

Report to: Community Protection Panel
Date: 17th September 2007
Subject: Domestic Violence Co-ordinator
Report of: Director of Environmental Services
Contact officer: Nicola Yates Telephone: 01942 488301

Purpose/summary: To inform panel of the revised arrangements for employing the Community Safety Partnerships Domestic Violence Co-ordinator.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: None

Recommendation/decision: That panel accept the content of the report

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision.

Risks/Implications:

Financial:	£36,000 (not council revenue budget)
Staffing:	None
Policy:	None
Equal Opportunities - has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	No
Wards affected:	All

Property – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Director of Legal and Property Services confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? **Yes/No ***

Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? **Yes/No ***

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **Yes/No ***

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only:

Categorisation of the report:	X		
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	X

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
17.09.2007			

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 3rd September 2007

1.0 Background:

- 1.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities have a statutory responsibility to work with other agencies to reduce crime and disorder. As domestic violence accounts for almost a fifth of all recorded violent crime, it is important that all Community Safety Partnerships have strategy for dealing with this issue.
- 1.2 The Local Government Association published good practice guidance for partnerships dealing with Domestic Violence in 2005. They recommended, in relation to the role of Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, that the role should be permanent, with a clear scope and purpose and supported by appropriate mechanisms and line management.
- 1.3 In the past, the role in Wigan has been funded on a short term basis, and has been hosted in three different parts of the partnership. This has presented a variety of difficulties, not least the continual high turnover of post holders. We have had 3 different individuals undertake the role in the last 4 years, which can lead to lack of continuity and focus around some of the positive improvements we are making towards tackling domestic violence.
- 1.4 Following the resignation of the last post holder, the Domestic Violence Strategic Group, made up of senior representation of all the key stakeholders, met on the 16th August 2007, to discuss a way forward.

2.0 Proposals:

- 2.1 The group agreed that the post should continue in order to ensure that a strategic and co-ordinated response is maintained towards tackling the issue of domestic violence.
- 2.2 The group agreed that in order to alleviate the issues caused by short term funding and turnover of staff, the post would be mainstreamed if possible and made permanent, with a minimum funding commitment of five years being sought from each partner agency. The agencies asked to contribute a sum of £6,000 per annum would be:
- 2.3 Wigan Councils Neighbourhood Services – Community Safety Team
Wigan Councils Adult Services Department
Wigan Councils Children Young People and Families Department
Greater Manchester Police
Ashton Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust
Wigan and Leigh Housing
- 2.4 All partners have agreed in principle and final confirmation is being sought.

2.5 The group also agreed that in order to provide appropriate line management and leadership to the post, it would be managed within the Community Safety Section of Wigan Councils Neighbourhood Services Division.

2.6 In light of the above, and following commitment of partners to fund the mainstreaming of the post, the job description will be reviewed due to the change in line management arrangements and to reflect any changes to the role as a result of best practice and improved guidance from government.

3.0 Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option:

3.1 The group did consider not retaining the role of the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, but decided, given the importance of the issues, the impact on overall crime and the risk to life that results from failing to tackle domestic violence, it was imperative that the role continued.

4.0 Conclusions:

4.1 The Assistant Director for Community Safety will organise for a recruitment exercise to take place as soon as possible to fill the post of Domestic Violence Co-ordinator.

4.2 The Community Protection Panel is asked to accept the content of this report and support the proposed course of action to ensure that we continue to do everything possible to tackle domestic violence, its causes and the impact on families and communities.