

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Intelligent Commissioning Pilot – Domestic Violence</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>7 April 2011</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Linda Beanlands</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 29-1115
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<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Forward Plan No: CAB19768</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

1.1 Brighton & Hove is taking forward three Intelligent Commissioning Pilots on:

- **Drug related deaths**
- **Domestic violence**
- **Alcohol related harm**

1.2 These are all priority areas for the council and partners under the major priority 'to reduce crime and improve community safety' in the city's Sustainable Community Strategy. They all impact extensively upon the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors and upon the demand for, and costs of, services. The pilots are intended to inform the Intelligent Commissioning Framework for the city, which aims to enable the council with its partners to better meet the needs of residents within reducing resources in the most effective way.

1.3 This report brings to Cabinet information about how the Intelligent Commissioning Framework has been trialled to improve the outcomes on domestic violence. The report also summarises the needs assessment, service and cost mapping and recommended commissioning outcomes for domestic violence.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That Cabinet notes the effective impact of using the Intelligent Commissioning Framework on the future commissioning of domestic violence services.

2.2 That Cabinet approves the city wide strategic outcomes for commissioning of domestic violence services which are set out in appendix 1.

2.3 That Cabinet notes that, following its approval, the outcomes are to be returned to the partnership groups and organisations which also have responsibility for overseeing commissioning and delivery of domestic violence services. A further report will be presented to Cabinet on the full commissioning plan including service level outcomes. That report will also provide more detail on learning from the use of the Intelligent Commissioning Pilots.

### **3. THE INTELLIGENT COMMISSIONING PROCESS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- 3.1 Dealing with domestic violence has historically been the responsibility of the community safety partnership which whilst leading a multi-agency response and prioritising domestic violence, the emphasis and developments of good practice has been predominantly in the criminal justice sector.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Intelligent Commissioning Framework, a commissioners steering group was established which was representative of Sussex Police, city council lead commissioners, community and voluntary sector organisations including specialist voluntary organisation RISE, health, and Sussex Probation. This group was much wider than hitherto and enabled a broader and more robust investigation into the issue than previously carried out. A key outcome of using the new Intelligent Commissioning Framework has been an increase in partnership responsibility for domestic violence. Through the excellent work of the steering group, a partnership commissioning group is now established to work up the outcomes and the commissioning plan and to oversee future commissioning within the new framework.
- 3.3 Also in accordance with the Intelligent Commissioning Framework, the steering group carried out a citywide needs assessment. This assessment includes service and cost mapping, benchmarking, an analysis of best practice in service delivery as well as listening to the voice of professionals and most importantly, service users. This is the first time such a comprehensive, city wide evidence base for domestic violence has been established, and owned and agreed by such a large number of partners. The assessment brought together a wider set of information and data than previously considered. This produced a more in depth understanding of the issue and vigorously challenged how resources are allocated across agencies. For example, an early finding was that service gaps are in many instances, inhibiting the effectiveness of some good practice and quality services particularly those within the criminal justice sector.
- 3.4 This more robust and comprehensive process has brought forward some challenging information which public services must respond to if they are to deal with the damage caused by domestic violence and the high costs to city life and services. Key findings of the needs assessment are set out in the appended report. Cabinet will wish to note that the needs assessment will be made publicly available in due course.
- 3.5 Having such a strong, commonly agreed evidence base requires commissioners to conclude that a real shift in emphasis is essential if change is to be achieved. That shift requires us to:
- Establish dealing with domestic violence as core business for all city services and partnerships
  - Redesign services to also focus on prevention and early intervention as well as responding to high risk cases
  - Increase workforce skills, and improve accessibility and response of services

In addition we will need to:

- Raise awareness and reduce social tolerance of domestic violence and
- Establish a legitimate & appropriate role for friends, families and communities
- Recognise and value the central role of independent specialist domestic violence voluntary services as partners in service provision

- Sustain the increasingly effective criminal justice interventions, all eleven elements of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court Programme and the Co-ordinated Community Response model

3.6 Following the needs assessment a set of shared outcomes for domestic violence is agreed by the new domestic violence commissioning group, subject to Cabinet approval. The outcomes include both city-wide strategic outcomes and more detailed service level outcomes for different stakeholders. Details of the strategic outcomes can be found in the appended report.

3.7 Following the approval of the strategic outcomes by the city council and in due course the other commissioning partners a process of joint commissioning and pooling of resources is anticipated. A significant change and outcome from using the Intelligent Commissioning Framework is greater collaboration and responsibility for achieving the shared outcomes and greater accountability across a wider range of public sector partners. This will be reflected in the incorporation of the service level outcomes into the city council's performance compacts as well as within the city performance plan.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 A key improvement using the Intelligent Commissioning Framework is the greater involvement of stakeholders throughout the process. The community and voluntary sector, service users and partners have informed all stages from scoping the pilot, to providing evidence for the needs assessment and sense checking the commissioning outcomes.

4.2 Member workshops have been held, advising them of the process for the pilots and on the findings of the needs assessment. Appendix 2 provides details of members' comments and discussions at the workshops.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

5.1 Lead Commissioners (from Brighton & Hove City Council) and the wider partnership/partners are to take the resource implications of the commissioning outcomes into account in the developing budgets for 2011 and in future years.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 15/03/11*

##### Legal Implications:

5.2 The commissioning report appended, complies with statutory requirements in relation to domestic violence.

*Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court Date: 15/03/11*

##### Equalities Implications:

5.3 The commissioning plan is subject to Equality Impact Assessment. This assessment will show that the work is targeted towards those who are most at

risk and in need. The assessment is to be completed by the end of March 2011.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Sustainability issues are inherently tackled within the commissioning report domestic violence, for example, contributing to the health and well-being of residents will be achieved through the strategic outcome of increase in safety of survivors (adults and children).
- 5.5 Moreover, the evidence indicates that investment in prevent and early intervention is critical to achieving better outcomes on domestic violence. Fiscally, this a more sustainable approach that should achieve a reduced dependency on the state in the long term.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 Domestic violence is and remains a high priority for the Community Safety Partnership and within the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy. The commissioning outcomes will have a positive impact in terms of reducing levels of crime and disorder in the city.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.7 Strategic and risk assessments are incorporated into the commissioning plan and operations delivery arrangements.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 As evidenced by the needs assessment, domestic violence is a significant issue, for the city and for partners across the public and third sector, both in terms of level and financial cost. The evidence strongly advises a multiple approach requiring the adoption of preventing and reducing domestic violence as core business for all. Thus, the outcomes of this pilot have implications across the city council and across the city.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 Alternative options to the recommendations that are set out in this report have been carefully considered, informed by analysis of the needs assessments and service mapping. Those recommendations put forward are supported by a clear evidence base and rationale

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Approval for the recommendations is sought within the process of change as Brighton & Hove moves towards establishing an Intelligent Commissioning Framework for the City.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Domestic Violence Intelligent Commissioning Pilot Report
2. Commentary from Members Workshops
3. Draft minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 5 April 2011 in relation to 'Intelligent Commissioning Pilots; Feedback from Scrutiny Workshops' (to follow).

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. Intelligent Commissioning Pilot: Domestic Violence: Needs Assessment

### **Background Documents**

1. The Needs Assessment, referenced above, identifies and lists all the background documents which were referred to in its preparation.

