

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY – UPDATED POLICIES</b>
<b>Executive Lead:</b>	<b>CLLR HELEN-ANN SMITH, DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME REDUCTION</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 approve the refreshed Domestic Abuse Policy, Hate Crime Policy and updated Modern Slavery Policy Statement for 2022/23, detailing the Council’s commitment to Community Safety across the District.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- For Cabinet to approve the updated Community Safety policies and statements within this report.

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

To meet the Council’s legal and moral obligations and to take a proactive approach in tackling community safety matters pertaining to vulnerability, abuse and safeguarding matters across Ashfield.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

Members could choose not to approve these policies or to consider a different version. However, the documents have been prepared in order to set out the current and ongoing action the Council intends to take to demonstrate its commitment to tackling Community Safety issues and reducing risk and vulnerability across the District. Not approving the updated policies is not recommended.

## **Context/Background**

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out an aim to make Ashfield a Safer and Stronger District in which to live, work and visit. It contains an ambitious plan to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and support vulnerable people, and improve public confidence in collaboration with partner agencies.

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), domestic abuse, hate incidents, and modern slavery are gaining increasing precedence in national and local crime prevention priorities. Increased awareness and delivery of initiatives such as the Home Office Safer Streets agenda has provided opportunity for services to review delivery models to ensure that risk, threat, harm and vulnerability are appropriately addressed, and feelings of safety are prioritised.

By refreshing these policies, it will clarify how the Council will deal with vulnerability relating to hate crime, domestic abuse, and modern slavery, setting out the local authority's intentions to the public on service standards. The updated documents will supersede existing policies and provide more robust recording and monitoring processes that enable a co-ordinated and effective response and management of community safety and safeguarding issues. The policies will be available for the public to view on the Council's website and supplementary procedural guidance will be provided to Council officers on expectations when dealing with these matters.

## **Policy Updates**

The Council operates and attends various forums where community safety provision and risk, threat, harm, and vulnerability factors are assessed and managed. These forums support the tactical operational delivery defined within these policies. These forums are listed below:

- Corporate Safeguarding and Vulnerability Working Group
- Ashfield Vulnerable Adult Support Scheme
- Neighbourhood Tasking Meeting
- Child Sexual Exploitation Concerns Network
- County Serious and Organised Crime Board
- Ashfield Rough Sleepers Panel
- Ashfield Hoarders Panel
- Ashfield Complex Case Panel
- Nottinghamshire Child Criminal Exploitation Panel
- Nottinghamshire County - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Notts VAWG Strategy Workshop
- Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB)
- Safe Accommodation - Subgroup
- Ashfield and Mansfield Community Safety Partnership – Board Meetings (CSP)
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
- Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

The policies reflect these mechanisms to support vulnerable people, take enforcement action and the need to refer and work collectively with partner agencies to make Ashfield safer and feel safer. The policies also have due regard to new and existing legislation, strategies, and regulatory standards which are reflected in the new policies, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Home Office, Anti Social Behaviour powers - statutory guidance for frontline professionals, 2022

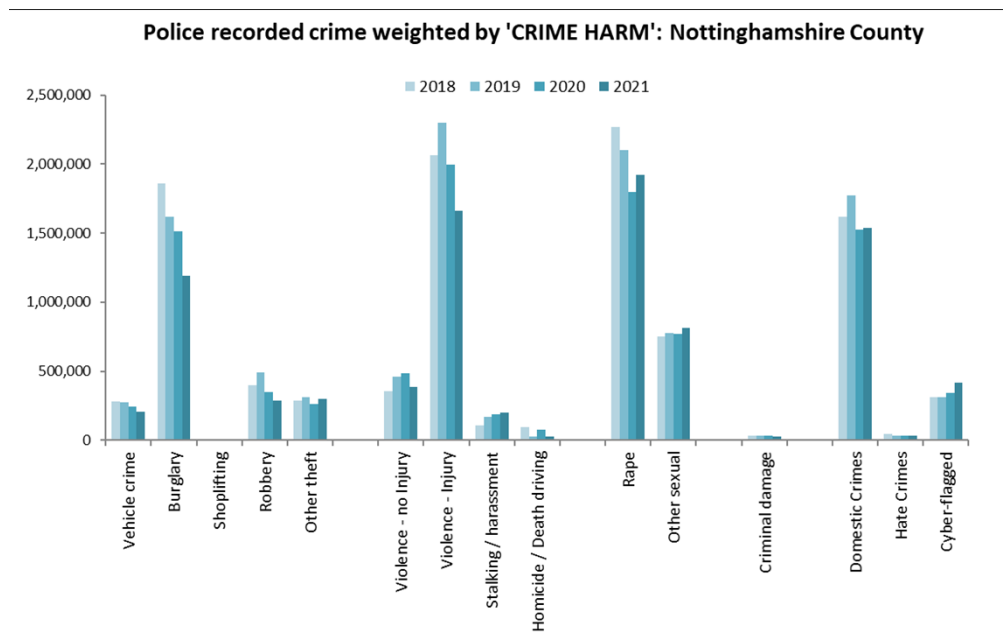
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery 2021
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Make Notts. Safer Plan 2021-2015
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024
- Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy
- Notts. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021-2025
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
- The Council’s Corporate Safeguarding Procedures

The policies apply to all services within the remit of Ashfield District Council and to all employees including permanent, temporary, casual workers, voluntary workers, elected Members, work experience students, agency staff, consultants, outside hirers and other contracted persons within the duration of that contract, whatever their position, role, or responsibilities. It also applies to work carried out in all settings, including Council premises or external, privately hired and other venues. It is intended that these policies will go live from January 2023 and will be reviewed every 3 years or in line with any key legislative, strategic, or operational changes.

**Evidence Base**

The graph below illustrates the ‘Crime Harm’ Index for the county of Nottinghamshire which indicates that rape, serious violence, and domestic crimes continue to elicit the greatest crime harm in Nottinghamshire. Risk in these areas is compounded by high levels of hidden harm. Hate crime is also listed and anecdotal evidence suggests underreporting in this area.

Domestic crime/abuse, rape and violence with injury offences account for a large proportion of police recorded crime, but over 50% of all ‘crime harm’. Risk is compounded by high levels of hidden harm – with only around 17% of those experiencing serious sexual assault reporting to the police. It is therefore paramount that policies and provisions are adopted by the Council to ensure risk threat, harm and vulnerability is appropriately managed.



According to the UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery 2021, police operations have increased since the Modern Slavery Act became law from 188 in December 2016 to at least 3,335 in August 2021. There were 8,730 modern slavery offences recorded by the police, a 5% increase from 8,354 in the year to March 2020 in England and Wales. The Home Office reports on continued funding for combatting Modern Slavery and as an authority and integral member of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), it is important that due regard to modern slavery is reflected in Council service delivery.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

Safer and Stronger Outcome we want to achieve – to implement measures and adopt protocols that tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and reduce vulnerability to ensure people feel safe and are safe.

### **Legal:**

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced provisions to tackle the issue and included a duty on any local authority to notify the Secretary of State if it has reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of human trafficking or modern slavery. Under Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, certain organisations are required to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year of the organisation. As part of Section 11 Children's Safeguarding Audits and inspection of safeguarding relating to the Care Act 2014, all local authorities are required to have a range of policies in place which relate directly to District level safeguarding. This includes Modern Slavery, as it affects children, young people and adults of all ages and abilities.

It is a legislative requirement on commercial organisations with an annual turnover of £36 million, to have a Modern Slavery Transparency Statement. The Council's annual turnover is above this threshold. Whilst the Act does not state that Local Authorities specifically are included in those organisations legally required to publish a statement, the Council has elected to do so as a matter of good practice and social responsibility.

The law recognises five types of hate crime on the basis of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and transgender and an updated policy will provide clarity on how the Council will respond and support its commitments under the Equality Act 2010. Furthermore, the updated Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides further provision on responses to domestic abuse and the new policy has due regard to this. [RLD 13/10/2022]

### **Finance:**

There are no direct financial implications of updating the Community Safety policies [BB 14/10/2022]

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A

Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

**Risk:**

Risk	Mitigation
Human trafficking taking place in supply chains and in any part of the Council’s business.	The co-ordination of training and disseminating further information to staff in respect of Modern Slavery will be dealt with by the Council’s Corporate Safeguarding Group. Through staff briefings via the intranet and handouts, staff will be advised of the impact of modern slavery both locally and nationally. They will be advised of the potential signs that slavery or human trafficking may be occurring and where to report their concerns.

**Human Resources:**

Organisationally the Council takes its responsibilities for safeguarding extremely seriously. The organisation, through its HR practices and employment checks, will ensure that anyone offered work as an employee will be scrutinised to ensure that they are legally entitled to work in the U.K.

**Environmental/Sustainability:**

None for this report

**Equalities:**

The aim of this policy is to provide guidance on the Council’s commitment to tackling community safety issues and how it will work in partnership with other local statutory organisations, to help address and prevent such problems. Equality Impact Assessments have been completed to demonstrate commitment to the Council’s Equalities Policy and Equality Act 2010.

**Other Implications:**

Policies and statements will be included on the Council website following approval of the policies by Council.

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

Not applicable

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

Not applicable

**Background Papers**

- Enc 1: Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Policy Statement
- Enc 2: Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Transparency Statement 2022/2023
- Enc 3: Domestic Abuse Policy 2023
- Enc 4: Hate Crime Policy 2023

## **Report Author and Contact Officer**

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