

**HAMPSHIRE
DOMESTIC ABUSE
PARTNERSHIP**

Recognise it. Seek help.

Domestic abuse needs assessment summary

2024



Hampshire
County Council

Introduction

Domestic abuse is “any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members”.

The impact on individual victims is severe and can be wide-ranging and long-lasting. Whilst domestic abuse can affect anyone, it is most commonly perpetrated by men towards women and children.

[The Patchwork of Provision report \(2022\)](#) highlights that the service most victims/survivors wanted most was ‘counselling and therapeutic support’ (86% female and 83% male victims/survivors). However, only 45% respondents had received this form of support. 77% female and 85% male victims/survivors wanted support from mental healthcare. In general, there was a desire for support and services at an earlier point, but often the only services they could find were crisis focused.

Domestic abuse remains under reported. There can be many barriers to disclosing abuse, seeking criminal justice outcomes, and accessing services.

Compounding inequalities increase the challenges to victims/survivors disclosing domestic abuse and in services effectively addressing their needs. These inequalities include disability, language and communication, economic dependence/instability, social isolation (as a consequence of fleeing the perpetrator or community stigma), religious/community/family pressures, immigration, alcohol, and trauma.

The introduction of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) has given Hampshire County Council statutory responsibilities to lead a coordinated response to domestic abuse, engaging a wide range of partners to deliver its duty in providing safe accommodation support for child and adult victims/survivors and to ensure their voices inform the direction of travel and priorities of the Hampshire Domestic Abuse (HDAP) Board and strategy.

Other recent policies and directives that inform the HDAP Board and strategy include the:

- Cross-government [Violence against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Strategy 2021](#) and [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan \(2022\)](#) seek to transform society’s response in order to prevent offending, support victims, pursue perpetrators, and strengthen the systems and processes in place needed to deliver these goals.
- [Supporting Male Victims](#) Position Statement focuses on additional challenges that can be faced by male victims considered in the above VAWG Strategy and Domestic Abuse Plan and outlines the continued commitment to better enable male victims to come forward and receive the support they need.
- Updated [VAWG National Statement of Expectations](#) and [VAWG Commissioning Toolkit](#) provides clear and consistent guidance for local areas on how to commission victim support services, and to optimize a collaborative, robust, and effective response.
- [Co-ordinated Community Response](#) provides a best practice and Domestic Abuse Act (2021) endorsed framework founded on shifting responsibility for safety away from individual survivors to the community and whole system partners and services.
- [Serious Violence Duty 2022](#) which underlines that all integrated care boards (ICBs) must collaborate across the care system to act to prevent and reduce serious violence, including domestic abuse.
- [Victims and Prisoners Act 2024](#) requires statutory guidance to be published about the roles of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), to increase awareness and consistency of these roles; covers flexibility of ISVAs and IDVAs roles in supporting those connected to a victim e.g. family/ friends and emphasises the distinct needs of child victims and considerations for children when delivering ISVA/IDVA services.

This needs assessment aims to provide an assessment of domestic abuse in Hampshire, by analyzing trends, insights and experiences of victims/survivors, and response by specialist services and partner agencies.

Key findings

1. An estimated 34,100 women and 18,000 men aged 16 + experience domestic abuse in Hampshire each year
2. In England and Wales, national social and economic costs of domestic abuse are around £66 billion. Physical and emotional harms (fear, anxiety and depression experienced by victims as a result of domestic abuse) were estimated to account for the overwhelming majority of the overall costs.
3. Significant resources in Hampshire are needed to respond to domestic abuse: 18% of crimes are domestic abuse related and 12% of households owed a homelessness duty. Overall estimated cost per year of £1.77bn.
4. Despite, increasing numbers of domestic abuse reported crimes, survey data suggests that there has been no significant change nationally. Therefore, it may be that this increase relates to better awareness of domestic abuse and increased reporting.
5. Positive feedback has been received by those accessing Stop Domestic Abuse services in Hampshire. Suggestions were made for increased recognition of domestic abuse and services for education, healthcare and mental health staff, and police and the need for professionals to see victims/survivors alone in order to provide opportunities for disclosure and sharing information.
6. There is a need to make child and adult victims/survivors voices central in shaping all future priorities for Hampshire County.
7. There is a need to improve intelligence on the intimate partner and intra-familial domestic abuse needs and related health and wellbeing outcomes by collecting and sharing standardised and consistent, quality data to inform partnership work and strategic commissioning.
8. There is a need to improve system wide services' awareness of non-violent and less obvious forms of domestic abuse (e.g. coercive controlling behaviour and Non-Fatal Strangulation), and stalking, which are all strongly associated with homicide and suicide.
9. There is a need to improve a co-ordinated approach to address the needs of children and young people causing harm within their own intimate or familial relationships.
10. There is a need to establish the Whole Housing Approach (WHA) so that irrespective of their needs, victims/survivors can immediately access a range of safe accommodation options that are alternatives to refuge.
11. There is a need to ensure child and adult victims/survivors and perpetrators have appropriate and timely access to mental health support and suicide prevention interventions.
12. There is a need to improve the Family Court response to domestic abuse in relation to Private Law Children Proceedings.

Domestic abuse in Hampshire

Estimated need



34,100

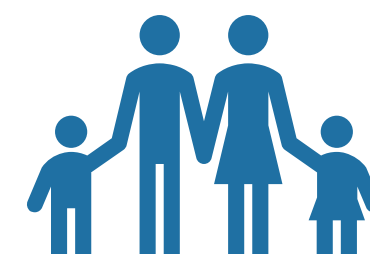
Estimated to have experienced domestic abuse in Hampshire each year



18,000

21%

of people who are estimated to experience domestic abuse have their incident recorded as a crime by the police



Around **42,600** children and young people in Hampshire have been exposed to domestic abuse during their childhood

Those most at risk:

- Those who are **female**
- Those living in **deprived areas**
- Those **unemployed**
- Those who are **divorced / separated**
- Those who have a **long-term illness / disability**
- Those aged between **16-24 years**
- Those who are **bisexual, lesbian or gay**

Intersectionality - People who fall into a number of these groups may experience greater risk

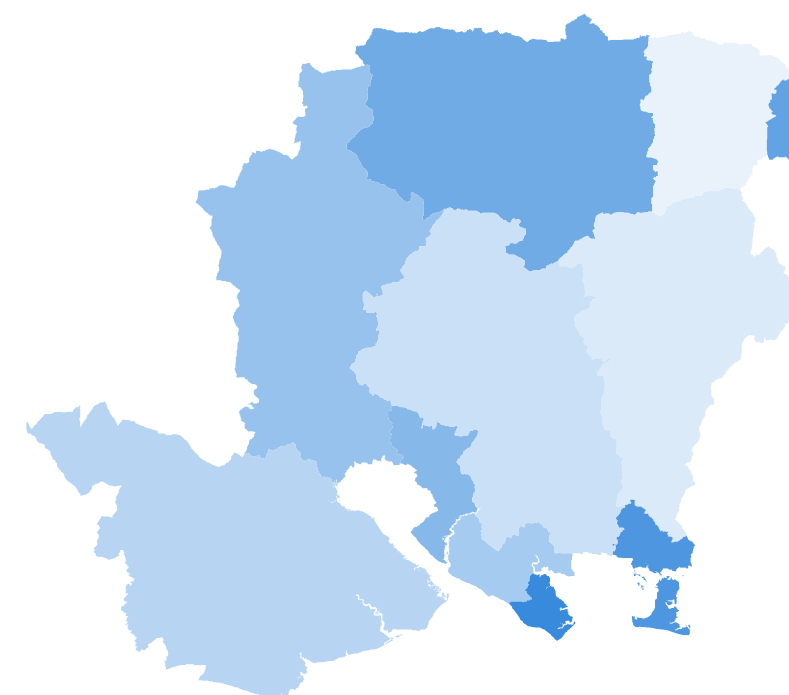
Police recorded crime

17,208

domestic abuse related crimes in Hampshire in 2022/23, 18% of all recorded crimes

Higher rates of domestic abuse related crimes in areas of higher deprivation

38% of crimes occurred in the 20% most deprived areas



Basingstoke and Deane, Gosport, Havant and Rushmoor had higher rates of domestic abuse related crimes per 1,000 of the population than Hampshire overall

69%

of victims were women

Nationally and in Hampshire there has been an increase in domestic abuse related reported crimes between 2017/18 and 2021/22.*



Financial costs of domestic abuse **

£66.2bn

The estimated annual cost of domestic abuse in England and Wales.

Made up of:

- Physical and emotional harm (**£47.3 billion**)
- Lost work output (**£14.1 billion**)
- Health service costs (**£2.3 billion**)
- Police costs (**£1.3 billion**)
- Victim service costs (**£724 million**)
- Criminal legal costs (**£336 million**)

* A small decrease was observed between 2021/22 and 2022/23. However, this is mainly attributed to a change in crime counting rules.

** [Home Office report](#)

Service provision in Hampshire

Stop Domestic Abuse

7,888 referrals to Stop Domestic Abuse victim service in 2023

- 88% were women
- 3.5% were from ethnic minorities

1,450 adults **750** children supported in 2023

- Waiting time from referral to intervention was around 39 days

An additional 1,180 referrals made to Stop Domestic Abuse and the You Trust for the Sanctuary Scheme and Domestic Abuse Health Advocates services



Services received:

- 47% 1-2-1 outreach
- 19% children and young people support
- 13% refuge
- 12% group work
- 7% target hardening
- 1% resettlement

Perpetrator services

256 clients engaged with the service in 2023

- 91% were men
- 38% were aged between 25 and 34
- 75 individuals completed the programme
- Waiting time from referral to intervention was around 50 days

Safe accommodation

210 people accessed refuge provision in 2023/24



- Hampshire has 92 adult refuge bedspaces, and space for 124 children
- Average length of stay was 4 months
- 82% people who took up refuge came from outside of Hampshire
- 482 households were assessed as being owed a homelessness duty with a support need of domestic abuse in 2022/23, 12% of the total households owed a homelessness duty

Multiagency actions

4,541



cases discussed at MARACs* in 2023/24

- 92% related to women
- 27% of these were repeat cases (lower than England rate of 31%)

Justice system actions



38 arrests per 100 domestic abuse related offences were made in Hampshire, higher than England and Wales (36 per 100) in 2022/23

- 95 domestic violence protection notices
- 79 domestic violence protection orders



77.4% of cases across Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary resulted in a conviction in 2022/23, similar to England and Wales (76.4%)

Recommendations / Priorities

PREVENTION:

Increase public awareness of domestic abuse

Rationale: Increase public awareness of the dynamics of domestic abuse, non-violent forms (e.g. coercive controlling behaviour) and less obvious violent forms (e.g. Non-Fatal Strangulation) which carry equal risk and strongly associated with homicide, the impact it has on children, and the specialist support services available. This can help to break down misconceptions held about domestic abuse, assist in early identification of problem behaviours, and help people access support quickly.

Outcomes: Increased opportunity for early intervention.

Increase familiarity with domestic abuse service referral pathways

Rationale: People experiencing domestic abuse may not be aware of which services to approach and may be reluctant in making disclosures of abuse. Ensuring key agencies and partners e.g. housing, adult social care, children's social care are aware of referral pathways.

Outcomes: Improve timely access to support and help.

Increase types of safe accommodation available

Establish the most relevant principles and components of the Whole Housing Approach (WHA) to enable a range of safe accommodation options that are alternatives to refuge provision that reach minimum quality standards, that are trauma-informed, and that are accessible to victims with multiple disadvantages and social disparities.

Outcomes: Dispersed, move-on, and specialist safe accommodation is available for victims from Hampshire County who are male (with or without children); LGBTQ+; have a disability; have 4+ children or older sons, have diverse ethnic backgrounds (including NRPF); are older, have multiple disadvantages (e.g. drugs and alcohol, mental health issues).

Recommendations / Priorities

PARTNERSHIPS:

Use data and insights to inform services

Rationale: Improve the data and insights used to inform services by collating data into a regularly updated dashboard. This will include intelligence from a variety of sources including crime, service provision and domestic homicide reviews.

Outcomes: Improved commissioning of services based on the needs of the community and any emerging themes. Equalities data is systematically and routinely collected by system wide services so that they meet needs to improve population outcomes.

Working in partnership

Rationale: Develop and improve partnership working across the system with a Coordinated Community Response and through the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and other multiagency forums, e.g. MARAC and MAPPA.

Outcomes: Improved joint working across the system.

Recommendations / Priorities

PROFESSIONAL CARE:

Improve workforce capacity and capability

Rationale: Ensure that those who have experienced domestic abuse receive timely access to high quality specialist services, including support for mental health, suicide prevention and substance misuse. Specialist domestic abuse service staff to be trained to also assess and support those with suicide risk, and co-occurring mental health and harmful levels of alcohol and drug use.

Outcomes: High quality domestic abuse support services.

Adopt a trauma-informed approach using lived experience

Rationale: Enable a system-wide adoption of a trauma-informed approach that uses consistent acceptable terminology and includes the voices of those who have experienced domestic abuse (including those of all intersectionalities) into the development of policies, guidance, referral routes and service provision.

Outcomes: Improved outcomes for those who have experienced domestic abuse.

Recommendations / Priorities

PURSING THOSE WHO DO HARM:

Engaging perpetrators

Rationale: Ensure that timely interventions are available to perpetrators of domestic abuse, that hold them to account, whilst treating them with respect and offering opportunities to change their behaviours. These interventions will be evaluated to improve practice and expand the knowledge base.

Outcomes: Reduce domestic abuse by helping perpetrators to change their behaviours.

Early interventions programmes

Rationale: Increase early intervention opportunities for children and young people (aged 10 to 25) who are showing harmful behaviours. Enable robust evaluation to assess long-term effectiveness.

Outcomes: Reduce domestic abuse by helping people recognize and respond to harmful behaviours