

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 17 January 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Adults
SUBJECT: Sanctuary Scheme Policy
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Safer Policy & Performance Board (PPB) of the development of the Halton Sanctuary Scheme Policy and to present the draft report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION That: the Board notes the contents of the report and the draft Halton Sanctuary Scheme Policy.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A holistic Domestic Abuse Support Service was commissioned in December 2009, and includes the provision of a Sanctuary scheme for victims of Domestic Abuse across all tenure within Halton.

3.2 The Sanctuary Scheme provides enhanced security for victims of domestic abuse through the installation of Sanctuary measures following a property risk assessment.

3.3 At the Housing Partnership meeting held in April 2011, discussions took place about proposals for efficiencies which may be made and areas where gaps in service provision may be met by partner agencies.

3.4 Efficiencies were proposed to be made from the Sanctuary element of the Domestic Abuse Support Service. The proposals include focussing the commissioned service on the provision of Sanctuary measures for people living within private sector housing, and for Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to be responsible for the installation of Sanctuary measures within their properties.

3.5 Halton Borough Council is currently working with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to develop and implement Halton's Sanctuary Policy which will ensure a consistent approach is taken to the assessment of need and standards of Sanctuary measures provided.

3.6 The draft policy is attached at Appendix A, which has been circulated to the Housing Partnership for comment.

- 3.7 A further report will be presented to the Safer PPB meeting on 13th March 2012, giving statistics including a breakdown of the cost, type and number of Sanctuary measures and the number of service users still resident after Sanctuary measures have been installed.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Sanctuary Policy supports Halton's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2011-14.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The current budget for the Sanctuary Scheme is £54,518.25. During 2010, the total expenditure on Sanctuary measures installed was £25,000 of which £17,900 funded Sanctuary measures within RSL properties.

- 5.2 Implementation of this policy is anticipated to realise efficiencies of approximately £20,000 per annum.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Sanctuary Scheme will ensure a safe environment for children and young people, who can continue to access and maintain existing schools, health services and support networks.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Sanctuary Scheme will reduce the risks for service users and improve their physical and mental health and well being.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Sanctuary Scheme provides target hardening of properties to reduce the risk of harm to victims of Domestic Abuse.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Financial risk is minimised as the commissioned service works within an agreed annual budget.

- 7.2 The Sanctuary Scheme will be monitored by Halton Borough Council

and through the Housing Partnership.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 All organisations responsible for the implementation of the Sanctuary policy will be required to demonstrate that they embrace and comply with the Equality Act.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.