

In light of the discussion at the meeting of OSPB on 16 September 2016, it was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Lead Member for Crime and Disorder and the Chairman of HOSC would consider what if any further scrutiny was required in respect of support services in relation to Sexual Violence And Rape and report back to the Board.

Consideration of the Sexual Violence and Rape has not yet been subject to further Scrutiny. Sexual Violence and Rape is horrendous for the victims, their family and the community as a whole and it is important that appropriate discussion takes place to consider support for victims and rehabilitation of perpetrators.

Taking the agreed criteria for determining the work programme, the table below makes initial comments on whether a scrutiny led by the County Council is appropriate.

CRITERIA	Comment
Is the issue a priority area for the Council?	It is not a policy priority
Is it a key issue for local people?	It has not been identified in surveys as a key issue
Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?	Reliant on the police and justice system, victim support and housing agencies
Are improvements for local people likely?	A scrutiny should help the victims of violence
Does it examine a poor performing service?	Not directly for the County Council
Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?	Unlikely
Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?	No

Therefore the criteria do not highlight an exercise on Sexual Violence and Rape as being a priority for Scrutiny for the County Council. This is disappointing and on this occasion the Board should consider if and how the subject can be brought forward for Members to understand whether there are actions that the County Council can take to reduce Sexual Violence and Rape and support victims.

Recommendation

The OSPB will consider the annual Worcestershire County Council Community Safety Report in September 2017. This year there should be a focus on the how changes to delivery of services by the agencies involved have impacted on the level of Sexual Violence and Rape and support for victims across the County.