

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Review into the response to Domestic Abuse – Terms of Reference</b>	<b>Item 10</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 April 2012	

**Purpose of Report:** To outline to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission proposed Terms of Reference for a review how domestic abuse is dealt with in the district.

**Recommended Action:** Amend, if necessary, and approve the Terms of Reference for the review.

<b>OSC Chairman</b>	
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# Executive Report

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an outline for a review into the approach being taken to dealing with reported domestic abuse within the district. It proposes Terms of Reference and a methodology for the examination of the topic.

## 2. Inclusion on the Scrutiny work programme

- 2.1 The topic of domestic abuse was considered as a likely subject for scrutiny review at the OSMC meeting of 21 February 2012. Subsequent discussion with the Safer Communities Partnership Team Manager has supported this view.
- 2.2 Domestic abuse can affect all parts of society and responses to it come from a number of bodies in the public and community sectors. As all organisations face funding challenges, the examination now of this topic is timely.

## 3. Proposed Terms of Reference

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission establishes a time limited task group to conduct a review into the approach by statutory and other agencies to reported domestic abuse in West Berkshire and in particular:
- The extent or prevalence of domestic abuse in the District
  - The strategic approach taken to preventing, encouraging reporting and responding to domestic abuse
  - The operational practice
  - Consider what might be done further to improve how domestic abuse is dealt with
  - Report to the OSMC thence the Executive with recommendations as appropriate.

## 4. Operation and delivery

- 4.1 The task group would comprise 4 Conservative Members and 2 Liberal Democrats and be supported by staff from the Strategic Support Unit. Technical expertise would be provided from officers in the Safer Communities Team. It is likely that evidence will be received from services across the Council, the police, health service, probation service and community sector organisations working in the field.
- 4.2 The task group would begin its work on completion of the task group review of pot holes.

## 5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members of the Commission amend, if necessary, and approve the Terms of Reference for the review.

## **Appendices**

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There are no appendices to this report.

## **Consultees**

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**Officers Consulted:** Susan Powell, Safer Communities Partnership Team Manager