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**Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services**  
**10<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Domestic Abuse Strategy for the Borough of Dudley**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise select committee on the first Dudley Borough Domestic Abuse Strategy

**Background**

2. Domestic abuse accounts for nearly a quarter of all violent crime reported to the police. Various studies have shown that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men report experiencing domestic abuse at some time in their lives. In Dudley, domestic abuse is widespread with 3,388 incidents reported to the police in 2006/7
3. In the last five years the profile of domestic abuse has risen on the crime and disorder agenda both nationally and locally. Nationally, in 2006 the Home Office issued a National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan. In the current Local Area Agreements domestic abuse is cited as a priority with measures included to tackle the problem. In April 2005 the government published a revised domestic abuse Best Value Performance Indicator, BVPI225. Its purpose is to assess the overall provision and effectiveness of local authority services designed to help victims of domestic abuse and prevent further domestic abuse. Eleven questions cover a range of activities including the provision of a domestic abuse strategy.
4. Partnership working is essential if the complex issues associated with domestic abuse are to be addressed effectively. Dudley's Domestic Abuse Strategy has been developed to provide guidance and a framework for action for agencies.
5. The strategy was written in accordance with Home Office Guidelines for developing strategies for partnerships. Dudley Domestic Abuse Forum and Safe & Sound Crime Reduction Implementation Group were consulted throughout the process. The final document was presented to Safe & Sound Strategic Board in August.

6. The strategy is divided into 3 key areas:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Protection and justice
- Support for victims

7. Aims of the strategy are to:

- Raise awareness of domestic abuse to all agencies and organisations throughout the borough of Dudley.
- Improve services for victims so they are better protected and supported, including managing perpetrators to reduce risk.
- Comply with government guidance including the 2004 Crime and Victims Act, The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, Best Value Performance Indicator, BV225, National Domestic Violence Delivery Plan.
- Comply with the delivery of the LAA (Local Area Agreements) mandatory outcome and stretch targets.

8. A detailed action plan accompanies the strategy. The document will be reviewed on a six-monthly basis in line with the Borough Strategic Assessment. Accountability will be via Safe & Sound Strategic Board and the Crime Reduction Implementation Group.

### **Finance**

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage

### **Law**

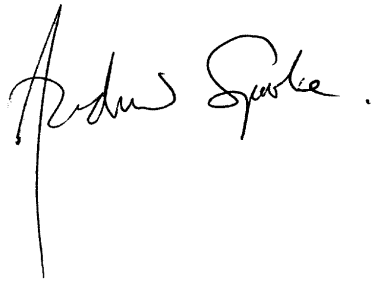
10. Principle legislation includes the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, Children Act 2004, Homelessness Act 2002, Local Government Act 2000

### **Equality Impact**

11. This report is in accordance with the council's equality and diversity policy.

### **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that the committee note the information contained in this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Sparke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the letter 'A'.

**Andrew Sparke**  
**Chief Executive**

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