

## Notice of Motion

### Motion to be moved by Councillor Coward:

Council notes that Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November will be the annual White Ribbon day, an international day, recognised by the UN as being the day for the elimination of violence against women.

Council notes that the domestic abuse service in Hull saw 440 high and medium risk victims in the year before the pandemic; currently that figure sits at 754 (as of 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022, data provided by service) high and medium risk victims, with no additional secure funding to meet this unprecedented demand. Council further notes that of those cases, 1 in 3 are high risk and 2 in 3 are medium risk with no capacity to support low-risk victims being in place, due to chronic underfunding over previous years.

Council notes a study that illustrates the rise of domestic abuse when England loses high profile international football games, such as World Cup football matches, an event due to start in Qatar next week (reference). Council further notes an estimated 1.45 million adults aged 16 to 59 years, an increase of 6% on the previous year, experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March, 2021, according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales. It is also expected that as inflationary pressures mount, as the cost-of-living crisis takes effect through the winter period and the cost of Christmas is faced, this will lead to further increases in reports and victims seeking support (reference).

Council praises a dedicated staff group that ensures those who seek support get the help they need, this is despite demand for support being at the highest ever levels and the staff working above and beyond to keep victims safe.

Council notes staff are working at or beyond their capacity. This lack of capacity shows the need to increase the number of skilled and qualified support workers to ensure all victims can get the help and assistance they need. Council also notes that the support to deliver this is required from central Government.

Council finally notes that members from across the political spectrum have been calling for action on domestic abuse support for a number of years.

Council believes that the domestic abuse service in Hull is severely stretched based on current workload without immediate government financial support.

Council believes that there must be significant and sustainable funding from the Government to support victims and for the funding to allow local services to work effectively with those fleeing domestic abuse.

Council believes that, as has been referenced by other civil leaders, the cost-of-living crisis will have a tragic impact on domestic abuse rates, an event made worse by government economic decision-making.

Council resolves to recognise the importance of the Domestic Abuse Partnership at

Hull City Council as a non-statutory but critical service for the welfare of residents of Hull.

Council requests that initiatives such as “Ask for Angela” are explored to find a way to make them a mandatory aspect of the licensing process.

Council requests that work is done to explore how the authority can create safe places within all Council customer facing buildings to enable victims to contact services safely. Additionally, council calls on the refreshed community strategy to take steps to tackle domestic violence and support the victims.

Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Government to secure separate and permanent income streams for domestic abuse support services here in Hull to ensure adequate numbers of appropriately skilled staff can be recruited to support victims.

Finally, the Council calls on the Chief Executive to work with the Local Government Association to lobby for the provision of support for victims of domestic abuse to become a statutory function of local authorities, with funding being provided via the national funding settlement.

#### **Sources:**

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/whiteribbonday22#:~:text=White%20Ribbon%20Day%202022%20%E2%80%94%20White%20Ribbon%20UK,the%20start%20of%20the%20FIFA%20men%E2%80%99s%20World%20Cup.>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day>

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/news/articles/2014/world-cup-football-is-a-risk-factor-for-domestic-violence/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/5a8677f8-58ea-44c8-a133-23ea2ae90abb>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-51562247>

<https://www.forecourteye.com/cost-of-living-crisis-could-fuel-increase-in-theft-and-domestic-violence-says-psni-chief/#:~:text=Cost-of-living%20crisis%20%E2%80%98could%20fuel%20increase%20in%20theft%20and,domestic%20violence%2C%20the%20PSNI%E2%80%99s%20Chief%20Constable%20has%20said>

<https://www.hull.gov.uk/support-adults/safeguarding/domestic-violence>