

Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee made on 03/11/2020 concerning the Domestic Abuse Review Group report

Response provided by Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthy Oxford, Councillor Louise Upton

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council formally adopts the definition of ‘domestic abuse’ included within the Domestic Abuse Bill, and reviews its usage of the phrase ‘domestic violence’ in its policies and literature to ensure correct usage.		
2) That the Council requests from the County Council early monitoring data from the Family Solutions Plus domestic abuse perpetrator monitoring programme and includes that information within its six month review of progress made on agreed recommendations from this report.		
3) That the Council engages with Thames Valley Police and provides appropriate support for the development of a universal domestic abuse perpetrator programme.		
4) That the Council works with partners for the development of additional groupwork programmes for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and that these programmes be embedded within the broader multi-agency framework for managing domestic abuse.		

<p>5) That the Council reviews the recommendations and outcomes of the Barking and Dagenham Domestic Abuse Commission, and as part of the Review Group's six-month progress update reports on the steps it has taken to adopt and implement learning and actions from the Commission into the Council's own activity.</p>		
<p>6) That the Council works with strategic partners to review and, if necessary, strengthen the connection between existing lived-experience groups and the Council's services.</p>		
<p>7) That the Council trains the staff at its hubs to recognise domestic abuse and know how to respond, to know who to speak to in the event of a disclosure, and to be able to signpost appropriately to support services.</p>		
<p>8) That the Council makes available training and resources to Councillors to enable them to recognise domestic abuse and know how to respond, to know who to speak to in the event of a disclosure, and to be able to signpost appropriately to support services.</p>		
<p>9) That the Council continues to work with ODAS and the County Council to explore the suitability of its own current or future housing stock being recommissioned as a 'place of safety'.</p>		
<p>10) That the Council contacts the County Council with its concerns over the safety of vulnerable women from predatory behaviour by men at the</p>		

Bullington Road Young Mothers project.		
11) That the Council seeks that steps are taken to ensure that houses designated as 'places of safety' do not become well-known as such and a target for predatory behaviour.		
12) That the Council refreshes its allocations scheme to change references from 'domestic violence' to 'domestic abuse', and that when it is adopted as law, the definition of domestic abuse as included within the Domestic Abuse Bill be included as an 'exceptional circumstance' in relation to housing prioritisation.		
13) That the Council increases the priority for move-on accommodation of women who have been facing domestic abuse for as long as the availability of refuge provision remains historically further beyond supply.		
14) That in the absence of other mitigating factors, the Council will pursue a policy of seeking to remove a perpetrator from the home in situations where a perpetrator is adjudged to be a high risk to the victim.		
15) That the Council reviews the strength of the clause(s) regarding anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse in Council tenancies and provides a model paragraph for inclusion in tenancies let via housing associations/private landlords with the aim to make it easier to evict tenants who perpetrate domestic abuse.		

<p>16)That the Council seeks DAHA accreditation for its housing services.</p>		
<p>17)That the Council, once the work of its Domestic Abuse Specialist in mapping pathways and experiences of victims who engage with the Council's work is complete, engages closely with specialist domestic abuse support providers to improve the outcomes and experience of victims in their interaction with the Council.</p>		
<p>18)That the Council develops a clear domestic abuse pathway for managing housing of domestic abuse victims</p>		
<p>19)That the Council takes proactive steps to ensure appropriate cultural support is available to individuals moving out of Oxford.</p>		
<p>20)That the Council includes within its budget provision for the cost of the Sanctuary Scheme for the duration of the next Medium Term Financial Plan, rather than reconfirming its funding year on year.</p>		
<p>21)That the Council runs a mapping and awareness-raising exercise of the opportunities in Oxford for ESOL classes, aimed particularly at its community centres users and grant recipients.</p>		

<p>22)That the Council raises with the BAED Worlds Group, including the County Council representative, the existence of 14 previously trained community interpreters, with a view to investigating whether and how their services may be used to improve access for non-native English speakers to domestic-abuse related support.</p>		
<p>23)That the Leader writes to the minister at MCHLG to highlight the impact that the huge cuts to English languages classes have on domestic abuse victims.</p>		
<p>24)That the Council makes a public statement confirming that it will not share immigration status information with the Home Office when individuals come forward for support with domestic abuse, and that it takes steps to publicise this amongst relevant community groups locally.</p>		
<p>25)That the Council, in the development of networks to support homeless people with no recourse to public funds, ensures that the remit is extended to ensure the specific needs of those made homeless from fleeing domestic abuse are incorporated.</p>		
<p>26)That the Council contacts Manchester City Council to understand the overall cost of providing support for those with no recourse to public funds who are in destitution.</p>		
<p>27)That the Council investigates how Slough Borough Council offer support to those with no recourse to public funds.</p>		

<p>28) That the Council works with relevant local and national organisations to lobby government for an exemption to allow those experiencing domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds to access public support.</p>		
<p>29) That the Council investigates the legalities and cost of implementing a Flexible Funding scheme, with a view to one being established if practicable and legal.</p>		
<p>30) That the Council, as part of its upcoming grant funding review, increases the funding available to domestic abuse services, particularly around BAME access to support.</p>		
<p>31) That the Council is proactive in providing support to those organisations which provide domestic-abuse related activities but struggle to attract external funding to identify and successfully apply for external grant funding.</p>		
<p>32) That the Council continues to support grant funding to ‘by and for’ organisations, but that for domestic abuse-related applications it is mindful of the need to situate ‘by and for’ support within the wider overall framework for supporting domestic abuse victims.</p>		
<p>33) That the Council includes within its grant funding application forms a question along the lines of “Does this funding intend to support positive family relationships? If so, how?”</p>		
<p>34) That the Council identifies and requires levels of organisational awareness and capacity around domestic abuse prevention and support which is reasonable relative to the size of organisation,</p>		

size of grant sought and the purpose of the grant.		
35)That the Council includes in its guidance for grant applicants links to appropriate resources through which organisations may support positive family relationships.		
36)That the Council extends its definition of social value in procurement to include opportunities for companies to support positive family relationships.		
37)That the Council uses the existing draft domestic abuse policy as its template, to be updated, for its to-be-developed Domestic Abuse in the Workplace Policy.		
38)That the Council gives its to-be-adopted policy on domestic abuse a clearer title, such as 'Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy'		
39)That the Council includes a section within its domestic abuse policy to provide guidance to staff if, in the course of their job, they suspect or know that someone is a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse		
40)That the Council at its next review of its constitution gives consideration to the practicability of including an explicit expectation that Councillors will not perpetrate domestic abuse.		

<p>41)That the Council as shareholder of its wholly-owned companies implements domestic abuse policies in those companies</p>		
<p>42)That the Council, as part of its People Strategy, initiates a project to provide enhanced awareness, resources, and capability to recognise and support victims of domestic abuse, and engages with safeguarding and domestic abuse specialists to identify good practice and best resources.</p>		
<p>43)That the Council improves the detail of the support it provides staff facing domestic abuse on the staff intranet.</p>		
<p>44)That the Council reviews the adequacy of the internal training it provides for all staff, line managers and elected members on domestic abuse</p>		
<p>45)That the Council makes domestic abuse awareness and management training mandatory for all those in the Council with line-management responsibility.</p>		
<p>46)That the Council reviews its HR processes around sickness, lateness, time off and performance management to ensure they are capable of supporting staff involved in either side of domestic abuse.</p>		
<p>47)That the Council includes within domestic abuse awareness and management training for managers training on identifying the appropriate level of training required for the staff in their team</p>		

regarding domestic abuse.		
48)That Council training provided to staff and elected members on domestic abuse considers, at a level relevant to type of training, training which is sensitive to specific cultural contexts and working with a diverse range of communities, and culturally-specific issues which can increase vulnerability amongst specific minority community members.		

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