

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 11 November 2014
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Community Safety
SUBJECT: Draft Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Review Report
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with the draft Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse report for approval to go forward to Executive Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) comment on the findings of the Scrutiny Review; and**
- 2) endorse the Scrutiny Review and its recommendations to go forward to the Executive Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 This report (attached as Appendix 1) was commissioned by the Safer Policy and Performance Board. A scrutiny review working group was established with four Members from the Board. The lead officer for the group was the Operational Director for Community and Environment, and three officers fed into the review.

The report was commissioned because domestic abuse was identified as a particular problem for the borough.

The Topic Group examined current statistics and analysed trends to gain assurance that the proposed Halton Domestic Abuse Forum (HDAF) strategy was fit for purpose. They additionally assessed the need to undertake supplementary awareness raising activities and initiatives.

The scrutiny review was conducted through a series of meetings, where evidence was presented and analysed. The review took place between April 2014 and September 2014.

Review methodology involved:

- Monthly meetings
- Briefings and verbal reports
- Provision of data/statistic

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The financial recommendations highlighted within the topic review will be contained within existing resources.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The scrutiny review report and recommendations support the Council's priorities in relation to Children & Young People, and their safety and wellbeing. The HDAF Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2014-17 sets out the affects and impact of the issue on the lives of children and young people and establishes outcomes which positively influence change.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The scrutiny review report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priority of Improving Health. Taking on board the recommendations from the report will improve the lives of those within the community living with, or suffering from, domestic abuse issues.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priority in providing for A Safer Halton. The recommendations work towards assuring a safer community where residents have a greater aware of the issue and are better equipped to tackle and prevent domestic abuse.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priorities in relation to the safety of residents; it also impacts on needs to access health services, both in the short-term and longer-term.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified

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

None under the meaning of the Act.