

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Paul Stuart
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Law & Order
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

WIRRAL'S COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE

I am delighted to inform Council that the Safer Wirral Hub has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

The new service has been shortlisted in the Public/Public Partnership category. This unique partnership brings together all the public and community safety functions of Wirral Council, Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service into one single management structure and operations base.

Officers from Wirral Council, Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service will attend a judging day in January 2019, ahead of hopefully bringing home the award in March next year.

Read more in the [Wirral Globe](#) and [Wirral View](#).

From 23 to 25 November, town halls in Wirral glowed orange, uniting with landmarks across the globe for the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

The day signals the start of a 16-day campaign of activism and in Wirral will include the 'Busting the Myths' campaign. Tranmere Rovers also showed their support by dedicating their home game on Saturday, November 24 to the campaign.

As part of our ongoing drive to tackle domestic abuse, ambassadors from more than 60 small and large businesses, local organisations and community groups attended a conference launching Wirral's new domestic abuse website, Business Quality Mark and Community Champions programmes.

The conference, held at New Brighton's Floral Pavilion, highlighted the work being done by Wirral's Domestic Abuse Alliance and other groups to tackle domestic abuse across the borough.

During the event local businesses, Involve North West and Plantroom Generator Services Limited, as well as Little Lambs First Aid charity were awarded the new Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse Business Quality Mark. The aim of the Business Quality Mark is to help staff feel supported and confident in approaching their employer for help, as they will have the knowledge and tools to respond effectively.

Also at the event I was pleased to announce an imminent update to Council policy, which will ensure all council employees who are victims of domestic abuse and/or harmful practices are entitled to a minimum of a week's special leave, at full pay, to ensure they have time to deal with the consequences of their situation. I am also calling on the Government to legislate to support the victims of domestic abuse with paid leave

We are leading by example on this issue, and I hope businesses and public services in Wirral and the Liverpool City Region join us by adopting similar policies.

I encourage all Members to read our new website and share it through your own networks and with your constituents: www.itsneverokwirral.org

Finally, I want to update Members on the fight against modern slavery. The Global Slavery Index estimated earlier this year that in 2016 there were up to 136,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK. This contrasts with a figure of 13,000 estimated by the Home Office in 2013.

The Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery goes further than existing law and guidance and commits councils to proactively vet their own supply chain to ensure no instances of modern slavery are taking place.

I welcomed the opportunity to sign up to the Charter against Modern Slavery on behalf of Wirral. Modern Slavery might not always be obvious, but its exploitation of vulnerable people can be happening all around us. I am working with Wirral Council and its partners to ensure modern slavery has no place in Wirral. We will do our best to protect victims and push for the prosecution of those who commit this crime.

Read more about this important issue in the [Wirral Globe](#).