

## Questions to Cabinet

Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on 5 December 2024

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Erica Lewis	Respondent: County Councillor Phillippa Williamson
	<p>Item 6 - Lancashire County Council Plan 2025-30: Building a Better Lancashire</p> <p>As Cabinet Members will be aware we are currently within the global 16 Days of campaigning to end violence against women and girls. The scale of violence against women and girls is hard to properly comprehend but the need for action urgent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• violence against women and girls is the most prevalent and pervasive human rights abuse in the world.</li> <li>• by the time they are 19 nearly 1 in 4 adolescent girls who have been in a relationship will have already been physically, sexually or psychologically abused by a partner.</li> <li>• 55% of all female homicides are perpetrated by an intimate partner or a family member.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you, County Councillor Lewis, for highlighting this important issue. The council is deeply committed to supporting victims of domestic abuse through a comprehensive approach that includes early intervention, prevention, and tailored support services.</p> <p>Our council plan emphasises several key areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Early Intervention and Prevention:</b> We focus on supporting children and young people to prevent domestic abuse before it starts. This includes educational programmes in schools, such as the Connect and Respect programme, which teaches healthy relationships and addresses issues like gender stereotypes and social media influences. The Parachute programme targets young people displaying harmful behaviours, aiming to prevent them from becoming perpetrators of domestic abuse.</li> <li>2. <b>Comprehensive Support Services:</b> Our support services are designed to be holistic and inclusive. We</li> </ol>



<p>Could the leader identify how the County Council's contribution to ending violence against women is reflected in the County Plan?</p>	<p>provide safe accommodation, outreach, and recovery support for adults, as well as specialist outreach services for children. By working closely with families, we gain a deeper understanding of their needs and tailor our support accordingly. This approach is detailed in the Better Lives for All section of our plan, which highlights our commitment to making families feel safe and supported.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>Collaborative Efforts:</b> We recognise that addressing domestic abuse requires a collaborative effort. We work with various partners, including the Community Safety Partnerships, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, the Youth Justice Service, Lancashire Constabulary, and the Probation Service. These partnerships enable us to provide comprehensive support and address related issues such as exploitation and extremism.</li> <li>4. <b>Public Awareness and Engagement:</b> We actively participate in public awareness campaigns like the White Ribbon Campaign and the 16 Days of Activism. These initiatives include events at County Hall, libraries, and through our children and family wellbeing services. This year, we are partnering with Lancashire football clubs to highlight the role men can play in supporting women and challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours.</li> <li>5. <b>Stronger, Safer Communities:</b> We also focus on building stronger, safer communities, as noted in the</li> </ol>
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		<p>Stronger Communities section of our plan. This includes addressing concerns around anti-social behaviour and ensuring that residents affected by violence, discrimination, exploitation, and domestic abuse can access the support they need.</p> <p>In summary, the council's approach to domestic abuse is multifaceted and deeply integrated into our overall strategy for community safety and wellbeing. We are committed to continuous reflection and improvement of our support services. We encourage anyone affected by domestic abuse to seek help through the various support channels available.</p> <p>I hope this provides a comprehensive overview of our efforts and reassures you of our commitment to tackling domestic abuse in our community.</p>
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