

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

11<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Plenderleith (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman), and Mrs. Patten.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Bambrick, Dunn and Pearson.

OS/20. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs. Hood (Conservative Group) and Councillor Mrs. Mead (Labour Group).

OS/21. **DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

At a previous Scrutiny Meeting in May, an overview was provided on the structure of Domestic Abuse services within the district and the agencies involved. It had been requested that further, more in depth information on these agencies be provided.

It was confirmed that there were 4 main service providers in the District; Next Step, Trident Reach the Charity, and an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor who was employed by Women's Aid, and Victim Support, who also offered initial support to low risk victims. All of these agencies offered different services and were funded independently.

Full details, including the service they provided, the number of people accessing their service, how they were funded and by whom, what contingency plans they had in place when the funding ended, and which agencies support which level of victim were included in the report.

It was concluded that in the long-term, the future of many of these agencies was uncertain as much of the funding was provided by Derbyshire County Council. Also, suitable external funding streams were difficult to obtain for more than one year at a time and therefore any long term security was unlikely. In the short term the district was fortunate to have dedicated workers and volunteers who were committed to reducing the amount of Domestic Abuse cases within the district.

Members expressed concern, as there seemed to be no cohesive approach to the provision of service.

**It was agreed:-**

**That the report be noted, and that a copy be sent to the Police Crime Commissioner along with a covering letter, highlighting the risks and concerns.**

MRS. A. PLENDERLEITH

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.45 p.m.