

Title: **Community Champion for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence – Annual Report (2020-2021)**

To: **Cabinet** On: **24 August 2021**

Name of Champion: **Councillor Hazel Foster**

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1. Details of progress made against targets for 2020-2021

- 1.1 Domestic Abuse Champions involvement had been put on hold during the Covid 19 pandemic, as a number are Community base staff, NHS staff and volunteers where Covid regulations resulted in many being furloughed or on restricted duties.
- 1.2 Many organisations that Support Domestic Abuse victims have during covid only been able to provide minimal support or by appointment only. Most are planning to be fully open during August.
- 1.3 I Have attended a Zoom half day training on “Reducing the Risk”. And attended a Zoom Domestic violence forum.

2. Review of job description

- 2.1 There are no proposed changes to the job description of the Champion for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence for 2021-22.

3. Targets for (2021-2022)

- 3.1 Now Covid restrictions are lifted, visits to partner charities and organisations that provide support to domestic abuse and sexual violence victims are planned over the coming months.
- 3.2 To continue to attend training sessions on Domestic Violence and Abuse.
- 3.3 To attend, support and assist with promoting new programmes and initiatives as lockdown restrictions are lifted, enabling Domestic Violence organising to be active in the community to support those in need.

4. Other matters

- 4.1 In Torbay the overall level of reported Domestic Abuse in the last year has decreased from 3,712 to 3,645 this year a 2% fall. This includes Domestic Abuse Incidents & Domestic Abuse related to crimes.

- 4.2 Torbay Council has received Government funding for a new post of an Independent Domestic Violence Sexual Abuse Advisor, to be based in the Health Clinic in Castle Circus.
- 4.3 Domestic Abuse Act (Royal Assent in April 2021) brings in a new criminal offence of ‘Controlling and Coercive behaviour’.
- 4.4 Schemes are currently being set up to give extra support to enable victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse get back into work.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That the targets for the Domestic Violence and Abuse Champion set out in paragraph 3 be approved.**