

## REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

### COMMISSIONING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REDUCTION SERVICES

#### Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for new commissioning arrangements for domestic violence reduction services.

#### Information and Advice

2. On 27 July 2011 the Cabinet gave approval for an eight week public consultation on the future commissioning of domestic violence reduction services.
3. Cabinet noted that currently the Council commissions the following domestic violence reduction services under separate arrangements, either solely or in partnership.

DV Service	NCC Budget	2011-12	In partnership with
4 Women's Refuges run by 4 organisations	Adult Social Care and Health	£361,658	
Women's Outreach and Supported Housing delivered by 4 organisations	Adult Social Care and Health	£363,268	
Children's outreach and support delivered by 5 organisations	Children, Families & Cultural Services	£53,000	Nottinghamshire PCT £36,000
Domestic Abuse Link Workers in Children's Social Care seconded by 3 organisations	Children, Families & Cultural Services	£75,000	
MARACs for High Risk victims delivered by 2 organisations	Community Safety	£120,000	Safer Nottinghamshire Board Partners and the Home Office £155,500

4. The consultation has now been completed, 19 responses have been received and two consultation events have been held with partner organisations, existing service providers and service users.

5. Four options for future commissioning were proposed with advantages and disadvantages outlined for each option. An Equality Impact Assessment was included with the consultation to ensure that the needs of all potential victims of domestic violence were taken into consideration.
- Option A: Single County model delivered by 1 service provider
  - Option B: North and South model delivered by 1 or 2 service providers
  - Option C: Three Area model delivered by 1 to 3 service providers
  - Option D: Four Area model delivered by 1 to 4 service providers.
6. Feedback from the consultation indicated preferences for Options B and C. Service users emphasised that services must be easily accessible, secure and reliable. The feedback received will inform the commissioning process.

Option	Service Providers	Geographical Coverage
Option B	1-2 service providers	North Nottinghamshire contract for services in Mansfield, Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood  South Nottinghamshire contract for services in Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe.
Option C	1-3 service providers	North Nottinghamshire contract for services in Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood  West Nottinghamshire contract for services in Mansfield and Ashfield  South Nottinghamshire contract for services in Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe

### Other Options Considered

7. There was considerable support for Option C and the merits of this have been fully investigated. A common response from those who favoured this option was the need to ensure that services are embedded in local communities. This will also be built into the commissioning requirements.

### Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. The consultation revealed close support for Options B and C and it is clear that both have merits. However, after considering the advantages and disadvantages of both options and the feedback from the consultation, Option B is recommended for the following reasons:
- It aligns services directly with MARAC\* geographical boundaries. This means that victims who: are at the most risk of serious harm; need refuge provision; require ongoing support in the community and support for their children will be able to access these from a single organisation.

- It offers greater potential for efficiency savings in relation to back office functions, management costs, contract management and monitoring.
- It offers greater potential for more efficient and effective ways of working between statutory agencies (such as Children's Services and the Police) and domestic violence service providers.

\* Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (which provide targeted support for those victims who are assessed at being at the most risk of serious violence).

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) The future commissioning of domestic violence reduction services by Nottinghamshire County Council is organised into a single commissioning process and divided into two contracts: a North Nottinghamshire contract for services in Mansfield, Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and a South Nottinghamshire contract for services in Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe.
- 2) The new joint commissioning process for County Council and partnership funded domestic violence reduction services will take place over the next six months led by Nottinghamshire County Council.

**Councillor Mick Murphy**  
**Community Safety Portfolio Holder**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Ann Marie Hawkins, Group Manager, Localism & Partnerships (0115 9772460) or Rachel Adams, Community Safety Officer (Domestic Abuse) (0115 9772015)**

## **Constitutional Comments (SHB 13/10/11)**

10. Cabinet has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of the Delegation to Cabinet set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

## **Financial Comments (DD 17/10/11)**

11. As identified within this report, adequate budget provisions exist to fund this proposal. Any savings accruing from adoption of this proposal will be a future benefit to the authority.

## **Background Papers**

Equality Impact Assessment (on Domestic Violence Commissioning) July 2011,

Domestic Violence Services Joint Commissioning Consultation (Options Paper) July 2011,  
27 July Cabinet Report: Domestic Violence Commissioning,  
Summary of feedback from partners and service users October 2011  
Individual Agencies Responses File

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All Nottinghamshire Divisions.