

Motion on Notice (3)

The following Motion has been proposed by Cllr Coe:

This council commits to do all it can within its powers to address Violence Against Women and Girls with White Ribbon (VAWG) accreditation as a signal of intent.

With the Council's roles in housing, health and community safety among others, we commit to:

- **Work with survivors and local service providers to understand more fully the impact VAWG in this District and continue to develop strategies and action plans to address it within the next 6 months.**
- **Work with partners in health, police, education, housing and other community services to meet the needs of survivors, including the most marginalised.**
- **Appoint a VAWG champion to hold the Council to account on this issue, promote the issue and amplify the voices of survivors.**
- **Seek White Ribbon Accreditation for Lichfield District Council.**

Detail submitted by Cllr Coe:

“This council commits to do all it can within its powers to address Violence Against Women and Girls with White Ribbon accreditation as a signal of intent.

Supported by Women's Aid in this country, the White Ribbon Campaign, which was formed in Canada in 1991, is a global movement of men working to end male violence against women and girls.

The physical and emotional cost of VAWG on survivors and their family, friends and communities is devastating. Domestic abuse can cause a range of health issues including depression, PTSD, brain injuries, bladder and kidney infections, gastrointestinal disorders, long term pain, miscarriage and other pregnancy complications (NICE, 2023). The mental health impact is particularly disturbing; recent research by the National Police Chiefs Council found that shockingly, between April 2022 to March 2023 there were more suspected victim suicides following domestic abuse than intimate partner homicides, and Women's Aid (2022) found that 45.6% of women in refuge services reported feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts. Two women are murdered each week and three more take their own lives seeing no other way out.

With the Council's roles in housing, health and community safety among others, we therefore commit to

- Work with survivors and local service providers to understand more fully the impact of VAWG in this District and continue to develop strategies and action plans to address it within the next 6 months
 - Work with partners in health, police, education, housing and other community services to meet the needs of survivors, including the most marginalised.
 - Appoint a VAWG champion to hold the Council to account on this issue, promote the issue and amplify the voices of survivors.
 - Seek White Ribbon Accreditation for Lichfield District Council.”