

## ITEM No ...2.....

**REPORT TO:** COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE –  
18 FEBRUARY 2019

**REPORT ON:** THE MAKE A STAND PLEDGE

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 67-2019

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the Make a Stand Pledge and to seek approval to sign the pledge.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee support the signing of the Make a Stand Pledge.
- 2.2 That officers undertake a review of relevant policies encompassed by the Make a Stand Pledge.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

### **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The strategic aim of the Dundee Multi Agency Violence Against Women Partnership (VAWP) is to ensure that organisations, communities and individuals across Dundee are encouraged and supported to work together to prevent and end all forms of violence against women and children. The aim is to reduce the occurrence and impact of violence against women in Dundee.

Addressing domestic abuse is also a key priority for the Community Safety and Justice Executive Board.

- 4.2 The **Make a Stand** pledge has been developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abusing Housing Alliance. See Appendix 1.
- 4.3 It was created to encourage housing organisations to make a commitment to support people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 4.4 There are four parts to the pledge that, by signing, we would be committed to meeting by September 2019. These are;
- 4.3.1 Put in place and embed a policy to support residents who are affected by domestic abuse.
- 4.3.2 Make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available on our website and in other appropriate places so that they are easily accessible for residents and staff.
- 4.3.3 Put in place a Human Resources policy, or amend an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse.
- 4.3.4 Appoint a champion at a senior level to own the activity we do to support people experiencing domestic abuse.

- 4.5 All four parts to the pledge can currently be met as follows:
- 4.6 Pledge 1 is covered in the Housing Allocations Policy and is reflected in the points awarded to applicants:
- 4.5.1. The objectives for our Letting Policy are:
- To give greatest priority to people with housing need, in particular:
- Homeless people
  - People who live in houses or areas which are causing them stress (eg experiencing racial or domestic abuse, people who need to live close to carers or support).
- 4.5.2 Social Needs Points, in addition, may be awarded to:
- "People who are experiencing harassment, domestic abuse or who need to live in a particular area to give or receive support may be given points for social need. Where there is an identified child protection issue social needs points can be given. With the exception of domestic abuse we will normally need proof from an applicant that they have a social need before they will be awarded."
- 4.5.3 Support and guidance is also offered through Housing Options and Housing Support Services.
- 4.7 Pledge 2 is met by information already available on the DCC website and information leaflets available.
- 4.8 Pledge 3 is covered by the Dundee City Council Workplace Policy on Gender Based Violence.
- 4.8 Pledge 4 requires a **senior level champion** to take ownership of the activities being done to support people experiencing domestic abuse. Housing Services are already represented on the Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership so it is proposed that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services takes on this role.

## 5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

## 6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with the content.

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Elaine Zwirlein  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

David Simpson  
Head of Housing and Communities

## Appendix 1

# MAKE A STAND

Our homes, our people,  
our problem.

## THE PLEDGE

### About the Make a Stand pledge

The Make a Stand pledge has been developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. It was created to encourage housing organisations to make a commitment to support people experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is one of the biggest issues in society today. The true scale of the problem is difficult to determine because a large proportion of domestic abuse goes unreported, but studies suggest many millions of people are affected every year. Tragically, two women are killed every week by their partner or ex-partner.

### So where do you come in?

The answer is simple; everyone lives in a home and housing organisations provide and maintain homes for millions of people. A home should provide safety and security, but for many people home is anything but safe because they are one of many victims of domestic abuse across the UK.

In 2017, Chartered Institute of Housing president Alison Inman chose to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support Women's Aid. Vice president Jim Strang subsequently announced that when he



becomes CIH president in 2018/19 he will continue to support the same cause.

This pledge gives housing organisations the opportunity to sign up to make four focused commitments to provide support for people experiencing domestic abuse.

It is a way for you to publicly commit to take action to support victims of domestic abuse. Once you have done so the onus is on you to ensure that you complete the commitments and we will supply information to support this.

We expect organisations to have completed these actions by September 2019, when Jim Strang's presidency will come to an end.

If you have already delivered the commitments then you can still sign the pledge.

women's aid  
until women & children are safe



Chartered  
Institute of  
Housing



daha  
Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

## The pledge

By signing up to the **Make a Stand** pledge you are committing to make sure your organisation does the following by September 2019:

1

Put in place and embed a policy to support residents who are affected by domestic abuse

2

Make information about national and local domestic abuse support services available on your website and in other appropriate places so that they are easily accessible for residents and staff

3

Put in place a HR policy, or amend an existing policy, to support members of staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse

4

Appoint a champion at a senior level in your organisation to own the activity you are doing to support people experiencing domestic abuse



**MAKE  
A  
STAND**

Our homes, our people,  
our problem.

### How can I sign up?

You can sign up to the pledge by filling in our simple online form which is available [here](#).

We will contact you to check some details and you will then receive a support pack to help you meet the pledge commitments.

You will also receive your pledge certificate and some other items to help you promote the fact you have signed the pledge and demonstrated your commitment to **Make a Stand** against domestic abuse.

### What next?

Once you have signed the pledge the onus is on you to make sure that you take action which reflects the commitments you have made.

For more information about the **Make a Stand** pledge visit [cih.org/makeastand](http://cih.org/makeastand) or email [policyandpractice@cih.org](mailto:policyandpractice@cih.org)

### Promoting your pledge

We want to encourage as many housing organisations to sign up to the **Make a Stand** pledge as possible. That's why we're asking people who sign up to promote the fact they have made the pledge.

Our form allows you to confirm whether you are happy for us to add your organisation to the official list of signatories.

And when you make your pledge we would encourage you to publicise it on your website, in social media or any other way that you can.

We have developed some materials to help you do this - including a pledge banner that you can post on your website and social media and in your email signature. You will receive these once you sign the pledge.

When you are promoting that you have signed the pledge on social media we would encourage you to use the official **Make a Stand** hashtag which is **#makeastand**



**MAKE  
A  
STAND**

Our homes, our people,  
our problem.

