

## ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

\* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

<p><b>*Subject of Proposed Review:-</b></p> <p><b>Domestic Abuse</b></p>
<p><b>*Reason for the Review:-</b> (see Note 1 below)</p> <p><b>Domestic Abuse is one of the six priorities in the Community Safety Agreement 11-14, which is the document the O&amp;S Committee has agreed as its baseline indicator. At the Crime &amp; Disorder POSC in July, there was agreement that many of the DV victims fell through the net, or discontinued pursuing their case because of confusion over referral points for both themselves, professionals and Councillors. This needs addressing for the reasons stated below.</b></p>
<p><b>*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-</b></p> <p><b>Domestic Abuse accounts for 20 per cent of reported crime, with 55 new cases reported per day. A large percentage of referrals to Childrens' Services results from members of the public concerned about abuse in a child's home and obviously this creates considerable pressure for Childrens' Services.</b></p> <p><b>Why do women return again and again to the person who abuses them, when with the right intervention and support this could be avoided?</b></p> <p><b>Consideration of the funding available for support agencies in the voluntary sector.</b></p>

**\*Scope of the review:-**

With the cost to the public purse in Kent now running at £314m, the Cttee will need to look at: 1) the correlation between drug/alcohol abuse and domestic abuse. 2) The rise in repeat offending. 3) The need for a central point of contact for victims apart from Police Stations. 4) Support for DA Agencies.

**\*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-**

To analyse why and where DA is increasing so dramatically.  
To explore how the instances of DA might be lowered (therefore improving the lives of adults and children, and saving money in both health and social care).  
To investigate the funding implications for those agencies delivering support.

**Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)**

Elizabeth Tweed, Chairman  
C&C/Crime&DisorderPOSCS.....

To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

**Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2011/12? (see Note 2 below)**

No

**How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?**

**Vision For Kent 2011- 2021**

Ambition 2 – To tackle Disadvantage

To create a good quality of life for everyone and provide a good start in life for all children.

Ambition 3 – Put Citizens In Control

To design services to meet the needs of people who use them, tackling crime and antisocial behaviour and involving people in making decisions.

**Will the review support the achievement of Bold Steps for Kent aims? If yes, please identify aim and give details:-**

Ambition 2 – To tackle Disadvantage

- Supporting the most vulnerable
- move to a single assessment framework,
- targeted intervention
- tackle high cost disruptive families
- Improving the role of TS and CS in prevention.

Ambition 3 – Put Citizens In Control

- Expand the 'Gateway' programme to cover multi-channel access to services through the internet and telephone.
- Drive personalisation across our services.

**Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:-**

No but it would be useful to inform future funding plans to ensure sustainability of DA services.

**How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to**

## **influence national policy?**

### **Community Safety Agreement 2011 - 2014**

The Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners in Kent will work together to address the key community safety priorities for the County, identifying the shared objectives and outcomes required to improve the lives of the people of Kent.

All eleven local Community Safety Partnerships in Kent assessed that Domestic Abuse was a key priority for their district/borough during the 2010/11 strategic assessment process.

### **Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2010 - 2013**

This strategy is intended to be an overarching document setting out a common understanding and commitment from key stakeholders to address domestic abuse across Kent and Medway. Its key ambitions are to:

1. Reduce DA and change attitudes.
2. Provide support to victims of abuse.
3. Protect victims of DA
4. Multi-Agency working

### **End Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (National)**

In the strategic vision to end violence against women and girls, the government has committed to £28m (in total) of stable Home Office funding for specialist services over the next four years, improving the response to rape, more training and early intervention programmes, new powers and better support for victims.

The action plan contains measures for central government to:

- Prevent violence from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.
- Provide adequate levels of support where violence does occur.
- Work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families.
- Take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

### **Kent Alcohol Strategy 2011 - 2013**

The Kent Alcohol Strategy aims to inform, highlight and raise the profile of issues relating to the harms associated with alcohol misuse and promote positive attitudes to alcohol within the framework of the 2008 national Strategy: Safe, Sensible, Social.

### **Kent Hidden Harm Strategy 2010 - 2013**

Hidden Harm refers to children and young people whose particular needs are often overlooked; where their parental substance misuse has serious negative effects on their childhood. These children and young people are often in need of protection and support to help them achieve their potential.

**Kent Children and Young Peoples Plan, 2011- 2014**

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is the single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people across Kent; particularly the role of children's centres and addressing DA in local communities.

**Kent Supporting People Strategy, 2010 - 2015**

The Supporting People Strategy enables vulnerable people to maintain their housing situation, manage their finances, co-exist successfully in their community, acquire independent living skills, stay safe, liaise with other agencies, and access training, education, and employment.

**How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?**

To explore the importance of sustainable funding, to identify gaps and local variations in service delivery and highlight the importance of partnership working particularly around early identification and preventative work; therefore, improving the lives of adults and children, and saving KCC and partner agencies money.

**Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Strategic Director:-**

**Portfolio Holder's Signature:-**

**Strategic Director's Signature:-**

**Contact Officer:-**

**Date:-**

**Note 1 - Possible reasons for the review**

1. Key public issue, identified by
  - Focus groups/citizens panels
  - Member contact with constituents/member surgeries
  - Contact with key representative bodies/forums
  - Media coverage – Public interest issue covered in local media
  
2. Issue highlighted via POC activities or previous reviews