HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP

Recognise it. Seek help.

Hampshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment Summary

March 2026

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 Partnership (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.

HDAP aims to do a yearly refresh to continue to evaluate the need for safe accommodation. This summary includes prevalence data, service data, homelessness data for victims/survivors of domestic abuse and data gathered from statutory government DELTA returns. It provides a spotlight on the correlation between domestic abuse, homelessness and housing need.

Safe Accommodation Vision

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 was developed using a collaborative, multi-agency approach, shaped by the Authentic Voice Panel and sets out how the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) intends to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms.

The strategy sets out the safe accommodation vision which is to lead a co-ordinated effort to ensure:

- Inclusive, quality, affordable and appropriate safe accommodation support is available to all victims/survivors of domestic abuse, including their children, irrespective of the needs and backgrounds.
- Domestic abuse is prevented and identified earlier so that there is less reliance on crisis accommodation, as part of the overarching domestic abuse strategy.

Safe Accommodation Strategic Objectives

To achieve the Safe Accommodation Vision HDAP agreed the following 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) remains 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.

Key Findings

- Hampshires safe accommodation offer includes Refuge, Dispersed Safe Accommodation and Sanctuary Scheme. Of the 863 adults who were supported in safe accommodation 239 (28%) were supported in Refuge, 26 (3%) were supported in dispersed safe accommodation and 598 (69%) were supported in Sanctuary Scheme
- Victims/survivors from key groups that are under-represented in safe accommodation include those with disabilities, LGBT+ people, those aged under 25 and over 65, and male victims.
- The estimated prevalence of male victims/survivors has increased significantly from the previous year because of changes made by ONS; new survey questions to measure DA have resulted in increased disclosure.
- Hampshire supports higher rates of children in safe accommodation compared to the national and regional average based on MHCLG data.
- The proportion of individuals supported in safe accommodation who came from out of area is slightly higher in Hampshire than national data.
- Hampshire supports a higher rate of victims/survivors with mental health needs compared to nationally and regionally. However, Hampshire has a lower rate of people who are unable to be supported in safe accommodation due to mental health support needs.
- Hampshire had a lower rate of those moving on from refuge unplanned than the national 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 those exiting safe accommodation.

Domestic abuse in Hampshire

Estimated need (2024/25)*

55,560 **37,260**

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

12%

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

Nationally, 23.7% of individuals living alone with more than one child are estimated to have experienced DA in the last year.

Those most at risk:

- Those who are **female**
- Those living in **deprived areas**
- Those who are **divorced / separated**
- Those who have a **long-term illness / disability**
- Those aged between **16-24 years old**
- 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

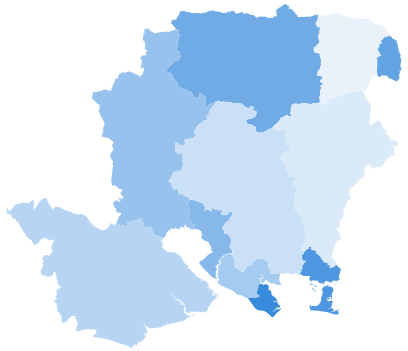
16,361 domestic abuse related crimes in Hampshire in 2024/25, 18% of all recorded crimes

68% of victims were women

In Hampshire, there has been an increase in domestic abuse related reported crimes between 2023/24 and 2024/25

There are higher rates of domestic abuse related crimes in areas of higher deprivation

35% of crimes occurred in the 20% most deprived areas



In 2024/25, Gosport, Havant, Rushmoor and Basingstoke and Deane 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)

* From March 2024 onwards, the ONS have moved to new survey questions to measure DA, which has resulted in increased disclosure. For full information see here: Redevelopment of domestic abuse statistics - Office for National Statistics

**Home Office report

Hampshire vs National Comparison

The following analysis is taken from data returns compiled by MHCLG*, which uses data on domestic abuse support services commissioned by Tier 1 Local and unitary authorities in England (2024-25). 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).**

Compared to the national average, Hampshire has a:

- similar rate of victims/survivors (adults and children) supported by services. This rate was higher than the national average the previous year;
- higher rate of children supported in safe accommodation;
- lower rate of individuals supported who are under 25s and over 65s, out of all individuals supported;
- higher percentage of individuals supported in safe accommodation who came from out of area than nationally.

- Similar rate of total bedspaces compared to nationally, and a higher rate compared to regionally (rate of bed spaces per 10,000 of the population).
- Similar proportion of bedspace in refuge but higher proportion of sanctuary provision compared to nationally.
- Lower rate of households unable to be supported.
- Similar 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.
- Lower 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

** 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 (2024/25)

Refuge provision

- 239 adult individuals were supported by refuge.
- 70% of those who were supported by refuge came from out of the Hampshire area, a decrease from 83% in 2023/24.
- 4% of those in refuge were aged over 55. The most common age group was 25 to 34 years old accounting for 45% of refuge residents.
- 22% 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.
- 47% of those supported by refuge were engaged with mental health services at the time of referral.
- Victims/survivors under-represented in safe accommodation include those with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, older adults and men (when compared to estimated prevalence).

- Under half (48%) of the clients in refuge stayed in refuge less than 3 months compared to 38% nationally.
- Hampshire now has a lower percentage (29%) of individuals staying in refuge for 6 months and longer than the national average after being higher than the national average in 2023/24.
- Hampshire had a lower rate of those moving on from refuge unplanned than the national average.

Sanctuary Scheme

- 598 adult individuals were supported by the sanctuary scheme.
- 7% of those supported were aged over 55. The most prevalent age is 35-44 years old accounting for 37%, followed by 25-34 years old accounting for 30%.
- 97% of those supported were female.
- Emotional abuse was the most common type of abuse experienced (46%).

Safe Accommodation Service Provision in Hampshire (2024/25) continued

Dispersed Safe Accommodation

- Hampshire had 13 units of dispersed safe accommodation in October 2025
- Across the period October 2024 to September 2025 in Hampshire:
  - 26 adults and 31 children were supported in dispersed safe accommodation
  - 15% of adults supported were from the LGBTQ+ community
  - 85% had mental health support needs
  - 27% of adults had a disability (learning and physical)
  - 15% of adults had teenage sons who were able to move into the safe accommodation
  - 27% of families had a pet
  - 75% of families would not have been able to access refuge; the remaining 15% were transferred from refuge as shared accommodation had become unsuitable
  - 58% of families were either homeless, living with family or friends or were in temporary accommodation on referral
  - Of those who moved on from Dispersed Safe Accommodation, 50% moved into social housing

Focus on Children

- A total of 1,089 children were supported across all safe accommodation services
- 623 children received children's support across all safe accommodation services.
- 555 individuals who used the Sanctuary Scheme or Refuge service had at least one dependent child (66% of individuals who used the services)
  - 399 of these individuals were supported in the Sanctuary Scheme service
- 44 pregnant women accessed the Sanctuary Scheme or Refuge service (5.7% of females who used the Sanctuary Scheme or Refuge service)
  - 27 were supported by the Sanctuary Scheme service.

Spotlight on Housing and district/borough data (2024/25)

- There are 92 refuge bed spaces across Hampshire. Test Valley has the most bed spaces with 19, followed by 17 bedspaces in Basingstoke and Deane.
- 55 people took up bed spaces within a refuge in Basingstoke and Deane. This was most out of the Hampshire districts followed by 46 in Test Valley.
- Gosport had the highest turnover of refuge spaces, supporting more than 5 people for every available bedspace.

- 742 households in Hampshire were owed a homelessness duty* due to support needs associated with a risk / experience of domestic abuse.** This has increased every year since 2020/21. 21.2% of these households were female parents with dependent children.
- 196 households were owed a prevention duty and 348 owed a relief duty for loss of last settled home due to domestic abuse; the highest since data became available in 2018/19 ***.

- 46.2% of those leaving refuge remained in Hampshire after they left.
- Of these,16% moved to another refuge, 27% moved into social housing and 22% moved into temporary accommodation.

- Hampshire has a significantly higher housing affordability ratio than England (higher ratio is less affordable).
- 10 of 11 Hampshire districts had a significantly higher than national median monthly rent price than England.
- There is a lower proportion of social and affordable rented dwellings in Hampshire (14%) compared to England.(17%)

* 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

**14.6% of all households who were owed a homelessness duty

*** 6% of all households owed a prevention duty and 19% of all households owed a relief duty

Recommendations

- 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 continuous quality improvement of the Sanctuary Scheme to enable victims/survivors to feel safe and deliver comprehensive tailored support e.g. through joint visits with surveyors and domestic abuse support services.
- Focus on the needs of male victims/survivors, taking account of the increased estimated prevalence, with a specific focus on Sanctuary Schemes where 97% of people supported are female.
- Ensure a robust and trauma-informed focus on children and young people in safe accommodation.

Recommendations (continued)

- Ensure safe accommodation provides sufficient, balanced focus on the needs of Hampshire residents, acknowledging the need to support victims/survivors from out of area
- Ensure victims/survivors receive high-quality support for their mental health needs through robust relationships with specialist providers and good referral pathways to mental health services
- Ensure victims/survivors receive high-quality support for their drug and alcohol needs through robust relationships with specialist providers, and robust referral pathways to drug and alcohol services
- Evaluate the quality of move-on support and options for victims/survivors leaving safe accommodation, with specific focus on exploring reasons why victims/survivors move to another refuge.

Hampshire Domestic Abuse Key Services and Information

Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership	Stop Domestic Abuse	Hampton Trust
Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) is a group of local services and agencies working together to provide help and support for: • Victims and survivors of abuse, including children and young people • People who may be hurting someone or using abusive behaviour • Family and friends seeking advice • Professionals For victims/survivors and professionals this includes information on how to access safe accommodation, as well as community-based and specialist services. For professionals there are a range of information, resources and toolkits to help you support victims/survivors and their children. This includes access to free training - Training and events | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council	• Safe Emergency Accommodation • Community based services • Group work programmes • Target Hardening • Community based advocacy in Health and Housing • Specialist support for victims/survivors from LGBTQ+ communities, male victims, and people using abusive behaviour • Specialist support for children and young people, including education and prevention programmes, Adolescent to Parent abuse, one-to one support • Stalking Advocacy and Support • Training and Support to Professionals • Domestic Abuse Champions and Ambassador Training	For people who have experienced domestic abuse, including those who have perpetrated abuse and use harmful behaviours. Services for women and men include: • Intensive tailored support • Pathways to change – behaviour change for those using harmful behaviours • CARA – early intervention for low-risk first time offenders • JUNO – trauma-informed, rehabilitative early intervention for women • Training and Support to Professionals – including DARE (Domestic Abuse Routine Enquiry (DARE) Toolkit, Consultancy
Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council	Domestic Abuse Support in Hampshire | Stop Domestic Abuse – www.stopdomesticabuse.uk	Hampton Trust, Breaking the cycle of abuse – www.hamptontrust.org.uk

Definitions of Safe Accommodation*

Refuge accommodation - A refuge offers single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside domestic abuse support tied to that accommodation. The address will not be publicly available. Victims/survivors, including their children, will have access to a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support from staff. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, but in both cases the service will enable peer support from other refuge residents.

Dispersed accommodation - Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims/survivors of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge. This may be more suitable for victims/survivors who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces, and/or where peer support from other residents may not be appropriate, for example due to complex support needs or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a women only refuge. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single gender or single sex.

Sanctuary Schemes - Sanctuary Schemes properties with local authority or private registered providers of social housing which provide enhanced physical security measures to a home or the perimeter of the home. A Sanctuary Scheme is a survivor centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation. This is done by providing additional security – 'installing a sanctuary' – to the victims' property or perimeter.

* As defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Statutory Guidance