

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE’S DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the ongoing approach to develop the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy, with additional chapters to be approved by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee and to approve the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy (Appendix A).

**Information**

**Statutory Context**

2. Domestic abuse is a complex and multifaceted problem affecting a wide range of people and requires comprehensive services and systems to tackle the issues effectively. The authority is driving strategic change through partnership and leadership delivering the strategic vision which is to make Nottinghamshire a place where survivors of domestic abuse receive the support they need to feel safe and rebuild their lives. Perpetrators are held to account for their actions by the police, criminal justice systems and wider services. Communities recognise and respond to domestic abuse early to prevent abuse from happening and support survivors and their families.
3. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 gives Nottinghamshire County Council, as a lead authority, statutory duties for commissioning Domestic Abuse support services for adults and children within safe accommodation. The Act has created a statutory definition of domestic abuse, established a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, and enhanced legal processes.
4. The duties are:
  - a. Lead authorities to convene a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to:
    - i. Assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support.

- ii. Develop and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
  - iii. Make commissioning / de-commissioning decisions.
  - iv. Meet the support needs of victims and their children.
  - v. Monitor and evaluate local delivery.
  - vi. Report back to Central Government.
- b. Lead authorities to have regard to statutory guidance in exercising these functions.
  - c. The Secretary of State to produce the statutory guidance.
  - d. Tier 2 district, borough and city councils and London Boroughs to co-operate with the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards.
5. It has also placed a statutory duty on local authorities in England to provide support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

### **Development of Domestic Abuse Support Services Strategy in Nottinghamshire**

6. The Domestic Abuse Support (Local Authority Strategies and Annual Reports) Regulations 2021<sup>1</sup> came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. These regulations state that ‘a relevant local authority must publish a section 57 [Domestic abuse] strategy before 5th January 2022.’ Prior to the publication of the Strategy ‘a relevant local authority must publish a draft of the strategy, at least 10 weeks before the date on which the authority intends to publish it.’
7. The Domestic Abuse Strategy provided in **Appendix A** outlines plans to improve the systemwide response to domestic abuse. The Strategy will be a live document with individual chapters being developed for each priority area. The strategy will be reviewed at least every three years in line with the regulations and to reflect best practice.
8. The strategic vision is to ensure *“Nottinghamshire is a place where survivors of domestic abuse receive the support they need to feel safe and rebuild their lives. Perpetrators are held to account for their actions by the police, criminal justice systems and wider services and communities recognise and respond to domestic abuse early to prevent abuse from happening and support survivors and their families”*.
9. The Strategy sets out Nottinghamshire County Council’s approach to tackling Domestic Abuse. Domestic abuse is a complex and multifaceted problem affecting a wide range of people across the population and requires comprehensive services and systems to tackle the issues effectively. To deliver the vision there are eight priority areas within the Domestic Abuse Strategy and a chapter will be developed for each:
- i. Safe Accommodation**
  - ii. Health**
  - iii. Community**
  - iv. Criminal Justice**
  - v. High risk survivors**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/990/regulation/3/made>

- vi. Children and Young people**
- vii. Prevention**
- viii. Perpetrators**

10. The first chapter of the strategy covers the priority area of 'safe accommodation' as detailed in the Commissioning Plan agreed by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 26 July 2021. Future commissioning decisions for each priority area will follow a similar process to the approach developed for the delivery of the domestic abuse duty and safe accommodation commissioning.
11. The Domestic Abuse Strategy was discussed at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 8 November and the Committee endorsed the strategic approach taken in Nottinghamshire and agreed for the Domestic Abuse Strategy to be submitted to the Policy Committee for approval.

### **Next Steps**

12. The next steps for improving the outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse in Nottinghamshire include;
  - Develop a domestic abuse communications plan to promote the services and developments across the County.
  - Nottinghamshire County Council will support 16 days of action to end violence against women and white ribbon day on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
  - Undertake an equality impact assessment on the Domestic Abuse Strategy.
  - Share the final Strategy with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 5 January 2022.

### **Other Options Considered**

13. An individual strategy for safe accommodation was considered, but rejected due to its narrow focus, which would not consider the complexity within the domestic abuse agenda.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

14. To fulfil the statutory requirements outlined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 in regard to the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Strategy
15. To enable the delivery of the recommendations from the needs assessment as required by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty,

safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Data Protection and Information Governance**

17. Services will be required to adhere to all data protection and governance processes.

### **Financial Implications**

18. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the delivering of the Local Partnership Board and commissioning required by the Domestic Abuse Duty has been approved and is funded by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) allocation and shared with Committee in July 2021.

### **Human Resources Implications**

19. No additional human resource implications.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

20. The duty requires the authority to consider the availability of safe accommodation for all people with protected characteristics, alongside district partners. This forms part of the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

21. There will be a requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment on the draft strategy.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

22. The needs of all domestic abuse survivors and their children will be aligned with wider safeguarding procedures.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1). To approve the ongoing approach to develop the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy, with additional chapters to be approved by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee
- 2). To approve the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy (Appendix A)

**Councillor Boyd Elliott**  
**Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee**  
**Nottinghamshire County Council**

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**Constitutional Comments (LW 08/11/2021)**

23. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

**Financial Comments (DG 08/11/2021)**

24. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

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.

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021 [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- [Commissioning Domestic Abuse Support Services](#)  
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (1 April 2019)
- [Funding for support to survivors of Domestic Abuse within safe accommodation](#)  
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (9 December 2019)
- [Consultation response and preparation for the Domestic Abuse duty](#)  
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (9 November 2020)
- [Improving Outcomes for Survivors of Domestic Abuse](#)  
Report to Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee (26 July 2021)

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

- All