

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

Report to:	Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee
Date:	02 November 2016
Subject:	Domestic Abuse Progress Report

Summary:

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

Actions Required:

Members of the Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the report and highlight any recommendations or further actions required.

1. Background

Previously the Domestic Abuse Manager has updated this committee about work undertaken by Lincolnshire County Council's Domestic Abuse Team. At the last update to this committee it was agreed that the Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee would take on the responsibility for compliance with the newly agreed Domestic Abuse Policy and the work of the LCC Domestic Abuse Group. This paper therefore relates to progress made.

Lincolnshire County Council Domestic Abuse Policy

The Policy, agreed at CMB earlier this year, aims to ensure that Lincolnshire County Council is clear about its commitment and response to tackling domestic abuse.

The Policy contains several significant requirements that require changes to current practice including:

- Basic domestic abuse awareness e-learning must be completed by all employees (this is available through Lincs2Learn)
- More in depth domestic abuse e-learning and a full face to face training must be completed by all adult care and children's services practitioners, and may also be relevant for other staff as identified by managers
- Best Practice is that all relevant contractors and commissioned services that provide a front line services to adults and/or children will comply with the LCC Domestic Abuse Policy

- Lincolnshire County Council will achieve the 10 standards set out in the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Charter
- Lincolnshire County Council will achieve White Ribbon Town Award
- Lincolnshire County Council will adhere to the Lincolnshire Joint Domestic Abuse Protocol
- All HR Advisors and Occupational Health Consultants will be trained in domestic abuse and the completion of domestic abuse risk assessments, to provide support for managers who have employees who have disclosed domestic abuse.

Progress:

An internal Domestic Abuse Group, with representatives from across the Authority, has been set up to ensure compliance with this Policy. Work is progressing with the following achievements to date:

- The new Basic DA Awareness e-learning was launched in August and by the beginning of October 630 employees had already completed the course.
- A training needs analysis has been completed which has identified a need for additional face to face training sessions to be provided. Funding has been committed by Children's and Adult Services. Six more sessions will be delivered in 2016-2017 and 12 sessions will be delivered in 2017-2018.
- Domestic Abuse literature is now more visible in LCC buildings.
- The Domestic Abuse Guidance for Employees and Managers is being refreshed to include the support available through Human Resources.
- Domestic Abuse will now be included in all relevant contracts. Work is progressing on looking at compliance within existing contracts and contract management.
- A new resource pack is available for schools and the County Domestic Abuse Team is proactively contacting Lincolnshire Schools to help them to develop their own domestic abuse policies and procedures and ensure staff are appropriately trained.

2. Future plans

In order to comply with the Policy and achieve the 10 standards set out in the Domestic Abuse Charter, the following work is needed:

- The Authority must ensure that there is improved data, and analysis of that data, so that we fully understand the impact of domestic abuse on our services and our communities and that we use that information for priority setting, domestic abuse campaigns and commissioning.
- Share the lessons learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews. The increased number of Domestic Homicide Reviews continues to put considerable pressure on the Domestic Abuse Team and the partnership. The County Domestic Abuse Team, along with Legal Services and the Safeguarding Board managers are continually looking for ways to streamline processes

while still ensuring that they are robust and the lessons are identified, shared and actions taken.

- The issue of No Recourse to Public Funds requires further work.
- Services commissioned by LCC need further guidance and support to enable them to comply with the new Policy.
- The Policy and Guidance for employees and managers must be publicised within the authority.
- Risk identification, assessment and management in relation to domestic abuse must become more embedded within key departments.
- Work needs to start on meeting the requirements for the White Ribbon Town Award. This includes having several male White Ribbon Champions within the Authority.
- The internal DA Group needs to re-consider the Terms of Reference and membership of the group as actions are completed and work progresses.
- Complete any Lincolnshire County Council recommendations made as a result of the October multi agency domestic abuse inspection.

3. Conclusion

A significant amount of work has been completed already to ensure that there is an increased awareness of domestic abuse across the Authority, schools and commissioned services and a consistent response from practitioners and managers. Further work is still needed but there is now a strong foundation on which to build.

4. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Domestic Abuse Policy Document
Appendix B	Lincolnshire Joint Domestic Abuse Protocol

6. Background Papers

This report was written by Karen Shooter, who can be contacted on 01522 554509 or Karen.shooter@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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