

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 31/03/2015

Title:

DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robert Knowles]
[Wards Affected: All]**

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to ask the Executive to recommend the Domestic Abuse Policy to Council for adoption.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Value for Money: The Domestic Abuse Policy supports Waverley's strategic aim to ensure that the Council is equipped to provide excellent services to local people and strong community leadership by creating a high performing staff team and operating first class policies and practices.

Financial Implications:

The Domestic Abuse Policy supports the strategic aim to ensure that all spending delivers value for money. This report does not have any direct financial implications. Whilst adherence to the policy may take some amount of existing staff time, this should be outweighed by the overall benefits as explained in the Policy.

Legal Implications:

The policy meets the requirements of all relevant legislation

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Following the death of police officer Heather Cooper, the Safer Waverley Partnership undertook its first Domestic Homicide Review. Out of this came an overview report and action plan. One of the key recommendations was for all organisations, particularly in Surrey, to develop a robust Domestic Abuse policy for their staff.
- 1.2. This policy has been written with reference to Surrey County Council's Domestic Abuse Policy as well as guidance on developing an effective domestic abuse policy from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. Waverley's Community Service Manager and Staffside have also been consulted in the preparation of this policy.
- 1.3. The aim of the policy is to:

- Confirm that Waverley is committed to supporting staff affected by domestic abuse.
- Raise awareness that domestic abuse occurs regardless of gender and that one in four women are likely to experience domestic abuse at some point in their lifetime.
- Raise awareness that 75% of those experiencing domestic abuse are targeted whilst at work.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Domestic Abuse Policy be recommended to Council for adoption.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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