

**Answers provided by the Cabinet Member for Health and Well-being to questions raised at the Council meeting on 11 November 2021**

**Whether any additional funding would be provided for the Warmer Worcestershire fund in anticipation of the likely demand this winter? (Lynn Denham)**

Plans are in place for a renewed boiler on prescription scheme which will run for the next 3 years. This scheme will provide funding for repairs and replacement of boilers, and provision of appropriate insulation for owner occupier/private rented households with cold related health conditions and in receipt of certain benefits or low income. There are a number of different funding streams, Covid-19 and non Covid-19 and therefore Public Health are working alongside partners.

**Whether the funding provided to the Trading Standards Service would be reviewed to ensure it had the capacity to carry out its statutory functions? (Lynn Denham)**

As Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing, I have asked the Director of Public Health to consider whether an expansion of funding is necessary to build on the additional investment made between 2020 and now, following the move of the service, looking at a range of comparisons with others and any national data that may be available in relation to demand on the service.

**What education is being provided for perpetrators of domestic violence to prevent a re-occurrence? (Richard Udall)**

The primary approach to preventative education for perpetrators of domestic abuse is through the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP). This aims to help educate and support those who have been abusive towards their partners or ex-partners, to change their behaviour and develop respectful, non-abusive relationships. In Worcestershire (and Herefordshire) the DAPP approach is delivered through the nationally recognised Drive programme, which is run by Cranstoun and jointly commissioned by WCC Public Health and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

In the broader context, the Integrated Offender Management programme, led by West Mercia Police, also deals with persistent and prolific offenders including perpetrators of domestic violence

**Whether it was possible to have a rethink of the process whereby the victim of domestic violence is required to leave their home etc and the perpetrator is not? (Andy Roberts)**

There is no requirement for victim of domestic abuse to leave their home and, if safe and appropriate, they should remain at home to avoid any disruption or impact upon children, work arrangements and family and social connections. This is the outcome that all support agencies strive to achieve. However, on occasion this is not the safest option if there is a high risk of violence and abuse and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

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now requires Local Authorities (WCC) to support individuals to secure alternative safe and supported accommodation, at least as an interim solution.

There are also actions available to the Police to maintain the victim and their family in their home through Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPN/DVPO), which can provide short-term protection for a victim following a domestic incident involving a perpetrator over the age of 18.

In Worcestershire, West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA) is piloting a Domestic Abuse Panel (DAP) with Wyre Forest DC, in which victims of domestic abuse presenting to the Council for assistance are considered for support by WMWA where appropriate. This can lead to a range of support options. It is likely that this will be extended to Redditch and Bromsgrove in the next instance.

All of these arrangements are an attempt to support victims and their families remain in their own home and legal advice and options will also be available. But there is the safety net of safe accommodation and support should the victim and family be at high levels of risk.