


**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26 May 2022 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	My Cheshire Without Abuse J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	12. Domestic Abuse Clinic and Related Services in Congleton		
Background	<p>In September 2019 MyCWA (Cheshire Without Abuse) gave a presentation to the Community, Environment and Services Committee about the need for a weekly Domestic Abuse Hub in Congleton. The Committee agreed that such a Hub was needed in Congleton, as a minimum once a week.</p> <p>A year later, in September 2020 a monthly Domestic Abuse Clinic to be supported by Cheshire Police was started in the Old Saw Mill.</p> <p>In March ,2021 £15,000 was sourced to support the project from CRH Charitable Trust and the clinic was increased to weekly. COVID-19 restrictions limited what could be offered for a time.</p> <p>In September 2021, My Cheshire without Abuse confirmed that funding was in place until March 2022 and gave feedback on the services offered from September 2020 until September 2021. During this time the clinics were affected by COVID regulations.</p> <p>This paper outlines the latest figures for the Domestic Abuse Services in Congleton along with an update on future plans.</p>		
Latest Updates From March 2021 to March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 164 referrals for domestic abuse services in Congleton – via Domestic Abuse Clinic or online/remote (due to COVID restrictions). • 85% of service users are female adult victims, the rest are children or men. • 6 male perpetrators in Congleton self-referred and are now progressing through the Lifeline Programme to address harmful behaviours*. • 12 referrals for whole-family support. • 38 Domestic Abuse Clinics at the Old Saw Mill (Thursday afternoon appointments from 1-3pm). • Police clinics are part of the Domestic Abuse Clinic on the third Thursday of each month. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 individuals have attended the Domestic Abuse Clinic – all female victims, aged between 22 and 52 years. <p><i>*MyCWA have commented that Congleton Clinic is the first-time perpetrators have self-presented for support with their behaviour. This may be due to the local publicity for the White Ribbon Campaign.</i></p> <p>From November 2021 the service has been expanded to include a Monthly Peer Support Group ('Lounge') for female domestic abuse survivors on the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Old Saw Mill. These sessions are themed around specific topics such as mental health, building back self-confidence, understanding domestic abuse and improving wellbeing and provides vital local support to help victims get their lives back on track.</p>  <p>The Domestic Abuse service has become well established in Congleton. Funding was secured until March 2022 from the CRH Trust, but the service is now being funded via myCWA reserves. The group is applying for more funding to keep these much-needed clinics and the peer support group operational.</p> <p>The group would like Congleton Town Council to show its support for the continuation of the services, and to positively support its applications for funding and to continue to promote the service through the Town Council's own channels.</p>
Financial Considerations	More funding is needed. Congleton Town Council could write in support of funding bids.
Environmental Considerations	Town centre accessibility of the clinics mean the carbon footprint is minimal.
Equality and Inclusivity considerations	Domestic Abuse is a cause and a consequence of inequality, and supporting this service helps everyone in Congleton who is affected. It is therefore consistent with Congleton Town Council's equality and inclusion policy.
PROPOSALS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congleton Town Council to show its support for the continuation of the clinics and to positively support applications for funding to enable these clinics to continue. 2. Congleton Town Council to promote the services of the clinic and the new Peer Support Group.