

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 8

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Report of the Support Services for Victims of Sexual Violence Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 21 June 2010

Report of: Director of Strategy and Governance

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The scrutiny panel on support service for victims of sexual violence was established by ECSOSC following a referral from full council.
- 1.2 The scrutiny panel's report is presented here for approval by the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That members:

- 2.1 Endorse the scrutiny panel's report as attached as appendix 1.
- 2.2 Agree to refer the report recommendations to the council's Executive and to the appropriate partner organisations.
- 2.3 Agree to add monitoring of outcomes of agreed recommendations, to the Committee's work plan.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The scrutiny panel 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 The panel report is appended to this paper.

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 ECSOSC has the necessary power to agree the panel's recommendations. It then falls to the Executive and other bodies to whom the recommendations are directed 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.

Background Documents:

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

