

Agenda Item 6

Sefton Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

Date: Tuesday 14th December 2021

Title: Proposal to undertake Public Engagement and Consultation Activity –
Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Consultation

Report of: Janette Maxwell, Locality Team Manager, Communities

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive information with regard to the consultation plans being developed with regard to the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

2. Background

- 2.1 The main purpose of the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is to coordinate and ensure the quality of public engagement and consultation, in accordance with the standards for engagement and consultation.

3. Name of Issue you are Consulting On

- 3.1 Sefton Council has a statutory duty as part of the Domestic Abuse Act to complete a Needs Assessment on safe accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse which will then be used to inform the future commissioning of support services. Sefton Council, on behalf of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, has gone through an open procurement process to appoint consultants to carry out this work.
- 3.2 The Consultants, S2 Analytics, will complete the Needs Assessment through a systematic and collaborative process to identify the current needs of domestic abuse victims and their families in Sefton. This will include gathering information in relation to the statutory requirement of understanding the needs for safe accommodation as well as a wider gap analysis of broader domestic abuse services for victims, children and perpetrators. The process will be driven by data analysis, the views of stakeholders, the voice of survivors of domestic abuse and current service users, as well as local, regional and national learning and best practice.
- 3.3 The completed Needs Assessment will be returned to the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board for discussion and agreement on next steps on refreshing Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy early next year. The draft updated Strategy will also be consulted on publicly to make it clear how information collected through the Needs Assessment is being taken forward into action.

Agenda Item 6

4. The Consultation

4.1 The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment must be completed by February 2022 to ensure it can feed into the review and refresh of Sefton's Domestic Abuse Strategy within the timescales set out by the Government. An integral part of the process is to gather the opinions of professionals and the voice of domestic abuse survivors to ensure proposals are based on local evidence and need. This is being done in a variety of ways:

- Discussions with local specialist domestic abuse victim services Sefton Womens and Children's Aid (SWACA) and Sefton IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) team to provide their views on the work they do with survivors and gaps/issues they face.
- Structured group sessions with survivors to directly capture their views and opinions
- Practitioners and Community domestic abuse surveys.

4.2 Some of the consultation processes are already underway. This includes the discussions with specialist providers and structured sessions with survivors which have been facilitated with SWACA. The Consultation and Engagement Panel is being asked to consider and approve the questionnaires aimed separately at practitioners and at survivors of domestic abuse (community survey).

4.3 The surveys have been developed by S2 Analytics who have successfully completed similar needs assessment work in other local authority areas. One of the consultants has extensive knowledge of domestic abuse having worked in the field for many years, including working directly with survivors. The survey questions have been reviewed by SWACA and the IDVA team manager and also considered by Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to ensure they are appropriate and fit the local need of Sefton. Following approval, the surveys will be made available for completion via the Council's online Consultation Hub. The links will be shared with a wide range of partner agencies working across Sefton for sharing with their staff and clients and Sefton's Communications Team will help promote the community survey via social media channels. In addition to this, word versions of the surveys will also be shared with partner agencies so they can be printed off as hard copies if required. Professionals will also be advised they can assist clients with the completion of the surveys eg by reading and completing the questions on their behalf either in person or by phone/virtual conversations to help reduce barriers to participation.

Subject to approval by the Panel, the surveys will be launched at the end December/beginning of January 2022 and will be live until the end of January 2022.

Agenda Item 6

The surveys are provided as separate documents – please note the Privacy notification (provided in Annex A below) will be added to both surveys before publication.

5. Reporting and Publishing the Findings

- 5.1 The responses surveys will be reported back to the S2 Analytics Consultants and will be incorporated in the Needs Assessment findings and recommendations. The final Needs Assessment report will be presented to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board for consideration and approval.

6. Legal Department Comments

- 6.1 Sefton's Legal Department has considered the consultation plans contained in this report and has no comments to make.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is recommended to:
- a) Appraise the public engagement and consultation plan for the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Consultation.
 - b) Request that the officers return to the Panel to provide details of their feedback and evaluation resulting from the above consultation.

Agenda Item 6

Annex A

Privacy Notice – Domestic Abuse Surveys

(to be added to the end of the Practitioners and Community surveys)

We thank you for participating in this consultation and we value your contribution.

The categories of this information that we collect, process, hold and share include:

We are collecting personal identifiers as part of this survey which includes IP address, X and X. This is so we can ensure only one response is received per resident/visitor. Following validation of the data the IP addresses will be deleted.

Why we collect and use this information

The information you provide will help the Council with information about the services needed for survivors of domestic abuse.

Storing this information

Any personal information that you provide to the Council as part of this consultation will be handled and used in compliance with the principles of the UK General Data Protection Regulation. Regardless of whether it is electronic or on paper it will be stored and processed securely and deleted within 2 years.

The lawful basis upon which we use this data:

Article 6 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation

6(1)(e) – The processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

As part of the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), Sefton Council are completing a needs assessment to better understand the needs of domestic abuse survivors and their children to help inform the future commissioning of services in Sefton. This consultation survey is part of this work.

The Council also asks equality monitoring questions to help it comply with the Equality Act 2010 to help us understand who is responding to the survey and to help us ensure that there is equality of opportunity for protected groups of people.

Confidentiality of data:

Your contributions will be anonymised on receipt and your comments will then be used for research and consultation purposes. Your identity and contact details will not be published by us at any stage without your consent.

Who we share this information with:

Your personal data will not be shared with any external organisations. Analysis or reports arising from the consultation will contain anonymised data.

Your personal data is not transferred outside of the UK

Agenda Item 6

Requesting access to your personal data

You have the right, in certain circumstances to:

- Object to processing of personal data that is likely to cause, or is causing damage or distress
- Prevent processing for the purposes of direct marketing
- Object to decisions being taken by automated means
- In certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed; and

The right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority (the Information Commissioner's Office)

Withdraw consent for the processing where consent is the lawful basis

To make a request for your personal information or to exercise any of your rights as set out above, please complete the Individual's Rights Form found at the following link on our website or call 0345 140 0845

[Privacy policy \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/privacy-policy)

For more information about this Privacy Notice, please contact:

Janette.maxwell@sefton.gov.uk

The contact for this consultation is the Communities department

Janette.maxwell@sefton.gov.uk

Data Protection Officer

Sefton Council's Data Protection Officer can be contacted at:

E-mail: ino.information@sefton.gov.uk

Telephone: 0345 140 0845