

**Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection**

Report to:	<b>Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>14 October 2015</b>
Subject:	<b>Domestic Abuse Update</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides the Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee with an update of the Domestic Abuse work undertaken by the Community Safety Team.

**Actions Required:**

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the report.

## **1. Background**

Domestic abuse has a significant impact upon the communities and public services of Lincolnshire. Estimates from the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) suggest that 1 in 15 adults aged between 16 and 59 years suffered at least one incident of domestic abuse in 2013/14. This meant that during 2013/14 alone there were more than 25,500 victims of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire.

While most victims would not report their abuse to a partnership agency, domestic abuse nonetheless accounted for a high proportion of the workload of many public agencies in Lincolnshire, including 1 in 7 police urgent emergency callouts, 1 in 3 violent crimes, 1 in 4 adults' safeguarding referrals, 2 in 5 children's social care assessments and Families Working Together referrals, and an estimated 3,376 healthcare users.

Domestic abuse is a well-established priority for Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership. Much has already been achieved by LCC, the Domestic Abuse Strategic Management Board (DA SMB) and its individual member agencies.

### **Lincolnshire County Council – Community Safety Priority Team, Safer Communities**

The Authority initiates, facilitates and/or supports much of the partnership domestic abuse activity in Lincolnshire. This includes coordination and administration of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which is a partnership

response to high risk cases of domestic abuse, administration and support for the DA SMB and its sub groups, multi-agency and in house domestic abuse training, publicity campaigns, development of policies and protocols, data analysis, commissioning of domestic abuse services and coordination of domestic homicide reviews.

The Data Analyst employed by the Community Safety Priority Team has produced a strategic overview of domestic abuse based on the available national and local data. The local data is predominantly from Lincolnshire Police and the information related to high risk cases that have been referred to the MARAC. This strategic overview has provided valuable information that will help with the development of the next Domestic Abuse Strategy, whilst recognising that data from the wider partnership is vital in order to form a fuller picture of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire County Council currently funds the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service for high risk victims of domestic abuse, and the DA outreach services for all non high risk victims who need support across the 7 districts. The contracts for these services are due to end in March 2016. There are uncertainties about the future commissioning of these contracts given the current economic climate.

### **Domestic Abuse Protocol Update**

The new Domestic Abuse Protocol will be officially agreed at the next meeting of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Management Board on 13 October 2015. It contains information and guidance for practitioners about all aspects of domestic abuse, to ensure that we have consistent and appropriate responses to domestic abuse across all agencies. To launch the protocol, an event was held on 29 September 2015 for front line practitioners and was attended by over 150 delegates.

## **2. Conclusion**

If domestic abuse is not taken seriously victims can and do die or can suffer long term physical, financial and emotional effects.

Domestic abuse cannot be tackled by one agency alone; it requires the full commitment of all agencies. The County Council is a key agency in the domestic abuse partnership and provides both funding and resources in terms of strategic planning and oversight, coordination and administration.

There are some potentially challenging times ahead given the uncertainties around funding and the demands placed on the Council to support the partnership and manage Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Whilst the Authority has made considerable improvements in relation to tackling domestic abuse, there is still a significant amount of work to complete to ensure compliance with the new Domestic Abuse Protocol, including the 10 standards of the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Charter, training for practitioners, risk

assessment and risk management, referral pathways and ensuring that robust policies and procedures are embedded.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

n/a

### **4. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Karen Shooter, who can be contacted on 01522 554509 or [Karen.shooter@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.shooter@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

**This page is intentionally left blank**