

Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Harassment



Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 12 September 2023

Lead Officer: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services
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Recommended that:

A The Committee considers the recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet.

Background

1. At its meeting on 11 July, the Scrutiny Committee held a question and answer session with Essex Police and the Safer Harlow Partnership.
2. It was agreed that Councillors would consider the recommendations they wished the Committee to make.

Issues/Proposals

3. This report is being brought to this meeting to enable the Committee to formalise any recommendations it wishes to make to the Cabinet.
4. Recommendations suggested by Councillors via email are:
 - a) The Council seeking to take proactive steps to tackle the 'hot spots' the Police identified for on-street harassment, and consideration be given to putting these locations in the public domain;
 - b) Developing additional 'softer' measures to chart progress in tackling domestic violence (i.e., in addition to conviction rates); and
 - c) Formalising agreements between relevant local authorities in supporting those who have escaped domestic violence to return to their home authority, where this is considered appropriate.

Implications

Equalities and Diversity

Unknown at this stage. An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed after the Committee determines its recommendations to Cabinet.

Climate Change

None at this stage.

Finance

There are no direct financial implications at this stage, targeted work will be dealt with using existing resources wherever possible.

Author: Simon Freeman, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance

Governance and Corporate Services

Any agreed recommendations will be forwarded to Cabinet with the original report.

Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services

Housing

We are very supportive of this initiative and are keen to embed a closer working relationship with the police and other agencies to help inform our policies and support for residents.

Author: Neil Euesden, Interim Director of Housing

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.