

<b>Report of:</b>	Andy Preston - The Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection Erik Scollay - Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 15 June 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Domestic Abuse New Burden Funding - Provision of Support within Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services for 2021-2022

### Summary

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Executive approves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment is undertaken so we can commission and ensure provision of support for victims and children in safe accommodation which enables Middlesbrough Council to meet new statutory duties and report back to central government confirming we have met the obligations</li> <li>ii. The terms and conditions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and that delegated authority is granted to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration to sign this on behalf of the Council</li> <li>iii. That the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration, in consultation with the Executive member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, receives delegated authority to allocate the £394,865 funding as per commissioning intentions/ decision identified by Needs Assessment.</li> </ol>

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? <sup>1</sup>
Decision	Yes	No	No –Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise the working relationship and expectations relating to authority's allocated funding was required by 18 March 2021. This was completed by Andrew Humble Head of financial Planning and

<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

			Support on 16 March 2021 (Appendix 1). Email received from MHCLG with the Grant determination letter on 8 April 2021 (Appendix 6) Needs Assessment based on guidance should be completed by August 2021
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<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Business</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Head on</li> <li>• We will continue to promote the welfare of our children, young people and vulnerable adults and protect them from harm, abuse and neglect.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving local communities a real say in the future of the town, and how our services are developed and delivered.</li> </ul>

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
All wards are affected by this proposal

**What is the purpose of this report?**

1. To request delegated powers for the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration, and Chair of the Domestic Abuse Strategic partnership in consultation with the Executive member for Adult Social Care to undertake a needs assessment and revise strategy ( See Appendix 2) and allocate funding as per intervention/decisions to meet the statutory duties outlined in Domestic Abuse Bill <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-overarching-documents>.

**Why does this report require a Member decision?**

2. This decision is a key decision, affecting all wards in Middlesbrough and with financial implications over the key decision threshold of £150,000.

## Report Background

3. The Domestic Abuse Bill is currently before Parliament, but may not receive Royal Assent by April. Nevertheless, it is Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) expectation that from 1 April 2021, local authorities should start to fulfil their relevant functions as if the new duty were in force, and continue to fulfil these functions in line with the duty once it is commenced (subject to Parliamentary approval).
4. The government is introducing new statutory duties on local authorities ensuring that all victims, including children have access to safety and support within safe accommodation when they need it. In March Middlesbrough share of the New Burden funding was announced and published. [Funding allocation methods: new domestic abuse duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-allocation-methods-new-domestic-abuse-duty) (See Appendix 4)
5. This funding is awarded specifically to meet the cost of provision and support in safe accommodation for victims and children and the administrative new burden relating to local authority costs of delivering the new functions under the duty. Local authorities are expected to finalise plans for implementation of the duty, which will mean that victims should not be turned away from refuge and safe accommodation and be enabled to access life-saving support to help them recover and rebuild their lives.
6. To do this Middlesbrough Local authority, with support from Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, will conduct a needs assessment to determine the level of need for domestic abuse support for victims /survivors residing in safe accommodation and publish a revised version of Preventing Domestic Abuse strategy by August 2021.
7. The New Burden funding covers the estimated cost of providing unmet need for support in safe accommodation to victims and their children, as well as needs previously supported through MHCLG short-term challenge funds, which provided funding for the Middlesbrough element of the Regional Domestic Abuse Navigator Project. The needs assessment and strategy will inform how the funding should be spent and inform immediate and long term commissioning intentions.

### What decision(s) are being asked for?

8. That Executive approves:
  - i. The local needs assessment based on the expectations set out in the Needs Assessment Template (Appendix 2)
  - ii. The terms and conditions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 1)
  - iii. That the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration, in consultation with the Executive member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, receives delegated authority to sign off the needs assessment and strategy and allocate funding for the project up to £394,865 per intervention/decision.

## **Why is this being recommended?**

9. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration is the Chair of the Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Partnership and the officer who will be responsible for undertaking needs assessment and revising the preventing Domestic Abuse strategy reports to Head of Prevention Access and Provider Services in Adult Social Care.

## **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

10. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, when it comes into force creates duties on Local Authorities, specifically at section 15-17 with regard to duties in relation to the Commissioner, and Part 4 of the Act referencing support. Therefore provision must be in place to support the coming into force of the Act.

### ***Financial***

11. The new burden funding is additional funding which does not impact on the Council's baseline financial position. The additional income is specifically to ensure authorities meet new burden associated with Domestic Abuse Bill and there will be no adverse impact on existing Council services.

### ***Policy Framework***

12. Approval of the recommendations will not affect any part of the Council's Policy Framework.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

13. A needs assessment will be completed which requires review and consideration of impact of Domestic Abuse on protected groups

### ***Risk***

14. The strategic risk register had already identified risk in relation to the council not meeting statutory duties outlined in Domestic Abuse Bill and this is being managed through Pentana.

## **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

15. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will review membership to ensure it is convened with members from a range of agencies and services across the authority that perform specific functions. Board members representing each function should be able to support officer conducting needs assessment in accessing specific data sets and information relating to their function. This work undertaken during needs assessment will report to Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Partnership and the joint Adult Social care and Public Health DMT.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1- Middlesbrough Memorandum of Understanding signed

Appendix 2- Needs Assessment Form and Guidance

Appendix 3- Needs Assessment Q&A

Appendix 4- MHCLG Funding Announcement Q&A

Appendix 5- Grant determination

## **Background papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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