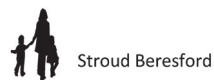




SUPPORTING PARTNERS





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This document contains live links to online documents. When you see this symbol it means there's an active link you can click on.

FOREWORD

More than 2.3 million people a year in England and Wales experience domestic abuse¹. Those people are from every gender, ethnicity, age, sexuality, religion and socio-economic background. It affects health, wellbeing and life-chances of the whole family.

That's why prevention and responses have to recognise not just immediate impacts, but long term consequences too.

In Gloucestershire we have many different services, both statutory and voluntary, who work to support families and individuals affected by domestic abuse. They are experts who engage with the complex and often chronic nature of domestic abuse and work together to challenge it. The new Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DA LPB) will strengthen and coordinate our responses across our services so that victims/ survivors get the best and most appropriate support possible. This partnership approach will ensure that those at risk of, or experiencing domestic abuse in Gloucestershire, have the support and services that they need, when they need them.

Our vision is that no-one in Gloucestershire should experience domestic abuse, and through this strategy and its clear commitments, we will work together to prevent abuse from happening, to strengthen our services and to make sure we learn from the latest research and best practice.

This strategy builds on the work already done in our County through the Domestic Abuse and Sexual violence commissioning strategy and could not have been developed without the hard work of the County's Domestic Abuse Commissioning team and the support of the DA LPB.

No one organisation has the key to taking effective action against Domestic Abuse. Put simply; domestic abuse is everyone's problem, and that's what this strategy is designed to make clear. For my organisation's part, focusing on vulnerability and victimisation and tackling hidden harms is a priority in Gloucestershire's new Police and Crime Prevention Plan, and by taking a collaborative approach to developing and delivering on our commitments in this strategy, we can tackle domestic abuse in the most effective way. We want

to make it clear that we do not accept domestic abuse in our County and I also would like to see not only statutory partners, but other organisations across the county signing up to a Charter agreement to take action on domestic abuse including equipping themselves with the tools they need to care for employees and clients experiencing abuse and to educate perpetrators to help them to stop.

Successful delivery of this strategy requires strong leadership, commitment and engagement from all partners in Gloucestershire. By working together, with a clear vision, we can create lasting change that will make our community a safer place to live.

NICK EVANS

DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

OCTOBER 2021

¹ Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) year ending March 2020



02 INTRODUCTION

The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024 continues to prioritise domestic abuse and builds on the achievements of Gloucestershire's multi-agency response and strategic approach which has been in place since 2014.

Gloucestershire recognises the continued high prevalence of domestic abuse, despite its underreporting, and the devastating impact it has on the individual, their family, community and wider society. There is a continued commitment to work together from statutory partners and the wider community and voluntary sector which upholds the principles of a coordinated community response to tackling domestic abuse.

The development of this strategy reflects our local commitment to ensuring an ongoing robust response to domestic abuse, and fulfils the statutory requirement set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021². This statutory duty requires all local authorities to develop a strategy that outlines their local response to providing support within domestic abuse safe accommodation. The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DA LPB) has requested that this strategy also considers a wider response to domestic abuse, ensuring the needs of all victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their families, both within safe accommodation and within the community, are considered.

The scope of this strategy will consider domestic abuse for victims aged 16 and over and the wider areas of abuse that fall under the new statutory definition of domestic abuse, including:



DOMESTIC ABUSE



+ STALKING (BOTH WITHIN & OUTSIDE OF THE CONTEXT OF DA)



+ HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE (HBV)



+ FORCED MARRIAGE (FM)



+ CHILD TO PARENT ABUSE (CPA)

Locally we recognise the gendered nature of these crimes in line with the Government response to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). We do however ensure our local response to domestic abuse is accessible to all regardless of gender and other protected characteristics.

This strategy has been produced by the Gloucestershire DA LPB. All agencies represented on the board had input into the co-production of the strategy and it is informed by service user and community engagement activity and the domestic abuse needs assessment 2021.

² Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)



The Gloucestershire DA LPB was established in 2021 in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The DA LPB consists of three tiers; LPB Strategic Group, LPB Operational Group and LPB Consultation Group; each with their own set of aims and objectives to drive forward the Gloucestershire approach to tackling domestic abuse. The role of the DA LPB is to oversee all activity in relation to the development, implementation and review of the domestic abuse strategy for Gloucestershire. For governance processes, the DA LPB reports into Safer Gloucestershire and also links to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safeguarding Boards for Children and Adults.

DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

To accompany this strategy there will be a delivery plan that supports the implementation of our vision, priorities and objectives. The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse LPB will be responsible for producing a dynamic and evolving delivery plan which will evidence our activity and progress in meeting our strategic objectives and the impact being made on the needs identified in the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021. The Gloucestershire DA LPB will be responsible for agreeing the prioritisation and setting of timescales for the activity within the delivery plan. The plan will be closely monitored through the DA LPB governance structure.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S VISION FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE



OUR VISION

For Gloucestershire to be a county where domestic abuse is not tolerated and **everybody can live free from abuse and harm**, where healthy relationships are the norm and where victims/ survivors and their children have access to the right support at the right time.

For domestic abuse to be everybody's business, **where a collaborative approach creates lasting change** across our systems and communities, where the voice of the victim is at the heart of our response.

OUR PRINCIPLES

01



WE WILL RESPOND

TO OUR LOCAL NEED BASED ON A NEEDS ASSESSMENT & LESSONS LEARNT FROM DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

02



WE WILL ENSURE

THE VOICE OF THE VICTIM IS AT THE HEART OF OUR RESPONSE

03



WE WILL WORK COLLABORATIVELY

TO PROMOTE A CONSISTENT RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE ACROSS OUR AGENCIES & COMMUNITIES

OUR PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 01
**PREVENTION
& EARLY
INTERVENTION**



PRIORITY 02
**MULTI-AGENCY
WORKING
& PATHWAY
DEVELOPMENT**



PRIORITY 03
**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



PRIORITY 04
**HIGH QUALITY
SERVICE
PROVISION**



PRIORITY 05
**WORKING TO
BREAK THE CYCLE
OF PERPETRATOR
BEHAVIOUR**



Gloucestershire's priorities have been developed collaboratively through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and are informed by the National VAWG Strategy and National Statement of Expectations for domestic abuse.

All priorities have been informed by the voice of the victim/survivor and the wider community and place the victim at the centre of service delivery. The continued inclusion of victim/survivor voice will be at the heart of the DA LPB (NB. Consultation group).

NOTES:

- + All priorities and actions relate to DA, Stalking, HBV/FM and CPA
- + Key findings from the needs assessment will be included within the DA strategy delivery plan
- + Responding to measures in the DA Act will be a focus of the DA strategy delivery plan



PRIORITY 1: PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

Responding to domestic abuse effectively is not just about focusing on high risk victims, but also recognising the need to take a population-based approach, understanding and addressing the underlying causes of domestic abuse and determining which factors may increase risk and how those might be modified. By tackling ‘upstream’ risk factors we can help to lessen ‘downstream’ consequences, ensuring that communities and society are strengthened to support people experiencing domestic abuse to be safe, well and resilient.

OBJECTIVE 1A:

To ensure the continued understanding and assessment of the way in which domestic abuse presents within Gloucestershire and the exploration of mechanisms to respond to its root causes.

OUTCOMES:

- + A full domestic abuse needs assessment is developed every 3 years and an annual refresh is completed to define and monitor domestic abuse at a local level.
- + An agreed multi-agency data set for domestic abuse is in place and agencies have the mechanism for the collection, analysis and sharing of data which will inform ongoing needs assessments and service development.
- + Local processes are in place to identify the risk and protective factors associated with domestic abuse and plans are developed to adopt interventions that focus on primary prevention activity across the system (focusing on the ‘upstream’).
- + All agencies with an interest in domestic abuse will have contributed, via the DA LPB, to discussions and developments into other preventative business focused areas such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the collective response to addressing deprivation within Gloucestershire.

I DON'T NECESSARILY KNOW IF ENOUGH PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ARE IN PLACE, WE SHOULD (AS A SOCIETY) BE WORKING HARD TO ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM/GET PEOPLE SAFE BEFORE WAITING FOR IT TO ESCALATE TO THE WORST POSSIBLE SCENARIO

(Community Engagement Survey).



PRIORITY 1: PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

OBJECTIVE 1B:

To ensure young people are provided with evidence based education and interventions that promote healthy relationship behaviours and the delivery of messages that prevent the normalisation of abuse.

OUTCOMES:

- + Review completed into the current healthy relationships education offer provided within schools and the development of a plan to ensure partnership investment in the delivery of specialist healthy relationships education (Inc. prevention of domestic abuse) which is available as a universal offer within Gloucestershire.
- + Review completed of policies in place to respond to domestic abuse in education settings and development plan in place to deliver their approach.
- + Development and delivery of a countywide communications/media plan that raises awareness of healthy relationship behaviours amongst young people, support available and the role of young people and parents in recognising and responding to domestic abuse. Ensuring that relationship abuse is not considered to be a normal part of young people's lives.



I THINK THE **INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE EVERYWHERE**. ESPECIALLY IN SCHOOLS AND AIMED AT YOUNG PEOPLE THAT THIS BEHAVIOUR IS UNACCEPTABLE

(Victim Engagement Survey)



OBJECTIVE 1C:

To ensure those experiencing domestic abuse can access support at an early stage, preventing the risk of escalation (secondary prevention) and reducing exposure to the harmful consequences of domestic abuse.

OUTCOMES:

- + Development and delivery of a countywide communications/ media plan that looks to create a culture of change in the societal attitudes towards domestic abuse, reducing the stigma of reporting for victims and their families and empowering individuals and the community to challenge unacceptable behaviour.
- + Development and delivery of a service user and community engagement plan that supports the early identification and response of all victims of domestic abuse and reflects the need to adopt an intersectional approach and delivers solutions that make communities feel safer.
- + Professionals are confident in making routine enquiry to identify victims of domestic abuse and take appropriate actions.
- + Partnership investment is made available for the development of a Domestic Abuse Champions Network across Gloucestershire to support early identification of domestic abuse.



PRIORITY 2: MULTI-AGENCY WORKING AND PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT

To fully address domestic abuse a clear and robust multi-agency response is required. There is a need to ensure agencies effectively share information, risk assess and collaborate in their response to victims, perpetrators and their families, with clear pathways into specialist support. The Coordinated Community Response (CCR); an approach that Gloucestershire has adopted; provides a framework for this approach and is considered to be best practice in responding to domestic abuse.



THERE NEEDS TO BE **MORE COMMUNICATION**
BETWEEN AGENCIES, THIS IS STILL NOT HAPPENING

(Victim Engagement Survey)

”

OBJECTIVE 2A:

To ensure the development and embedding of clear pathways between all agencies and specialist domestic abuse services to provide a consistent approach to victims of domestic abuse and their families and clear joint working arrangements for agencies across Gloucestershire.

OUTCOMES:

- + Joint working protocols and practice are in place that support robust information sharing between statutory and specialist domestic abuse services.
- + Clear pathways into specialist domestic abuse services are in place, understood by all agencies and fully implemented across all risk levels.
- + Specialist domestic abuse services will see an increase in multi-agency referrals for support for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- + Partnership investment is made available to support the ongoing development of co-location of specialist domestic abuse staff within appropriate organisations.
- + Lessons from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and other safeguarding reviews relevant to multi-agency working are put into practice and processes for monitoring implementation are agreed.

- + Clear links are developed between the DA LPB and the Children and Adults Safeguarding processes and procedures.
- + Through a co-production approach DA LPB partners will have reviewed and developed organisational policies and procedures in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

“

I THINK THE ERROR THE [AGENCY] MADE IN MY CASE WAS **NOT LINKING UP SEPARATE REPORTS**. I THINK ALL CASES SHOULD BE LOOKED AT MORE HOLISTICALLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HISTORY THAT SURROUNDS THE CASE. NOT JUST WHAT HAD BEEN REPORTED AT THAT POINT IN THE TIME, **THE BIGGER PICTURE PAINTS A FAR CLEARER PICTURE OF THE SCALE OF ABUSE/CONTROL/NEGATIVE IMPACT ON A PERSON'S LIFE.**

(Victim Engagement Survey).

”



PRIORITY 3: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To provide a robust countywide response to domestic abuse, we need to ensure professionals across all organisations are skilled in identifying and responding effectively to those vulnerable to domestic abuse both within the community and the workplace.

OBJECTIVE 3A:

To ensure professionals across all agencies have access to specialist training that enables them to feel confident and competent in their response to Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Child to Parent Abuse.

OUTCOMES:

- + Through a co-production approach the existing Domestic Abuse Training Pathway is refreshed to ensure it meets the training needs of all key partner organisations and there is commitment to implement the DA Training Pathway across Gloucestershire.
- + Partnership investment is made available to support the implementation of the DA Training Pathway and enables the delivery of high quality training.
- + There is increased knowledge and a consistent approach to domestic abuse across staff in all agencies signed up to the DA Training Pathway.
- + Local processes are in place to monitor and provide opportunities for reflective practice that ensures lessons are learnt from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and other safeguarding review processes.

THERE NEEDS TO BE **MORE TRAINING** SO [PROFESSIONALS] CAN SEE THROUGH [COERCIVE CONTROL OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE]....

(Victim Engagement Survey).



TRAINING IS NEEDED.....AS I FELT AS THOUGH THEY THOUGHT I WAS **A)WASTING THEIR TIME, AND B) BELIEVED MY SITUATION TO BE TRIVIAL**

(Victim Engagement Survey)



OBJECTIVE 3B:

To ensure workplaces and business within Gloucestershire take a proactive approach to addressing domestic abuse and have in place effective policies and procedures which support organisations and staff in their response to colleagues who may be victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse.

OUTCOMES:

- + Through a co-production approach the existing domestic abuse workplace policy guidance is refreshed to ensure it meets the needs of all key partner organisations.
- + There is a commitment from organisations represented on the DA LPB to develop and implement workplace domestic abuse policies and procedures in line with local and national best practice guidance.
- + An engagement plan is developed for the wider business sector in Gloucestershire to promote best practice in relation to addressing domestic abuse in the workplace and the development of workplace domestic abuse policies and procedures is encouraged.
- + Development and delivery of a countywide communications/media plan that raises awareness of domestic abuse within the workplace, support available and the role of the employer in responding safely and effectively.
- + Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Charter developed to signal commitment from all partners represented on the DA LPB to addressing domestic abuse, with exploration of widening this out to other workplaces across Gloucestershire.



PRIORITY 4: HIGH QUALITY SERVICE PROVISION FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The provision of high quality domestic abuse services is central to any local response to victims and their families. Service provision needs to be accessible to all victims and be available at the right time to secure their immediate safety and support their longer term recovery from abuse. Services should be informed by the service user voice to ensure everyone who requires support feels empowered to access it. Services must be flexible to changing demand and need, ensuring appropriate solutions that acknowledge the wide ranging impact domestic abuse can have.



THE BIGGEST ISSUE IS FEELING SAFE AND SUPPORTED. THEN YOU CAN SLOWLY BEGIN TO GET OUT OF THE ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP AND REBUILD YOUR LIFE

(Victim Engagement Survey)

”

OBJECTIVE 4A:

Through robust collaboration between Gloucestershire's tier 1 and tier 2 Local Authorities the identified local need for specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation is addressed and the support needs of those accessing safe accommodation are met. This objective supports us to meet our statutory duty, ensuring all victims of domestic abuse and their children have access to the right support within safe accommodation when they need it.

OUTCOMES:

- + Partnership investment is made available to increase the provision of high quality specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation across all tenures, that is accessible to all, including protected characteristic groups and consideration of 'by and for' approaches.
- + DLUHC (Department for Leveling Up Housing and Communities) funding is used to ensure specialist domestic abuse support is available for victims and their children accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation.
- + Through co-production, new and innovative approaches to providing specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation and deliver support in safe accommodation are considered and tested.
- + Opportunities to support cross border collaboration for access to domestic abuse safe accommodation are considered, researched and commissioning possibilities explored.
- + Opportunities to support the local implementation of national best practices approaches to domestic abuse safe accommodation, such as the Whole Housing Approach, are considered, researched and commissioning possibilities explored.
- + Options for support in domestic abuse safe accommodation for those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) are considered, researched and commissioning possibilities explored.
- + Links with Registered Housing Providers developed that enables specialist support and safeguarding to victims of domestic abuse and their children within social housing.



PRIORITY 4: **HIGH QUALITY SERVICE PROVISION FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

OBJECTIVE 4B:

To ensure the development and delivery of high quality specialist community based support for all victims of domestic abuse (aged 13+) and their families that ensures the availability of the right support at the right time.

OUTCOMES:

- + Partnership investment continues to be available for a range of specialist community based services for domestic abuse/stalking victims and their families which is at the right level to reflect demand and is accessible to all (reflecting intersectionality needs).
- + Specialist community based domestic abuse services positively engage with protected characteristic groups, service offers are developed accordingly, resulting in an increase in referrals, aligned to local demographics.
- + Options to widen the scope of local specialist community based support services are explored in line with national funding opportunities to increase investment and support innovation; considering opportunities for co-production and 'by and for' approaches.
- + Partnership investment is made available for the development of long term recovery services that are trauma informed.
- + The need for specialist provision to address Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Child to Parent Abuse is understood, and a plan is developed to address this and consider commissioning opportunities.



MORE FUNDING IS REQUIRED
FOR **THE SAFETY** OF ALL VICTIMS
AND DEPENDANTS

(Victim Engagement Survey)



OBJECTIVE 4C:

To contribute to the development of a countywide approach to complex needs/multiple disadvantage, ensuring that issues relating to domestic abuse victims and perpetrators are considered in any ongoing developments.

OUTCOMES:

- + All agencies with an interest in domestic abuse will have contributed, via the DA LPB, to discussions and developments into the response to complex needs/ multiple disadvantage within Gloucestershire.
- + Local evidence is gathered (including from DHRs/other reviews) which supports the development of a plan for addressing complex needs/ multiple disadvantage that includes victims of domestic abuse.
- + Local processes are in place for all agencies to identify repeat victims of domestic abuse. Consideration will be given to how the intelligence gathered on repeat victims can be used to reduce multiple incidents of domestic abuse and safeguard victims and their families.
- + Partnership investment is made available for the development of joint working and co-location between domestic abuse support services and services that support those with mental health issues, substance misuse issues and wider complex needs.



PRIORITY 4: HIGH QUALITY SERVICE PROVISION FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

OBJECTIVE 4D:

To ensure we take a place based approach to domestic abuse, recognising the differing needs of individuals and the specific characteristics of communities across the county. For services and activities tackling domestic abuse to be reflective of these characteristics, taking a flexible strengths based approach.

OUTCOMES:

- + For each district area (in conjunction with Safer Gloucestershire) to have considered the needs of their communities and develop a place based plan that addresses domestic abuse in both urban and rural communities; considering the links to deprivation.
- + For the DA LPB to have considered the place based plan for each district and to have developed an approach that supports the implementation of specific activity to tackle domestic abuse at a community level.
- + Development and delivery of a countywide communications/ media plan that raises awareness of domestic abuse and support that is available which is tailored to specific community needs.
- + Partnership investment is made available for the development of a Domestic Abuse Champions Network and the embedding of specialist support services to support locality based identification and response to domestic abuse.



I FELT **UNDERSTOOD AND
VALIDATED** BY MY CONTACT
WITH {SPECIALIST SERVICES}

(Victim Engagement Survey)



THEY [SPECIALIST DA SERVICES] HELPED ME **REALISE
I WASN'T CRAZY**, START TO BELIEVE IT MAY NOT HAVE
BEEN MY FAULT, HELPED WITH PRACTICAL ADVICE
ABOUT HOW TO TRY AND CO-PARENT SUCCESSFULLY
WITH MY FORMER PARTNER AND GAVE ME A
**WONDERFUL FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO REBUILD
MY MENTAL HEALTH.**

(Victim Engagement Survey).





PRIORITY 5: WORKING TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF PERPETRATOR BEHAVIOUR

To break the cycle of domestic abuse and create lasting change for victims, we need to address perpetrator behaviour, holding individuals to account and providing support that facilitates the development of healthy relationship behaviours; recognising the impact of perpetrator behaviours on families as a whole.



I FOUND WORKING WITH THE GROUP...**VERY REWARDING AND SAFE**, MAKING IT VERY EASY TO OPEN UP AND ASSESS MY PAST BEHAVIOURS AND CHANGES I NEEDED TO MAKE.

(Perpetrator Engagement Survey)

”

OBJECTIVE 5A:

To ensure the development and delivery of local specialist support for perpetrators of domestic abuse and other harmful relationship behaviours, that addresses these behaviours and creates lasting positive change.

OUTCOMES:

- + Partnership investment continues to be available for a range of specialist community based services for domestic abuse perpetrators which is at the right level to reflect demand and is accessible to all.
- + Partnership investment is made available for the development of specialist community based services to address harmful relationship behaviour for 16-18 year olds.
- + Opportunities to address stalking perpetrator behaviour are considered, researched and commissioning possibilities explored.
- + Opportunities to address harmful behaviours associated with child to parent abuse are considered, researched and commissioning possibilities explored.
- + Opportunities to widen the scope of local specialist community based perpetrator services based on national best practice are considered and opportunities for investment in commissioning approaches are explored.

- + Regular evaluation processes are in place to facilitate the ongoing development of perpetrator provision that ensures lessons are learnt and best practice is shared.

“

IF SOMEONE REALLY WANTS TO CHANGE IN A POSITIVE WAY THEN I WOULD **ABSOLUTELY RECOMMEND [PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME]**.....I WOULD QUESTION ANYONE THAT SAYS AFTER ATTENDING THE PROGRAM IT HAS NOT HAD A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEM.

(Perpetrator Engagement Survey).

”



PRIORITY 5: **WORKING TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF PERPETRATOR BEHAVIOUR**

OBJECTIVE 5B:

To ensure a system wide joined up approach to addressing perpetrator behaviour that enables all agencies to identify perpetrators and respond appropriately. To have a robust criminal justice response that brings perpetrators to justice.

OUTCOMES:

- + Professionals are confident in making routine enquiry to identify perpetrators of domestic abuse and take appropriate actions.
- + Local processes are in place for all agencies to identify repeat/ serial perpetrators of domestic abuse. Consideration will be given to how the intelligence gathered on repeat/ serial perpetrators can be used to reduce multiple incidents of domestic abuse and safeguard victims and their families.
- + A proactive approach to policing domestic abuse is promoted with the aim of increasing arrest rates and opportunities for criminal justice intervention.
- + The DA LPB has developed a strong links with the local Criminal Justice Board to promote a robust criminal justice response to domestic abuse and support for victims.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS **STILL NOT
TAKEN SERIOUSLY**.....PERPETRATORS ARE
TREATED TOO LIGHTLY AND IT'S EASY
FOR THEM TO CONTINUE...

(Victim Engagement Survey)



OBJECTIVE 5C:

To raise awareness of perpetrator behaviour both in the community and for the individual by enabling people to recognise abusive relationship behaviours, be aware of support available and feel empowered to respond effectively, supporting a county wide approach where domestic abuse is not tolerated.

OUTCOMES:

- + Development and delivery of a countywide communications/ media plan that raises awareness of perpetrator behaviour, services available and the role of the community in responding safely and effectively.
- + Opportunities to support bystander interventions in the community are considered, researched and commissioning possibilities explored.

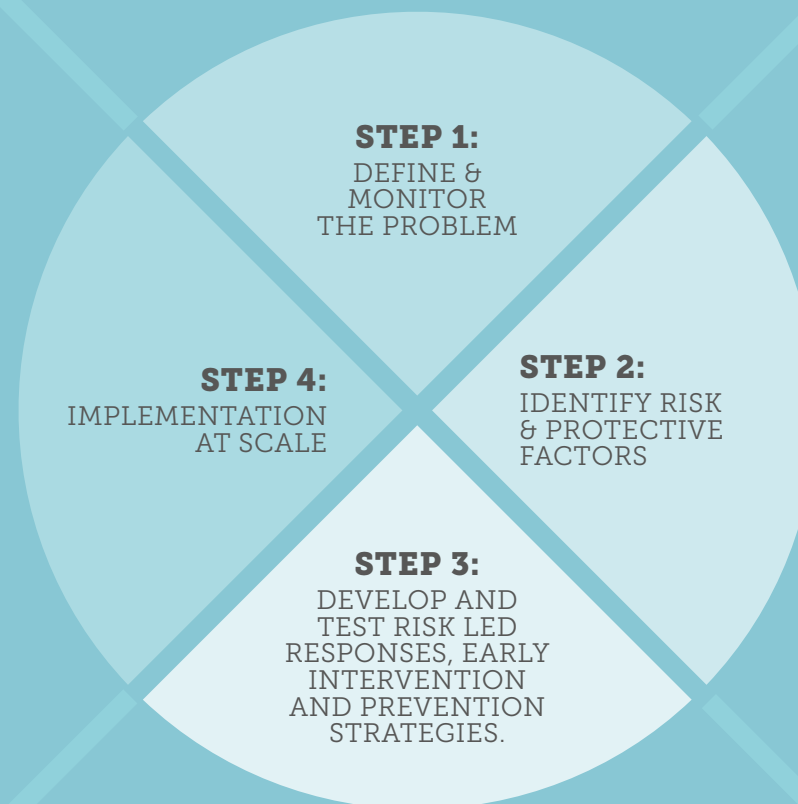
PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

A public health approach to violence prevention is defined by World Health Organisation (WHO) (2017)³ as an approach that;

“ SEEKS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL INDIVIDUALS BY ADDRESSING THE UNDERLYING RISK FACTORS THAT INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WILL BECOME A VICTIM OR PERPETRATOR OF VIOLENCE ”

The focus of public health is on the health, safety and wellbeing of entire populations; it aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. The underlying principles of a public health approach are that it is⁴:

- + FOCUSED ON A **DEFINED POPULATION**, OFTEN WITH A HEALTH RISK IN COMMON
- + WITH AND FOR **COMMUNITIES**
- + **NOT CONSTRAINED** BY ORGANISATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES
- + FOCUSED ON GENERATING LONG TERM AS WELL AS SHORT TERM **SOLUTIONS**



+ **BASED ON DATA AND INTELLIGENCE** TO IDENTIFY THE BURDEN ON THE POPULATION, INCLUDING ANY INEQUALITIES

+ **ROOTED IN EVIDENCE** OF EFFECTIVENESS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM

³ World Health Organization, 2017. *Violence Prevention Alliance: The public health approach*

⁴ A whole-system multi-agency approach to serious violence prevention. A resource for local system leaders in England. Public HealthEngland, 2019.



PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

Specific to Domestic Abuse, Gloucestershire supports SafeLives 'The Whole Picture - our strategy to end domestic abuse, for good⁵' and in particular, the pro-active approach to widen the response to domestic abuse. This includes challenging the whole of society to deconstruct stereotypes to encourage communities to have a low tolerance and high urgency about identifying abuse. This also extends to looking at geographical communities, online spaces and employers/ businesses so that they understand the risks posed by those who abuse and their role in protecting those at risk of harm.

Having an early intervention and prevention focus (i.e. acting before someone harms or is harmed) will provide an opportunity to work far more with our communities, elected members, schools, health providers, businesses and voluntary sector services to raise awareness of the issue and increase confidence for people to report and confidence to respond when a disclosure may be made.

It is so important that communities and society are strengthened to support people experiencing domestic abuse to be safe, well and resilient but this will also need a sustainable, strong infrastructure of statutory services and provision to be in place for those most vulnerable and at highest risk.

To achieve our objectives and outcomes through a public health approach we will take a range of actions covering primary, secondary and tertiary prevention:

A **primary prevention** approach focuses on preventing unhealthy/ unsafe relationship behaviours, through awareness raising and education, building the knowledge and skills of

individuals, and delivering a progressive shift in the structural, cultural and societal contexts in which abuse occurs. Prioritising primary prevention challenges the notion that abuse and violence is inevitable or acceptable.

Through **secondary prevention** we can reduce the impact of DA, ensure access to support as soon as possible and encourage strategies to lessen future reoccurrence i.e. safety planning, ending the relationship/ moving on. We can look to target services for those at risk of experiencing domestic abuse and preventing abuse from recurring.

Tertiary prevention looks to lessen the impact of an ongoing DA situation. Robust Risk assessment (DASH), safety planning, complex case management/ multi agency working (MARAC); and lessen the impact and burden of DA to the individual and society.

Reducing the causes and impacts of domestic abuse (in common with many other of the complex issues affecting the health and wellbeing of our population) cannot be achieved alone. We have a role in facilitating other agencies to come together to work across different systems, professional boundaries and localities. We need a co-ordinated approach, sharing evidence and information on known or emerging risks. This will help us all understand and challenge the actions, beliefs and attitudes that allow domestic abuse to persist in our communities.

⁵The Whole Picture - SafeLives' Strategy.pdf



BACKGROUND TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

DOMESTIC ABUSE IS ESTIMATED TO ANNUALLY COST SOCIETY IN ENGLAND & WALES

£66BN

COSTS TO THE ECONOMY ARE ESTIMATED TO ANNUALLY COST

£47BN

⁶ Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

⁷ The economic and social costs of domestic abuse - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

⁸ Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)

⁹ The full definition is available within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021: Domestic Abuse Act (legislation.gov.uk)

Domestic abuse (DA) is a widespread societal issue, estimated to have impacted on 2.3 million people in the year ending March 2020⁶. Despite its widespread prevalence, domestic abuse is still widely recognised as an underreported crime. It remains relatively hidden, even though its impact on the individual, community and society is significant.

Domestic abuse is estimated to cost society in England and Wales **£66 Billion annually**, with considerable costs to the economy, health services, criminal justice responses and most significantly the human cost, with physical and emotional harms incurred by victims estimated to cost **£47 billion annually⁷.**

The impact and prevalence of domestic abuse has in recent years, received a greater profile nationally, in the main, thanks to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Act sets out a range of both legislative and non-legislative measures designed to;

- + PROMOTE AWARENESS** OF DOMESTIC ABUSE;
- + PROTECT & SUPPORT** VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE;
- + TRANSFORM** THE JUSTICE PROCESS TO PRIORITISE VICTIM SAFETY AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO PERPETRATORS;
- + DRIVE CONSISTENCY** AND BETTER PERFORMANCE IN THE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE ACROSS ALL LOCAL AREAS, AGENCIES AND SECTORS.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021⁸, received Royal Assent in April 2021, and introduces for the first time, a cross government statutory definition of domestic abuse in which it is defined as; Behaviour of a person (A) towards another person (B) is domestic abuse if – (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is 'abusive' if it consists of any of the following:

- A. PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE**
- B. VIOLENT OR THREATENING BEHAVIOUR**
- C. CONTROLLING OR COERCIVE BEHAVIOUR**
- D. ECONOMIC ABUSE**
- E. PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL OR OTHER ABUSE**





It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct⁹.

NB. At the time of writing, the statutory definition is yet to be implemented.

Whilst the Domestic Act 2021 introduces a range of new measures, a significant measure that impacts on local areas is the introduction of a statutory duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in domestic abuse safe accommodation.

Domestic Abuse (DA), Stalking, Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM) and Child to Parent Abuse (CPA) are all areas of the wider Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda that are considered to be a major public health issue and violation of human rights and they are included in this strategy.

Nationally, the Government's commitment to VAWG has been made clear with the release of their Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls strategy for 2021-2024¹⁰. This new strategy sets out the Governments plans to tackle the often hidden crimes associated with VAWG, aiming to increase the support to survivors, bring perpetrators to justice and to reduce the prevalence of VAWG. The priorities set out in Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls 2021-2024 include:

-  **+ PRIORITISING PREVENTION**
-  **+ SUPPORTING VICTIMS**
-  **+ PURSUING PERPETRATORS**
-  **+ A STRONGER SYSTEM**

At the time of writing this strategy, we are awaiting the publication of a Government Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Alongside the introduction of the VAWG strategy, still relevant to local areas responses to VAWG is the 2016

National Statement of Expectations (NSE)¹¹. This sets out the expectations for local areas in their response to VAWG, ensuring approaches are collaborative, robust and effective and that victims and survivors can access the help they need.

The NSE outlines the following expectations from local strategies and services:

- 1. PUT THE VICTIM AT THE CENTRE** OF SERVICE DELIVERY
- 2. HAVE A CLEAR FOCUS ON PERPETRATORS** IN ORDER TO KEEP VICTIMS SAFE
- 3. TAKE A STRATEGIC, SYSTEM-WIDE APPROACH** TO COMMISSIONING ACKNOWLEDGING THE GENDERED NATURE OF VAWG
- 4. ARE LOCALLY-LED AND SAFEGUARD** INDIVIDUALS AT EVERY POINT
- 5. RAISE LOCAL AWARENESS** OF THE ISSUES AND INVOLVE ENGAGE AND EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO SEEK, DESIGN AND DELIVER SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT VAWG.

¹⁰ Tackling violence against women and girls strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

¹¹ Violence against women and girls: national statement of expectations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

DOMESTIC ABUSE **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The domestic abuse needs assessment was completed as part of the statutory duty within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to assess need for support within specialist domestic abuse accommodation. The scope of the needs assessment in Gloucestershire was widened to include domestic abuse specialist community based support services as well as Stalking, Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Child to Parent Abuse.

The data provided within the needs assessment covered years 2017/18-2019/20. Additional data was sought for 2020/21 wherever available. A range of agencies provided data to contribute the needs assessment.

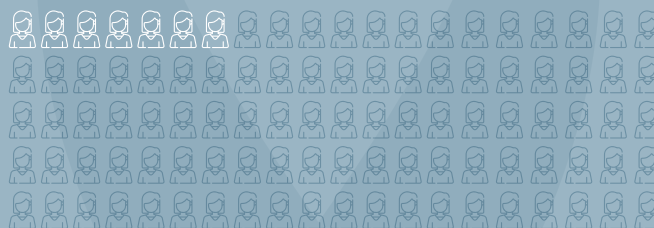


NATIONAL PREVALENCE DATA (CSEW:YE MARCH 2020) ...

5.5%
OF ADULTS AGED
16-74 EXPERIENCED
DA IN THE LAST YEAR

THIS
EQUATES
TO
2.3
MILLION PEOPLE

DA IMPACTS AROUND



7 IN 100 WOMEN



& 4 IN 100 MEN
EXPERIENCING DA IN THE LAST YEAR

THERE ARE **APPROXIMATELY**

3 
DOMESTIC
HOMICIDES
PER WEEK
IN ENGLAND AND WALES

4.6%  **& 2.5%** 
OF WOMEN OF MEN
WILL HAVE EXPERIENCED
STALKING IN THE LAST YEAR

GLOUCESTERSHIRE DATA ...

THERE IS A CLEAR LINK BETWEEN DA AND DEPRIVATION: RESIDENTS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARE **6X** MORE LIKELY TO REPORT DA IN THE MOST DEPRIVED **20%** OF AREAS IN ENGLAND THAN THE LEAST DEPRIVED **20%**. IT IS EXPECTED HOWEVER THAT DOMESTIC ABUSE IN MORE AFFLUENT AREAS OF THE COUNTY IS UNREPORTED.

13%

OF ALL **CRIME REPORTED** TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE IS **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

38%

OF ALL **VIOLENT OFFENCES REPORTED** TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE IS **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

20-24
YR OLDS

HIGHEST RATE OF DA LOCALLY IS WITHIN THE **AGE GROUP 20-24**
19.96 DA CRIMES PER **1000** OF THE 20-24 POPULATION)

DA RATE:

8.25
CRIMES PER
1000
OF THE **POPULATION**

78% 22%

78% OF LOCAL DA **VICTIMS ARE FEMALE.**
22% ARE **MALE**

93% 7%

93% OF DA **PERPETRATORS ARE MALE.**
7% ARE **FEMALE**

30%

OF REFERRALS INTO **CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE** ARE DA RELATED

STALKING RATE:

0.87 **CRIMES PER**
1000 **OF THE**
POPULATION
OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

94%

OF **STALKING VICTIMS** ARE **FEMALE**

97%

OF **STALKING OFFENDERS** ARE **MALE**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE DATA...

46 REFERRALS

TO MARAC (HIGH RISK VICTIMS) PER

10,000

OF THE FEMALE POPULATION IN
GLOUCESTERSHIRE, COMPARED
WITH **42 REFERRALS NATIONALLY**

90

DA VICTIMS WHO APPROACHED
THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE
REFUGE WERE UNABLE TO BE
ACCOMMODATED IN 2019/20FROM 1ST APRIL 2018-31ST DEC 2020:

45

DA VICTIMS WERE
**HOUSED IN
PLACES OF SAFETY**

105

DA VICTIMS **WERE
NOT** ABLE TO BE
ACCOMMODATED IN
PLACES OF SAFETYTHE MOST **COMMON ISSUES** WITH
ACCESS TO DOMESTIC ABUSE SAFE
ACCOMMODATION IN THE COUNTY
ARE RELATED TO:**NO RECOURSE
TO PUBLIC FUNDS****COMPLEX NEEDS****LACK OF
AVAILABLE SPACE****LACK OF MOVE ON
ACCOMMODATION**IN **2020/21** GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC
ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE (GDASS)
RECEIVED OVER

7000 REFERRALS

7%

INCREASE IN
REFERRALS FROM
19/20 TO 20/21

14%

OF REFERRALS
ARE FOR **HIGH
RISK CASES**IN **2020/21** POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS
GLOUCESTERSHIRE (PRG) RECEIVED OVER

200 REFERRALS

FOR **PERPETRATORS** OF DOMESTIC ABUSE.
FOLLOWING AN ASSESSMENT

79%

ARE **OFFERED A SERVICE
INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS
THEIR PERPETRATOR BEHAVIOUR.**

7.1 | NEEDS ASSESSMENT: OVERARCHING AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT



TRAINING FOR FRONTLINE STAFF
across all agencies (early identification & prevention)



FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
and embedding of DA Pathways (CCR)
and partnership approach



ONGOING AWARENESS
raising and community engagement to increase reporting
and access to support (including the role of community
champions in supporting the identification of DA)



IMPROVEMENTS IN EARLY IDENTIFICATION
of domestic abuse, risk assessment and referral
into specialist services



RESPONSE TO DA VICTIMS
with complex needs &/or multiple disadvantage/
intersectionality (particularly LGBTQ, BAME and Disability)



PLACE BASED APPROACH
to DA/ deprivation/ access to support/Urban
and Rural



IMPROVE DA DATA
collection across all agencies

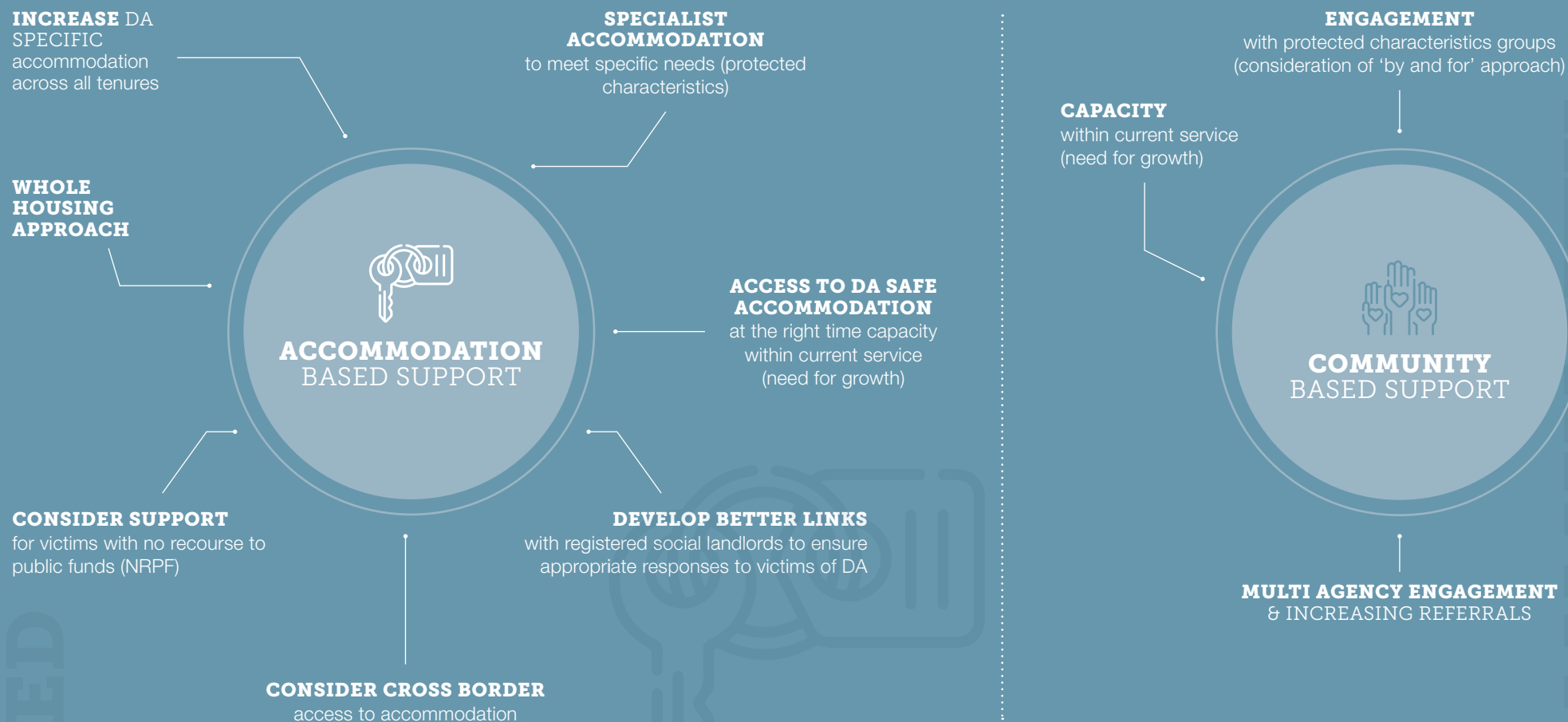


PREPARATIONS
for the new measures introduced in the DA Act

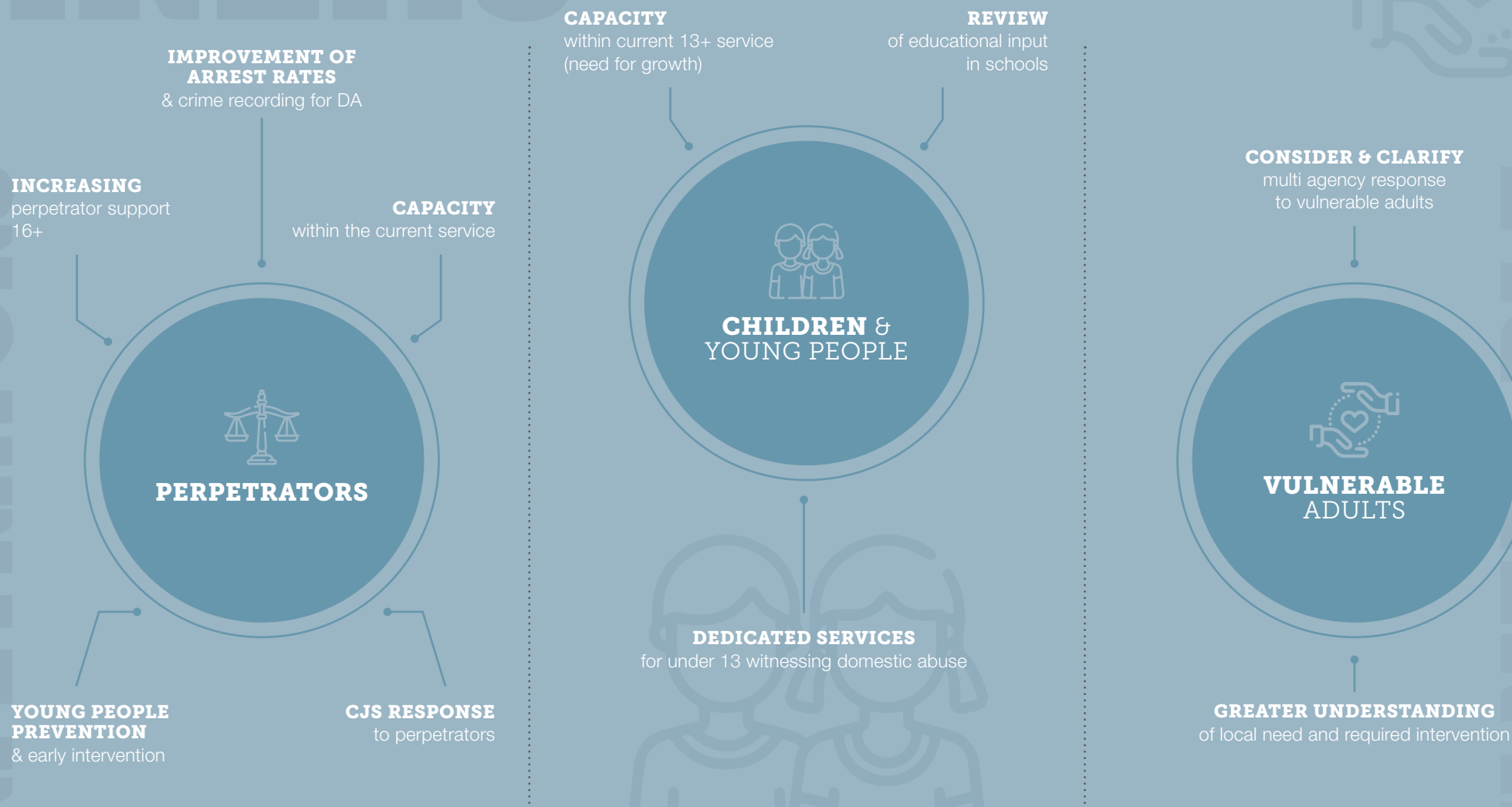


ONGOING ASSESSMENT
against 'In Search of Excellence' to ensure best
practice CCR

7.2 | NEEDS ASSESSMENT: THEMED AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT



THEMED AREAS



THEMED AREAS

TRAINING
& awareness raising

CAPACITY
within the current service

STALKING

RESPONSE
to stalking perpetrators

INCREASED
use of Stalking Protection
Orders (SPOs)

GREATER UNDERSTANDING
of local need and required intervention



**HONOUR BASED
VIOLENCE
(HBV)/FORCED
MARRIAGE (FM)**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
& awareness raising



COMMUNITY
engagement & awareness raising



**CHILD TO
PARENT
ABUSE (CPA)**

GREATER UNDERSTANDING
of local need and required intervention

VOICE OF THE VICTIM/SURVIVOR

The voice of the victim/survivor is essential to the development of a local strategy to tackle domestic abuse. Only those with a lived experience are able to provide first-hand knowledge of how our local systems and services work and how they could be improved to ensure victims of domestic abuse are effectively supported at all levels. Understanding the lived experience is how we can ensure our decision making and activity to tackle domestic abuse remains victim-focused, placing the victim/survivor at the centre of our thinking and response.

To inform the development of this strategy, Gloucestershire County Council commissioned Perpetuity Research and Consultancy International (PRCI) Ltd in 2021 to conduct a service user and community engagement exercise. This work sought the views of;

- + THOSE WITH **LIVED EXPERIENCED** OF DOMESTIC ABUSE
- + MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO MAY OR MAY NOT **KNOW SOMEONE** WHO HAS EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC ABUSE
- + THE **VIEWS OF PERPETRATORS** OF DOMESTIC ABUSE WERE ALSO SOUGHT

The results from this engagement exercise supported the key findings from the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021, but also identified a need to locally consider:

- + **Developing longer term** recovery services for survivors of domestic abuse and their children.
- + **Improving links** between domestic abuse and substance misuse services.
- + **Increasing awareness** raising on services available locally, particularly PRG, STREET, Stalking Services and specific aspects of the GDASS service e.g. Places of Safety.
- + Increasing awareness raising and communications that **aim to reduce the stigma** of reporting domestic abuse.
- + Developing a better understanding of the role of mental health in identifying domestic abuse and improving mental health pathways to specialist support.
- + **Increasing and enhancing training** for all professionals, with particular focus on the police to ensure a consistent approach to policing domestic abuse.
- + Improving links between the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and the Courts (both criminal and family) to **ensure appropriate response and support** for DA victims.
- + **Improving capacity** and availability of existing specialist services.

- + **Building on the role of the community** in identifying domestic abuse and supporting reporting and access to specialist services.
- + **Promoting information** and support for families and friends to help them respond to domestic abuse.
- + Improving links to the Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority community to **encourage access to specialist support** and seek their ongoing engagement in service and strategy development.

Alongside this commissioned research, the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is committed to ensuring that the victim/survivor voice is represented at all levels of decision making and activity locally to tackle domestic abuse. In conjunction with the Sexual Violence Partnership Board, a new role of Consultation Coordinator and establishment of the Local Partnership Board Consultation Group will ensure the constant and consistent engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including those with lived experience and their children, to identify local priorities, concerns, issues and seek views on the current service offer, gaps and future developments.

The Consultation Coordinator will ensure the voice of victim/survivor is present during all Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board discussions and developments.

COMMISSIONING CONTEXT

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE APPROACH TO COMMISSIONING DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

In Gloucestershire we take a partnership approach to commissioning support to address domestic abuse. In 2018 we developed the Gloucestershire Joint Commissioning Framework for Domestic Abuse. This is a five year framework (2018 – 2023) which aims to improve joint commissioning and align current and future investment across the county to address the spectrum of domestic abuse need.

The framework is designed to allow commissioning partners to secure domestic abuse services as they are needed and:

- + **Helps ensure a joined up approach** by partners to tackling domestic abuse and in delivering the joint domestic abuse outcomes of the local domestic abuse strategy through selected suppliers
- + Creates the **ability to respond more quickly** to procuring services as well as ensuring providers are jointly working in line with the local domestic abuse strategy

+ **Maintains flexibility for additional funding** to be invested by partners in the commissioning framework over its lifetime, including any funding resulting from Government legislation

+ Allows **local delivery** of services relevant to local need

The framework also aims to:

- + **MAINTAIN THE SPECIALIST APPROACH** FOR HIGH RISK DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- + **SHIFT** OVER TIME TOWARDS PREVENTION AND AWAY FROM REACTIVE CRISIS
- + **INCREASINGLY INTEGRATE DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT** AND INFLUENCE PRACTICE ACROSS THE WHOLE SYSTEM
- + **SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT** OF A MORE CONFIDENT WORKFORCE SYSTEM WIDE
- + **COLLECT** SHARED ROBUST **DATA/ INTELLIGENCE**

The framework is led by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), with the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), District Councils and the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) signed up to use the framework for all domestic abuse commissioning activity.

The commissioning framework is split into 6 'Lots' in which a range of local services have been commissioned:



LOT 1: SPECIALIST SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE



LOT 2: PLACES OF SAFETY



LOT 3: SERVICES TO ADDRESS PERPETRATOR BEHAVIOUR



LOT 4: YOUNG PEOPLE



LOT 5: EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



LOT 6: STALKING

There are currently 13 providers awarded to the framework with 31 separate bids covering all Lots. This is an open framework which means that we have an annual reopening where new providers can bid for award to Lots 2 – 6 (noting that Lot 1 is a closed Lot)



LOT 1

GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE (GDASS)

GDASS is a specialist countywide domestic abuse support service provided by GreenSquareAccord, it is commissioned by GCC with investment from the OPGC to provide Court IDVA support. The service provides:

- + **Support to all victims** of domestic abuse aged 16+, both female and male with staff specialisms identified covering all protected characteristic groups
- + Support across all risk levels:
 - **Helpdesk** support/ first response & triage.
 - Standard/Medium risk: Floating Support and Group Work for women and men.
 - **High Risk:** Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), including IDVAs with specialist knowledge and a dedicated court IDVA & young persons IDVA.
 - **Support service** to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- + **Support to victims** in the context of the family:
 - Dedicated workers within the Gloucester multi-agency team within Children's Social Care.
- + **Awareness raising and training** for professionals in Gloucestershire.

- + **Community awareness** raising and engagement
- + Domestic Abuse **Champions Network** (for professionals and expanding to community representatives).

- + **Co-located specialist** workers and joint working agreements within a variety of settings.

In addition to the core service, the CCG have also commissioned the following provision which is embedded within GDASS:

HEALTH IDVAS

Based within Gloucestershire Royal Hospital (GRH) and Cheltenham General Hospital (CGH). The health IDVAs provide intervention to those experiencing DA at the earliest opportunity when they attend hospital. The health IDVAs also provide training to hospital staff.

GP DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

Support to GP surgeries to identify and train DA champions and developing links into the GDASS service for victims. The GP Development Workers also support surgeries to become safe spaces for disclosures of DA.



LOT 2

PLACES OF SAFETY SCHEME

Twelve places of safety are commissioned by the District Councils, the scheme is managed by GreenSquareAccord alongside the delivery of GDASS. The places of safety scheme provides:

- + **Accessible, affordable and suitable** self contained individual properties for victims of domestic abuse/ VAWG who will have a variety of needs, including single victims (female and male), family units, victims with disabilities and/ or additional support needs. This accommodation is temporary and support is provided to secure suitable move on accommodation
- + **Specialist DA support** is provided by GDASS, to address DA needs, manage risk and facilitate recovery and move on

TARGET HARDENING & SANCTUARY SCHEME

A target hardening and sanctuary scheme is commissioned by the District Councils and the OPCC. The scheme is delivered countywide by Safe Partnership, it provides:

- + **A range of measures** for maintaining victim safety at home by way of additional security measures e.g. alarms, locks, lighting
- + The provision of a **safe room with telephone** in a property where there is very high risk of DA and/ or stalking

STROUD BERESFORD WOMEN'S REFUGE

The women's refuge in Gloucestershire is provided by the Stroud Beresford Group, a charity that has been providing support in the county for over 40 years. The refuge is independently funded, not commissioned through the DA framework and with some regular support from DLUHC grant funding and the District Councils. The refuge provides support to women and their children, offering safe accommodation (9 bed spaces) alongside a range of services that help build skills, confidence and self-esteem.



LOT 3

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS GLOUCESTERSHIRE (PRG)

PRG is a specialist countywide service that provides a range of interventions to challenge beliefs and address the behaviours of domestic abuse perpetrators. The service is provided by Splitz Support Service, it is commissioned jointly by GCC, OPCC and CCG. The service provides:

- + **A 25 week accredited** domestic violence prevention programme (DVPP). This is a behavioural change group programme for male perpetrators of DA
- + **1:1 behavioural change work** with any perpetrators of DA who are unable to attend the DVPP group programme, including female perpetrators of DA, LGBTQ+ perpetrators, as well as those with language barriers and learning difficulties



LOT 4

SAFE TEENAGE RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT TEAM (STREET) GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A countywide service that provides a range of prevention activity, targeted support, group work programmes and support to safeguard young people (female and male) aged 13-19. The service is provided by West Mercia Women's Aid, it is commissioned by GCC. The service provides:

- + **Support to young people** aged 13-19 affected by DA through:
 - Experience of teenage relationship abuse
 - Witnessing and affected by DA in the home
 - Displaying harmful behaviours in their own relationships
- + **Young Person's Violence Advisor** (YPVA) support for medium and high levels of risk
- + **Evidence based group** programme CRUSH and the Recovery Toolkit

LOT 5

Commissioning services under Lot 5 is a priority of this strategy

LOT 6

GLoucestershire Stalking Advocacy Service (GSAS)

A countywide service that provides support to high risk victims of stalking across Gloucestershire, working in conjunction with GDASS, Victim Support and Gloucestershire Constabulary. The service is provided by Splitz Support Service, commissioned by the OPCC to provide an Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC).



NON-SPECIALIST DA SERVICE PROVISION

Victims/ survivors of domestic abuse can access DA support from a whole range of providers across Gloucestershire e.g. Housing Teams/ Homelessness services, GP's, other health provision including mental health services, Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Education settings, Children and Family Centres, DWP, counselling services, other commissioned specialist services e.g. CGL, Nelson Trust. These providers are engaged with the DA agenda, have a good awareness of domestic abuse, proactively seek to identify domestic abuse and work with victims and their families to understand risk and address the issues presenting or will make onward referrals as needed to specialist DA support services.

DLUHC FUNDING ALLOCATION

To support the delivery of the local authority statutory duties in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Department for Leveling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has allocated funding to each local authority area. Gloucestershire County Council is working with its local partners to consider and prioritise the funding allocated to address the support needs of domestic

abuse victims and their children in safe accommodation. Initial approval has been given to develop the following to strengthen our accommodation based support offer:

- + Domestic abuse specialist support for victims accommodated in our Places of Safety model
- + Development of additional Places of Safety with specialist support
- + Consider development of a dispersed refuge approach
- + Funding for specialist support within the current refuge
- + Flexible funding scheme to facilitate access to goods and services for victims with housing related needs
- + Specialist support for victims receiving target hardening and sanctuary measures
- + Specialist Domestic abuse advocates in housing teams
- + Domestic abuse training within the housing sector

Further consideration will be given as to how this funding will be used in future years to continue to strengthen the local approach to support within safe accommodation.

POLICY CONTEXT

This Domestic Abuse Strategy overlaps with the aims of many other national and local strategies. A partnership approach which recognises these interlinking issues and priorities has greater potential to prevent domestic abuse and produce a more effective response to domestic abuse in Gloucestershire.

NATIONAL

TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS 2021 - 2024

The strategy to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG 2021 – 2024), provides a specific focus on the types violence and abuse which are more likely to be experienced by women and girls including, domestic abuse, sexual violence/harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), honour based violence, stalking, sex work, modern slavery and human trafficking, child sexual exploitation (CSE) and supporting female offenders. This strategy places a focus on prioritising prevention, supporting victims, perusing perpetrators and there being a stronger system.

THE NATIONAL VICTIMS STRATEGY

The national victim's strategy places a focus on; overarching improvements to victims experience, support available whether or not victims report a crime, improving support once a victim reports a crime, better support during the court process and ensuring the victims understand court decisions and the implications for them and the offender.

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Modern slavery is a complex crime that encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. Domestic abuse is experienced by many victims of modern slavery and some are exploited or trafficked by intimate partners or family members; this is particularly the case for victims of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, who are predominantly women and girls. The Modern Slavery Strategy aims to disrupt perpetrators, prevent exploitation, protect victims, and prepare systems to respond.

Locally, Gloucestershire County Council chairs the multi-agency Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership and has a modern slavery strategy under development.

FEMALE OFFENDER STRATEGY

The criminal justice board's female offender strategy recognises that many female offenders experience chaotic lifestyles involving substance misuse, mental health problems, and homelessness which are often the product of a life of abuse and trauma. The strategy aims to take a new approach which is locally-led, partnership-focused and evidence-based in order to address vulnerability and treat offenders as individuals with the potential to contribute positively to society.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES PROGRAMME

The national supporting families programme (formerly Troubled Families) has championed whole family and multi-agency working to support vulnerable families that are experiencing multiple disadvantages such as unemployment, domestic abuse and poor mental health.



The titles on this page are live links. Simply click on them to be taken to the linked article.



Most of the titles on this page are live links.
Simply click on them to be taken to the linked article.

LOCAL

SAFER GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) is one of the six priorities of Safer Gloucestershire, alongside substance misuse, safeguarding children, and violence prevention. The strategy makes a commitment to ensuring a zero-tolerance approach to domestic abuse, including honour based violence and forced marriage. This includes identifying and offering help earlier to victims and families affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence; supporting professionals from all organisations to support victims in coming forward; and working together to make best use of resources.

ACTION ON ACES

Understanding of the impact of trauma and abuse links to the Action on ACEs work in Gloucestershire. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are specific traumatic events that occur before the age of 18, including neglect and abuse as well as indirect experiences in the household, including parental separation, domestic abuse, substance misuse, mental illness, and incarceration. Evidence shows that experiencing ACEs has direct links to increased risk of poorer outcomes in education, employment and health in later life. The Gloucestershire Action on ACEs Strategy aims to break the inter-generational cycle of trauma.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Gloucestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy takes a systems approach to addressing eight key priorities including:

+ ACE
+ MENTAL WELLBEING
+ EARLY YEARS
+ HOUSING

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership has representation from; NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Gloucestershire Constabulary and Gloucestershire County Council working together to identify safeguarding priorities for children and young people including securing their health and wellbeing and ensuring they have access to a good quality learning. Domestic Abuse is recognised as a child protection issue.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS







The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board strategic plan reflects the commitment of organisations in Gloucestershire to work together to safeguard adults with care and support needs in line with the Care Act, including those experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern slavery, and financial abuse.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

At the time writing this strategy the Gloucestershire Sexual Violence Strategy is in development, there will be clear partnership links between the Sexual Violence Partnership Board and the DA Local Partnership Board.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Each district has its own housing, homelessness and rough sleeping strategies where the accommodation needs of survivors of domestic abuse are considered tackled through the implementation of appropriate solutions.

-  **GLOUCESTER HOUSING HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY**
-  **CHELTENHAM HOUSING HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY**
-  **STROUD HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY**
-  **TEWKESBURY HOUSING STRATEGY**
-  **FOREST OF DEAN HOUSING STRATEGY**
-  **COTSWOLDS PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**



Click on the above titles to access pdf.

PLANNED REVIEW OF THE **DA STRATEGY**

The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy will be in place for 3 years (2021-2024) in line with Government requirements. Our intention is to refresh the strategy in 2022 to ensure it remains in line with expected publications and policy changes nationally, including:

- + NATIONAL DOMESTIC **ABUSE STRATEGY** AND MALE VICTIMS STATEMENT
- + **FINAL VERSIONS** OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE STATUTORY GUIDANCE
- + ANY **REFRESH** OF THE NATIONAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS
- + UPDATES IN **ANNUAL DLUHC FUNDING** ALLOCATION
- + UPDATES ON THE POSITION WITH REGARDS **COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT** FOLLOWING THE REVIEW OF THE VICTIM'S STRATEGY AND DOMESTIC ABUSE COMMISSIONERS REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021 ON COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT.



We will also consider other opportunities to link with related national and local strategies, and local consideration for widening the scope to reflect the needs of young people under the age of 16.

The intention is for the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy to be formally reviewed every 3 years in line with the statutory requirements as part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

To support the continued delivery of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy, the local needs assessment will be completed in full every 3 years, with an annual review of local domestic abuse accommodation based support services in line with the statutory requirements as part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

CASE STUDIES

IN-COUNTY REFUGE

SUPPORT GIVEN

- + Risk assessment to understand the risk posed by **Emily's** ex partner and how risks can be managed.
- + Homelessness application to local authority.
- + Support to apply for Housing benefit, universal credit, child benefit, grants to gain household items.
- + Domestic abuse support to increase knowledge of identifying abusive behaviours and what is healthy in a relationship.
- + Support to access local medical services for baby including health visiting, immunisations and weaning advice.
- + Referral to Children's Social Care Early Help at point of move on.

OUTCOMES

- + **Emily** now lives in suitable accommodation with her child.
- + She has a greater understanding of domestic abuse and knows how to seek help in the future should she need it, including around safe contact with her child's father.
- + She is receiving ongoing parenting support to ensure a positive outcome for her child.

ENTRY POINT

- + **Emily** is a young mum, aged 19, with a 3 month old baby.
- + She was referred to the refuge by her district housing team after fleeing the social housing she shared with her boyfriend who was controlling, physically and mentally abusive.

VICTIM/SURVIVOR NEEDS WITHIN SAFE ACCOMMODATION

- + **Emily** needed support to understand domestic abuse and its impact on her child, help with housing and accessing financial support such as housing benefit, child benefit and universal credit.
- + As a care leaver without family support **Emily** lacked confidence and self esteem.
- + She needed help with life skills and budgeting, as well as guidance on parenting skills such as managing crying.

FOLLOW ON SUPPORT

- + **Emily** received follow on support to ensure safe contact between her baby and its father, with help seeking legal advice available, if it was needed.
- + Multiagency meetings made sure there was a smooth transition from the refuge, to local community based family support / parenting help.

CASE STUDIES

STALKING

SUPPORT GIVEN

- + ISAC made contact with **Claire** by text message, then sent leaflets on the ISAC role, stalking risk and relevant legislation
- + DASH risk assessment completed was submitted to MARAC and to Stalking Clinic.
- + ISAC offered reassurance to **Claire** about the way she was feeling; providing context about how stalking impacts victims
- + Information and support with ongoing non-molestation order provided for Family Court and liaison with **Claire's** employers to support safety planning.
- + **Claire** was supported with online abuse after her ex-partner was arrested, incidents/ongoing behaviours were reported to police on her behalf, and she was kept updated about court processes.

OUTCOMES

- + **Claire's** ex-partner was jailed and given a lengthy Restraining Order.
- + She is now moving on with her life, encouraged that her ex-partner has been made to stop his actions.
- + **Claire** has faith in the criminal justice system to protect her if her ex-partner resumes his abuse.

01



ENTRY POINT

- + **Claire** reported her ex-partner to police after he began bombarding her with messages after the breakdown in their relationship. She also reported criminal damage to her vehicle.
- + Multiple medium risk reports were made and picked up by the Stalking Clinic who escalated the risk to high.
- + A high-risk Vulnerability Identification Screening Tool (VIST) was submitted to GDASS who identified stalking behaviour and made a referral to the Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC)

02



SPECIFIC NEEDS IDENTIFIED

- + **Claire** needed to understand why her ex-partner was behaving like this; what could be done to stop this behaviour; she needed practical help to make her feel safer including the security of her property.
- + **Claire** also wanted reassurance about the police process and the non-molestation order as she did not qualify for legal aid.

03



LINKS TO OTHER SERVICES / SUPPORT

- + ISAC liaised with IDVA service to avoid duplication and overwhelming **Claire** with services.
- + Stalking Clinic multi agency meeting convened for information sharing and to support a robust investigation plan by police with various tactics explored.
- + Referral to Safer Cyber Unit.
- + Liaison with Harm Reduction Officer, Stalking Clinic and GDASS floating support on **Claire's** behalf.
- + Liaising with officers about the Restraining Order request to offer longer term protection.

04



FOLLOW ON SUPPORT

- + ISAC provided ongoing safety planning advice about steps **Claire** is taking to move forward with her life and assisting with safety planning when her ex-partner is released from prison.
- + The Stalking Clinic is providing ongoing oversight.

05



CASE STUDIES

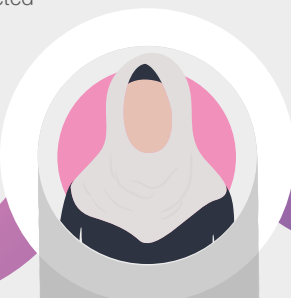
GDASS IDVA

Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS)
Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)

ENTRY POINT

- + Self-referral, recommended to call GDASS by friend who had previously accessed support
- + High risk DASH completed

01



SPECIFIC NEEDS IDENTIFIED

- + Immediate safety of **Rachel** and her three children
- + Unsafe accommodation as shared with perpetrator
- + Risk of children being taken out of the country
- + Cultural barriers. **Rachel** is from an African country and is Muslim.
- + High levels of control, **Rachels** home was covered by CCTV, Ring Doorbell and Listening Devices.

02



LINKS TO OTHER SERVICES / SUPPORT

- + During support the IDVA and **Rachel** worked with: Cheltenham Borough Homes / Police / Childrens Social Care / College / Legal support

FOLLOW ON SUPPORT

- + **Rachel** is accessing legal support in order to obtain a Child Arrangement Order and Non-Molestation Order.
- + GDASS Floating Support and Place of Safety

03



04



SUPPORT GIVEN

- + Urgent Strategy meeting requested
- + Safety planning
- + Working closely with police to recover travel documents
- + Places of Safety referral completed
- + Met with tutor and Safeguarding Officer at college – changed lesson routine so it was less easy to track and follow **Rachel**. Picture of perpetrator given to College.
- + Arranged for **Rachels** car to be checked by police for tracking devices
- + Worked with Cheltenham Borough Homes to arrange for a Discretionary Housing Payment to be made.
- + Supported to reach financial independence (Universal credit, changing online banking details, secured personal devices)

05



OUTCOMES

- + Currently in a GDASS Place of Safety
- + Accessing ongoing Floating Support
- + Financial independence
- + Risk of children being taken out of the country reduced

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to thank all those victims/survivors who have shared their stories with us through our engagement survey. We are also indebted to the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board for their energy, enthusiasm and commitment to working together to develop this strategy. Special thanks go in particular to the County Council Domestic Abuse Commissioning Manager and the County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Strategic Coordinator for their time, expertise and knowledge in supporting the Partnership through the process.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about any aspect of this strategy please contact glostakeastand@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

