics that:

- Relate to the purpose of the service from the client's point of view
- Are used by leaders to take effective action on the system
- Show variation over time
- Help practitioners to learn, understand and improve the whole system

This framework was considered and agreed by all partners on the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group in June 2021. However, it has proved difficult for some partners to provide the appropriate data. It has been particularly difficult gather any data from GP surgeries and substance misuse services. To resolve these issues, a data monitoring 'task and finish' group will meet for a limited period. Partners are asked to support this approach.

5. Integrated Impact Assessment

5.1 An integrated impact assessment is not required, as the recommendations do not have a significant positive or negative impact on communities and safety, regeneration and culture, environment and public space or equality and diversity.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The recommendations in this report concern the City Council's statutory duties with regard to victims of domestic abuse under section 57 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and regulations made under that section. Those duties are, in summary, to

- (a) assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in the Council's area,
- (b) prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in the Council's area,
- (c) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy, and
- (d) in carrying out the Council's functions, give effect to the strategy.

6.2 Before publishing a strategy under section 57, the Council has a duty to consult—

- the domestic abuse local partnership board appointed by the Council under section 58,
- any local authority for an area within the relevant local authority's area, and
- such other persons as the Council considers appropriate.

6.3 Regulations made under section 57 make provision concerning:

- the preparation and publication of strategies under section 57, and
- a description of the "relevant accommodation" to which a section 57 strategy relates.

6.4 The allocation of funding for 2022/23 will need to be approved via the Council's appropriate governance arrangements.

7. Finance Comments

7.1 See 6.4

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Signed by: Sarah Daly, Director of Children, Families and Education

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL