

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**02 December 2014**

**Joint Report of the Strategic Director - Health & Communities,  
the Strategic Director - Adult Care  
and the Strategic Director - Children & Younger Adults**

**INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING OF DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES**

**1 Purpose of the Report:**

To seek Cabinet approval for a revised structure to enable the Council Plan priority for a joint strategic approach and better integration of domestic abuse services to be delivered.

**2 Information and Analysis:**

Derbyshire County Council currently funds approximately £1.6m of domestic abuse services each year. These services are largely provided by the voluntary sector to support females, males and children experiencing domestic abuse, either as a victim or as a perpetrator.

At present domestic abuse services are commissioned by three departments within the County Council: Adult Care, Health & Communities and Children & Younger Adults. Each department has its own commissioning process and identified outcomes. The Adult Care Service Manager for Domestic Abuse acts as the link for all commissioned services in working with wider partners and is based in the Community Safety Team as part of the wider Safer Derbyshire Partnership at County Hall. The post-holder maintains links with Adult Care, particularly its Safeguarding Team as well as working closely with the Children & Younger Adults Department.

Strategically the work undertaken by the Service Manager for Domestic Abuse is directly linked into the wider partnership arrangements across Derbyshire, including Derby City. There is a joint city and county Derbyshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy in place with strategic objectives evidenced and informed by the joint police and community safety annual strategic threat and risk process led by Derbyshire Constabulary and the Council's Community Safety Team.

The Strategy is currently being refreshed, together with a needs assessment and prioritisation exercise to determine domestic abuse priorities moving forward.

Governance at senior management level is led by the Derbyshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board chaired by the Council's Head of Community Safety, which reports to both the County Safer Communities Board and the Local Criminal Justice Board. Reports are made to Cabinet as necessary. This structure was approved by both Boards and Derby City in 2011 and has been externally assessed as working well.

### **3 Proposed Re-structure:**

It is proposed that the County Council commissions domestic abuse services via a single commissioning process, led by a single department, from one pooled budget.

In determining the future governance and operational arrangements, it should be noted that:

- Strategically, Health and Communities leads on domestic abuse, with the Head of Community Safety chairing the Derbyshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board and leading on the annual joint threat and risk process.
- Health and Communities is now the biggest funding department contributing 82% of the total budget, as the Public Health ring fenced budget is supporting approximately 71% of the of the available budget and the Community Safety budget funds approximately 11%.
- Adult Care funding for Housing Related Support and medium risk outreach services will cease as this is now being supported by the Public Health ring fenced budget.
- Adult Care is providing £35k from the Second Homes budget to support the High Peak Women's Aid refuge for young women and girls.
- CAYA funding accounts for 17% of the total available budget.
- Operationally, Adult Care currently leads on domestic abuse via the Service Manager for Domestic Abuse, though this role is integrated with the Community Safety Team and wider partnership arrangements.

In summary, of the three departments involved, the Health and Communities Department leads the Governance Board, oversees the development of the Strategy and provides the majority of funding. It would therefore be appropriate for the Health & Communities

Department to lead and be accountable for the integrated commissioning process and a single pooled budget.

At an operational level, it is proposed that the Service Manager for Domestic Abuse becomes the lead commissioner for all domestic abuse services given her current role and expertise. The post would transfer to the Health and Communities Department and would continue to be based within the Safer Derbyshire Partnership, reporting directly to the Head of Community Safety. Overall responsibility for the commissioning of domestic abuse services would therefore transfer from Adult Care to Health and Communities under the Head of Community Safety. Additional commissioning support would come mainly from the Community Safety Team.

The Strategic Director for Adult Care has a specific responsibility to ensure the provision of services to people who have experienced domestic violence and clear arrangements will be put in place to assure that the new arrangements protect vulnerable women, men and children who live in fear of domestic abuse.

It is proposed that Member/Chief Officer oversight and engagement in governance be strengthened by reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This would ensure involvement of the appropriate Cabinet members. The Safeguarding Boards for both adults and children would receive regular updates on work within this critical area.

Overall partnership board responsibility for domestic abuse would continue to rest with the Safer Communities Board and the Local Criminal Justice Board. The Safer Communities Board also has a statutory responsibility for the Domestic Violence Homicide Reviews.

The current commissioned contracts are committed to 31 March 2016, but it is recommended that new arrangements be introduced formally on 1 April 2015 with a handover period between January and March 2015. This will allow for preparatory work leading up to the re-commissioning of services which will be reported to Cabinet for decision.

#### **4 Financial Considerations:**

The £1.6 million budget will be pooled and will be utilised to continue to fund existing contracts in place until 31 March 2016. Financial efficiencies arising from the single commissioning process will be relatively small but the proposed changes will lead to a more streamlined process for both commissioners and providers and more effective service provision. Relevant budgets will transfer to the Health & Communities Department (Community Safety).

The pooled budget will also include the Domestic Abuse Service Manager's salary, plus on costs and a small contingency budget of £11,450.

**5 Human Resources Considerations:**

The key objective is to transfer the affected employee into the new structure through redeployment.

Consultation with the affected staff member and Trade Unions will commence upon approval of this report, and will be in accordance with Derbyshire County Council policies and procedures.

**6 Other considerations:**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, legal, equality of opportunity, human rights, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

**7 Key Decision:**

No

**8 Call-In:**

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

**9 Background Papers:**

None

**10 Officers' Recommendations:**

That Cabinet endorses:

1. The proposal to move to a single department lead for commissioning domestic abuse services in the Health & Communities Department (Community Safety Team)
2. A pooled County Council budget for domestic abuse services to be overseen by the Head of Community Safety

3. The formal transfer of the Service Manager for Domestic Abuse post from Adult Care to the Community Safety Team, together with the salary, on-costs and £11,450 contingency budget attached to the post.

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