

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>9 JULY 2018</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>MAKE A STAND CAMPAIGN</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR JOHN WILMOTT – CABINET MEMBER (OUTWARD FOCUS)</b> <b>COUNCILLOR CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN – CABINET MEMBER (JOINT FOCUS)</b>		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>YES</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide details of the Make a Stand campaign that has been recently launched by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women’s Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- **To approve ADC making a commitment to the Make a Stand campaign to take action to support the victims of domestic abuse in the district and developing an action plan to deliver the campaign commitments.**
- **To approve Councillor Helen-Ann Smith and Carol Cooper-Smith as the Prevention of Domestic Violence Champions.**

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

ADC has already made a commitment to tackling domestic abuse in the district through the Corporate Plan and the priorities of the Housing Strategy 2016-20, by providing refuge accommodation and support to residents experiencing domestic abuse. Committing to the Make a Stand campaign will demonstrate ongoing support and enhances the work being done to tackle domestic abuse. As a landlord of over 6,500 homes and service provider to around 55,000 households, ADC has a key role to play in ensuring tenants and residents are able to live safely and securely in their homes.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

*(with reasons why not adopted)*

Not making a commitment to the campaign – not considered as ADC is already committed to tackling domestic abuse and committing to this campaign will enhance the work being done.

## **Detailed Information**

The Make a Stand campaign has been developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. It was created to encourage social housing providers to make a commitment to support people experiencing domestic abuse. In the first two weeks of the campaign, 100 housing providers have signed up to the commitments, representing around 25% of the total housing stock in the country.

Domestic abuse is one of the biggest issues in society today, studies suggest many millions of people are affected every year and that two women are killed every week by their partner or ex-partner.

A pledge to support the campaign is a public commitment to take action to support people experiencing domestic abuse and deliver four commitments by September 2019:

1. Put in place and embed a policy to support residents who are affected by domestic abuse
2. Make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available on your website and in other appropriate places so that they are easily accessible for residents and staff
3. Put in place a HR policy, or amend an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse
4. Appoint a champion at a senior level in your organisation to own the activity you are doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse

## **Domestic abuse in Ashfield**

### **Homelessness**

Violent breakdown of a relationship is a leading cause of homelessness in Ashfield and preventing homelessness caused by domestic violence is a key priority within the Housing Strategy 2016-20

In 2017/18, 4 households were in priority need under the homelessness legislation due to domestic violence and 15 households cited violent breakdown of a relationship with a partner as their reason for homelessness. In 2016/17 the figures were 10 and 22 respectively.

### **Women's Aid Services**

Between October 2016 - September 2017, Women's Aid Integrated Services received 490 referrals from women, children and teens in Ashfield across all 8 of the services they provide, of these, support was provided to 386 women, children and teens. 29 men were also supported. The services available from WAIS include refuge accommodation, Freedom Programme and outreach support.

Of the above, 37 women completed the Freedom Programme, which is an 8-10 week programme that aims to help women make sense of and understand what has happened to them and understand that the perpetrator is to blame. It identifies the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusers and the responses of those suffering abuse. Feedback from the women that attended included:

*The group has taught me so much. I now know lots of behaviours I've encountered aren't ok. I've also learnt that I can apply this course to all areas of my life not just partners.*

*Still with my abuser but feel stronger and more able to deal with it till I'm ready to get out. This group has changed my way of thinking and how my life should be.*

*Encouragement from the group was so supportive and uplifting. I no longer feel as though I was to blame for my partner's behaviour. Listening to other people's reasons and situations for being in the Freedom programme has encouraged me to address my own problems with my partner's behaviour of bullying and abuse. Very informative and knowledgeable course - thinking more positive.*

*Made me a totally changed person in the way I think about relationships and the people and friends who share my time. Given me the confidence to follow through with my divorce.*

## **Complex Case Team**

In 2016-18, the Complex Case Team dealt with a total of 502 cases, of which 56 were experiencing domestic abuse

Recruitment of a Prevention of Domestic Violence Officer has recently been completed and the new post-holder will be joining the organisation soon. This will enable a renewed focus on the work to tackle domestic violence in the district and dedicated resource to put the measures in place to do so.

Since 2015, five people are believed to have died as a result of violence, abuse or neglect by a relative or household member in the district and these cases have been the subject of Domestic Homicide Reviews.

## **Policies and procedures**

A Prevention of Domestic Violence and Abuse Policy was developed in 2015 for internal use by employees and elected members. This sets out the support that is available to employees and elected members as part of ADC's responsibility to promote the welfare and safety of all employees. It also explains how ADC will deal with employees who are perpetrators of domestic violence.

A Prevention of Domestic Abuse Procedure was developed by Housing Services in 2017 which sets out how council tenants experience domestic violence will be supported by housing management advisors and the action that will be taken against tenant perpetrators.

Ashfield Homes developed a Prevention of Domestic Violence Policy in 2014 which identified how domestic violence would be tackled.

ADC has been awarded White Ribbon accreditation, which is the world's largest movement of men and boys working together, raising awareness and speaking out to end violence against women and girls.

## **Information**

The website provides information on the different types of domestic abuse, safety planning and where to get help in the district and county.

## Action plan

An action plan will be developed to deliver the 4 pledges of the campaign, this will be led jointly by Strategic Housing and Community protection. An indicative action plan with timescales is given below:

	Action required	Resources	Deadline
Commitment 1	Update existing policy	Within existing resources	December 2018
Commitment 2	Update website information  Identify other communication channels	Within existing resources	August 2018
Commitment 3	Update existing policy	Within existing resources	December 2018
Commitment 4	Appoint champions	Within existing resources	June 2018

## Implications

### Corporate Plan:

Tackling domestic abuse is highlighted as a priority in the Corporate Plan 2016-19 under both the Housing and Communities & Environment sections

### Legal:

There are no legal implications associated with committing to the Make a Stand campaign

### Finance:

There are no financial implications associated with committing to the Make a Stand campaign

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	No financial implications
General Fund – Capital Programme	No financial implications
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	No financial implications
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	No financial implications

**Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Failure to deliver the 4 commitments of the campaign by September 2019	An action plan with realistic timescales is outlined above, this will be regularly monitored. Strategic Housing and Community Safety will work jointly to oversee implementation of the action plan by the deadline.

**Human Resources:**

There are no HR implications associated with committing to the Make a Stand campaign

**Equalities:**

*(to be completed by the author)*

Delivery of the 4 commitments set out in the campaign will have a positive impact for a number of groups with protected characteristics, for example, domestic abuse disproportionately affects women, those with disabilities, those who are younger, those who are bisexual and those who are from a mixed/multiple ethnic background.

**Other Implications:**

*(if applicable)*

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

*(if applicable)*

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

*(if applicable)*

**Background Papers**

*(if applicable)*

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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