

Divisions – All

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

5th December 2024

Safer Accommodation Strategy

Report by Director of Public Health and Communities

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is RECOMMENDED to note the progress with reviewing the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy. Statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 place a duty on Tier 1 local authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based support and prepare a strategy to provide such support for victims. MHCLG requires strategies to be reviewed every 3 years.

Executive Summary

1. The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy, published in December 2021 (included in Annex 1) outlines how Oxfordshire will implement the statutory duties noted above, to ensure victim survivors and their families have access to safe and supportive housing.
2. MHCLG require strategies are reviewed every 3 years. We are now approaching this time, with the current strategy having been posted for 3 years at the end of December 2024.
3. Further to a review of the current strategy it was agreed that many of the actions contained within were still relevant. Therefore, it was agreed by the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategic Board that the approach of a strategy refresh was more appropriate than implementing a new strategy.
4. The public engagement and consultation team confirmed the voice of Lived Experience should be fully embed in the refresh process to ensure victim survivor centred approach and that this would fulfil consultation requirements for a strategy refresh.
5. OCC appointed Solutions in Public Health to undertake the Safe Accommodation Strategy refresh in September 2024, with a view to publishing the refreshed strategy in January 2025.

Strategy Refresh Update

6. The enclosed report by Solutions in Public Health included in Annex 2 aims to give HWB an overview of the Strategy Refresh to date and includes:-
 - Methodology
 - Preliminary findings including strengths and gaps
 - Emerging recommendations
 - Next steps

Corporate Policies and Priorities

7. This strategy refresh supports the vision, values, objectives and strategic priorities in the County Council's corporate plan by tackling inequalities through ensuring services are accessible to all, with a focus on access to accommodation for marginalised groups. The strategy will demonstrate our commitment to prioritising the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications related to this report. This report covers the activities to develop the new strategy, not the final outcomes and recommendations, and as such does not have financial implications at this stage.

Legal Implications

9. Part 4 of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) details a duty on Tier One local authorities to assess the need for support and prepare strategies to provide support for victim-survivors of domestic abuse [who reside] in safe accommodation in their locality. The Domestic Abuse Support (Local Authority Strategies and Reports) Regulations 2012 require that such authorities review their published strategy within the period of three years from when the strategy was first published and within each subsequent three year period.

The refresh of the safe accommodation strategy meets that requirement.
Comments checked by:

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Staff Implications

10. There are no staffing implications.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

11. Equality and Inclusion implications will be assessed when considering actions based on the new strategy recommendations

Sustainability Implications

12. There are not sustainability implications

Risk Management

13. There are no risk management implications.

Consultations

14. The public engagement and consultation team confirmed the voice of Lived Experience should be fully embed in the refresh process to ensure victim survivor centred approach and that this would fulfil consultation requirements for a strategy refresh.

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Annex:

1. Safe Accommodation Strategy 21-24
2. Solutions in Public Health Strategy Refresh Update

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