

**HAMPSHIRE  
DOMESTIC ABUSE  
PARTNERSHIP**

*Recognise it. Seek help.*

# **Hampshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment Summary**

January 2025



Hampshire  
County Council

# Introduction to Safe Accommodation

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 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 support in safe accommodation 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.

In 2021, the first comprehensive [safe accommodation needs assessment](#) was completed and used to inform Hampshire’s strategic priorities. In 2024, a refresh of the safe accommodation needs assessment was included in the [wider domestic abuse needs assessment](#).

The summary of need presented here is a further refresh which adds additional analysis of homelessness data for victims/survivors of domestic abuse, data gathered from government DELTA returns (statutory duty to report for all Tier 1 and unitary local authorities) and provides a spotlight on the correlation between domestic abuse, homelessness and housing need.

# Key Findings

- Hampshire's safe accommodation offer includes Refuge (37% of victims/survivors supported) and Sanctuary Scheme (63% of victims/survivors supported) based on 2023/24 data.
- Victims/survivors from key groups are under-represented in safe accommodation include those with disabilities, LGBT+ people, those aged under 25 and over 65, and male victims.
- Hampshire supports higher rates of adult and child victims/survivors compared to the national and regional average based on MHCLG data.
- Percentage of individuals supported in safe accommodation who came from out of area is slightly higher in Hampshire than national.
- There are higher levels of individuals when compared nationally and regionally who did not take up safe accommodation following referral because they could not be contacted, or they did not accept the offer.
- Hampshire supports a higher rate of victims/survivors with mental health needs compared nationally and regionally but there is also a higher rate who are unable to be supported in safe accommodation due to mental health support need.
- A higher rate of victims/survivors are leaving refuge with an unplanned exit compared to the national and regional average
- Hampshire faces challenges with housing affordability and availability which impacts on victims/survivors accessing alternative accommodation through housing and homelessness routes as well as exiting safe accommodation.

# Domestic abuse in Hampshire

## Estimated need (2023/24)



40,060

Estimated to have been subjected to domestic abuse in Hampshire each year



17,140

19.3%

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



Around **42,520** 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**
- **Those who are transgender**

**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

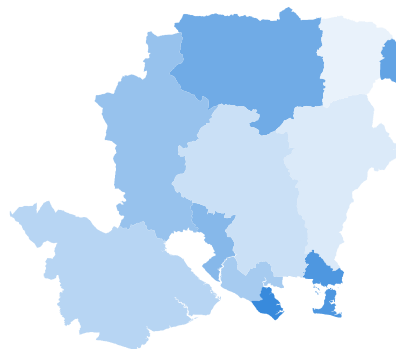
69%

of victims were women

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



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



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

## 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](#)

# Hampshire vs National Comparison

The following analysis has looked at data returns compiled by MHCLG\* from data on domestic abuse support services commissioned by Tier 1 Local and unitary authorities in England in 2023-24. Hampshire has been compared both nationally, regionally (South East) and with the top 5 local authorities which were ranked as the most statistically similar to Hampshire within the CIPFA nearest neighbour model (nearest neighbours).\*\*

- Higher rate of individuals (adults and children) supported compared to national, regional and to nearest neighbours.
- Higher rate of children supported in safe accommodation.
- Lower rate of individuals supported for under 25s and over 65s out of all individuals supported
- Percentage of individuals supported in safe accommodation who came from out of area is slightly higher in Hampshire than national

- Similar rate of total bedspaces compared to national and greater rate compared to regional (rate of bed spaces per 10,000 of the population).
- Similar proportion of bedspace in refuge but higher proportion of sanctuary provision compared to national.

- Lower rate of households unable to be supported.
- Higher rate of households not wanting support due to not being able to be contacted and not accepting referrals.

- Higher rate of individuals supported with mental health needs.
- Higher rate of individuals unable to be supported due to mental health needs.
- Similar rate of individuals supported with drug and alcohol support needs
- Similar rate of individuals supported who are LGBTQ+

\* [Support in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation)

\*\* The model uses 20 factors which include demographic variables, deprivation, employment and population density. The 5 local authorities are Essex, West Sussex, Kent, Warwickshire and Devon.

# Safe Accommodation Service Provision in Hampshire (2023/24)

## Refuge provision

- 210 adult individuals were supported by refuge. There were 186 children supported.
- 83% of those who were supported by refuge came from out of the Hampshire area.
- 3% of those in refuge were aged over 55. The most prevalent age group over the last two years has been 25 to 34 years old accounting for 42% of refuge residents.
- 16% of individuals supported in refuge were from an ethnic minority background, compared to the Hampshire population where 7.4% are from an ethnic minority background.
- The most common support need for those entering refuge was mental health need, with 14% of those in refuge recorded as having a mental health need.
- Victims/survivors under-represented in safe accommodation include those with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, older adults and men when compared to estimated prevalence

## Sanctuary Scheme

- 696 individuals who were supported by the sanctuary scheme.
  - 8% of those supported were aged over 55. The most prevalent age is 35-44 years old accounting for 33%, followed by 25-34 years old accounting for 31%.
  - 80% of individuals who were supported by the sanctuary scheme had an improved feeling of safety.
  - Ongoing support including MARAC (22%), further domestic abuse support (32%) and housing (20%)
- 
- Nearly half (47.7%) of the clients in refuge stayed in refuge less than 3 months compared to 42.3% nationally.
  - Hampshire has a slightly higher percentage of individuals staying in refuge for 6 months and longer.
  - 28% of individuals left refuge with an unplanned exit. This is three times higher than the national average.

# Spotlight on Housing and district/borough data (2023/24)

- Basingstoke and Deane and East Hampshire both supported over 9 individuals per refuge bedspace. The highest out of all Hampshire districts.
- 24% of all individuals supported in refuge were supported in Basingstoke and Deane (18% of all bedspaces)
- Test Valley had the lowest number of individuals supported per refuge bedspace at 3.21. Test Valley has the highest number of bedspace at 19 (21% of all bedspaces) supporting 9% of all individuals supported.

- 666 households were owed a homelessness duty\* with support needs of at risk / has experienced domestic abuse.\*\* This has increased every year since 2019/20.
- 149 households owed a prevention duty and 319 owed a relief duty for loss of last settled home due to domestic abuse.\*\*\*

- 44% of households who those owed a homelessness duty nationally in 2022/23 who had a support need for at risk of / has experienced domestic abuse were female parents with dependent children

- 50.2% of those leaving refuge remained in Hampshire.
- Of those that remain in Hampshire 28% move to another refuge, 19% move onto social housing, 12% moved into temporary accommodation and 11% entered the private rented sector.\*\*\*\*

- Hampshire has a significantly higher housing affordability ratio than England\*\*\*\*\*.
- 10 of 11 Hampshire districts had a significantly higher than national median monthly rent price.
- There is a lower proportion of social and affordable rented dwellings compared to England.\*\*\*\*\*

\* For further information on homelessness legislation please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities/overview-of-the-homelessness-legislation>

\*\*12.8% of all households who were owed a homelessness duty

\*\*\* 4.5% of all households owed a prevention duty and 16.5% of all households owed a relief duty

\*\*\*\* Data covers three-year period from 2021/22 to 2023/24.

\*\*\*\*\* Higher ration indicates less affordable

\*\*\*\*\* 14% for Hampshire compared with 17% for England

# Recommendations

- Use the findings of this needs assessment to inform the new safe accommodation services from April 2026.
- Ensure continuous quality improvement of Sanctuary Scheme e.g. offer joint visits (specialist domestic abuse service and surveyor) to prevent overwhelming victims/survivors, enable them to feel safe, and to support the surveyor to deliver comprehensive tailored support.
- Ensure safe accommodation services are accessible and address the diverse needs of those identified as at risk, with a specific focus on victims/survivors who are under-represented in safe accommodation services
- Ensure a robust and trauma-informed focus on children and young people in safe accommodation
- Work with commissioned providers to ensure there is focus on the needs of Hampshire residents, whilst also acknowledging the need to support victims/survivors from out of area for some aspects of safe accommodation.

# Recommendations (continued)

- Focus on the mental health needs of victims/survivors in safe accommodation ensuring there is quality in-service specialist mental health support, and robust referral pathways to appropriate mental health specialist services
- Focus on the drugs and alcohol needs of victims/survivors in safe accommodation ensuring there is quality in-service specialist drugs and alcohol support, and robust referral pathways to appropriate drugs and alcohol specialist services
- Review of referrals process and pathway with a focus on quality of referral information (reduce number of referrals who cannot be contacted or do not take up referral)
- Review of differences in refuge provision across districts/boroughs to understand reasons for differences, taking account of numbers of victims/survivors per bedspace, length of stay, void rates.
- Work with commissioned service and other partners to evaluate quality of move-on support and options for victims/survivors leaving safe accommodation (explore reasons for unplanned exits and plan to reduce number with unplanned exit; explore reasons why victims/survivors move to another refuge)

# Safe Accommodation Strategic Objectives

- Use an evidence-based approach to design, develop and deliver the safe accommodation offer across Hampshire, which includes improving data and intelligence and undertaking a safe accommodation needs assessment where relevant.
- Work with the Hampshire Authentic Voice Panel, other victim/survivor engagement mechanisms, support providers and accommodation providers to ensure the safe accommodation offer is delivered to a high-quality standard and meets the diverse needs across Hampshire's population.
- There is a robust and trauma-informed focus, particularly for children and young people within safe accommodation services to ensure their needs are being met.
- The Whole Housing Approach (WHA) will remain a key focus for the development of Hampshire's safe accommodation offer to ensure a range of safe accommodation options are developed, including refuge provision and dispersed accommodation, so victims/survivors can receive the right level of specialist support.