



## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

### **SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE**

#### **1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review**

- To review Northampton Borough Council's response in addressing issues around interpersonal violence (domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child exploitation), centring on domestic abuse

#### **2. Outcomes Required**

- To clearly identify existing domestic abuse services and partnerships covering Northampton
- To consider and assess the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations involved in addressing domestic violence including the Police.
- To identify any gaps in service provision in order to assess the adequacy for supporting victims of domestic abuse
- To make recommendations for future development of services
- To identify the underlying causes of domestic violence and preventative measures
- To identify the responsibilities of the Local Authority, for example strategic housing
- To identify funding mechanisms and how this could be used to alleviate the problem

#### **3. Information Required**

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Site visits (if applicable)

## 4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
  - Presentation to set the scene: To identify the prevalence of the problem locally
  - Relevant national and local background research papers
- Best practice external to Northampton
- Internal expert advisors:
  - Leader of the Council, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
  - Cabinet Member for Housing, NBC
  - Gateway Support Officer, Housing Solutions, NBC
  - Interim Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
  - Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Community Safety Team
- External expert advisors:
  - Head of Protecting Vulnerable Persons, Northamptonshire Police
  - Assistant Chief Executive, Women's Aid
  - Project Officer, Sunflower Centre
  - Chief Executive, Relate
  - Chief Officer, Nene Valley Christian Refuge (NVCR)
  - Chief Officer, Rape and Crisis
  - Representation from the Northampton Women's Forum
  - MPs for Northampton
- Site visit to the Domestic Abuse Refuge, the Sunflower Centre and the Corby Sunflower Centre
- Two members of the Scrutiny Panel to potentially observe a meeting of MARAC
- The Scrutiny Panel to attend relevant conferences on Domestic Abuse
- Examples of honour based abuse

## **5. Methods Used to Gather Information**

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-

➤ Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

## **6. Co-Options to the Review**

Police Officer with responsibility for the Sunflower Centre to be approached to be co-opted to this Scrutiny review.

## **7 Community Impact Screening Assessment**

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review

## **8 Evidence gathering Timetable**

May 2014 – March 2015

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • 19 May 2014     | - Scoping meeting       |
| • 21 July         | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 18 September    | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 23 October      | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 4 December      | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 22 January 2015 | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 5 March         | - Approval final report |

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

## **9. Responsible Officers**

Lead Officers            Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities  
Co-ordinator            Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

## **10. Resources and Budgets**

Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities, to provide internal advice.

## **11. Final report presented by:**

Completed by March 2015. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

## **12. Monitoring procedure:**

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2015/January 2016 )