

**Full Council 20 September 2023**

**Written question from Cllr S Redrup to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Housing, Public Health and Homelessness**

This month the Isle of Wight's only Island-based charity providing support for victims of domestic violence closed after 32 years. There is now just one counsellor who travels from the mainland one day a week to provide face-to-face sessions for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. One counsellor, one day a week to serve a whole Island with a waiting list of 6 months. What changes would the cabinet member like to see to improve victims' access to services provided on the Island?

## ***Response***

The You Trust (called Paragon for Domestic Abuse Services) have been commissioned to deliver domestic abuse and sexual violence services since 2018 on the Isle of Wight. They have recently been awarded the new contract to provide domestic abuse services from October 2023 for up to 7 years. The specifications for both their current, and future contract include island based services to adults and children and young people (in relation to domestic abuse), refuge and safe accommodation, community outreach, training and awareness raising, group work and counselling. Counselling forms one aspect of a holistic range of approaches to supporting victims/survivors of domestic abuse.

For context - Wight DASH have not been commissioned by the Isle of Wight Council to provide domestic abuse services since 2018.