

| Report of | Meeting | Date |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| Chief Executive | Overview and Scrutiny Performance Panel | 13 March 2014 |

PERFORMANCE FOCUS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DETECTIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide contextual information and initial questions for focus to the performance panel for performance in relation to domestic violence detections.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the context and questions be discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny performance panel, with a view to understanding performance.

| Confidential report Please bold as appropriate | Yes | No |
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| | | |

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

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|--|--|---|---|
| Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all | | A strong local economy | |
| Clean, safe and healthy communities | | An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area | x |

BACKGROUND

4. In its terms of reference, the overview and scrutiny performance panel agreed that at each meeting, as well as considering performance reports, the panel have the opportunity to focus in on any specific area of service delivery. The panel have identified domestic violence detections as an area for further scrutiny at the March meeting.
5. This report provides contextual information relating to domestic violence. This will enable the panel and relevant officers and Members to prepare in advance of the meeting. The report also puts forward a number of questions to guide discussions.

PERFORMANCE CONTEXT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Background

6. The new Corporate Strategy approved in November 2012 identifies the percentage of domestic violence detections as a key measure of success against the priority of 'clean, safe and healthy communities'. The measure was selected in order to focus attention on this issue and ensure coordinated local effort.
7. A target of 70% detection rate was set, reflecting the current police target for this indicator.
8. The indicator is measured using data provided by the Police and reported to the Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership on a quarterly basis. Analysts from the Multi Agency Data Exchange (MADE) collect and process data on behalf of the partner agencies responsible for working towards a safer Lancashire. The information is owned by Lancashire Constabulary and shared with the MADE Analysts situated at Lancashire County Council.

Performance

9. Performance against this measure was above target at the end of 2012/13 although has been consistently below target and showing a declining trend throughout 2013/14 with performance currently at 61.2% at the end of quarter 3 compared to 74.7% at the same time last year.

| | 2013/14 | 2012/13 |
|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Quarter 1 | 66% | 76% |
| Quarter 2 | 64% | Not Available |
| Quarter 3 | 61.2% | 76% |
| Quarter 4 | - | 70.5% |

10. A number of reasons have been provided for the current performance. With the most recent explanation provided to Executive Cabinet at quarter 3, as follows:

| | |
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| Reason below target | <p>Domestic violence (DV) detections are a measure of the % of DV recorded incidents that result in a formal disposal by the police (i.e. prosecution and caution.) This is a police set target which has been adopted by the council and Chorley Partnership. Reasons for the indicator being off target are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The original target was set as a stretch target 2. The recording of what is a DV incident has changed over time and now includes sibling to sibling incidents and other inter familial incidents. 3. The age limit for recording incidents has lowered from 18 years old to 16 years old 4. Other interventions and alternative disposals, including mediation, reduce the number reaching a 'detection' stage 5. Lack of cooperation from the victim will account for some reported cases not progressing 6. Insufficient evidence to a criminal justice standard will result in reduced cases reaching 'detection' 7. In the interests of the parties involved some cases may not result in any formal action being taken, e.g. not wishing to criminalise the parties |
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| | involved. |
| Action required | Notwithstanding the above, the following actions have taken place: 1. Police regularly review their processes to ensure the best evidence is gathered at an appropriate stage 2. Liaison undertaken with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure each case is fully assessed before a decision on detection is made including a senior officer challenge |

Community Safety Partnership activity

11. Domestic abuse and violent crime is a key priority within the Community Safety Partnership plan with a number of specific aims, objectives and actions. Progress against these actions is reported to the Responsible Authority Group on a quarterly basis with the current status shown in the table below:

| Aims | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That perpetrators of domestic abuse are prevented from committing repeat harm and that agencies are able to work safely with families who choose to stay together despite abuse being a factor within the relationship. • That agencies are educated and aware of the current priorities and able to share information effectively with domestic abuse stakeholders and local communities • Ensure that vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected by violent crime are better protected | | |
| Objective | Actions | Status |
| 1.1 Reduce repeat offending in non-statutory perpetrators. | 1.1.1 Work collaboratively with key partners and specialist domestic abuse services to identify, agree and adopt a safe proactive approach to managing high risk & or serial domestic abuse perpetrators whilst addressing the potential escalation of risk to their victim. | Green |
| | 1.1.2 Develop protocol with local registered social landlords to ensure perpetrators are not knowingly rehoused close to a previous partner to whom they were abusive | Green completed |
| 1.2 Improve the understanding of work roles between officers. | 1.2.1 Coordinate and facilitate job shadowing opportunities between key domestic abuse stakeholder agencies. | Green |
| 1.3 Ensure that key domestic abuse agenda messages are effectively shared within the partnership | 1.3.1 Develop communication network between partnership agency public relations officers and the Lancashire Domestic Abuse Awareness Group (LDAAG) | Green completed |
| 1.4 Reduce the number of violent offences especially in vulnerable groups | 1.4.1 Commission violent crime problem profile and develop and deliver violent crime action plan | Green completed |

QUESTIONS:

- Performance at the end of quarter 3 (December 2013) was the lowest that it has been reported and also significantly lower than the same time last year.

- What is the current performance, if known?
 - How does performance in Chorley compare to other areas including regional and national trends?
 - Are there any other indicators that help to inform understanding of the wider issue, for example overall number of reports and repeat rates?
- How much influence does the Council have over this particular indicator? How accessible is data and information in relation to domestic violence?
 - The report shows the activity of the community safety partnership. How effective has this activity been and what other partnership resources are in place to support tackling domestic violence?

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

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| Finance | | Customer Services | |
| Human Resources | | Equality and Diversity | |
| Legal | | Integrated Impact Assessment required? | |
| No significant implications in this area | ✓ | Policy and Communications | |

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

13. No comments

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

14. No comments

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

| Report Author | Ext | Date | Doc ID |
|---------------|------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Vicky Willett | 5248 | 02 March 2014 | Domestic violence performance focus |