

# COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

## Agenda Item

Brighton & Hove City Council

**Subject:** Support Services for Victims of Sexual Assault:  
Scrutiny Review

**Date of Meeting:** 5 July 2010

**Report of:** Director of Strategy and Governance

**Contact Officer:** Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-1110

E-mail: Tom.hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk

**Wards Affected:** All

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ EXEMPTIONS

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The report of the scrutiny panel on support service for victims of sexual violence was submitted for approval to the Parent Committee Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 June. It is included in this report at Appendix 1.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That Members note the scrutiny panel's report (Appendix 1) that will be referred to the Council's Executive and appropriate partner organisations.
- (2) That Members also note a proposal that was not agreed by ECSOSC for an additional recommendation, as recorded in the extract from the draft minutes of the 21 June ECSOSC meeting included in this report at Appendix 2.

#### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The scrutiny panel was established by ECSOSC following a referral from full council. It comprised Councillor David Watkins (Chairman), Councillor Juliet McCaffery (Deputy Chairman), and Councillors Averil Older and Alex Phillips.
- 3.2 The terms of reference for the panel were agreed as:

- To gain an understanding of the nature and prevalence of sexual violence, particularly in the Brighton and Hove context
- To identify what support services for victims of sexual violence are already available to Brighton and Hove residents
- To identify where there are gaps in the provision of support services
- To identify what referral routes and pathways between different statutory agencies and support services currently exist, and how these can be developed further to increase support to victims of sexual violence
- To investigate ways to encourage a co-ordinated and holistic approach to the provision of support services for victims of sexual violence
- To investigate ways to encourage a more strategic and integrated approach to planning and commissioning support services
- To identify ways to ensure that support services can be sustainably resourced
- To identify ways to consult with service users about the support services they are accessing

3.3 ECSOSC on 21 June agreed the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny report as attached at Appendix 1.

3.4 ECSOSC also noted a proposal for an additional recommendation made by a Panel member as recorded in the draft ECSOSC minutes (see Appendix 2 to this report). The proposal was not agreed, but ECSOSC resolved to take forward the draft minutes.

3.5 The Panel report and appendices passes to the Community Safety Forum for noting and on to the Councils' Executive and partner organisations.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 Officers have been consulted on the findings of the scrutiny review

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

5.1 The financial implications of adopting the scrutiny panel's recommendations will be considered by the Council's Executive alongside the relevant budgets.

##### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Having been agreed by ECSOSC the recommendations are referred to the Executive and other bodies to decide what action, if any, to take in response.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Equality issues are central to the issue under review and are dealt with extensively throughout the report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Crime and disorder issues are central to the issue under review and are dealt with extensively throughout the report. Sexual violence is mostly experienced by women and girls and can be considered one of the main causes and consequences of gender inequality. Sexual violence represents a significant violation of women's and girls' fundamental human rights.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 None identified directly in relation to this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The recommendations made in this report are in line with the council's priorities in reducing inequality.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Report of the Support Services for Victims of Sexual Violence scrutiny Panel, Volume 1.
2. Extract from the draft minutes of 21 June ECSOSC

**Background Documents:**

1. The Panel report Volume 2 contains the evidence presented to the scrutiny Panel.

