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<b>Agenda Item</b>	
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<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>Cabinet – 02 September 2015</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Bury Domestic Abuse Strategy, 2015-18</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Councillor Tamoor Tariq Lead Member, Community Safety</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Cindy Lowthian, Communities Manager</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>CABINET – KEY DECISION</b>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	This paper is within the public domain
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	Tackling domestic violence and abuse is a priority for Bury’s Community Safety Partnership. This Strategy supports that ambition by seeking to reduce repeat incidents through a focus on prevention and early intervention. It is a partnership document which seeks to consolidate the work of the Council and partners by setting out a robust framework to deliver real change.
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	<p><b>Option 1 (recommended)</b> It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Supports the vision and commitment of the Community Safety Partnership to reducing domestic violence and abuse, particularly repeat offending.</li> <li>b) Adopts the Bury Domestic Violence Strategy (2015 – 2018).</li> <li>c) Authorises officers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a robust implementation and delivery plan to take forward the actions identified in the strategy.</li> <li>• Review existing services and make such changes as may be necessary (including the introduction of new ways of working) to meet the strategic priorities and improve outcomes for victims of domestic violence and abuse.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>Option 2 (not recommended)</b></p>

	<p>To not support the strategy.</p> <p>Option 1 is the preferred option. This is because tackling DVA requires a whole system, multi-agency response. The Strategy is a partnership document which has been developed following a multi-agency review of domestic violence and abuse in the borough. It sets out a clear direction of travel which is more closely aligned to Team Bury priorities and the Council’s ambitions to support our most vulnerable residents. Without a multi-agency strategy, the ability of the Council to work with partners to tackle domestic violence and abuse through early intervention and prevention would not be possible.</p>
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	This strategy will be developed and implemented within existing financial resources and additional funding (over two years) which the Council has secured through the Greater Manchester Innovation Fund to further develop ‘STRIVE’.
<b>Health and Safety Implications</b>	There are no known health and safety implications arising from this report. Any changes in services or operating practice arising from the implementation of the Strategy will be subject to appropriate risk assessments and implemented in line with existing policy.
<b>Statement by Executive Director of Resources</b>	There are no wider resource implications arising from the Strategy, however successful implementation should help mitigate future demands upon Council services.
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	<p>The Equality Analysis (EA) shows that domestic violence and abuse can impact on individuals and communities across all equality strands. Whilst females remain the single highest category of victim, the number of males suffering abuse is also growing. There are also increasing incidents among same sex couples. The EA highlights cultural issues that can be more prevalent within some communities including Forced Marriage, Honour Based violence and Female Genital Mutilation.</p> <p>The Equality Analysis indicates the strategy</p>

	will have an overall positive effect across the equality strands for all victims. The Strategy provides a framework for partners to work together to build the confidence of all victims to report at an earlier stage, with an emphasis on early intervention.
<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	Yes JH
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	

**TRACKING/PROCESS**

**DIRECTOR: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
COMMUNITIES AND WELL BEING**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
10.08.15	10.08.15		Domestic Violence and Abuse Steering Group (DVSG), 10.07.15 Community Safety Partnership (CSP) 29.07.15 .
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
	02.09.15		

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Domestic abuse is defined as: “any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality (this definition includes ‘honour based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage)”.
- 1.2 Tackling domestic violence and abuse remains a key priority for both the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Bury’s Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Bury’s revised CSP Plan (2014 to 2017) made a commitment to review the partnership response to domestic violence and abuse, including the development of a refreshed Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy. The Domestic Violence and Abuse Steering Group (DVSG) were tasked with overseeing this work.

**2.0 THE REVIEW**

- 2.1 In October 2014 the DVSG commissioned New Economy to produce a domestic abuse profile for Bury. Its primary purpose was to review all the available

evidence on DVA to directly inform the review and development of the strategy. This profile demonstrated the significant impact DVA has on our communities including:

- There are on average up to 4000 recorded incidents each year.
- A significant proportion of incidents are repeat incidents. Of the 300+ incidents of domestic abuse reported every month, 80% will have been from people who have reported abuse in the previous twelve month period.
- Of those who do report abuse, approximately 10% are assessed to be high risk.
- 65% of reported incidents involve families with children.
- Costs to society are high; support from statutory agencies for each high risk victim and their families is put at £20,000 per case, mainly on crisis intervention rather than work to break the cycle or prevent future occurrences.

2.2 More detailed discussions were held with partners to build a better understanding of the current response to domestic violence and abuse. These discussions looked at reporting pathways, how agencies assess risk and record incidents and the support pathways in place. This work was informed through discussions at the Domestic Violence and Abuse Steering Group and Community Safety Partnership.

2.3 One to one discussions were also held with key commissioners and service providers including children and young people services, Adult Care Services, Health, Housing Assessment and Greater Manchester Police.

### **3.0 KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Key issues arising from the review are as follows:

- Reports/Recording – a need to build more consistent approaches to the way in which partners deal with reports of domestic violence and abuse and how they record cases (to facilitate improved monitoring and performance management).
- CAADA DASH Risk Assessment - Over the past year and a half, there has been a decrease in referrals to the MARAC (a multi agency risk assessment conference to support high risk victims). Bury also has the lowest referral rate into MARAC by agencies other than the Police. Further work is required to ensure key services embed the CAADA DASH national accredited risk assessment tool in order to identify risk and trigger a response for victims at the earliest possible moment.
- Pathways – High risk victims are monitored and supported through the MARAC. The level of support given to lower/standard risk victims is more varied. However, it is from the lower risk categories where all domestic homicides over the past few years have occurred.
- Whole Family Approach - more work needs to be done to engage the families of victims affected by domestic violence and abuse. The aim is to increase resilience and reduce the longer term damage domestic abuse can have on children. This includes the need to engage with perpetrators to challenge and change behaviours.

3.2 Overall the findings from the review indicate that more emphasis has to be given to prevention and early intervention, tackling issues at an earlier stage,

reducing repeat incidents and diverting people away from risk of harm and high cost, statutory interventions.

#### **4.0 A SHARED STRATEGY FOR CHANGE**

4.1 The final strategy (attached as Appendix 1) aims to focus partnership activity more clearly on four key objectives:

- a) Improve prevention and early intervention
- b) Changing behaviours and attitudes
- c) Strong leadership and management
- d) Reducing repeat victimisation

4.2 A number of proposed actions are included in relation to each strategic objective. These actions support delivery of each objective. Progress is already being made including:

- a) Over the past year, Bury has piloted an initiative called 'Operation Strive'. This is a police led initiative which involves follow up visits to first time callers assessed as standard risk. The purpose is to intervene earlier with the victim and their family, signposting to other services to prevent repeat incidents.
- b) Bury has been allocated additional funding (over two years) through the Greater Manchester Innovation Fund to further develop 'STRIVE' (which is now being rolled out across Greater Manchester). This includes funding to support the development of a Victim Champion Network (comprising of partner organisations) to develop and improve pathways of support for victims. This work will include the recruitment and training of volunteer 'peer to peer' mentors.
- c) Over the past three months, 175 individuals have attended training on domestic violence and abuse, including the use of a new referral form which incorporates the nationally accredited CAADA DASH Risk Assessment Tool. The aim of this training is to increase confidence across partner agencies in dealing and supporting all victims of domestic violence abuse.
- d) Bury is one of three districts working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop a voluntary perpetrator programme for the Borough (to be commissioned during 2015).

#### **5.0 GOVERNANCE & PERFORMANCE**

5.1 Work to develop and implement the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Violence Steering Group. This group is chaired by the Council's Lead Member for Community Safety, Councillor Tamoor Tariq. They have been tasked with developing a multi-agency delivery plan to deliver objectives within the Strategy.

5.2 Overall accountability for the implementation of the Strategy rests with the Community Safety Partnership.

5.3 Regular updates and performance reports will be shared with the Community Safety Partnership.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Strategy has been developed in consultation and discussion with statutory, voluntary and community representatives from both the Community Safety Partnership and Domestic Violence Steering Group. Many of these agencies work directly with victims including the Women's Housing Action Group (WHAG), Victim Support and the Chair of the MARAC. The review and strategy have been regular items on the agenda for both meetings over the past ten months.
- 6.2 The finalised Strategy was considered by the Domestic Violence Steering Group in July 2015 and signed off by the Community Safety Partnership on 29 July 2015.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Bury's Community Safety Plan and the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan make domestic violence a priority. This Strategy supports that ambition by seeking to reduce repeat incidents and working towards breaking cycles of abuse that can have such a devastating impact on victims, families and children. Building on the work that has already been undertaken in Bury, this Strategy sets out a robust framework for real change – tackling issues at an early stage to divert individuals and families away from the risk of harm and high cost, statutory interventions.
- 7.2 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- a) Supports the vision and commitment of the Community Safety Partnership to reducing domestic violence and abuse, particularly repeat offending
  - b) Adopts the Bury Domestic Violence Strategy (2015 – 2018)
  - c) Authorises officers to:
    - Develop a robust implementation and delivery plan to take forward the actions identified in the strategy
    - Review existing services and make such changes as may be necessary (including the introduction of new ways of working) to meet the strategic priorities and improve outcomes for victims of domestic violence and abuse.

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### **List of Background Papers:-**

Bury Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015-18

Bury Domestic Abuse Theme Analysis – New Economy, October 2014.

Equality Analysis

### **Contact Details:-**

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