

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ACTION PLAN: SCRUTINY PANEL Interpersonal Violence

Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel (Interpersonal Violence) completed in March 2015.

Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations

Report received by Cabinet	Response received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
July 2015	January 2016	13 June 2016	

Recommendation 1: In recognising the success of the information stand hosted by the Scrutiny Panel as part of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a similar event is held annually in the town centre in a location with a consulting room should attendees need advice and support.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by:	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Hold annual awareness raising event, with specialist support if required.	Community Safety NBC	Officer time	November 2015 and then ongoing on an annual basis	Completed - Event took place in One Stop Shop on 23/11/2015. Sunflower Centre now offer drop in service every Tuesday and Thursday in One Stop Shop. Awareness events will be held every year during

				Interpersonal Violence Week
Recommendation 2: Education Information Packs on domestic abuse preventative services are disseminated to BME Groups, schools, universities, faith groups and community groups in Northampton prior to Domestic Violence Awareness Raising Week 2015.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Link in with NCC to support dissemination of information to identified groups	NCC	Officer time. Budget for leaflets/packs may be required	March 2015	Completed - NBC representation on relevant IPV/Domestic Abuse meetings in place.
Recommendation 3: In recognising the good practice undertaken by Northampton Borough Council in funding domestic abuse services; Northampton Borough Council (NBC) should take this into consideration when allocating funding in future years and share best practice with other funding bodies.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Continue to encourage funding bids from domestic abuse agencies, taking into account external funding opportunities that	Partnerships & Communities Team, NBC	Officer time, Partnership Grant funding	September 2015 and ongoing	Completed – applications for domestic abuse projects continue to be received and where criteria is met are funded. Agencies are also encouraged to apply to the 'Small Grants' pot held by

may result in match funding to further broaden support.				Community Foundation
Recommendation 4: The countywide definition of vulnerable adults is adopted by Northampton Borough Council.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
NBC to sign up to Countywide strategy for Domestic Abuse	Community Safety, NBC	Officer time	January 2016	Completed – Countywide Domestic Abuse Strategy is now adopted and countywide definition is being followed.
Recommendation 5: The Cabinet Member with responsibility for education at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) is contacted and asked whether education, advice, information and support regarding healthy relationships and personal safety can be included in the school curriculum.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact to be made with NCC to clarify position	Community Safety, NBC	Officer time	December 2015	Completed – Included within PSHE programme for schools. Specific awareness raising sessions on healthy relationships and personal safety are being provided.
Recommendation 6: Public awareness of domestic abuse is increased and services that are available to tackle the issue and support victims:				

- Review and update contents of relevant pages of NBC website to ensure it is informative and ‘user friendly’
- Provide effective and updated publicity throughout the Borough via poster, leaflets and contact cards
- Support NADA awareness raising campaigns for the county
- Training for all Councillors on Interpersonal Violence is delivered and an information booklet or webpage is produced

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Increase awareness of domestic abuse and available support services for victims	Community Safety	Officer time	September 2015	Completed: Web pages have been reviewed and updated
		Officer time	September 2015	Publicity, awareness/information is led at countywide level and distributed throughout the borough
		Officer time	September 2015	NBC representative sits on NADA and supports and co-ordinates the delivery of campaigns and bi-annual conference
		Officer time & training budget, estimated £800	March 2016	Outstanding: Training has been arranged for June 2016. Web pages are available to

				Cllrs
Recommendation 7: NBC's Domestic Abuse Policy is revised and updated to reflect the new countywide Interpersonal Violence Strategy; which is currently out to consultation.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Review and update NBC Domestic abuse Policy	Housing & Wellbeing	Officer time	January 2016	Completed: Countywide Domestic Abuse Strategy has been adopted. NBC sit on the implementation group. NBC priority is to support and promote a Countywide approach.
Recommendation 8: The statistical data collected in respect of domestic abuse is reviewed to ensure that it is robust and meaningful. NBC considers the effectiveness of current data collection in relation to domestic abuse and encourages all relevant departments to review and contribute by the end of December 2015.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
All data sets to be reviewed and recommendations for future collection.	Community Safety Housing & Wellbeing	Officer time	September 2016	Ongoing. Data sets currently being reviewed in line with changes to police recording system.
Recommendation 9: It is established whether NBC has central funding to access interpreter services, to aid communication with victims whose first language is not English				
Action	Implementation/responsibility	Resources	Target date	Achievement/Completed

	by	required/available		
Establish if translation/interpretation services are available	Community Safety	Officer time and budget if not already in place	September 2015	Completed: Interpretation and translation services are already subscribed to through Communities & Partnerships and can be utilised by all NBC departments.
Recommendation 10: Due to the relocation of the Sunflower Centre, Northampton Borough Council provides them with accommodation in the One Stop Shop for drop in sessions.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Identify location in One Stop Shop for Sunflower Centre to undertake drop-in sessions	Community Safety / Customer Services	Interview room space	September 2015	Completed: Sunflower Centre has been allocated an interview room and hold drop-in sessions in One Stop Shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Recommendation 11: A central budget to support the Sanctuary Scheme and the target hardening for victim's properties is identified to enable victims to remain in their own home.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Finding agreement for Target Hardening and Sanctuaries to be established and embedded	Head of Housing & Wellbeing	Allocation on budget	March 2016	Completed: All Boroughs and Districts have agreed in principal to a Countywide funding arrangement that will require social landlords to meet the

				cost of Sanctuaries and target hardening in their properties, and the relevant Homelessness Team in each area to meet the cost of Sanctuaries and target hardening in the homes of private tenants and owner occupiers. NBC and NPH are delivering in line with this.
Recommendation 12: NBC develops a sustainable domestic abuse awareness raising training programme for Councillors, managers and all staff. This programme is also offered to neighbouring Local Authorities.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Link in with Countywide IPV training strand to develop training programme	Community Safety	Officer time and budget to cover delivery of training courses	September 2016	Ongoing: Countywide IPV Training strand is providing training to front line services across the county. Sessions for NBC Councillors are arranged for June 2016.
Recommendation 13: It is recommended that the conditions of Tenancy Agreements are fully explained to new and prospective tenants to ensure their understanding and compliance.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
New tenants receive full briefing on	Northampton Partnership Homes	Officer time & supporting policies	September 2015	Completed: Approach is victim centred and support is offered throughout

tenancy agreement				the process, including ensuring that tenants are resettled into their new home. On-going support is offered and welfare checks completed for at least the first 12 months of any new tenancy.
-------------------	--	--	--	---

Recommendation 14: Dual Tenancies are encouraged and staff trained to recognise the implications of cultural differences

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Review of policies and procedures to ensure treatment of vulnerable groups such as victims of ethnic minorities and domestic abuse is included.	Northampton Partnership Homes	Officer time & supporting policies/procedures	January 2016	Ongoing: NPH is reviewing its policies and procedures with regard to vulnerable groups which include victims of domestic abuse. A new domestic abuse and procedure has been completed and approved by EMT and operations committee. Key staff have been trained and full training across the business is going to also be completed. A vulnerable persons Policy has also been started and is due to be completed by July 2016

Recommendation 15: In recognising that when moving from a crisis and safe accommodation to a permanent address; women often have no furniture or equipment; a Transition Strategy is introduced. Information is provided detailing where household items can be obtained, for example Charity Link and Spencer Contact.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
--------	----------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------	-----------------------

Processes are in place to support victims during their transfer from crisis to permanent accommodation to ensure they have access to support services for furniture and equipment.	Northampton Partnership Homes	Officer time & contacts with support agencies	December 2015	Completed: At the sign up interview, an incoming tenant's situation is assessed and if needed a referral is made to Spencer Contact who will offer three items of furniture as a donation. All victims are supported by NPH, and resettlement is part of the support plan and necessary referrals are made to support agencies. If required, referrals are also made to Charity Link.
Recommendation 16: In recognising that new people to the area; and individuals with no recourse to public funds, are offered advice, support and given information.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Arrangements are put in place to ensure advice and support is provided.	Housing & Wellbeing	Officer time	September 2015	Completed: NBC's Housing and Wellbeing Service is actively encouraging and promoting an effective multi agency response to domestic abuse in the borough in order to ensure that people affected by domestic abuse are able to access the advice, support and information they need.
Recommendation 17 Housing Solutions, NBC, takes responsibility for reports of domestic abuse and ensure all staff are trained and able to				

respond.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Processes are put in place to ensure staff understand and are able to respond effectively to reports of domestic abuse	Housing & Wellbeing	Officer time, training budget	September 2015, then ongoing	NBC's Housing and Wellbeing Service takes all reports of domestic abuse seriously and a number of its housing advisers lead on domestic abuse issues. Specialist training has taken place over the past 2 years for frontline staff and further training is planned, for all Housing Options and Advice staff, to ensure that all staff are trained and able to respond.
Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation 18: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Included onto the O&S Monitoring Work Programme 2016/2017	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and Scrutiny Committee	n/a	Monitoring to take place on 13 June 2016	

--	--	--	--	--