

Report to:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Tony Morrissey - Head of Safeguarding / Principal Social Worker, Children's Social Care and Chair of the Blackpool Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Partnership Group
Date of Meeting:	9 May 2018

BLACKPOOL'S DOMESTIC ABUSE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide an update in respect of the completed Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2018. The purpose of the needs assessment is to consider all the evidence available on domestic abuse prevalence, characteristics, trends, perceptions, national and local drivers and policy change to inform decision making in Blackpool. The Needs Assessment sets out current understanding of issues relating to Domestic Abuse based on analysis of the latest available data.
- 1.2 To set out the Blackpool Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence (DAIV) Partnership action plan being delivered in order to ensure delivery of the Blackpool DAIV Partnership Strategy 2016-2020. The action plan being the framework for the multi-agency response to DAIV in Blackpool. The action plan covers four main priorities in line with *HM Government Ending Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Policy*:
 - Prevention of violence and abuse
 - Provision of services
 - Partnership working
 - Perpetrators
- 1.3 To provide an update in respect of the 2016-2018 Partnership action plan being delivered.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and its findings.

- 2.2 To comment upon progress being made, propose potential improvements and highlight any areas for further scrutiny which will be reported back as appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure constructive feedback in respect of this area of work.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? n/a

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? n/a

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered: n/a

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

5.0 Background information

- 5.1 The Partnership action plan has been a working document following the sign-off of the Strategy in December 2016. The 2018-2020 action plan will start to be developed this year taking into account the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.

- 5.2 The objectives of the action plan are to:-

1. To ensure the implementation and delivery of the Blackpool DAIV Partnership Strategy 2016-2020
2. To ensure that the Partnership work together to meet the strategic priorities for Blackpool
3. To ensure all victims receive the right support at the right time, which is effective and adopts a whole family approach and through implementing a strategic approach.

- 5.3 The delivery of the action plan is monitored via the DAIV Partnership Group which has been established since July 2016.

- 5.4 Blackpool is part of a Pan Lancashire approach to tackling Domestic Abuse and is represented at the Pan Lancashire Domestic Abuse Strategic Board where data, provision and partnership working is shared.

- 5.5 Domestic abuse is a priority for Blackpool. Reducing and preventing domestic abuse is essential if Blackpool is to make further progress on the priority of *Communities: creating stronger communities and increasing resilience*.
- 5.6 The purpose of the Needs Assessment is to set out current understanding of issues relating to Domestic Abuse in Blackpool, based on analysis of the latest available data.
- 5.7 The assessment is intended to inform the Strategy for Blackpool, which sets out the Partnership's high-level priorities and strategic direction.
- 5.8 The local data highlights victims in Blackpool are predominantly young and female. There is also a concern about the growing impact of domestic abuse/violence on children and young people. The needs assessment highlights there are a range of services across Blackpool, however, fragmented and insecure funding around domestic abuse affects the planning and delivery of services. Domestic Abuse is a cross cutting theme and effective management is reliant on maintaining a strong partnership approach.
- 5.9 The Needs Assessment has demonstrated that domestic abuse/violence is a significant issue for Blackpool. It is a significant Public Health issue, which is having a major impact upon those directly affected and their families and associated costs i.e. health, housing and social services, criminal justice and the civil legal system. All this highlights the need for our services to focus on innovative service reform to prevent domestic abuse.
- 5.10 The data shows that young women are more likely to experience repeated and severe forms of violence. It is acknowledged that these individuals are more likely to have sustained psychological or emotional impact or result in injury or death.
- 5.11 There are a range of national and local policy drivers shaping and influencing how domestic abuse should be addressed at a local level.
- 5.12 The Needs Assessment has highlighted there are a range of services being offered in Blackpool to both men and women who have been a perpetrator or experienced domestic abuse/violence. However, further work needs to be undertaken to consider where services are being delivered, in particular consideration on delivering/locating services in high prevalence areas.
- 5.13 Recommendations from the Needs Assessment include:-
- Strengthen and further develop a 'whole system' approach to tackling domestic abuse to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families which ensures victims receive the right support at the right time.
 - Need to continue to have a systematic approach to domestic abuse prevention and reducing its impact, in the context of reducing public sector budgets.

- Implement a strategic approach to integrated commissioning and develop pooled budget arrangements to achieve an outcome based 'One public service' offer.
- Reduce the impact of domestic abuse and interpersonal violence by using a multi-agency collaborative approach.
- Improve early help and interventions for victims, children and perpetrators
- Early intervention and prevention work should include targeting perpetrators before they reach the criminal justice threshold.
- Prevention of violence against women and girls – need to challenge attitudes and behaviours which foster it.

5.14 Strategic Drivers

5.15 Local and national:-

- *Blackpool Council Plan 2015 – 2020 - Priority 2*

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing - resilience”

5.16 Reductions in levels of domestic abuse; and support services which increase resilience and will contribute to the creation of stronger communities within Blackpool.

- *HM Government Ending Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) 2016 – 2020 (March 2016)*

5.17 The National Policy contains four guiding principles for work around violence against women and girls and Blackpool's Strategy is founded upon these principles, which are to:-

- I. Preventing violence and abuse
- II. Provision of services
- III. Partnership working
- IV. Pursuing Perpetrators

- HM VAWG Government National Statement of Expectations December 2016

5.18 Which expects to see local strategies and services:-

- Put the victim at the centre of service delivery
- Have a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep victims safe;
- Take a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG;
- Are locally-led and safeguard individuals at every point;

- Raise local awareness of the issues and involve, engage and empower communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 6 (a) - Blackpool Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.

7.2 Appendix 6 (b) - Blackpool's Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Partnership Action Plan.

8.0 Legal considerations:

8.1 n/a

9.0 Human Resources considerations:

9.1 None at this stage.

10.0 Equalities considerations:

10.1 An Equalities Impact Analysis was undertaken as part of the Strategy being developed.

10.2 The Strategy has no exclusions in relation to any user groups.

10.3 Blackpool acknowledges that DAIV affects all victims regardless of their gender, age, race, religion, class, sexual orientation and marital status.

11.0 Financial considerations:

11.1 Actions are being delivered by all named partners within allocated budgets/funds.

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 Identified within the action plan to ensure the delivery of the Blackpool DAIV Partnership Strategy.

13.0 Ethical considerations:

13.1 There is a clear purpose and value set out within the Blackpool DAIV Partnership Strategy.

- 13.2 There is a DAIV Partnership Group with clear Governance set.
- 13.3 The DAIV Partnership Group oversees the delivery of the action plan and reports progress in line with Governance arrangements.
- 13.4 The DAIV Partnership Group ensuring that its work is coordinated with that of other multi-agency strategic boards including 'BSafe' Blackpool Community Safety Strategic Partnership and the Pan-Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
- 13.5 The Partnership, underpinned by the Strategy considers direct victims, children living with domestic abuse, perpetrators and professionals to address DAIV. Considering the whole family approach.
- 13.6 The DAIV Partnership ensures impartiality and fairness for all residents and professionals living and operating in Blackpool in respect of Domestic Abuse.
- 13.7 Blackpool on behalf of the Blackpool DAIV Partnership obtained White Ribbon Accreditation (July 2017).
- 13.8 The White Ribbon Accreditation is in respect of engaging men and boys in challenging violence against women and girls with the aim to educate and raise awareness. Blackpool is clear within its strategy and all communication that all violence against all victims regardless of gender is not acceptable.
- 13.9 Blackpool as a whole supports the campaign and pledges never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against people in all its forms.

14.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:

- 14.1 This is a Partnership action plan and linked to the delivery of the Blackpool DAIV Partnership Strategy.
- 14.2 Consultation was undertaken with key partners, local third sector organisations and a small group of service users in respect of the Blackpool Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Partnership Strategy (2016-2020) signed off in December 2016.

The aims of the Strategy are:-

- To provide strategic direction for the Blackpool Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Partnership Board.
- To ensure victims and their families in Blackpool experiencing domestic abuse and interpersonal violence have access to quality provisions of services appropriate to their needs.

- To reduce the impact of domestic abuse and interpersonal violence by using a multi-agency collaborative approach.
- To implement a strategic approach to integrated commissioning to develop a 'One public service offer'.
- To intervene, prevent and break the cycle of domestic abuse and interpersonal violence across Blackpool reducing incidents of abuse and repeat victimisation.

15.0 Background papers:

15.1 [HM: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy \(VAWG\) 2016-2020](#) and [National Statement of Expectations](#).

15.2 Blackpool's Domestic Abuse & Interpersonal Violence (DAIV) Partnership Strategy 2016/2020 (attached).

15.3 [Pan Lancashire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017](#).