

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



Question submitted by: Councillor Holloway

To Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Bingley, the Leader

Question:

To ask the Leader, (i) if there is a clear action plan on delivering the VAWG Commission's recommendations (ii) which areas the council sees itself as having responsibility for (iii) what resources the council is committing to their implementation and (iv) who is responsible and the timescales for delivery?

Response:

(i) if there is a clear action plan on delivering the VAWG Commission's recommendations

Yes an initial Plan has been drafted providing details about how the specific recommendations will be delivered. The plan outlines the key delivery partners. Safer Plymouth, supported by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board is providing the overall leadership and direction for the co-ordinated city wide delivery of the recommendations. Implementation of the Plan will be co-ordinated through a specific VAWG Strategic Lead post that is currently being recruited to.

(ii) which areas the council sees itself as having responsibility for

The recommendations are for the City and therefore the Council has a responsibility in the delivery of each of the recommendations in its capacity, as an employer; as an organisation; as a commissioner of services; and, as a partner organisation across numerous partnership areas including Safer Plymouth.

A brief example of some of the work currently underway includes:-

- Leading work around an annual programme of communications – including a conference at the end of November
- Re-procurement of specialist domestic abuse services to ensure that women and girls who have been subjected to male violence get the support they need
- Developing a co-ordinated response to men and boys who are violent or abusive and cause harm ensuring that they get the help they need to change their behaviours
- Delivering healthy relationships work in schools to reduce harmful behaviours
- Engaging with businesses and organisations across the city to develop a Violence Against Women and Girls Charter Mark Scheme
- Providing leadership for a Male Allyship Network established to challenge sexist and misogynistic behaviours and cultures

(iii) what resources the council is committing to their implementation

As a statutory partner in the Community Safety Partnership; Safer Plymouth, the council supports specifically across the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence and VAWG agenda with subject matter expert posts in Community Connections, Public Health and Strategic Commissioning supporting delivery across this agenda.

(iv) who is responsible and the timescales for delivery

On recruitment, the VAWG Strategic Lead will work closely with the subject matter experts and take responsibility for the plan and activity driving the commission recommendations forwards. Currently, the existing officers are working with the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board to develop the plans and delivery.

Signed:

Richard Bingley

Dated: 10 November 2022