



# **Hampshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy (2021-2023)**

**(covering the area within the county boundary)**

Public Health  
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## 1. Purpose

Preventing and intervening early in domestic across the life course of Hampshire residents is everyone's business. This strategy provides a framework for all relevant organisations, agencies, and voices of victims (including those of children and young people)<sup>1</sup> and perpetrators in Hampshire to contribute to and identify their role in the domestic abuse safe accommodation agenda as underpinned by the Domestic Abuse Act (2021); including enabling the victims to self-identify domestic abuse. The aim is to expand the choice of types of safe accommodation beyond refuges, backed up with appropriate support that recognises the complexities of domestic abuse, and the risks to victims and families when leaving an abusive relationship. It also aims to ensure that perpetrators are managed and supported in being held to account for their actions, so that victims are better able to be access safe accommodation safely.

## 2. Our vision

We aim to lead a co-ordinated effort to ensure:

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

We can only achieve this vision with active collaboration, cooperation and responsibility from all organisations and agencies in Hampshire. This is the foundation of a "whole systems approach" that we seek to embed.

## 3. Background

There are many complex reasons why a victim will stay within or return to a violent relationship. The complexities of domestic abuse impact on a victim's ability to seek support and make choices around whether they can safely stay in or leave their home. In understanding the safe accommodation agenda, it is crucial to consider how a perpetrator's behaviour aimed at controlling and trapping victims intersects with the practical difficulties of accessing safe housing options.

Part 4 of the new Domestic Abuse Act places a duty on each tier one local authority in England to:

- **Assess need and demand for accommodation-based support** to meet the needs of victims (including their children, and how to incorporate the voices and needs of victims).
- **Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of support** to cover the local area, with regard to the needs assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> the terms 'victim' and 'survivor' are used interchangeably to describe a person who has experienced domestic abuse whether as an adult or as a child. When using the term 'victim', this encompasses 'survivors' and recognises that those who have experienced domestic abuse will use their own terminology that best reflects their situation at the time.

- **Deliver this strategy** (through funding and commissioning decisions), monitor, and evaluate local delivery and report back to central Government.
- **Appoint a multi-agency local partnership board**, which it must consult with as it delivers the duty.

This two-year Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy covers the transition period when the safe accommodation requirement is embedded into the overarching Hampshire County Domestic Abuse Strategy, which runs to the end of March 2022. An interim plan will be in place for 2022/23 only while the new national strategies and guidance are published and utilised to inform the next longer term overarching strategy from April 2023. This Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy will eventually become one chapter of the overarching Hampshire County Domestic Abuse Strategy when it is refreshed.

The Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategies aligns with the [Hampshire Substance Misuse Strategy 2018-2023](#) and the [Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People in Hampshire 2019-2024](#) in better preventing and early identifying victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and addressing their mental health and wellbeing needs. See Appendix 1 for links to other national and local strategies.

#### 4. The National Context

The critical role of refuge in providing safety and support for victims at high risk of serious harm is acknowledged by government. However, the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) recognises that victims including their children may need to live in a variety of different forms of safe accommodation (defined in Section A3 of the [Statutory Guidance Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services \(October 2021\)](#) and summarised in Appendix 2).

The DA Act 2021 has also ensured the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC) by the Secretary of State. Consequently, the DAC has “specific powers which will enable her to fulfil this role, and places legal duties on public sector bodies to cooperate with her and to respond to any recommendations that she makes to them”<sup>2</sup>. Like all local authorities, Hampshire County Council will need to respond to the work of the DAC which includes developing a long-term strategic plan towards the end of 2021. This will include ensuring that the voices of victims and survivors are at the heart of the strategy, and that domestic abuse services are available for everyone.

Exploring alternatives to the refuges model is needed because:<sup>3</sup>

1. There is not enough refuge provision nationally for it to be an option for all women. In 2014, there were 3,660 refuge spaces across the country. As there are fewer refuge spaces than people that require alternative emergency accommodation, there needs to be more options available to ensure all victims have a route to safety.

<sup>2</sup> [About us - Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#) Accessed 03/09/21

<sup>3</sup> SafeLives (2020) Safe at Home: The Case for a response to Domestic Abuse by Housing Providers Accessed on 25/11/20 <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20at%20Home%20Report.pdf>

2. The criteria for refuge do not suit the needs of all women. For example, there are only a few refuges nationally that can meet the needs of victims with complex needs. Other factors that prevent victims being able to access refuge include age limits for male children which are usually around 14 years old. Stop Domestic Abuse refuges in Hampshire accept male children up to the age of 16, dependent on risk assessment, but acknowledge that shared accommodation in refuge is not suitable for women with older sons. Women's Aid's research identifies additional barriers facing women seeking refuge as having four or more children; No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF); requiring an accessible refuge space; having mental health support needs; being tied to a particular region due to support needs.
3. Moving to a refuge often means leaving behind employment and children's school, moving away from family, friends, and support networks. It is a significant life decision, and where it is safe to do so, all other options should be explored. There is an over-reliance on the refuge model when responding to domestic abuse<sup>4</sup>. Since 1999, it was argued that there was a lack of focus on transitional and permanent housing needs by agencies. Many housing providers (private and public) do not have a domestic abuse strategy that includes rehousing and resettlement.

#### **4.1 Funding of Refuges**

Currently, refuges are primarily funded through two key funding streams:

- a. Rent and related service charges are funded through housing benefit, which on average makes up about half of a refuge's income.
- b. Support funding which is usually commissioned at local authority level. This is supplemented by a refuge's fundraising in their communities, bidding for funds from trusts and foundations and other statutory funding sources. This can include funding from police and crime commissioners; infrequent limited funding from health bodies; and emergency funds from central government. Since 2019/20, Hampshire County Council has commissioned Stop Domestic Abuse to deliver refuge support services.

#### **4.2 Support available for Victims and Survivors**

The support offered is often connected to the offer of accommodation, such as refuge services or move-on accommodation. It may also be a community-based services such as sanctuary or target hardening support, mobile advocacy, and co-located advocacy. The advocacy support could consist of a dedicated specialist DA post co-located in a housing service.

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<sup>4</sup> Burnet, Gudrun, Winston Churchill Fellowship – domestic abuse and housing: international practice and perspectives, 2017.

### 4.3 National Data on Safe Accommodation

A summary of national data and findings is outlined, by theme, below:

#### Housing

##### [The Women's' Aid Domestic Abuse Report 2020: The Hidden Housing Crisis](#)

examined the housing experiences of survivors of domestic abuse and revealed the following challenges that these women had:

- A lack of access to money to cover the costs of a new home (including paying the rent, upfront deposit, and necessary bills) sometimes due to their financial dependence on a controlling partner.
- Fears of homelessness and being forced to live in unsuitable or unsafe housing.
- Being denied help from their local housing team.
- Experiencing difficulties in finding a landlord who would accept rent paid by state benefits.

The [Safe at Home: Homelessness and Domestic Abuse \(Safe Lives Spotlight Report 2018\)](#) highlights that:

- 32% of homeless women said domestic violence contributed to their homelessness.
- Over half (52%) domestic abuse victims need support to secure new accommodation or to stay safe in their own home. Without receiving this support at the right time, survivors of domestic abuse can easily become homeless.
- Over 10% of those supported with housing were moved out of their local authority area.
- After receiving support, survivors of domestic abuse are unlikely to be living in sustainable housing, with 87% of women leaving refuges for continued temporary accommodation according to research by Solace Women's Aid<sup>5</sup>.
- Women experience higher rates of repeated victimisation and are much more likely to be seriously hurt or killed than male victims of domestic abuse<sup>6, 7</sup>.

Two practical considerations around accessing safe accommodation include:

- The challenges for victims who must move home away from family, schools, and other support networks into temporary accommodation, and frequently to a new area, because of the perpetrator's behaviour.
- The lack of access to safe, long-term, independent, affordable accommodation. The Domestic Abuse (DA) Act 2021 Part 4 Safe Accommodation<sup>8</sup> stipulates that all local authorities have a duty to ensure that all victims (including children and

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<sup>5</sup> Solace Women's Aid report (2016) The Price of Safety: How the housing system is failing women and children fleeing domestic abuse [online] Available at: <http://solacewomensaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SolaceWomens-Aid-housing-report-The-price-of-safety-Mar16.pdf> [accessed 11th April 2020]

<sup>6</sup> Walby, S, Towers, J (2017) Measuring violence to end violence: Mainstreaming gender. Journal of Gender-Based Violence 1(1): 11–31.

<sup>7</sup> ONS (2020) [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> The statutory duty is not a requirement to *provide* domestic abuse victims with accommodation – and does not replace existing housing and homelessness duties. Commissioning authorities will need to ensure that accommodation covered under other Acts, such as temporary accommodation provided under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, are not utilised in fulfilling the requirements of this duty.

young people) of domestic abuse have access to the right support within safe accommodation when they need it<sup>9</sup>.

A range of housing options is recommended by DLUHC (see Appendix 2). This includes the Sanctuary Scheme, also called Target Hardening. This benefits the victim staying in the home<sup>10</sup> and can prevent homelessness; can potentially assist in holding perpetrators to account for their actions (as it is the perpetrator who must leave the property); provides an option of early intervention before escalation; causes less disruption on the family's circumstance; has moderate longer-term consequences for safety, economic security, housing, and social support networks; and is deemed to be cost saving. It is important to recognise that some victims will not be able to stay in their homes due to fear, trauma, triggered trauma and risks to safety.

### Social Disparities and Complex Needs

There are currently just [55 refuges in England which are run specifically for a particular group of women](#), such as ethnic minority women, women with learning disabilities or women with substance use needs. Survivors who are from ethnic minorities and migrant women have been reported to experience a disproportionate rate of domestic homicide<sup>11</sup>. Not all these services are 'by and for' expert services run by women from the group they support. Availability of these dedicated services is very low: spaces in specialist services make up just 13.3% of all refuge spaces in England.<sup>12</sup><sup>[OBJ]</sup>

Disabled women, who experience disproportionate levels of all forms of violence, also face additional barriers to accessing support: for example, a recent report showed that less than 2% of refuges are wheelchair accessible<sup>13</sup>.

Women from marginalised groups, or who have additional support needs, therefore face additional barriers in finding a suitable space. Since 2016 the *No Woman Turned Away Project*<sup>14</sup> has demonstrated how capacity constraints, bar the most marginalised groups of women, from accessing support. In 2017-18, nearly half (49.8%) of the 264 women struggling to access a refuge space who were supported by the project were from ethnic minority backgrounds, over a third (37.5%) had mental health support needs and 30% had one or more disability.

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<sup>9</sup> See Part A, Section A1 of the [Statutory Guidance Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services \(October 2021\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> Breckenridge, J, Donna Chung, D., Spinney, A., Zufferey, C. National mapping and meta-evaluation outlining key features of effective "safe at home" programs that enhance safety and prevent homelessness for women and their children who have experienced domestic and family violence Sydney: ANROWS, 2015.

<sup>11</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Statement at the conclusion of a country mission to the United Kingdom 2014, 15 April 2014

<sup>12</sup> Women's Aid (2020) The Domestic Abuse Report 2020: The Annual Audit. Retrieved from [The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2020-The-Annual-Audit.pdf \(womensaid.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> Women's Aid, 'Survival and Beyond: The Domestic Abuse Report 2017', 2018.

<sup>14</sup> The No Woman Turned Away Project has been led by Women's Aid and funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government since January 2016. Specialist domestic abuse practitioners provide dedicated support to women who face barriers in accessing a refuge space, alongside detailed monitoring and analysis of survivors' experiences.



## Men

13% of refuge services<sup>11, 15</sup> can now accommodate men. Nationally as at May 2019, there were 186 refuge spaces available to men, 25 for men only and 161 for either men or women<sup>11</sup>. The number of refuge spaces for men has increased every year since 2016<sup>11</sup>.

## Perpetrators

Perpetrators of domestic abuse will not usually meet the criteria for a duty to be owed under homeless legislation as it will be considered their actions have made them intentionally homeless. To safeguard survivors and families, alternative accommodation needs to be found quickly for the perpetrator away from the home, especially where a Domestic Abuse Protection Notice/Order (DAPN/DAPO) has been issued by police, following a serious incident or release from prison.

## Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

### [Sharp-Jeffs and Kelly's \(2016\) research into Domestic Homicide Reviews \(DHRs\)](#)

demonstrated the importance that housing could play if it were an effective part of the response to domestic abuse:

'Often the police or health services get involved with people when things have reached crisis point... With housing the close proximity that most housing providers have with their residents means that they're in such a brilliant position to offer support and identify a lot earlier on.'

Aisha Sharif, Standing Together Against Domestic Violence.

## Data sharing

National findings illustrated that information sharing was patchy in practice, partnerships were not well co-ordinated and active, and ultimately safe housing remained a key need for victims. SafeLives (2015) found that under 3% of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)<sup>16</sup> referrals came from housing<sup>17</sup>.

## Impact of COVID-19

The risk of domestic abuse increased during COVID-19 restrictions due to: isolation and social distancing; increased anxiety and stress regarding health, finances, employment, and housing; potential increase in alcohol use; lack of face-to-face services; use of COVID-19 measures as a means of coercive control. The enduring impact of the lockdowns on children and young people who have been victims of domestic abuse will only start to be realised from 2021 onwards with additional pressures to family finances and existing severe parental mental health issues and

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<sup>15</sup> These are refuge spaces listed on Routes to Support, which is primarily a directory of services available for women and children. It is therefore not an exhaustive account of refuge services available for men experiencing domestic abuse.

<sup>16</sup> Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

<sup>17</sup> Although it is acknowledged that original disclosures to a housing provider may result in direct referral to an IDVA/domestic abuse service, who in turn make the MARAC referral, 3% referral rate from housing to MARAC is nevertheless extremely low.

drug / alcohol dependency<sup>18</sup>. Furthermore, any lack of suitable accommodation (due to COVID-19) risks the perpetrator staying with others who may be vulnerable to infection e.g. elderly parents; returning to the home of the victim/survivor; delays in issuing / approving DAPNs/DAPOs.

## **5. Headlines from the Hampshire Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment**

The Hampshire County Council safe accommodation needs assessment was undertaken between May and August 2021 and focusses on safe accommodation for domestic abuse victims across Hampshire. Data was gathered using a template that the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC - formerly Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, MHCLG) provided. New data was sought from a wide range of multiagency partners (including Stop Domestic Abuse as the main refuge provider in Hampshire County) as well as existing data from the Domestic Abuse and Violence in Hampshire Needs Assessment 2018 and the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Rapid Review 2020.

The process of data collection has identified gaps which will need to be addressed to ensure future needs assessments meet the requirements of DLUHC and fully inform the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy.

### **5.1 Referrals Data**

- Of those referred during 2020 and 2021, 52% victims were assessed as high risk in terms of serious harm or homicide. 44% medium risk, where there is a strong likelihood that a change in circumstance or specific incident would put them at high risk.
- Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, 122 victims in refuge were experiencing a form of violence as defined by VAWG alongside domestic abuse.
- In the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, 20% identified as having a disability or health issue – mental health and a physical disability were the most common.
- 2019-2021: 4% of refuge clients had alcohol support needs and 6.9% had drug support needs.
- In 2020/21 Stop Domestic Abuse identified that there were 153 victims who had been made homeless because of domestic abuse.
- 527 residents in 2019/20 and 485 residents in 2020/21 across Hampshire were assessed as being owed a homelessness duty due to being at risk of or having experienced domestic abuse.
- In 2019/20, 381 (78%) of referrals came from outside of Hampshire. In 2020/21, 467 (83%) of referrals came from outside of Hampshire. Across both years the highest number of referrals came from Portsmouth, Southampton, and London Boroughs.

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<sup>18</sup> Childhood in the Time of Covid. Children's Commissioner Report 2020. [cco-childhood-in-the-time-of-covid.pdf](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/childhood-in-the-time-of-covid.pdf) (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk) Accessed 13/09/21.

- Of the referrals for refuge received in 2020/21, 342 (56%) were unsuccessful or declined. The top two reasons for unsuccessful referrals were: 1) that the victim did not want support; 2) that the refuge was unable to support due to substance misuse issues.

## 5.2 Types of Accommodation available and Support available

<b>Number of Types of Accommodation</b>				
<b>Refuges</b>	<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Dispersed</b>	<b>Target Hardening</b>	<b>Move-On or alternative to refuge</b>
10 refuges with spaces for 92 victims and 124 children across Hampshire.	One fully adapted room for disabilities and one with full disabled access. 5 ground floor rooms for low level of mobility	None	Available across Hampshire	5 dedicated properties for move on used by specialist DA providers; additional 9 properties available held within local authorities used for domestic abuse victims not requiring refuge.

<b>Types of Services Offered</b>				
Stop Domestic Abuse offers a full range of support recommended by DLUHC in refuges.	You Trust offers some support to victims in their safe house in Basingstoke.	Support is available by other organisations (limited data)	DLUHC has funded some programmes until April 2022: DA advocates in hospitals; Mental Health Support Workers; 4 Target Hardening posts.	Some support provided by Abri, Vivid, Southern Homes and English Rural. Limited managed moves.

## 5.3 Gaps in Provision

Hampshire has refuge accommodation provision located in all Tier 2 local authorities except for one. Current refuge provision provides women only spaces that can accommodate women with families, with children up to the age of 16, subject to an assessment of risk and suitability of accommodation. The current commissioned provider has demonstrated a flexible approach to accommodating victims with a range of support needs, whilst paying due regard to the limitations of the physical space, the needs and safety of all residents and the capacity of staff to meet the needs of residents. There is specialist provision in place to support victims from different ethnic backgrounds, victims facing multiple disadvantages/exclusions, and children living in the refuges.

The refuges operate within the national network taking many victims from outside of Hampshire. There are local partnerships and relationships in place with the

commissioned provider, Tier 2 housing teams, Registered Providers and Police but there is an opportunity to improve on this and develop better pathways both in and out of refuge.

There is evidence that the current provision for safe accommodation does not meet the needs of all victims. There are limited alternatives to general refuge for those needing refuge support, and there are no dispersed units and specialist refuge. This means that for victims with particular characteristics and/or with specific needs there are barriers to accessing appropriate safe accommodation and gaps in provision within the Hampshire domestic abuse safe accommodation offer. The data also indicates that there is an under-representation of victims with specific characteristics within refuge provision which may indicate further barriers for victims in accessing safe accommodation who are not currently in service.

The key gaps identified are:

- No dispersed or specialist refuge provision for those who are unable to access current refuge provision but who need the same level of support
- Provision of safe accommodation for those facing multiple disadvantages/exclusions – alternatives to refuge (e.g. dispersed units) can have challenges including increased isolation and vulnerability. There is a need to recognise that domestic abuse is only one of the support needs.
- Limited move-on accommodation that provides lower level of domestic abuse support.
- Victims accessing homelessness application processes have similar housing options to all residents; victims may be housed in temporary accommodation and not receive the required domestic abuse support.
- Limited opportunities for victims to move through managed reciprocal arrangements across the social housing sector.
- Limited children and young people's support capacity in refuges.
- Although commissioned DA providers and some Registered Providers use a Trauma Informed (TI) approach, there is limited intelligence on capability to use this approach effectively among all relevant providers and agencies.
- Limited opportunities for the survivors' voice to be represented across safe accommodation provision and to be used to inform service development and practice.
- There is a need to widen community-based provision that can identify victims and provide early intervention and prevention opportunities to support the safe accommodation provision.

#### **5.4 Populations most at Risk**

Key groups that we know are facing barriers to safe accommodation in Hampshire include victims who have a disability; are facing multiple disadvantages/exclusions (including NRPF); have diverse ethnic backgrounds. Key groups we know have no refuge space available are male victims (with or without children); women with male children over 16 years; women with larger families. There is likely to be some unmet need in some groups, such as men, disabled, LGBTQ+ and older people. Reasons for this may include not feeling confident/able to report it or not being able to identify support services.

A better understanding is required of the needs of those not in service – older adults, different ethnic groups, LGBTQ+, male victims<sup>19</sup>, victims with a disability. Consideration needs to be given to domestic abuse victims/survivors not identifying as such and therefore not seeing existing services as appropriate / relevant for them.

## 5.5 Recommendations from the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

1. Improve **local information and data analysis processes**<sup>20</sup> (e.g. explore capacity requirements with Tier 2 Housing Leads, Registered Social Housing Providers, and health) to allow a more focussed review of the provision of i) DA safe accommodation and ii) DA support services across the County and to inform future needs assessments, strategy development, and commissioning decisions. This will include increasing capacity at the Tier 1 and Tier 2 local authority (LA) level to work with relevant partners to co-ordinate data by ensuring quality data collection, collation, analysis, and reporting. These data collection processes should incorporate consideration of when in the journey, meaningful/informative and sensitive data is collected from the service user so that the service user is asked once, and the information shared as appropriate.
2. Implement a **Whole Housing Approach (WHA)**. A [Whole Housing Approach](#) (WHA) provides a framework for the domestic abuse and housing sectors to work together to address the immediate and longer-term housing needs of victims/survivors. A WHA considers the needs of diverse communities of survivors across all housing tenure types (social, private rented, privately owned, supported accommodation) to increase survivor accommodation sustainment and reduce homelessness. A WHA is listed in the new Part 4 Statutory Duty as a form of safe accommodation. For more detail on the Whole Housing Approach, please see Appendix 3.
3. Build on the delivery of high-quality safe accommodation provision to ensure the diverse needs of victims and **quality standards** are met.
4. Improve the pathways to DA support and safe accommodation for victims presenting at **health settings** – acute and primary care.
5. Ensure appropriate and efficient use of **pathways between districts, boroughs, neighbouring LAs and relevant national networks**.
6. Use evidence-based approaches e.g. services analyse their data by protected characteristics (also known as ‘by and for’ support) to inform the level of prevention and service support offered to people with protected characteristics e.g. from **ethnic minority backgrounds** and **victims with complex needs** (e.g. mental health needs, substance misuse needs).
7. Scope and scale existing need and support for adolescents experiencing domestic abuse, recognising the role that access to safe accommodation and support can play in reducing the impact on **14–18-year-olds** who have experienced domestic abuse. This work should also seek to improve intelligence around children using

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<sup>19</sup> Making Invisible Men Visible. Mankind Initiative 2021. [Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards - \(mankind.org.uk\)](#) Accessed 13/09/21

<sup>20</sup> All Tier 2 Local Authority IT systems are set up to collect H-CLICK (homelessness) data as a requirement; however this data is currently adequate in informing this strategy. Engagement with DLUHC and with those key IT providers in Tier 2 LAs is needed to enable meaningful data to inform this strategy.

- harmful behaviour, including child and adolescent to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA) and (where present) peer-to-peer abuse and intimate partner abuse.
8. Inform future needs assessments with the experience of victims who **are private owners or private tenants** and their particular challenges and vulnerabilities e.g. economic abuse (including that committed post-separation).
  9. Improve the representation and inclusivity of **survivors' voice** (service users and potential service users) including women, children and young people, victims who are from ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, with disabilities, male victims (including men with children), armed forces, older victims, those from rural communities, women with NRPF (including those with no children), large families, families with adolescent sons, and perpetrators to inform future needs assessments, strategy development, commissioning decisions regarding safe accommodation.
  10. Improve the representation and inclusivity of perpetrators to inform future needs assessments, strategy development, and commissioning decisions regarding safe accommodation.
  11. Increase capacity in Hampshire County Council to:
    - Co-ordinate DA data in relation to the DA needs assessments (unmet need) and commissioning performance (demand) data to inform overarching DA Strategy, Safe Accommodation Strategy, and DA data dashboard.
    - Implement and deliver the Domestic Abuse Act and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Act in collaboration with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire's Community Safety Strategy Group (e.g. covering healthy relationships work/sexual harassment/sexual misconduct in educational settings), and co-ordinate Trauma Informed Approach (TIA) across the health, care, and education system.

## **6. Strategic Objectives to achieve our Aims: 2021-23**

Based on the Hampshire Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, the following objectives were identified:

1. Improve local information and data collection, collation, and analysis processes.
2. Improve intelligence on the needs of 14–18-year-olds, and use this intelligence to inform the development of services for 14–18-year-olds experiencing DA.
3. Improve domestic abuse identification, prevention, and effective and efficient use of safe accommodation referral pathways
4. 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 complex needs and social disparities.
5. Establish a robust survivor/victims voice (including children and young people) and perpetrators voice mechanism and feed it into this strategy so that domestic abuse is prevented, and the safe accommodation needs of victims protected characteristics and complex needs are met.

Each of these objectives are considered in turn in the pages that follow, with associations actions.

**Strategic Objective 1: Improved local information and data collection, collation, and analysis processes**

<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Ensure adequate capacity and effective mechanisms are established in Hampshire County Council and Tier 2 Local Authorities to enable accessible, complete, quality data that gives a measure of access to and quality of safe accommodation for victims irrespective of their protected characteristics and social disparities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Address gap in collection/collation/analysis/reporting capacity and processes.</li> <li>2. Benchmark length of stay in move-on accommodation compared to other local authorities</li> <li>3. Determine number of spaces provided by Registered Providers of Social Housing</li> <li>4. Conduct more in-depth analysis of victims coming from outside of Hampshire</li> <li>5. Improve referral and outcome data for victims supported by Tier 2 housing teams</li> <li>6. More in-depth analysis of crime data</li> <li>7. Review of data from DA service providers to ensure a more robust and accurate analysis</li> <li>8. Widen data obtained across the health service</li> <li>9. Include a review of Crimestoppers DA data and intelligence</li> </ol>	Tier 1 (HCC); Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams, Registered Providers of Social Housing, key Health partners (Emergency Dept, Maternity, GP); Adults social services; Probation; Police; Stop Domestic Abuse; The Hampton Trust; Up2U; Crimestoppers Trust; Fearless.org (reporting for young people)
	10. Ensure data collection processes during service user assessment are meaningful/informative and sensitive.	Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams; Registered Providers of Social Housing; Stop Domestic Abuse; Key Health partners (Emergency Dept, Maternity, GP); Childrens Social Care; Adults social Care, probation, police.

**Strategic Objective 2: Improved intelligence on the needs of 14–18-year-olds, and use the intelligence to inform the development of services for 14-18 years olds experiencing DA**

<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Explore needs and supply for 14–18-year-olds experiencing DA. This work should also seek to improve intelligence around children using harmful behaviour, including child and adolescent to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA) and peer-to-peer abuse.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore commissioning options of academic body to scope and undertake research by March 2022 so that recommendations can be implemented from 2022/23.</li> <li>2. Work with the DAC to align with any similar work nationally.</li> <li>3. Plan for the development of support and services for 16–18-year-olds to be developed and recommendations implemented from 2022/23</li> </ol>	HCC; commissioned academic agency  Crimestoppers Trust; Fearless.org (reporting for young people)



**Strategic Objective 3: Improved domestic abuse prevention, identification, and effective and efficient use of safe accommodation referral pathways**

Priorities	Action	Lead Agency
<p>Relevant partners are aware of the DA Safe Accommodation pathway to reduce number of people wrongly defined and managed within anti-social behaviour (instead of DA) or are made homeless because of DA by ensuring any existing or future policies on homelessness reduction, and the provision of accommodation, is inclusive of DA victims.</p> <p>Increase number of referrals from HCC Adults Health and Care services, Health, Police, Probation, The Hampton Trust, and Up2U to appropriate safe accommodation services.</p> <p>Include community-based settings e.g. night-time economy and Safe at Home agenda.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on the findings of the Safelives <a href="#">report and incorporating the</a> refuge service model principles and components of the <a href="#">DAHA Refuge Services Model</a> to improve awareness (train and sustain competency) of the DA definition and safe accommodation housing referral pathway for perpetrators and victims and to undertake risk assessments and safety planning.</li> <li>2. All those served with a DAPN/DAPO are offered accommodation under the current 'rough sleepers' remit where required.</li> <li>3. Increase the number of health settings with DA advocates (e.g. GPs).</li> </ol>	<p>Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams; Registered Providers of Social Housing, Private landlords</p> <p>Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) &amp; High-risk Domestic Abuse (HDRA) staff, Health, Adults social services, Probation, Police; Hampton Trust; Up2U</p> <p>Healthcare settings</p>
<p>Increase intelligence on risk to those facing barriers in accessing safe accommodation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Determine pathways for people who are denied safe accommodation due to no vacancies.</li> <li>5. Utilise the findings of NHSE&amp;I pilot - use of data template capturing all safeguarding reviews (including DHRs) in healthcare settings.</li> </ol>	<p>Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams; HCC; Stop Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>HCC; ICS</p>
<p>Ensure relevant intelligence and best practice are shared with our districts and boroughs, neighbouring LAs, and nationally to inform a more comprehensive, effective strategy.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Work with our neighbouring LAs and national LAs who are undertaking separate Needs Assessments to determine the numbers and profile of Hampshire victims who are leaving Hampshire to access their safe accommodation settings.</li> </ol>	<p>Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams Neighbouring LA leads; Relevant national networks</p>
<p>Ensure learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) includes the role of safe accommodation access in preventing the escalation of risk.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Ensure DHR Chair, Author, and panel are aware of the potential prevention role of safe accommodation access and to ensure full careful consideration of the role of safe accommodation access in the response to DA.</li> </ol>	<p>Tier 2 CSPs; MARAC Chair, Police, OPCC, Childrens and Adults Social Care, Safeguarding leads, Health.</p>
<p>To align the delivery of the DA Safe Accommodation Strategy with the national Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and Act.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Consistently improve VAWG prevention, identification and interventions in the home, education and workplace settings, public places and amongst particularly vulnerable groups e.g. people with disabilities and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.</li> </ol>	<p>Police and Crime Commissioner VAWG Task Group and Hampshire's Community Safety Strategy Group; Crimestoppers Trust</p>

Co-ordinate Trauma Informed Approach (TIA) across the health, care, and education system.	9. Support co-ordination of the TIA across the health, social care, housing, and education system by applying up-to-date evidenced based approach (including sharing lessons learnt and robust evaluations regionally and nationally).	Key senior commissioners and service managers in education, health, and social care (adults as well as children), housing.
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**Strategic Objective 4: The Whole Housing Approach (WHA) is established using a phased approach to enable a range of safe accommodation options that are alternatives to refuge provision, that reach minimum quality standards, are trauma informed (TI)<sup>21</sup>, and that are accessible to victims with complex needs and social disparities.**

Priorities	Action	Lead Agency
DAHA accreditation of Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams and Registered Providers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply DLUHC, Imkaan, Women's Aid Quality Standards to accommodation specifications.</li> <li>2. Make temporary accommodation and housing placements safe and suitable for survivors (TIA/gender sensitive).</li> <li>3. Ensure safe accommodation access for victims who are male (with/without children); LGBTQ+; have a disability; complex needs; specific family make up (large families, adolescents); diverse ethnic backgrounds (including NRPF); older adults.</li> <li>4. Work with Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams and Registered Providers, commissioned and non-commissioned providers to ensure best fit model is implemented e.g. the 'by and for' services for people with complex needs.</li> <li>5. Ensure appropriate use of DAPN/DAPO and target hardening.</li> <li>6. Improve identification of <a href="#">economic abuse</a> (under the</li> </ol>	DAHA Team Lead & National Development Manager, Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams; Registered Providers, Stop Domestic Abuse.
Explore and establish a range of safe accommodation options that are alternatives to refuge provision e.g. Housing First model, dispersed accommodation units, specialist refuge.		Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams and Registered Providers, Stop Domestic Abuse.
Explore and establish Co-located Housing Advocacy service to support LA housing services, male victims, and those with complex needs; allow specialist DA providers to work directly with housing teams to improve pathways to DA abuse support.		Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams and Registered Providers, Stop Domestic Abuse.
Explore and establish Flexible Funding to support the work of the specialist DA providers/other partners.		DA Housing Coordinator/Stop Domestic Abuse service will establish relationships with local businesses and providers of goods and services.
Explore and develop a managed reciprocal moves scheme to support preventative and early intervention approach to managing safe accommodation.		DA Housing co-ordinator; registered providers; Stop Domestic Abuse; Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams.
Explore needs of Private owners and private tenants in escaping DA by accessing appropriate accommodation.		HCC; Tier 2 Local Housing Authority Teams; Crimestoppers Trust; Landlords; Estate Agents

<sup>21</sup> This would incorporate the existing trauma informed work that is ongoing in Hampshire (e.g. under the Violence Reduction Unit.

	new DA definition, DA Act 2021)	
Build on the delivery of sanctuary scheme e.g. Target Hardening/sanctuary support so that it is informed by the WHA guidance and DAHA standards and is more intrinsically linked to other interventions e.g. perpetrator management, homelessness discharge of duty (social or private sector), and any managed social housing moves.	7. Create earlier identification and intervention for DA through mobilising social and private landlords and key institutions involved in private ownership (e.g. conveyancing solicitors and estate agents). 8. Increase tenancy sustainment options take action to remove perpetrators from properties through enforcement and positive engagement activities.	Registered providers; Stop Domestic Abuse; non-commissioned services; Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams.
Ensure a secure and consistent dedicated move-on pathway into settled, permanent housing from refuge to enable recovery for the victim/survivor and the life chances of children.	9. Work with service providers to ensure that move-on services are delivered in the most suitable accommodation types for the local area and meet the needs of all victims/survivors.	Registered providers; Stop Domestic Abuse; non-commissioned services; Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams.
Manage perpetrators through positive engagement and enforcement activities. Incorporate national perpetrators strategy when it is published later this year.	Multi-agency partners appropriately use: 10. Positive engagement e.g. referral to MARAC or Hampton Trust, rehousing perpetrator when victims choose to remain in their property. 11. Enforcement activities.	Hampton Trust, Police, Registered providers; Stop Domestic Abuse; non-commissioned services; Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams.

**Strategic Objective 5: Robust survivor voice (including children and young people) and perpetrator voice mechanisms are established and feeding into this strategy.**

<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
Hampshire County Council to agree most appropriate option for establishing and reviewing a robust survivor voice (including children and young people). Voices to be represented by people who are from ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, with disabilities, male victims (including men with children), armed forces, older victims, those from rural communities, women with NRPF (including those with no children), large families, families with adolescent sons, and perpetrators; service users and people not in service (potential service users of those in 'at risk' groups), or post abuse.	1. Establish and implement a working model for Hampshire. 2. Establish appropriate interim measure whilst setting up longer term model. 3. Ensure mechanism is representative and inclusive of those with social disparities and complex needs. 4. Ensure service user journey is captured. 5. Ensure contributors are protected and supported in providing their voice.	Hampshire County Council, commissioned and non-commissioned specialist DA providers; Crimestoppers Trust.

## 7. Oversight, Partnership Working, Roles and Responsibilities

In May 2021, the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) Board was reviewed and adapted to incorporate the new roles, responsibilities, and membership requirements of Part 4 of the DA Act, and new Terms of Reference were published. See Appendix 4 for the key partners and roles and responsibilities of the HDAP Board.

A Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Subgroup which will report to the HDAP Board was established in the Autumn 2021 to lead on the action plan related to this strategy. The Safe Accommodation Subgroup has had its first meeting and three Task and Finish Groups have been established linked to the 5 strategic objectives.

## 8. Measuring Success

No single organisation or group in Hampshire can reverse trends in domestic abuse and safe accommodation access. The following actions and goals will be used to measure our success for ourselves and our partners:

1. Hampshire County Council and Tier 2 Local Authorities can access complete, quality data that gives a measure of access to and quality of safe accommodation for victims who are:
  - Facing barriers to safe accommodation - those victims who have: disabilities; complex needs; diverse ethnic backgrounds; NRPF. Key groups we know that have no refuge space available are male victims (with or without children); women with male children over 16 years; women with larger families.
  - Not in service – older adults, different ethnic groups, LGBTQ+, male victims<sup>22</sup>, victims with a disability.
2. Identify need and best practice for those aged 14–18-year-olds who have experienced domestic abuse.
3. Insight into the needs of private owners and private tenants will be gained as part of the refresh of the 2022/23 need assessment and strategy. This will include economic abuse risk (including that committed post-separation).
4. Reduction in the number of people wrongly defined and managed within anti-social behaviour (instead of DA)
5. Reduction in the number people made homeless because of DA (measure of existing or future policies on homelessness reduction, and the provision of accommodation being inclusive of DA victims).
6. Increase in the number of referrals from HCC Adults Health and Care services, Health, Probation, Police, The Hampton Trust, and Up2U, community-based settings (e.g. providers of the night-time economy and Safe at Home) to appropriate safe accommodation services.
7. The priority Whole Housing Approach components are established:  
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 a specific family make up (large families, adolescents); have

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<sup>22</sup> Making Invisible Men Visible. Mankind Initiative 2021. [Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards - \(mankind.org.uk\)](https://mankind.org.uk) Accessed 13/09/21

diverse ethnic backgrounds (including NRPF); older adults, have complex needs (e.g. substance misuse; mental health).

8. Robust survivors' (including children and young peoples') voice and perpetrators voice mechanisms are inclusive of those with social disparities and complex needs and those not engaged in services (as well as service users).

## 9. Funding

To deliver on Part 4 of the DA Act (2021), in April 2021, the DLUHC allocated £2,300,222 to Hampshire County Council and circa £30,000 to each Tier 2 Local Authority.

Criteria for approval of spend of the Hampshire County Council budget, before the safe accommodation needs assessment was completed, has been based on enabling continuity of previously funded DLUHC posts to the end of 2021/22 that would otherwise become unfunded during 2021/22 and where posts are not yet terminated.

As such, Hampshire County Council allocated Stop Domestic Abuse and You Trust part of this fund to ensure continuity of several prevention and support posts including but not limited to mental health, substance misuse, and No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

The allocation to Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Tier 2 LAs to deliver Part 4 of the DA Act (2021) does not allow for capital spending (i.e. the purchase of properties).

From 2022/23 the DLUHC have stated that:

*In the spirit of the New Burdens Doctrine, the new duty will be funded in future years. The amount of funding from April 2022 will be a matter for the next Spending Review.*

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Links to other strategies

#### National strategies

- The [Violence against Women and Girls Strategy](#) (July 2021)<sup>23</sup> and the forthcoming complementary national strategy on domestic abuse aim to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls, and improve the support and response for victims and survivors by increasing the number of perpetrators brought to justice and increasing appropriate, quality support for victims and survivors; preventing and identifying more of these crimes. As the Policing, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill progresses through Parliament, The DAC Office are strongly advocating that its proposed new Serious Violence Prevention Duty must include violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- The Victim's Bill<sup>24</sup> aims to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services for victims of sexual, violent and domestic abuse; and for connected purposes.
- The [Perpetrator Strategy](#)<sup>25</sup> will form part of the domestic abuse strategy that will go beyond the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act by improving the detecting, investigating and prosecuting offences involving domestic abuse.
- [The rough sleeping strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

#### Complementary local strategies

- [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2017-2022](#)
- [Hampshire Substance Misuse Strategy 2018-2023](#)
- [Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People in Hampshire 2019-2024](#)
- Tier 2 LA Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies

### Appendix 2: types of safe accommodation

Description of 'relevant accommodation,' also referred to as 'safe accommodation' throughout the [Statutory Guidance Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services \(October 2021\)](#), is specified by the Secretary of State in regulations as:

**A3.1** While we acknowledge the critical role of refuge in providing safety and support, particularly to those victims at high risk of serious harm, government recognises that victims may need to live in a variety of different forms of relevant safe accommodation.

**A3.2** Privately-owned and managed temporary accommodation<sup>[footnote 1]</sup> which is not separate or self-contained and with shared toilet, bathroom, or kitchen facilities (such as Bed and Breakfast accommodation) is not considered relevant safe accommodation, and is specifically excluded in the Regulations, so local authorities

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<sup>23</sup> [Tackling violence against women and girls strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Victims of Abuse \(Support\) Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Tackling perpetrators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

should not commission domestic abuse support for victims within these types of accommodation under these duties.

**A3.3** Commissioning authorities and local housing authorities should work together closely to ensure that duties owed to victims of domestic abuse under other Acts, such as temporary accommodation provided under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, continue to be met alongside this duty. It is possible for support under this (Part 4) duty to be provided in accommodation associated with another duty such as a Housing Act 1996 Part 7 duty, provided, such accommodation adheres to the description of relevant safe accommodation.

**A3.4** Description of 'relevant accommodation' (also referred to as 'safe accommodation' throughout this guidance) is specified by the Secretary of State in regulations as:

- **Refuge accommodation** – a refuge offers single gender or single sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. The address will not be publicly available. Victims, 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.
- **Specialist safe accommodation** – specialist safe accommodation offering single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share protected characteristic(s) and / or who share one or more vulnerabilities requiring additional support. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, and the address will not be publicly available. This includes 'By and For' services where victims are able to see themselves reflected in the staffing, management, and governance structures. By and For services are designed and led by those that share the same protected characteristic(s) as the victims they aim to serve. For example, a specialist domestic abuse organisation that is led by Black and minoritised women and children, for Black and minoritised women and children.
- **Dispersed accommodation:**
  - i. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces, and/or where peer support from other residents may not be appropriate, due to complex support needs, or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a women only refuge, for example. 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.
  - ii. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for victims who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge, but are still at risk of abuse from their perpetrator/s<sup>[footnote 2]</sup>. 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** properties with local authority or private registered providers of social housing installed Sanctuary Schemes<sup>[footnote 3]</sup> 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. The [Whole Housing Approach Toolkit on Sanctuary Schemes](#) provides further information.

- **Second stage accommodation** - accommodation temporarily provided to victims, including their children, who are moving on from other forms of relevant accommodation and/or who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and settled accommodation. Where second stage accommodation is in shared housing it should be single gender or single sex. There is no expectation that every victim will require this. Many victims are ready to move straight to a settled new home from refuge. However, second stage accommodation (sometimes known as ‘move-on’) may be helpful in some cases.
- **Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation** – a safe place (single gendered or single sex, secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) with domestic abuse support tied to the accommodation to enable victims to make informed decisions when leaving a perpetrator and seeking safe accommodation. For example, short term (e.g. 2-3 weeks) accommodation providing victims with the space and safety to consider and make informed decisions about the options available to them.

**A3.5** Some domestic abuse safe accommodation services may fall under more than one of the above descriptions.

**A3.6** Local Authorities must carry out their duties relating to the provision of accommodation-based support by providing support within such accommodation in line with the above descriptions in the Regulations

**A3.7** All support provided under the duties must be provided to victims of domestic abuse, including children, who reside in relevant safe accommodation as set out above and such support should meet the DLUHC Quality Standards, e.g. [Women’s Aid National Quality Standards](#), [Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards](#), [Male Domestic Abuse Network Service Standards](#) and / or [DAHA Accreditation Framework for Housing Providers](#).



### Appendix 3: Whole Housing Approach (WHA) proposed by the DAHA Alliance and supported by the DLUHC

<p><b>Its mission is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve access to safe and stable housing across all housing tenure types (social, private rented and private ownership). It considers the need for move-on options from refuges, supported accommodation and any other type of temporary accommodation.</li> <li>○ Ensure access to a range of housing options and initiatives tailored for domestic abuse to give choice for people experiencing domestic abuse to relocate or remain in their existing accommodation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Its key aims are to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create earlier identification and intervention for domestic abuse through mobilising social and private landlords and key institutions involved in private ownership.</li> <li>● Reduce the number of people who are made homeless because of domestic abuse.</li> <li>● Increase tenancy sustainment options so that people experiencing domestic abuse can remain safely in their home when it is their choice to do so or do not lose their tenancy status if they relocate. This includes social housing landlords taking action to remove perpetrators from properties through enforcement and positive engagement activities.</li> </ul>
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Specifically the WHA is implemented by:

- Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation of Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams and Registered Providers of social housing. It is recognised that the WHA model requires a phased implementation and depends on resource availability. A package of support is required to embed this approach and support Tier 2 Local Authority Housing Teams and Registered Providers.
- Providing a range of safe accommodation options that are alternatives to refuge provision e.g. **Housing First model, dispersed accommodation units, specialist refuge.**
- **Co-located Housing Advocacy service** to support LA housing services; enable specialist DA providers to work directly with housing teams to improve pathways to DA support.
- **Flexible Funding** to support the work of the specialist DA providers/other partners (a designated funding pot that domestic abuse support workers can access quickly and easily to enable victims/survivors to achieve safe and stable housing). The Flexible Funding pot aims to redress the economic injustices and inequalities that many victim/survivors face.
- Researching and developing a managed **reciprocal moves** scheme to support the preventative and early intervention approach to managing safe accommodation. A managed housing reciprocal scheme enables individuals and families who are at risk of domestic abuse or violence and who have a social tenancy, to move to a safe area whilst retaining their tenancy. It is a formal collaboration between social housing providers that is coordinated by an independent agency.
- Building on the delivery of a **sanctuary scheme** e.g. Target Hardening / sanctuary support so that it is informed by the WHA guidance and DAHA standards and is more intrinsically linked to other interventions e.g. perpetrator management, homelessness discharge of duty (social or private sector), and any managed social housing moves.
- Reviewing **move-on provision and pathways** for victims leaving safe accommodation provision.
- **Managing perpetrators** through appropriate use of:

- Positive engagement e.g. referral to MARAC or Hampton Trust, rehousing the perpetrator when victim chooses to remain in their property.
- Enforcement activities e.g. Part 1 Injunction, Domestic Abuse Protection Notice/Order (DAPN/DAPO)<sup>26</sup>; Mandatory Ground for and Discretionary Grounds/Ground 14a for Possession; Non-Molestation Order; potential of perpetration of abuse being included in tenancy agreements as a breach of tenancy so perpetrators can be held accountable and potentially evicted as part of a multi-agency response (with the police force and other services); undertake risk assessment (ideally alongside a DA specialist service) to ensure any anti-social behaviour (ASB) action taken does not criminalise DA victims.

#### **Appendix 4: Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is made up of key partners including:

- Armed Forces
- Community Safety Partnerships – representation on behalf of all the districts and boroughs
- Crimestoppers
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Domestic Abuse Service Providers (both commissioned and non-commissioned)
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Hampshire County Council
- Adults Health and Care
- Children’s Services
- Public Health
- Youth Offending Team
- Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Hampshire Safeguarding Adults’ Board – HSAB
- Hampshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership – HSCP
- Health - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) representation on behalf of the wider health system and DA Health Steering Group
- Housing – representation on behalf of all the districts and boroughs
- Housing – representation on behalf of housing associations
- Local Criminal Justice Board
- Police and Crime Commissioner’s office (PCC)
- National Probation Service
- Service user representation
- Victim Support
- Voluntary sector representative
- Isle of Wight Council
- Portsmouth City Council
- Southampton City Council

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<sup>26</sup> Formerly known as a DVPN/DVPO. Under the DA Act 2021 a DAPO is recognised in both criminal and civil courts. DAPNs and DAPOs can be used to protect victims from all forms of domestic abuse, including non-physical abuse and controlling or coercive behaviour. [Domestic Abuse Protection Notices / Orders factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91241/dapn_dafo_factsheet.pdf) Accessed 01/09/21.

The Board will:

- Oversee the ongoing delivery of the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan, including providing expert advice and data to support the developments and updates to meet identified needs.
- Support partners to effectively engage with domestic abuse victims, perpetrators, children/young people, and expert services in understanding the range and complexity of needs.
- Provide advice and data to support Hampshire County Council in their statutory duty to undertake a robust local needs assessment to identify and understand the needs of domestic abuse victims within their area (including those that present from out of area).
- Support commissioners to make commissioning and decommissioning decisions (where appropriate). This can include when and how commissioning is undertaken to ensure the best and most appropriate services are made available.
- Explore the scope for joint commissioning and collaborative working across the wider Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIPS) county areas.
- Advise and support in dealing with issues raised and identified from engagement through formal and informal routes.
- Escalate issues to the relevant representative / body.
- Address the recommendations and learning from national and local reviews, research, and developments, including Domestic Homicide Reviews, Serious Case Reviews, and all other relevant reviews/inspections.
- Members will support and ensure joined up working across the whole domestic abuse system, including (but not limited to) other related areas such as housing, health, early years and childhood support, social services and police and crime services.
- Where Board members represent a wider network, members have a responsibility to represent all areas and views from their network and report back to their networks, ensuring that all relevant information is shared.