

SANCTUARY PROJECT
(Report by Head of Environment and Community Health Development services)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To obtain Cabinet's approval to sign and seal the agreement for the countywide Domestic Violence Sanctuary Project.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A sanctuary scheme provides home security measures to allow victims of domestic violence (and their children) to remain in their own home, where they chose to do so, in the knowledge that they have a safe retreat from the perpetrator. Sanctuary schemes are a recommended requirement for all local authorities under Best Value Performance Indicator 225.
- 2.2 There are considerable benefits of enabling domestic violence victims to remain in their own home: the social benefits and lack of disruption to education, employment and family networks and the cost can be considerably less than the provision of emergency accommodation.

3. THE SANCTUARY PROJECT

- 3.1 The Sanctuary Project for Huntingdonshire was developed through the Huntingdonshire Domestic Violence Forum. As other districts were also developing similar projects it was agreed to procure the services countywide to ensure efficiency and consistency of approach. The funding request was considered and approved by the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) Executive on 28th July 2005. The funding came from the Home Office's Safer and Stronger Communities Fund which is managed by the HCSP Executive.
- 3.2 In 2006/07 £3000 has been allocated by the HCSP Executive for Sanctuary Project capital works in Huntingdonshire. The funds for the Sanctuary Project are held on behalf of the project by Huntingdonshire District Council and the spending is monitored by the Housing Department. If there is extra demand for the services and further funds are required, the Domestic Violence Forum will bid to the HCSP for funding from the pooled partnership funds or to the Huntingdonshire District Council Housing department for Homelessness grant funding.
- 3.3 East Cambridgeshire District Council led on the procurement of the Sanctuary Project services. The contract was awarded to the Luminus Group. The agreement which requires signing is the joint contract between Luminus and the three local authorities who Luminus will be working on behalf of: Huntingdonshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council.

3.4 It has been necessary to appoint a contractor due to two of the local authorities involved no longer owning housing stock and therefore not having access to in-house workmen.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.0 Cabinet are recommended to

- (a) Consider this report and approve the signing of the contract.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Sanctuary Project Agreement Document

**Contact Officer: Sonia Hansen, Development and Community
Manager
☎ 01480 388341**