

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	M Hammond	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> A19/008	
Wards Affected	All	16 th October 2019	
Title	COUNTYWIDE DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY		

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Scott Edwards

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to adopt the county wide Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1. The attached strategy (**Appendix A**) has been drawn up and adopted by the Northamptonshire Community Safety Board, (CSB) which is the community safety partnership for Northamptonshire, and on which the Council is represented by an Executive Director. Each agency member (as detailed in the appendix) of the CSB is being asked to adopt the strategy individually.
- 2.2. This is the first county wide strategy which has been prepared on domestic abuse and sexual violence. Domestic abuse is one of the three priorities agreed by the CSB, alongside tackling violent crime and gangs, and tackling hate crime and incidents.
- 2.3. The draft strategy defines the crime types covered, the range of victims, and the forms that abuse and violence can take. This is a widely under-reported crime yet one which has far reaching consequences for policing, health, housing and social services, whether reported or not. There have been three formal domestic homicide reviews in Kettering Borough in the last year, and in each of the cases, the root cause was sustained domestic abuse of the victim and the difficulties statutory agencies experienced in supporting them or intervening effectively.
- 2.4. The strategy sets out five strategic objectives and involves a dozen statutory agencies working together.
- 2.5. An action plan has been drawn up which will need to be finessed. It will be the role of the CSB to oversee and monitor the implementation work. A steering group will be formed to manage the implementation work.
- 2.6. Recently, Voice (the county victim support service) and Sunflower (the domestic abuse service) have agreed to merge in order to strengthen the ability locally to support victims.

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3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 The strategy has been developed in consultation with voluntary sector organisations concerned with helping victims as well as the statutory service providers.

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Borough Council financially supports the Sunflower Centre through a grant and service level agreement
- 4.2. Adoption of the strategy means that KBC staff will contribute to the strategy, particularly in housing, public services and through customer services.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Domestic abuse and sexual violence disproportionately affects women, and people with a history of a negative family environment, disadvantage, and experience of mental ill health.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct climate change implications, although preventing or tackling domestic abuse early on will mean less resources are expended by public agencies.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the Executive Committee adopt the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy

Background Papers:

Reports and minutes of the CSB

Date 26th September 2019

Contact Officer

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