

28 September 2021

## Domestic Abuse Strategy

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Cllr Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities

### 1. Aim

To allow the Scrutiny Overview Committee the opportunity to scrutinise the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy (2021-2024).

### Recommendation

**That Members comment and provide feedback on the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy.**

### 2. Report detail – know

- 2.1 Domestic Abuse (DA) affects a significant number of people in Walsall every day. Walsall Council has committed to ensure “*The most vulnerable are protected from avoidable harm, including caring for people in a safe environment and building Safer Communities*”. This document outlines how a co-ordinated agency and community response, underpinned by national legislation, will challenge the causes and effects of domestic abuse across Walsall.
- 2.2 The Walsall Domestic Abuse Strategy sets out the collective priorities of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, and the key areas of action for the next three years. This strategy aligns with the wider priorities identified within the national and regional Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategies.
- 2.3 The strategy builds upon the findings of the Walsall Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021, and incorporates the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It recognises there is a need to develop a broader response to domestic abuse and areas for improvement and development.
- 2.4 Our vision is for Walsall to become one of the safest places in the West Midlands where domestic abuse is not tolerated, whether at home or on the streets of Walsall. Our ambition is to develop a co-ordinated, multi-agency and community response to end domestic abuse in Walsall. Over the next three years we will work towards this vision by:

- Working in Partnership to develop a co-ordinated community response to domestic abuse.
- Developing robust prevention and early intervention approaches, which reach everyone including those with protected characteristics.
- Ensuring our support provision are tailored and survivor led to meet the individual needs of every victim/survivor.
- Ensure that our approach provides protection to all those affected by domestic abuse and holds perpetrators to account.

2.5 Partnership working and prevention is at the forefront of our approach to tackling domestic abuse, early identification and intervention to prevent people becoming victims and/or perpetrators in the first instance, is at the very heart of our partnership.

### **3. Decide**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to give their feedback on the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024.

### **4. Respond**

Any recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered by the Safer Walsall Partnership, as part of the approval of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24

### **5. Review**

From the Strategy, we will build an action plan, which will be monitored by the Safer Walsall Partnership.

## **Background papers**

Draft Domestic Abuse Strategy (2021-2024)

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