

Inquiry Day-key challenges in Domestic Abuse

Item: Domestic abuse

Lead member: Cllr Pauline Batstone **Lead Officers:** Sally Wernick/Claire Shiels

Suggested scoping proposal

Elected members of Dorset County Councils Safeguarding and Overview Committee are proposing to hold an inquiry day into the key challenges surrounding Domestic Abuse. A priority issue in the Dorset County Council Corporate Plan is to promote the kinds of communities where people can feel safe and can live independent, healthy lives.

The inquiry will seek to give members the opportunity to scrutinise and develop their understanding of the range of interventions that are delivered to reduce the risk and incidences of domestic abuse in Dorset.

Local authorities can tackle the public service costs and reduce the rate of domestic abuse in a variety of ways, they can do this in partnership with health, social care, the police and voluntary sector organisations, and by ensuring that frontline staff are sufficiently trained to recognise and respond.

The inquiry day will explore what collaborative action councils can take to reduce the risk of domestic abuse, what specialist domestic abuse support services are available and whether they are adequately resourced; as well as what work is undertaken with perpetrators to help prevent further incidences.

The scope will include an opportunity to hear evidence and testimony from a range of partner professionals and to consider how leadership at a local level aimed at positive and effective interventions can significantly mitigate harm

The aims of the day will be to:

- Understand Domestic Abuse
- Learn about strategic and operational partnerships
- What skills and tools are needed to support survivors
- How we can best engage with perpetrators
- Learn about findings from Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Commissioning of services
- Next steps and recommendations

Methodology

- Group work via an Inquiry Day
- Question and answer sessions
- Presentation of data
- Stakeholders and partners key lines of Inquiry
- Survivors

Some of those invited to attend will include the following, this is not a definitive list:

- Dorset Police
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- You First
- Waves
- Public Health
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Housing
- Education
- Partner/voluntary organisations within the third sector