

# Public Document Pack

**Bill Cullen** MBA (ISM), BA(Hons) MRTPI  
*Chief Executive*

Date: 09 November 2021



**Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council**

**To: Members of the Executive**

Cllr SL Bray (Chairman)  
Cllr DC Bill MBE (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr MB Cartwright  
Cllr WJ Crooks

Cllr KWP Lynch  
Cllr MT Mullaney  
Cllr K Nichols

Copy to all other Members of the Council

(other recipients for information)

Dear Councillor,

There will be a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** in the De Montfort Suite, Hinckley Hub on **WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2021 at 6.30 pm** and your attendance is required.

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Owen  
Democratic Services Manager

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- **Do not** stop to collect belongings.

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Thank you

**A G E N D A**

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 2)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021.

3. ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

To be advised of any additional items of business which the Chairman decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive verbally from Members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. **This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the agenda.**

5. QUESTIONS

To hear any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

(If any)

7. DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021 (Pages 3 - 8)

To request a supplementary expenditure budget to support work around the new statutory safe accommodation duty within the new Domestic Abuse Act, 100% of which will be grant funded.

8. HERITAGE ACTION ZONE AND YOUTH HUB (Pages 9 - 14)

To inform members of the location options for the Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone Hub and a DWP Youth Hub and to seek approval to proceed.

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AS MATTERS OF URGENCY

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# Agenda Item 2

## HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE

29 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr SL Bray - Chairman  
Cllr DC Bill MBE – Vice-Chairman  
Cllr MB Cartwright, Cllr WJ Crooks, Cllr KWP Lynch and Cllr MT Mullaney

Officers in attendance: Matthew Bowers, Steven Merry and Rebecca Owen

166 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Nichols.

167 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Cartwright, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August be confirmed as a correct record.

168 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

169 CARAVAN SITES - FIT AND PROPER PERSON TEST

Consideration was given to the introduction of a new fit and proper person test for certain caravan site licence holders and approval was sought for a determination and fee policy.

In response to questions from members, it was noted that support could be provided to any licence holders in completing the form and that some applications had already been received.

It was moved by Councillor Cartwright, seconded by Councillor Crooks and

RESOLVED – the determination and fee policy for the fit and proper person test be approved.

(The Meeting closed at 6.34 pm)

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CHAIRMAN

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## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Executive 17 November 2021

Wards affected: All Wards

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### Domestic Abuse Act 2021

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Report of Director of Community Services

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Executive of work being progressed with funding received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to support work around the new statutory safe accommodation duty within the new Domestic Abuse Act.
- 1.2 To provide a short brief on the key areas within the new Domestic Abuse Act.
- 1.3 To provide a short brief on other key areas of work undertaken by the council in regards to domestic abuse.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Executive notes the contents of this report.
- 2.2 That Executive endorses the work contained within this report.
- 2.3 Executive is requested to approve a supplementary expenditure budget of £32,730, which will be 100% funded by a supplementary grant income budget.

#### 3. Background to the report

- 3.1 The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent in April 2021. A summary of the key points of the Act are below, with the key areas of note for HBBC, as a housing provider, highlighted in bold:
  - **Creation of a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. As part of**

**this definition, children will be explicitly recognised as victims if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse;**

- Creation of a new offence of non-fatal strangulation;
- Extension of the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse;
- Extension of the ‘revenge porn’ offence to cover the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress;
- Clarification of the law to further deter claims of “rough sex gone wrong” in cases involving death or serious injury;
- Creation of a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link);
- Establish in law the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of local authorities, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse;
- **Places a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation;**
- **Provision that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance;**
- Placing the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing;
- **Ensuring that when local authorities rehouse victims of domestic abuse, they do not lose a secure lifetime or assured tenancy;**
- **Provision that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance;**
- Stopping vexatious family proceedings that can further traumatise victims by clarifying the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989;
- Prohibiting GPs and other health professionals from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.

3.2 The Act places a new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities (County Council) relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation and Tier 2 authorities (districts and boroughs) are required to cooperate with the Tier 1 authority, so far as is reasonably practicable.

3.3 The majority of funding sits with the Tier 1 authority but Tier 2 authorities have been given small pots of funding to enable them to support the work of the Tier 1 authorities and to fulfil the requirements of the Act.

3.4 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has received funding of £32,730 for this financial year (Year 1). It is envisaged, but not confirmed, that Year 2 and 3 funding may be available but the amount is likely to be reduced.

3.5 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and other districts across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are working towards DAHA accreditation. The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance’s (DAHA) mission is to improve the housing sector’s response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of



an established set of standards and an accreditation process. Although we are in a strong position with our current practice, there are a number of actions we need to progress to successfully gain this accreditation.

#### **4.0 Use of Funding**

- 4.1 In order to maximise our resources we are working in partnership with Blaby District Council.
- 4.2 The intention is to use the funds to have two short term full-time shared posts with Blaby District Council.
- 4.3 One post will provide direct support to victims within the housing department and support victims of domestic abuse into secure accommodation and work with partners to ensure a joined up holistic approach to each case.
- 4.4 The other post will look to drive service improvement in relation to domestic abuse and to help fulfil any work needed to support the Tier 1 authority. This post will also help to ensure we are in a position to gain DAHA accreditation. Some of the proposed work streams are housing related but many of the work streams are ones that need to be supported across the organisation. Below is an indication of the types of work streams that will be progressed:
  - Refresh of the Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy and Procedure for staff experiencing domestic abuse.
  - Development and delivery of a training package for all staff to enable them to recognise the signs of domestic abuse and refer concerns appropriately.
  - Creation of a housing specific policy and procedure for tenants, residents and service users who are experiencing domestic abuse or whom are affected by it.
  - Work to ensure organisational compliance with the DAHA framework and collate information and evidence for DAHA accreditation submission.
  - Work to ensure that legislative reform contained within the Domestic Abuse Act is reflected in relevant housing policies and processes.
  - Implementation of a domestic abuse champion scheme within relevant departments.
  - Assisting in projects that may arise which improve our response to victims of domestic abuse, such as housing reciprocal projects.
  - Assisting in data collection and intelligence collection at a local level where required to inform tier 1 needs assessments.
  - Development/enhancement of existing responses to emergency repairs and sanctuary schemes to ensure that victims of domestic abuse are safe at home.

#### **5.0 Hinckley and Bosworth Domestic Abuse Services**

- 5.1 Domestic Abuse Outreach Service  
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council provides a dedicated domestic abuse outreach service for victims of domestic abuse. This service provides emotional and practical support for female victims aged 16 plus and works closely with partners to ensure male victims access the support they need via

the countywide outreach services. The services provides one to one support and also provides a number of group work programmes that help victims to understand abuse, move on from their experiences and help manage their health and wellbeing. The service works with around 120 women each year from the borough. The team do a significant amount of work to highlight domestic abuse and ensure residents know how to access support.

## 5.2 Children's Support Service

Via use of external funding from Community Safety Partnership funds the council currently provides a part time service that works therapeutically with children and young people who have been affected by domestic abuse. This service works effectively to improve the safety and health and wellbeing outcomes for young people who have been affected / witnessed domestic abuse. The service advocates for the young person where appropriate and helps to ensure that the voice of the young person is taken into account. Work is done on a one to one basis and in group work settings. The service works with approximately 60 children and young people per year.

## 5.3 Housing

Housing Options work proactively to support victims of domestic abuse to access safe accommodation. The service works with approximately 100 victims each year to advise on options for housing and, where appropriate, place in safe accommodation. Processes are in place to ensure the right questions are asked when someone approaches the team so that victims are identified early and appropriate action taken. The wider housing team support tenants appropriately who are suffering from domestic abuse and work closely with the domestic abuse outreach team and external agencies to ensure a wraparound support for the victims and their families.

## 5.4 There is a Domestic Abuse Workplace Policy in place to support staff and to help managers and peers support staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse. This policy is due for review this year.

## 5.5 Perpetrator Work

There is currently an active domestic abuse perpetrator project running in the borough which has been funded by the Community Safety Partnership and Home Office Funds. This year is the first time a perpetrator programme has been available to residents of Hinckley and Bosworth. This project is in place until September 2022 and is delivered by Freeva, a domestic abuse charity based in Leicester. The project works with abusive adults and their non-abusive partners. It provides interventions that are designed to help people stop using abusive behaviour towards an intimate partner and alongside this works on developing better relationships with loved ones and increasing self-respect.

# 6. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

## 6.1 Open Session

## **7. Financial implications [CS]**

- 7.1 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has received funding of £32,730 for the 2021-22 financial year (Year 1). Funding for future years is not yet confirmed.
- 7.2 The continuation of the temporary posts will be subject to the confirmation of further grant funding.
- 7.3 Supplementary estimates will need to be agreed for the £32,730 staff costs and £32,730 grant income. Due to the level of the budget, Executive approval will be required.

## **8. Legal implications [MR]**

- 8.1 Set out in the report

## **9. Corporate Plan implications**

- 9.1 The work detailed within this report supports victims of domestic abuse and contributes to the corporate aim – Helping people to stay healthy, active and protected from harm.

## **10. Consultation**

- 10.1 In respect of the Domestic Abuse Act a county strategic needs assessment is currently being prepared which incorporates the voices of victims, survivors and experts in domestic abuse. This needs assessment will be used to drive forward services where needs are identified.

## **11. Risk implications**

- 11.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 11.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 11.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Effective recruitment to the posts due to short term nature of posts	Clarity is being sought to determine what future funding in Year 2/3 will be available from MHCLG	RB
Funding may be reduced in Year 2 and 3	In order to make continuation of at least one post more financially viable for the 3 year period the posts are joint with Blaby	RB
Lack of safe accommodation	County are looking at how to increase this via their funding County and districts are looking at a reciprocal model that may assist	MS

## **12. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications**

- 12.1 All services discussed in this report are available and accessible to all residents. There are particular remits of certain services where appropriate.

## **13. Climate implications**

- 13.1 Work will be delivered to limit carbon impact where possible, for example virtual methods of engagement and paperless systems.

## **14. Corporate implications**

- 14.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

Contact officer: Rachel Burgess ext 5746  
Executive member: Councillor M Mullaney



## Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Executive 17 November 2021

Wards affected: All

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### Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone Hub and Youth Hub

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Report of Director (Community Services)

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform members of the location options available for the Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone Hub and a DWP Youth Hub, and to seek approval to proceed as recommended.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 Endorse the proposal to locate the Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone Hub and the Youth Hub in the Atkins Building.
- 2.2 Approve an income and expenditure budget of £50,000 to support fit out costs, funded through the Heritage Action zone funding.

#### **3. Background to the report**

- 3.1 In 2020, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council secured funding from Historic England and the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver a High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ). The £1.85 million scheme is located within Hinckley's Town Centre Conservation Area and will be delivered by March 2024. The scheme aims to use Hinckley's unique historic environment to revitalise the town centre and secure lasting improvements to historic high streets and the communities who use them. The Hinckley HSHAZ comprises a range of projects to help safeguard and celebrate the heritage of the town, with the Hinckley HSHAZ Hub being one of them.

- 3.2 The original funding application to Historic England included a proposal to establish a temporary/pop-up Hub as part of the HSHAZ scheme. Original proposals included a cost of £50,000 for fit out of the Hub. Though the funding application was successful, the cost for the HSHAZ Hub was removed at the request of Historic England in December 2019 as part of a value engineering process. The Hinckley HSHAZ Hub project however remained part of the wider scheme with the following outcomes:
- To establish a high quality and engaging HSHAZ Hub.
  - To engage people in the wider Hinckley HSHAZ scheme.
  - To enable people to visit and attend the Hub as part of wider community engagement.
- 3.3 In March 2021, Historic England encouraged national HSHAZ schemes to submit a request for additional funding for projects that would be completed by March 2022. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council submitted a request for additional funding to support the delivery of the Hinckley HSHAZ Hub project. As a result, the Council were successfully awarded an additional £50,000 from Historic England towards fit out costs. This funding must be spent before the end of financial year 2021-2022.
- 3.4 The aim of the Hub is to provide a space that will support and encourage community engagement and facilitate participation in the HSHAZ scheme and other Council, stakeholder and partner projects. It is envisaged that the space will be used for exhibitions, consultations and as a possible part-time base for the Hinckley HSHAZ Project Officer. In addition, the HSHAZ Hub will provide a space within the core of the town centre to aid with the delivery of the projects identified within the Community Engagement Plan and likely events of the Cultural Programme. Additional ideas include making the space available as a pop-up gallery for local artists and creatives.

#### **4. DWP Youth Hub**

- 4.1 Alongside the development of the Heritage Action Zone Hub discussions have taken place with DWP around their ambition of opening a Youth Hub. Youth (18-24) employment is a priority for the government's plans around economic recovery. In the last 12 months young people have been affected by the increase in unemployment during the pandemic and in Hinckley & Bosworth up to the end of April 2021 there were a total of 511 18-24 year olds claiming Universal Credit. This is a 149% increase compared to the previous year and this is likely to have increased again when young people left education this summer.
- 4.2 A Youth Hub is an external space where employers, providers and work coaches come together to support 18-24 year old Universal Credit customers. The Youth Hub will focus on addressing barriers to employment and promoting a wide range of options and local opportunities to young people. There will be a blend of booked one to one appointments, group sessions, drop-in sessions and planned events such as job fairs.

- 4.3 The aim of the Youth Hub is to:
- Increase young people attending.
  - Better engagement.
  - Barriers to work being addressed quickly through an immediate referral to support.
  - Increase in Kickstart vacancies.
  - Quicker movement into work.

## **5. Proposed Location**

- 5.1 Rather than having a number of Hubs in the Town Centre it makes sense to explore whether there could be a join up of the two Hubs.
- 5.2 A number of locations including:
- Occupying a vacant unit within the Crescent
  - Hinckley District
  - Atkins Building.
- 5.3 Based on the reasons outlined below, it is recommended that the Hinckley HSHAZ Hub and Youth Hub are located within the downstairs space at the Atkins Building (Partridge Suite). With this space there would be minimum financial impact as there would be no loss of rent just loss of potential conference booking income. The space could be used flexibly to enable some conferences to take place should demand pick up. Fit out requirements are likely to fall within the £50,000 budget.
- 5.4 Though geographically located outside the Hinckley HSHAZ boundary area, the Atkins Building is ideally situated in the town centre to provide access to a multi-use space for the HSHAZ Hub.
- 5.5 The Hinckley HSHAZ is a scheme delivered in partnership with several stakeholders and local organisations. Several partners are strategically positioned in close proximity of the Atkins Building, including both North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College located next door and Hinckley District Museum. It is also envisaged that the Rural Communities Council, located within the Atkins Building, will be involved in supporting and delivering aspects of the Cultural Programme of the HSHAZ which is currently being developed.
- 5.6 Occupying a space within a Borough Council owned building will assist in being able to manage and control the project during the fit out phase.
- 5.7 The history of the Atkins Building aligns with and complements the historic and cultural focus of the HSHAZ scheme. The building is Grade II Listed and the former home of Atkins of Hinckley who established a presence in Hinckley in 1722 and produced hosiery until 1995, by which time it was the oldest existing and operating hosiery factory in the world. In 2008 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council purchased the building and renovated it into a

creative business centre, providing an excellent example of successful town centre regeneration.

- 5.8 The Atkins Gallery provides a diverse range of flexible space and facilities that would complement the role of the Hinckley Hub, including break-out space, gallery space for events and larger activities and exhibition space on the ground floor which could be used by partners of the scheme.
- 5.9 As sole funders of this individual project, Historic England have confirmed they are supportive of the proposal.
- 5.10 Discussions have taken place with DWP and their representatives have visited the Atkins Building. Benefits to joining up the Hubs include:
- A true partnership to working with the young people of the borough around the key priority of employment and skills.
  - The Heritage Action Zone work, with links to culture/arts etc, will be an additional pull to getting young people to engage.
  - Key partners for the DWP are located close by – the College and Rural Community Council and would enable joint initiatives to be progressed. For example, linking into volunteering opportunities and into college courses.
  - Space for events such as job fairs, Kickstart promotion – increase the footfall into the Atkins Building.
  - Opportunity to work with the businesses located in the Atkins Building around areas such as work experience, apprenticeships, Kickstart.
  - Opportunity for specific support services to work from the Hub, breaking down the barriers to work.
  - Economies of scale and particularly in resourcing just one hub which could include potentially longer opening times than if run separately.
- 5.11 Supporting a Youth Hub would contribute to our Corporate Plan and recovery priorities around employment and skills and young people, and could provide an exciting centre to focus young people activity and engagement.
- 5.12 It should be noted that the DWP do not have any funding towards the rental cost of any space. This meant that they were looking at space such as the library, but arguably this will be as equally unattractive to a young person as going into a job centre. Our partnership working around Employment and Skills, and commitment to improving the position of young people, means that consideration should be given to supporting this initiative despite the lack of financial contribution from DWP.
- 5.13 Discussions are also taking place with the Rural Communities council to develop a Volunteering Hub in the same space.

## **6. Legacy Plans**

- 6.1 Upon completion of the HSHAZ scheme in March 2024, there may be the opportunity for the HSHAZ Hub to either:



- Continue to operate from the Atkins Building and be managed by project partners.
- Transfer to the new community hub being considered by charitable partners.

Discussions regarding the longer term transition of the HSHAZ Hub and community hub will continue in the interim.

## **7. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules**

7.1 None.

## **8. Financial Implications (IB)**

- 8.1 If the move to the Atkins Building (Partridge Suite) is endorsed, fit out costs will need to be met from the £50,000. Income from the Suite (pre-pandemic) was in an average year approximately £4,000. This dropped to around £1,000 in 2020/21. Therefore, the general fund impact is minimal, but this income will be lost.
- 8.2 If endorsed, a fit out budget will require approval in accordance with financial procedure rules. A budget between £25,000 and £50,000 would require Executive approval.
- 8.3 This scenario assumes there are no additional revenue costs arising from the proposal, and that no other changes will be needed in the operation of the Atkins Building that may lead to additional costs in relation to providing accommodation to the Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone Hub and the Youth Hub in the Atkins Building

## **9. Legal Implications (MR)**

- 9.1 Section 1 Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do and to do it for, amongst other things, the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.
- 9.2 Section 142 Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to provide information about the services available in its area provided by itself or by other authorities.
- 9.3 Section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to encourage people to visit its area in order, amongst other things, to hold conferences trade fairs and exhibitions.

## **10. Corporate Plan Implications**

- 10.1 People, Place, Prosperity.

## **11. Consultation**

11.1 Historic England. DWP. Hinckley High Street HAZ Partnership Board.

## **12. Risk Implications**

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
HAZ funding isn't spent according to guidelines	Officers will ensure correct expenditure	Stephen Meynell

## **13. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications**

13.1 Establishing a high quality and engaging hub at the Atkins Gallery will support and facilitate community engagement in the HSHAZ project. The central location will enable better interaction between HSHAZ partners and Will provide opportunities for communities to engage more easily and effectively with HSHAZ officers and stakeholders. The aim of the DWP Youth Hub is to make accessing the service more attractive to young people.

## **14. Climate Implications**

14.1 Work will be delivered to limit carbon impact where possible.

## **15. Corporate Implications**

15.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

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Background papers:

Contact officer: Sharon Stacey/Stephen Meynell  
Executive member: Councillor Keith Nicholls/Councillor David Bill