

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	18 July 2013
TITLE:	Community Safety Plan: Domestic Violence and Abuse profile
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The report illustrates the extent and nature of domestic violence and abuse within Bath and North East Somerset. It sets out the main aims of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Profile and what this means for Bath and North East Somerset Council and the Community Safety Partnership
- 1.2 The Panel will receive a presentation on the 2012-2013 Domestic Violence and Abuse Profile, involving a clear analysis of data assembled from various agencies and key services. There will also be an opportunity to hear about the work of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), working in and with our communities to support victims and families.
- 1.3 The Panel will be invited to an open question and answer session at the end of the presentation.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the evidence from the Domestic Violence and Abuse Profile, and to raise questions in relation to the key findings from the data analysis.
- 2.2 To note the use of the Profile as guidance tool for those working to address the local issues identified and to those that provide support for victims.
- 2.3 To make any recommendations to Cabinet or Responsible Authorities Group.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Some analytical and research resources are required for this work and this will be undertaken by the Policy and Partnerships Team working with relevant service commissioning leads.
- 3.2 Funding for the various projects highlighted come from a mix of specific Community Safety budgets and mainstream partner budgets. However, our Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service is currently funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to April 2014: future funding is a key issue for consideration.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 The purpose of this report is to build on the 2011 Domestic Violence profile to provide a more up to date and comprehensive evidence based picture of the extent and nature of the issue of domestic violence and abuse within Bath and North East Somerset.

4.2 The principal aims of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Profile are:

- (1) To bring together data in one single document from Council services and other organisations and agencies that involved with addressing the issue of domestic abuse, and/or who work with victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse within Bath and North East Somerset
- (2) Through clear analysis of data from the various agencies involved, to provide a broad, holistic picture of the nature and extent of the domestic abuse issue in Bath and North East Somerset that is accessible to all.
- (3) To highlight the wide range of agencies and organisations that have a role in addressing the causes and effects of domestic abuse.
- (4) To identify gaps or weaknesses in information being recorded, as well as particular demographics or needs that may not be being adequately addressed.
- (5) To outline a number of recommendations in terms of improving the monitoring of domestic violence and abuse and in the nature and relationship of the available services.

4.3 The profile is also designed to help service providers shape schemes that meet need and also to help with effective allocation of resources. The Council is one of 9 areas to be selected to take part of the next stage of Community Budgets, whereby funding streams from partners are joined together to get the best outcomes. Several of the first phase Community Budget localities used the approach to tackle domestic violence and abuse, and learning from these pilots will be examined fully as part of this project.

4.4 The presentation will highlight a small element of the findings generated by the information that has been analysed. This will examine:

- **Levels of incidents and reporting**
- **When domestic abuse is more likely to occur**
- **Where domestic abuse is more likely to occur**
- **The nature of abuses**
- **Offenders**
- **Victims**

4.4 The attached Executive Summary (Appendix 1) sets out key data that characterise the issues identified across Bath and North East Somerset.

4.5 Appendix 2 provides a directory of support services for victims of domestic violence and abuse. This leaflet has been developed by Community Safety Partners to include volunteers, service users and charity groups.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 Promoting equality and opportunity for all groups and individuals across the equality strands and promoting community cohesion is integral to this work.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Divisional Director, Policy and Partnerships; Democratic Services.

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 Community Safety, Section 17 and 115 Crime and Disorder Act 1998; Other Legal Considerations.

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance), Housing Services and Environmental Services had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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Background papers	Summary of Domestic Violence and Abuse profile for Bath and North East Somerset Leaflet - Link for victims of domestic violence and abuse http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/domestic_violence_service_information.pdf
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	