

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Executive  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
**Report for:** Noting  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships

### Report Title

Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Domestic Abuse Strategy (22/23).

### Summary

Trafford Council commissioned an external consultant to complete a Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment ("JSNA") and to co-develop a Domestic Abuse Strategy.

This report is to provide information on the scope and outcome of the JSNA and planned activities which will enable the Council to respond to identified priority areas.

### Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive note the report and planned actions detailed within the report.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Rhys Dower  
Extension: N/A

### *Implications:*

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The priorities listed in the report should be considered as Corporate priorities for Domestic Abuse. Each agency / directorate has a responsibility for ensuring these priorities are implemented. Reducing the impact and prevalence of Domestic Abuse cannot be achieved by organisations working in isolation.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The Strategy links in with the; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Greater Manchester Strategy</li><li>- Greater Manchester Gender Based Violence Strategy</li><li>- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy</li></ul>
Financial	In Trafford, Domestic Abuse is conservatively estimated to cost the health, social care and criminal justice system in excess of £8million per annum, (this is expected to be higher as the estimate is based on 2008/09 figures). There is strong evidence to support

	<p>the 'invest to save' case for Domestic Abuse prevention across all services. New Economy (2014) analysis quantified the public value cost of a Domestic Abuse incident, identifying a potential 'public value' benefit of £10,738 per incident prevented.</p> <p>The findings from the JSNA, and subsequent Strategy provides recommendations and actions, which also includes guidance on commissioning. Financial investment should therefore be made for commissioning in the areas which are highlighted within the JSNA.</p> <p>In 21/22, TMBC received funding of £432,696 from MHCLG and anticipate receiving a similar amount in 22/23.</p>
Legal Implications:	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) received royal ascent in April 2021, and is enshrined in law.</p> <p>The new Act includes a number of measures, and there is a legal duty for local authorities to meet these requirements. In particular for Local Authorities, it will place a statutory duty on Tier One local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation. It has created a four-part statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation and provide clarity over governance and accountability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support.</li> <li>• Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the need's assessment.</li> <li>• Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions).</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.</li> <li>• Local Authorities will be required to appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it will consult as it performs certain specified functions.</li> </ul>
Equality/Diversity Implications	Trafford council will commission services based on level of need and risk. Our commissioned services will tailor services to the needs of those with protected characteristics. Victim/Survivor consultations were accessible to the public, and information gathered were from those with protected characteristics.
Sustainability Implications	<i>Not applicable</i>
Carbon Reduction	<i>Not applicable</i>
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	<i>Not applicable</i>
Risk Management Implications	The Strategy supports us in our management of risks in terms of preventing Domestic Homicide, serious case reviews, and other serious safeguarding reviews.

Health & Wellbeing Implications	The Domestic Abuse Strategy will underpin Trafford's Health and Wellbeing Strategy in addressing the wider determinants of health and wellbeing and directly impacting the health and wellbeing of victims of domestic abuse.
Health and Safety Implications	<i>Not applicable</i>

## **1.0 Background**

Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) were introduced by the Department of Health (DOH) in April 2008 to strengthen joint working between the National Health Service (NHS) and Local Authorities. The Health and Social Care Act (2012) placed the responsibility for the JSNA and developing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to Health and Wellbeing Boards, with the purpose of reducing inequalities and improving the health and wellbeing of the whole community.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) places a statutory duty on Tier One authorities, with support from their Boards, to conduct a local needs assessment to determine the level of need for support within safe accommodation in their area. Section B2 of the draft statutory guidance states that 'a full local needs assessments should be conducted at a minimum every 3 years, with a refresh being undertaken on an annual basis to ensure any change in demand or support requirements are adequately captured'.

Trafford Council commissioned an external consultant to complete a Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment ("JSNA") and to co-develop a Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Trafford has now undertaken a comprehensive needs assessment and developed a strategy to implement a number of recommendations to redesign the pathway and service via a robust, place-focussed, holistic approach.

## **2.0 JSNA**

Trafford Partnership is committed to preventing and reducing the harm caused by Domestic Abuse by developing and implementing a sustainable system wide approach to prevention, early intervention, response and support.

In February 2021, Trafford Council launched a public tender exercise for a partner to completion of a local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for domestic abuse and to co-develop a Domestic Abuse Strategy. The JSNA outcomes are summarised in the report below.

Activities undertaken in the completion of the JSNA and development of a strategy to:

- Consult with partner agencies
- Gather relevant data
- Identify need and gap in provision
- Complete action plans and set recommendations for local authorities
- Write a needs assessment and subsequent strategy
- Devise implementation plans

The methodology used for the JSNA included stakeholder engagement, public engagement, data analysis and a literature review.

The scope of the JSNA was to explore;

- defining and monitoring domestic abuse,
- identifying causes of domestic abuse, the factors that increase or decrease the risk of violence, and the factors that could be modified through interventions.

Domestic abuse (“DA”) is a vitally important issue for all services across Trafford. Using estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) up to the end of March 2018, it is estimated around 5,316 women (7.9%) and 2,749 men (4.2%) in Trafford have experienced DA in the last year. Nationally, 28.9% of women and 13.2% of men have experienced DA since the age of 16, which in Trafford could amount to 19,448 women and 8,638 men. Based on findings from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2021, of those that experience domestic abuse every year in Trafford we can estimate that 6,720 (68%) are female victims and approximately 3,520 (32%) male victims.

In Greater Manchester, 36% of all violent crime reported to the police entails domestic abuse. While 80% of the domestic abuse cases that are prosecuted in Greater Manchester results in a conviction - higher than the national average - it represents only about 1 in 13 incidents reported to the police that are successfully prosecuted in England and Wales.

### **Demographic Breakdown**

- There are 186,884 individuals aged 16 or over in Trafford of which we can estimate around 32,700 will have experience domestic abuse over their lifetime. On an annual basis, this equates to 9,840 individuals likely to have experienced domestic abuse (both familial and intimate partner violence).
- SafeLives Insights dataset reveals that two in five children (41%) in families where there is domestic abuse have been living with that abuse since they were born, based on the current child population this would mean 23,216 children in Trafford live in households where there is domestic abuse.
- Based on the population of young people in Trafford we estimate that 1,840 young people between 16-24 will experience domestic abuse every year.
- Based on the age of the population in Trafford we estimate around 1,760 individuals over the age of 60 will experience domestic abuse every year.
- We estimate in Trafford that there will be around 1,200 victims of domestic abuse within the LGB+ community every year
- Overall we can estimate there are around 45,530 individuals with a disability in Trafford. Of those individuals around 5,260 are likely to experience domestic abuse every year.
- The total non-white population in Trafford is 32,744 which is around 14% of the total population. Using this figure alongside the estimated prevalence of domestic abuse we can estimate that around 1,010 victims of domestic abuse in Trafford will be from a BAME community.

### **JSNA Outcome Summary**

The JSNA has been completed and the following key areas must be prioritised over the next three years:

- Individual: the people that live in Trafford

- Family: the households and personally connected groups the individuals in Trafford reside in
- Community: the local groups and areas the individuals and families live within
- System: the organisations across Trafford and their processes and ways of working

The Council will now continue to work with its external partner to co-develop a Domestic Abuse Strategy for Trafford. The results of the JSNA will inform future decision making in relation to the design and implementation of a Domestic Abuse Strategy and commissioning of service provision in the future.

Alongside the JSNA and Strategy, an action plan will be developed to support Strategy implementation, via Trafford’s Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, over the next three years.

The Council will receive confirmation of funding allocation from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) early 2022.

The Council currently has a contract for the delivery of Refuge Accommodation and Move On services. The Council’s current contract is due to expire in March 2022.

In order to further develop and then implement the strategy moving forward, the Council will need to explore its current contractual position, its future service requirements and based on those requirements, take steps to identify a viable delivery partner post March 2022.

In identifying a future delivery partner, legal advice will be sought in respect of procurement requirements and flexible contractual funding mechanisms to enable negotiations based on variances in periodic MHCLG funding allocations.

A further report will be presented to the Executive at the point where the Domestic Abuse Strategy can be summarised, a preferred delivery partner can be identified and details of potential contractual arrangements can be proposed.

### **3.0 Domestic Abuse Strategy**

In Trafford we are committed to enabling our residents, their families, and communities to live a healthy life, free from abuse and violence. We will support this by reducing the impact of domestic abuse on the population of Trafford by developing and implementing a sustainable system wide approach to prevention, early intervention, response, and support.

To develop our whole system response the JSNA highlighted some key areas for us to focus on in terms of our priorities for the next three years. The below table highlights our priorities for each layer of the system from the individual through to the system itself as well as what success would look like over the period.

The Council’s Strategy and action plan will be mapped against the following priorities and success targets.

Theme	Priorities	What success looks like
Individual	<b>1. Service provision is accessible without delay to victims, perpetrators and children including from all protected characteristic groups or where there is a complexity of need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barriers for victims to seek help are <b>reduced</b></li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> access to services for all protected characteristic groups</li> <li>• <b>Reduced</b> waiting times for specialist services</li> </ul>

Theme	Priorities	What success looks like
	<p>2. <b>All victims of domestic abuse have access to safe accommodation and support within it, including children</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fewer</b> victims need to flee their home as options to remain safe in their home are available, including perpetrator management</li> <li>• <b>Reduction</b> in the number of victims that are in unsuitable temporary accommodation</li> <li>• <b>More</b> victims and survivors are able to access specialist domestic abuse refuge provision with fewer declined</li> </ul>
	<p>3. <b>A unified offer of support for those concerned about their behaviour within intimate and family relationships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased</b> number of perpetrators accessing support and changing their behaviour</li> <li>• Perpetrators access support to change <b>earlier</b> before behaviour becomes abusive</li> </ul>
Family	<p>1. <b>A coordinated safeguarding approach to assess the needs of each family member to ensure support plans are ‘whole family’ focussed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved</b> information sharing and accuracy of risk assessments</li> <li>• <b>Increase</b> engagement of all family members in support</li> </ul>
	<p>2. <b>Developed pathway for families experiencing domestic abuse that stay together</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased</b> safety for families</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> confidence and knowledge of frontline staff in working relationally</li> </ul>
	<p>3. <b>Access to recovery support for children and the non-abusive parent to ensure</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased</b> access to specialist therapeutic and parenting support for victims and children</li> <li>• <b>Decrease</b> number of children experiencing negative outcomes</li> </ul>
Community	<p>1. <b>A public awareness communications strategy that focusses on i) understanding domestic abuse, particularly non-physical forms of violence (such as economic abuse and coercive control), ii) where to get support and ii) removes barriers in seeking help</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved</b> knowledge amongst residents about what constitutes domestic abuse</li> <li>• <b>Increased</b> proactive and self referrals to services</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> confidence in disclosing and seeking help</li> </ul>
	<p>2. <b>A coordinated bystander approach within the community to ensure the public are confident in dealing with disclosures with an initial focus on employers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved</b> identification of unhealthy and abusive relationships within family and peer groups</li> <li>• <b>Increased</b> disclosure of abuse</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> positive experiences for victims disclosing to friends, family and informal networks</li> </ul>
	<p>3. <b>A multi-agency pathway for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse in the family home or their own dating relationships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved</b> recognition and awareness amongst young people about what constitutes abuse</li> <li>• <b>Increased</b> awareness and access to emotional and therapeutic recovery support</li> </ul>

Theme	Priorities	What success looks like
System	1. <b>Develop full system response to domestic abuse across primary care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims are identified and supported <b>earlier</b>, preventing escalation and risk of harm</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> knowledge and confidence of GP's in identifying and managing disclosures</li> <li>• <b>Increased</b> positive experiences of disclosing abuse to GPs</li> <li>• <b>Increased</b> referrals from GP's to specialist domestic abuse services</li> </ul>
	2. <b>Aligned approach to domestic abuse and sexual violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved</b> public awareness around definitions of sexual violence, including assault and rape within relationships</li> <li>• <b>Increased</b> capacity of services through <b>improved</b> partnerships between frontline domestic and sexual violence services</li> <li>• Victims feelings of stigma or shame are <b>decreased</b></li> </ul>
	3. <b>Consistent data collection across all agencies in relation to domestic abuse including demographic and need related data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improved</b> commission decisions based on evidence</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> strategy and policy development through evidence</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> understanding of unmet need</li> </ul>
	4. <b>Coordinated training programme for professionals in all 'people facing' roles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased</b> knowledge, awareness and confidence of all professionals about domestic abuse</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> awareness of risk assessment and signposting processes</li> <li>• <b>Improved</b> use of signposting and referrals</li> <li>• <b>Increase</b> number of victims accessing specialist support</li> <li>• Victims identified <b>earlier</b></li> </ul>

#### 4.0 Consultation

- Victim/Survivor and Professional Consultations were completed as part of the JSNA (findings are within the draft JSNA attached above).

Overall 69 victims and survivors gave consent to answering the survey, however only 39 of those completed it. A number of questions in the survey were not mandatory, enabling victims to skip any questions that they may have found triggering or harmful to them.

- A Public Consultation on the proposed key priorities set out in the Strategy was complete (deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021).

#### 5.0 recommendations

It is recommended that the Executive notes the report and planned actions detailed within the report.

**Key Decision (as defined in the Constitution): No**  
**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? N/A**

Finance Officer Clearance PC  
Legal Officer Clearance DS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Katz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

**[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE (electronic)...**

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.