

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 5 September 2023
	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills)		Tuesday 19 September 2023
	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services & Safeguarding)		Tuesday 26 September 2023
Subject:	Domestic Abuse Update		
Report of:	Assistant Director of People (Communities)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Communities & Housing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

The purpose of the report is to update Overview & Scrutiny Members on the Sefton's strategic approach to tackling domestic abuse.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Members note the content of the report

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

It is essential that elected members understand the work of the Domestic Abuse Board and how we are responding to the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act locally. This will provide assurance as well as provide information to enable sufficient challenge.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

There are no alternative options as Sefton's Domestic Abuse response and the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board are a statutory requirement.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The Council received £619,418 for 2023/24 to provide support to victims/survivors living in safe accommodation.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
None at this time	
Legal Implications:	
The work of the board and commissioning of Domestic Abuse services is a statutory responsibility of the Council	
Equality Implications:	
The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated as part of the strategy and action plan process	
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes	
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines Children as being victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right. The Strategy has a large focus on protecting children and supporting them to recover from the impacts of Domestic Abuse. Representatives from Childrens Services are an integral part of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Domestic Abuse survivors/victims and their children are some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. The work of the board will strive to ensure they have adequate support.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: We want to create communities where Domestic Abuse is not tolerated and viewed as abhorrent and that residents have confidence in Domestic Abuse support services and the support they need

Commission, broker and provide core services: It is the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to give effect to the Domestic Abuse Strategy by commissioning and decommissioning services for victims/survivors and their children.

Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable

Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable

Greater income for social investment: Not applicable

Cleaner Greener; Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7326/23.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5526/23.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2028

Appendix 2 – Domestic Abuse Action Plan 2023-2028

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 In September 2022 Members were provided with an update on the Domestic Abuse Act (introduced in April 2021), Sefton Council's statutory obligations within this, and Sefton's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. Since then, work has continued to refresh Sefton's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy and to develop an action plan to take the prioritise within this forward.

2. Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

2.1 Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board was established in September 2021. It meets on a bi monthly basis and is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- Sefton Council
- Merseyside Police
- Probation Service
- Sefton Women's and Children's Aid (SWACA)
- Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Partnership
- Liverpool University Foundation Trust (Aintree and Royal Hospitals)
- Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals (Southport and Ormskirk Hospital)
- Venus
- Sefton CVS
- RASA Merseyside
- One Vision Housing
- Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board
- Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner Merseyside
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

2.2 Utilising the outcomes of the Sefton Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and learning from Sefton Domestic Homicide Reviews, the Partnership Board has refreshed and updated the Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy. This was approved by the Partnership Board and adopted by Sefton Council in March 2023.

3. Sefton Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2028 and Action Plan

3.1 The strategy outlines 3 priority themes:

1. Prevent
2. Protect
3. Repair

Further to this, an action plan has been developed which includes the additional themes of Leadership and Governance and Children and Young People. The action plan will be taken forward by two sub groups of the Board:

1. Leadership and Governance and Prevent
2. Protect, Repair, and Children and Young People

The Strategy and Action Plan are provided as Appendices to this report.

4. Cross partnership collaboration

4.1 The impact of domestic abuse cuts across all agency services. To tackle it successfully we need to work in collaboration across departments, agencies and strategic Partnership Boards. Over the past year this has included

- Clear links and sharing of related activity between the Board and the Safer Sefton Together partnership on the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda)
- Continued development of links with the Sefton Safeguarding Adults Board and Sefton Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
- Continued participation in and contribution to Liverpool city region partnerships such as the Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence & Abuse Group, the Merseyside Strategic Sexual Violence Group, Community Safety Leads meetings around domestic abuse and suicide prevention, DHR learning workshops and multi agency domestic abuse perpetrator work. Information and activities are fed into the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board