

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 25TH APRIL 2007**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****LEICESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2007-08****Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to present a draft Domestic Violence Strategy for comment prior to its submission to the Cabinet for approval.

Background

2. The County Council has a statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to take account of reducing crime and disorder whilst carrying out all functions.
3. Tackling Domestic Violence continues to be a key national and Leicestershire community safety priority. The Leicestershire Public Service Agreement 2003-2006 included a domestic violence target and there is now a domestic violence 'reward' target within the Safer Communities Block of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement.
4. The Domestic Violence Delivery Group oversees the delivery of the DV LAA targets and it's membership includes representation from statutory and voluntary partner agencies and County Council Services including Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Supporting People, Community Safety.

Domestic Violence Strategy

5. The Domestic Violence Strategy confirms the Council's commitment to work in partnership to address domestic violence and identifies three key priorities and the main objectives for each target. The action plan sets out how the Council is contributing to achieving domestic violence targets.
6. The strategy sets out a vision for the Council as follows:
"It is our vision to reduce domestic violence through working in partnership to prevent domestic violence, and by providing support and protection to anyone who has been, or may be, affected by domestic violence."
7. The key priorities within the Strategy are:
 - **Prevention** - Looking at ways to change attitudes, particularly those of young people, and ensuring that information about domestic violence is widely available.

- **Support** - Needs to be available for those who have experienced domestic violence either as children or adults, to limit the potential harmful impact of the experience. Supporting children and young people can improve their behaviour and relationships. Support to adult survivors leads to an increased satisfaction with the criminal justice system, improved brought to justice outcomes and improved safety.
 - **Protection** - Minimising the risk to survivors and their children by effectively using child protection and safeguarding adults procedures and offering services, underpinned by effective risk management, which will reduce re-offending.
8. The Action Plan sets out the main contributions to be made by the County Council to reducing domestic violence, along with relevant targets and performance indicators based on the three key priorities and main objectives.
9. The Council's Domestic Violence Co-ordinator will take the lead in developing and implementing the Strategy and Action Plan by working with departments of the County Council and with District Domestic Violence Forums and other relevant partner agencies.

Equal Opportunities Implications

10. Domestic violence is a particularly prevalent, but generally under reported crime which occurs across all levels of and within all groups in society. However, overwhelmingly women are most likely to be victims of domestic violence and men are most likely to be perpetrators. It is particularly important to recognise therefore that men can also be victims. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Strategy.

Resource Implications

11. There are no additional resource implications arising from the draft Strategy. The County Council has a mainstream DV budget of £154,380 (2007/08) within the Chief Executives Department and an LAA Reward Target budget of £152,500 (over three years).

Recommendations

12. The Commission is asked to consider and comment on the draft Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan.

Background Papers

Medium Term Corporate Strategy 2006-09
Community Safety Plan 2006-09

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