

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	15 th March 2016
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
WARDS:	All

1.	PURPOSE OF REPORT
1.1	To update the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board in relation to the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic abuse and sexual violence.
2.	RECOMMENDATION: That the Board consider and comment on any aspect of this report.
3.	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
3.1	<p>The Halton Vision</p> <p>The vision for tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence articulated in the Council's Corporate Plan 2011-16 is:</p> <p><i>'Everyone is able to live in an environment free from abuse, and where abuse does occur, support is given to individuals and their families and action is taken against perpetrators to prevent any re-occurrence'.</i></p> <p>Halton Domestic Abuse Forum acts as a multi-agency partnership and is committed to breaking the cycle of domestic abuse and sexual violence ensuring that within Halton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership agencies will work in collaboration demonstrating a whole system domestic abuse and sexual violence; • Halton exhibits a zero tolerance approach, domestic abuse and sexual violence is never acceptable; • People understand what domestic abuse and sexual violence is and what they can do about it; • Victims are protected and supported; • Early and effective interventions are provided for children and

	<p>young people, offering support and advice to parents and young people in order to address need and support behavioural change;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetrators are brought to justice and tackle the underlying motivators to their behaviour.
3.2	<p>The Impact and Cost of Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Families live with domestic abuse a significant period of time before getting effective help – on average 2.6 years for high-risk abuse and three years for medium-risk. But the range is wide and some victims in Halton have lived for more than 50 years before coming to the attention of services or asking for help.</p> <p>There are many reasons why victims live with domestic abuse for significant periods of time, or return to their abuser after attempting to leave. It may not be apparent to the victims that the relationship is abusive. They may be afraid of the abuser, and fear the consequences for themselves, their children or family and friends if they disclose. The abuser may take action to isolate the victims and make them dependent of the relationship. The victim may not know where to turn for help – or may have had bad experiences of support services in the past.</p> <p>Safelives evidence shows that in eight out of ten (79%) high risk cases, the abuse is getting worse in either the frequency of assaults or the severity and in some cases both. For medium risk cases half of the victims report increases in severity, frequency and in some instances both. Clearly, remaining in an abusive relationship without accessing support or indeed any other intervention is not safe or manageable and further risk of harm is much more likely to occur. Reducing the time it takes to access help for victims and their families is an absolute priority if we are to reduce harm, serious injury or worse murder.</p> <p>Living with abuse has significant and long lasting effects on children. The Savelives Children’s Insights National Dataset 2011-14 reviewed 877 unique cases of children exposed to domestic abuse: Negative impacts on children’s health and wellbeing from exposure to domestic abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical health - 22% • Behaviour - 52% • Emotional Wellbeing 89% • Feelings of blame / responsibility 60% • Risk-taking behaviour 29%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social developments and relationships 52% • School adjustment 39% <p>A quarter of the children living with high-risk domestic abuse are under 3 years old. With the average length of abuse being 3 years, they have lived their whole lives with the prevalence of severe parental abuse – it is also a crucial period for early development which influences life chances. It is essential that we adopt new ways of working and support is accessed earlier in order to safeguard and protect children.</p> <p>Not only does domestic abuse impact of those directly involved, domestic abuse if also costly to wider society.</p> <p>Savelives estimate the cost per family were these is domestic abuse to be £18,730 however, this only takes into account the cost to the police, criminal justice service an NHS. It does not include other agencies (including social care); it also excludes the economic and human cost to the family such as loss of work. If we consider that most victims have taken three years to ask for any assistance the human cost and impact to that family is likely to be much higher.</p>
3.3	<p>Halton Domestic Abuse Service</p> <p>Halton currently commissions Changing Lives, a registered charity to provide the Halton Domestic Abuse Service. They provide safe accommodation for adults and children fleeing domestic abuse in refuge and in addition they provide a community based Independent Domestic Abuse Service to work with people aged 16 plus on an outreach basis.</p> <p>At the moment of ending a relationship or disclosing abuse is one of very high risk for the victim. During or after separation is a high risk time for domestic abuse with marital rape and murder more likely to occur when a relationship is breaking up or shortly afterwards. Many victims have survival strategies in place to manage the risk – and they may fear that disrupting these will increase the risk of further or more serious abuse. Unlike many other areas the domestic abuse community service in Halton supports families who are still living with the abuser, they support them in developing safety plans and have approaches to build confidence for victims to enable them to keep safe and make choices.</p>
3.4	<p>Improving First responses to Domestic abuse</p> <p>Operation Enhance is a joint Halton Borough Council and Cheshire Police initiative that will be running between the 6th February 2016 and 1st of August 2016.</p> <p>The overall aim of this operation is to enhance the service provided to victims and front line Local Policing Unit (LPU) officers with support in relation to domestic abuse between intimate partners across the Runcorn</p>

	<p>LPU, concentrating on instilling the Core Values and principles in working practices through practical application. This should ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their families are provided with the most appropriate and timely service, focusing on the outcome the victim wants, that perpetrators are dealt with expeditiously and also that LPU officers are provided with support from the officers and IDVA when dealing with this demanding area of our business.</p> <p>The Police Officer and Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) will be providing early intervention and a support services to all victims of Low medium and High risk Domestic Violence in the Runcorn area only, for the duration of the pilot.</p> <p>During the weekend and Monday days shift - there will be a Police officer and IDVA on duty between- 08:00hrs to 16:00hrs. Their primary role will be to provide the front line LPU officers and victims with support in relation to domestic violence across the Runcorn LPU ensuring appropriate and proportionate safeguards are in place for vulnerable victims, children and witnesses. They are not there as the first line of response they are there as an addition to support the attending officer, victims, vulnerable people and children.</p> <p>The Police Officer and IDVA will be deployed double crewed in Runcorn, they are not to be used as front line response, they will conduct a secondary visit to the victim to provide them with support, obtain statements if necessary in order to assist the investigating officer and ensure appropriate and proportionate safeguards are in place for the victim, children and vulnerable people at the address.</p> <p>Initial inquiries suggest that the Operation is working very effectively and is being positively received by victims of domestic abuse. A full evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of this new approach will be available at the end of the pilot.</p>
3.5	<p>White Ribbon Campaign</p> <p>Halton are supporting a White Ribbon campaign (details of full programme of activity below); On Sunday 14th Widnes Vikings played Leeds Rhino's and the theme of the game was White Ribbon, both the Mayor and the Community Safety Portfolio holder Councillor Cargill were in attendance. Ikram Butt (<i>Ikram has been a White Ribbon Ambassador for six years. Ikram created history by becoming the first British Asian to represent England at either code of rugby during the 1995 European Championships. He founded the British Asian Rugby Association (BARA) with the aim to encourage more Asians to participate in sport and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Sport Science by Leeds Metropolitan University for services to community sports development in the UK and abroad.</i>) was in attendance supporting the White Ribbon effort here in Halton. A Press Release accompanied the event.</p>

The campaign for White Ribbon throughout the 2016 Rugby season which combines the Vikings marketing reach to our fans and the local community with a focused education workshop for young men and parents.

The Programme:

1. Announcement of partnership to tie in with overall Halton B.C work at the end of November 2015. Key will be announcement of the Widnes Player Ambassador for White Ribbon and that the Leeds Rhinos game on Valentine's Day will be a focus match.
2. W/C 8th February: Fan awareness – 'White Ribbon' story on www.widnesvikings.co.uk.
3. W/C 8th February: First education workshop delivered with a local amateur club – PR to go online in addition to above.
4. Sunday 14th February: Widnes Vikings vs Leeds Rhinos – Article in match day programme, white ribbon logo in programme, social media promotion. Half time presentation and PR announcement: Photographs from the event.





5. February to September: White Ribbon partnership story to be online within the community section of www.widnesvikings.co.uk
6. Delivery of cobranded education workshop to target 4 amateur clubs (u15 and u16 teams) and 9 secondary schools / colleges within Halton with relevant PR following each session.

3.6

Be a Lover not a Fighter

Through the Champs Public Health Collaborative Service support team, the Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health have developed a campaign focusing on domestic abuse from a public health perspective. Launching week commencing 8 February 2016 it will run in Q4 of 2016 across seven Cheshire & Merseyside and six Local authority areas in Lancashire.

The campaign approach considers domestic abuse from a population level perspective, working 'upstream' to engage the public. This campaign is designed not to duplicate but to complement and enhance significant and successful locally delivered campaign and intervention work, including the White Ribbon Campaign.

In addition to educating, the broad aim is to reduce the acceptability of domestic abuse – to take steps to 'de-normalise' domestic abuse amongst the public, who will be engaged to offer their support for measures to tackle domestic abuse in communities. This year's campaign development is based on insights gained through research carried out before and after last year's campaign. The results told us that:

- the campaign had a strong impact through making people think more about domestic abuse, in particular the importance of talking about it.
- local residents' understanding of domestic abuse – especially that it is emotional as well as physical - increased following the

	<p>campaign although people still underestimate the scale of domestic abuse in both men and women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> whilst police are seen to have the main responsibility for tackling domestic abuse, there is some indication that this campaign helped people recognise that it is everyone's responsibility. <p>In addition, the benefits for children and improved mental wellbeing were seen as the key impacts of ending domestic abuse over reducing crime or demand on the NHS. Children are recognised by most as being affected by domestic abuse, though there is less recognition of the impact on wider family.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Campaign Website - www.lovernotfighter.org.uk</p>
4.0	POLICY IMPLICATIONS
4.1	There are no policy implications contained within this report.
5.0	IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES
5.1	<p>A Healthy Halton</p> <p>To remove barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health by working across partnership to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventable cause of death Preventable cause of infant mortality Preventable cause of mental health Preventable cases presenting at A & E
5.2	<p>Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton</p> <p>Domestic abuse has a detrimental impact on employment. Among employed women who suffered domestic abuse in the last year 21% took time off work and a further 2% lost their jobs (Walby and Allen 2004)</p> <p>To maximise an individuals potential to increase and manage their income and manage their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services assisting victims to develop better financial management skills and to address debt through appropriate sign posting.</p>
5.3	<p>Children and Young People in Halton</p> <p>Children and young people in Halton are emotionally, physically and sexually healthy and Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities. For example, ensuring homes are healthy safe environments through offering support to parents and providing</p>

	access for aftercare support for victims of sexual violence whether a child or young person.
5.4	<p>A Safer Halton</p> <p>To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms. For example, through ensuring adult victims have access to protective and supportive measures reduces the level of domestic incidents and the subsequent impact on the environment with regards to crime and ASB.</p>
6.0	<p>RISK ANALYSIS</p> <p>These are contained within the report.</p>
7.0	<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</p>
8.0	<p>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES</p>
8.1	<p>A forced marriage is where one or both parties to the marriage do not consent. Forced marriage is a form of violence against women and raises concerns related to a number of human rights including the right to enter into marriage only with free and full consent, the right to bodily and sexual integrity and the right to non-discrimination and equal protection in law. Rape is often a consequence of forced marriage.</p> <p>There is currently no specific criminal offence of ‘forced marriage.’ The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 provides a specific civil remedy – a Forced Marriage Protection Order – to prevent victims being forced into a marriage and to assist victims where a marriage has already taken place. In addition, many of the key behaviours typically associated with a forced marriage are already covered by existing criminal offences, for example: kidnapping, false imprisonment, harassment and assault.</p> <p>The Government is consulting on whether a specific criminal offence of ‘forced marriage’ would help to combat forced marriage and provide better protection to victims. The government has already indicated that it intends to strengthen protection to victims by criminalising the breach of a FMPO Forced Marriage Protection Order. The consultation will seek views on how this can most effectively be achieved, close 30th March 2012.</p> <p>Currently it is not a criminal offence to breach an FMPO. A power of arrest may be attached to any section of the FMPO. Making breach of a FMPO a criminal offence will bring it in line with non-molestation orders under the Family Law Act 1996 and restraining orders under the Protection of Harassment Act 1997, a breach of which is a criminal offence.</p> <p>It is important not to confuse a forced marriage, with an arranged marriage. Forced marriages exist where there is no free consent of both parties.</p> <p>The North West suffers the second highest proportion (17%) of forced</p>

	marriages occurring after London (29%).
9.0	LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
	None under the meaning of the Act