

Leicester  
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED ALL WARDS

Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny  
Cabinet

28<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007

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**Leicester Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy 2007/09**

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**Report of the Corporate Director of Adults and Housing Department**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides information on the first Domestic Violence Interagency strategy in Leicester and seeks comments and commitment to assist the delivery of the strategy.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 A number of agencies work to reduce domestic violence through prevention, support and protection in Leicester. These include Police, Courts, Hospitals, Housing providers, Teachers, Midwives, GP's, Victims Support, Probation Service, Social Workers and Specialist Domestic Violence Support Agencies.
- 2.2 Leicester City Council is one of the key partners working with the Leicester Domestic Violence Forum Partnership (LDVFP) to plan and develop services for anyone who has, or may be, affected by domestic violence in Leicester and the surrounding areas. Since the introduction of a new BVPI around domestic violence from April 2005, it is clear that the Government wants local authorities to take more strategic responsibility for domestic violence jointly with the local Domestic Violence Forum and to adopt a multi-agency strategy.
- 2.3 The first Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy 2007/09 sets out the vision for domestic violence service provision in Leicester. The vision takes account of national best practice guidance contained in the Safety and Justice Green Paper and the National Domestic Violence Plan.

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee is requested to:-
- provide comments on the Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy
  - note that a city council action plan is produced which sets out the councils contribution and commitment to deliver the strategy.
- 3.2 Cabinet is asked to endorse the Leicester Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy 2007/09

**4. Headline Financial and legal Implications**

***Financial Implications***

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to brief Members on the key points of the proposed Strategy. The funding streams needed to resource some of the new developments are not yet identified, and therefore aspects of the Strategy could not currently be progressed. It will also be important to ensure that appropriate Council procedures are followed in accessing funds to further this work, and that no activity is commenced until the funding is identified.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance Adult and Community Services, x8800

***Legal Implications***

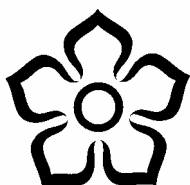
- 4.2 Legal implications are covered in the report  
Peter Nicholls

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DECISION STATUS

<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Reason</b>	N/A
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	N/A
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



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## Leicester Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy 2007/09

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### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### 1. Leicester Domestic Violence Forum Partnership

- 1.1 The Leicester Domestic Violence Forum Partnership (LDVFP) provides an organisational lead and strategic approach to responding to domestic violence in the city. The LDVFP has a strategic group, steering group and a number of specific specialist sub-groups. The LDVFP feeds into the Safer Leicester Partnership that leads on the "Safer" block of "The Strategy for Leicester" which is co-ordinated and performance managed by the Leicester Strategic Partnership. The City Council is represented well at the different levels of the domestic violence structure.
- 1.2 To ensure that activities of the LDVFP are communicated to other key service areas the council also have an Internal City Council Domestic Violence Project Team. The purpose of the project team is to assist the co-ordination of domestic violence within the council, look at cross-cutting departmental issues, co-ordinate how the council contributes to the LDVFP objectives and progress on meeting all areas of the BVPI 225.
- 1.3 BVPI 225 is a new indicator, which was given to local authorities from April 2005. The indicator covers eleven different areas of local service provision around domestic violence and cuts across different departments and multi-agency work. This indicator will form part of the CPA indicators from April this year. A list of the eleven areas listed in the BVPI is shown in Appendix A, adopting and agreeing a multi-agency strategy is one of the areas.

#### 2. Contents of the Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Strategy

- 2.1 The strategy (Appendix B) provides a detailed understanding of what domestic violence is and who is affected by it. The definition of domestic violence used by the forum is listed below that is similar to the definition used by the Council.

"Domestic violence involves the misuse of power and is based on a range of control mechanisms which include: physical, sexual, psychological, social or economic abuse or neglect of an individual by a partner, ex-partner, carer or one or more family member, in an existing or previous domestic relationship. This is regardless of age, gender,

sexual orientation, religious, cultural or political beliefs, ethnicity, disability, HIV status, class or location”.

2.2 Domestic violence is a cross cutting issue for departments and organisations. Currently domestic violence has a place within a number of strategies and plans in the Council, for example: Children and Young Peoples’ Plan, Safeguarding Adults, Community Safety Strategy, Homelessness Strategy, Supporting People Strategy, Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Youth Offending Plan. Responding effectively to domestic violence has a positive outcome for everyone.

2.3 In Leicester during 2005/06 there were 6208 domestic violence incidents reported by victims to the Police, this equals on average of 517 victims a month, 17 victims a day. These are only the cases which are reported, according to the BCS(British Crime Survey) only 35% of actual domestic violence is reported to the police. Within the Council we know that in Leicester :-

- The number of children on the child protection register at the end of March 06 was 288. This represents a percentage figure of 42.3 children per 10,000 under 18 years and is above the family average for similar authorities of 30.4 per 10,000.
- 40% of young offenders who have committed a violent offence had previously witnessed violence in a family context. If only female young offenders are considered, 100% have previously witnessed violence in a family context (6 month sample).
- Domestic violence continues to be a significant factor for homelessness, with nearly 20% of acceptances being due to domestic violence.
- 27% of safeguarding adult referrals involved abuse from a family member (Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland).
- An average of 16% of referrals to the Children and Young People’s Duty and Assessment Service were related to domestic violence

2.4 The strategy aims is to reduce domestic violence through working together to **prevent** domestic violence, and to provide **support** and **protection** to anyone who has been, or may be, affected by domestic violence.

- a) The protection strand is about responding to high risk cases of domestic violence, preventing revictimisation through work with victim and perpetrator, sharing information across agencies to ensure that the risk is adequately assessed and to work in partnership to reduce and manage the risk.
- b) The support element concentrates on medium risk domestic incident, support for those who have experienced domestic violence either as a adult or children and to limit the potential harmful impact. Support can include accommodation options and assistance, support to victims who want to stay in their own home, financial support due to their immigration status.

- c) The prevention aspect focuses on culture change around domestic violence and preventing domestic violence from happening in the first place. Working with young people towards positive and healthy relationships is key to this area, general raising awareness via campaign work, and training for professionals to recognise domestic violence, and providing information to victims on how they can access support and preventing offenders from re-offending.

2.5 The strategy has identified areas where improvement needs to be made for each of the three themes. The table below is from the strategy, a definition of the current performance can be found on page 38 of the draft strategy.

	<b>Strategic Objective</b>	<b>Current Performance</b>
<b>P R E V E N T I O N</b>	Children and young people to receive education related to domestic violence and healthy relationships.	Working towards
	Children, young people and adults affected by domestic violence are identified and receive appropriate interventions.	Working towards
	Adults to have a basic understanding of domestic violence issues and the resources available.	Some success
	Organisations have a local understanding of the issues of domestic violence.	Some success
<b>S U P P O R T</b>	Organisations to recognise the issue of domestic violence and make a commitment to take appropriate responsibility for the welfare of their clients and employees.	Some success
	Public sector organisations to actively engage in partnership work on domestic violence, including making a commitment to the domestic violence forum/partnership at all appropriate levels.	Some success
	The Domestic Violence Forum Partnership to ensure that there is accessible, appropriate and sufficient, good quality specialist and general provision for people affected by domestic violence	Working towards
	Organisations build a strong evidence base of positive outcomes.	Gap identified
<b>P R O T E C T I O N</b>	Those aware of domestic violence, suffering from domestic violence or perpetrating domestic violence to seek assistance at an early stage	Working towards
	Employees to have the skills, knowledge and confidence to identify domestic violence and take appropriate measures.	Working towards
	Organisations to identify manage and reduce the risk of (further) harm to staff, volunteers and service users, sharing information (personal and anonymous) appropriately in a safe manner.	Gap identified
	Multi-agency systems and protocols in place for risk management and safety planning of high-risk domestic violence victims.	Gap identified

2.6 To assist in the delivery of the strategy the LDVFP has eight action areas, which will achieve the strategic objectives listed above. In many cases an action area will meet more than one of the strategic objectives across the three themes. Resources for the delivery of the strategy will be key for the LDVFP. As tackling violent crime is a priority for the Leicester Strategic Partnership and the Safer Leicester Partnership and a quarter of all violent crime are domestic crimes, the LDVFP will work with the planning and commissioning process of the Leicester Partnership and the Safer Leicester Partnership to help deliver the objectives of Partnerships. The LDVFP will need to seek

resources to establish new initiatives and at the same time they will need to work with their members to help sustain current provision.

2.7 The table below outlines some of the possible implications for the Council. It must be stressed that this is an estimate and that a more detailed Leicester City Council Action Plan will be completed by June 2007.

<b>Themes</b>	<b>LDVFP Action Area</b>	<b>Possible City Council Implications</b>
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Themes	LDVFP Action Area	Possible City Council Implications
<b>Prevention</b>	<p>1. Sustain and develop campaigning and promotional activity</p> <p>3. Improve Evidence base</p> <p>6. Sustain and develop therapeutic and preventative work with children and young people, including the development of earlier intervention opportunities.</p>	<p>1. Work with the LDVF Partnership to deliver the campaign, distribute and circulate publicity to all council offices open to the public, actively participate in the campaign.</p> <p>Resources maybe required to review the local directory (area one of the BVPI) produced last year, which needs to be reviewed every 2 years.</p> <p>Resources to continue the delivery of the Corporate Domestic Violence Awareness Training to council staff in all departments.</p> <p>3. To encourage different city council service providers to collate data on victim and perpetrator of domestic violence and contribute to establishing a holistic understanding around domestic violence. Officer time</p> <p>6. Resources need to be found for Cracking Conflict Against Violence (CCAV). CCAV project works with pupils in secondary schools to increase their awareness around domestic violence, sexual violence and healthy relationships (area 10 of the BVPI). The project co-ordinator will both manage and deliver the training with trained facilitators.</p>
<b>Support</b>	<p>2. Improve strategic commitment and response to Domestic Violence through the LDVF Partnership</p> <p>3. Improve Evidence base</p> <p>4. Sustain current level and develop outreach and refuge provision, including Independent Domestic Violence Advisors</p>	<p>2. Senior Officer and Councillor attendance at LDVF Partnership. Maybe finding resources or officer support to progress initiatives, increasing the profile of domestic violence within the City Council and other Partnerships.</p> <p>The City Council mainstreamed the Domestic Violence Co ordinator's post from April 2006.</p> <p>There may be some resource implications for area 5 of the BVPI in relation to "support and facilitate LDVF at least four times a year."</p> <p>3. Same as above</p> <p>4. Supporting People currently fund most of the outreach and supported housing provision. Please refer to the "Strategic Review of Floating Support Services Update" report also on the agenda.</p> <p>Resources will need to be found for the ASK project approximately £20,000 a year. ASK project provides additional security measures for victims of domestic violence who would like to stay in their own home and emotional support.</p> <p>Officer time on working groups, possible secondments opportunities</p> <p>Resources for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) or increase provision for male victims of domestic violence.</p>

<p><b>Support Continued</b></p>	<p>6. Sustain and develop therapeutic and preventative work with children and young people, including the development of earlier intervention opportunities</p>	<p>6. Same as above</p>
<p><b>Protection</b></p>	<p>2. Improve strategic commitment and response to Domestic Violence through the LDVF Partnership</p> <p>4. Sustain current level and develop outreach and refuge provision, including Independent Domestic Violence Advisors</p> <p>5. Increase capacity for accredited court and non-court perpetrator programmes and multi-agency risk assessments.</p> <p>6. Sustain and develop therapeutic and preventative work with children and young people, including the development of earlier intervention opportunities</p> <p>7. Improve performance on equality and diversity</p> <p>8. Improve Court Response</p>	<p>2. Same as above</p> <p>4. Same as above</p> <p>5. A key element of this action is the implementation of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). This is a multi agency approach where cases on high risk victims of domestic violence are brought to a MARAC and an action plan to safeguard the victim is established and the perpetrator is managed effectively. The IDVA are key to on-going support to the victims. This area has linkages with the safeguarding children and adults and housing. A key tool for this to work is the establishment of a protocol between all the agencies for sharing personal information, and agencies undertaking similar risk assessments procedures for victims of domestic violence.</p> <p>Assist LDVF Partnership to seek resources for non-court mandated perpetrator programmes. Linkages with the parenting agenda and work with families maybe refer clients to perpetrator programmes.</p> <p>6. Same as above</p> <p>7. Officer time to assist multi-agency group</p> <p>8. Officer time to support a multi-operational steering group for the development of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts.</p>



2.8 Detailed action plans are currently being developed for the eight action areas. The progress of these action plans and strategy will be monitored by the steering group and reported to the LDVFP regularly.

### 3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee is requested to:-
- provide comments on the Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy
  - agree that a city council action plan is produced which sets out the councils contribution and commitment to delivery the strategy.
- 3.2 Cabinet is asked to endorse the Leicester Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy 2007/09.

## 4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

### 4.1. Financial Implications

The purpose of this report is to brief Members on the key points of the proposed Strategy. The funding streams needed to resource some of the new developments are not yet identified, and therefore aspects of the Strategy could not currently be progressed. It will also be important to ensure that appropriate Council procedures are followed in accessing funds to further this work, and that no activity is commenced until the funding is identified.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance Adult and Community Services, x8800

### 4.2 Legal Implications

Legal implications are covered in the report  
Peter Nicholls

## 5. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	Yes	Domestic violence affects all communities, but some communities find it harder to access support and advice.	
Policy	Yes	LCC has a domestic policy relating to staff, which complements this strategy	
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	Yes	Domestic violence is a priority with the community safety strategy, LAA and Home Office	
Human Rights Act	Yes	Human Rights Act states that everybody has Right to be free from torture or inhuman or	

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
		degrading treatment.	
Elderly/People on Low Income	Yes	Domestic violence affects all communities, special effort needs to be made to ensure socially excluded groups can access help and support	

## 6. Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/appropriate)
1 Risk of not adopting strategy.	L	M	To provide comments, agree and adopt the strategy. As a key partner on the LDVFP may place risk of the strategy not being adopted by other key partners, therefore will not achieve co-ordinated approach for victims/survivors.

## 7. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Local Government Association “Implementing The New Domestic Violence Best Value Performance Indicator.”

Draft Domestic Violence Inter-Agency Strategy 2007-09

## 8. Consultations

Members of the Domestic Violence Project Team

## 9. Report Author

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The BVPI 225 is a new indicator introduced in April 2005 and will form part of a CPA indicator from 2007. The indicator focuses on eleven areas of service provision around domestic violence. The services listed cut across all council departments and multi-agency work with the Domestic Violence Forum. The table below list the eleven areas where the council needs to report on and the progress made up to March 2006

	Areas	Performance as at March 06	Performance as at 28 Feb 07
1.	Has the local authority produced a directory of local services that can help victims of domestic violence?	Green	Green
2	Is there within the local authority area a minimum of 1 refuge place per ten thousand population	Green	Green
3	Does the local authority employ directly or fund a voluntary sector-based domestic violence co-ordinator	Green	Green
4	Has the local authority produced and adopted a multi-agency strategy to tackle domestic violence developed in partnership with other agencies?	Amber/Green	Amber/Green
5	Does the local authority support and facilitate a local multi-agency domestic violence forum that meets at least four times a year?	Green	Green
6	Has the local authority developed an information-sharing protocol and had it agreed between key statutory partners?	Amber/Red	Amber/Green
7	Has the local authority developed, launched and promoted a 'sanctuary' type scheme to enable victims and their children to remain in their own home, where they choose to do so and where safety can be guaranteed?	Green	Green
8	Has there been a reduction in the percentage of cases accepted as homeless due to domestic violence that had previously been re-housed in the last two years by that local authority as a result of domestic violence?	Red	Green
9	Does the council's tenancy agreement have a specific clause stating that perpetration of domestic violence by a tenant can be considered grounds for eviction? (For local authorities that have transferred their housing stock, the clause should be contained in the LSVT organisations' tenancy agreement.)	Green	Amber Green
10	Has the local authority funded and developed a domestic violence education pack in consultation with the wider domestic violence forum?	Amber/Green	Green
11	Has the local authority carried out a programme of multi-agency training in the last twelve months covering front line and managerial staff in at least two of the following groups: housing staff, social services staff providing services in the local authority area; education staff; health staff; and front line police officers.	Amber/Red	Green

By the end of March 2006, we had achieved 64% (7 out of the 11) of the areas. It is hoped that by the end of March 2007 82% (9 out of the 11).