

Scrutiny Committee – Review Topic Submission Form

Councillor Name and other Councillors supporting submission	Councillor Maggie Hulcoop
Review Topic	Domestic Abuse During Covid-19 Lockdown
Links to the Council's priorities	Wellbeing and Social Inclusion
What priority level is this item?	High
Terms of reference (to include the scope of the review)	<p>Identifying the prevalence of domestic abuse in Harlow</p> <p>Identifying any increase in domestic abuse following lockdown</p> <p>Identifying any barriers to victims of domestic abuse in seeking help</p> <p>Identifying the short, medium and long term support available to victims of domestic abuse</p> <p>Understanding the challenges for refuges and other support organisations</p> <p>Understanding the level of support available to support the rehabilitation of perpetrators</p> <p>Establish whether the number of refuges and other support organisations is sufficient in Harlow</p> <p>Identify what actions the Council can take to support relevant organisations in carrying out their work</p>
Purpose and objective of the review	<p>To establish the extent of domestic abuse in Harlow during lockdown</p> <p>To identify what support, including financial support, the Council can provide</p> <p>To enable organisations to seek any national Government support</p> <p>To help address any shortfall in provision of refuge services</p> <p>To address long term issues of support for victims, especially regarding housing</p>

Methodology/approach (methods to be used for gathering evidence)	<p>Statistical information related to domestic abuse</p> <p>Question and answer with Essex Police and Community Safety</p> <p>Question and answer with Safer Places</p> <p>Written evidence/question and answer with other support organisations</p>
Written evidence required	<p>Relevant legislation</p> <p>Statistical information related to domestic abuse</p> <p>Responses from Essex Police, Community Safety and support organisations</p>
Potential witnesses	<p>Essex Police</p> <p>Community Safety</p> <p>Safer Places</p> <p>Refuge</p> <p>Solace</p> <p>Respect – The Men’s Advice Line</p>
Potential Stakeholder involvement (who are the stakeholders and how will their views be sought)	<p>Essex Police – via written information and question and answer</p> <p>Community Safety – via written information and question and answer</p> <p>Safer Places – via written information and question and answer</p> <p>Refuge – via written information and question and answer</p> <p>Solace – via written information and question and answer</p> <p>Respect – The Men’s Advice Line – via written information and question and answer</p> <p>Victims of domestic abuse – via support organisations</p>
Site visits (where and when)	N/A
Publicity (methods to be used)	Dialogue with relevant organisations
Resources (people, expenditure)	Council staff – time to engage with organisations and gather information

Barriers/dangers/risks (any weaknesses or potential pitfalls in the review)	Lack of engagement from stakeholders Lack of Officer resource
Measures of success	Increased provision of support mechanisms, including refuges, in Harlow Increased provision of housing to provide long term support for victims of domestic abuse Greater financial support on a local and national level to aid support organisations and refuges