



Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

CRIME & DISORDER SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA

7.00 pm

**Thursday
18 March 2021**

Virtual Meeting

Members 6: Quorum 3

COUNCILLORS:

John Tyler
Tele Lawal
Matt Sutton (Vice-Chair)
Sally Miller BCAC (Chairman)

Michael Deon Burton
John Crowder
Jan Sargent

**For information about the meeting please contact:
Luke Phimister 01708 434619
luke.phimister@onesource.co.uk**

Protocol for members of the public wishing to report on meetings of the London Borough of Havering

Members of the public are entitled to report on meetings of Council, Committees and Cabinet, except in circumstances where the public have been excluded as permitted by law.

Reporting means:-

- filming, photographing or making an audio recording of the proceedings of the meeting;
- using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later if the person is not present.

Anyone present at a meeting as it takes place is not permitted to carry out an oral commentary or report. This is to prevent the business of the meeting being disrupted.

Anyone attending a meeting is asked to advise Democratic Services staff on 01708 433076 that they wish to report on the meeting and how they wish to do so. This is to enable employees to guide anyone choosing to report on proceedings to an appropriate place from which to be able to report effectively.

Members of the public are asked to remain seated throughout the meeting as standing up and walking around could distract from the business in hand.

What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements. Each overview and scrutiny sub-committee has its own remit as set out in the terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

The sub-committees have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy and decision makers.
2. Driving improvement in public services.
3. Holding key local partners to account.
4. Enabling the voice and concerns to the public.

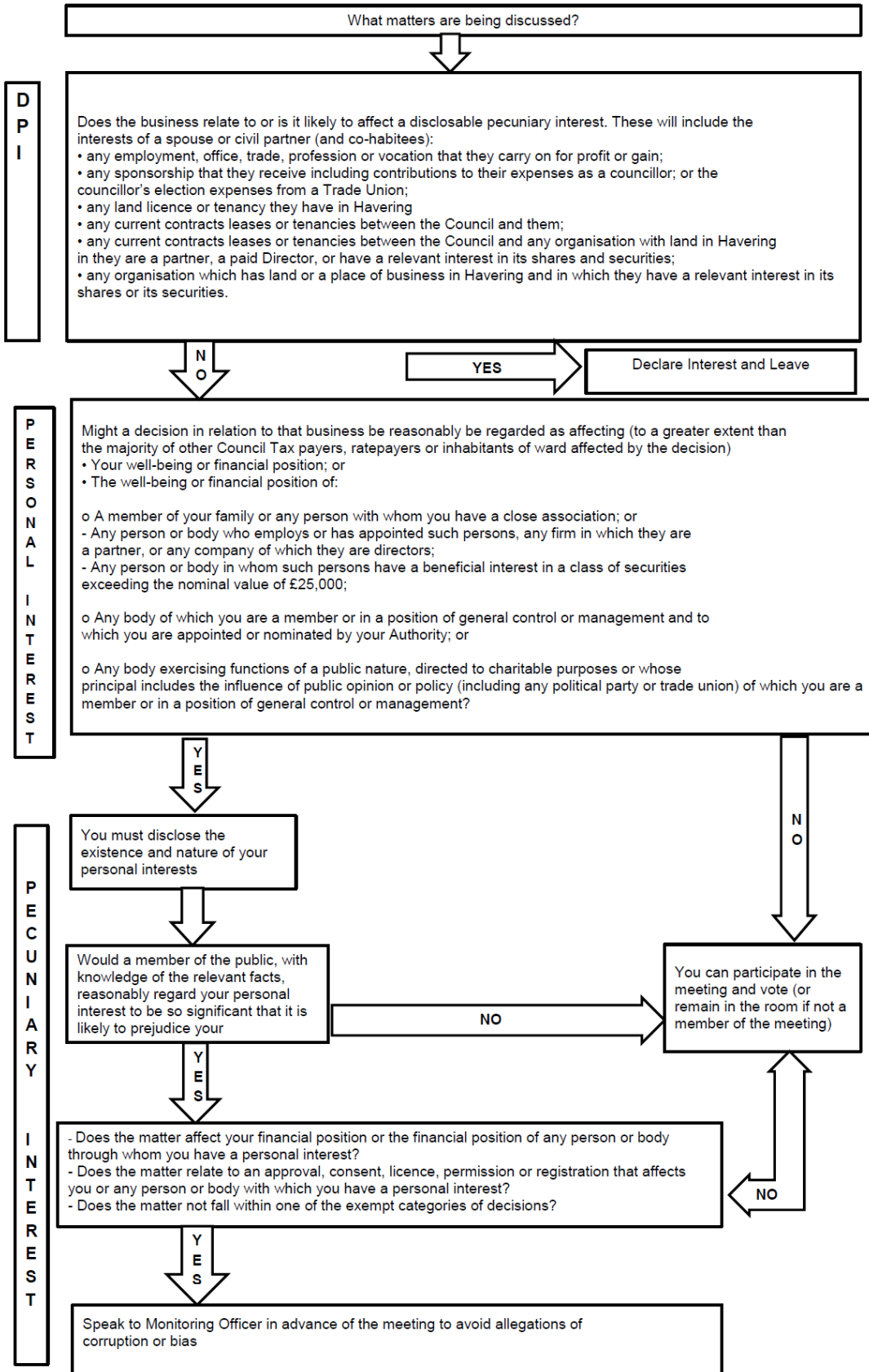
The sub-committees consider issues by receiving information from, and questioning, Cabinet Members, officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals, policy and practices. They can then develop recommendations that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. These are considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and if approved, submitted for a response to Council, Cabinet and other relevant bodies.

Sub-Committees will often establish Topic Groups to examine specific areas in much greater detail. These groups consist of a number of Members and the review period can last for anything from a few weeks to a year or more to allow the Members to comprehensively examine an issue through interviewing expert witnesses, conducting research or undertaking site visits. Once the topic group has finished its work it will send a report to the Sub-Committee that created it and will often suggest recommendations for the Overview and Scrutiny Board pass to the Council's Executive.

Terms of Reference

The areas scrutinised by the Committee are in exercise of the functions conferred by the Police and Justice Act 2006, Section 19-22 and Schedules 8 & 9.

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



AGENDA ITEMS

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(if any) – receive.

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Members are invited to disclose any interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

Members may still disclose any interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve as correct the minutes of the meetings held on 17 November 2020 and authorise the Chairman to sign them.

5 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT (Pages 7 - 12)

Report attached

6 DOMESTIC ABUSE IN HAVERING UPDATE (Pages 13 - 24)

Report attached

7 WORK PROGRAMME

Members are invited to put forward ideas for future agenda items.

Andrew Beesley
Head of Democratic Services

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CRIME & DISORDER SUB- COMMITTEE
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford
17 November 2020 (7.00 - 8.15 pm)**

Present:

Councillors John Tyler, Tele Lawal, Sally Miller (Chairman), Michael Deon Burton and John Crowder

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Matt Sutton

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

Matters arising from the last minutes

Details of the Covid-19 breaches reporting details still needed to be provided to Members

Officers undertook to do this as soon as possible following the meeting.

Regarding good news stories Officers confirmed that visits were still being undertaken 7 days a week and compliance levels were very high.

For persistent offenders enforcement had picked up since September and financial penalties were now being issued.

Other good news was that the Council was now doing the local contact tracing and that compliance had risen from 70% to 90%.

The police advised that extra asset had been put in place to assist with the pandemic.

The BCU had received over 300 Covid related calls the previous weekend of which approximately 100 were Havering related.

The BCU was upping its resource in to enforcement but had to balance this against the crime demand which had not dropped.

The police were updating the Chief Executives of all councils on a weekly basis of activity taking place.

2 **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 2020/21**

The report before Members provided information on performance against the indicators previously requested by the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee during Quarter 2 (July to September 2020).

Response time to Immediate (I) and Significant (S) Grade Incidents

The MPS had a target to reach 90% of “Immediate” (I) graded calls within 15 minutes of the call being made. The MPS target for “Significant” (S) grade calls was to reach 90% within one hour of the call being made.

The table contained within the report showed the weekly response times for Q2 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019.

The average % of calls responded to within the target in Havering in Q2 was 76.83%, a reduction of 7.62% compared to the same period in 2019. This was also below the BCU average of 77.42%.

The table shown in the report showed the weekly response times in Q2 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019.

The average % of calls responded to within the target in Havering in Q2 was 65.05%, a reduction of 9.31% compared to the same period in 2019. This was also above the BCU average of 62.44%.

Violence

Havering had seen an 18% reduction in Non DA VWI during Q2 2020 compared to the same period in 2019, a reduction of 89 crimes.

The table in the report compared level of non-domestic abuse violence with injury (Non DA VWI) experienced within Havering in Q2 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019-20.

Many London Boroughs had seen an increase in Domestic Abuse during the period of Lockdown. To address this, Havering moved its DV Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to a weekly virtual meeting to ensure that risk was adequately managed. This had been well attended and effective.

Burglary

Residential burglary had reduced during lockdown, as the majority of homes remained occupied as many people continued to work from home. Officers had seen a month on month rise as more people returned to the workplace.

The table in the report compared the level of burglary experienced within Havering in quarter 2 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019-20, which showed a reduction of 141 burglaries, 37%.

The Council continued to support the police in providing crime prevention advice to residents and businesses in Havering through the use of e-newsletters, twitter, Facebook and Living in Havering.

ASB Calls

The introduction of Covid19 restrictions had seen a dramatic increase in reported ASB to the police .This was mainly due to complaints of non-compliance with government guidance.

There had been an increase of 547 ASB, 32%. Over the same peiod last year.

During discussions Members agreed to the following changes to the performance reporting information.

The following indicators would be reported at future meetings:

- I grade call response times
- Violence with Injury
- Robbery of Personal Property
- Burglary - Residential
- Burglary - Business and Community
- Artifice Burglary
- Domestic Abuse
- Domestic Abuse VWI
- Gun Crime Lethal Barrelled Discharged
- Knife Crime
- Knife crime with injury
- TNO
- ASB

It was agreed that S calls (Significant Calls) be removed from future performance reporting.

In reply to a question regarding people street drinking, Members were advised that a report had been taken to Cabinet the previous month for the extension of the Romford town centre PSPO which prevented people from drinking openly in the town centre outside of licensed premises.

In response to a question relating to Covid street marshalls, Members were advised that tolerance levels had been good and although some members of the public were not supportive of local restrictions there had been no resistance to the marshalls.

Members were advised that Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) issued for Covid restriction breaches were advised to local authorities but there was no general reporting to individual requests for the data.

Members were updated regarding the Section 35 act that had been put in place relating to Havering Sixth Form College, that the police were aware of the problems that had been taking place and a patrol plan was in place that was addressing the issues in conjunction with the Principal and the Council.

The Sub-Committee; **noted** the contents of the report; and **considered** the performance information required going forward.

3 EAST AREA VIOLENCE SUPPRESSION UNIT (VSU)/ EAST AREA BCU DRUGS FOCUS DESK - POLICE APPROACH TO TACKLING DRUGS

The presentation before Members summarised the work of the East Area Violence Suppression Unit (VSU) and the work of the Drugs Focus Desk.

Members were advised that all new police officers, following their street walking duties, were assigned to the VSU for a 4 week period to gain confidence in policing skills around this area.

Key activities were patrols of violence hotspots across the BCU, weapons sweeps in response to intelligence, and pursuing the arrest of suspects for violence related offences.

Performance to date had meant 478 arrests (including arrests for murder, kidnap and firearms possession) 2245 stop & searches.

The key operations for the team had been:

Operation Alamosa which had been a joint week of action with NE VSU. 6 x search warrants executed, 159 stop & searches, 13 arrests, with large quantities of class A drugs seized. 7 knives and offensive weapons seized.

Operation Brancaster was an operation to target cannabis factories in the BCU. 5 x search warrants executed, 300 cannabis plants and £10,000 in cash seized.

Members were also advised of the latest work of the Drugs Focus Desk (DFD).

Members noted that there was a well-established link between drugs supply and drug trafficking and street-based violence and a two pronged approach was needed.

The enforcement approach targeting drug dealers across the BCU was leading to prosecutions

The DFD was a specialist team to ensure drugs supply offences were dealt with robustly. This involved leading, advising and supporting drugs supply investigations.

The DFD was formed in June 2020 and comprised of 5 dedicated investigators, led by a Detective Sergeant.

The DFD also conducted fast-track forensic drugs submissions, expert witness statements to the Criminal Prosecutions Service (CPS) and analysis of drugs offence trends in the BCU.

Performance since the DFD's inception included 57 drugs supply investigations where suspects had been charged to court.

This represented a 158% increase in prosecutions in comparison to the same period in 2019.

Key operations included operation renewal, a Pan-BCU operation in late June 2020. With 26 search warrants, 25 arrests, 3 firearms recovered, £60,000 of Class A and B drugs seized and £40,000 in cash seized.

The Sub-Committee **noted** the contents of the presentation.

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank

CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee Performance Indicators - Quarter 3 (2020/2021)
SLT Lead:	Barry Francis Interim Director of Neighbourhoods
Report Author and contact details:	Diane Egan Community Safety Manager Diane.egan@havering.gov.uk 01708 432927
Policy context:	The report sets out Quarter 3 performance for indicators relevant to the Committee.
Financial summary:	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However adverse performance against some performance indicators may have financial implications for the Council.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[x]
Places making Havering	[x]
Opportunities making Havering	[]
Connections making Havering	[]

SUMMARY

The report provides information on performance against the indicators previously requested by the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee during Quarter 3 (October to December 2020).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- note the contents of the report;

- consider the performance information required going forward; and
- request information as set out in the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Response time to Immediate (I) and Significant (S) Grade Incidents

The MPS has a target to reach 90% of “Immediate” (I) graded calls within 15 minutes of the call being made. The MPS target for “Significant” (S) grade calls is to reach 90% within one hour of the call being made.

I Grades:

The Table below shows the weekly response times for Q3 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019.

The % of calls responded to within the target in Havering in Q3 is 74.21%, a reduction of 6.3% compared to the same period in 2019. This is also below the BCU average of 78.42%.

Week Ending	% Calls In Target Previous Year	% Calls In Target Current Year
04-Oct-20	75.60%	73.00%
11-Oct-20	83.10%	77.40%
18-Oct-20	79.50%	70.40%
25-Oct-20	89.10%	72.30%
01-Nov-20	84.80%	76.60%
08-Nov-20	80.80%	76.30%
15-Nov-20	81.30%	77.30%
22-Nov-20	80.20%	80.50%
29-Nov-20	77.20%	78.50%
06-Dec-20	79.40%	79.60%
13-Dec-20	75.30%	67.30%
20-Dec-20	77.90%	71.10%
27-Dec-20	83.00%	65.80%
Total	80.51%	74.21%

S Grades:

The Table below shows the weekly response times in Q3 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019.

The % of calls responded to within the target in Havering in Q3 is 64.70%, a reduction of 6.45% compared to the same period in 2019. This is also above the BCU average of 63.01%.

Week Ending	% Calls In Target Previous Year	% Calls In Target Current Year
04-Oct-20	80.60%	69.20%
11-Oct-20	74.20%	62.90%
18-Oct-20	74.60%	61.10%
25-Oct-20	69.80%	69.30%
01-Nov-20	77.20%	62.70%
08-Nov-20	73.40%	64.20%
15-Nov-20	70.30%	71.10%
22-Nov-20	66.50%	70.60%
29-Nov-20	64.40%	60.90%
06-Dec-20	67.70%	64.20%
13-Dec-20	71.60%	61.10%
20-Dec-20	59.60%	64.60%
27-Dec-20	71.40%	59.10%
Total	71.15%	64.70%

2. Violence

Havering has seen an 28% reduction in Non DA Violence With Injury during Q3 2020 compared to the same period in 2019, a reduction of 115 crimes.

The table below compares level of non-domestic abuse violence with injury (Non DA VWI) experienced within Havering in Q3 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019-20.

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Change
October	173	148	-14%
November	140	111	-21%
December	153	92	-40%
Total	466	351	-25%

Many London boroughs have seen an increase in Domestic Abuse during the period of Lockdown. To address this, Havering moved its DV Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to a weekly virtual meeting to ensure that risk was adequately managed. This has been well attended and effective.

All support services continued remotely with the two Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAS) continuing to offer support to high-risk victims of domestic abuse.

The table below compares the level of Domestic Abuse (DA) offences experienced within Havering in Q3 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019-20 and, contrary to the trend across many London boroughs, shows a reduction by 25 crimes, equating to a decrease of 4%.

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Change
October	231	251	9%
November	193	192	-1%
December	236	192	-19%
Total	660	635	-4%

3. Burglary

Residential burglary has reduced during lockdown, as the majority of homes remained occupied as many people continued to work from home.

The table below compares the level of burglary experienced within Havering in quarter 3 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019-20, which shows a reduction of 208 burglaries, -38%.

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Change
October	193	151	-22%
November	195	78	-60%
December	169	111	-34%
Total	548	340	-38%

The Council continues to support the police in providing crime prevention advice to residents and businesses in Havering through the use of e-newsletters, twitter, Facebook and Living in Havering.

There have been a number of targeted operations with police colleagues in Essex and the East Area BCU to tackle cross borough burglars with a number of notable arrests during this period.

4. ASB Calls

The introduction of COVID-19 restrictions has seen a dramatic increase in reported ASB to the police .This is mainly due to complaints of non-compliance with government guidance.

The Table below compares the level of ASB calls made to the police within Havering in Q3 of 2020-21 compared to the same period in 2019-20 and shows an increase of 904 ASB calls, up by 77%.

	Q3 2019/20	Q3 2020/21	Change
October	397	693	75%
November	388	700	80%
December	387	683	76%
Total	1172	2076	77%

The Councils Enforcement and Public Protection have worked tirelessly throughout this period to remind people of the guidance and the importance of compliance with government guidance.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report which is for information only.

Legal implications and risks:

Whilst reporting on performance is not a statutory requirement, it is considered best practice to review the Council's progress against the Corporate Plan and Service Plans on a regular basis.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no specific Human Resource implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

This report relates to information requested by the committee rather than policy. There are no direct equalities implications or risks associated with this report.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

CRIME AND DISORDER OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Subject Heading:	Domestic Abuse in Havering 2020
SLT Lead:	Barry Francis Interim Director of Neighbourhoods
Report Author and contact details:	Diane Egan Community Safety Manager Diane.egan@havering.gov.uk 01708 432927
Policy context:	The report sets out the progress against the work programme to support victims of domestic abuse in Havering in 2020.
Financial summary:	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, adverse performance against some performance indicators may have financial implications for the Council.

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[x]
Places making Havering	[x]
Opportunities making Havering	[]
Connections making Havering	[]

SUMMARY

The report provides in update against the delivery of the Havering Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019 -2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

- note the contents of the report;
- consider the performance information required going forward; and
- Request information as set out in the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Definition of domestic violence

The Havering Community Safety Partnership Plan 2018-19 identified violence against women and girls (VAWG) as a priority. The new strategy was approved by cabinet in March 2019.

The Havering Community Safety Partnership has adopted the cross government definition which states that domestic abuse and violence is:

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 can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- emotional

The definition of controlling behaviour includes a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim.

2. The level of domestic abuse in Havering

From the 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 there were 4546 domestic violence incidents reported to the police and 2610 domestic violence offences recorded by the police. When the police attend a domestic violence incident where a child is present a Merlin safeguarding alert will be sent to the MASH to alert children's services that domestic abuse is occurring in the household. In 2020, the MASH received 2923 contacts in relation to domestic abuse of which 1516 were from the police.

3. Domestic violence multi agency risk assessment conference

A Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a victim focused information sharing and risk management meeting attended by all key agencies, where high risk cases are discussed. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety. In a single meeting, MARAC combines up to date risk information with a timely assessment of a victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a domestic abuse case: victim, children and perpetrator.

In Havering, the MARAC was held every 3 weeks. However, since the commencement of the first lockdown in March 2020, it was decided that the MARAC would be held weekly to meet the demand of the increase in DV that was likely to occur. The MARAC is chaired by a detective inspector from the East Area BCU Safeguarding team. From the 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020, there were 446 cases referred to the MARAC. In 413 cases, the victim was female and in 33 cases, the victim was male. Nine of the victims were aged five or below. There were 665 children identified as being part of the 446 households. This has increase from 330 in the previous year and represents a 35% increase.

4. Support services for victims of domestic abuse Havering Council commission a number of services to support victims of Domestic abuse.

4.1 Domestic abuse advocacy project

Havering Women's aid provide advocacy support to victims of domestic abuse. Victims can contact the service directly to receive advice and support Monday to Friday. They offer floating support, group support and 1-2-1 counselling is available on 01708 728759. This service is funded to March 2022.

From 1st January 2020 until 31/12/2020, 546 women assessed the service and completed an assessment of which 344 continued to have further support. 84 women accessed group support and 106 accessed 1-2-1 counselling.

4.2 Men only service

MENDAS are an organisation based in Havering that can offer support in regards to male victims of Domestic Violence. They offer floating support and 1-2-1 counselling. This service is funded to March 2022. From 1st January 2020 until 31/12/2020, 34 men assessed support.

4.3 Young Person's IDVA

The young person's IDVA is a new provision that commenced in November 2020. This provision is provided by Havering Women's Aid. The IDVA will offer support for victims aged 13-25 where they have been identified as a victim of domestic abuse. This includes safety planning, 1-2-1 support and advocacy.

4.4 Pan London Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service

The Mayor's office for policing and Crime (MOPAC) fund three IDVAs and one senior IDVA in the EA BCU. They are co-located in Romford Police Station and Freshwharf police station to provide ongoing support to high-risk victims of domestic abuse. However, since March 2020, the IDVA team has been working remotely. Data is held by MOPAC and is sent out quarterly but in arrears. Therefore, the year's data is not available. This service only takes referrals from the police.

4.5 Council funded IDVAS

There are two IDVA's based in the Community safety team. One is funded by MOPAC London Crime Prevention Funding and the other is funded by Children's services. The IDVA's are providing 1-2-1 support to victims who are at a point of crisis and require advocacy for court and general emotional support. The IDVA's also conduct safety planning and refer on to additional agencies that can offer a

long-term support package for victims when required. 366 referrals were made to the IDVA service, with 20 cases carried over from quarter 3 2019. The IDVA's managed 477 cases including 111 ongoing cases of which 57 were repeat referrals. Of the 477 cases, 200 were managed by the Children's services IDVA and the other 277 were managed by the MOPAC funded IDVA.

4.6 Solace Women's Aid

Funded through the London Councils grant scheme, Solace Women's Aid provide support groups and counselling through Havering Children's Centres. 25 victims living in Havering have accessed services from Solace. Nine of the referrals were made by professionals including GP's, social workers and the Police. The other 16 referrals were self-referrals for support from Solace.

5. Refuge Provision

The Refuge and Floating support provision were subject to a re-tender exercise during 2018. The contract was awarded for 3 years with the option to extend for a further year. The total contract value excluding the extension is £699,595.

From the 1st January 2020 until 31st December 2020, there have been 47 families that have been offered residency in the refuge. Some families had been there from the previous year, some had moved on and 12 new residents had moved in.

During the pandemic, some changes had to be made to service provision to ensure the safety of the staff and the residents. In March 2020, it was decided that the support workers would work remotely. A staff member attended the refuge everyday to collect mail, check for voice messages and check that the health and safety of the refuge and its residents were met.

Funding was sought from Ministry of Housing to provide additional cleaning to the buildings and founded an additional staff member to support the increased demand of phone calls into the service. The funding was also used to provide each family with an iPad to aid communication with the team and support the children's education and home learning needs.

The counselling and group support provision was suspended from March to August 2020. Service re-commenced in September 2020 on Zoom. Since the sessions have been online, more victims can be offered this form of support. Therefore, waiting lists for the group programmes have significantly reduced.

Further funding was secured in October 2020 for a part time BAME IDVA post. The funding is secured for one year with a possible extension of a second year. Due to a limited number of applicants and the added complications of conducting interviews on line, this post will not commence until January 2021.

6. Referrals in to Children Social Care through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

All contacts regarding possible safeguarding or child protection concerns regarding children are referred to the Havering Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The information is triaged by a Children Social Care MASH Team Manager to determine what action is required to respond to the concerns that have been referred. The image below sets out the three levels of concerns and threshold for each level.

In determining the level of concern the MASH Team Manager will also consider whether criteria for MASH checks are met. In relation to domestic abuse the following apply:

1. Domestic Violence. Barnardo's Risk Matrix Level of Risk: Serious Scale 3 and 4
2. All referrals where there are a combination of the Toxic Trio: Mental Health, drug/alcohol and domestic violence

The MASH service adheres to tight timeframes to ensure cases are responded to in a timely manner and allocated according to the level of need. The table below sets out the timeframe for MASH checks to be completed:

RED Due in 4 Hours (from time of request).

AMBER Due in 24 hours (from time of request)

If the case meets a threshold for a statutory service i.e. Children Act 1989 s 17: Child in Need; or Children Act 1989 s 47: a child has suffered significant harm or is at risk of suffering significant harm; the case will be referred to the Children Social Care Assessment service and allocated to a social worker on that day.

If the referral is identified to suggest significant concern, a strategy meeting is held and will include those partners that have involvement with the child in order to share information and to agree a plan to respond to the concerns to safeguard the child. This meeting will decide whether the matter should be responded to under S47 or s17 and if S47 whether the response is joint response with police or a single agency response. The case will usually be determined to be a joint investigation if the police believe that a crime has been or may have been committed.

Cases referred to the Assessment Service identified to meet a threshold for children social care will be assessed by a qualified social worker. The assessment will consider all aspects of the child's life and identify risks, strengths and protective factors. The assessment will conclude with an analysis and recommendations regarding what support is required to safeguard and protect the child.

6.1 Working with Perpetrators

Following research within the department, looking at existing Child Protection plans and assessments, there was a clear identified gap in working with perpetrators with the intention to improve the wellbeing of families and their children. A business case has been approved. Children's services are working with partners and using the Safer Together model, to develop a localised plan to work with perpetrators and their families.

7. The role of children's services in supporting children affected by Domestic Abuse

The level of risk identified through assessment will determine the service response. All service responses are required to be proportionate to the level of need to ensure that there is as little intrusion as possible into family life whilst also ensuring that children are safeguarded from the risk of further harm.

An assessment can conclude with the following:

- No further action
- Early Help support
- Child in Need (Statutory service under s17 CA 1989)

- Child Protection Conference
- Looked after Child.

If the concerns that are presenting require intervention and support, these will be identified by the social worker during the course of the assessment process and a plan will be developed with the family that will address the concerns to reduce the risks. Any statutory intervention will result in a multi-agency plan that will be agreed at a meeting attended with the family and those agencies identified to be required to work with the family to improve the child's situation.

All plans are reviewed regularly to determine whether the plan is impacting on achieving the outcomes identified and action is taken in order to respond to any issues identified.

The services available to families from Children Social Care perspective are:

□ **Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)**

The IDVA based within Children Social Care provides advice and guidance to the social workers to support them when working with victims of domestic abuse. The IDVA provides face to face or telephone crisis intervention support on a case-by-case basis and includes assessing risk management and safety planning; advocating on clients behalf with other organisations such as police, housing and legal advice around benefits. The IDVA will work alongside the social worker to support the client with their criminal or civil matters by looking at particular safeguarding and protective orders such as Non Molestation or Prohibited Steps Orders. In addition, the IDVA will support and prepare clients for the criminal proceedings when they have agreed to give evidence against their perpetrator. The IDVA will also work with the social worker to identify the client and families individual needs and will be referring to the appropriate organisations for suitable interventions. This post is currently funded by the CYPS until March 2021 with a view to extend the contract for the next financial year.

□ **Systemic Family Therapy**

Children Social Care Services has access to a Systemic Family Therapy Service and a Systemic Family Psychotherapist is placed within the Assessment Team. The Systemic Family Psychotherapist provides support to the social worker working with the family to provide a systemic intervention directly in to families in order to support the family to reduce violence and increase more helpful behaviours within the family home.

The Families Together Team (FTT) works systemically with families where children are at risk of being removed or require support prior to a child returning to the family home following a period of being looked after, to support parents and carers to develop more helpful and kinder communication strategies that reduces blame and increases hope within the family system.

□ **Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA)**

There is currently no legal definition of adolescent to parent violence and abuse. However, it is increasingly recognised as a form of domestic violence and abuse and, depending on the age of the child (i.e. is the child aged 16 or over), it may fall under the government's official definition of domestic violence and abuse.

It is important to recognise that APVA is likely to involve a pattern of behaviour. This can include physical violence from an adolescent towards a parent and a number of different types of abusive behaviours, including damage to property, emotional abuse, and economic/financial abuse. Violence and abuse can occur together or separately. Abusive behaviours can encompass, but are not limited to, humiliating language and threats, belittling a parent, damage to property and stealing from a parent and heightened sexualised behaviours. Patterns of coercive control are often seen in cases of APVA, but some families might experience episodes of explosive physical violence from their adolescent with fewer controlling, abusive behaviours. Although practitioners may be required to respond to a single incident of APVA, it is important to gain an understanding of the pattern of behaviour behind an incident and the history of the relationship between the young person and the parent.

It is also important to understand the pattern of behaviour in the family unit; siblings may also be abused or be abusive. There may also be a history of domestic abuse, or current domestic abuse occurring between the parents of the young person. It is important to recognise the effects APVA may have on both the parent and the young person and to establish trust and support for both.

The first large scale study of adolescent to parent violence and abuse in the UK was conducted by the University of Oxford (see <http://apv.crim.ox.ac.uk/>) between 2010 and 2013. Practitioners and parents interviewed in this study described the abuse as often involving a pattern of aggressive, abusive and violent acts across a prolonged period of time. As well as physically assaulting their parents, those interviewed said their teenage children had smashed up property, kicked holes in doors, broken windows, had thrown things at their parents and made threats. Verbal abuse and other controlling behaviours were also commonly present. This pattern of behaviour creates an environment where a parent lives in fear of their child and often curtails their own behaviour in order to avoid conflict, contain or minimise violence. This study found that there was no single explanation for this problem. Families described a range of reasons which they saw to be the cause for APVA, including substance abuse, mental health problems, learning difficulties, or a family history of domestic violence or self-harm. Some families were at a loss to explain why their child was so aggressive towards them, having raised other children who did not display such behaviour.

□ Reducing Parental Conflict:

Havering were successful in securing funding in 2019 for the Reducing Parental Conflict initiative to support families identified as being in 'Parental Conflict'. The aim of the new service is to identify Parental Conflict at the earliest possible stage and to engage parents in conversations to identify discuss and resolve conflict whilst minimising the risks of future escalations.

A robust training programme has been delivered across Havering, to include train the trainers and also on line training. This training has been delivered across the partnership and included Early Help, Social Care, Community Safety, Youth Services, Youth Offending Services, Education, Police and Health,

Recent studies and evidence have sought to highlight the impact unresolved parental conflict has on children and young people, and how, if unresolved, this conflict can escalate to domestic abuse or violence within a parental relationship.

The Early Help Service, in partnership with Community Safety, have developed the Reducing Parental Conflict Continuum to support practitioners in identifying parental conflict, what impact the conflict may have and how practitioners can differentiate between conflict and domestic abuse and violence.

A telephone service has been developed and implemented which families can be referred to via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub [MASH] front door, partner agencies or self-referral. The premise of this workshop is for families to gain an understanding of what different forms of conflict could look like, focusing on positive communication skills and understanding the impact of conflict on the child. This is delivered by our Reducing Parental Conflict trained Family Practitioners. To support our colleagues delivering the service we also developed, in partnership with the Systemic Therapy Team, a guide to help structure the conversations and interventions, and to reflect the Systemic approach taken across Children's Services.'

8. The role of the police is tackling domestic abuse

Every Basic Command Unit (BCU) now houses a team, known as the Predatory Offender Unit (POU). The POU focuses on finding and arresting "high harm" offenders wanted for crimes including domestic and child abuse, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. They prevent and disrupt offending by developing intelligence and using a range of tactics to bring offenders to justice. They also support local teams in enforcing breaches of restrictions placed on offenders by the courts.

In the East Area BCU (encompassing Havering), there have been 86 arrests for the POU, which is second highest performing in the Met. There 16 have been for failing to appear/breach of court bail/DVPN breaches/recalls to prison and 70 arrests for other offences, including 22 charges, 26 bail/return under investigation and 22 with no further action. Of the 22 with no further actions, three were served with DVPN's

- There have been two operations conducted encompassing Domestic Abuse. Operation Sun, a joint operation with the City of London police focusing on cross border offending and Child Criminal Exploitation.
- Operation Pahalivi focused on arrests of outstanding suspects Serious Sexual offences and DA.

The DA improvement plan, which is a focus on improving performance across response and Public Protection, continues with increased use of Body Worn Footage and higher arrest rates.

9. Housing

The housing solutions team now have two workers dedicated to supporting Domestic Abuse cases when victims make a homeless approach. These workers also assist their colleagues as advisors where domestic abuse is identified From 1st January 2020 until 31st December 2020, 172 individuals approached the housing solutions team as homeless fleeing DV. 156 of the total were women, 15 were men and one identified as transgender. Of the 172 that approached the borough for support in fleeing DV, 24 were housed in temporary accommodation.

There is also a dedicated ASB officer lead on cases where council tenants have been identified as victims of Domestic Abuse. This officer also attends MARAC to ensure are supported and assist with a move of location to keep them safe.

From 1st January 2020 until the 31st December 2020, 111 cases were identified and 13 progressed to need a special management transfer.

The housing departments in Havering have decided to progress and become a DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accredited. The housing department are working closely with internal and external partners to attain the accreditation process. The aim is to improve the experiences of victims when approaching the housing department fleeing domestic abuse.

10. Training

The Safeguarding boards coordinate safeguarding training for both internal and external staff. Other outside providers deliver a number of the domestic abuse specific training sessions. Up until March 2020, Havering women's Aid were commissioned to deliver the RIC and DV awareness training. Due to the demands of COVID 19 and the increased workload in the day-to-day services of the organisation, they had to stand down from the training. It was decided to bring these two sessions in house and are now delivered by the Community Safety Team. In Nov 2020, 35 delegates attended to RIC training session.

In addition to the set training programme, the Community Safety Team has been asked to complete bespoke training for a number of agencies. This included a police away day where 40 officers took part in DV awareness sessions. 29 HR officers received DV awareness training following the launch of the new DV policy for staff in Nov 2020. A further 19 staff members attended an awareness session during Safeguarding week and 53 attended to DV service webinar that was delivered as a part of the 16 days of action against domestic abuse. Members of the Community Safety Team have also attend team meetings and met with new staff members as a part of their induction process.

11. Communications

Throughout this past year, the Community Safety team engaged with the communications team to ensure regular messages were shared with the public so they were aware of support and provision in regards to DV. Due to the lockdown, most of this communication had been via social media. The Community Safety team also produce a monthly Bitesize newsletter. The topic of the newsletter can vary each month. The purpose is to raise awareness and increase knowledge of staff members. At times, these will update staff on changes in legislation, new measures to prevent DA, new services available for victims and more.

November 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, also known as White Ribbon Day. From that day, until Human Rights Day on 10th December, is the 16 Days of Action. During this time, we ask everyone to stand up and recognise that there should be an end violence against women. .

We usually run events in the community, hold conferences and engage with others to raise awareness. However, due to the restrictions of COVID 19, all of our campaign this year was online using newsletters and social media.

The event was launched internally alongside the new Havering HR policy for staff that present as victims of DV. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that managers

are able to support staff appropriately and understand the signs of DV and the impact it can have on staff. On the day, we launched the policy, three individuals came forward seeking support and sharing their experiences. The hope is victims/survivors who work within the council will feel supported and safe whilst working.

A number of newsletters and articles were produced to try to reach out to as many people in the community as possible. These included, Safer Neighbourhoods Team Newsletters, the internal Bitesize, HART/residents newsletter, wellbeing team, trade unions and more.

There was a social media campaign created and used throughout the 16 days of action. Tweets and Facebook posts were sent out each day about support available to victims of DV and other key information such as Clare's Law. Cllr Persaud kindly participated in the event and made a short video to share with the public about DV and seeking out help.

A new poster was created for the hospitals and clinics to display. This poster was targeted at expectant mothers. The poster was to raise awareness that DV often increases during pregnancy and that support is available. During the pandemic pregnant women have had to attend appointments alone, therefore, this may have been a safe opportunity to seek help.

We held a free virtual conference during this time. The conference was held on 30th November 2020 and was open to internal and external members of staff. We had 74 delegates register for the event of which 53 attended. The event was supported by the following organisations:

- Community safety officer – DV lead – Chair of the meeting.
- Community Safety IDVA team
- Solace Women's Aid
- Havering Women's Aid / MENDAS / Young Person's IDVA service
- Metropolitan Police – Clare's Law
- Suzy Lamplugh Trust – National Stalking Helpline.
- Bal's Howard – survivor of Honour Based Abuse - sharing her survivor's

The overall feedback from the event was positive and as a result, a number of team awareness sessions have been requested.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report which is for information only.

Legal implications and risks:

Whilst reporting on performance is not a statutory requirement, it is considered best practice to review the Council's progress against the Corporate Plan and Service Plans on a regular basis.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no specific Human Resource implications or risks arising directly from this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

This report relates to information requested by the committee rather than policy. There are no direct equalities implications or risks associated with this report.

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

This page is intentionally left blank