
COUNCIL WIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor Stephen Harker, Education Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) - Geoff Pennington, Director of Education

Purpose of Report

1. To report the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee's recommendation to adopt the Council wide Domestic Violence Policy as a joint policy between the Council and Darlington PCT.

Information and Analysis

2. Pursuant to Minute C134/Nov/02 and following the recommendation of the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee that the first Council-wide Domestic Violence Policy be adopted, Cabinet accepted the Policy, in principle, subject to further work and refinement.
3. Following this, the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee has received six monthly updates on the progress made in implementing the policy, and at its meeting on 6th July, 2004 learned that Darlington Primary Care Trust (PCT) is seeking to develop a Domestic Violence Policy with the support of the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator.
4. Darlington PCT considers this Council's policy to be an example of excellence and have requested that consideration be given to the policy being joint between Darlington Borough Council and Darlington PCT.
5. The Scrutiny Committee welcomed the idea of a joint policy and as the Council and the PCT are two of the largest employers in the town, felt that a single policy would send out both a strong and positive message in tackling the problems of domestic violence.

Outcome of Consultation

6. No formal consultation was undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

9. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

10. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Recommendation

11. That Cabinet endorse Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee's recommendation that previously agreed Domestic Violence Policy be adopted as a joint policy with Darlington Primary Care Trust.

Reasons

12. The Council policy is an example of good practice and its adoption by the PCT will send a strong and positive message to the community of the importance of tackling issues of domestic violence.

Geoff Pennington
Director of Education

Background Papers

Council-Wide Domestic Violence Policy – Progress Report – Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee – 6th July, 2004

Caroline Thomas : Extension 2365
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