

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 8 December 2021

**Subject:** Safe and Together: Responding to and Managing Domestic Abuse in Manchester

**Report of:** Strategic Director of Children and Education Services

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## **Summary**

A rise in domestic abuse referrals including feedback from survivors of domestic abuse and key stakeholders led to discussions in how we could do things differently in the city. Scotland had adopted the Safe Together model in 2015 and the early research and feedback were positive in how it strengthened practice and importantly had changed the approach across a whole partnership when working with children and families.

In September 2017 Manchester became the first city in England to implement Safe and Together. The implementation of the Safe and Together approach was overseen through the establishment of a governance board and strong partnership arrangement. This had representation from all stakeholders and as a result the model was rolled out across schools, Manchester Foundation Trust and adopted on a locality level throughout Children's Services.

There is a growing evidence base that the change in approach to responding to domestic abuse has increased confidence in practice in helping ensure children can safely remain with the non-offending parent and a shift in focusing on the perpetrators pattern of behaviour.

In February 2019 Manchester was invited to be part of a longitudinal research project conducted by Stirling University in examining impact and outcomes for children and families affected by domestic abuse. Subsequently Manchester is a partner in this project, particularly in relation to the evaluation of safe and together as innovative practice in a large City. We are leading the way in being part of this longitudinal study along with 4 other authorities who were informed by the work taking place here in Manchester.

The attached presentation demonstrates the impact of the Safe and Together model in Manchester when managing and responding to domestic abuse. It explores how the model and approach has sharpened the partnership focus on keeping children safe and together with the non-offending parent for the children and families of Manchester, placing the child and the survivor at the centre of practice, ensuring children have the best start in life, they feel safe in the city and in their home and have trusted adults they can speak to.

## Recommendations

Committee is asked to discuss the presentation and provide comment on the content provided within the presentation.

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### Wards Affected: All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
None

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Effective Children and Education Services are critical to ensuring our children are afforded opportunities and supported to connect and contribute to the city's sustainability and growth.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Ensuring children and young people are supported and afforded the opportunity to access and achieve in the City; empowered and supported by the delivery of a strong and cohesive system that works for all children.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Improving education and social care services that are connected to the wider partnership build the resilience of children and families needed to achieve their potential and be integrated into their communities
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Improving outcomes for the children and families across the City, helps build and develop whole communities and increases the liability of the City
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Successful services support successful families who are able to deliver continuing growth in the City

### Contact Officers:

Name: Paul Marshall  
Position: Strategic Director of Children and Education Services  
E-mail: paul.marshall@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Jane Slinger  
Position: Service Lead  
E-mail: jane.slinger@manchester.gov.uk

**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Please refer to Safe and Together Presentation.