

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**

**Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

**Report Title**

**Domestic Violence – A Strategy for Warwickshire**

**Summary**

The Domestic Violence Strategic Board, a partnership group supported by a number of agencies, has developed a 3 year strategy for Warwickshire to tackle Domestic Abuse, supported by a 12 month action plan which includes specific outcomes. This has already been endorsed by the five Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Warwickshire, as well as all the agencies involved in developing the strategy. In addition, the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee has reviewed and supported this strategy. The Cabinet is now asked to endorse this strategy so that it can be published as a public document to demonstrate the work that is being undertaken in Warwickshire.

**For further information please contact:**

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**

No.

**Background papers**

Executive Summary of Strategy attached

Full copy of Strategy available from Sonia Mayo

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

Other Committees

Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported.....

Local Member(s)

Other Elected Members

.Cllr John Haynes.....

Cabinet Member

..Cllr Richard Hobbs.....

- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  .Ian Mariott.....
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .William Brown
- District Councils  5 District & Borough Councils, through their CDRP's have endorsed this strategy
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  Warwickshire Police were instrumental in developing this strategy, and have endorsed it
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Other agencies have also approved this document.

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Agenda No

**Cabinet - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006.**

### **Domestic Violence - A Strategy for Warwickshire**

#### **Report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection**

##### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet endorse the Domestic Violence Strategy on behalf of the County Council.

#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Domestic Abuse is a serious issue. Nationally, Domestic Abuse affects one in four women, and one in six men. It represents 25% of all violent crime figures. In Warwickshire we have a strong partnership approach to dealing with domestic abuse in all its forms – physical, psychological, sexual and financial. Central government, through Best Value Performance indicators, the National Community Safety Plan, CDRP targets and specifically in the Crime & Disorder Act 2004, requires domestic abuse to be targeted by local authorities working in partnership with key organisations.
- 1.2 Domestic Abuse is defined as any abuse between current or former partners in an intimate relationship, wherever and whenever it occurs. The abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional or financial.
- 1.3 In Warwickshire in 2004/5 there were a total of 3690 police incidents recorded. At an average cost to agencies of £19,000 per incident the cost in Warwickshire last year was approximately £70.1million.
- 1.4 The Local Government Association document “Local Government’s role in tackling domestic violence” concludes that Local authorities have a corporate responsibility to deal with domestic violence by:
  - Agreeing a corporate strategy to tackle domestic violence and meet the needs of the community (including setting budgets)
  - Developing domestic violence employment policies for their staff
  - Training relevant staff, both front-line and decision makers
  - Providing publicity to raise awareness and increase access to local services.

In addition Home Office guidance on multi-agency working recommends that every authority publish a clear policy on domestic violence, which is understood and complied with by its entire staff.

## **2.0 Current Working in Warwickshire**

- 2.1 In Warwickshire we already work in very effective partnerships to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse. There are close links between Warwickshire County Council, the District & Borough Councils, Warwickshire Police, the voluntary sector and so on.
- 2.2 We also have a Domestic Violence Strategic Board, chaired by the Children Young People & Families Department, with membership including Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Probation, Crown Prosecution Service, District and Borough Councils, Primary Care Trusts, Supporting People and voluntary sector organisations such as WDVSS and Safeline.

## **3.0 Warwickshire's Domestic Violence Strategy**

- 3.1 In order to address the issues of domestic abuse, the Strategic Board has developed this 3 year multi-agency strategy to deliver and develop services through these partnerships, to ultimately reduce the incidence of Domestic Abuse in Warwickshire. An Executive Summary of the Strategy is attached at **Appendix A**. A full copy can be viewed on the Committee Administration System and on the Warwickshire Web.
- 3.2 This strategy's key aims are to:
  - Prevent and reduce the incidents of domestic violence across Warwickshire, to reduce repeat victimisation and to protect victims and their children from violence
  - Provide a sympathetic and appropriate supportive response to victims and their children from all agencies and consult with service users on the quality and appropriateness of services provided
  - Work towards tackling repeat incidents by effectively working with perpetrators of domestic violence

These will be delivered through a 12-month action plan, with specific targets and outcomes, grouped into objectives around prevention, protection and justice, and support. This action plan (attached at **Appendix B**) will be overseen by the Strategic Board, and reviewed and updated annually.

## **4.0 Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Team (DAMAT)**

- 4.1 One of the key delivery models for this strategy is the Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Team (DAMAT). This is a co-located multi-agency team comprising

Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police. We are currently undertaking a commissioning process to offer point of contact support for victims of abuse in Warwickshire. We also have close links with other agencies in Warwickshire, to whom we refer victims for ongoing support, refuge accommodation, and longer term counselling.

- 4.2 In the last three years the team has assisted 1396 new clients who were suffering abuse, helping them to move on and rebuild their lives in safety, as well as dealing with the perpetrators and helping the children who may have been affected. In addition we work in partnership with many other agencies to try to develop preventative measures to break the cycle of this abuse.
- 4.3 The team is funded from a variety of sources, including £100,000 per annum from the County Council to cover some of the running costs of the team, and two Social Workers; Warwickshire Police provide five staff to the team. Additional funds are granted from the District / Borough Councils in Warwickshire, Supporting People, and other grants as appropriate.

## **5.0 Recommendation**

- 5.1 This strategy has been endorsed by the five CDRP's in Warwickshire, and all agencies involved in those groups have been very keen to ensure that the serious issue of domestic abuse is addressed in Warwickshire. The Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee have recommended that Cabinet endorse this on behalf of the County Council.

WILLIAM BROWN  
Strategic Director of  
Community Protection

Shire Hall  
Warwick

May 2006

## Appendix A

### Domestic Violence Strategy for Warwickshire Executive Summary

#### Aims

The aims of the strategy are to:

- Prevent and reduce the incidents of domestic violence across Warwickshire, to reduce repeat victimisation and to protect victims and their children from violence
- Provide a sympathetic and appropriate supportive response to victims and their children from all agencies and consult with service users on the quality and appropriateness of services provided
- Work towards tackling repeat incidents by effectively working with perpetrators of domestic violence.

These will be delivered through a series of strategic and operational objectives, supported by a 12-month action plan. These objectives are grouped into prevention, protection and justice, and support.

#### Strategic Objectives

- Increased awareness in all the communities in the County
- Agencies know the extent and impact of the problem and have aligned policies and procedures to respond appropriately
- Appropriate, accessible, timely and co-ordinated multi-agency responses and support for all victims and children who need it
- Protection and appropriate use of criminal and civil remedies
- Accommodation that is appropriate and timely
- Resettlement for victims and their children
- Appropriate treatment of perpetrators.

#### Operational Objectives

The operational objectives of this strategy have been grouped into three categories, Prevention, Protection & Justice, and Support, and support the strategic objectives in Warwickshire. These elements are reflected in the supporting action plan.

##### Prevention

- To have a strategic overview of Domestic Violence in the county
- To ensure best practice is investigated from local, national and international sources and considered for implementation locally in order to continuously develop services
- To increase awareness of Domestic Violence

- To encourage reporting of incidents of domestic violence, especially from the hard-to-reach groups such as black and ethnic minority communities, gay and lesbian communities and disabled people
- To promote multi-agency and single agency training
- Encourage partner agencies to adopt their own domestic violence policy
- To ensure challenging targets are set and targets achieved.

### **Protection & Justice**

- To work to reduce repeat victimisation, offending and re-offending
- To encourage the criminal justice agencies to increase the number of incidents of prosecution of perpetrators where appropriate.

### **Support**

- To support joint partnership and multi-agency work and share information
- To provide assistance to victims and their children and refer or provide effective services as necessary and provide a plan for the safety of victims and their children
- To ensure the accurate monitoring of data, using such data to continuously improve services to victims
- To engage with service users to obtain feedback regarding the services provided.

The Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Violence Strategic Board, with ownership of the specific actions agreed by the appropriate agencies.

**Domestic Violence – A Strategy for Warwickshire**  
**12 Month Action Plan 2006/7**

This action plan has been produced to support the 3-year Domestic Violence Strategy for Warwickshire. The actions outlined here directly link to the strategic and operational objectives in 3.1 and 3.2 of the Strategy. This action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

|    | <b>Aim</b>   | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Accountability</b> | <b>Delivery through</b> | <b>Timescale</b>      | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
|----|--|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | <b>Ensure best practice is investigated from local, national and international sources and considered for implementation locally in order to continuously develop services</b> | To research Best Practice   | Strategic Board       | DV Manager              | To each board meeting | At least 3 examples of best practice brought forward to the board each year.                             |
| 2. | <b>Increase awareness of DV</b>  | Develop campaigns for public awareness  | Strategic Board       | DV Manager              | March 2007            | Evidence of 2 campaigns  |
|    |  | Maintain and promote Domestic Violence website, accessible to public and professional agencies. | DV Manager            | DV Manager              | March 2007            | Increased public awareness measured through WCC 'satisfaction survey', and other surveys as appropriate. |



|    | <b>Aim</b>  | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Accountability</b> | <b>Delivery through</b> | <b>Timescale</b> | <b>Outcomes</b>   |
|----|---|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| 3. | <b>Address Barriers to Partnerships &amp; tackle Hard to reach groups</b>     | Develop services to meet the needs of under represented groups (e.g. Terrence Higgins Trust, BME organisations, ESW travellers liaison worker, vulnerable adults, drug & alcohol issues) | Strategic Board       | Board members           | March 2007       | Audit of gaps completed to inform development of services   |
| 4. | <b>Promote multi and single agency training</b>                               | Promote DV and work with agencies to ensure that training is on their agenda   | Strategic Board       | DV Manager              | December 2006    | Staff dealing with DV in agencies are adequately trained to deal with victims. List of training available to all agencies |
|    |   |  |                       |                         | March 2007       | Audit undertaken of gaps in training  |
| 5. | <b>Encourage partner agencies to adopt their own domestic violence policy</b> | Develop guidance on how to develop a DV Policy, including a policy for employers.  | Strategic Board       | DV Manager              | March 2007       | Employer policy presented to WCC for consideration / adoption.  |
| 6. | <b>To work to reduce repeat victimisation, offending and re-offending</b>     | Police to develop and strengthen own policies and procedures to map offenders  | Police                | Police                  | End March 2007   | Identify all persistent perpetrators in the last 12 months and reduce numbers by 5%.                                      |

|           | <b>Aim</b>   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Accountability</b> | <b>Delivery through</b>        | <b>Timescale</b> | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--|
|           |  | Ensure that appropriate referrals are made to Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme  | Police                | Probation                      | March 2007       | 4 completions on the programme in 12 months  |
|           |  | Carry out research on reducing repeat victims, aiming to reduce the number of incidents before victims need to access services | Strategic Board       | DV Manager                     | December 2006    | Report to the board produced, with recommendations for implementing improvements for victims, including reducing the number of incidents before accessing services |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>To encourage the criminal justice agencies to increase the number of incidents of prosecution and/or caution of perpetrators where appropriate.</b> | Consult with Criminal Justice agencies and other relevant agencies around Specialist DV Courts                                 | Strategic Board       | CPS / Magistrates / Police     | March 2007       | Agreement from relevant agencies to set up Specialist DV Courts<br><br>Training completed for key stakeholders   |
|           |  | Research resource needs for a voluntary perpetrator programme, and develop a sustainable delivery model                        | Strategic Board       | Commissioned Service Providers | March 2007       | Sustainable voluntary perpetrator programme in place and running regularly   |

|           | <b>Aim</b>   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Accountability</b> | <b>Delivery through</b>     | <b>Timescale</b> | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
|-----------|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>8.</b> | <b>To provide assistance to victims and their children and refer or provide effective services as necessary and provide a plan for the safety of victims and their children.</b> | Identify needs and barriers to services of individuals and agencies requiring advice and support, and develop a sustainable delivery model | Strategic Board       | DV Manager                  | December 2006    | Sustainable advice and guidance easily available to agencies and individuals, to ensure timely and appropriate response / referrals<br><br>Point of crisis services in place |
|           |  | Ensure accessible services available to victims of abuse   | Strategic Board       | Warwickshire County Council | March 2007       | 5% increase in number of people accessing DV services in Warwickshire for advice   |
|           |  | Developed awareness in young people of DV  | Strategic Board       | Education Department        | March 2008       | Raise awareness with young people of domestic violence   |
|           |  | Needs analysis of housing undertaken   | Strategic Board       | Supporting People           | March 2007       | Sufficient and suitable accommodation available across Warwickshire  |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>To support joint partnership and multi-agency work and share</b>  | Undertake a stock take of current DV services  | Strategic Board       | DV Manager                  | June 2006        | Identify what services are provided, and what gaps in service exist.   |

|            | <b>Aim</b>  | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Accountability</b> | <b>Delivery through</b> | <b>Timescale</b>  | <b>Outcomes</b>  |
|------------|---|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
|            | <b>information.</b>   | Review partner agencies' DV Strategies   | Strategic Board       | DV Manager              | March 2007        | Agencies are delivering DV services as outlined in their own strategies.         |
|            |   | Sharing of information protocol in place and working   | Strategic Board       | DV Manager              | March 2007        | Information is shared between agencies.  |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>To ensure the accurate monitoring of data, using such data to continuously improve services to victims</b> | Regular analysis of data produced and reporting to prioritise activities and reduce incidents. | Strategic Board       | DAMAT                   | March 2007        | Data analysed and monitored to inform future decision making and prioritisation. |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>To engage with service users to obtain feedback regarding the services provided</b>                        | Regularly survey user satisfaction with services.  | All agencies          | DV Manager              | Quarterly reports | Ensure that service users inform the development of service provision.           |
|            |   | Look at best practice in service user involvement  | Strategic Board       | DV Manager              | March 2007        | Service user engagement / feedback mechanisms agreed                             |