
REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	20th SEPTEMBER 2018	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	MARTIN GUEST (01283) 595940 martin.guest@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	MAKE A STAND	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01 FM05

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council agrees to sign the 'Make a Stand' Campaign Pledge.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide Council with details of the 'Make a Stand' Campaign, recently launched by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance and request that Council signs the Campaign's Pledge.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) has launched a National Campaign for landlords to support people experiencing domestic abuse. 'Make a Stand' was launched in June 2018 in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and the charity Women's Aid. The Pledge gives housing organisations the opportunity to sign up to make four focused, but easily deliverable commitments to provide support for people experiencing domestic abuse. Once the organisation signs the Pledge they have until September 2019 to put them in place. The four commitments are:
 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 the organisation's website and in other appropriate places so that it is easily accessible for residents and staff.
 3. Put in place a Human Resources policy, or amend an existing policy, to support staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse.
 4. Appoint a champion at a senior level in the organisation to own the activity it is doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 3.2 The Campaign is a way for organisations to publicly commit to take action to support victims of domestic abuse. So far over 200 housing organisations and councils have

signed up to this Pledge, including Ashfield District Council, Futures Housing Group, Derwent Living and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. More background information including the details of all organisations already signed up is shown at <http://www.cih.org/makeastand> and <http://www.cih.org/makeastandsignees>.

Levels of Domestic Abuse in South Derbyshire

3.3 In terms of context and understanding the prevalence of domestic abuse across the District, the table below shows the volume of domestic abuse calls in South Derbyshire made during 2017/18 in comparison to the other local authority areas.

Police Domestic Abuse Calls by area	2017/18		3 months to March 2018	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Amber Valley and Erewash	3,662	15.6	952	4.1
Bolsover, Chesterfield, and North East	4,481	16.1	1,177	4.2
Derbyshire Dales and High Peak	1,630	10.1	420	2.6
South Derbyshire	1,241	13.1	333	3.5
Derbyshire County Council area	11,014	14.3	2,882	3.7
Derby City area	5,812	23.4	1,440	5.8
Police Force area	16,826	16.5	4,322	4.2

Rate per 1,000 population based on 2011 census

3.4 The table below shows the volume of domestic abuse crimes reported in South Derbyshire, during 2017/18 in comparison to the other local authority areas.

Police Domestic Abuse Crimes by area	2017/18		3 months to March 2018	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Amber Valley and Erewash	1,387	5.9	346	1.5
Bolsover, Chesterfield, and North East	1,445	5.2	376	1.3
Derbyshire Dales and High Peak	601	3.7	149	0.9
South Derbyshire	559	5.9	156	1.6
Derbyshire County Council area	3,992	5.2	1,027	1.3
Derby City area	2,543	10.2	622	2.5
Police Force area	6,535	6.4	1,649	1.6

Rate per 1,000 population based on 2011 census

3.5 Taking a more local look at the information, the table below shows the breakdown of domestic abuse calls and crimes across Safer Neighbourhood Policing areas across the District reported in 2017/18.

Local Policing Area April 2017 to March 2018	Domestic abuse calls	Domestic abuse crimes	Crimes as a % of calls
Etwall, Hatton and Hilton	115	54	47
Gresley, Woodville and Swadlincote	437	202	46
Linton, Overseal and Lullington	126	55	44
Melbourne	110	46	42
Mercia	142	84	59
Newhall and Midway	311	118	38
South Derbyshire	1,241	559	45

Existing support given to victims of domestic abuse across South Derbyshire

- 3.6 Trident Reach is the sole provider of Domestic Abuse services across South Derbyshire. It provides the following services across South Derbyshire to support victims of domestic abuse.
- 3.6.1 **Refuge** - This provides short-term, confidential and safe accommodation for women and children escaping domestic abuse. The refuge offers practical and emotional support to residents from qualified and experienced staff who understand the impact of domestic abuse on family life.
- 3.6.2 **Floating Support** - Floating Support is flexible, individual, one-to-one support that is not tied to accommodation. The floating support service is available to both women and men and provides the same high quality advice, information and guidance that are offered in the refuge.
- 3.6.3 **Children's Service** - This provides support for children who may be witnessing or victims of domestic abuse, both within the refuge and within the local communities of South Derbyshire.

Current Council position

- 3.7 Part of the consideration as to whether the Council should sign up to the Pledge was to assess its current position and the work required against the four commitments outlined in 3.1. This position is set out below:
- 3.7.1 The Housing Service does not have a standalone domestic abuse policy for its tenants; instead any cases are managed by the Housing Service through the Tenancy Agreement, Housing Allocations Policy and through the application of the Homeless Legislation and associated Code of Guidance with the support of other Council services such as Legal Service and the Communities Team.
- 3.7.2 Information about national and local support is available on the Council's website and through other support providers operating in the District, see [support information](#).
- 3.7.3 The Council does not have a stand-alone domestic abuse policy for its employees; this is covered through a range of Human Resources policies and procedures.
- 3.7.4 The Communities Manager represents the Council at a District/County level on domestic abuse matters and is Vice Chair of the local Domestic and Sexual Abuse Action Group (DSAAG). Whilst there is no Domestic Abuse Member Champion, Councillor Mrs Patten is the nominated Equalities and Diversity Champion and attends the local DSAAG and Councillor Mrs Coe is the nominated Safeguarding Champion.

Actions planned

- 3.8 To enable the Council to sign up to the Pledge, the following work needs to take place in putting the necessary policies and information in place ahead of the September 2019 deadline. Discussions have taken place between Housing Services, the Communities Team and Human Resources Team and the following actions have been proposed to ensure compliance with these commitments:

- 3.8.1 Subject to Council approval to sign the Pledge the **Communities Manager/Business Support Manager** will work with the Communications Team to sign and publicise the Pledge in **October 2018** through the media to promote the work the Council is doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 3.8.2 The **Housing Services Manager/Business Support Manager** will draft a Domestic Abuse Policy for tenants, housing and homeless applicants, based on national good practice. Following this, consultation will take place with tenants, employees and key stakeholders before a report is presented to Housing and Communities Services Committee in **early 2019**.
- 3.8.3 The **Communities Manager/Head of Organisational Development** will draft a Domestic Abuse Policy for employees based on national good practice. Following this, consultation will take place through the Joint Negotiating Group with Trade Unions before a report is presented to Finance and Management Committee in **early 2019**.
- 3.8.4 The **Business Support Manager/Communities Manager** will review and update existing information on the Council's website/intranet and the information provided to the community and Council employees in **early 2019**.
- 3.8.5 As part of the reports to Members in **early 2019**, the Council will nominate a Member and/or Officer Champion to own the activity the Council is undertaking or enabling to support people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 3.8.6 Briefings to be provided to employees in **2019** on changes to Council policies relating to domestic abuse.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council of signing up to the Pledge with the exception of staff time.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 There are three main strategic aims contained within the Council's Corporate Plan that provide a basis to support the Council to sign up to this Pledge.
- People, PE2 is to protect and help support the most vulnerable including those affected by financial challenges
 - Place, PL3 is to help maintain low crime and anti-social behaviour levels
 - Place, PL4 is to connect with our communities, helping them to feel safe and secure
- 5.2 There are no legal implications associated with committing to the 'Make a Stand' Campaign.
- 5.3 Delivery against the four 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.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Committing to the 'Make a Stand' Campaign will demonstrate ongoing support and enhances the work being done to tackle domestic abuse across the wider community. As a landlord of 3,000 homes and service provider to around 99,000 people, the Council has a key role to play in ensuring tenants and residents are able to live safely and securely in their homes.