

Report to Cabinet
12 December 2018
Report of Director of business services
Subject Scrutiny committee recommendations

Item

10

Purpose

To consider the recommendations from the scrutiny committee held on 22 November 2018.

Recommendation

To ask cabinet to consider the following recommendations in relation to domestic abuse:

- 1) commit to long-term funding arrangements when commissioning Domestic Abuse services;
- 2) continue to enable staff and members to spot potential signs of domestic abuse, including sharing lessons learnt from serious case and domestic homicide reviews with members;
- 3) liaise with the local Job Centre about equipping their staff to spot potential signs of domestic abuse, so that it can explore split payments within Universal Credit;
- 4) work with the county council to ensure that domestic abuse is factored in any work around locality development of early years provision in the light of proposed changes to children's centres; and
- 5) consider how gendered language and stereotypes can form part of a wider social context that may increase the likelihood of domestic abuse occurring.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet all the corporate priorities.

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - Resources

Contact officers

Anton Bull, director of business services

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Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. The council's scrutiny committee is constituted of councillors who do not sit on cabinet. They are expected to review/scrutinise and oversee decisions made by cabinet. They can 'call in', for reconsideration, decisions made by cabinet or an officer which have not yet been implemented. The main functions of scrutiny are to hold cabinet to account by examining their proposals; evaluating policies, performance and progress; ensuring consultations, where necessary, have been carried out; and highlighting areas for improvement.
2. The committee makes recommendations for cabinet, the wider council and other stakeholders based on evidence on the issues scrutinised at their meetings.
3. The following is a summary of the topics the committee has considered with the recommendations that were made accordingly.

22 November 2018

The committee considered the following reports:

- Scrutiny committee work programme 2018-19
- Council and partner responses to domestic abuse
- Call in: Community Infrastructure Levy Exceptional Circumstances Relief Policy

Council and partner responses to domestic abuse

4. The committee considered key information on domestic abuse and the work that council officers were progressing with partners to help tackle the issues in Norwich.
5. The committee heard from the early intervention and community safety manager, who welcomed Margaret Hill and Trudy Lock from Leeway and John Lee from Spurgeons part of the Norwich Connect project and explained that their organisations were the council's key partners in responding to domestic abuse.
6. The early intervention and community safety manager explained that Norwich Connect was part of a wider beacon project and digital offer, which would act as a "front door" to ensure that partners directed people to appropriate services at the county council and Leeway.
7. The committee heard that 25 per cent of reported incidents of domestic abuse made to the police in Norfolk were from Norwich.
8. The committee noted its concern that the closure of children's centres would reduce the opportunity to identify cases of domestic abuse.

9. Concern was also raised in relation to Universal Credit because payments were paid to one household member which could have an impact within controlling relationships.
10. Members discussed funding for voluntary service providers with both providers present noting short term one year funding impacted negatively on their ability to delivery services.

Recommendations

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- 5) consider how gendered language and stereotypes can form part of a wider social context that may increase the likelihood of domestic abuse occurring.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	12 December
Director / Head of service	Anton Bull
Report subject:	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations
Date assessed:	29 November 2018
Description:	A summary of scrutiny committee discussions and recommendations from 22 November 2018

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Issues