

(a) Notice of Motion received from Councillor D J Wilcox -

Although data on hate crime in Derbyshire is under review, various groups have expressed concerns about the rise in Hate Crime in other areas of the country following the referendum. We are proud to live in a tolerant and diverse country. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our society. This Council condemns these unequivocally. We must not allow hate to become acceptable. The Council with its partners must work to ensure we have the support and resources to prevent racism, xenophobia and Hate Crime. We publicly condemn any such attacks and make it clear the Council will take any necessary steps to tackle this. We reassure people living in our area that they are valued members of our community.

(b) Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mrs C Bisknell:-

Scrap the Fee for Domestic Violence Victims.

Council notes:

National statistics have not changed for decades. Two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner. One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes.

Legal Aid is a lifeline for women fleeing domestic abuse. It helps them to protect themselves, their children and secure their financial situation. Yet due to Government changes to the rules for women to qualify for Legal Aid, they now need to provide a prescribed piece of evidence to prove they have been subjected to abuse.

One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP. However, some GPs charge a fee – in some cases as much as £75 – to produce that letter.

Council believes:

That it is everyone's responsibility to stop domestic violence and abuse and it is our ambition that people treat one another with respect and compassion. No GP should charge victims of domestic abuse for a letter they need to access Legal Aid. It is unfair, it is immoral and it has to stop.

Council resolves:

To support the Scrap the Fee campaign, which was established by Tom Watson MP following a plea from Wythenshawe Safe Spots.

To call on the Government to scrap this unfair and unjust charge, by bringing this service back under the NHS contract.