

Council, Tuesday 15 December 2009

Motion 3.5: Councillor Barry Rawlings

Domestic Violence

Council notes that every year about 10,000 women and a further 10,000 children in Barnet are affected by domestic violence, as well as a large number of men. Nationally one in four women and one in six men are subjected to domestic violence at some point in their lives, but 89% of those people experiencing four or more incidents are women.

Council welcomes the higher profile of this crime, and the increase since 2003 in the national conviction rate from 25% to 72.5%.

Council also recognises and welcomes the excellent work of voluntary sector organisations in Barnet, and acknowledges the success of the local Sanctuary scheme started by the Labour/Liberal Democrat administration, but notes that there is still chronic under reporting and not enough support for victims.

Council supports the national drive to tackle domestic violence, and violence against women and girls, and asks the Policy and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee to convene a scrutiny panel as soon as possible to ensure that the council is fulfilling its leadership role in fighting domestic violence within our community.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the council meeting.