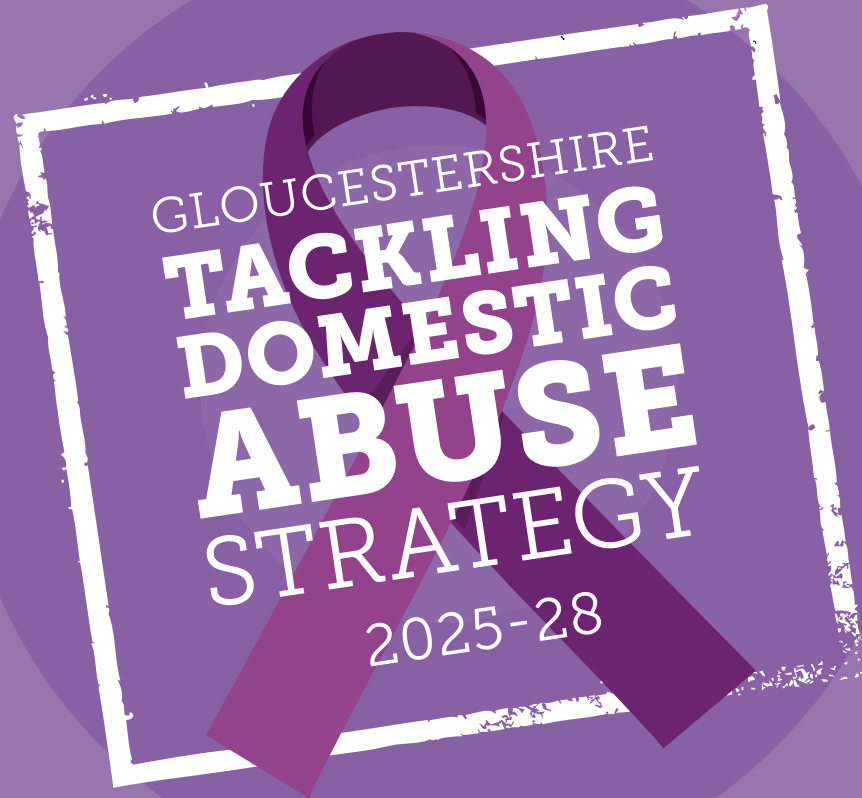


2025-28



Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL



# PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS





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

Any terms highlighted in blue are defined in the glossary – see Annex 3.

# 01

## FOREWORD

**Over 2.1 million people a year in England and Wales experience domestic abuse<sup>1</sup>.** It can impact individuals regardless of their gender, ethnicity, age, sexuality, **socio-economic background** and religion and can result in a range of negative and harmful effects on health, wellbeing and outcomes in life. Domestic abuse affects the whole family, and prevention and responses must recognise the immediate impacts which domestic abuse may have on an individual or family, as well as its long-term consequences.

In addition to the personal effects, domestic abuse is estimated to cost society in England and Wales £66 billion annually, with considerable costs to the economy, health services, criminal justice responses and most significantly the human cost, with physical and emotional harms incurred by victims estimated to cost £47 billion annually<sup>2</sup>.

In Gloucestershire, many different services, both **statutory** and **voluntary**, work to support families and individuals affected by domestic abuse. These services engage with the complex and often chronic nature of domestic abuse and collaborate to challenge it. The **Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board** (DA LPB) looks to strengthen and coordinate our responses across all services in the county. We work strongly as a partnership to ensure that those at **risk** of, or experiencing, domestic abuse in Gloucestershire have the support and service provision that they need.

No person should experience domestic abuse, and through this strategy and its clear commitments, we will work together to prevent abuse from happening. Aiming to strengthen our service provision, learning from latest research and understanding what works best enables us to continually improve our effectiveness in tackling domestic abuse across the county. Most importantly, we will listen to those with **lived experience** to help shape our local approach.

This strategy builds on the achievements from the previous 2021-2024 strategy that has seen:

- + The development of a consultation network to embed survivor voice into the work of the partnership
- + The ongoing commissioning and development of specialist services to support victims and their children, including a focus on the statutory duty to provide support within safe accommodation
- + The ongoing development of and investment in interventions that tackle perpetrator behaviour
- + The continued approach to assessing local data and need to ensure a focus on addressing gaps in provision and approach
- + The development of awareness raising approaches to encourage understanding and reporting, as well as challenging societal attitudes



- + The development of local policy, research into best practice, and training roll out across the county

We recognise that a collaborative approach to developing and delivering our priorities is fundamental to preventing and responding to domestic abuse in the most effective way. Successful delivery will require strong leadership, commitment and engagement from partner organisations. By working collaboratively, we can come together to end any acceptance of domestic abuse and create lasting change that will make our community a safer place to live.

### SIOBHAN FARMER

CHAIR – GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### RUTH SAUNDERS

VICE CHAIR – GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL

<sup>1</sup> Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) year ending March 2023

<sup>2</sup> The economic and social costs of domestic abuse - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

# SUPPORTING STATEMENTS



**Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Fire:**

“Domestic abuse affects thousands of people in Gloucestershire every year, and whilst it mostly harms women and children, it can happen to anyone. The new Gloucestershire Tackling Domestic Abuse Strategy (2025–28) outlines our commitment to work together to protect people from harm, help survivors rebuild their lives, and hold to account those who abuse others. The strategy draws on national and local evidence and, most importantly, is informed by the experiences of victims and survivors. I believe that together with our partner organisations we can make Gloucestershire a safer place for everyone, and by delivering on the priorities outlined in this strategy we can achieve that”.



**Chris Nelson, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire:**

“Women and girls - and sometimes men - are disproportionately victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. This also includes stalking and harassment, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour based abuse, exploitation and abuse of women and girls in online spaces.

“Perpetrators have operated behind closed doors, confident they will evade detection, but I am determined that we continue our efforts to have a sustainable solution to prevent abuse from happening. To that end, I will continue to work with our experts in the county to identify areas where we can improve the response and ensure that those who are suffering have the support they need.

“This strategy recognises both the immediate impact and long-term consequences that domestic abuse may have on an individual or family. It also underpins my commitment to the Domestic Abuse Joint Justice Plan, fulfilling the pledges in my Police and Crime Prevention plan and will ensure a consistent approach to tackling this harmful crime”.

## SUPPORTING STATEMENTS



**Interim Chief Constable Maggie Blyth,  
Gloucestershire Constabulary:**

“Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), of which domestic abuse is a significant proportion, has reached epidemic levels in England and Wales, requiring a dedicated focus to tackle this issue across both policing and wider society. In 2024 I published the national threat assessment where policing estimated that 1 in 12 women will be victims of VAWG and 1 in 12 men in the population will be perpetrators. The solutions and prevention of domestic abuse will never be achieved by policing alone but remain a societal issue. However, tackling crimes like domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, rape and serious sexual offences for policing have remained my key focus since I became the NPCC1 lead for VAWG in 2021. I am pleased that in May 2025 the government announced the establishment of a new national centre for VAWG and Public Protection allowing policing to tackle these crimes in a coordinated and consistent manner across the UK, in the same way policing tackles terrorism and serious and organised crime.

Policing remains entirely supportive to the government pledge to half VAWG over the next decade through its Safer Streets mission.

“Domestic abuse accounts for one fifth of crime in most police forces and is the largest volume and high risk crime for Gloucestershire. As Chief Constable I remain committed to tackling the crimes associated with domestic abuse, alongside other leaders of statutory services, voluntary sector and wider communities across the county. I recognise that this issue cannot be tackled by policing alone, and am pleased to endorse this countywide partnership strategy.

“If we are to truly address domestic abuse and reduce its impact on victims and their children, we must ensure a clear partnership response from both our statutory and voluntary sector organisations. We must also ensure that the voice of those with lived experience is at the heart of our response, a key element of the Gloucestershire Tackling Domestic Abuse Strategy. Together we can turn the tables on the perpetrators, predominantly male, who cause harm to so many women and children in particular across our communities”.



**Sarah Truelove, NHS Gloucestershire ICB Chief Executive:**

“We know that domestic abuse has such a profound impact on victims’ lives, affecting both their physical and mental health, self-worth and wellbeing, financial position, work life, home life, and their integration into society. Working as part of a responsive and eager to listen partnership in Gloucestershire to develop this strategy has been vitally important and we

have endeavoured to make sure the voice of victims informs the work we do at every step. The strategy is so much more than just a document, it is our commitment to each and every victim that we will bring about change. Early intervention and prevention are key components of the work we have signed up to which we sincerely hope will make Gloucestershire a better place for the future.”

# INTRODUCTION

**The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 continues to prioritise a local focus on tackling domestic abuse, stalking, honour based abuse, forced marriage and child to parent abuse, building on the achievements of Gloucestershire's multi-agency response and strategic approach which has been in place since 2014.**

National prevalence data on domestic abuse remains high and Gloucestershire recognises the continued need to focus on underreported crimes, acknowledging the devastating impact they have on the individual, their family, community and wider society. There is a continued commitment to work together from statutory partners and the wider community and voluntary sector, which upholds the principles of a **coordinated community response** to tackling domestic abuse.

The development of this strategy reflects our local commitment to ensuring an ongoing, robust response to domestic abuse, and fulfils the statutory requirement set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021<sup>3</sup>. This statutory duty requires all local authorities to develop a strategy that outlines their local response to providing support within domestic abuse **safe accommodation**. The Gloucestershire DA LPB has requested that this strategy also considers a wider response to domestic abuse, ensuring the needs of all victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their families, both within safe accommodation and within the community, are considered.

The scope of this strategy will consider domestic abuse for victims aged 16 and over as well as children of any age who are considered as victims in their own right due to witnessing or experiencing the effects of domestic abuse<sup>3</sup>.

In recognition of the statutory definition of domestic abuse, and considering the strategic approach locally to addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), this strategy will also prioritise a focus on tackling:



## DOMESTIC ABUSE



+ STALKING (BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE CONTEXT OF DOMESTIC ABUSE)



+ HONOUR BASED ABUSE



+ FORCED MARRIAGE



+ CHILD TO PARENT ABUSE

In addition, this strategy recognises that our approach to tackling domestic abuse, and the above associated issues, needs to be aligned to the sexual violence agenda. As such, we will ensure a clear link is in place with the Sexual Violence Partnership Board, considering opportunities for joint working where necessary and providing a clear partnership approach to tackling Violence against Women and Girls in Gloucestershire.

<sup>3</sup> Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))

<sup>4</sup> <https://news.npcc.police.uk/resources/vteb9-ec4cx-7xgru-wufru-5vvo6>

<sup>5</sup> As defined by the Equalities Act

The tackling Violence against Women and Girls agenda more broadly aligns to Governments priorities of halving Violence against Women and Girls within the next decade, with at least 1 in every 12 women becoming a victim of Violence against Women and Girls per year.<sup>4</sup> This partnership approach therefore ensures we have local structures to address this Government priority, alongside our local approach of tackling domestic abuse in all its forms, regardless of gender.

Also, in recognition of the duty to collaborate within the Victim and Prisoners Act 2024, the approach of this strategy will also align with the county approach to tackling serious violence.

Locally we recognise the gendered nature of these crimes in line with the Government response to tackling Violence against Women and Girls. We do, however, ensure our local community based response to domestic abuse is accessible to all, regardless of gender and other **protected characteristics**<sup>5</sup>. In Gloucestershire, domestic support is provided in single gender domestic abuse accommodation in line with statutory guidance but there is a mix of provision in the county to ensure there is a safe accommodation offer available for all genders. In addition, the strategy and its implementation will remain responsive to national legislation, policy and statutory guidance, particularly in relation to the current Government's commitment to tackling Violence against Women and Girls.

# INTRODUCTION

The Gloucestershire DA LPB has collaboratively produced this strategy and its priorities, ensuring input from across the partnership and building on the previous strategy (2021-2024), local needs assessment as well as national strategy and legislation. In addition, the strategy has been informed by the voice of the victim/survivor and the wider community, ensuring our local responses place the victim at the centre of service delivery and that the ongoing work of the DA LPB keeps the victim/survivor voice at its core.

The Gloucestershire DA LPB was established in 2021 in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The DA LPB consists of three tiers: LPB Strategic Group, LPB Operational Group and the LPB Consultation Network that facilitates the collation of survivor voice. Each has

their own set of aims and objectives to drive forward Gloucestershire's approach to tackling domestic abuse. The role of the LPB is to oversee all activity in relation to the development, implementation and review of the domestic abuse strategy for Gloucestershire.

For governance purposes, this board reports into [Safer Gloucestershire](#) and also links to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Gloucestershire Adult Safeguarding Board and Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership. In addition, close links are in place with the Gloucestershire Sexual Violence Partnership and the county's approach to the Serious Violence Duty.

# 03

## GLoucestershire's VISION FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE



### OUR VISION

For Gloucestershire to be a county where there is zero tolerance towards domestic abuse, **where everybody can live free from abuse and harm**, with victims/survivors and their children having access to the right support at the right time.

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



### OUR AMBITION TO END DOMESTIC ABUSE

Long-term, our ambition is for Gloucestershire to be an area free from domestic abuse where adults and children are no longer at risk of harm. This strategy forms part of our overall progress in achieving this for the future.

### OUR PRINCIPLES

01



**WE WILL RESPOND** TO OUR LOCAL NEED BASED ON A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND LESSONS LEARNT FROM **DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS.**

02

**WE WILL ENSURE** THE VOICE OF THE VICTIM IS AT THE HEART OF OUR RESPONSE

03

**WE WILL WORK COLLABORATIVELY** TO PROMOTE A CONSISTENT RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE ACROSS OUR AGENCIES AND COMMUNITIES

# 04

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

01

PRIORITY 01  
**PREVENTION  
AND EARLY  
INTERVENTION**



02

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



03

PRIORITY 03  
**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



04

PRIORITY 04  
**HIGH QUALITY  
SERVICE  
PROVISION**



05

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



# OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES



## CROSS CUTTING OBJECTIVES

The work of the Gloucestershire DA LPB includes a number of objectives that link across all the priority areas of this strategy. These objectives set out how the partnership will implement the strategy and what activities will be considered across the breadth of the countywide response to tackling domestic abuse, stalking, honour based abuse, forced marriage and child to parent abuse.

## OBJECTIVE A:

To ensure all members<sup>6</sup> of the DA LPB develop plans to support the implementation of the strategy and respond effectively to areas of development identified in the needs assessment.

### KEY METRICS FOR CROSS CUTTING OBJECTIVES:

- + Number of engagements and population reach for social media campaign activity
- + Number of victims/survivors engaged with via the consultation network
- + Number of engagements with the new DA LPB website

## OUTCOMES:

- + Agencies, both individually and in partnership, have action plans that outline and complement the implementation of the strategy against key thematic areas.
- + Thematic working groups are in place that support partnership delivery of actions to implement the strategy.

<sup>6</sup> See annex 2



# 04



## OBJECTIVES: **B AND C**

### OBJECTIVE **B**:

To ensure the voice of the victim/survivor and community is prioritised in all areas of the strategy implementation, ensuring our responses are informed by those with lived experience.

### OUTCOMES:

- + An annual consultation plan that ensures victim/survivor voice is gathered at key points, such as the commissioning of services and planning for awareness raising activity, and consultation activity that supports each priority area of the strategy.
- + A consultation network that engages and reaches out into '**seldom heard**' **communities** and groups, supporting making connections between the community and support services.
- + Representation of victim/survivor voice at partnership board meetings and ensuring a feed into any partnership sub-groups.
- + A consultation network is continually developed that provides a broad platform to reach and engage victims/survivors, communities, professionals and perpetrators in capturing and understanding authentic voice and local need.
- + Ongoing engagement work is carried out to build relationships with services, communities and local people to ensure seldom heard groups are informed about and invited to contribute to the consultation work.

### OBJECTIVE **C**:

To develop an ongoing plan of communication and awareness activity that focuses on all areas of the strategy to enhance both professional and public knowledge.

### OUTCOMES:

- + A communications strategy that is rolled out across the partnership with an active communications sub-group to drive countywide activity that provides an agreed approach to awareness raising and the support available locally.
- + A rolling communications plan is in place that outlines annual awareness raising activity planned across the partnership.
- + A public facing website is developed that enables easy access to up to date information on support available locally.
- + A resource bank is developed that enables easy access to information and communication resources for partners to use when raising awareness to their key demographic groups.

## 04



## PRIORITY 1: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Responding to domestic abuse effectively is not just about focusing on high risk victims, but also recognising the need to take a **population-based approach**, understanding and addressing the underlying causes of domestic abuse and determining which factors may increase risk and how those might be mitigated. By tackling the underlying causes of the risk of domestic abuse, such as learned behaviour from growing up in a family where domestic abuse was accepted, we can help to lessen the impacts of abuse on the individual victim. This ensures that communities and society are strengthened to support people experiencing domestic abuse to be safe, well and resilient.

Alongside prevention, it is also critical that where abuse is already being experienced, professionals can intervene early to prevent an escalation in both risk and the impact domestic abuse can have.

### KEY METRICS FOR PRIORITY 1:

- + Number of students completing the pupil wellbeing survey and reporting an experience of unhealthy relationships and/or abuse within the home
- + Number of schools engaged with GHLL
- + Number of community engagement events attended by specialist services
- + Number of young people engaged with STREET
- + Number of young people and youth organisations engaged with during consultation activity



I WISH AS A TEEN I HAD **ACCESS TO HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP AWARENESS OR SERVICES**, I HAD NO IDEA ABOUT...

(Survivor consultation)



## 04



## PRIORITY 1: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

### OBJECTIVE 1A:

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

#### OUTCOMES:

- + A full domestic abuse **needs assessment** is undertaken every three years to define and monitor domestic abuse, honour based abuse, forced marriage and child to parent abuse.
- + A review of current services and approaches across the county is completed that supports prevention and acknowledges best practice responses nationally, considering all levels of prevention and opportunities to intervene as early as possible.
- + Clear, consistent local datasets are gathered from **commissioned services** on a regular basis to ensure local need is understood and local approaches are informed by robust data.
- + An improved understanding of honour based abuse and forced marriage in the county and plans to improve reporting and ensure appropriate supports are in place.
- + An agreed approach to child to parent abuse is in place, based on local research and any published Government guidance.

- + Strong links with the Gloucestershire Combatting Drugs Partnership are in place, with any local links between domestic abuse and substance misuse understood, and prevention opportunities considered.
- + Consideration around how the DA LPB can support wider work connected to online abuse and exploitation and a plan is in place to outline the agreed contribution.



I WAITED 11 YEARS TO **GET THE STRENGTH TO REPORT AND MADE TO FEEL OTHERS [WERE] WORSE OFF THAN ME**, I DON'T DISPUTE THAT BUT I ALSO NEED HELP

(Survivor Consultation)



## 04



## PRIORITY 1: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

### OBJECTIVE **1B**:

To ensure the continued provision of evidence based healthy relationships education and interventions that promote healthy relationship behaviours amongst young people.

### OUTCOMES:

- + Continued support of Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL)<sup>7</sup> to ensure schools are provided with support in their delivery of Relationships and Sex Health Education.
- + Ongoing exploration of the role commissioned specialist domestic abuse services can play in supporting schools in their delivery of Relationships and Sex Health Education.
- + Continued monitoring of national approaches to Relationships and Sex Health Education to ensure local implementation.
- + Continued use of the Pupil Wellbeing Survey<sup>8</sup> to assess local need amongst the student population.

- + Clear local approach to relationship abuse experienced by children and young people is in place, with a review of guidance and the role of STREET<sup>9</sup> (and/or any future commissioned service) within the approach completed, with clear consideration around awareness raising and the voice of young people in shaping the local approach.
- + Clear approach is in place between children's services and specialist domestic abuse providers to ensure a joined up approach to healthy relationships work is in place for children in care and care leavers, noting their unique experiences and how these may impact their understanding of healthy relationships.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ghll.org.uk/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/children-and-young-people/pupil-wellbeing-survey-formerly-online-pupil-survey/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://ygtglos.org.uk/street/>

“  
I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS  
GOING THROUGH DOMESTIC  
ABUSE FOR A LONG TIME  
(Victim Engagement Survey)  
”

# 04



## PRIORITY 1: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

### OBJECTIVE **1C**:

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

### OUTCOMES:

- + Specialist commissioned services have clear and robust plans to increase community engagement (including support to those from protected characteristic groups) to increase early intervention opportunities.
- + All members of the DA LPB promote **routine enquiry** and increase multi-agency referrals into specialist victim services.
- + All members of the DA LPB have a considered approach to **DA champions** within their services to support in awareness raising and advice in the workplace.
- + Projects looking at the county response to victims/survivors facing **multiple disadvantage** ensure prevention and early intervention are built into plans.



## PRIORITY 2: MULTI-AGENCY WORKING AND DOMESTIC ABUSE PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT



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

### KEY METRICS FOR PRIORITY 2:

- + Number of referrals into specialist services based on referring agency
- + Number of awareness sessions arranged by specialist services.
- + Number of referrals into multi-agency processes such as [MARAC](#).
- + Number of professionals engaged as part of services promotion activity



**LIAISING WITH OTHER  
AGENCIES** WORKING WITH [AN  
INDIVIDUAL] AND **ARRANGING  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM  
MEETINGS** IF REQUIRED

(Professional Consultation)



## 04



## PRIORITY 2: MULTI-AGENCY WORKING AND PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT



### OBJECTIVE 2A:

To further embed clear pathways to support to ensure a consistent approach to victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their families.

### OUTCOMES:

- + Options for joint working protocols and co-location of domestic abuse specialists in key agencies who respond regularly to domestic abuse are considered and embedded.
- + Members of the DA LPB have audit processes within their services to review their referral pathways and ensure clear awareness of process and procedure amongst staff.
- + Options to increase capacity across the partnership for multi-agency processes such as **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)/Stalking Clinic/ Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAAC)** meetings<sup>10</sup> have been considered and a clear plan to address issues is in place.

- + An awareness plan is in place to promote awareness raising of the local stalking service
- + Awareness plans are in place following the recommissioning of specialist domestic abuse services in 2025 and 2026.
- + Commissioned specialist services run regular service awareness sessions to improve local knowledge of service provision amongst professionals and awareness of referral routes.
- + Robust links are in place between the DA LPB and Suicide Prevention Partnership<sup>11</sup>, with mechanisms in place that ensure a joined up approach to recognising suicide risk in domestic abuse and plans to support awareness raising and support.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/police-forces/gloucestershire-constabulary/areas/gloucestershire/about-us/about-us/commitment-to-being-an-anti-discriminatory-organisation/our-approach-to-violence-and-intimidation-against-women-and-girls/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/our-work-with-partners/gloucestershire-suicide-prevention-partnership/>





## PRIORITY 2: MULTI-AGENCY WORKING AND PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT



### OBJECTIVE 2B:

To ensure a local approach to the domestic abuse joint justice plan<sup>12</sup> to improve multi-agency working between police and Crown Prosecution Service.

### OUTCOMES:

- + Completed local self-assessment for the domestic abuse joint justice plan.
- + A local action plan is in place that fulfils requirements of the domestic abuse joint justice plan.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Domestic-Abuse-Joint-Justice-Plan-NPCC-and-CPS.pdf>



WE DEAL WITH A RANGE OF INCIDENTS ON A DAILY BASIS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH TRAINING WE RECEIVE, **WE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO BE EXPERTS IN DOMESTIC ABUSE MATTERS ALONGSIDE EVERYTHING ELSE** WE DO [CASE FOR MULTI-AGENCY WORKING].

(Professional Consultation)



## 04



## PRIORITY 3: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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

### KEY METRICS FOR PRIORITY 3:

- + Number of training sessions provided
- + Number of professionals trained
- + Positive feedback rates from training delivered
- + Number of agencies who develop a workplace policy and pledge to support their staff
- + Number of businesses engaged
- + Number of engagements with the new DA LPB website



**PROFESSIONALS NEED TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNISE THE SIGNS. MY EX WOULD OPENLY ABUSE ME IN FRONT OF PROFESSIONALS AND NOBODY TRIED TO ASSIST OR INTERVENE.**

(Survivor Consultation)



# 04



## PRIORITY 3: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### OBJECTIVE 3A:

To ensure professionals across all agencies have access to a range of training appropriate to their role, including specialist training where possible, that enables them to feel confident and competent in their response to domestic abuse, stalking, honour based abuse, forced marriage and child to parent abuse.

#### OUTCOMES:

- + Investment in the revised county training pathway is secured to ensure opportunities for multi-agency training are realised and ensure an increase in skills connected to risk assessment and safeguarding.
- + Roll out of training pathway and processes for regular evaluation are in place with ongoing development of training that is responsive to local need.
- + Learning from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews is regularly cascaded across the partnership.
- + **DA Matters<sup>13</sup> training** and the champions' network across Gloucestershire Constabulary is fully embedded into police training practices.
- + Professionals are able to recognise domestic abuse and how it may present across a range of protected and intersectional characteristics, for example, people with physical and learning disabilities, people who are LGBTQ+ and people from minoritised backgrounds.
- + Member agencies of the DA LPB have assessed the level of training required for their staff and embedded appropriate roll out of training based on need.



### OBJECTIVE 3B:

To ensure workplaces and businesses across the county take a proactive approach to addressing domestic abuse and stalking that impacts their employees, ensuring clear policies and procedures are in place.

#### OUTCOMES:

- + An engagement plan with local employers is in place that encourages the development of policies and procedures that support the response to staff who may be victims of abuse, and to ensure an awareness of the pathways to support in the county.
- + Members of the DA LPB demonstrate a clear commitment as to how they will support staff from within their own organisations, with consideration given to the adoption of a formal pledge that outlines the organisational response to internal victims of abuse.



WHEN YOU HAVE SIGNIFICANT INJURIES **YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ALWAYS MAKE DECISIONS** AND [STAFF] NEED TO TAKE SOME INITIATIVE IN STARTING CONVERSATIONS...

(Survivor Consultation)



<sup>13</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/our-training-services/about-training-with-safelives/training-for-police/>



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



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

This objective not only provides a focus on commissioned specialist services but aims to ensure that all statutory and voluntary sector organisations who are members of the DA LPB provide a high quality service in response to domestic abuse, stalking, honour based abuse, forced marriage and child to parent abuse.

Any services commissioned to deliver support within safe accommodation as part of the county council's statutory duties under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are required to meet one of the quality standards set out in

the statutory guidance Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services.<sup>14</sup> The county council annually reviews the compliance of these providers to ensure they meet the required standards.

### KEY METRICS FOR PRIORITY 4:

- + Investment made in specialist services
- + Number of people supported through safe accommodation and community services
- + Positive outcome rates from specialist services
- + Number of children identified as victims of domestic abuse via **Operation Encompass**
- + Number of agency delivery plans developed to improve their service offer
- + Number of agencies who have developed/refreshed their organisations policy for responding effectively to domestic abuse
- + Positive feedback rates on police **Rapid Video Response** model
- + Police response times to reported incidents of domestic abuse



THERE'S A **HUGE GAP IN SERVICES FOR CHILDREN** WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC ABUSE

(Professional consultation)



<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services#annex-b-mhclg-quality-standards>

## 04



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

## OBJECTIVE 4A:

To ensure the ongoing collaboration between local authorities to effectively fulfil the statutory duty of providing support within domestic abuse safe accommodation and to work effectively across the Gloucestershire multi-agency housing response to improve outcomes for domestic abuse victims/survivors and their children.



**'THE LIFELONG IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE ARE SOMETIMES FORGOTTEN.'**

(Survivor Consultation)



## OUTCOMES:

- + Partnership investment is made available to increase the provision of high quality domestic abuse safe accommodation across all tenures, that is accessible to all, including protected characteristic groups and consideration of **'by and for'** approaches.
- + Domestic abuse funding from Government is used to ensure specialist domestic abuse support is available for victims/survivors and their children accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation.
- + Further opportunities are considered to support the collaboration between local authority housing teams and housing providers within the county.
- + Further development of the **Domestic Abuse Housing Champions Network** to facilitate peer support, and shared learning.
- + Consideration to support the local implementation of national best practices approaches to domestic abuse safe accommodation, e.g. **Whole Housing Approach, Domestic Abuse Housing Association accreditation.**
- + Options for support in domestic abuse safe accommodation for those with **no recourse to public funds** are considered, researched and commissioning possibilities explored.
- + Further links with **Registered Housing Providers** are developed enabling specialist support and safeguarding to victims of domestic abuse and their children within social housing.
- + Current service provision is reviewed against the Supreme Court ruling on the meaning of "man", "woman", and "sex" in the Equality Act 2010, to ensure that the needs of all victims and perpetrators can be met by local service provision.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10259/social-housing>



## 04



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



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

(Victim Engagement Survey)



### OBJECTIVE 4B:

To ensure the ongoing development and delivery of high quality domestic abuse specialist community based support for all victims/survivors and their families that ensures the availability of the right support at the right time (including the provision of specialist support for stalking, honour based abuse, forced marriage and child to parent abuse).

### OUTCOMES:

- + A collaborative commissioning approach is in place that supports the requirements of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024.
- + A local plan is in place that considers the support needs of victims/survivors with no recourse to public funds.
- + A shared plan is in place amongst commissioned victims' services that considers their approach to **intersectionality**, ensuring engagement across all protected characteristic groups.
- + A review of the council's trauma recovery pilots delivering therapeutic support to adults and children accessing safe accommodation is completed. Options for broadening the service offer to all victims/survivors accessing community based support is included in the review.
- + Ongoing review of local 'by and for' services by domestic abuse services commissioners and considerations are given to the potential for domestic abuse support that engages with the 'by and for' sector.
- + An agreed approach for responding to child to parent abuse in Gloucestershire, including strategic ownership for activity, is in place.
- + Current service provision is reviewed, alongside both local and national funding options, considering longer-term support provision and increasing service continuity for victims/survivors and their children who move through services.
- + Current service provision is reviewed against the Supreme Court ruling on the meaning of "man", "woman", and "sex" in the Equality Act 2010, to ensure that the needs of all victims and perpetrators can be met by local service provision.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10259/social-housing>



## 04



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

**OBJECTIVE 4C:**

To ensure the ongoing development and delivery of high quality domestic abuse specialist community based services that support children as victims in their own right.

**OUTCOMES:**

- + Mechanisms are in place that respond to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Needs Assessment 2023, exploring funding and commissioning opportunities.<sup>17</sup>
- + Oversight of the local approach to Operation Encompass is in place, working collaboratively with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership<sup>18</sup> (GSCP).

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/gaqdyp33/cyp-impacted-by-da-in-gloucestershire-2023-final.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/>



**I FEEL THAT OUR SUPPORT IN COUNTY IS POOR, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCESS AND THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE HURDLES TO JUMP TO GET THE RIGHT HELP AND SUPPORT AND THEN WHEN I HAVE FOUND IT **THE PROFESSIONAL IS LACKING THE CORRECT TRAINING TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY.****

(Survivor Consultation).



## 04



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

### OBJECTIVE 4D:

To ensure a continued focus on addressing domestic abuse and co-presenting multiple disadvantage, recognising the long term approach to tackling multiple disadvantage in Gloucestershire.

### OUTCOMES:

- + Research into the links between domestic abuse and suicide risk is completed and a local approach is developed to ensure appropriate responses across all agencies (considering the current approach to domestic abuse related death reviews).
- + Membership of the **Making Every Adult Matter Network**<sup>19</sup> is fully utilised, using their two year approach to enhance support for vulnerable adults.

<sup>19</sup> <https://meam.org.uk/the-meam-approach/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/>



### OBJECTIVE 4E:

To ensure all members of the DA LPB continue to develop their approach to victims/survivors and their families, building on best practice and areas for local development identified through the needs assessment and victim/survivor voice input.

### OUTCOMES:

- + **Community Safety Partnerships** have a plan in place that considers the needs of each local community and supports the implementation of the strategy from a place based perspective.
- + Members of the DA LPB have in place agency improvement plans that focus on ensuring high quality support and services are provided across the system.
- + Local approaches to address **societal inequality** are explored and a plan is in place that details how the DA LPB can contribute.
- + Increased links with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board<sup>20</sup> are in place that explore the concerns relating to older victims of abuse and how to respond effectively.

## 04



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

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



OTHER THAN DIRECTING TO SUPPORT TO COMBAT DRUG/ ALCOHOL ABUSE AND SIMILAR; **THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE CONSIDERATION OF PERPETRATORS - OTHER THAN SEEKING PROSECUTION.**

(Professionals Consultation)

”

### OBJECTIVE 5A:

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

### KEY METRICS FOR PRIORITY 5:

- + Number of referrals into Positive Relationships Gloucestershire (PRG)
- + Number of positive completions of the PRG programme
- + Investment made into perpetrator interventions
- + Number of arrests/charges/preventative orders applied for
- + Number of young people supported through STREET in relation to harmful behaviours

### OUTCOMES:

- + Continued partnership investment is made available to provide specialist community based perpetrator services (currently Positive Relationships Gloucestershire (PRG)<sup>21</sup>), reflecting demand and ensuring accessibility across communities.
- + Opportunities to access local and national funding are sought to increase perpetrator interventions and explore options to pilot new interventions such as those for stalking, child to parent abuse and high risk behaviour change.
- + Regular evaluation processes are in place that ensure positive outcomes from perpetrator interventions and that practice is continually developed in line with lessons learnt and national best practice.



<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fearfree.org.uk/refer/gloucestershire/>

## 04



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

OBJECTIVE **5B:**

To ensure a multi-agency, joined up approach to addressing perpetrator behaviour that enables all agencies to identify and respond appropriately to perpetrator behaviour, including a robust criminal justice response.

**OUTCOMES:**

- + Multi-agency plans are in place that ensure professionals are skilled in identifying perpetrator behaviour, conducting routine enquiry and making onwards referrals into local and/or national interventions.
- + Ongoing development and roll out of the MATAC process is in place to tackle the highest risk domestic abuse offenders in the county.
- + Continued focus on a proactive approach to policing to increase arrest rates and opportunities for criminal justice interventions.
- + Funding opportunities have been explored to provide **out of court disposal specialist interventions** for domestic abuse offenders where appropriate and informed by the risk posed.
- + Long term action plans are in place around multi-agency approaches to addressing perpetrators with multiple disadvantage.

“

**... HAVE DONE TRAINING ON THIS BUT I DON'T FEEL IT WAS ANYWHERE NEAR IN DEPTH ENOUGH TO BE EFFECTIVE OR SAFE... [PERPETRATORS] WOULD NEED TO BE ABLE TO RE-EVALUATE EVERYTHING THEY KNOW ABOUT INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER PEOPLE AND TO WANT TO CHANGE... MY EXPERIENCE IS THAT THEY REPEAT, AND USUALLY WORSE WITH THE NEXT PARTNER.**

(Professionals Consultation).

”

# SUPPORT IN SAFE ACCOMMODATION

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the county council as a **tier 1 local authority** has a statutory duty to provide support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing within 'domestic abuse safe accommodation'. Safe accommodation includes<sup>22</sup>.

## + REFUGE ACCOMMODATION

+ **SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION** (INCLUDING DEDICATED SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS A DISABILITY)

+ **DISPERSED ACCOMMODATION** WHICH INCLUDES SELF-CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION

+ **SANCTUARY SCHEMES** (WHICH PROVIDE ENHANCED PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES TO A HOME OR THE PERIMETER OF THE HOME)

+ **SECOND STAGE (OR 'MOVE-ON') ACCOMMODATION** (TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION WHEN INTENSIVE SUPPORT IS NO LONGER NEEDED BUT A LEVEL OF SUPPORT IS STILL BENEFICIAL)

To support the delivery of the local authority statutory duties in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the county council receives funding (previously from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) as a grant, and from 2025/26 this is included in the Local Authority Settlement). Some of this funding is passed to the

**tier two local authorities** (the six district councils) as they hold the housing function and are better placed to commission some of the support in safe accommodation. The county council also works with its local partners to consider and prioritise the funding allocated to address the support needs of domestic abuse victims and their children in safe accommodation.

The following activity commenced during the previous strategy, and these will continue and develop, where appropriate, under the new strategy to provide support as part of the response for victims/survivors:

+ The ongoing expansion of the **Places of Safety model**

+ **Support in Refuge accommodation** (Stroud Beresford Women's Refuge)

+ **Domestic abuse support in safe accommodation** through Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS)

+ **Domestic abuse training within the housing sector**

+ **Domestic Abuse Housing Champions Network**

+ **Strategic activities relating to meeting the council's statutory duties** e.g. development and refreshes/reviews of the needs assessment, strategy and delivery plan, and commissioning activity

+ **Operational activities relating to meeting the council's statutory duties** e.g. consultation work and project work to inform strategic decisions

+ **Pilot of a therapeutic support service** for adult victims/survivors of domestic abuse in safe accommodation (Healing and Empowerment)

+ **Pilot of a therapeutic support offer** for children and young people accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation

+ **Funding for a pilot of short stay supported accommodation** for those who have experienced domestic abuse and/or Violence Against Women and Girls and have experience of multiple disadvantage (Respite Rooms)







+ **Supporting district council Domestic Abuse Housing Association (DAHA) accreditation**

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

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services>

# HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

People who are homeless because of domestic abuse have an automatic priority need, so local authorities must arrange suitable accommodation for them in certain circumstances, such as while their case is being assessed. In Gloucestershire, this duty rests with the district councils, and each district has its own housing, homelessness and rough sleeping strategies where the accommodation needs of survivors of domestic abuse are considered through the implementation of appropriate solutions. These can be found as follows:

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



Click on the above titles to access the links

It should be noted that at the time of writing, government has published the English Devolution White Paper<sup>23</sup>, expecting two-tier areas to develop proposals for reorganisation to create unitary authorities. As such, the strategy will be updated to reflect any impact or change that may result.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper#executive-summary303iO4YRH00h6I5keqrQ%3D&reserved=0>

# 07

## DELIVERY PLAN

To accompany this strategy there will be a delivery plan that supports the implementation of our vision, priorities and objectives. The Gloucestershire DA LPB will be responsible for producing a dynamic and evolving delivery plan which will evidence our activity and progress in meeting our strategic objectives and the impact being made on the needs identified in the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024. The Gloucestershire DA LPB will be responsible for agreeing the prioritisation and setting of timescales for the activity within the delivery plan. The plan will be closely monitored through the LPB governance structure.

In addition, the DA LPB will consider appropriate metrics to monitor the impact of the strategy and the activities undertaken.

# 08

## DOMESTIC ABUSE **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The county domestic abuse needs assessment is completed every three years, with an annual refresh that focuses on the provision of domestic abuse safe accommodation, as part of the statutory duty set out within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The scope of the needs assessment in Gloucestershire was widened to not only cover domestic abuse beyond the provision of safe accommodation, but to also include stalking, honour based abuse, forced marriage and child to parent abuse.

The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024<sup>24</sup> reviews data for years 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/24. A range of agencies provided data to contribute the needs assessment.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/11qb4dl2/full-da-needs-assessment-2024-final.pdf>



## NATIONAL PREVALENCE DATA (CSEW: YEAR END MARCH 2020) ...

**4.4%**  
OF ADULTS AGED  
**16-74 EXPERIENCED  
DOMESTIC ABUSE IN  
THE LAST YEAR**

THIS  
EQUATES  
TO **2.1**  
MILLION PEOPLE

### DOMESTIC ABUSE IMPACTS AROUND



**6 IN 100 WOMEN**



**3 IN 100 MEN**  
EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE IN  
THE LAST YEAR

THERE ARE **APPROXIMATELY**

**2**  **DOMESTIC  
HOMICIDES  
PER WEEK**  
IN ENGLAND AND WALES

**4.4%**  **2.4%**   
OF WOMEN OF MEN  
WILL HAVE EXPERIENCED  
**STALKING** IN THE LAST YEAR

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE DATA ...

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

**19%**



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

**38%**



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

**25-34**  
YR OLDS

HIGHEST RATE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCALLY IS WITHIN THE **AGE GROUP 25-34**  
**31.4** DOMESTIC ABUSE CRIMES PER **1000** OF THE 25-34 POPULATION)

**DOMESTIC ABUSE RATE: 23/24**

**15.8** CRIMES PER **1,000** OF THE **POPULATION**

**71% 28%**

71% OF LOCAL DOMESTIC ABUSE **VICTIMS ARE FEMALE.**  
28% ARE **MALE**

**86% 13%**

86% OF DOMESTIC ABUSE **PERPETRATORS ARE MALE.**  
13% ARE **FEMALE**

**28%**



OF REFERRALS INTO **CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE** ARE DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED

**STALKING RATE:**

**3.39** CRIMES PER **1,000** OF THE **POPULATION** OF **GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**76%**



OF **STALKING VICTIMS** ARE **FEMALE** AND 30% **AGED 25-34**

**83%**



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

# 09

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE DATA...

### 46 REFERRALS

TO MARAC (HIGH RISK VICTIMS) PER

# 10,000

OF THE FEMALE POPULATION IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE, COMPARED WITH **48 REFERRALS NATIONALLY**



# 91

**DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS WHO APPROACHED THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REFUGE WERE UNABLE TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN 2023/24**



THE MOST **COMMON ISSUES** WITH ACCESS TO DOMESTIC ABUSE SAFE ACCOMMODATION IN THE COUNTY ARE RELATED TO:



**NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS**



EXPERIENCES OF **MULTIPLE DISADVANTAGE**



LACK OF **AVAILABLE SPACE**



LACK OF **MOVE ON ACCOMMODATION**



ACCOMMODATION THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF **PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC GROUPS**

FROM 1 APRIL 2021-31 MAR 2024:

# 80

DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS WERE **HOUSED IN PLACES OF SAFETY**

# 152

DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS **WERE NOT** ABLE TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN PLACES OF SAFETY AND OTHER OPTIONS HAD TO BE EXPLORED

FROM APRIL 2021-OCTOBER 2023:

# 113

**CHILDREN** ON AVERAGE PER MONTH WERE CONSIDERED IN MARACS AS CONNECTED TO VICTIMS OF HIGH RISK DOMESTIC ABUSE

IN **2023/24** GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE (GDASS) RECEIVED OVER

# 11,000 REFERRALS

# 19%

OF REFERRALS ARE FOR **HIGH RISK CASES**

IN **2023/24** POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS GLOUCESTERSHIRE (PRG) RECEIVED OVER

# 250 REFERRALS

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



IN **2023/24** OPERATION ENCOMPASS HAD A DROP FROM 2,399 IN 2021

# 1,974 REFERRED

CHILDREN REFERRED THROUGH OPERATION ENCOMPASS WERE **PRIMARILY AGED**

# 6 - 10 YEARS

# 10.1 | NEEDS ASSESSMENT: OVERARCHING AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT



**ONGOING IMPROVEMENT** OF POLICE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE



**CONSISTENT TRAINING** FOR ALL PROFESSIONALS



**AWARENESS RAISING** that improves knowledge and understanding but also challenges societal attitudes



CONSIDER THE **RESPONSE TO VICTIMS** of domestic abuse who present with experiences of multiple disadvantage



**DOMESTIC ABUSE** and wider deprivation and societal inequalities



**RESPONSE TO VICTIMS** from underrepresented and protected characteristic groups



**EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION** collection across all agencies

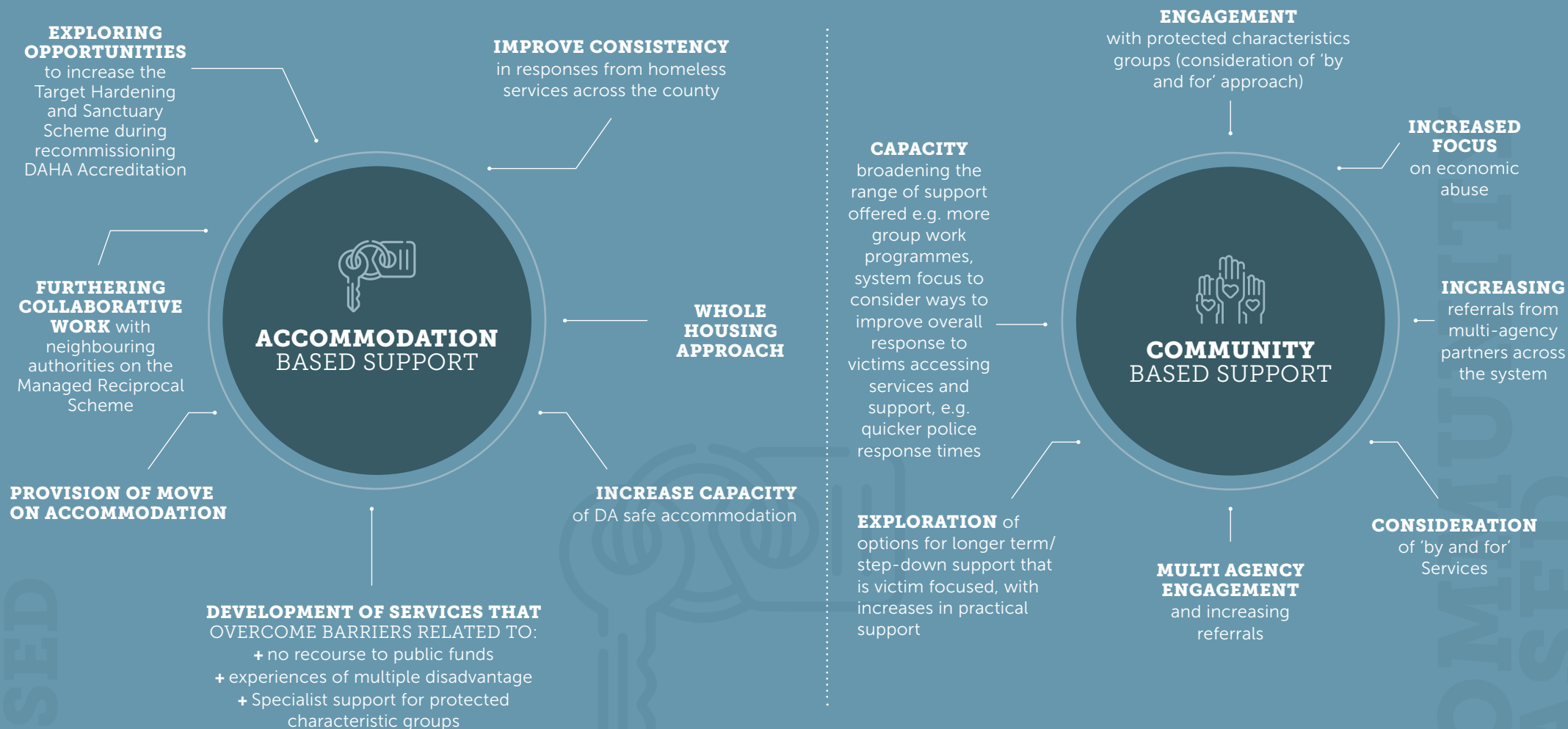


**PLACE BASED APPROACH** to addressing domestic abuse, recognising the diverse communities across the county



**DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SUICIDE RISK**

# 10.2 | NEEDS ASSESSMENT: THEMED AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT



# THEMED AREAS

## ONGOING AWARENESS

raising of available perpetrator interventions and how to identify perpetrator behaviour

## CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT

of PRG and ensuring accessibility of services

## PERPETRATORS



## ONGOING ROLL OUT

of the MATAC model (and future funding to support this)

## DEVELOPMENT

of an out of court disposal model

## INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS

of domestic abuse and impact on children and young people

## THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT

to children and young people witnessing domestic abuse at home

## TRAUMA INFORMED

child-led approach that provides holistic support to children

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



## DEVELOPMENT AND OVERSIGHT

of Operation Encompass

## TRAINING

for professionals on domestic abuse and the impact on children and young people

## INCREASE CAPACITY

for specialist domestic abuse support for children and young people, including considerations for broadening the scope when recommissioning the existing 13-19 offer (currently STREET), and exploring the needs of children witnessing domestic abuse in the home

## VULNERABLE ADULTS



## IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING

of links between domestic abuse and adult safeguarding

# THEMED AREAS

**DEVELOPMENT**  
of stalking  
perpetrator services

**CLEAR PATHWAYS**  
of support are in place



## STALKING

**INCREASED TRAINING**  
and awareness  
of stalking

**A NEED TO IMPROVE**  
local understanding



## HONOUR BASED ABUSE /FORCED MARRIAGE

**INCREASE COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**  
that aims to reduce stigma of reporting

**AGREE OWNERSHIP**  
of child to parent abuse  
agenda strategically



## CHILD TO PARENT ABUSE

**REVIEW LOCAL PROVISION**  
and consider options to address gaps

**CONSIDERATION**  
around full pathway for child  
to parent abuse including  
risk assessment, support  
services and training

# VOICE OF THE VICTIM/SURVIVOR

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

In order to support this, the Gloucestershire DA LPB has appointed a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Consultation Officer, whose role ensures the voice of victims/survivors is regularly represented at all partnership meetings and within individual projects. In addition, a consultation network has been built to engage across the whole of Gloucestershire's communities supporting this work.

As part of the 2024 needs assessment, a bespoke piece of consultation was conducted to inform the development of this Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2025-2028, ensuring it is informed not only by local need, but by what victims/survivors and the community tell us need to be the partnership's priorities over the next four years.

The results from this consultation supported the key findings from the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024, but also identified the following thematic areas:



## VICTIM/SURVIVOR FOCUSED SUPPORT

Support locally that is victim/survivor focused. Recognising the needs of individual victims/survivors and ensuring support is able to respond effectively to those needs. This included reflections on a need to secure longer term support, specific support to address economic abuse, personalised support packages and a need to ensure victims/survivors felt believed and listened to.

# VOICE OF THE VICTIM/SURVIVOR



## SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

Identified the demand on specialist services; the need for support to be tailored to the client's needs, consideration for the factors impacting engagement and ensuring specialist domestic abuse support is accessible. This included reflections on a need for therapeutic recovery support, services that are accessible to all protected characteristic groups, a need for more staff within commissioned services to support overall capacity and flexible approaches to engaging with victims/survivors.



## HOUSING

Identified the demand on housing services, the complex nature of domestic abuse and fleeing your home and the impact it can have on multiple areas of your life. The importance of the response and support available from housing services was apparent and housing services need to be fully supported to achieve this. This included reflections on the need to ensure there are more safe accommodation options, specialist support for those with specialist needs and consistent responses from homelessness teams.



## FAITH, RELIGION AND CULTURE

Importance of understanding domestic abuse within different cultures, faiths, and religions to improve awareness, identification, and response, to safely manage risk and ensure accessibility to services and support that are faith aware and culturally competent. This included reflections on the need to reduce the stigma of reporting, increase community engagement and ensure cultural education is in place.



## PROFESSIONAL RESPONSE

The merit of multi-agency working and the need for it when supporting the complexities of domestic abuse. Professional response can lead to identification, disclosure and/or engagement with support. This include reflections on a need for professionals to be well trained, conduct robust risk management, create safe environments for victims/survivors and provide consistent approaches.



## AWARENESS RAISING AND TRAINING

A need for improved knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse and the sources of support available to enable early identification and intervention, and therefore improve the response to domestic abuse. There was a call for learning opportunities to be easily accessible, consistent and offered widely across all districts, ages and sectors. This included reflections on the need to challenge societal views and improve knowledge and understanding of both professionals and the community.



## INCREASED SUPPORT FOR PERPETRATORS

A need for a robust offer of support for perpetrators that meets demand, meets the needs of perpetrators and carefully assesses risk. This included reflections on the need to increase accessibility of services, robust risk management and the need to increase provision that prevents escalation of abusive behaviours.

## THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE APPROACH TO **COMMISSIONING DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT**

There is strong partnership working and joint commissioning across the public sector organisations in the county and through the DA LPB. Gloucestershire County Council takes a partnership approach to commissioning domestic abuse support services, working with statutory partners: Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB), Gloucestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the district councils.

The current services (see below) will continue to provide specialist support to those affected by domestic abuse across the county.

We will continue to build on the strong partnership and joint commissioning already present across the county, and the recommissioning of specialist services will be based on local and national funding opportunities and via local governance arrangements.

## SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The below reflects commissioned services at the time of writing the strategy and may be subject to change throughout its lifetime.

### **GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE (GDASS)**

GDASS is a specialist countywide domestic abuse support service provided by GreenSquareAccord. It is commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council with additional investment from the OPCC and the ICB.

#### **The core service provides:**

- + Support to all victims of domestic abuse aged 16+, female, male and LGBTQ+ victims with staff specialisms identified covering all protected characteristic groups
- + Support across all risk levels:
  - o Helpdesk support
  - o Standard/Medium risk: Floating Support and Group Work for women and men

- o High Risk: Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs<sup>24</sup>), including IDVAs with specialist knowledge e.g. Health and Court IDVAs, or working in specific settings e.g. the criminal justice system.
- o Support service to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- o Support to victims accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation
- + Support to victims in the context of the whole family
- + Awareness raising and training for professionals in Gloucestershire
- + Community awareness raising and engagement
- + Information, tools, and resources accessible through a public facing website

<sup>24</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/about-domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-response-in-the-uk/>

### **PLACES OF SAFETY SCHEME**

Places of safety are commissioned by Gloucester City Council (as the host local authority for the Housing Partnership Team which acts on behalf of the district councils and the county council, the OPCC and the ICB) and delivered by GreenSquareAccord. The current contract includes an expansion of the capacity of Places of Safety from 12 to 24 units, with the potential scope to expand to 36 units during lifetime of the contract.

Places of Safety operates as a dispersed domestic abuse safe accommodation scheme and provides accessible, affordable and suitable self-contained individual properties for all victims of domestic abuse including single victims, family units, victims with disabilities and/ or additional support needs. This accommodation is temporary, and support is provided by Places of Safety to support victims in securing suitable move on accommodation

Domestic abuse support within Places of Safety is delivered as part of the GDASS contract.

## SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### TARGET HARDENING AND SANCTUARY SCHEME

The Maintaining Safety in the Home service (Target Hardening and Sanctuary Scheme) is commissioned by the district councils and the OPCC. The scheme is currently delivered countywide by Safe Partnership, it provides:

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

### STROUD BERESFORD WOMEN'S REFUGE

The women's refuge in Gloucestershire is provided by the Stroud Beresford Group, a charity that has been providing support in the county for over 40 years. The refuge is independently funded, with some regular support from the county council's domestic abuse grant funding towards the

cost of domestic abuse support within the refuge and support from the district councils.

The refuge provides support to women and their children, offering safe accommodation (nine bed spaces) alongside a range of services that help build skills, confidence and self-esteem.

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE HEALING AND EMPOWERMENT SERVICE

Trauma recovery pilot providing support to adult survivors of domestic abuse accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation using domestic abuse grant funding (for support in safe accommodation). The pilot will be used to evaluate the benefits and demand for trauma recovery support and to inform future consideration for wider provision of trauma recovery provision for all adult survivors.

### POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS GLOUCESTERSHIRE (PRG)

PRG is a specialist countywide service that provides a range of interventions to challenge beliefs and address the behaviours of domestic abuse perpetrators aged 18 years and above. The service is currently provided by FearFree, it is commissioned jointly by the county council, OPCC and ICB. The service provides:

- + A 25 week accredited domestic violence prevention programme. This is a behavioural change group programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- + 1:1 behavioural change work with any perpetrators of domestic abuse who are not eligible for domestic violence prevention programme group programme, including female perpetrators of domestic abuse, LGBTQ+ perpetrators, as well as male perpetrators who could not attend group work programmes, for example due to work commitments or learning difficulties etc.
- + Healthy relationships early interventions group work
- + Partner safety work to ensure victims remain safe as perpetrators attend the programme
- + Relapse prevention support for service users completing the domestic violence prevention programme.

## SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### SAFE TEENAGE RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT TEAM (STREET) GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A countywide service that provides a range of prevention activity, targeted support, group work programmes and support to safeguard young people aged 13-19. The service is currently provided by Victim Support, it is commissioned by the county council with additional funding from the OPCC.

The service provides:

- + Support to young people aged 13-19 affected by domestic abuse through:
  - o Experience of teenage relationship abuse
  - o Witnessing and affected by domestic abuse in the home
  - o Displaying harmful behaviours in their own relationships
- + Young Person's Violence Advisor (YPVA) support and 1:1 domestic abuse support
- + Group work programmes:
  - o Recovery Toolkit
  - o Dating Detox

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE STALKING ADVOCACY SERVICE (GSAS)

A countywide service that provides support to high risk victims of stalking across Gloucestershire, working in conjunction with GDASS, Victim Support and Gloucestershire Constabulary. The service is currently provided by FearFree, commissioned by the OPCC to provide support that includes provision for Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs).

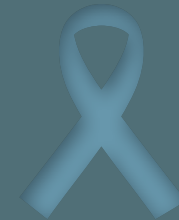
### NON-SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE PROVISION

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

# PLANNED REVIEW OF THE **DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY**

The Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy will be in place for years 2025-2028 in line with government requirements.

To support the continued delivery of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy, the local needs assessment will be completed in full every three years, with an annual review of local domestic abuse accommodation based support services in line with the statutory requirements as part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. In addition, the DA LPB will develop a rolling delivery plan to track partnership activity in response to the strategy and its outcomes.



# ANNEX 1:

## DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021

### STATUTORY DEFINITION

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021<sup>25</sup> provided a statutory definition of what amounts to “domestic abuse”, which is defined as:

Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—

- (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
- (b) the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) **economic abuse**;
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

The Act also defined how the two people can be “personally connected”, which is when any of the following apply:

- (a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
- (b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- (c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
- (f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, **a parental relationship** in relation to the same child;
- (g) they are relatives.

The Act also introduced children (those under 18 years) as victims of domestic abuse who:

- (a) sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and
- (b) is **related** to A or B.

### STATUTORY DUTIES

The Domestic Abuse Act also introduced a number of statutory duties placed on local authorities (in Gloucestershire this is currently the county council as the tier one authority, and the council receives funding to support these duties) to:

- + **Convene a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board** – to oversee the delivery of activities to meet the statutory duties under the Act.
- + **Complete a local needs assessment** – that specifically explores the level of local need for support services within safe accommodation.
- + **Develop a local domestic abuse strategy for the provision of such support** – that is informed by the needs assessment.
- + **Commission domestic abuse support services** – that utilises the needs assessment and strategy to support decision making around commissioning for victims and their children in domestic abuse safe accommodation.
- + **Monitor and report to government** – annually on investment and impact.

The Statutory guidance (Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services<sup>26</sup>) states that, as so far as is reasonably practicable, tier two authorities must comply with the request to cooperate with tier one authorities in exercising the tier one functions under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act. The statutory guidance also requires that where commissioning has been delegated by the tier one authority to the tier two authorities, adequate funding must be passed down to the tier two authorities.

<sup>25</sup> Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services>

# ANNEX 2: CORRECT AT THE TIME OF WRITING

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEMBERSHIP

### STRATEGIC GROUP

(Chaired by Director of Public Health, Gloucestershire County Council with vice chair Director of Communities, Gloucester City Council)

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

District Councils –

Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, including:

+ Community Safety Partnerships

+ Housing

Gloucestershire Constabulary

Gloucestershire County Council, including:

+ Adults Safeguarding

+ Adults Social Care

+ Children Safeguarding

+ Children’s Social Care

+ Children and Families Commissioning

+ Education

+ Public Health

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Gloucestershire Office for Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

National Probation Service (NPS)

### OPERATIONAL GROUP

(Chaired by Public Health Consultant - Domestic Abuse, Gloucestershire County Council)

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

District Councils –

Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council including:

+ Housing

Domestic abuse commissioned services:

+ GDASS

+ Healing and Empowerment

+ PRG

+ STREET

+ Stroud Refuge

Gloucestershire Constabulary

Gloucestershire County Council, including:

+ Adults Safeguarding

+ Adults Social Care

+ Children Safeguarding

+ Children’s Social Care

+ Children and Families Commissioning

+ Education

+ Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL)

+ Libraries

+ Public Health

+ Restorative Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Specialist/ other commissioned services:

+ Crimestoppers

+ Nelson Trust

+ Places of Safety

+ Via

+ Family Hubs

+ Victim Support Services

+ Stalking Service

Gloucestershire Office for Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

### CONSULTATION NETWORK

(Led by Consultation Officer Gloucestershire Office for Police and Crime Commissioner)

Victims and survivors of domestic abuse (including representation from protected characteristic groups)

Community Leaders

Housing providers

Health providers

Local authorities

Frontline professionals

Voluntary and Community Sector organisations/ groups

# 15 ANNEX 3:

## ACHIEVEMENTS FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2021-2024

The below provides a summary of some of the key achievements from the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024. It does not provide an exhaustive list of all activity, but demonstrates the range of activity undertaken to support the implementation of the strategy.

- + The consultation network was established in order to ensure the voices of those with lived experience of domestic abuse can be gathered and help influence the work of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. A range of bespoke pieces of consultation have been conducted to support development of new work streams within the partnership and to influence the commissioning of specialist services. This has included:
  - o Consultation on the needs of children as victims of domestic abuse.<sup>27</sup>
  - o Consultation to support the recommissioning of the Places of Safety service.
  - o Engagement with community groups to ensure representation across a range of groups in the county.
  - o Consultation to support the commissioning of a pilot therapeutic service for victims of domestic abuse.
- + Ongoing assessment of local need and research into best practice approaches that has supported the development of new work streams, including (non exhaustive list):
  - o Needs assessment on children and young people impacted by domestic abuse, developing recommendations for future service development accepted by lead commissioners.
  - o Annual assessment of need into safe accommodation access across Gloucestershire, supporting the development of intervention and commissioning of services.
  - o Evaluation and research into healthy relationships work in schools.
  - o Research into child to parent abuse with recommendations to drive activity in response.
- + Development of local policy and training roll out across the county including:
  - o Policy guidance for employers on how to support staff experiencing domestic abuse, stalking and sexual violence, including an employers' pledge within the constabulary to respond to police victims of domestic abuse.
  - o Training for frontline professionals on identifying and responding to domestic abuse, including how professionals should assess risk.
  - o Roll out of DA Matters training within Gloucestershire Constabulary and establishment of a champions network.
  - o Roll out of training into police perpetrated domestic abuse.
  - o Training into new criminal offences introduced as part of the DA Act 2021 and stalking.
  - o Rural domestic abuse champions network established in the rural districts of the county.
  - o New training for hairdressers ('Cut it Out') in identifying and responding to domestic abuse led by GDASS.
  - o Development of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Training Pathway.
- + Ongoing commissioning and development of specialist services to support victims and their children, including:
  - o Places of Safety scheme providing individual properties as safe accommodation to victims who need to flee their own home.
  - o Establishment of domestic abuse specialist embedded within mental health services, policing and housing.
  - o Investment in the county domestic abuse perpetrator programme.
  - o Establishment of a new pilot service to provide therapeutic support to victims of domestic abuse within safe accommodation.
  - o Investment in the Gloucestershire Stalking Advocacy Service.
  - o Investment in the MATAC process for identifying and responding to the highest risk offenders.
  - o Investment in local refuge service.
- + Ongoing ownership of Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, including joining the national Domestic Homicide Review Oversight Mechanism pilot run by the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office.
- + The development of a communication strategy and subgroup to lead on county awareness raising activity. Awareness campaigns have included a focus on stalking, understanding domestic abuse, supporting family and friends and raising the profile of local services.

<sup>27</sup> [cyp-impacted-by-da-in-gloucestershire-2023-final.pdf](#)



# 15

## ANNEX 4: DEFINITIONS

### A - C

**By and for** – services run by and for the communities they serve, such as for Black and minoritised women, deaf and disabled women and LGBT+ survivors.

**Child to parent abuse** - there is currently no agreed definition for the type of harm or abuse where children display harmful behaviours towards parents/caregivers. However, in recent a consultation (outcomes not yet published, [Defining child to parent abuse](#) - GOV.UK), government indicated that this would apply to those aged under 16 yrs.

**Commissioning services** – care, support etc, funded by a public authority, such as a local authority or the NHS, through a contractual arrangement with a provider.

**Community Safety Partnerships** - bring together local partners to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in their communities. [Find out more about the Gloucestershire CSPs here.](#)

**Coordinated community response** – a collaborative approach that brings together various agencies and organisations to address a specific issue, like domestic abuse, by working together to keep survivors safe, hold abusers accountable, and prevent further harm.

### D - E

**Domestic abuse champion** - someone who acts as a point of contact within their organisation, raising awareness, promoting domestic abuse related campaigns, and signposting to sources of support.

**DAHA accreditation** - the UK benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse in the UK. [Find out more here.](#)

### Domestic Abuse Housing Champions Network

– a forum that draws together Champions from across the housing sector in Gloucestershire and provides specialist and peer support to help embed best practice and culture change within teams and organisations.

### Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DA LPB)

– works to strengthen and coordinate responses to domestic abuse across all services in the county both for accommodation based, and community based support to victims. This includes working together to improve the outcomes for people in the county experiencing domestic abuse, holding individuals to account, and providing support to facilitate the development of healthy relationship behaviours.

**Domestic abuse related death reviews** – multi-agency reviews following the death of someone (including by suicide) that has occurred as a result of domestic abuse. Previously called Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

**Economic abuse** – means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on the victim’s ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services.

### F - H

**Forced marriage** – a form of domestic abuse where;

- + One or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage, and pressure or abuse is used to force them into the marriage.
- + When anything is done to make someone marry before they turn 18, even if there is no pressure or abuse.

**Honour based abuse** – a form of domestic abuse which is motivated by the abuser’s perception that a person has brought or may bring ‘dishonour’ or ‘shame’ to themselves, their family or the community.

Sometimes referred to as “so called” honour based abuse to reflect that the abuse is not honourable. Our local terminology will align with the expected government statutory definition.

### I - K

**Intersectionality** - the overlap of various social identities, such as disability, gender, race, sexuality etc. that may contribute to the systemic oppression or discrimination experienced by an individual.

### L - P

**Lived experience** - the knowledge, insight, and expertise gained from having directly experienced a particular situation, issue, or challenge, offering a unique perspective that can inform policies, research, and services.

**Making Every Adult Matter Network** – comprised of 50 areas across England working to improve services and systems for people experiencing multiple disadvantage and committed to sharing their learning along the way.

**Metric** – system of measuring progress of the activity under the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

### Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

– where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases, with the primary focus to safeguard the adult victim, and will also make links with others to safeguard children and manage the perpetrator’s behaviour.

### Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)

– identifies the most harmful and serial abusers of domestic abuse and provides multi-agency interventions to prevent re-offending.

# 15

## ANNEX 4: DEFINITIONS

**Multiple disadvantage** – commonly includes a combination of experiences of homelessness, substance misuse, domestic abuse, contact with the criminal justice system and mental ill health but may also include experience of other disadvantage such as sex working. [Further context can be found here.](#)

**Needs assessment** – identifies the health issues and needs of the population, and the resources needed to address them, using a variety of methods to inform public health planning and resource allocation.

No recourse to public funds (NRPF) – an immigration status which some migrants are subject to, and can cause barriers to victims of domestic abuse accessing support.

**No recourse to public funds (NRPF)** – an immigration status which some migrants are subject to, and can cause barriers to victims of domestic abuse accessing support.

**Operation Encompass** – the mechanism of informing schools of domestic abuse incident reported to police so schools can ensure support is in place for the child (ren).

**Out of court disposal specialist interventions** – a method of resolving an investigation when the offender is known and when that offender admits the offence. This can only be used in limited circumstances and it should reduce re-offending by enabling restorative and reparative justice.

**Population-based approach** – aims to improve the health and wellbeing of the entire population, rather than focusing solely on individual cases.

**Protected characteristics** – specific attributes, as defined by the Equality Act 2010, that the law protects against discrimination, including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation..

Q - T

**Rapid Video Response** – victim-focused approach to reports of domestic abuse which uses technology to allow a victim to speak to officers. [Read more about this new approach by the police in the county.](#)

**Registered Housing Providers** – also known as Registered Social Landlords or Housing Associations, and provide affordable homes.

**Related** – a child is related to a person if the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or the child and the person are relatives.

**Risk** – following the disclosure of domestic abuse, a victim's risk (either standard, medium and high) is assessed. The assessment is used to determine what support is appropriate for the victim based on their risk level, e.g., referral to MARAC, IDVA support, or types of support that might be required. In Gloucestershire, the [DASH \(Domestic Abuse, Stalking, and Honour-Based Violence\) risk assessment](#) is used.

**Routine enquiry** – frontline staff routinely ask all their service users, clients, customers etc. about their experiences of abuse, regardless of whether there are any signs or suspicions of abuse.

**Safe accommodation** –

- + Refuge accommodation.
- + Specialist accommodation (including dedicated specialist support for people with protected characteristics such as a disability).
- + Dispersed accommodation which includes self-contained accommodation.
- + Sanctuary Schemes (which provide enhanced physical security measures to a home or the perimeter of the home).
- + Second stage (or 'move-on') accommodation (temporary accommodation when intensive support is no longer needed but a level of support is still beneficial).

**Safer Gloucestershire** – countywide Community Safety Partnership.

**Seldom heard communities** – those who are often underrepresented or marginalised, making their voices and perspectives less likely to be heard by professionals and decision-makers.

**Societal inequalities** - the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and privileges among different individuals or groups within a society, leading to disparities.

**Socio-economic background** - combination of social and economic factors such as income, occupation, and social class, which can significantly influence their life chances and opportunities.

**Stalking** – A pattern of unwanted, fixated and obsessive behaviour which is intrusive and causes fear of violence or serious alarm or distress.

**Stalking Clinic** – police-led multi-agency meetings.

# 15

## ANNEX 4: DEFINITIONS

**Statutory services** - those that the government or the county council is legally required to provide.

**Tier one local authority** - parts of England have two tiers of local government. In these areas the tier one authority is the relevant county council.

**Tier two local authority** - parts of England have two tiers of local government. In these areas the tier two authority/authorities are the district, borough or city councils.

U - Z

**Voluntary services** – those provided freely and without expectation of payment, often by individuals or organisations, to benefit others or the community.

**Whole Housing Approach** - a framework for addressing the housing and safety needs of victim/survivors in a local area and brings together under one umbrella all the main housing tenure types alongside the housing options and support initiatives needed to help people experiencing domestic abuse to either maintain or access safe and stable housing. [Find out more here.](#)



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information about any aspect of this strategy please contact [publichealth@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:publichealth@gloucestershire.gov.uk)