

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

1	Meeting:	Improving Lives Select Committee
2	Date:	5th November 2014
3	Title:	Improving Lives Select Commission's Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse – proposed review of local responses to “honour” based violence and forced marriage
4	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5 Summary

The report and the attached presentation have been requested by the Improving Lives Select Commission in response to a recommendation that it undertakes a scrutiny review of “honour” based violence and forced marriage. These documents set out the national and local responses to “honour” based violence and forced marriage.

6 Recommendations

That the Improving Lives Select Committee

- 6.1 Notes the responses to “honour” based violence and forced marriage as set out in the presentation;**
- 6.2 Determines how the Commission wishes to scrutinise these issues as part of its work programme.**

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Proposals and Details

The Improving Lives Select Commission Scrutiny undertook a review of Domestic Abuse. The review reported to Cabinet on November 6th 2013. One of the recommendations of the review proposed the Committee lead a scrutiny review of local responses to “honour” based violence and forced marriage. The attached presentation updates the Committee on

- The statutory framework that underpins this area of work
- Best Practice in relation to this form of abuse
- How the Safer Rotherham Partnership is ensuring that local responses to this form of abuse fulfils our statutory responsibilities and strives to meet best practice including the work undertaken to encourage increased reporting

The Committee is asked to note that work to tackle this form of abuse is led by the Safer Rotherham Partnership through the Domestic Abuse Priority Group. This is in line with the national Violence Against Women Campaign led by central Government.

8 Finance

The Committee are asked to note that that the response to this form of abuse is a statutory responsibility and work undertaken in relation to it is currently absorbed within existing resources.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

By not adopting this approach, Rotherham will not:

- Evidence its local compliance with the statutory guidance for the conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Evidence that the Rotherham’s Domestic Abuse Priority Group, on behalf of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, are proactive in reducing the risk of domestic homicide in line with emerging national best practice
- Evidence that agencies coming into contact with this form of abuse are able to evidence compliance with their statutory obligations in relation to this form of abuse
- Enable the actions of agencies withstand scrutiny in formal review
- Respond to victims and their families effectively

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Work undertaken in relation to this form of abuse aligns with the following strategic drivers:

Community Strategy -Support the most vulnerable in our communities

The Performance Management Framework and Action Plan for Domestic Abuse

Prevent - We will make it more difficult for domestic abuse to happen

“We will work with partners and communities including local businesses to ensure that they have an increased awareness of Domestic Abuse and healthy relationships so that they can respond appropriately regardless of the level of risk, domestic or non-domestic setting and any form of abuse e.g. “honour” based abuse, forced marriage, harassment, stalking, sexual violence etc.”

11 Background Papers and Consultation

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

The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory for dealing with forced marriage

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014

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

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan 2013 - 2017

Children and Young People’s Plan 2010-2013

Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment 2013/14, 2014/15

RMBC Corporate Priorities

- Ensuring care and protection are available for those people who need it most
- All children in Rotherham are safe
- Vulnerable people are protected from abuse
- Helping to create safe and healthy communities
- Anti-social behaviour and crime is reduced

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