

Review title	Recommendation	Date Agreed by OSMC	Date Adopted by Executive	Link to Exec Report	Update	Implemented within 12 months?
Domestic Abuse	(1) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Safer Communities should take steps to secure the attendance at the West Berkshire Domestic Abuse Forum representatives from schools and General Practitioners, to ensure that all appropriate agencies are represented.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Appropriate education representation discussed at Domestic Abuse Forum in February and Domestic Abuse Reduction Coordinator to draft letter for Forum Chair - A GP attended the February meeting of the DA Forum and will be discussing future attendance with CCG colleagues	On Track
	(2) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Children and Young People should secure the necessary funding to make permanent the Domestic Abuse Response Team in order to ensure that its effective work continues.	30/10/12	14/02/13		No planned changes to funding for 2013/14	On Track
	(3) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Children and Young People should consider increasing the resources available to the Domestic Abuse Response Team in order to improve its resilience.	30/10/12	14/02/13		Opportunities to increase resources available to DART through increased partnership activity being explored	On Track
	(4) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Safer Communities should take steps to ensure that the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) fully understands the value of the West Berkshire Independent Domestic Violence Adviser. The desired outcome would be for funding, which will move from the Home Office to the PCC's control, to be maintained at existing levels.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Briefing Document on Domestic Abuse, including the value of the IDVA, sent to Police and Crime Commissioner. - Response to draft Police and Crime Plan submitted on behalf of Safer Communities Partnership. - Police and Crime Commissioner to announce funding allocations at end of March 2013	On Track
	(5) In the event that the desired outcome at recommendation (4) cannot be achieved, the Council would need to review the implications of this decision.	30/10/12	14/02/13		Pending Recommendation 4	
	(6) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Housing should make available funding to reduce the gap for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers in the district from the current 0.8 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to the 2.5 FTE recommended by the charity Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA).	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Review of service provided by A2 Dominion, including provision of an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser, to be reviewed. Scoping document for the review was agreed in the September SCP meeting. - Review to be completed by the end of December 2013 with final report to be ready by January 2014	On Track
	(7) In order to raise and maintain the profile of domestic abuse, the Portfolio Holder responsible for Safer Communities should publish a domestic abuse strategy, for which appropriate governance and delivery mechanisms should be established.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Strategic Statement on Domestic Abuse drafted for consideration by new Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum and Safer Communities Partnership. - Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum to be responsible for delivery against the Strategic Statement and to report to the Safer Communities Partnership Strategy Group	On Track
	(8) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Safer Communities should review the 'Making Changes' programme to ensure that it is effective and fit for purpose.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Independent evaluation of Making Changes commissioned with report due at beginning of April 2013 - Making Changes Committee and programme Facilitators carrying out review of procedures. - Duluth Accredited Training delivered to all Making Changes Facilitators 18th – 20 th March 2013	On Track
	(9) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Safer Communities should seek from HM Court and Tribunal Service that the Special Domestic Violence Court be reinstated in Newbury, in order to ensure that victims from West Berkshire receive justice expediently.	30/10/12	14/02/13		Specialist Domestic Violence Court to be reinstated in Newbury from 1 st April 2013	Yes

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	(10) Following the success of previous campaigns, the Portfolio Holder responsible for Safer Communities should develop and deliver a media and communications plan to maintain or improve the level at which domestic abuse is reported.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Safer Communities Partnership Strategy 2013/14 will include communication actions in respect of Domestic Abuse - Strategy to be signed off by Strategy Group in May 2013 - Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum to oversee implementation of actions and report to Safer Communities Partnership Strategy Group	On Track
	(11) The Chief Executive of the Royal Berkshire Hospital should develop, deliver and review the effectiveness of packages of training and support for all staff working in maternity, post-natal and accident and emergency units to ensure that they have the requisite skills and confidence to be able to identify, record and deal effectively with domestic abuse.	30/10/12	No			NA
	(12) The Chief Executive of the Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust should provide assurance to the Safer Communities Partnership that funding for the post of Specialist Practitioner Domestic Abuse remains a priority, in order that her important and valued work continues.	30/10/12	14/02/13		Annual assessment in December 2013	On Track
	(13) The Chairman of the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board should critically examine the appropriateness and effect of the action taken in response to Recommendation 11 of the Pemberton Domestic Homicide Review, in order to ensure that its desired outcome is achieved.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- GP 'IRIS' training programme Steering Group to be convened on 25 th April 2013 - Domestic Abuse Reduction Coordinator and Safer Communities Partnership Team Manager to be Steering Group members	On Track
	(14) The Portfolio Holder for Housing should write to the Home Secretary requesting that she give consideration to the establishment of a national system for refuge provision, in order to ensure that there is an appropriate number and mix of accommodation type available.	30/10/12	14/02/13		Analysis described under Recommendation 15 will need to be completed before a letter can be written	On Track
	(15) In order that professionals working with domestic abuse are able to understand the composite picture and manage resources accordingly, in conjunction with A2Dominion the Portfolio Holder for Housing should establish a mechanism to capture data on the total number of referrals being made to refuges, whether within the district or elsewhere. After six months of data collection, an assessment should be made as to the appropriateness of both the number and type of refuge accommodate provided.	30/10/12	14/02/13		Analysis of existing data to be undertaken to understand demand and comparison with other Local Authorities with similar population profile to be undertaken by December 2013.	On Track
	(16) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Housing should develop and deliver a media and communications plan to counter negative perceptions of refuges held by the public, in order that those perceptions do not prevent, dissuade or otherwise deflect female victims of domestic abuse from seeking help from them when they need it.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Work to be incorporated into review of existing domestic abuse service to be undertaken by September 2013 - Review Framework to be scoped in June 2013	On Track
	(17) In order that all professionals with a need to know, do know, the Local Police Area Commander should take the necessary steps to ensure that data captured on the I-DASH can be shared with schools.	30/10/12	No			NA

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	(18) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Children and Young People should ensure that there is no further reduction in the staffing of the West Berkshire YOT, in order to enable it to continue its valued work on Domestic Abuse.	30/10/12	No			NA
	(19) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Education should take steps to train Emotional Literacy Support Assistants as 'domestic abuse champions' in schools, in order to support all other school staff in dealing with domestic abuse.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- West Berkshire 'Champions' scheme commissioned to commence in May 2013 by A2 Dominion. - Additional training for ELSA's to start in September 2013	On Track
	(20) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Education should take steps to make training in domestic abuse mandatory for all schools' staff, in order to ensure that they have the requisite skills and confidence to be able to identify, record and deal effectively with the effects in children of domestic abuse.	30/10/12	14/02/13		e-learning package introduced December 2012	On Track
	(21) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Safer Communities should ensure that a timetable is developed and that appropriate resources are made available in order to ensure that the domestic abuse tiered training system is delivered by no later than April 2013.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- Training programme developed in December 2012 - e-learning package introduced December 2012 - Champions Scheme to be introduced from May 2013 - 4 DASH/MARAC training dates identified for 2013/14	On Track
	(22) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Children and Young People should, through the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, consider re-running domestic abuse awareness and other training for voluntary organisations, in order to ensure that they have an appropriate level of understanding. The West Berkshire Volunteer Centre may be able to provide assistance in the promotion of the courses.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- e-learning package introduced in December 2012 and access promoted to voluntary organisations - The LSCB has commissioned additional Domestic Abuse Training Courses at advance (specialist) level to be delivered in 2013/14 that all staff and volunteers will be able to access.	Yes
	(23) The Chairman of the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board should commission the Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) scheme for adoption by the West Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group, in order to improve the awareness of and responsiveness to domestic abuse by GP practices.	30/10/12	14/02/13		- IRIS Steering Group to be convened on 25 th April 2013 - Domestic Abuse Reduction Coordinator and Safer Communities Partnership Team Manager to be Steering Group members	On Track
	(24) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Corporate Services should ensure that levels of awareness of domestic abuse are increased amongst all staff, with specific training provided for those in identified posts.	30/10/12	14/02/13		LSCB e-learning package introduced in December 2012	Yes
	(25) The Portfolio Holder responsible for Corporate Services should produce domestic abuse guidance for all Council staff, irrespective of status, in order that all are aware of the actions that might be taken in the event of another member of staff disclosing to them that they are experiencing domestic abuse.	30/10/12	14/02/13		HR produced revised draft guidance for employees which explicitly includes advice on what to do if an employee makes a disclosure to you. The revised guidance will be published once other minor amendments are finalised - expected no later than November 2013.	On track

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Homelessness	<p>1. "The Executive Member for Housing should work with other local agencies to agree an accepted methodology for the counting of rough sleepers. A report outlining the production process and count should be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission within 6 months of agreement."</p>	11/12/12	No		<p>The Housing Service follows Government guidance and methodology for the counting of rough sleepers. A methodology is already in place and the Housing Service is satisfied that this provides an accurate estimate. The Housing Service collates information from a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies that may come into contact with rough sleepers and then verifies the information prior to submitting the estimate. Since the OSMC recommendations, the Housing Service has met with Homelessness Link, who are funded by CLG to work with local authorities to tackle homelessness, to discuss rough sleeper estimate methodology. Homelessness Link have not raised any concerns about the way in which West Berkshire apply the CLG methodology.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy is focused on prevention. This recommendation is not preventative and is about data collection. In addition, the Housing Service is following Government methodology. For this reason, this recommendation has not been included in the action plan but the data will feed into future homelessness reviews.</p>	NA
	<p>2. "The Executive Member for Housing should advise the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions of the genuine concerns held locally that the impending changes to the benefits regime will have an adverse effect on homelessness in West Berkshire."</p>	11/12/12			No	<p>Since the recommendations were made, the new Social Sector Size Criteria has been introduced, as has the phase-in of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and the Benefit Cap. The transition to Universal Credit is expected to be introduced later in 2013.</p> <p>Whilst there are concerns about the impacts of welfare reforms locally, there are also provisions in place to mitigate against the worst of those effects, for example, Discretionary Housing Payments. Nationally there has been lobbying by a wide range of stakeholder groups and some amendments have been made to the proposals with more regulations likely. It is recommended that this action should be deferred until there is hard evidence that can be used to support concerns.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy has not included this specific action, as it is unclear yet whether such action will be appropriate. However, one of the key priorities for the Homelessness Strategy is 'Mitigating the negative impacts of the welfare and housing reforms' and the action plan contains practical actions to directly support clients affected by the reform.</p>

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	3. "The Executive Member for Housing should establish how the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) plans to deliver Universal Benefits (which include Housing Benefit) locally and report by 31 March 2013 on plans for transferring Housing Benefit payment to DWP."	11/12/12	No		There is a national roll out of Universal Credit and details of how this benefit will be delivered are currently in the process of being published. The issue of transferring Housing Benefit to the DWP is a matter for the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Economic Development, Health & Safety, Pensions, Human Resources. This action was not included within the Homelessness as it concerns information available in the public realm, is an administrative matter for Revenues & Benefits rather than for Housing Services and will not directly contribute to the prevention of homelessness	NA
	4. "The Executive Member for Housing should consider the production, either as part of the Homelessness Strategy or separately, of a 'reconnection' policy, to ensure that homeless people who have no local connection to West Berkshire are able to sustainably relocate to those places outside of the district with which they do have a link."	11/12/12	09/05/13		The Housing Service already seek to reconnect applicants with no local connection to the district back to a locality where they do have a local connection as part of their standard housing options approach. This can include establishing contact with family and friends, securing that accommodation and/or support will be available on their return and funding transport costs to enable applicants to return. Members are referred to Appendix One of the Homelessness Strategy, (the Homelessness flow-chart) which highlights that local connection and referrals back to authority areas where applicants do have a local connection is standard practice.	Yes
	5. "The Executive Member for Strategic Support should ensure that time is made available at a District Parish Conference for Housing officers to explain to Councillors the content of, and rationale for, the Homelessness Strategy when agreed."	11/12/12	No		The Council does not dictate what items are on the District Parish Conference agenda and it is for Parish Councils to determine what items they consider appropriate. The Housing Service will attend, if invited, or will provide a copy of the Homelessness Review and Strategy to interested Parishes upon request.	NA
	6. "At the next revision of the Council's Service Level Agreement with the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Executive Member for Strategic Support should consider the offer by SHELTER to assist with housing advice, so as to ensure that the document contains the requirement for the Bureau to provide a dedicated housing advisor."	11/12/12	No		This recommendation has been discussed with the CAB. All of their volunteer generalist advisors offer housing/homelessness advice, backed up by an in-bureau specialist and further backed up by the Citizens Advice specialist support unit. The CEO of CAB Newbury has specifically said, in a letter to the Head of Strategic Support Services, that CAB do not wish to appoint dedicated Housing Advisors. This recommendation cannot be supported as it would be likely to have a detrimental effect on the wider service provided by Citizens Advice and could cause a bottleneck and create a capacity problem that does not currently exist.	NA
	7. "Performance monitoring reports received from the Citizens Advice Bureau relating to homelessness (including all financial advice), which are sent to the Executive Member for Strategic Support should be routinely made available to the Executive Member for Housing and his Shadow."	11/12/12	No		Quarterly monitoring reports are received from the CAB and the Head of Strategic Support is able to pass them onto the Portfolio Holder who can share them with the Shadow. This action has not been included within the Homelessness Strategy as it concerns data collection and does not contribute to the prevention of homelessness	NA
	8. "The Executive Member for Housing should work, through the Local Government Association, the Government and especially the Valuation Office Agency, to achieve transparency of the factors and values taken into consideration by VOA when setting the Local Housing Allowance and, if possible, an appeal mechanism."	11/12/12	09/05/13		At the request of the Portfolio Holder Housing, Richard Benyon, MP, recently wrote again to the VOA. A response is awaited from the VOA.	On track

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	<p>9. "The Executive Member for Housing should develop and implement a plan to heighten awareness of the causes and impacts of homelessness, particularly how it might be prevented and what help is (and is not) available. Consideration might be given to the following aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising the awareness of all those whose work may bring them in contact with homelessness on the role of other organisations • The location of leaflets, including with partner organisations (for example Newbury Town Council, Thames Valley Police, libraries and detached youth workers) • The engagement of young people from before they enter the workforce, including through secondary schools, in financial and housing-related education • The content and language of leaflets. Assistance is available through Two Saints from people who have previously been homeless. 	11/12/12	09/05/13		These actions form a core part of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan. A new suite of leaflets has already been developed and published and Connexions are providing training in schools on matters relating to housing and homelessness.	Yes
	10. "The Executive Member for Housing should ask Newbury Town Council to consider the provision of lockers to allow rough sleepers to store their possessions (for example sleeping bags) securely during the day."	11/12/12	No		This action has not been included within the Homelessness Strategy as it does not contribute towards prevention of homelessness.	NA
	11. "The Executive Member for Housing should ask the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire to establish closer links with Loose Ends to ensure that any shortages of volunteers and other resources to enable them to provide a better service to their clients are met urgently and effectively."	11/12/12	No		This action has not been included within the Homelessness Strategy as it does not contribute towards prevention of homelessness.	NA
	12. "Further investigation should be undertaken into the reasons why West Berkshire seems to have a very large proportion of young families facing homelessness whose friends and extended family are unwilling or unable to provide them with temporary housing/accommodation."	11/12/12	No		The Housing Service agrees that it would be beneficial to have a better understanding of the reasons why young families are asked to leave home by family and friends and would suggest that this may be an area for further scrutiny.	NA
Call In - Healthwatch Commissioning	The Executive ensure that sufficient information is available in every report to allow a robust decision to be made.	04/02/13	07/03/13	No report - emailed directly to the Leader of the Council.	The recommendation was made at Management Board on 07/03/13.	Yes