

Strategy for the Provision of Support within Safe Accommodation 2021-2024

Isle of Wight Council

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Author:	Jamie Brenchley, Service Manager – Housing Needs and Homelessness. ICT, Resources ✉ jamie.brenchley@iow.gov.uk ☎ (01983) 821000 x6912
Sponsor:	TBC ✉ @iow.gov.uk ☎ (01983) 821000 x
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Strategy for the Provision of Support within Safe Accommodation 2021-2024

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Context

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('The Act')¹ introduces a broad range of new measures designed to strengthen the UK response to domestic abuse, including a new statutory definition of domestic abuse incorporating a range of behaviours not limited to physical violence.

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

- Assess the need for accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse (and their children) in their area.
- Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in their area, with regard to the needs assessment.

This is IWC's first strategy for the provision of support in safe accommodation. The Isle of Wight Council (IWC) has undertaken a needs assessment (Appendix 1) which includes a clear set of recommendations (Appendix 2) to inform this strategy which sets out how IWC, in partnership with members of the new board (To be established), will explore ways to improve the offer of support in safe accommodation - to meet identified need - over a three-year period, taking into consideration any available and approved expenditure of new burden funding.

Introduction

Domestic abuse (DA) is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence. Whilst both men and women experience domestic abuse, it disproportionately affects women, who are more likely to be repeat victims and to sustain long-term emotional damage from the abuse they experience. Furthermore, women experience a greater severity of abuse, are significantly more likely to fear injury or death, and substantially more likely to be killed in a domestic or family context²

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the Act) aims to transform the national response to DA by:

- preventing offending, protecting survivors and children, and ensuring they have access to support.
- placing a range of duties on statutory agencies, such as local authorities and criminal justice system agencies; and,
- requiring relevant local authorities to establish a DA multi-agency partnership board, carry out a safe accommodation needs assessment and publish a strategy for the provision of accommodation-based support in their areas by January 2022..

This duty under the Act is separate to local authority housing duties under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Act 2002. The Act does not place a requirement on authorities to provide domestic abuse victims with accommodation, but to assess the need for accommodation-based support and develop a strategy to meet that need. The duties

¹ [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

² Dobash & Dobash, 2004; Hester, 2013; Myhill, 2015; Myhill, 2017; ONS, 2020; Walby & Allen, 2004; Walby & Towers, 2017.

outlined in Part 4 apply to safe accommodation which is defined in statutory guidance³ accompanying the Act as:

- **Refuge accommodation** – a refuge offers single gender or single sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation.
- **Specialist safe accommodation** – specialist safe accommodation offering single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s) and / or who share one or more vulnerabilities requiring additional support. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing.
- **Dispersed accommodation:**
 - i. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces, and/or where peer support from other residents may not be appropriate, due to complex support needs, or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a woman only refuge, for example. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single gender or single sex.
 - ii. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for victims who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge, but are still at risk of abuse from their perpetrator/s: Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single gender or single sex.
- **Sanctuary Schemes** properties with local authority or private registered providers of social housing installed Sanctuary Schemes which provide enhanced physical security measures to a home or the perimeter of the home. A Sanctuary Scheme is a survivor centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation. The [Whole Housing Approach Toolkit on Sanctuary Schemes](#) provides further information.
- **Second stage accommodation** - accommodation temporarily provided to victims, including their children, who are moving on from other forms of relevant accommodation and/or who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and settled accommodation. Where second stage accommodation is in shared housing it should be single gender or single sex.
- **Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation** – a safe place (single gendered or single sex, secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) with domestic abuse support tied to the accommodation to enable victims to make informed decisions when leaving a perpetrator and seeking safe accommodation. For example, short term (e.g. 2-3 weeks) accommodation providing victims with the space and safety to consider and make informed decisions about the options available to them.

³ [Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612223/delivery_of_support_to_victims_of_domestic_abuse_in_domestic_abuse_safe_accommodation_services_-_gov.uk.pdf)

The IWC has been provided with funding for 2021/22 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to carry out its duties under the Act by commissioning services to meet the need for support in safe accommodation in its area. In the spirit of the New Burdens Doctrine, the new duty will be funded in future years. The amount of funding from April 2022 will be a matter for the next Spending Review.

Actions by IWC and its partners will enhance existing services, pathways and structures and improve the gathering of data and intelligence. There are opportunities to make links between Part 4 of the Act and other areas, especially those that relate to housing.

Vision

To ensure everyone on the island has the chance to live safely without fear of being harmed by domestic abuse.

National Context⁴

Domestic abuse is a unique crime type. Whilst it is common, it is often hidden and therefore difficult to quantify. However, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years had experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2020⁵ Over 40% of victims of partner abuse have at least one child under the age of 16 years old living in the household⁶, and [Childhood Local Data on Risks and Needs](#) estimated that 66 in 1,000 0-17 year olds lived in households where a parent is suffering domestic abuse in 2019.

The police recorded a total of 1,288,018 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police)⁷ in the year ending March 2020. This is an increase of 4% from the previous year. This follows a broader pattern of increases in police recorded domestic abuse and may reflect general improvements in crime recording by the police. This suggests that more victims are coming forward to report domestic abuse, and that there is greater police awareness of this crime. Excluding fraud, overall, 15% of all police recorded crime was identified as domestic abuse related in the last year.⁸

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of age, disability, gender identity, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. Domestic abuse can also manifest itself in specific ways within different communities.

The CSEW for the year ending March 2020 estimated that 1.6 million females and 757,000 males aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in that year. According to the CSEW for the year ending March 2020, around one in four women aged 16 to 74 (27.6%)

⁴ Domestic Abuse Draft Statutory Guidance Framework July 2021

⁵ [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

had been a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime. 274 women were killed in domestic homicides between April 2016 and March 2019. In 263 cases (96%) the suspect was male.⁹ According to the CSEW for the year ending March 2020 around one in seven men aged 16 to 74 (13.8%) had been a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime. 83 men were killed in domestic homicides between April 2016 and March 2019. In 44 cases (53%) the suspected perpetrator of these homicides was male.¹⁰

[Research published by the Home Office](#) has estimated the social and economic costs of domestic abuse in the region of £66 billion for the victims identified in England and Wales within the year 2016/17. The biggest component of the estimated cost is the physical and emotional harms incurred by victims (£47 billion), particularly the emotional harms (the fear, anxiety and depression experienced by victims as a result of domestic abuse), which account for the overwhelming majority of the overall costs. The cost to the economy is also considerable, with an estimated £14 billion arising from lost output due to time off work and reduced productivity as a consequence of domestic abuse.

There are also additional barriers to services experienced by victims from protected groups and those experiencing multiple disadvantages. Black, Asian and ethnic minority women, women with insecure immigration status, deaf and disabled women and LGBT victims will experience further barriers when accessing services. Similarly, the co-occurrence of homelessness, drug and alcohol use, criminal justice system involvement and mental health will often mean that victims will face huge challenges when seeking support.

Local Context

The Isle of Wight ('The Island') lies off the coast of Mainland England and spans an area of 147 square miles. It has a population of around 141,771¹¹, with a split of about 49% to 51 % women to men, broadly similar to that in England as a whole. The vast majority of the Island's population (96.8%) are White British, although there are some signs of a gradual diversification, with the non-white population more than doubling from 1.3% in 2001 to 2.7% in 2011¹².

The Island has greater proportion of older residents (those aged 65 and over) than both the South East and England and Wales. It is anticipated that this will increase significantly over the next 10 years, exacerbated by the number of those aged 60-74 migrating to the Island. Like other coastal areas of England, the Isle of Wight is a popular retirement destination¹³, but its aging population puts increasing pressure on local health and social care resources. In keeping with its older population, the Island has a higher proportion of people living with health problems or disabilities than both the South East and England and Wales as a whole¹⁴. It also

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

¹⁰

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2020>

¹¹ ONS, 2020:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

¹² As above

¹³ As above

¹⁴ IOWC, 2019: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2552-Equality-Diversity-Factsheet-Jan-2019-v2.pdf>

has a significantly higher percentage of people with learning disabilities (known to their GPs) than most other comparable areas¹⁵.

The availability of affordable housing in the local area is a major issue, with house prices on the Island at 7 times the annual wage, and demand for social housing far exceeding supply. Some 21% of all local children are classed as being in relative poverty¹⁶, and the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has identified the Island as one of the **two most vulnerable** areas in England post COVID-19, across all domains of vulnerability (health-related, labour market and family). This is reflective of the elderly population, reliance on tourism and hospitality and concentrated pockets of socio-economic deprivation¹⁷.

The police recorded 1,867 incidents of domestic abuse on the Isle of Wight between October 2019 and September 2020, representing an increase of 204 from the previous year. In the most recent annual data set (April 2020-March 2021), this figure remained steady, with 1,879 incidents of domestic abuse reported to police.

During the period September 2019 to October 2020, increases in reports to police were seen across all months and most crime types, with a general increase seen following the lockdown announcement in March 2020, broadly reflective of national trends.

Around two thirds (69.4%) of victims in the September 2019 to October 2020 period were female, with most falling into the 20-39 age bracket, and a particular peak amongst those aged 30-34 years. This represents a slightly older average than the national figure, in which women aged 20-24 are significantly more likely to experience domestic abuse than those over 25.

In keeping with the national picture, the vast majority (90.8%) of offenders with a domestic abuse flag were male, and in the majority of cases (68%), the perpetrator was a current or ex-partner, which is similar to previous years' figures. The figure for parents as victims was 6.2%, also the same as the previous year. Well over a third of incidents (37%) were repeats¹⁸.

Data from Safelives indicates the Isle of Wight Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has a rate of 38 cases per 10,000 compared to a national average of 41, with a repeat level of 19%, which is below both the national average of 31% and the Safelives recommendation of between 28 and 40%. Cases rose by 36% year on year in 2020, compared to a national rise of 6%. Despite this rise in high-risk cases, the use of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), also known as 'Claire's Law', more than halved in 2020 when compared with the previous year¹⁹.

In the 2020-21 year, 150 children in the locality were subject to Child Protection Plans with the secondary category of domestic abuse. There was a significant increase in these figures across the last two reporting quarters (57 children from April-September and 93 from October to March), with 37% of the total recorded in Q4 (January to March 2021)

This increase in numbers is likely to be due to the prolonged lockdown followed by children returning to school, and Children's social care recruited additional agency social workers ahead of the lockdown easing to be ready for this expected increase. Overall, the numbers of

¹⁵ IOWC, 2017: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2552-Learning-Disabilities-Factsheet-2017-Final-DB-v1.pdf>

¹⁶ IOWC, 2019: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Meetings/committees/cabinet/13-6-19/PAPERAppendix1DigitallIslandstrategy.pdf>

¹⁷The Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2020: <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14888>

¹⁸ All police data taken from Domestic Abuse Problem Profile, IOWC November 2020, or IOW Domestic Abuse forum data 2020-21.

¹⁹ As above

children subject to child protection planning on the Island has increased by 49% since the start of the pandemic and the average caseload of a social worker has increased from 19 to 22 in the same period.

Local police data also indicates that in the year ending March 2020, 42 children from the Island were recorded as 'perpetrators' in that they had used abusive behaviour or violence towards their parents within the context of Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA).

Strategic Priorities

The strategic priorities are based on the findings from the strategic needs' assessment and is structured around four key themes: Prevention, Protection, Provision and Partnerships.

PREVENT	PROTECT
Preventing violence and abuse through early intervention and education	Providing support that keeps individuals and their families safe from harm
PROVISION	PARTNERSHIPS
Survivors have access to a range of appropriate housing options and support services, which increase safety and prevent homelessness / loss of tenure.	Develop and embed Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse to ensure our response to abuse is integrated, innovative and inclusive.

Objectives

- 1) Preventing violence and abuse through early intervention and education
- 2) Survivors have access to a range of appropriate housing options and support services, which increase safety and prevent homelessness / loss of tenure. (Whole Housing Approach)
- 3) Lived experience shapes service design and delivery
- 4) Develop and embed Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse
- 5) Improve our data and intelligence.
- 6) Hold perpetrators to account whilst providing opportunity for change and support

Measuring Success

Potential Indicators of Success (Examples):

% increase in survivors nationally, regionally or locally who report they were able to access the right support, at the right time	% increase in survivors with Protected Characteristics / those underrepresented accessing services	% decrease in risk for survivors accessing accommodation related support
% increase of housing providers who are DAHA accredited	% staff report increased confidence in areas of their practice as a result of training, improved communications and increased awareness	% increase in identification of DA within housing settings

% increase in referrals to DA services from housing settings	% reduction in waiting times for Sanctuary	% increase provision to survivors by up to 20% of Sanctuary support as part of homelessness prevention
% reduction in declined referrals to refuge due to lack of space	% increase in survivors supported via Managed Reciprocal	% Accommodation providers prioritise the maintenance of accommodation for survivors
% reduction in multiple moves / waiting times for settled accommodation	% increase in number of survivors who retain security of tenure as a result of seeking safety	% increase in the number of perpetrators engaged in services
% increase in survivors successfully maintaining settled accommodation	Decrease in number of repeat offences of domestic abuse, including decrease in offences by Persistent Prolific Offenders	Decrease in the number of CIN and CP reviews where domestic abuse is a concern
*baseline data required		

Governance

The Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will be responsible for monitoring our progress against the Strategic Action Plan (Appendix 1). As well as this, the aim of the Board is to continue to secure high level commitment to the strategy across multiple agencies and ensure that domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is included in wider policy and strategy developments across the IOW. Underneath this, we will form a small number of task and finish groups to drive forward change in specific areas of the strategy. These will be short-term and focused groups of multi-agency professionals, formed to address a particular issue, need or challenge as it arises.

The focus and membership of these groups will be decided by the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Partnership Board. We will establish a Service User Advisory Group that will be responsible for providing scrutiny of the strategy, feedback on services, and co-production of campaigns, training and tools.

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will be accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It will also report to the IOW Safeguarding Children's and Adults Boards and Community Safety Partnership.

***Add visual representation in appendix/ document once agreed.**

Strategic links with other strategies.

IOW Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024

IOW Housing Strategy 2020- 2025

IOW Community Safety Partnership Strategic Plan 2020-2022

IOW Corporate Plan (TBC)

***Add others**

Appendix 1

DRAFT

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Appendix 2: Summary of recommendations

1.1. Summary and Recommendations

Current support within local safe accommodation appears to be working well in a number of areas, with a good variety of support available. However there is some development work to be done, particularly in terms of support for those with protected characteristics and those with more complex needs.

Support within safe accommodations:

4. **All support available to those in safe accommodation should be routinely offered at intake, regardless of setting, and revisited on a regular basis as part of ongoing support planning.**
5. **Undertake further review of the levels and intensity of staff support within safe accommodation, and in the refuge in particular, with a view to identifying any increase in capacity required.**
6. **Consider a specific capacity increase in move-on support, in response to the particular challenges with affordable/appropriate local accommodation.**
7. **Establish a routine process by which the feedback of those using safe accommodation is sought, both by those involved in the oversight of the IDASCS contract and the Local Area Partnership Board (LAPB).**

Support for children:

8. **Consider resourcing childcare provision (crèche facilities, play provision) for those within safe accommodation to support them to access groups, attend appointments, or seek advice and support.**

Support for those with protected characteristics:

9. **Address provision for those with disabilities within safe accommodation, both in the short-term (such as adaptations to the downstairs refuge room) and in the longer term planning of disabled facilities.**
10. **Undertake a more in-depth review of support pathways for older victims in conjunction with Adult social care, mapping where older victims who need safe accommodation are placed and what support is made available as part of this process. Assess to what extent the current support a) involves appropriate co-ordination between services and b) meets the specific needs of older victims.**
11. **LAPB to monitor the number of male victims being placed into non-specialist, temporary accommodation in the locality.**
12. **Training to be made available for all specialist staff on working with male victims (via Respect or similar), and with the LGBT community.**
13. **Providers to work to improve the availability of 'by and for' provision, particularly for women from BME backgrounds and the LGBT community. Establish and grow links with relevant community groups and networks in the short term, whilst in the longer term seeking to develop effective local support networks, peer support groups, and so on. Consider representation on the LAPB from relevant community groups.**

14. Translation services to be available for the use of all staff, when required, within all safe accommodation settings.

Support for those with complex needs:

15. Explore the development of a ‘wraparound’ partnership response to women with complex needs, involving relevant services including the Commissioned provider, WoW centre, Substance use services, Housing, Mental health services, and CRC.

Remaining in the Home:

16. Expand on the sanctuary scheme, resourcing to provide additional support and assessments, and raise awareness across all Island agencies. Use these additional resources to work more closely with private landlords (See also – whole housing response at section 5) and seek additional opportunities for funding repairs (e.g. through local businesses/Corporate Social Responsibility)

Building and locality

17. Look to transition away from the use of the safe house unit for domestic abuse (once suitable alternatives are available).
18. Any expansion of future refuge provision to develop in accordance with a dispersed model best fitting of the needs of those from the local area.

Strategic Action Plan (2021- 2024)

Objective 1- Preventing violence and abuse through early intervention and education

Rationale: National data shows that 85% of survivors sought help five times in the year before they got the help they needed.²⁰ It is vital that local services, especially housing providers, identify DA and intervene at the earliest possible stage. Specialist DA services must have the expertise and knowledge to support the diversities and complex realities of survivors.

We will:

- Deliver public campaigns which raise awareness of abuse and how to get support
- Produce a specific campaign focused on coercive control highlighting our zero-tolerance approach
- Develop a toolkit for primary and secondary schools to strengthen their delivery of healthy relationships education
- Deliver training to staff working on the IOW on spotting the signs of abuse and responding safely
- Develop of an island centric domestic abuse website to contain all referral pathways, support information, training news and updates.

²⁰ Women’s Aid. (2021) The Domestic Abuse Report 2021: The Annual Audit, Bristol: Women’s Aid.

Objective 2 - Survivors have access to a range of appropriate housing options and support services, which increase safety and prevent homelessness / loss of tenure. (Whole Housing Approach)

Rationale: Survivors should not have to choose between having to sell or move home to achieve safety. Many survivors experience secondary victimisation due to having to move or sell their property (rather than the perpetrator) and / or through losing security of tenure. A Whole Housing Approach (WHA) provides a framework for DA and housing sectors to work together to address the immediate and longer-term housing needs of survivors.

A WHA considers the complex realities and needs of diverse communities of survivors across all housing tenure types (social, private rented, privately owned and supported accommodation) to increase survivor accommodation sustainment and reduce homelessness. A properly coordinated WHA increases housing options and support for survivors. Increased options help remove barriers to safety and reduce inequalities for marginalised survivors.

Refuge is a vital and lifesaving crisis resource but is not suitable for or accessible to all. Additional security measures (Sanctuary) at home can increase safety for some survivors, but others will be unable to remain in accommodation due to risk. It is crucial that there are other local options to complement these provisions. Many survivors will be in other forms accommodation-based services, such as supported housing, and it is vital these services are DA informed.

Settled, secure housing - particularly after survivors have been required to move due to DA - is a critical need. Community DA services play a vital role in supporting survivors to access housing options - which on the IOW have been historically very strong - and legal advice. Without effective professional pathway navigation, many survivors would be unable to access the support they need. While men and boys do experience DA, national and local data shows most survivors are female. DA responses must be underpinned by a gender-informed approach, with access to women-only services. DA service commissioning should be underpinned by Government requirements.

DAHA²¹ accreditation provides a framework for DA good practice in housing.

We will:

- IWC will achieve the DAHA Accreditation. Local registered Providers / supported housing providers will be encouraged / required (e.g., in future contracts) to attain or be working towards accreditation.
- Explore and develop suite of accommodation and support to victims of domestic abuse, including their children. Support includes:
 - Advocacy support
 - Domestic abuse prevention advice
 - Specialist support for victims designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics
 - Specialist support for victims designed specifically for victims with unique and / or complex needs
 - Children's support
 - Housing-related support
 - Advice service
 - Counselling and therapy This list of support is not an exhaustive list and other relevant support services will be put in place (based on victims' needs).

²¹ [13 -wha-daha.pdf \(dahalliance.org.uk\)](#)

- Ensure that practitioners are operating at, and safe accommodation meets, the relevant quality standards.
- Ensure all services are trauma informed and strength based, aligned to core components as specified by Ava and Agenda (2017) ²² which will support victims/ survivors and prevent repeat victimisation.
- Establish a dedicated Flexible Fund, inclusive of dedicated resource pool of safety equipment such as personal safety alarms, door-bell and window alarms.
- Explore with Advice, Information and Guidance (AIG) services opportunities for survivors to have access to specialist debt / financial advice to support recovery from economic abuse and impacts on housing.
- Explore and develop safe accommodation pathways for victims with complex needs experiencing DA.
- Explore opportunities to expand the offer of Sanctuary as part of homelessness prevention for survivors presenting at Housing Needs (e.g. offer of Sanctuary made with the purpose of enabling a survivor to remain in existing accommodation).
- Explore opportunities to provide childcare to enable victims/ survivors to access groups and support.
- Do we need something in here around:
- Accommodation for those with disabilities (9) accommodation for males (no 12 in the recommendations of the report)?
- Would we also mention translation services here? (Recommendation 14)
- Training to be made available for all specialist staff on working with male victims (via Respect or similar), and with the LGBT community.

Objective 3 - Lived experience shapes service design and delivery

Rationale: This strategy recognises the importance of including the voice of survivors throughout the local response to DA so their lived experience can become a catalyst for change and the voice of the specialist sector.

We will:

- Establish a Survivor Advisory Group responsible for providing scrutiny of the strategy, feedback on services, and co-production of campaigns, training and tools.
- Use tools and processes to capture the voices of children and young people affected by domestic abuse, when evaluating services and programmes

Objective 4 - Develop and embed Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse

DA is a complex social problem that impacts people, communities and services across our society. Agencies are often responding to one aspect of the issue and / or the same problem from different angles. The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) ²³ brings statutory and voluntary agencies, including housing and homeless services providers, together to work in partnership in an integrated and coordinated manner to address DA, increase survivor safety and hold perpetrators to account.

²² AVA & Agenda, 2017: <https://avaproject.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Mapping-the-Maze-final-report-for-publication.pdf>

²³ [In Search of Excellence — Standing Together](#)

The Act presents the IOW with an opportunity to develop and embed a local CCR to support local Act implementation. The Act has direct implications for statutory agencies, including IWC. Implementation impacts on other agencies, even where specific duties are not imposed by the Act. Systems, pathways, processes and structures will be impacted. Aspects of the Act overlap and intersect with each other and a coordinated approach is required to manage impact.

Development of this approach will support partners with individual Duty implementation, ensure all partners understand implications of the Act and identify linkages / implications for all partners. Strategic / operational changes can be identified and responded to effectively. Risk is shared and managed and resources across the partnership are maximised. Resourcing decisions are intelligence led. The CCR will achieve wider, long-term benefits for the partnership that extend beyond the implementation of the Act, such as reductions in risk and harm, improved efficiencies and resulting cost savings.

We will:

- Develop the Local Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board and DSA Operational Group to ensure they provide appropriate strategic / operational leadership for the partnership, including local Act implementation.
- Seek effective implementation and coordination of the Whole Housing Approach (WHA), including coordination of responses to / implementation of Part Four and Seven duties.
- Create a space for professionals to share best practice tools and techniques and reflect on the experience of supporting victims and perpetrators.
- Develop a practical tool to be used by agencies when ending their involvement with victims, to enable access to follow-up support.
- Revisit a review of all local housing policies and approaches to ensure consistency and compliance with relevant duties.

Objective 5 - Improve our data and intelligence.

Rationale: Data and intelligence are vital to the commissioning cycle, understanding need and developing strategic and operational responses. There are a number of gaps in data noted in the IOWs' needs analysis highlighting improvements that are necessary. Without robust data as to the prevalence of domestic abuse on the Island, it is not possible to achieve a comprehensive assessment of need.

The ability to track survivors' journeys through accommodation and capture lived experiences is crucial. There is a commitment to improve local data and intelligence for future needs assessments and strategies. There are local, regional and national opportunities to develop and share data to begin to build a comprehensive picture of safe accommodation need. By creating a regional dataset, monitored centrally, tracking survivors' journeys, outcome and unmet need becomes more robust. The power to influence central government increases. By harnessing the power of 'Big Data' on safe accommodation across the country, it will be possible to gain greater insights into patterns, trends, and associations. It will evidence the need for future funding for safe accommodation services.

We will:

- Supported by a dedicated DA Data Lead (?), establish a partnership minimum dataset, including standardised baseline metrics for safe accommodation and Key Performance Indicators. Monitored by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.

- Consider how local and regional data can contribute to national datasets. Including how existing national datasets (such as HCLIC²⁴) can be enhanced and build use of national case management systems that support national data reporting.

Objective 6 - Hold perpetrators to account whilst providing opportunity for change and support

Rationale: Effective perpetrator management increases safety for survivors and children. It has the potential to shift the burden from survivors for achieving safety, such as leaving their accommodation (and potentially losing security of tenure in the process) to holding perpetrators accountable.

Housing providers have a key role to play. They can utilise a range of legal powers and initiatives, such as the relocation of perpetrators. Perpetrator services, such as The Hampton Trust, also play a vital role in the multiagency approach to perpetrator management.

We will:

- Continue the use of tenancy enforcement tools and Sanctuary Schemes, to create safety for victims within their homes
- Increase the use of protection orders, including Domestic Violence Protection Orders, FGM Protection Orders and Forced Marriage Protection Orders
- Establish an advisory hub for professionals to provide them the skills and confidence to work with perpetrators
- Seek external funding to commission holistic support programmes for perpetrators of abuse
- Develop a toolkit for non-specialist staff focusing on working with fathers and partners that are perpetrators of abuse
- Seek to develop / enhance the multiagency approach to perpetrator management, including housing providers, criminal justice system agencies and DA services.
- Incorporate the national perpetrator strategy when it is published later this year.
- Do we need anything specialist regarding adolescent to parent violence in this section?

Appendix 2.

AND Needs Assessment

²⁴ [Homelessness Case Level Collection \(H-CLIC\) updates – GSS \(civilservice.gov.uk\)](https://civilservice.gov.uk/gss/homelessness-case-level-collection-h-clic-updates)

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