

Subject:	Report on the Findings of the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management	Date:	13th March 2012
Report of:	Members of the Task and Finish Group/Committee Services	Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council and Communities and Partnerships
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Carolyn Sharples	Telephone:	01706 252422
Email:	carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee approve the report of the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group.
1.2	That the report be sent to Cabinet for comments with a response to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee within two months.
1.2	That the report be sent to Lancashire County Council requesting a response to the recommendation to be sent to Overview and Scrutiny Management thin two months.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the findings of the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
- **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
- **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 In June 2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for 2011/12. As part of that, it was agreed that a Task and Finish Group be established to look at the domestic violence services provided in Rossendale.

5.2 The Task and Finish Group visited the STAR Centre which provides support to people suffering domestic abuse. They also visited the East Lancashire Women's Refuge Association which provides a safe environment for women and their children within East Lancashire.

5.3 Presentations were received from Victim Support, East Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Team, Green Vale Homes and the Police.

5.4 The Task and Finish Group also received statistical information from Lancashire County Council's Community Safety and Justice Co-ordinator.

- 5.5 Officers within the Council also attended the meeting to present the group with background information relating to their relevant service area.
- 5.6 The report is attached as **Appendix A** and includes a number of recommendations which will be forwarded to the Cabinet and Lancashire County Council for comments and a response is requested within two months of them receiving the report.
- 5.7 Once the report has been approved it will also be sent to the numerous organisations who helped formulate the report.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Any financial implications should be contained within the Council approved budget resources

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 No legal implications.

8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 8.1 No HR implications.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 9.1 Relevant Officers

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 It was apparent that whilst domestic abuse incidents were increasing in Rossendale, funding was becoming more difficult to access.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Report of the Findings of the Domestic Violence Task and Finish Group	Democratic Services