

BRIEFING NOTE

MOTION:

Women and girls of the district, and in Lancashire as a whole, are suffering from misogyny, expressed in sexual harassment, domestic abuse and death. Lancashire women suffer a higher than average rate of deaths – the femicide census ranks Lancashire as 13th highest female killings in a list of 42 police forces in the UK.

There is evidence of a link between domestic abuse and terrorism.

We call upon the city council to write to the Minister of State for Crime and Policing, Kit Malthouse, with the following requests:

- That he prepare legislation to make misogyny a hate crime, to be recorded as such by all police forces across the UK, and prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service with as much vigour as other hate crimes.
- That police forces should be required to record all instances of femicide, the killing of a woman or girl by a man, with immediate effect.
- That a task force be set up before the end of this year to assess the extent and impact of incel (involuntary celibate) groups both online and offline, and to work with voluntary groups and experts who have already begun work in this field.
- That all incidents of domestic violence should be treated as violent assault or grievous bodily harm, to be prosecuted automatically without the victim being required to make a formal complaint.
- That policing resources should be increased to ensure that police forces are able to do these new responsibilities. At the very least they should return to pre 2010 strength.
- That resources be made available to further study the links between domestic abuse and the perpetrators of terrorist actions.

We also call upon Lancaster City Council to use its social media presence to promote local organisations that can support women impacted by misogyny.

PROPOSERS:

Proposed by Councillor J Parr

Seconded by Councillor A Thornberry

OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE

The motion, if agreed, places no significant operational or financial burdens on the Council to implement.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

No direct impact arising from the implementation of this motion.

The motion seeks to promote and advance equality and to protect women/girls from abuse, discrimination and harassment. As such, it is in line with the Authorities' duties to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In considering this motion Councillors need to consider the Council's duties/powers under the Equality Act 2010. In particular, the Authorities' duties under section 149 of the Act.

Local Authorities have a duty under s149 of the Equalities Act 2010 to have due regard to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

These are sometimes referred to as the three aims of the general equality duty. The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

A Protected Characteristic is defined by s4 of the Act as including:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

No direct resource implications arising from the implementation of this motion.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.