



COUNCILLOR GEORGE  
DAVIES

CABINET  
MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016

WIRRAL PLAN: A 2020 VISION -  
UNDERPINNING STRATEGIES: ZERO  
TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

**Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member - Housing and Communities , said:**

“Wirral’s repeat rate of high risk domestic abuse is well below the national average, and fortunately, people are also now more likely to report abuse, which indicates increased confidence in services. However, Merseyside Police deal with around 97 reported domestic abuse incidents every day so there is still much work to be done. We know it remains a largely hidden problem and that domestic abuse has a lasting effect on families and particularly on children into later life, which is why working towards zero tolerance is so important and why having a long-term strategy in place to eradicate domestic abuse in Wirral is so vital.”

In the Wirral Plan we set out the following pledge: Our focus will remain on prevention and early intervention and we will continue to facilitate an integrated response and effective court system to deal with cases quickly and effectively.”

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision sets out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents. Delivery of the priorities and outcomes described in the Plan are underpinned through the development and implementation of a set of key strategies.

This report provides Cabinet with the Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse strategy; a key strategic document which articulates ambitions related to the Wirral Plan People Priority:

“Wirral is a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, every child gets a good start in life and older residents are respected and valued”.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is therefore a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

Cabinet is requested to approve the Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse strategy which is appended to this report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse strategy has been developed to deliver the Wirral Plan pledge to protect the vulnerable.

The strategy has been developed with residents, partners and stakeholders to ensure that there has been extensive engagement in its development and its priority areas.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 A five year Wirral Plan received unanimous approval at the meeting of full Council on the 13th July 2015 and has been adopted by all strategic partners from the public, private and third sectors.

The plan contains twenty pledges to be achieved by 2020; one of the pledges under the People theme is to for Wirral to have a Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse and sets out the following commitment:

*Our focus will remain on prevention and early intervention and we will continue to facilitate an integrated response and effective court system to deal with cases quickly and effectively.*

The Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse strategy is the first of its kind for Wirral and its purpose is to eradicate any domestic abuse from occurring and to change the culture of Wirral residents to a point where anyone will feel confident to challenge this type of behaviour.

The strategy has been developed through a partnership group and includes a set of actions to be delivered over the course of the five year strategy. The strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis with regular performance reporting taking place through appropriate governance arrangements.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Estimated costs of public services to support victims of domestic abuse and the resultant lost economic output of victims equates to £15.8 billion each year in the UK.

One of the key tasks of this strategy is to examine what the annual spend is on Wirral and as projects to deliver the strategy are developed the financial implications will be identified as part of the project plan.

## 5.0 LEGAL

5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. As projects to deliver the strategy are developed the legal implications will be identified as part of the project plan.

## 6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 The Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse strategy will be co-ordinated in partnership by existing staff resource. Any additional resource requirements will be identified as a detailed delivery plan is developed.

## 7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Corporate Risk Register will be refreshed in line with the new Wirral Plan developments to ensure that any risks to delivery are understood and mitigating actions are put in place as appropriate.

## 8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 The Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse strategy has been developed through a partnership group and has been informed by the views of survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse and partners and other stakeholders through the opportunities of meetings and stakeholder events and also a specific strategic needs analysis.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The potential impact has been reviewed with regard to equality and the impact assessment can be found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

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## APPENDICES

*Appendix 1 – Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse Strategy*

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

*All reference material is contained within the strategy appended to this report.*

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Not applicable	