

**REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES**

**1 SUMMARY**

This report seeks approval from the West Area Committee for funding to be made available to establish a Domestic Violence pilot jointly managed by the Nottinghamshire Constabulary's Local Area Commander (LAC) and the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA). The purpose is to support survivors and drive down repeat reports of domestic violence leading to a reduction in violent crime in the local area.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that West Area Committee agree a one off allocation of £1,667 from each of the Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley uncommitted balances towards the cost of the pilot, totalling £5,000.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Domestic Violence offences account for a significant proportion of violent crime in the West Area. For example, in Broxtowe violent crime represents 12% of all crimes reported. 25% - 35% of these will be repeat calls to the police.
- 3.2 The Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP), Adult Services, Police and Neighbourhood Management have discussed ways of improving the services provided to members of the West Area Community who suffer from violence within their own home and to improve the management of offenders.
- 3.3 Nottingham has with the support of the Home Office adopted a 'co-ordinated community response' model to domestic violence. This model includes risk assessing all crimes of domestic violence by the police to enable the police and other agencies to concentrate resources on the highest risk families. The highest risk families are usually the ones who contact agencies most regularly. The aim of the focus on these families is to reduce repeat reporting. A reduction in repeat call outs improves safety and reduces resources required. Home Office research shows that an 'average' domestic violence case costs £14,000. Nottingham agencies are spending approximately £2 million on the highest risk survivors (500 victims a year). This group of very high risk

survivors are referred by the Police Domestic Support Abuse Unit to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and managed by the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) team of four staff. There are approximately 10,000 reports of domestic violence across Nottingham a year.

- 3.4 The Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) is a key component of the 'co-ordinated community response'. This role enables the Police who currently spend some time supporting survivors of domestic violence, to focus their attention on the perpetrator. The Family Support Worker would model some aspects of the IDVA role enabling the local police to concentrate on the offenders.
- 3.5 The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has been developed through the Home Office scheme with the support of the Police Domestic Abuse Support Unit (DASU) and the IDVA team in Nottingham to focus on the very highest risk cases across the city. However, a number of high risk cases are referred back to each Local Area Commander to manage as there is a high level of reporting in Aspley. DCI Paul Murphy currently chairs the MARAC and manages the Police DASU.
- 3.6 Aspley piloted the Vulnerable Persons Panel to help manage domestic violence cases, amongst others, and this has been recognised as best practice and will be rolled out throughout the city. The Vulnerable Persons Panel (VPP) reflects the multi agency task focus of the MARAC. Whilst the MARAC has an advocate for the survivor, the VPP, at present does not. An advocate would enable the police to concentrate on the perpetrator and more effectively manage their behaviour.
- 3.7 Children Services have suggested that a family support worker may be appropriate to the advocacy role, with support from the city IDVA team. The Local Area Commander and the IDVA requires a local worker as the IDVA team alone cannot manage the levels of domestic violence across the city.
- 3.8 National research has shown that repeat offences where an IDVA and a multi agency panel are involved (such as MARAC or VPP) can reduce domestic violence by 40%. Nottingham has some of the highest levels of reporting of domestic violence in the UK (although no more domestic violence than other areas, the high levels of reporting reflect the confidence the community has in the local police). Certain areas in Nottingham are being referred, due to the increased number of high risk families presently managed by the Police. Nottingham is leading the way in developing the management of this issue.
- 3.9 The Family Support Worker (FSW) will be supported and managed by the Women's Aid Advice Centre. The post holder will attend the Vulnerable Persons Panel (partnership tasking) and liaise with the Beat Managers who currently oversee the high and medium risk Domestic Violence cases.

#### **4 PROPOSALS**

It is proposed that members agree to the request made in section 2 of this report.

## **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The £5,000 contribution can be met by charging an equal amount of £1,667 to each of the Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley Wards uncommitted balances. The total uncommitted balance for the West Area, not including the effect of other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda, stands currently as follows:-

Aspley Ward	£10,396
Bilborough Ward	£14,514
Leen Valley Ward	£21,964
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>£46,874</u></b>

## **6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

The support offered by the Family Support Worker (FSW) will benefit individuals from deprived backgrounds and thus reduce the impact of Domestic Violence on the health of victims.

## **8 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The funding required establishing this pilot is for six months. It is the intention of all partners to use this opportunity to demonstrate that a project of this nature can be successful in addressing the impact of Domestic Violence within communities in the West Area. Currently resources are not available from other sources and therefore without the Area Committees support the pilot cannot be initiated. Agencies involved in West Area will need to consider mainstreaming options, should the pilot prove successful. The Police are establishing baselines from which to measure the success of the project at the moment. The key will be the reduction in repeat reports of cases which have been to the VPP. This is a cost benefit, as a reduction in repeats will reduce level of resources taken up on attending repeat domestic violence crimes.

## **9 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

This report will support the City Councils corporate priorities of:-

- People feeling safe in their communities
- Respect for Nottingham
- Supporting Nottingham people
- Serving Nottingham better

## **10 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS**

This project will have a direct impact on reducing the effects of Domestic Violence on victims, reducing violent crime and meeting the Local Area Agreement stretch target to increase sanction detections for domestic violence.

**11 VALUE FOR MONEY**

The six month pilot will work in partnership with several agencies contributing considerable resources to support the FSW (in full). See section 3.3 regarding cost of each domestic violence incident to the police and other statutory agencies. If the VPP manages 120 cases over six months (20 cases a month) and 40% of these result in a reduction in repeats statutory agencies will have saved £14,000 x 48 = £672,000. If the West Area contribute £5,000 there will be a cost saving of £667,000.

**12 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**

None

**13 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None

**LIANNE TAYLOR  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Isabella Street  
Nottingham NG1 6AT  
Tel: 0115 91558615  
Email: [lianne.taylor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:lianne.taylor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Contact Officers:-

Asif Mohammed  
Acting Neighbourhood Manager  
Tel: 0115 9157656  
[asif.mohammed@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:asif.mohammed@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Linda McCarthy  
Local Area Commander  
Tel: 0115 9670999  
[Linda.mccarthy@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Linda.mccarthy@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)