

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 17 December, 2018**

### **Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services**

### **Regional Collaboration for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for entry into a collaboration agreement with Cardiff Council for the delivery of services for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

#### **Recommendations**

1. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Environment and Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services to negotiate and agree the Heads of Terms of the Collaborative Agreement with Cardiff Council.
2. That the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic services be authorised to agree and execute the necessary Collaboration Agreement with Cardiff Council.
3. That further reports on the Council's actions in satisfying our duties under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 ("VAWDASV") be provided to Cabinet in due course.

#### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

1. To comply with the VAWDASV (Wales) Act 2015 requiring Local Authorities to form regional partnerships and to secure regional award funding for projects specific to the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. To comply with the relevant legal requirements.
3. To ensure that Cabinet is regularly informed of progress.

#### **Background**

2. On July 30th 2018 (min C392) Cabinet adopted the Cardiff and the Vale VAWDASV Strategy. In addition to the Strategy an action plan has been implemented across the region to ensure positive outcomes are achieved.
3. Domestic and Sexual abuse is a priority for the Safer Vale Partnership which is chaired by the Director of Environment and Housing Services and acts as the

Strategic Board responsible for reducing Crime and Disorder in the Vale of Glamorgan.

4. Partners represented on the Board include; Vale of Glamorgan Council, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Cardiff and Vale Health Trust, National Probation Service, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Voluntary Sector. The Board reviews performance and identifies opportunities for improvements.
5. The legislation requires a move towards regional collaboration and Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan have agreed to co-operate as a region for this purpose due to a shared Health Board footprint, natural travel to work patterns, service access migrations for residents across the area and the pre-existence of some services.

### **Relevant Issues and Options**

6. VAWDASV places a requirement on local authorities and their partners to improve the public sector response to this issue, including re-commissioning of services to ensure that they are fit for purpose.
7. Formal collaboration with Cardiff Council provides a framework for improved information sharing and creates opportunities that would not otherwise be available to the Council due to resource demands and/or scale of services.
8. In order to facilitate the formal agreement a governance structure will be agreed to ensure consistency and transparency. Through this structure the Council will be able to ensure that services are reflective of the Council's identified needs – a draft is attached at Appendix 1.
9. A communications plan is also being developed to ensure that key messages to the public and professionals are timely and consistent across the region. All partners are committed to disseminating messages and targeted awareness raising campaigns via a variety of means to establish the greatest reach and awareness.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

10. From 2018/19 Welsh Government has advised local authorities that they will no longer directly fund individual Councils and will instead fund based on agreed regions. In terms of Cardiff and the Vale, Cardiff Council has agreed to act as the host for the regional funding.
11. Within the Vale the funding for 2018/19 will continue to support the following services:
  - Advocacy Support £30,000
  - MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) £15,000
  - VAWDASV Manager £32,060
12. To date, VAWDASV funding is awarded on an annual basis which makes it difficult to plan and commission services. There are 3 local authority employed staff that are funded via this funding stream, two of which are on fixed term contracts.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

13. Ongoing collaboration between Cardiff and Vale Council Officers identify ways to work together creatively to provide more sustainable services. The collaborative arrangement supports the 7 goals contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

## **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

14. It will be necessary to agree and enter into a formal collaboration agreement with Cardiff Council.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

15. The development of providing good quality domestic and sexual violence services will protect and support vulnerable victims who are highly likely to be more susceptible to being victims of further incidents. The provision of services to vulnerable clients will have a beneficial impact on reducing crime and disorder within the Vale of Glamorgan.

## **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

16. All victims have access to services within the Vale of Glamorgan and no adverse impacts are anticipated.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

17. This report is consistent with the Corporate Objective of the Council.  
Contributes to Outcome 9 of the Community Strategy 2011 - 21 and the Wellbeing Outcome 1: An Inclusive and Safe Vale of the Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

18. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

19. The provision of Domestic and Sexual Abuse services is a Vale wide responsibility and there are no specific implications for individual wards.
20. Councillor Rachel Nugent-Finn has been consulted in her role as Local Authority champion for VAWDASV.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

21. Homes and Safe Communities.

## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Contact Officer**

Deborah Gibbs - Community Safety Manager.

## **Officers Consulted**

Head of Housing and Building Services  
Committee Reports - Legal  
Accountant for Housing and Building Services

## **Responsible Officer:**

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing

**Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Reporting Structure**  
**wef April 2018 (to be phased in)**

