



ARTICLE NO: 1C

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

MEMBERS UPDATE 2010/11

Article of: Executive Manager Community Services

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Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Greenall

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SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

1.1 To provide Members with the Annual Report from the Council's Domestic Violence Coordinator for the year 2009/10

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Domestic Violence Coordinator post was established on the 1st December 2006, and is jointly funded by Central Lancashire NHS and the Borough Council. The post is part time and the post holder is contracted to work 20 hours per week.
- 2.2 The original remit of the post was to develop a West Lancashire DV Strategy and to co-ordinate a multi agency approach to tackle domestic violence. The strategy was published in 2007. Since this time the post holder has worked towards ensuring the targets of the strategy have been met.
- 2.3 In addition, as detailed in the annual report which can be found at Appendix A, there were two overarching targets from the NHS themselves.
- 2.4 The annual report has already been received and approved by the NHS, however, it is important that Members are also aware of this report to raise awareness of the work done in this highly significant area of work.

3.0 WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

3.1 The Government/Home Office definition of Domestic Violence is “Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality”. It is therefore about different types of controlling behaviour and can ultimately result in serious assault or even murder.

4.0 HOW MUCH OF AN ISSUE IS IT IN WEST LANCASHIRE?

4.1 It has been estimated that there were 3,306 victims of Domestic Violence in West Lancashire in the year 2009/10, however, due to under reporting, the true figure is not known. During this year, the number of enquiries made to the helpline of the West Lancs. DV Support Service was 3314. The Police received 1140 reports of DV incidents. Even this snapshot of figures demonstrates that DV is a major issue for many families in West Lancashire and is an issue for all communities and agencies.

5.0 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS/OUTCOMES

5.1 In order to assist in the achievement of the targets, numerous initiatives have taken place throughout the year 2009/10. There have been specific initiatives organised to raise awareness and to help reduce incidents or increase reporting. Further details are included in the report itself contained at Appendix A.

5.2 Due to the causal link between alcohol and domestic violence a campaign was organised and run at Christmas. In addition, much of the preparatory work for a World Cup campaign was done in the year in question.

5.3 There have been numerous training sessions run for the NHS, Council staff and the drug and alcohol service (amongst others). These training sessions raise awareness of the issue and ensure relevant individuals are aware of how to report potential problems. Another part of the awareness raising took place at Edge Hill University during “Fresher’s Week”.

5.4 The Co-ordinator has also been working on a Domestic Violence policy for the Council and the accompanying guidance for managers. A review of the DV Strategy was also commenced.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Co-ordinator post is a mainstream post and half of the monies are received from the Central Lancashire NHS. This amounts to £6,500. Special initiatives have benefited in the past from funding approved by the Local Priorities Group of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Background Documents

The following background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Appendix A - Annual Progress Report of the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator 2009/10