

To: **Executive**
15 November 2022

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2022-24

Executive Director of People

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To endorse the Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24, approved by the Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Executive Group, be endorsed.

3 Reasons for recommendation(S)

- 3.1 To complete the implementation process of the new Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Not to implement a new Domestic Abuse Strategy for Bracknell Forest. This option is not recommended. The 2017-20 Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-20 has already lapsed. The DA Executive Group approved continuation of the 2017-20 strategy and action plan throughout the COVID-19 pandemic however now needs refreshing and updating. A shared strategic approach which provides clear priorities is crucial to ensure domestic abuse can be prevented and identified, that those affected and their children receive safe and timely support at the earliest opportunity and that perpetrators are held to account and supported to change their behaviour.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 Reducing Harm caused by Domestic Abuse is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership (see [Community safety partnership plan | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-safety-partnership-plan)).
- 5.2 Domestic abuse cannot be addressed fully by one single agency. The overall purpose of the strategy is to outline our wider partnership response to domestic abuse in Bracknell Forest.
- 5.3 The new strategy builds upon the former 2017-20 strategy. It has been developed alongside the [Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24](#) which was published in December 2021.
- 5.4 The strategy is accompanied by a work plan which will be updated regularly to reflect the work being done across the partnership which supports improvement and development of our domestic abuse services in Bracknell Forest.

- 5.5 The strategy includes strategic priorities developed with partner agencies, updated national and local context and clear governance arrangements to ensure delivery of the strategy.
- 5.6 There are four priorities which will inform key areas of work: prevention and early intervention; provision of services, enforcement and management of perpetrators, working in partnership.
- 5.7 Accountability for delivery of this strategy sits with the Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Executive Group which is a statutory sub-group of the Community Safety Partnership. The group provides strategic oversight of the multi-agency responses to domestic abuse across the borough and brings together managers from key agencies with a responsibility for domestic abuse.
- 5.8 The strategy is supported by a work plan which will be updated quarterly and be reviewed and monitored by the Domestic Abuse Executive Group.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 6.1 There are no legal implications to adopting the strategy.

Financial Advice

- 6.2 There are no financial implications to adopting the strategy.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 Domestic Executive (statutory partnership) meeting on 24 May 2022 and Community Safety Partnership (statutory partnership) Steering Group meeting on 27 July 2022

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 An Initial Equalities Screening Record has been completed. This identified that a Full Equality Impact assessment was not required.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 None identified.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.6 None identified.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.7 Domestic abuse has an impact on individuals health and well-being and that of children. There are direct and immediate physical effects of injuries such as broken bones, cuts, bruises, miscarriage and complications during pregnancy, as well as long-term effects and chronic health problems. Domestic abuse also has an effect on mental health and may lead to increased use of alcohol, drugs and other substances. Domestic Abuse is referenced in the [Bracknell Forest Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26](#).

Background Papers

Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24
Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Work Plan 2022-24

Contact for further information

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