

**Wiltshire Council**

**Health and Wellbeing Board**

**19 September 2017**

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**Subject: Domestic Abuse**

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**Executive Summary**

This report provides an updated overview of the domestic abuse reduction agenda in Wiltshire.

**Proposal(s)**

It is recommended that the Board notes the report.

**Reason for Proposal**

The domestic abuse health needs assessment has been completed and work on the new strategy commences in the autumn. Procurement of the new domestic abuse and independent sexual violence advisory (ISVA) service starts in September. The new model includes a range of services addressing the needs of those in the county who are affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

**Tracy Daszkiewicz**  
**Director of Public Health (Interim)**  
**Wiltshire Council**

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#### **Purpose of report**

1. This report provides an updated position on the domestic abuse reduction agenda in Wiltshire.

#### **Background**

2. Current contract arrangements for the existing domestic abuse support services expire 31 March 2018. To support Wiltshire's understanding of domestic abuse and the development of a new service model, the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership commissioned a health needs assessment.

#### **Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Health Needs Assessment**

3. The Domestic Abuse health needs assessment has been completed. It provided an epidemiological, corporate and comparative assessment that will help further understanding of need around domestic abuse in Wiltshire. Recommendations have been identified to strengthen future service provision and strategy development.

#### **Domestic Abuse Strategy**

4. The current strategy expires March 2017 and the findings from the domestic abuse health needs assessment will be used to inform and shape the next strategy. The strategy will be produced reflecting a Pan-County strategic vision for domestic abuse and will be governed through the joint WCSP/WSCB Domestic Abuse Sub group.

#### **Domestic Abuse Service Procurement**

5. Following cabinet's endorsement in June 2017, procurement of the new domestic abuse and ISVA services will commence in September. The work has been developed jointly through a multi-agency commissioning group, with representation from Wiltshire Council's Public Health, Housing strategy, Children's services and commissioning, and the office for the Police and Crime Commissioner. It will be co-funded through Wiltshire Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

6. To support the service development, Wiltshire hosted a Stakeholder consultation event in May and a Provider's market event in July. Both were well represented, with over 40 participants to each, covering a breadth of agencies and service areas.
7. Wiltshire Council is commissioning an innovative and reconfigured range of services to address the needs of those who are affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. The new service brings together services for victims and their families that were previously separately commissioned. There will be a single access point meaning that all Wiltshire victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences will be provided with a tailored specialist support service(s) appropriate to their risk and need.
8. The vision of the service is to significantly reduce domestic abuse and sexual violence and the harm caused by it through effective prevention and early intervention. Service delivery will consist of four intertwined strands;
  - Victim focussed support addressing both domestic abuse and sexual violence
  - Support for children and young people living with the impacts of domestic abuse
  - Work to address perpetrator behaviour, as part of a whole family approach
  - Provision of safe, flexible accommodation accessed to all at greatest risk fleeing domestic abuse
9. The procurement process has started (September 15) and the contract award date is 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The new service will commence 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### **Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill**

10. The Queen's speech 2017 confirmed a draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill will be put before Parliament this session. It will include a statutory definition of domestic violence and abuse and brings in consolidated protective orders. It will also allow aggravated sentences where abusive behaviour involves a child. Finally, the Bill looks to establish a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner to review and hold to account the work of the police and the criminal justice system.

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