
By: Stuart Beaumont, Head of Community Safety & Emergency Planning

To: Scrutiny Committee – 26th March 2013

Subject: Report on Progress of the Select Committee Domestic Abuse Action Plan

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report proposes and outlines the establishment of a delivery structure in order to achieve the implementation of the recommendations set out within the Domestic Abuse Select Committee Report and identifies the initial positive progress made towards addressing those recommendations.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Domestic Abuse Select Committee was put forward at the Crime and Disorder Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2011 as a result of concerns that victims of domestic violence and abuse often fell through the 'safety net' or discontinued pursuing their cases in Court due in part to a lack of clarity on referral points.

1.2 The Select Committee established the following terms of reference for the review:

- To investigate breaking the vicious cycle and impact of domestic abuse in Kent, focusing on equitable access to support for victims and the efficacy of perpetrator programmes in reducing repeat victimisation and repeat offending.
- To examine co-ordination and collaboration within and between statutory and voluntary agencies, with a particular focus on delivering efficient services and maximising safety while reducing negative impacts of organisational change in key organisations.
- To make recommendations for Kent County Council and partner organisations (having explored funding options and feasibility) in order to improve outcomes for, and reduce long term damage to, individuals and families affected by domestic abuse.

2.0 Proposed Delivery Structure

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (KMDASG) is the accountable body for delivering the recommendations. The Chairman and members of KMDASG, which is a sub group of the statutory Kent Community Safety Partnership, have agreed to undertake this role and to the setting up a task and finish group assigned with carrying out the Select Committees recommendations.
- 2.2 It is proposed that a Task and Finish Group, comprised of Kent County Council lead officers along with key partners, including Kent Probation, Kent and Medway NHS, Kent Police and a range of local Domestic Abuse Services, is established to consider the work that can be done to assist the achievement of the recommendations identified within the Select Committee Report.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the Task and Finish Group will consider any Equality Impact Assessment issues emerging from the implementation of the recommendations as appropriate.

3.0 Summary of the Domestic Abuse Action Plan Progress

- 3.1 There has already been considerable work undertaken by a range of agencies and departments that addresses a number of the recommendations identified within the Domestic Abuse Select Committee Report.
- 3.2 It is intended that the Task and Finish Group will identify those actions that can be taken to progress all of the recommendations set out by the Select Committee – see appendix A for first progress report.
- 3.3 The Task and Finish Group will meet bi-monthly during 2013 to provide progress reports on the work underway to address the recommendations.
- 3.4 Progress will be monitored by the KMDASG at their quarterly meetings during 2013 where the achievement of the recommendations will be included on each meeting agenda and reported back to the KCC Scrutiny Committee and the Kent Community Safety Partnership.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to:-

- Agree that the KMDASG should be the accountable body to oversee the implementation of recommendations within the DA Select Committee Report.
 - Agree that a small multi-agency Task and Finish Group should be established to put into place appropriate management and service delivery action in order to work towards achieving the Select Committee recommendations.
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Supporting Documents:

1. Appendix 1 – Action Plan to address Recommendations.
 2. KCC Select Committee Report on Domestic Abuse - <https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/council-and-democracy/select%20committees/Domestic%20Abuse%20Report.pdf>
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