



08 January 2012

Agenda Item: 9

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR,
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee of progress with Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) undertaken since March 2012.
2. To recommend a further £10,000 be allocated from the Community Safety Budget 2012-13 to support Domestic Homicide Reviews and a further £10,000 be allocated in the following year 2013-14.
3. To recommend that the re-commissioning timetable for Domestic Violence Awareness Training be revised to begin in April 2013, not October 2012 as previously agreed

Information and Advice

Domestic Homicide Reviews

4. Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), are complex multi-agency processes required by law since April 2011. DHRs cover homicides involving intimate partners and also those involving family members. They are designed to enable agencies to learn lessons for the future. Six DHRs have been started in Nottinghamshire since March 2011, involving a range of Safer Nottinghamshire Board partner agencies. There has been good engagement of partners in the DHR process, and where possible, changes to agency practice and partnership arrangements have been implemented as soon as possible after they are identified. The DHR process has been successful in highlighting existing good practice as well as the reason behind failure to protect victims in these cases.
5. The first four DHRs started in 2011 have now been completed, and the corresponding four draft Overview Reports have been sent to the Home Office for Quality Assurance. These reports, and accompanying action plans, will be published in an anonymised form in 2013, following the Home Office sign-off. A fifth DHR is well underway. The sixth DHR relates to a death in September and has only recently started.

6. Local guidance has been drafted to support the Home Office national guidance and clarify local procedures based on the experience gained. Agencies have been asked to comment on this draft by the end of January 2013. A final version of the guidance incorporating comments and suggestions will go the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in February 2013 for approval.
7. The Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) lead on the commissioning and organisation of DHRs in the locality where the deceased victim resided. Funding is required to cover the cost of DHR Panel Chairs and DHR Overview Report Authors and is shared between the partners involved. The previous budget allocation of £10,000 has been allocated to support the two outstanding DHRs leaving no contingency in the current budget if there are further reviews announced.

Multi-Agency Domestic Violence Awareness Training

8. At the 29th May 2012 Community Safety Committee, it was agreed that the multi-agency domestic violence awareness training, funded by Nottinghamshire County Council, would be re-commissioned in October 2012, offering an opportunity for new potential providers to come forward an express an interest in delivering this training. This timetable has not been achieved as a result of staff shortages and pressing commitments. The re-commissioning process has been started and will be completed in time for the new financial year starting April 1st 2013. In the meanwhile, the existing provider, Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum, will have their funding extended to March 31st to allow them to continue the delivery of training in the current year.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. When a Domestic Homicide Review is established it is necessary to ensure the process begins promptly. A contingency fund is required to enable the Community Safety Team to commit County Council funding, which together with other partner contributions, will ensure that this occurs.
10. Domestic Violence crime is increasing both locally and nationally. This is giving rise to concern within the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the County Council and a number of initiatives are being introduced to address the issue. It important that Multi-Agency Training to support this work is maintained to a consistent high standard, hence the need to ensure the re-commissioning process is given time to be conducted effectively.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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 above.

RECOMMENDATION/S

12. It is recommended that:
- (i) the Committee note this report and commit a further £10,000 from the Community Safety budget to provide funding to support Domestic Homicide Reviews in 2012/2013.
 - (ii) the Committee agree an allocation of £10,000 in the budget for 2013-14 for any further reviews in that year.
 - iii) the re-commissioning timetable for Domestic Violence Awareness Training be revised to begin in April 2013, not October 2012 as previously agreed.

Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

13. The Community Safety Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for the Council's statutory duties in relation to community safety.

Financial Comments

14. Adequate budget provision exists within the Community Safety budget to fund this initiative. (DD 20/12/12)

Background Papers Available for Inspection

15. 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.
16. DRAFT Safer Nottinghamshire Board Guidance for The Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews 2012

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

17. All Wards