



Isle of Wight safe accommodation strategy

2024 to 2027



ISLE OF WIGHT
DOMESTIC ABUSE
PARTNERSHIP BOARD



Isle of Wight
Council

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Foreword

We warmly welcome the publication of the Isle of Wight safe accommodation strategy 2024 to 2027. We would like to express our gratitude to all who have helped contribute and shape the development of this strategy, including victims, survivors and professionals working on the Island.

Domestic abuse has a significant and long term impact on domestic abuse victims and survivors and their families. The trauma inflicted by domestic abuse goes beyond the physical damage often associated with this crime, and can have detrimental mental, emotional, social and financial impacts. It is crucial that support for victims and survivors include measures for crisis and long term sustainable recovery. We know how important it is that victims and survivors can access high quality specialist support, including safe accommodation options when required, tailored to meet the needs of different individuals and families. Safe accommodation is a pivotal part of the domestic abuse response, and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has cemented the importance of this.

To achieve our safe accommodation strategy vision that all victims and survivors subjected to domestic abuse on the Isle of Wight, including children, are able to access and be supported by safe accommodation-based services, tailored to their needs, enabling long term recovery and to live free from fear of domestic abuse, we will need to draw on our

wider domestic abuse strategy priorities. Our three key priorities are prevention and reduction of harm, increased access to specialist support and collaboration and working together. A coordinated and collaborative response to domestic abuse will require the commitment and passion of all agencies, organisations and wider communities to ensure victims and survivors receive the specialist support required for long term recovery.

This strategy takes into account factors unique to the Isle of Wight, in addition to the changing and challenging housing and accommodation landscape. It provides a framework to address the challenges identified, and capitalise on the opportunities that exist. We invite you to collaboratively use this strategy to frame your coordinated responses to domestic abuse, and translate the priorities into tangible action and change.

Simon Bryant

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Chair of the Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**

Laura Gaudion

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Acknowledgements

We would like to express deepest appreciation to the victims and survivors who generously gave their time to share their expertise. Their knowledge and guidance have shaped the recommendations within this strategy to be meaningful, relevant and provided unique insight into the challenges and opportunities for the Isle of Wight.

We also extend our thanks to the Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Partnership Board members and wider partners who also contributed their understanding from a wide range of perspectives and enabled us to create a strategy reflecting a coordinated approach.



Glossary

ACEs	Adverse childhood experiences	DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up Communities and Housing
CCB	Coercive and controlling behaviour	ED	Emergency department
CCR	Coordinated community response	HRDA	High risk domestic abuse
CYP	Children and young people	IDVA	Independent domestic violence advocate
DA	Domestic abuse	ISVA	Independent sexual violence advocate
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance	IWC	Isle of Wight Council
DAPB	Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	MARAC	Multiagency risk assessment conference
DAPN	Domestic Abuse Protection Notice	MARM	Multiagency risk management
DAPO	Domestic Abuse Protection Order	MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
DASH RRIC	Domestic abuse stalking harassment risk indicator tool	NRPF	No recourse to public funds
DDA	Domestic Abuse Act 2021	OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
DHR	Domestic homicide review	WHA	Whole housing approach
DARDR	Domestic abuse related death review		

Executive summary

Vision

Our overarching vision is that all victims and survivors subjected to domestic abuse, including children, are able to access and be supported by safe accommodation-based services, tailored to their needs, enabling long term recovery and to live free from fear of domestic abuse.

Priorities

- A clear and integrated pathway of support in safe accommodation exists for all victims and survivors which can be accessed at any point in their journey.
- A whole systems approach will be applied to improving outcomes for victims and survivors accessing safe accommodation.
- All victims and survivors can access physically and psychologically safe environments.
- Specialist support in safe accommodation reflects the needs of the community, and barriers to accessing safe accommodation are reduced.
- Safe accommodation services are of high quality and contribute to long-term recovery.
- Reduce the number of people made homeless by domestic abuse.
- Strategic commissioning processes are conducive to supporting delivery of high quality specialist support in safe accommodation.

Our values and working principles

- Inclusivity
- Person-focused
- Collaboration
- Accountability
- Proactive
- Transparency

Introduction

A coordinated and collaborative response to domestic abuse requires a dynamic whole systems response. Appropriate support within safe accommodation¹ is at the heart of an effective domestic abuse response, and critical to the long term recovery of victims and survivors and their families.

The Isle of Wight Council has duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation. These duties include producing a safe accommodation needs assessment, strategy, and commissioning specialist services. The requirements of these duties have shaped this safe accommodation strategy, in addition to identified needs on the Isle of Wight. These needs were established via a needs assessment encompassing speaking with those who have firsthand experience of accessing safe accommodation, speaking with practitioners working with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, conducting surveys and through mixed methodology approaches.

This strategy sets out clear priorities which will contribute to achieving our vision.

Our overarching vision is that all victims and survivors subjected to domestic abuse, including children, are able to access and be supported by safe accommodation-based services, tailored to their needs, enabling long term recovery and to live free from fear of domestic abuse. Our vision is underpinned by our values and working principles which include inclusivity, being person focused, collaboration, accountability, proactiveness and transparency.

This strategy focuses specifically on support in safe accommodation and is underpinned by the principles of the whole housing approach². The wider response to domestic abuse can be found in the Isle of Wight domestic abuse strategy.

1 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

2 www.dahalliance.org.uk/innovations-in-practice/whole-housing-approach/what-is-the-whole-housing-approach

The Isle of Wight domestic abuse strategy 2024 to 2029³, sets out our values, vision, priorities, and approach to domestic abuse on the Isle of Wight. The strategy represents a commitment to prevent domestic abuse and improve outcomes for people subjected to domestic abuse through adopting and embedding the coordinated community response (CCR) model⁴. The CCR model enables a whole system response to a whole person.

The Domestic Abuse Act

The Domestic Abuse Act⁵ received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. This act puts into legislation a number of protections for victims, survivors and children. The act creates the statutory presumption that victims and survivors of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts and puts in place additional protections to support people experiencing abuse. The act places new duties on local authorities and creates new protection orders to support the response to those experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 key features:

- **Awareness** – Raising awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and survivors and their families.
- **The Criminal Justice System** – To further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and bring perpetrators to justice
- **Support for victims and survivors** – Strengthening the support for victims and survivors of abuse by statutory agencies.

Definition of domestic abuse

Our domestic abuse strategy uses the statutory definition of domestic abuse (Domestic Abuse Act 2021): “Any single incident or a course of conduct of physical or sexual abuse, violence or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been personally connected to each other”.

Domestic abuse can happen across all types of relationships and is not limited to people who are or have been in an intimate personal relationship, or who live together. Domestic abuse may happen across household relationships, those with parental relationships, or between relatives. The definition is inclusive of ex-partners.

3 www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-resources-for-professionals/domestic-abuse-information-for-professionals

4 www.standingtogether.org.uk/what-is-ccr

5 www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021



Coercive and controlling behaviour is a range of acts which make a person subordinate, fearful or dependent, by isolating them from support, exploiting them for personal gain, depriving them of independence, resistance and escape, and regulating everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour can be acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation, or other abuse used to harm, punish or frighten the victim. Victims often live in chronic fear. Honour based violence, forced marriage, and child to parent abuse (when the child is over 16 years) are also forms of domestic abuse.

The definition of domestic abuse within the Domestic Abuse Act states that the person carrying out the abusive behaviour and the person directly receiving the abusive behaviour must be over 16. It also defines children who see, hear or experience the abuse as victims or survivors of the abuse in their own right.

The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton Local Safeguarding Children's Board policy on children and domestic abuse⁶ provides further information.

6 hipsprocedures.org.uk/hkyysh/parents-who-have-additional-needs/domestic-violence-and-abuse

Domestic abuse, housing and safe accommodation

Accommodation is a critical element of a wider coordinated response to domestic abuse. While the duty in the Domestic Abuse Act is specific to domestic abuse support in safe accommodation, rather than provision of the accommodation itself, the support cannot be provided without arrangements in place for the availability of safe accommodation.

A home environment is more than bricks and mortar. More than an environment to house belongings, and more than an address to receive post. A home environment provides safety, security and stability. This becomes even more critical to victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children. Physical and psychological safety in their home environment is a critical foundation for long term recovery.

"I wouldn't have survived without the women in here... they braided my hair, showed me where the local shops are, and just hugged me when I needed it. They've been where I am you know, and it helps to see other women surviving."

The correlation between domestic abuse and housing is stark. Domestic abuse can contribute to homelessness if it is not safe for victims and survivors and their children to continue to occupy their accommodation because of the probability of domestic abuse⁷. In addition, domestic abuse is cited as the most common support need for households owed a homelessness duty in England. Almost half of this cohort are female with dependent children⁸. Domestic abuse is a gendered crime disproportionately impacting women. The strong correlation between domestic abuse and housing options is reflected in the significant emphasis placed on safe accommodation by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

7 england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/legal/homelessness_applications/homelessness_and_threatened_homelessness/homelessness_due_to_violence_or_domestic_abuse

8 www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-homelessness-domestic-abuse-cohort-data-2022-23

"Before I got a place in the refuge I didn't know anything about it... I didn't know there was one on the Isle of Wight."

"There are different women from different countries, but we're all in the same situation. We know we have to support each other... we support each other with everything... one woman I remember, she did everyone's nails... we were a good team."

'[Refuge staff members] were constantly asking us what we want and what we need... I know they cared about us... I'm so happy [my refuge worker] was the person supporting me.'

What is defined as safe accommodation?

There are a broad range of models of safe accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, designed to meet differing needs of victims and survivors and their children. The critical element of 'safe accommodation' in this context, is that specialist domestic abuse support is offered alongside.

Accommodation	Description
Refuge	Single sex or gender accommodation including intensive support for residents and their children. The address is not disclosed publicly. Peer support between residents is a key feature of refuge provision.
Specialist safe accommodation	Dedicated specialist accommodation and support to victims and survivors with protected characteristics or complex needs, e.g. specially adapted accommodation for victims and survivors with physical disabilities.
Dispersed accommodation	Self-contained accommodation which is safe and secure, dedicated to accommodating victims and survivors of domestic abuse and has other domestic abuse support elements available.

Accommodation	Description
Move-on or second stage accommodation	Housing that accommodates victims and survivors, including families 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 permanent accommodation.
Sanctuary scheme and target hardening	Properties with local authority installed sanctuary schemes or other similar schemes which provide enhanced physical security measures within a home.
Other accommodation designated as domestic abuse emergency accommodation	A safe place with support that provides safe, self-contained accommodation for victims and survivors to spend a temporary period of time. Must be provided by local housing associations, social housing providers or registered charity.



Development of the safe accommodation strategy

Needs assessment process

The safe accommodation needs assessment process has included a mixed methodology approach including:

- review of existing literature;
- data collection (please see appendix 1 for summary of data);
- surveys seeking views from victims and survivors and professionals regarding safe accommodation;
- focus groups and individual interviews with victims and survivors of domestic abuse;
- individual interviews with professionals who directly or indirectly support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

It should be noted that while we have used local needs assessment information to inform this strategy, we are mindful that some recipients of safe accommodation support will originate from other local authority areas. It is important we are responsive and reflexive to their needs, which may not be represented by our local needs assessment.

We also recognise the limitations of the data available to us. The data provides a limited picture on the Island as it only captures the people who have accessed safe accommodation services. Those who require safe accommodation however experience barriers to accessing it will not be represented within the data. Furthermore, the estimated need prevalence data is based on national estimates applied to the Isle of Wight population, and is the most accurate method of assessing generality.



Survivor Voice

Lived experience is essential to tackling domestic abuse. The voice of victims and survivors ensures coproduced workstreams are relevant, meaningful, and are having the right impact. We recognise that knowledge does not only come from professionals in the workplace. Voices of victims and survivors and workplace professionals are equally valuable. Lived experience engagement is delivered in a number of ways on the Isle of Wight including coproduced workstreams and through a planned Survivor Voice forum. In this way we share, power, and empower people.

During the process of developing this strategy we have heard from a range of people from a wide range of backgrounds with lived experience of domestic abuse who have accessed safe accommodation.

"Having a new quilt and pillow, something brand new of my own was important when I arrived [at the refuge]."

"The police helped me... they took me to refuge... I still feel protected in my new home even now that I've moved on from refuge. I have extra security here."

"Some girls are very scared when they come in and you tell them they are not alone, that their situation will work out in the end."

"There's stigma when you live here you know...you can't invite your children's friends home to play and people say things to your kids."

Local context

It is important to be aware of wider pressures that influence the ability to provide support in safe accommodation. Developing safe accommodation and move on housing options for victims and survivors subjected to domestic abuse is difficult due to the challenging landscape of housing availability across the Island.

This applies to the private sector and social housing. Private sector rents and property prices have been driven up considerably in recent years. One of the impacts of this is that people reliant on benefits have been priced out of the market for most accommodation options.

This is reflected by the housing affordability ratio for the Isle of Wight which is significantly higher than the national average. In terms of housing stock, the Island also has a significantly lower proportion of social housing and rental properties available compared to the national average.

Summary of key messages from our safe accommodation needs assessment



Factors unique to the Isle of Wight

"The fact that victims have to leave their support networks, families, friends and sometime jobs to remain safe is secondary victimisation. Further refuge provision on the Island would be welcome to accommodate the large number of women who simply do not want to leave the Island, as it is the only environment they have ever known."

Victims and survivors from the Isle of Wight often do not want to leave the Island. There are complex cultural and practical factors that underpin this. This may in part explain why the Sanctuary Scheme on the Island has a far higher proportion of clients compared to the national uptake.

Positive elements and strong practice

"Ladies came in [to the refuge] to do activities with the kids like making cakes, this was really good... we baked together, and we celebrated together. It was important. It helped us relax."

- High quality specialist support to victims and survivors is delivered on the Island. Continuity of care is important to victims and survivors throughout the different types of safe accommodation they may access.
- Strong peer support between victims and survivors within the refuge is a valuable tool.
- Provision of group activities within the refuge is highly valued by the residents who expressed the challenges of activities organised externally.
- The majority of victims and survivors feel safe and secure in safe accommodation provided on the Isle of Wight.
- Provision of access to volunteering, employment support, and advice within safe accommodation settings can provide valuable support if offered at appropriate times.
- The link worker model used by commissioned services and housing services is positive and works well.
- Models of blended support often work well for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.



Gaps in relation to addressing safe accommodation on the Island

"We need appropriate safe accommodation provision for older victims, including the provision of care that meets their care and support needs."

- Dispersed and move-on accommodation options available to victims and survivors need to be strengthened by identifying solely dedicated accommodation. The refuge is a valued model for crisis point intervention, however victims and survivors told us there came a point when the intensive and restrictive environment became detrimental to long term recovery.
- Safe accommodation for victims and survivors with specific needs require identification, including older people, people with disabilities, larger families, people who are neurodiverse, transgender women, people with pets, people with complex needs including poor mental health and substance use.

"There were so many people wanting to use the kitchen at the same time, it was really difficult. Same for getting in the bathroom. Everyone wants to use it at the same time. There's no quiet time. No having a bath and relaxing when you get in."

- The challenges of shared amenities in safe accommodation were highlighted. Individual bathrooms for each family would reduce some of these barriers.
- Awareness of safe accommodation options on the Isle of Wight need to be promoted among professionals supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- Partnership approaches should be utilised to supporting victims and survivors who have had to move locations, such as school place provision support, and health needs being met.
- It would be beneficial to identify funding to pursue Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation for the Isle of Wight Council.
- Long term confirmed funding for safe accommodation at a national level would benefit the consistency and continuity of services available.

"You find yourself thinking 'is this my life now?'... Well, I'm no-one's victim."

The safe accommodation strategy

This strategy focuses on safe accommodation and is positioned as part of a wider coordinated and collaborative response to domestic abuse encompassing preventative approaches, wider specialist provision and partnership working that addresses risk, harm and need. The delivery of this strategy will require strong partnership working and innovation to achieve better options for people subjected to domestic abuse.

Vision

Our overarching vision is that all victims and survivors subjected to domestic abuse, including children, are able to access and be supported by safe accommodation-based services, tailored to their needs, enabling long term recovery and to live free from fear of domestic abuse.

Safe accommodation values and working principles

The following values and working principles were established during the development of the domestic abuse strategy, 2024 to 2029, and also underpin the safe accommodation strategy 2024 to 2027.

Our values and working principles

- Inclusivity
- Person-focused
- Collaboration
- Accountability
- Proactive
- Transparency

Priorities

- A clear and integrated pathway of safe accommodation support exists for all victims and survivors which can be accessed at any point in their journey.
- A whole systems approach will be applied to improving outcomes for victims and survivors accessing safe accommodation.
- All victims and survivors can access physically and psychologically safe environments.
- Specialist safe accommodation services reflect the needs of the community, and barriers to accessing safe accommodation are reduced.
- Safe accommodation services are of high quality and contribute to long-term recovery.
- Reduce the number of people made homeless by domestic abuse.
- Strategic commissioning processes are conducive to supporting delivery of high quality specialist safe accommodation provision.

Addressing inequalities

Addressing inequalities is central to delivery of a successful safe accommodation strategy. We acknowledge that domestic abuse is a crime that overwhelming impacts women. We also recognise that domestic abuse can affect all people from all backgrounds regardless of:

- age;
- disability or long-term conditions;
- gender identity;
- marriage or civil partner status;
- pregnancy or maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation;
- caring responsibilities;
- drug or alcohol use;
- socio-economic status;
- rural or urban residency;
- employment status or type of employment.

Despite there being many stereotypes of domestic abuse victims and survivors, and those that use abusive behaviours, we know these not to be accurate or representative. There is no 'typical' victim or survivor or person using abusive behaviours. People are not defined by one aspect of their lives, and have multiple and complex backgrounds, circumstances and experiences. Some of these are fluid, and some remain static. In turn, our approach to risk, need and response needs to be dynamic.

Barriers to seeking safe accommodation are amplified when a number of intersectional areas coexist in a person's life. There are many inequalities that are amplified for victims and survivors of domestic abuse who are seeking appropriate housing options. These must be considered within a coordinated and effective response.





One example of this includes women with disabilities. Women with disabilities are subjected to domestic abuse at twice the rate of the general population⁹. It is also known that disabled people are more likely to be subjected to more frequent episodes of domestic abuse for longer periods of time¹⁰. The amplified barriers to seeking safe accommodation for disabled women include:

- Lack of information regarding safe accommodation options available in accessible formats.
- Support options may focus on health, care and support related needs, and minimise domestic abuse related needs.
- Increased likelihood of multiple perpetrators and increased risk.
- Increased isolation.
- Lack of safe accommodation options available due to inappropriate properties to accommodate physical and mobility requirements, complex mental and emotional support needs and neurodiverse requirements.

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- 9 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/disability/articles/outcomesfordisabledpeopleintheuk/2021#:~:text=Outcomes%20for%20disabled%20people%20across#:~:text=Outcomes%20for%20disabled%20people%20across
- 10 assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a806673ed915d74e622e3c8/Disability_and_domestic_abuse_topic_overview_FINAL.pdf#:~:text=This%20document%20highlights%20and%20outlines
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Monitoring progress

The delivery of the priorities set out in this strategy will be taken forward through an action plan, which will sit alongside the overarching domestic abuse strategy action plan. Progress of the safe accommodation action plan will be monitored in a variety of ways to ensure effectiveness and identify further opportunities. This will include:

- dialogue with Survivor Voice representatives;
- continued collation and analysis of data from a wide range of partners;
- scrutiny of strategy progress at the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.



Governance



Our Governance arrangements sit with the Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. The board is a requirement of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It builds on the important work of its predecessor, the domestic abuse forum, and works closely with other multiagency boards such as the Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children's Board and Community Safety Partnership.

The board will oversee the delivery of the safe accommodation strategy and monitor strategy progress.

The board has a terms of reference which include improving outcomes for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, leading and coordinating the Island's response to domestic abuse, facilitate partnership engagement to tackle root causes of domestic abuse and ensuring the statutory duties of Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are complied with.

This strategy sits alongside other key Isle of Wight strategies including the health and wellbeing strategy, poverty reduction strategy, community safety strategy and the public health strategy and we are committed to identifying and working collaboratively across the common priorities.

Needs assessment: Domestic abuse and safe accommodation

Domestic abuse (national)	Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)
Number of people subjected to domestic abuse	
An estimated 2.4 million adults in England and Wales aged 16 and over experienced abuse in the last 12 months, which equates to around one in 20 adults ¹¹ .	It is estimated that in the last 12 months around 5,350 individuals aged 16 and over were subjected to domestic abuse on the Isle of Wight ¹² .
Increased rates of domestic abuse	
Over recent years, there has been a national increase in reporting of domestic abuse crimes to the police, however changes in data recording practices since 2023 has seen the number of domestic abuse related offences decrease ¹³ .	The Isle of Wight has seen a 25 per cent increase of domestic abuse reported crimes with 2,085 domestic abuse related crimes reported in 2022 to 2023 and 1,661 reported in 2018 to 2019 ¹⁴ .

11 [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendix#text=Domestic%20abuse%20numbers,%20prevalence)

[domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendix#text=Domestic%20abuse%20numbers,%20prevalence,](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendix#text=Domestic%20abuse%20numbers,%20prevalence)

12 [app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDI0MDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLT](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDI0MDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOj9)
[FkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOj9](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDI0MDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOj9)

13 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2024

14 [app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDI0MDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLT](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDI0MDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOj9)
[kYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOj9](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDI0MDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOj9)

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Domestic abuse by gender

Women are more than twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than men – 1.7 million women and 700,000 men¹⁵.

It is estimated that around 3,500 females and 1,890 males aged over 16 on the Isle of Wight were subjected to domestic abuse in the last year. Based on these estimates, it is estimated that 65 per cent of individuals who experienced domestic abuse in the last year were female¹⁶.

Domestic abuse by age

Risk is the highest in the younger age groups – 16 to 19 years, and 20 to 24 years¹⁷.

It is estimated that 20 per cent of those subjected to domestic abuse on the Isle of Wight were aged between 60 and 74. This age group represents the highest proportion of victims and survivors categorised by age¹⁸.

Domestic abuse and disability

Women with a long-term illness, disability or impairment were more than twice as likely to be a victim of domestic abuse¹⁹.

It can be estimated that around 51 per cent of individuals on the Isle of Wight who were subjected to domestic abuse in the past year are disabled under the Equality Act 2010²⁰.

[FkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YilslmMiOjh9](#)

15 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2024

16 app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibm90NDY2ZDItMDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YilslmMiOjh9

17 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2024

18 app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibm90NDY2ZDItMDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YilslmMiOjh9

19 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2024

20 app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibm90NDY2ZDItMDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YilslmMiOjh9

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Domestic abuse and divorce or separation

The risk increases around the time of separation²¹.

On the Island, 367 individuals who were separated and 1,368 individuals who were divorced, were subjected to domestic abuse in the last year. This accounts for 28.5 per cent of individuals aged over 16 who were subjected to domestic abuse in the last year on the Island²².

Domestic abuse and deprivation

Those in the 20 per cent most deprived output areas in England were found to be more likely to be subjected to domestic abuse compared to the average. Those in the 20 per cent least deprived were found to be less likely to be subjected to domestic abuse²³.

27 per cent of the population on the Isle of Wight live within areas that are among the 20 per cent most deprived in England. This population contributes 37 per cent of those who were subjected to domestic abuse in the last year on the Island²⁴.

21 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenlandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#:~:text=The%20Crime%20Survey%20for%20England%20and%20Wales

22 app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDItdMDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0IiwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTlkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOjh9

23 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenlandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#:~:text=The%20Crime%20Survey%20for%20England%20and%20Wales

24 app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojNDI4NDY2ZDItdMDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0IiwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTlkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOjh9

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Domestic abuse and unemployment

Those who are unemployed are twice as likely to report having been a victim of domestic abuse²⁵.

On the Island, 55 per cent of the individuals who were subjected to domestic abuse in the last year were not in employment²⁶.

Domestic abuse and sexuality or sexual identity

Bisexual and lesbian women are around twice as likely to report having been a victim of domestic abuse in the previous year compared to heterosexual women. This increased risk is also seen in bisexual and gay men²⁷.

An estimated 363 individuals aged over 16 on the Island are bisexual, gay or lesbian and have been subjected to domestic abuse in the last year. This equates to seven per cent of all individuals subjected to domestic abuse in the last year on the Island²⁸.

Domestic abuse and children

National research indicates that 12 per cent of under 11s, and 18 per cent of 11 to 17 year olds are victims or survivors of domestic abuse²⁹.

An estimated 1,620 under 11s and 1,940 children and young people aged 11 to 17 years have been victims or survivors of domestic abuse on the Isle of Wight. This is 3,560 children and young people in total³⁰.

25 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenlandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#:~:text=The%20Crime%20Survey%20for%20England%20and%20Wales

26 app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiNDI4NDY2ZDItdMDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTlkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOjh9

27 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenlandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#:~:text=The%20Crime%20Survey%20for%20England%20and%20Wales

28 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenlandandwales/yearendingmarch2022#:~:text=The%20Crime%20Survey%20for%20England%20and%20Wales

29 clouclan.ac.uk/6022/1/child_abuse_neglect_research_PDF_wdf84181.pdf

30 app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiNDI4NDY2ZDItdMDQ4Mi00Nzc3LWJhMzgtMjMyZmEzY2E0Y2Y0liwidCI6IjNmODFkOGI1LWVIMDctNGMxNy04NjJlLTlkYjQzOTAxOGQ5YiIsImMiOjh9

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Domestic abuse related deaths (homicide and suicide)

At least ten people die every week in the UK because of violence related to domestic abuse. This is likely to be an underestimate and includes child deaths, domestic homicides and suicides related to partner abuse³¹.

The Isle of Wight has commissioned one domestic abuse related death review in the past 12 months.

Domestic abuse and homelessness

A homelessness duty was owed to 138.7 households per 10,000 households in England in 2023 to 2024³².

A homelessness duty was owed to 117.9 households per 10,000 households on the Isle of Wight in 2023 to 2024³³.

Affordability of housing

In 2023 England had a housing affordability ratio of 8.3³⁴.

In 2023, Isle of Wight had a housing affordability ratio³⁵ of 9.5 which was significantly higher than the national ratio of 8.3³⁶ (a larger number reflects a less affordable area).

31 eprints.glos.ac.uk/4553

32 www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness

33 www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness

34 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoresidencebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian

35 The housing affordability ratio measures how affordable housing, calculated by dividing the average house price by the average annual earnings of a household. Housing that is less affordable is indicated by a higher ratio.

36 www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/jsna/2021-healthy-places#:~:text=The%20planning%20and%20management%20of%20places

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Domestic abuse cited as contributing factor to homelessness

In 2022 to 2023 11.9 per cent of households who were owed a homelessness duty had support needs of 'at risk of' or 'has experienced' domestic abuse³⁷.

In 2022/23, there were 54 households on the Isle of Wight who were owed a homelessness duty with support needs of 'at risk of' or 'has experienced' domestic abuse. This is 7.5 per cent of households who were owed a homelessness duty with any support needs on the Island³⁸.

Total number of individuals supported by local authority areas

In 2022 to 2023, There were 50,670 individuals supported. This equates to 110 individuals per 100,000 population³⁹.

Total number of people supported to safe accommodation on Isle of Wight

In 2022 to 23, there were 138 individuals who took up safe accommodation services. (115 individuals per 100,000 population).

³⁷ www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness#:~:text=Updated%20Statutory%20homelessness%20live

³⁸ www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness#:~:text=Updated%20Statutory%20homelessness%20live

³⁹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-of-support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-annual-progress-report-2022-23/annual-progress-report-from-the-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-national-expert-steering-group-2022-to-2023#performance-of-the-duty-during-2022-23

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Percentage of individuals supported by type of safe accommodation

In England, the most common safe accommodation service is refuge at 44 per cent, followed by sanctuary scheme at 26 per cent⁴⁰.

In 2022 to 2023, 91 per cent of individuals supported by a safe accommodation services were supported by sanctuary schemes on the Island. This was followed by eight per cent being supported in refuge accommodation.

Length of stay for refuge, dispersed and specialist accommodation services

Nationally, 57 per cent stayed in refuge or dispersed accommodation for three months or longer⁴¹.

84 per cent stayed in refuge or dispersed accommodation for three months or longer on the Island.

Individuals stay in refuge or dispersed accommodation for longer compared to the national average

⁴⁰ www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-of-support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-annual-progress-report-2022-23/annual-progress-report-from-the-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-national-expert-steering-group-2022-to-2023#performance-of-the-duty-during-2022-23

⁴¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-of-support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-annual-progress-report-2022-23/annual-progress-report-from-the-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-national-expert-steering-group-2022-to-2023#performance-of-the-duty-during-2022-23

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Identity of individuals supported

Adults and Children – On the Island, there was a higher percentage of those supported in safe accommodation who were adult women (86 per cent compared to 56 per cent nationally). There was also a lower percentage of those supported who are children on the Island compared to the national average (nine per cent compared to 42 per cent nationally).

Disability – The Island has a significantly higher proportion of individuals with a disability accessing safe accommodation compared to the national average (around 33 per cent compared to 11 per cent nationally)

Age – In 2022 to 2023, five per cent of people receiving support in safe accommodation were aged between 16 and 25 years on the Island. This was lower than the national average. Nationally 10 per cent of people receiving support in safe accommodation were aged between 16 to 25 years old. The Island has a higher proportion of clients aged over 65 years old compared to England. Six per cent of clients were aged over 65 years old compared to Three per cent nationally. However, this is reflective of the population structure differences between the Isle of Wight and England with the Isle of Wight having an older population. Comparing this to the estimated need on the Isle of Wight, there is potentially an under representation of those aged 60 to 74 years old in the safe accommodation services. It is estimated that 20 per cent of those subjected to domestic abuse on the Island are aged between 60 and 74 years old. However, there is less than five per cent of that age group accessing safe accommodation services⁴².

42 www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-of-support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-annual-progress-report-2022-23/annual-progress-report-from-the-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-national-expert-steering-group-2022-to-2023#performance-of-the-duty-

Domestic abuse (national)

Domestic abuse (Isle of Wight)

Individuals supported with specialist characteristics

Ethnicity – 23 per cent of individuals accessing safe accommodation services are of an ethnic minority.

Ethnicity – four per cent of individuals accessed safe accommodation in 2022 to 2023 on the Island are of an ethnic minority. This is lower than the national average as the Island has three per cent of its population being of an ethnic minority compared to 18 per cent of the population in England.

Drug use – In 2022 to 23, four per cent of individuals accessing a safe accommodation had a support need for drug misuse.

Drug use – In 2022 to 2023, nine per cent of individuals accessing a safe accommodation on the Island had a support need for drug use.

Alcohol use – In 2022 to 2023, four per cent of individuals accessing a safe accommodation had a support need for alcohol use⁴³.

Alcohol use – In 2022 to 2023, seven per cent of individuals who accessed safe accommodation on the Island had a support need for alcohol use.

Reasons for stopping receiving support in safe accommodation

92 per cent of individuals had a planned exit from non-sanctuary scheme safe accommodation services across England⁴⁴.

100 per cent individuals (11 individuals) had a planned exit from refuge services on the Island in 2022 to 2023.

[during-2022-23](#)

⁴³ www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-of-support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-annual-progress-report-2022-23/annual-progress-report-from-the-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-national-expert-steering-group-2022-to-2023#performance-of-the-duty-during-2022-23

⁴⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-of-support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-annual-progress-report-2022-23/annual-progress-report-from-the-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-national-expert-steering-group-2022-to-2023#performance-of-the-duty-during-2022-23

Seeking support

Specialist support for people subjected to domestic abuse is available on the Isle of Wight.

Please visit the Isle of Wight Council website for details of specialist commissioned domestic abuse providers, and the Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Pathway:

[www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/domestic-abuse/
domestic-abuse-report-and-support/help-and-support-
for-domestic-abuse/](http://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-report-and-support/help-and-support-for-domestic-abuse/)



Isle of Wight safe accommodation strategy 2024 to 2027

If you have difficulty understanding this document, please contact us on 01983 821000 and we will do our best to help you.

