

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA605999535

Submitted: 16 April 2024 09:20 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Commissioning of Domestic Abuse Support Services

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Decision

Overview of policy / decision: Tackling the impacts of domestic abuse has been a priority for Essex County Council (the Council) for many years, and officer capacity and finance has been invested into the well-established and successful Southend, Essex, and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB). SETDAB has a shared vision and priorities that all partners subscribe to and contribute to delivery of.

Since 2019 the Council has also made substantial financial investment into the current domestic abuse services that support victims in the community and those residing within safe accommodation, such as refuge; support for perpetrators of domestic abuse and support for young people experiencing unhealthy relationships.

Across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) domestic abuse support has been developed piecemeal over many years with funding made available from a range of partners to support the reduction of and response to domestic abuse.

Partners across SET commissioned a DA Research programme that provided deeper understanding of the experiences of those who have been affected by domestic abuse. The purpose of the research was to identify what currently works well and what could work better within the current offer of support for both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

A Pan Essex Domestic Abuse Commissioning Collaborative (PEDACC) was established to oversee the DA Research programme. The recommendations were explored and further scoped with stakeholders, including those with lived experience, over a period of 8 months to co-produce the design of a new pan Essex domestic abuse support offer.

This decision is seeking authorisation to enter into a collaboration agreement with Southend City Council, Thurrock Council and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners Office (PFCC), known as the PEDACC and to align funding to procure services for a 'Domestic Abuse Operating Model' (the Model) and for the Council to be the Lead Authority on behalf of the collaborative. The services in the new Model will be launched in April 2025.

In addition, the Council seeks agreement from Cabinet to delegate the following decision to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families;

- approve contract awards and agree the terms of the contract with the successful provider/s following completion of the procurement process.

The Model will deliver support for adult and child victims and perpetrators by offering:

- A SET wide Central Point of Contact for anyone with concerns of domestic abuse, including professionals, victims, survivors, and perpetrators. It will offer triage, information, advice, guidance and where needed onwards referral for support.

- Support in safe accommodation will provide help to adult and child victims in an emergency or crisis. The support will be provided in appropriate safe accommodation across SET, such as refuge or dispersed units (self-contained for those whose needs cannot be met in a refuge, for example, men, people with older children, people with complex needs).
- Community based support for whole families (all age) that focuses on prevention, early help and specialist support to whole families who have been impacted by domestic abuse, including victims, perpetrators, and where appropriate other family members impacted by that abuse.
- Community based support for victims (child and adult) that focusses on prevention, early help and specialist support to child and adult victims of domestic abuse. The specialist support will include support from specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) where risks to the victim has been assessed as high.
- Community based support for perpetrators will provide prevention, early help, and specialist support to perpetrators of domestic abuse and those who are concerned about their own behaviours.

Each area of support/service in the model has a designated lead from the PEDACC. The designated leads are working with partners, including those with lived experience, to fully scope the specification details of the service offer, ensuring consideration that the services do not adversely impact any individual and/or groups identified within this ECIA.

Where appropriate, data and additional information from the work to date has been included.

Data: The data and insights utilised in this ECIA to inform this assessment are from current performance and reporting data collected as part of contractual arrangements with Local Domestic Abuse Providers and the Single Point of Contact Service for Southend, Essex and Thurrock (Data covers April 2019 – December 2023). It also contains data insights gained from the Council's last Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The Model will provide opportunities to continue to reach as many people impacted by domestic abuse as possible and will also support centralisation and improvement of comparative information and data analysis across the 3 Authority areas.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Working in collaboration and jointly commissioning services across SET aims to improve the outcomes for residents impacted by domestic abuse.

We are working with people with lived experience of domestic abuse to define the change they want to see. We anticipate high level outcomes to relate to;

- Feeling and being safe
- Improved physical and emotional wellbeing
- Better connected to local communities and support
- Improved relationships
- Positive behaviour change

The decision will also support the Council to meet its statutory duties within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, regarding support for victims of domestic abuse residing in safe accommodation and the requirements within the Domestic Abuse National Guidance.

The PEDACC will strengthen partnership working and explore integrated commissioning approaches, including strategic planning, service delivery and the pooling of resources. With the overall aim of strengthening the effectiveness in which all three authorities can respond, understand and commission more holistic, aligned and therefore effective domestic abuse support across the SET region.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Helen Lincoln (Children, Families & Education)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Cllr Beverley Egan (Children's Services and Early Years)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: New policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: The PEDACC have weekly programme meetings to ensure activities are on track and risks and mitigations are identified. Members of the PEDACC includes representation from legal, finance and procurement alongside commissioners from SET and the PFCC, Housing, Probation and the Police. The collaboration agreement will identify roles and responsibilities

of the PEDACC, and for key partners entering into joint commissioning arrangements.

The progress of the work will be monitored by the PEDACC and will include reports to relevant Council Leadership teams.

PEDACC reached out to people with lived experience of domestic abuse who are working with members to ensure the services are developed in line with needs.

Monitoring and evaluation processes for support identified in the Model will be embedded into regular practice and delivery with the successful provider/s. This will include the sharing between parties of both quantitative aggregated performance statistics and key performance indicators (KPIs), as well as qualitative information and narrative, for example, health, safety and wellbeing outcome measures for service users, in-depth case studies by providers to understand the experiences of people being supported in depth. PEDACC shall also ensure that appropriate feedback mechanisms shall be accessible and that regular performance monitoring with successful provider/s are in place.

As part of the statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) Southend, Essex and Thurrock each complete a full Strategic Needs Assessment every 3 years to understand and re-evaluate the needs of domestic abuse victims, with an annual refresh. Specialist Data Analysts and Researchers from the Council are frequently involved in this exercise, and this process helps ensure that these needs are consistently re-considered periodically and factored into onward approaches and strategy.

As part of the development of the Model extensive consultation has taken place with people with a lived experience of domestic abuse which will continue throughout the procurement activities and beyond to contract award and monitoring.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health: Healthy lifestyles, Promoting independence

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families: Family resilience and stability, Safety

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Sex

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Race

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Model has been developed utilising consultation, observations and shared learning with stakeholders, partners and those with lived experience. This commenced in June 2022, when the SET Domestic Abuse Partnership commissioned social

research consultants TONIC to undertake research to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of people who have been affected by domestic abuse, and to use these findings to help shape the design of a whole system response across the SET region. The purpose of this research was to understand what works well and could be strengthened and assess the effectiveness of support pathways and processes for both victims and perpetrators. Identifying opportunities to work together to design a whole system approach. To date over 600+ professionals, stakeholders and those with lived experience have engaged in surveys, group activities and workshops to further refine, shape and inform the Model.

Age: Domestic Abuse affects individuals of all ages. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines children who have witnessed domestic abuse as victims in their own right. The Councils last Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment highlights that the most frequent age group of Domestic Abuse victims and survivors seeking support through Compass (Single point of contact for Southend, Essex and Thurrock) in 2022/23 was those aged 36-40 (19% of accepted contacts). This is followed by those aged 31-35 (18%), then 41-45 & 26-30 (both 14% respectively). This is then followed by those aged 21-25 (9%), 46-50 (8%) and 51-55 (6%). Those aged over 55 and below 20, all sit below 4%, with the numbers lowering progressively as the age grouping increases. To summarise, we can see a broader range of those in middle aged groupings seeking support from the current single point of contact and often younger age cohorts (below 35) seeking support from Specialist Domestic Abuse Providers in the community.

The impact of the decision to work collaboratively and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not having a negative impact on any age cohorts. The proposed Central Point of Contact in the Model will be open to all ages, and both Support in Safe Accommodation and community-based offers will provide support to child and adult victims, as well as perpetrators and families impacted by domestic abuse.

Disability (including learning disability, mental health issues, physical impairment and sensory impairment) The Councils 2023/24 Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment highlights that for 2022/23, in 15% of accepted referrals to Compass (current DA front door) a physical disability was identified, in 53% of accepted referrals a mental health support need was identified (although this is understood to encompass a broad range of issues/needs), and in 4% of accepted referrals a learning disability was identified. According to the Tonic Report (2023) out of a sample of 106 survey responses who identified as having lived experience of domestic abuse, 7% identified as having a physical or learning disability and 28% a mental health issue. This information does indicate that service users with disabilities do seek and access support for domestic abuse and therefore this decision will be of a positive impact. Opportunities to Improve current information and data analysis around these factors and linkages to health, wellbeing and Safety outcomes, are anticipated to be strengthened by collaboration within PEDACC and as such, this decision has been assessed as positive medium.

Pregnancy/maternity : The impact of the decision to work collaboratively and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not negatively impacting on pregnancy and maternity. Although numbers of pregnant women seeking domestic abuse support is low (5%) if a referral is received support is provided by current domestic abuse services and their needs will be considered as part of the new Model.

Sex: The impact of the decision to work collaboratively and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not negatively impacting Sex. The Councils 2023/24 Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment highlights that for 2022/23, 93% of accepted referrals to Compass were Female and 6% Male. Instances of those that are intersex or non-binary are below 1%. Although domestic abuse services are mainly provided to females feedback from practitioners and service users has highlighted the importance of ensuring men are considered in all services therefore their needs will be considered as part of the new Model as a minority group within the context of domestic abuse.

Sexual orientation: Approximately 1-2% of those supported by domestic abuse services are Gay or Bisexual and new support services developed in the Model will highlight that every service user should receive fair and equal support regardless of any protected characteristic in line with the Equality Act (2010).

Race: The impact of the decision to work collaboratively and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not having a negative impact on Race. The Councils 2023/24 Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment highlighted that for 2022/23 81% of people accessing DA services and presenting as homeless as a result of domestic abuse across Essex were White British, this is lower than the proportion of White British residents in Essex (85%)

according to the 2021 Census). Meanwhile, the proportions of Black and Asian DA victims are slightly higher than the county level percentages. On average across both providers and districts, 6% of victims identify as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean, or African as opposed to 2.5% of Essex residents, and 4% of victims identify as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, which is in line with the county proportion of 3.7%. Expectations around successful service provider/s will be outlined in all relevant service specifications, that every service user should receive fair and equal support regardless of any protected characteristic in line with the Equality Act (2010).

Religion/belief: The impact of the decision to work collaboratively and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not having a negative impact on Religion and Belief. Expectations around successful service provider/s will be outlined in all relevant service specifications, that every service user should receive fair and equal support regardless of any protected characteristic in line with the Equality Act (2010). The extent of potential impact within this protected characteristic however is too early to be known. This is as current quantitative data is not actively collated around clients religious beliefs to be able to assess a scale of impact. However, from broader feedback and case studies provided by current support providers it is known that current service users are supported with tailored approaches to accommodate many various aspects in regard to culture, religion, faith and/or belief and there is positive examples of this occurring.

Marriage/Civil Partnership: The impact of the decision to work collaboratively and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not having a negative impact on Marriage and Civil Partnership. Expectations around a successful service provider/s will be outlined in all relevant service specifications, that every service user should receive fair and equal support regardless of any protected characteristic in line with the Equality Act (2010). The extent of potential impact within this protected characteristic however is too early to be known. As quantitative data is not actively collected or analysed around this factor as part of current reporting.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: n/a - No negative impacts have been identified.

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: There is an aligned piece of work and focus as part of the Model to strengthen and develop the current market for 'By and For' services available in Essex. These are services where victims can see themselves reflected in staffing, management and governance structures. By and For services are designed and led by those that share the same protected characteristic(s) as the victims they aim to serve. For example, a specialist Domestic Abuse organisation that is led by Black and minoritised women and children, for Black and minoritised women and children. The outcomes and learning from the work is being included in the development of the service and aims to help support the development of 'By and For' services in Essex.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Working families

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Residents of Harlow

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Harwich

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Canvey Island

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: To note: The nature of Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (such as refuges, dispersed accommodation etc) is that details around geographical location of services is not publicly known, for reasons of security and to protect victims and survivors. Therefore, no individual areas above have been selected/differentiated. Although this decision can broadly be understood, stated, and assessed as being positive for these areas, especially in light of support services in the Model being available to anyone within the SET Region. However, the full differentiated extent of impact for these areas is currently not known.

Victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse in all areas across Essex, Southend and Thurrock as part of the Model, will be able to access support where they have experienced, been impacted by, or may be looking to alter their behaviour regarding domestic abuse. The Council has strong working relationships with all partners and works closely to raise awareness of support available. Regular communications campaigns target specific areas in Essex as some areas have a higher rate of domestic abuse, which includes those in the Levelling Up priority areas. Local Housing providers and partners at a District/Borough/City level are made aware of domestic abuse pathways of support and are well versed in supporting local residents to access these. Working in the PEDACC arrangement is anticipated to strengthen this approach.

Children and Adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach) and Children on Free School Meals: As highlighted in the protected characteristics section, over half (57.6%) of domestic abuse victims being supported in Essex have mental health needs, and approximately 1/3 of domestic abuse victims in Essex identify themselves as having a disability. Additionally, utilising data from a mixed case analysis by one refuge from the Councils 2021 needs assessment, it was found that 36% of the children in that refuge had additional needs associated with their health and/or development. Using this data indicatively,

provision of domestic abuse services can be seen as having a positive impact.

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months): As part of the core offer of support services and in line with guidelines in the National Domestic Abuse Guidance (2022), it is anticipated that within all support services of the Model the successful provider/s will be expected as part of core work to provide general advice services and/or signposting to relevant support pathways as appropriate. As such this can be seen as positively contributing to impact in line with the Councils levelling up commitment, to help support young people into employment, education and training.

Working Families: This is another area that this decision can be seen as positively contributing to impact for the working families' agenda. As successful provider/s are also anticipated as part of core work, to provide services or signpost as appropriate to financial advice services and Housing-related support as this is a key area which affects those impacted by domestic abuse. This for example could include securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently. This support therefore assists in helping working families to avoid situations where housing costs or security, impact on their financial/family stability and mental wellbeing.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: n/a

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

People who experience drug and alcohol dependence

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Victims of modern slavery

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Carers

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Looked after children / care leavers

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and

cadets)

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People on low income

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Sex workers

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Ethnic minorities

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The health inclusion groups mentioned in this section are all service user cohorts whom we know experience domestic abuse. Some of these groups are often statistically more likely to be victims or impacted by domestic abuse due to additional vulnerabilities.

Homeless / rough sleepers : Information from current domestic abuse providers tells us that when seeking support victims often need to leave their current home where the perpetrator resides and seek new accommodation. Although the current and future contracts will not provide accommodation, they do provide support for victims needing to live in refuge accommodation and support to enhance safety for those victims that wish to stay in their own home without the perpetrator. The perpetrator service in the model will include consideration regarding support for housing. To enable victims to safely stay in their home (where appropriate) there is a need to also work with perpetrators regarding their housing situation.

Refugees / asylum seekers: The future Insights from the Women's Aid Annual Audit (2023), indicate that refugees and those seeking asylum often experience and are impacted by domestic abuse. Out of a sample from On Track: The Women's Aid case management and outcomes monitoring system. Of 38,045 women who ended their time in either a refuge or community-based service (1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022), 4,628 were not British Nationals and 30% were recorded as having no recourse to public funds (NRPF). Wider Essex Data around victims of domestic abuse who have NRPF is limited in scope and primarily qualitative in nature. The Councils 2023/24 Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment highlighted that 7% of all victims supported by domestic abuse providers in Essex had NRPF, which increased to 38% for victims residing in refuge.

People who experience drug and alcohol dependence: In June 2022 the SET Domestic Abuse Partnership commissioned social research consultants TONIC to undertake research to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of people who have been affected by domestic abuse, and to use these findings to help shape the design of a whole system response across the SET region. The findings from the research and consultation with practitioners highlighted the need for additional support for those that have experience of drug and alcohol

dependencies. The Council currently commissions support for victims residing in a recovery refuge in Essex. However, further considerations need to be explored regarding people with drug and alcohol dependencies who are residing within the community.

Global Majority (identified as ethnic minorities in this section): Domestic abuse figures show that across Essex approximately 10% of current service users are from the global majority. This figure increases to 12% of service users in south Essex. The development of the Model will have a positive impact on this group as it will provide continued domestic abuse services and any service specifications will highlight that every service user should receive fair and equal support regardless of any protected characteristic in line with the Equality Act (2010).

There is no current information available on the remaining cohorts within these priority groups.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: n/a

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

People living in urban areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Historically, commissioned specialist domestic abuse support services across SET have been known to be based and target support within areas known to be of high deprivation and urban areas. Data on the socio-economic status of all service users is not consistently collected at the point of seeking support, or as a standardised part of currently commissioned support. There are also complexities in analysing and recording the geographic origins of victims and perpetrators presenting in need of support when impacted by domestic abuse. For example, a victim may in some instances flee to, or be moved to, another area of Essex to maintain or seek safety and support. Support services in the Model will be accessible for all residents across SET regardless of location or socio-economic background. It can broadly be assessed as being positive for these areas.

As stated in the 'Changes in the index of Multiple Deprivation for Essex Report' (2019). "The percentage of Essex residents living in the most deprived 20% of areas, is amongst the highest in the Southeast and the most significant structural factors affecting deprivation are incomes and employment. With recent changes in deprivation across Essex, stemming from small changes in barriers to housing and local services; health outcomes; and levels of crime". As such, the decision to work collaboratively in the PEDACC and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not having a negative impact in any geographical areas. This assessment is

made considering the relative scale and trends of the population of the SET area currently seeking information advice and guidance around domestic abuse.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: n/a

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?: One of the insights and observations from the TONIC report (2023), is that data and analysis of comparable information is challenging and complex around domestic abuse across the SET region and between partner services. It is anticipated that working in the PEDACC collaborative arrangement, will provide more opportunities to explore ways to strengthen, align and refine available data sources and analysis and help reduce some of the challenges this presents.

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Across all the areas for Families above, the decision to work collaboratively and procure support services in the Model the DA Operating Model is assessed as not having a negative impact.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) recognises children as victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right. This has therefore meant that relevant criteria for support services have further emphasised the need to support both parent and child/ren together. The Model encompasses this, particularly the introduction of a whole family community-based support offer. This is seen as positively impacting the ability of families impacted by domestic abuse to enable more options and choice over the direction and nature of their onward support. This will have a positive anticipated impact on all the family aspects, specifically a family's ability to play a full role in family life, families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown and families before, during and after

couple separation when they have been impacted by Domestic abuse.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: n/a

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Crime & Disorder

Crime and disorder

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Re-offending

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Serious violence

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:

Across all the areas for Crime and Disorder the decision to work collaboratively in the PEDACC and procure support services in the Model is assessed as not having a negative impact.

The introduction of a perpetrator community-based support service as part of the Model is anticipated to both positively effect and be impactful on reducing rates of domestic abuse related crimes and serious violence. As well as provide avenues of support for individuals to change and alter their behaviour, and as such reduce rates of re-offending for offences committed relating to domestic abuse. The TONIC report highlights the importance of supporting victims of domestic abuse that are misusing drugs, alcohol or other substances and this will be considered in the design of support services.

This decision is considered positive, as working in this collaborative arrangement provides opportunities to better understand the outcomes that a substantive offer in this area may yield for both victims and survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit): No

Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?: Yes

Please confirm for purchase over £100k that you have a carbon reduction plan as part of your

procurement: No

Please list which climate TOMS (Themes, outcomes & measures) you have included in your procurement and the weighting these have been given: We are including a climate plan as part of the tender for information purposes only, the market in this area is small and immature, providers of the support that we are sourcing for tend to be small SME's, in order to attract the best outcome for this tender and attract as many SME's as we can, it is felt that this is the best approach to take to achieve MAT (most advantageous tender).

Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?: No

Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new: No

Nature of impact

Built Environment / Energy: None

Sustainable Transport / Travel: None

Waste: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The services in the Model is to provide outreach support to people impacted by domestic abuse; staff are likely to need to travel to offer that support which will require the use of transport. Jointly commissioning support across SET should limit the impact on travel as service delivery will be available at a local level.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: A comprehensive assessment to measure the reduction of carbon impact will be completed once the details of the service offer have been fully scoped.

An example of how the Model can help reduce carbon footprint includes.

- Aligned financial resources over a larger geographical area supports scope to develop pockets of local delivery, limiting travel and impact on carbon footprint for staff and service users.
- Victims of domestic abuse will at times need to flee the perpetrator to keep themselves and often their children safe. They will flee with no items and will have to resettle into a new home, needing to replace all essential items. If just 1,000 victims were supported to safely stay in their own home this would impact positively on the Council's net carbon neutral ambition. Replacing a washing machine, cooker and fridge freezer for 1,000 victims equates to 1,000kg of CO₂e.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 15/04/2024

Name of person completing the ECIA: Denise Murphy

Email address of person completing the ECIA: denise.murphy@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Children, Families and Education

Your service area: Children and Families

Your team: Children and Families Commissioning

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: clare.burrell@essex.gov.uk