

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	05th February 2014
3.	Title:	Improving Lives Select Commission Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse
4.	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

The report provides an update on the recommendations of the Improving Lives Select Commission Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse, presented to Cabinet on November 6th 2013. The recommendations focus on the improvement of service provision to victims of Domestic Abuse in Rotherham.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That Cabinet receives and accepts the report and update**
- 6.2 That any further Cabinet response to the report is fed back to the Safer Rotherham Partnership in February 2014**

7. Proposals and Details

The Improving Lives Select Commission Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse report was presented to Cabinet on November 6th 2013. The focus of the review recommendations was to develop more integrated domestic abuse service provision that had clear protocols and pathways for all risk levels that were understood by every partner agency. It was also recommended that domestic abuse should be more integrated at a strategic level so that other workstreams were addressing the impact it has on victims. The response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review are attached.

8. Finance

The Review highlighted the value of supporting Domestic Abuse Service provision during the austerity measures. The financial impact of each recommendation will need to be considered and acknowledged.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

By not following the review recommendations, Rotherham will find it difficult to

- Evidence that Domestic Abuse features in strategic frameworks
- Evidence that partner agencies are proactively undertaking a risk focused approach to Domestic Abuse, in line with emerging best practice
- Increase confidence of the Public in reporting Domestic Abuse and accessing support
- Evidence its compliance with the Home Office's national agenda to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls
- Withstand scrutiny in a Domestic Homicide Review which is submitted to the Home Office

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

By responding to the review recommendations, Rotherham will be able to

- Evidence its local compliance with the national Violence Against Women and Girls' Agenda
- Evidence that the Domestic Abuse Priority Group (DAPG), on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP), are proactive in reducing the risk of domestic homicide in line with emerging national best practice that is focused and coordinated
- Enable the actions of agencies to withstand scrutiny in a Serious Case Review or Domestic Homicide Review
- Respond to victims and their families effectively

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Call to End Violence against Women and Girls HM Government November 2010

A Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Action Plan HM Government April 2013

Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews Revised – applicable to all notifications made from and including 1 August 2013, Home Office, June 2013

Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2013-14

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011

Draft SRP Strategy to Eliminate Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence 2012- 2015

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