

HELP! Learning to improve council services for domestic abuse victims

LGSCO Key Questions (November 2021)	Response
<p>Does the Council have statistics for the number of children in its area who have been or are being affected by domestic abuse?</p>	<p>Yes the local authority records information on Domestic Abuse notifications received and reports this within its Learning and Improvement scorecard. It should be noted that as the majority of domestic abuse remains unreported this data will undercount the total number of children impacted by domestic abuse.</p> <p>Data is also available from Child and Family Assessments that include factors relating to Domestic Abuse of parents, children and other family members.</p>
<p>How many households have been provided with accommodation after fleeing domestic abuse?</p>	<p>A total of 3 domestic abuse perpetrators and 87 victims have been placed in statutory accommodation in the last 12 months</p>
<p>Does the Council have sufficient refuges and other domestic abuse support services in its area to meet the needs of domestic abuse victims, including children? Does it need to take steps to commission more services?</p>	<p>The local authority commissions a women's domestic abuse refuge. In response to our statutory needs assessment we are also in the process of recruiting our Safe Accommodation Team to support victims of domestic abuse in all forms of accommodation including temporary, private, rented.</p>
<p>What arrangements does the council have with local police and other bodies for sharing information and providing integrated services for victims of domestic abuse in its area?</p>	<p>The Council commissions domestic abuse services through Bridges support who also have a presence in the MASH. This allows for coordinated working across criminal justice, social care and specialist domestic abuse services. We also have MARAC on a fortnightly basis.</p>

<p>Does the Council have good information sharing arrangements with the local police to identify known or suspected abusers living in its area?</p>	<p>Information sharing is in place with several services across Tameside, this includes the Police, Probation and Prison Services. Regular meetings take place to identify and discuss individuals along with the risk associated with their offending. Proactive processes are in place to ensure a strategic approach to assessing and putting in place the right levels of support that is tailored to meet individual's needs and is aimed at preventing further offences and victims.</p>
<p>Does the council intend on reviewing its policies, procedures, and any internal guidance to ensure it is complying with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and delivering effective help to victims of domestic abuse?</p>	<p>The Council is conducting wide ranging domestic abuse training for staff that includes providing information around the new definitions of domestic abuse and new duties for the authority. In addition, we are commissioning new services and monitoring to ensure the authority is compliant with the requirements of the new act.</p>
<p>What training does the council provide to front-line staff on dealing with victims of domestic abuse? Does the council intend to provide training on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021?</p>	<p>There is domestic abuse training available to all staff through e-learning and additional modules available through the children's safeguarding partnership. Additionally, over £100,000 is being invested in developing a training offer in Tameside for professionals and the wider public including: domestic abuse awareness raising, domestic abuse champions scheme and working with perpetrators training for key staff.</p>
<p>What procedures does the council have for ensuring details of domestic abuse victims are not shared with their abusers?</p>	<p>The Council and its commissioned services for homeless people and those experiencing Domestic Abuse comply with all relevant legislation covering data protection and the sharing of information. Perpetrator details will be requested and recorded so that staff can identify who the perpetrator is. Staff will never contact perpetrators to obtain information. Services will only share information with third parties with the express permission of the Service User. Staff are regularly trained on the law covering this area of work.</p>