

## **Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 June 2018**

Domestic abuse – Update on Task Group Report submitted to the Cabinet on 22 March 2017

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1. Wyre Council representatives along with other Local Authorities, Police and Crime Commissioner office and Victim Support the commissioned service, are invited to quarterly meetings. The Meeting enables the commissioned service to provide information as to what work they have done in each area. During the course of the meeting Local Authorities do get the opportunity to ask questions. Prior to Victim Support being commissioned there was no opportunity for Local Authorities to see what work was being undertaken on their behalf in this area of work and this represents a significant improvement. I like to think that the recommendations included in the initial task and finish group report influenced the setting up of this meeting.
2. Representatives from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office will be able to provide a briefing to Councillors on the subject on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 prior to the full Council meeting. Talks are also in discussion with the White Ribbon Campaign team to see if they can attend at the same time. The aim will be to make it a White Ribbon pledging event where Cllrs can sign up to the campaign and at the same time Wyre Council will issue a press release explaining what the councillors are signing up to and asking members of the public to pledge support.
3. Wyre Council were a partner of a Lancashire County Council led bid to become the first County in England to be accredited to the white ribbon campaign. Wyre Officers and Councillors including the portfolio holder attended a White Ribbon Ambassador training session in December 2017 promoting the campaign, and this was widely reported in the press at that time. It is hoped we can make the Cllr briefing on the 6<sup>th</sup> September will not only provide training to our councillors, it will provide an opportunity to once again raise the profile of the White Ribbon campaign, making it a pledging event through social media and press channels. In addition the Chief executive, The Director of Health & Wellbeing, The Head of Environmental Health & Community Safety and a further Environmental Health Officer have signed up to be ambassadors for the White Ribbon campaign here in Wyre.
4. Cllr Barry Birch and Cllr Christine Smith have agreed to be Domestic violence champions, and Cllr Barry Birch has also attended the Lancashire White Ribbon Ambassador training session.
5. Cllr Roger Berry the portfolio holder for Community Safety represents the Council at the Police and Crime Panel. Cllr Roger Berry or I attend the quarterly meetings with the commissioned service and this year an annual statistical report has been produced for the work undertaken by the Commissioned service. This report is provided as appendix A.

### **Key Points**

- 873 cases were referred to Victim Support of these 84% of cases were reported by Lancashire Police, and victim support will have to address the issue why so few victims self-refer themselves into the service.
- 31% of the cases i.e. 271 cases referred to the service were rejected 41% of these were rejected because consent to contact was not granted.
- 78% of the cases referred into the service were contacted within 48 hours.
- Injury is still the biggest crime reported representing 60% of cases
- Of the total number of victims referred into the service 35% engaged with the service i.e. 212 cases, of these 73 were provided with immediate support and 139 were provided with ongoing support. Victim Support will also have to address why only 35% engage with the service.
- In Wyre 77% of the cases reported, are white British.
- In Wyre the 28% of the cases reported were in the age group 25 to 34 and a further 28% were in the age group 35 to 44.
- When reviewing by service user characteristic by far the biggest category is the repeat victim category.

### **Conclusions**

Domestic abuse continues to be a problem in the Wyre area, and many of the cases are repeat victims. There is now considerable more engagement with District Local Authorities and there is a definite drive to raise awareness of this important issue. The White Ribbon campaign continues to be relevant as we seek to influence the behaviours of perpetrators by continuing to report the message that Domestic Abuse is not acceptable under any circumstances.

Whilst much work still needs to be done there is commitment from Wyre and our partners to continue to raise awareness of this important issue.