

Reducing Domestic Abuse and Preventing People from Becoming Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse in Southampton

Terms of Reference and Draft Inquiry Plan

1. Scrutiny Panel Membership:

- a) Councillor
- b) Councillor
- c) Councillor
- d) Councillor
- e) Councillor
- f) Councillor
- g) Councillor

2. Purpose:

To consider what more may be done in Southampton to reduce domestic abuse with a focus on preventing people from abusing their intimate partner.

3. Background:

- Southampton has high levels of reported domestic abuse.
- The percentage of violent crimes that are domestic related was 29.8% in 2016/17.
- 1,065 children and young people are identified as living in violent homes in the city where a parent is a victim of high risk DSA (Domestic and Sexual Abuse).
- A 2015 focus group with frontline workers and survivors of DSA in Southampton showed that inter-generational DSA is high i.e. that domestic abuse can cluster throughout successive generations of a family.

4. Objectives:

- a) To develop understanding from a national and local level of domestic abuse, patterns of offending, and risk factors associated with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- b) To consider the prevalence of perpetrating domestic abuse in Southampton; the services that are currently available across the life course in Southampton to reduce the likelihood of people becoming perpetrators of domestic abuse; the effectiveness of the services and gaps in provision.
- c) To identify what is being done elsewhere in preventing people from being perpetrators of domestic abuse and identify if these principals or initiatives could be introduced in Southampton.

5. Methodology:

- a) Undertake desktop research.
- b) Seek stakeholder views.
- c) Identify best practice.

d) Seek views of experts.

6. Proposed Timetable:

Four meetings between January 2019 and April 2019.

7. Draft Inquiry Plan (Subject to the availability of speakers)

Meeting 1: 31 January 2019

- Introduce, Context, Background
 - Definition of domestic abuse, including the scope of this scrutiny inquiry as focussing on abuse between intimate partners;
 - Description of perpetrators of domestic abuse nationally and in Southampton;
 - What we already know about risk factors and patterns of domestic abuse between intimate partners.

To be invited:

- To be confirmed

Meeting 2: 21 February 2019

- The local Southampton Policy framework and services designed to reduce the likelihood of people becoming perpetrators of domestic abuse.
 - What are the local intervention services across the life course – What works, what does not, where are the gaps?

To be invited:

- To be confirmed

Meeting 3: 7 March 2019

- Innovation and best practice – What can Southampton learn from other cities and programmes? Can we replicate or adopt these practises in Southampton? What else do we need to find out?
 - Literature review

To be invited:

- To be confirmed

Meeting 4: 18 April 2019

- Panel to agree a final report