

Agenda Item 6

Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)

Council - 7 January 2020

1. Domestic Abuse Funding

Government announced that extra funding will be made available (through the next spending review) to tackle the “postcode lottery” to Local Authorities in aid for domestic abuse services under the LA’s obligation, and its legal duties based on The Care Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

1. Once extra funding is confirmed, I ask members to support the development of communication strategies, which set out in detail the support services available to those fleeing from domestic abuse and violent relationships, including:
 - Refuge accommodation/safe house provision and specialist support that covers safety through to independence
 - Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) outreach
 - Non-gendered perpetrator and pattern changing family intervention services
2. The provision should include services which can support survivors and children to remain in their own home whenever possible but recognise that not all survivors of domestic abuse and violence are willing or able to move area to access the essential life-saving support in safe accommodation, and ask that the relevant Scrutiny Panel investigate.
3. Council to lobby government to change the “Women and Girls Strategy for Domestic Abuse” title to recognise that domestic abuse and violence is not a gendered crime. To enable all victims to be recognised, the title should be changed to incorporate the words “All Victims and Children”.

Cllr Roz Willis

2. Request on behalf of the Armed Forces Covenant partnership of North Somerset Council

I ask members to support my request, on behalf of the Armed Forces Covenant partnership of North Somerset Council, that NSC write a letter to RBL asking that the RBL reconsider the planned decision to close WSM Somerset House Home on Beach Road from April 2020, with staff redundancies planned from end of February 2020.

This Council supports all serving personnel past and present, and under the signed Armed Forces Covenant as a partner, North Somerset Council have duty of care to this community.

The RBL Somerset House is a vibrant part of WSM Community and helps the town maintain its important links with the Armed Forces. It also is a big part of the economy and tourism for the town.

Cllr Roz Willis