

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17 Phase Two: Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)		Juliet Penley – Service Manager (Children and Family Service)	24 March 2016 Version 2 (Executive/Council)
Proposal:	To cease funding one Family Support Worker, employed by A2 Dominion, who is seconded to work in the DART team.		
Total budget 15/16:	£138,590	Recommended officer saving 16/17:	£33,000 (24%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£33,000 (24%)	Final recommendation to Executive/Council:	To proceed with this savings proposal, but make £25,000 of transitional funding available in 2016/17
No. of responses:	<p>In total, 38 responses were received, 31 of which included comments. Of those who responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 from individuals • Two from groups/organisations <p>22 responses were from non-users of the service.</p>		
Key issues raised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the impact on vulnerable women, children and families who suffer from living with domestic abuse (DA). • Not being able intervene at an early stage and prevent repeat or more serious DA incidents. • Lead to family situations that become more serious and risky requiring a statutory child protection response and service. • Concern that there is a high level of need in West Berkshire to provide support services to address DA and to avoid the homicides of the past. • There was praise for the DART team as it has been assessed as effective and achieving positive outcomes and concerns that this service was going to be reduced and the devastating impact on vulnerable families. • There were no counter proposals except to say to look elsewhere for savings across council 		
Equality issues:	No issues were raised during the consultation, that weren't already included in the EqIA stage one.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Let the police deal with DA	The police do deal with DA but do not provide therapeutic intervention or provide support and help to families	

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Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	Suggestion	Council response
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	Look for savings elsewhere in council	All areas council spend have been affected and significant savings made across all areas. Because of the size of the savings it is not possible to protect frontline services
Officer conclusion:	Feedback from the consultation process has not resulted in any issue being raised which would prevent the council from proceeding with the proposal. The feedback has also not generated any viable counter-proposal which would mitigate the proposal.	

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