

Report No.

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

Date: 26 January 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: AN INTERGENERATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE STRATEGY FOR 2021-2024 'MAKING DOMESTIC ABUSE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS'

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Chief Officer: Janet Bailey, Director of Children's Social Care

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The previous strategy, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2016-19 has expired and a new wider and more comprehensive strategy has now been developed and designed to encompass the full remit of domestic violence and abuse.
- 1.2 Domestic abuse crosses the whole borough, all communities, all ages, and all socio-economic groups. The new strategy has been developed to address this and challenges all partners to work together to tackle this.
- 1.3 The new strategy, An Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy For 2021-2024 'Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business' demonstrates Bromley's commitment to tackling perpetrators and supporting both victims and survivors of domestic abuse in its widest sense and invites partners to join our public demonstration of this commitment.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The PDS is invited to note, endorse and recommend the promotion of the new strategy, 'An Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy For 2021-2024 'Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business'.
- 2.2 The Portfolio Holder is recommended to note and endorse and approve the promotion of the new strategy, 'An Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy For 2021-2024 'Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business'.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact:

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council Safe Bromley Supporting Independence Healthy Bromley
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A.
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A
 3. Budget head/performance centre: 132569
 4. Total current budget for this head: £179K
 5. Source of funding: MOPAC (Mayors Office for Police & Crime)
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement::
 2. Call-in:
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Responding to domestic violence and abuse is a complex and multi-faceted issue that touches many people's lives in many different ways. Domestic violence is like no other crime insofar as the perpetrator has intimate and constant access to the victim. Domestic violence and abuse are experienced by adults and children from all backgrounds, and many domestic incidents remain unreported and often result in devastating consequences for long term mental and physical health.
- 3.2 Domestic abuse costs society an estimated £15.7bn per year. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on a wide range of services including housing, criminal justice and social service provision. Nationally, violent crime figures show that despite a long downward trend in violent crime, domestic abuse remains a widespread problem which affects more than 8.5% of women and 4.5% of men every year, two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner. The Home Office's 'The Economic and Social Costs of Domestic Abuse' Research Report dated January 2019 suggests (p.6) that the total cost of domestic abuse in England and Wales for 2016/17 including economic and social costs, reached a staggering £66bn with a unit cost of £34,015. The report further suggests that whilst the £66bn cost appears large, it is most likely an under-estimate.
- 3.4 The Metropolitan Police recorded a total of 1,316,800 domestic abuse related incidents and crimes in the year ending March 2019. 746,219 of these were recorded as domestic abuse related crimes which is an increase of 24% from the previous year. During the first Covid-19 lockdown, the Metropolitan Police reported that its officers were arresting around 100 people a day for domestic abuse offences. Overall domestic abuse incidents are reported to increase by 3% year by year. Between June 2019 and May 2020 there were 4,776 domestic abuse incidents in Bromley and 3037 domestic abuse offences. There has been an increasing prevalence of incidents in Bromley over the last three years.
- 3.5 Domestic abuse sits within an increasing body of legislation, policy and guidance that is applicable to victims, perpetrators and children. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ('CDA') places a statutory duty on local authorities and the police to work together with other agencies to tackle crime at a local level through the provision of a Community Safety Strategy that should include domestic abuse (Bromley Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2020-2023). The CDA also places a statutory requirement on local authorities to monitor the level of domestic abuse in their communities and establish partnerships, in order to reduce the problem as well as work together with other agencies to highlight the issue and coordinate a response. In Bromley we have therefore produced a specific domestic violence and abuse strategy that expands upon the Bromley Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2020-2023 (Priority 2), as well as reintroducing both a multi-agency DVA VAWG Strategic Board and multi-agency DVA VAWG Operational Forum.

4. SUMMARY OF THE BUSINESS CASE

- i. The new strategy, An Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy For 2021-2024 'Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business' has been developed to address domestic abuse in its widest sense across the whole borough, all communities, all ages, and all socio-economic groups.
- ii. The new strategy has been developed in consultation with partners from across the wider workforce from the initial consultation workshops in December 2019 through to commentary on the final draft during November/December 2020.
- iii. Comments have been formally sought via the membership of the multi-agency DVA VAWG Strategic Board, multi-agency DVA VAWG Operational Forum and the multi-agency Safer Bromley Partnership.
- iv. This strategy fulfills the local authority's duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 but equally importantly will raise the profile of this hideous crime and encourage a joint multiagency approach to tackling perpetrators and supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 Due to the nature of this strategy reach across all departments within the Local Authority, the Chief Executive, The Director of Children's Services, The Assistance Director of Children's Services in their capacity as the Chair of the DVA VAWG Strategic Forum, and Children Education and Families Senior Leadership Team have been consulted with as part of drafting this report.
- 5.2 In addition to those mentioned in 5.1, key partners across the wider workforce through the membership of the Safer Bromley Partnership, Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board, Bromley Safeguarding Children's Partnership, DVA VAWG Strategic Board and DVA VAWG Operational Forum were invited to contribute via the initial consultation in December 2019.
- 5.3 The final draft document has been shared with the membership the Safer Bromley Partnership, DVA VAWG Strategic Board and DVA VAWG Operational Forum for comment. All feedback received has been reviewed and used to shape the finished document.
- 5.4 If the Portfolio Holder accepts the recommendation to note, endorse and promote this new strategy, it will be tabled formally at the following:-
- i. The Safer Bromley Partnership
 - ii. Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership
 - iii. Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board
 - iv. Health and Wellbeing Board
- 5.5 Partner Agencies will be invited to sign up to the 'commitment' on p.58; where this commitment has been made, their signatures already appear. However, it is anticipated that through the wider promotion of this strategy an updated version will be required to capture other agencies prepared to publicly demonstrate their commitment. It is proposed to complete this by April 2021.

6. PROJECT TIMESCALES AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 Responsibility for the provision of this strategy sits with the DVA VAWG Strategy Board and this has been delegated to the DVA VAWG Strategic Lead who sits within Children's Social Care – Early Intervention and Family Support Services.
- 6.2 The new strategy, 'An Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy For 2021-2024 'Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business'', is proposed to cover the period 2021 – 2024.
- 6.3 The ambition is for this to be noted and endorsed in January 2021 to allow this to be tabled across the various Partnership/Board meetings, as listed in 5.4 above, as early as possible during 2021.

7. SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- 7.1 The new strategy, 'An Intergenerational Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy For 2021-2024 'Making Domestic Abuse Everyone's Business'', will have a positive and vital impact as it will raise awareness and encourage multiagency partnership working.
- 7.2 The strategy is designed to compass all; communities, ages, genders, and socio-economic groups.

8. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 This strategy replaces the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2019.
- 8.2 The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Assessment 2020-2023.

Non-Applicable Sections:	IT AND GDPR CONSIDERATIONS PROCUREMENT RULES FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	