

Equality and Human Rights Impact Analysis Record Form 2020

(replacing the former Equality Impact Assessment)

Introduction

Equality

The purpose of carrying out this equality impact analysis is to provide evidence that you have paid ‘due regard’ to the different protected characteristics when making your decision upon the policy, service or function. It is also a tool that will enable you to meet and further the 3 aims of the general equality duty:

1. **Eliminating unlawful discrimination**
2. **Advancing equality of opportunity**
3. **Fostering good relations**

Human Rights

It is also important that we consider the Human Rights of decisions on council services, policies or functions. Not all services subject to equality analysis will have relevance to the Human Rights Act. However, for those services that do require it, it is likely to be very important.

The council, under the Human Rights Act, has a duty to make ‘**Positive Obligations**’. This means the council has a duty to do something in order to protect or promote an individual’s human rights as well as its duty to the negative obligation to not interfere with an individual’s human rights. This may mean ensuring that an individual receives appropriate care or protection against discrimination.

Department	Housing Access and Wellbeing
Service Area	Neighbourhoods and Housing
Title of policy/ practice/ service or function	Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment
Lead Officer	Ria Toutountzi - Head of Housing Access and Wellbeing

Stage 1 - The team carrying out the analysis

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Think about:

- ❖ Who is the responsible manager for that particular service?
- ❖ Which partners and stakeholders are involved in delivering the policy/function/service?
- ❖ Are there any external funders who help ensure the service/function can be delivered?

Name	Service Area/Role
Ria Toutountzi	Neighbourhoods and Housing – Head of Access and Wellbeing
Vicki Paddison	Community Safety - Strategic Domestic Abuse Services Manager
Richard Bartlett	Human Resources – Equality Officer
Tanya Ferguson	Neighbourhoods and Housing - Specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Officer
Aimee Downs	Neighbourhoods and Housing, Service Support Officer
Luke Fairburn	Neighbourhoods and Housing, Practice Management Officer
Naayaab Nawaz	Human Resources - Equalities Team

Stage 2 – Establish relevance to equality

The following questions can help you to determine how relevant your policy, service or function is to equality, this is not an exhaustive list:

- ❖ What is the purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?
- ❖ Do you know who accesses or uses your service?
- ❖ Is your service easy to access and for whom?
- ❖ Is your policy/service important to one or more of the protected groups?
- ❖ Does your policy, service or function relate to an area that has known inequalities (for example, access to public transport for disabled people, racist/homophobic bullying in schools).
- ❖ What is the proposed change to the policy, service or function?
- ❖ Are there any groups of people who could experience a poorer quality of life because of any proposals to change, reduce or withdraw the service or a benefit?

- ❖ What is the purpose of the policy, practice, service or function?

In Spring 2018, the Government conducted a public consultation entitled "Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse" which resulted in the development of the draft Domestic Abuse Bill, published in January 2019. Progress of the Bill has been delayed for various reasons but it has now completed all its Commons stages and received Royal Assent in April 2021.

The Domestic Abuse Act strengthens the support of victims of abuse by statutory agencies and enables perpetrators to be brought to justice. There a number of strands that will support this. The Act:

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- Creates a statutory definition of Domestic Abuse
- Establishes in law the Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Strengthens the engagement with partners as part of a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- Places a duty on Local Authorities in England to provide safe accommodation and support to survivors
- Emphasizes the need to work collaboratively on a “cross border” basis to ensure survivors receive an appropriate response
- Strengthens existing criminal justice enforcement tools

A key element of the new legislation is the creation of a statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities to comprehensively assess the level of need for domestic abuse safe accommodation within their local areas and publish a strategy outlining the steps they will take to ensure these needs are met. Guidance published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) makes clear that local authorities must undertake these assessments with specific consideration to the barriers that may be faced by survivors through the lens of equality and diversity. The most effective way to achieve this is to conduct an Equality Impact Analysis that will ensure that all protected characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010 are considered separately and specifically in relation to access to appropriate safe accommodation. A key element of this work will be to consider how the intersectionality of different protected characteristics (for instance, how older, disabled women access and experience services) may lead to barriers and inequity of access.

The purpose of this Equality Impact Analysis is to establish to what extent the current service provision in relation to domestic abuse safe accommodation and allied support meets the needs of diverse victims/survivors and their children in Hull and to establish whether there are gaps in the current offer and/or barriers to accessing appropriate support. The findings from this EIA will inform the development of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy for the city. The strategy will outline how the funding awarded to the local authority by the MHCLG in 2021/22 will be deployed to meet those identified needs and where future funding will be directed.

Definition of domestic abuse specialist safe accommodation (*as defined by the MHCLG statutory guidance 2021 – currently draft*)

Refuge accommodation – a refuge offers accommodation and intensive support which is tied to that accommodation

Specialist safe accommodation – safe accommodation specialist refuges (for example for BAME people, those from LGBTQ+ communities)

Dispersed accommodation;

- Safe (secure and dedicated to support victims of abuse), self contained accommodation with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge.
- Safe (as above) self contained “semi independent” accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for those still at risk of domestic abuse by their perpetrator.

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Sanctuary – properties with LA installed Sanctuary Schemes or other similar schemes which provide enhanced physical security measures.

Move on and/or second stage accommodation – projects temporarily accommodating victims, including families, who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge but who would still benefit from a lower level of support for a period.

Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation – a safe place with appropriate support

❖ Do you know who accesses or uses your service?

A review of relevant service usage data demonstrates that locally, adult female survivors of domestic abuse and their children form the largest proportion of those that require access to safe accommodation and support. Whilst the existing commissioned specialist accommodation are exclusively focussed on providing support to female survivors, a review of non specialist service usage data (for example, approaches to the local authority homelessness service) indicates that the overwhelming proportion of those presenting as needing to access safe accommodation are female.

The local authority does monitor the protected characteristics of those presenting as threatened with homelessness. This shows that the majority of current service users are White British, non disabled, heterosexual (straight) and in younger age groups. However, the monitoring data for some diversity strands (notably sexual orientation) is not always provided by service users, making firm conclusions difficult to draw. The local authority run Hull Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) offers an inclusive service supporting both female and male survivors of domestic abuse. The service usage data demonstrates that the overwhelming majority of people contacting the team for support are female, with or without children. Most service users require support and advice to resolve housing problems, though not all of them require access to alternative safe accommodation and prefer to remain at home.

Police data (calls to 999 due to domestic abuse) shows that the overwhelming majority of callers are female. However, the proportion of male survivors that contact the police is increasing, and now forms 25% of all contacts due to domestic abuse.

❖ Is your service easy to access and for whom?

Communications from the council and its partners are easy to access for the majority of people via usual media and social media channels. It has been identified that some communities who require information in different languages and formats may struggle to access the information they need and this will be explored as part of this EIA. Other groups that may be at risk of social or digital exclusion also face challenges in accessing the information they need when they need it.

Owing to the hidden nature of domestic abuse, the experience both locally and nationally is that the issue is under reported. However, there is a significant body of evidence from a wide range of sources that will inform our understanding of the prevalence of the issue and whether particular customer groups are disproportionately

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impacted or experience barriers in accessing services. In addition to a national literature review, a local service usage data review will be conducted, including exploration of data about those who have been unable to access provision that they required. A series of 26 consultation sessions have also taken place to understand the experience of accessing services, both positive and negative, from the perspective of survivors and agencies that support them. In addition, the views of children using the Hull Women's Aid Children's service, either directly or through feedback from their parent, has been sought.

As the diversity profile of service users is not complete (for a variety of reasons), it is impossible to say with certainty that all groups that may need support due to domestic abuse are able to access services that meet their individual needs. Another significant barrier to understanding the true picture of need is that we are relying to some extent on demographic data produced as part of the 2011 Census. We know that the profile of the city's population will have changed significantly during the past decade (particularly in relation to the ethnicity profile) and therefore, the findings in this EIA will need to be reviewed in light of the 2021 Census data, when that is published (March 2022).

❖ Is your policy/service important to one or more of the protected groups?

Whilst domestic abuse affects males as well as females, there is a well established body of evidence, locally, nationally and internationally that shows that it is a gendered issue and that the patterns of abuse experienced, and in particular, life threatening physical violence and sexual violence, affect men and women differently.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have issued guidance on the safe accommodation duties enshrined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 that states:

"We expect all services commissioned to be gender-informed by acknowledging that domestic abuse is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. Services must adhere to the law under the Equality Act for single sex provisions".

What is also clear from the evidence considered as part of this assessment is that the majority of people that are affected by the issue of domestic abuse are children. Their needs are distinct to those of their parents. However, there is limited data available to assess whether their needs are being met as the majority of current provision is designed around the needs of the adult survivor.

❖ Does your policy, service or function relate to an area that has known inequalities (for example, access to public transport for disabled people, racist/homophobic bullying in schools).

As outlined above, the evidence available demonstrates that the issue of domestic abuse is gendered and that females are significantly more likely to be victims than males (particularly when considering the prevalence of life threatening physical abuse and sexual abuse). The British Crime Survey (2019/20) showed that rates of sexual assault against women are 10 times higher than against men and that 27% of women have reported experiencing domestic abuse since the age of 16.

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That said, there is a growing awareness that the issue also affects males (and this is borne out by increasing levels of police reporting) and that more awareness of the issue needs to be raised to encourage men to come forward for support. The British Crime survey (2019/20) showed that 13% of males have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16, with 3.6% of men experiencing it within the preceding 12 months.

If these figures are extrapolated for the Hull population, we can estimate that in the past year, 3,720 males aged 16 or over will have experienced some form of domestic abuse (7,440 females).

Whilst some respondents to the local consultation and online survey raised the issue of barriers for male survivors, it was not clear if this was the perception of respondents that this was the case, rather than a view informed by evidence.

❖ What is the proposed change to the policy, service or function?

The purpose of this EIA is to fulfil the Council's obligations to conduct a domestic abuse safe accommodation needs assessment to inform a Domestic Abuse Strategy that is legally required as part of the duties placed on local authorities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. By understanding who uses current services and where gaps and barriers to accessing these may exist, future commissioning decisions will be evidence based and the Council will be able to meet the needs of all sections of the community in local provision.

The outcomes of this EIA will inform our understanding of barriers faced by diverse groups. However, that is only part of the picture in terms of identifying what provision needs to be in place to meet the safe accommodation and support needs of all sections of the community. We also need to understand service demand and whether people are currently unable to access existing provision due to insufficient capacity within the system.

What will be more challenging to achieve is to understand the local "conversion rate" of people who are experiencing domestic abuse that also need and/or wish to access to safe accommodation and support. Many people who are experiencing domestic abuse will never contact formal services, either because they seek to resolve their situation independently or because they are unaware that services exist that could support them. There is some evidence locally that diverse customer groups have differential needs when they are experiencing domestic abuse.

For example, people may elect to stay temporarily with family or friends when leaving an abusive relationship and seek to secure alternative accommodation with no external support. The current data set held by agencies will not enable us to assess this. By better understanding people's journeys during domestic abuse and post separation, future strategies can be developed that ensure everyone who needs safe accommodation and support can access it.

❖ Are there any groups of people who could experience a poorer quality of life because of any proposals to change, reduce or withdraw the service or a benefit?

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No, the purpose of this EIA is to inform commissioning decisions that are underpinned by a commitment from national government to make sufficient funding available to meet local safe accommodation needs in line with new duties enshrined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (levels of local funding have been published by the MHCLG on the .gov.uk website). Therefore, provision will be enhanced, rather than reduced.

Stage 3 - The scope of the analysis

This scoping exercise is probably best done by the whole team, identifying what needs to be considered and agreeing how this can be done. Ideally everyone within the team will end up with a task.

Please can you try and answer all of the following questions?

- ❖ What do you want to achieve from the potential change to your service?
- ❖ Have you consulted recently on people's views of your service and their priorities?
- ❖ Does the service already meet all customers' individual needs? If not why not?
- ❖ What needs to be analysed and what methods will you use to undertake your equality analysis?
- ❖ What will not be considered as part of the equality analysis?
- ❖ Who are the partners involved in the successful delivery of your service to customers?
- ❖ Who will be responsible for what tasks?

- ❖ What do you want to achieve from the potential change to your service?

The new Hull Domestic Abuse Strategy that will be underpinned by this Equality Impact Assessment evidence base will enable the identified gaps in existing provision to be filled and areas of existing good practice to be strengthened. The overall aim is to utilise the available resources in a way that meets the safe accommodation and support needs of everyone affected by domestic abuse, regardless of their protected characteristics.

- ❖ Have you consulted recently on people's views of your service and their priorities?

Yes, extensive consultation has taken place locally;

- An online "People's Panel" survey (1057 responses)
- Agency and voluntary/community sector consultation sessions which included:
The Crossings hostel
Hull City Council landlord service
Ashiana
DWP

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DAP Team
Strength to Change Team
Preston Road Women's Centre (staff)
Hull Women's Aid (staff)
Children and Young people Living with Domestic Abuse workstream (Multi-agency)
Headstart
MARAC Steering group (multi-agency)
Hull City Council Supported Accommodation Review Team
Homelessness Strategy Focus Group
Choices and Rights Disability Coalition
Refugee Council
LGBTQ+ Forum
Domestic Abuse Forum (multi-agency)
City Health Care Partnership – Primary care services
CCG champions group
Independent Advisory Group (multi-agency)
PAUSE (Children's Social care)
Hessle Road Network
Community Integration and Advocacy Centre

- 2 group survivor sessions
- 28 individual survivor responses
- 10 individual responses from children and young people or their primary care giver
- Consultation with the Domestic Abuse Board
- Pan Humber consultation group

❖ Does the service already meet all customers' individual needs? If not why not?

The evidence considered indicates that those service users that can access specialist domestic abuse accommodation and support services in the city receive a very supportive and appropriate response. Survivors accommodated at the Hull Women's Aid refuge described the service as "life saving". There is no question, based on the responses from survivors, that for the women who receive the service, it is invaluable. However, many women cannot access it. In some cases, this is because there are no bed spaces available and in others, it is due to the survivor having needs that can't be met safely within the provision. The average length of stay in the refuge can be considerable, further compounding the lack of access for others who may benefit from the service.

The lack of designated, specialist refuge provision in neighbouring local authority areas can place additional pressure on the bed spaces that are available in the Hull refuge for local women, as survivors from other areas are referred here. The latest statistical information revealed that just 40% of women placed at the refuge are from the Hull area.

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It has always been the case that the network of refuges work on a reciprocal basis to ensure that survivors can access safe accommodation when they need it across the country and indeed, the Homelessness Code of Guidance and the provisions in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 make clear that survivors should not experience barriers when they seek to move between local authority areas when fleeing abuse. However, some survivors, whilst placed at the local refuge for long periods of time, are not seeking to permanently re settle in this area and are waiting to be re housed in their local authority area of origin. This suggests that there may be a lack of suitable safe accommodation provision in their "home" local authority area.

Feedback from the consultation sessions held also evidenced that Hull DAP services are universally well regarded.

Hull DAP is the only service in Hull that provides dedicated IDVA support to male and LGBTQ survivors. The latest MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, convened to identify actions to protect service users assessed as being at high risk domestic abuse) performance data (Q3 2020) shows that LGBTQ victims are likely to be under- represented (2.2% of all service users) . Safelives charity estimate that the range should be between 2.5% - 5.8%. The same MARAC data also shows that male survivors are likely to be under represented. 3.2% of service users were male, in comparison to the Safelives charity estimate of between 5-10%.

Hull has a higher than average level of BAME survivors referred to MARAC (12%). Safelives recommends this should be around 7% of service users. These clients often face multiple complex barriers to accessing services and require increased specialist resources and support, a situation compounded due to the impact of COVID-19.

Hull has a high level of disabled survivors (21%) referred to MARAC= 6%, slightly above the Safelives recommended level of 19+%. However, the percentage of people within the city that have a disability is higher than the national average. The Hull Local Health and Lifestyle survey 2014 reported that 27.7% of respondents identified that they had a long term illness or disability.

The picture is mixed in terms of non specialist provision. Agencies and service users report that the response of statutory services is not consistent and can be difficult to navigate. The local authority housing options team received praise from some respondents, but criticism from others. Children's social care services were mentioned by a number of respondents as not providing a supportive response. Respondents had very mixed views about the response from the police, with some highly complimentary but others having the opposite view.

The current non specialist accommodation offer, for those that are unable to access refuge provision, is usually mixed gender hostel provision or self contained local authority temporary accommodation (without on- site staff support). There is no female only hostel provision currently commissioned by the local authority in the city. This is likely to be a barrier to some service users (particularly those without children) who anecdotally may be vulnerable to further abuse in these settings.

What is also apparent is that some survivors of domestic abuse experience barriers to accessing specialist accommodation provision, particularly if they have experience

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multiple disadvantage and have complex support needs (for instance, substance misuse and/or mental health issues). Survivors who have experienced previous tenancy failure or evictions, or who have been involved in the criminal justice system, are likely to experience even greater barriers as they can be considered too “high risk” to be accommodated within a communal setting. Whilst this group make up a relatively small proportion of all domestic abuse survivors, feedback from agencies working to support them indicates that they are the most challenging group to keep safe. They may be dependent on their perpetrator (for instance, due to substance addiction), they may be involved in sex work, they are less likely to maintain engagement with services and often go “under the radar” of services. For this group of highly vulnerable individuals, a more intensive and bespoke offer is required.

Women with older male children, who have pets or who are working will also be unable to access the local refuge provision (although other specialist floating support and sanctuary services are available to them).

For those with a physical disability, there is currently no wheelchair accessible option within refuge provision. For those with a learning disability, they may experience barriers to information about sources of support. Disabled people are able to access sanctuary scheme measures (security installations) and emergency temporary accommodation (although as outlined above, there is a scarcity of accessible accommodation).

Whilst Lesbian and Bisexual women are able to access specialist safe accommodation, Trans women cannot. Trans women are able to access sanctuary scheme measures (security installations) and emergency temporary accommodation. There is no specialist safe accommodation provision for LGBTQ+ service users. However, Hull DAP provides a universal service offer and emergency accommodation via the local authority is accessible.

Whilst male survivors do have access to emergency temporary accommodation, sanctuary scheme measures (security installations) and a dedicated male victims support workers, there are unable to access the local refuge provision. Analysis of data showing the number of men seeking support with re housing illustrates that there is currently not a strong evidence base that would suggest the need to set up a communal refuge provision for men. Of the 89 council tenant households that were rehoused via a “direct let” rehousing priority due to domestic abuse in 2019/20, 2 were male survivors. Of those making an approach to the homelessness service requiring emergency accommodation in 2021/22, 348 were female headed households and 29 were male. In 5 of the cases involving a male survivor, children were part of the household make up, in contrast to 120 cases involving a female headed household.

Newly arrived migrants, those subject to immigration control via spousal visas, asylum seekers (and unsuccessful asylum seekers), and refugees are less likely to have a good awareness of services available, their rights under legislation, a good knowledge of English and are more likely to experience destitution. A reliance on a partner for financial support may create further barriers for these groups.

Barriers to specialist commissioned accommodation and/or a reluctance to access hostel accommodation may lead some survivors to accessing provision in the non

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commissioned accommodation sector (usually in Houses of Multiple Occupancy) which may not be of high quality and provide non specialist support in a mixed gender setting.

What is also quite clear from reviewing the data is that the largest proportion of individuals affected by domestic abuse are children. Whilst there is some specialist commissioned provision in place, this is unlikely to be sufficient to meet the specific support needs of children as they try to come to terms with what they have experienced.

Staff working in children's social care services identified that there is currently no specialist service to address domestic abuse directed at a parent by their child. This was described as a significant gap for these families. The current offer focuses on developing the parenting skills of the parent but does not address the abusive behaviour of the child through the lens of domestic abuse dynamics.

The prevalence of teenage domestic abuse was raised by a number of respondents, who highlighted that no dedicated service exists to support them and that their needs can fall into a "grey area" in terms of the definition of domestic abuse that services adhere to. If either the victim or the perpetrator are under the age of 16, this will fall into the arena of children's safeguarding, but the dynamics of the behaviour will mirror the pattern of behaviours and risks as described in the national definition of domestic abuse.

Local and national evidence indicates that older people are significantly less likely to come forward for support when experiencing domestic abuse.

There is some evidence that women from Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities face additional barriers when trying to seek support due to domestic abuse. This can be due to cultural reasons, as male and female gender roles and expectations can be strictly defined, and fleeing domestic abuse may mean having to leave the community completely. Similarly, survivors from certain BAME groups may encounter pressure, harassment and abuse from their community if they seek to access support or leave their abuser. Survivors may be at risk of Honour Based Violence.

Anecdotally there is some evidence that the location of the refuge, within a neighbourhood with a high BAME population, may act as a barrier for some survivors, who may fear being identified by other members of their community.

❖ What needs to be analysed and what methods will you use to undertake your equality analysis?

A wide range of data and evidence needs to be considered and analysed in order to enable robust conclusions to be reached. This includes:

- The quantity and type of currently commissioned DA safe accommodation
- The quantity and type of floating support services for adults and children
- The number of people that have not been able to access the existing provision, broken down by the reason for that
- The number of properties that have had Sanctuary Measures put in place due to domestic abuse within the past 12 months
- The number of people placed into safe accommodation in Hull from other Local Authority areas

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- The number of people presenting to the local authority housing options team due to domestic abuse, broken down by protected characteristics
- The number of people seeking support from the police due to domestic abuse
- The number of people seeking support from Hull DAP due to domestic abuse, broken down by protected characteristics
- The number of people referred to MARAC broken down by protected characteristics
- The likely prevalence of domestic abuse in the city based on ONS estimates
- Service user feedback on their experiences of accessing services and barriers to access
- Agency feedback on their experience of supporting survivors to access services and barriers
- Consultation responses about what future provision should look like, to enable existing gaps to be filled
- National literature review considering specific barriers faced by different customer groups

❖ What will not be considered as part of the equality analysis?

Whilst it is vital to consider how services respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse in order to effectively tackle the issue holistically, this is not the focus of this piece of work. Support for perpetrators who want to change their behaviour and holding them to account have been raised as a theme by a number of consultation respondents.

❖ Who are the partners involved in the successful delivery of your service to customers?

The issue of domestic abuse can only be effectively tackled through a coordinated community response, involving both statutory and voluntary/community agencies. The key stakeholders from the perspective of access to safe accommodation and support include the following;

- Hull Domestic Abuse Partnership
- Hull Women's Aid
- Preston Road Women's Centre
- Victim Support
- Rape Crisis
- Hull Lighthouse project
- HCC Housing Options Team
- Registered providers (social housing providers)
- Humberside Police
- Humberside Probation
- HCC Adults and Children's Social Care services
- Primary health care providers
- DWP

❖ Who will be responsible for what tasks?

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- The coordination/overseeing of the EIA process will be led by the Housing Access and Wellbeing service. Stakeholder engagement will be led by the Community Safety Partnership. The Corporate Equalities Team will provide a consultative support service, conduct the high level analysis of emerging themes from the consultation workshops.
- The Practice Management team will provide a “sense checking” role to assess the conclusions drawn from the evidence considered. Administrative support will also be provided by the Practice Management Team.
- Development of the EIA action plan will be led by the Community Safety Partnership.
- Monitoring of progress against activity within the EIA action plan will be the responsibility of the Domestic Abuse Board.
- Development of the Council’s refreshed Domestic Abuse Strategy for the city that is informed by the outcome of this EIA will be led by the Community Safety Partnership.

Stage 4 - Data and consultation feedback

This section forms a critical part of your equality analysis in meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, please ensure that there has been adequate and meaningful consultation undertaken with customers from protected groups. Please ensure that when consulting people are fully informed of any decisions that will change, reduce or withdraw a service or benefit.

Please remember to contact the Corporate Business Intelligence Team to register with them any consultation you may wish to undertake, and to find any existing consultation and sources of data that the council may have which could assist your equality analysis. Please also contact the Equality Policy Team for contacts for groups within the community for engagement/consultation.

When gathering information from data and consultation it is important that you provide a picture with your analysis on:

- ❖ Who currently uses your service?
- ❖ Are there differences in demand for your service within the community?
- ❖ Is it easy for protected groups to access your service?
- ❖ Are there any different experiences in those accessing the service and if so for whom?
- ❖ Do all your existing communication methods reach all groups of people?
- ❖ Will any protected groups experience a poorer quality of life because of the proposals of change, reduce or withdraw of the service or benefit?

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Sources of data and consultation used

Source	Reason for using
Internet Users in the UK – Annual estimates (ONS 2019)	To identify likely percentage of the local population that are digitally excluded
ONS – Ethnicity Facts and Figures- English Language Skills (ONS – 2020)	To identify the likely percentage of the local population that speak no English or limited English
Domestic Abuse in England and Wales Overview (ONS 2020)	Combined data from the British Crime Survey and police recorded crime (2018-2020) showing the prevalence of domestic abuse amongst adults aged 16-74 by type of abuse and gender
Hull Data Observatory	Population demographics
An Assessment of Vulnerability – Domestic Abuse in Hull 2018 – RSM UK	Commissioned by the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner to establish the nature and prevalence of reported domestic abuse in the Hull area.
Femicide Census 2009 -2018, Dr Julia Long et al.	Review and analysis of all femicides in the UK between 2009 - 2018
Gay and Bisexual Men’s Health Survey 2011 Prescription for Change – Lesbian and Bisexual Women’s Health Check 2008 (both informed the Stonewall Health Briefing - 2015)	Research into the prevalence of domestic abuse within LGBTQ communities and specific barriers faced in accessing services.
When Intimate Partner Violence Meets Same Sex Couples: A Review of Same Sex Intimate Partner Violence (Rolle, Giardina et al, University of Torino – 2018)	Evidence review citing international studies into the nature and prevalence of domestic abuse within Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual relationships
Out of Sight, Out of Mind – Transgender People’s Experience of Domestic Abuse – (Scottish Transgender Alliance 2010)	Research into the prevalence of domestic abuse experience by Transgender people and specific barriers faced in accessing services.
Making Invisible Men, Visible (Mankind charity, 2021)	Statistical information from range of sources and suggested approach to assessing safe accommodation needs for male victims of domestic abuse
Brain Injury and Domestic Abuse – A Practitioners Perception (The Disabilities Trust 2021)	Research exploring the link between domestic abuse and brain injury
Disabled Survivors Too: Disabled People and Domestic Abuse (Safe Lives 2017)	Research into the prevalence of domestic abuse affecting disabled people, combining evidence from the British Crime Survey, Safe Lives Insight Data and MARAC analysis.

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Source	Reason for using
Behind Closed Doors – The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children (UNICEF, 2006)	Review of global evidence about the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse on children.
Children’s Experience and Needs in Situations of Domestic Violence. A Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Data from Adult Friends and Family Members of Female Survivors (Alison Gregory et al, University of Bristol, 2019)	Secondary qualitative analysis of the impact of domestic abuse on children
Refuge Performance Report 2017/18	Statistical information regarding domestic abuse in pregnancy
Abuse during pregnancy and femicide: urgent implications for women’s health – (McFarlane et al 2002)	Research into the prevalence of domestic abuse and femicide during pregnancy
Patchy, Piecemeal and Precarious – Support for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (Action for Children, 2019)	Research into the needs of children affected by domestic abuse
Tackling Inequalities Faced by Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities (Parliamentary Select Committee enquiry report – 2019)	Enquiry into the experience of these communities in accessing services and barriers faced (including in respect of domestic abuse)
Summary Police Reporting 2012-18 (ManKind Charity 2020)	Review of all reported domestic abuse police contacts by gender of victim
Understanding the scale of violence against women in the UK since birth – (VictimFocus -2021. Jessica Taylor and Jaim Shrive)	Largescale research with responses from 22000 women via anonymous survey on social media
Safe Later Lives – Older People and Domestic Abuse (SafeLives, October 2016)	Summary of evidence and qualitative research into prevalence of domestic abuse against older people
Position Statement on Male Victims of Crimes Considered in the Cross Government Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls (HM Government 2019)	Literature review and summary of evidence demonstrating the prevalence of violence against men
Intimate Partner Violence – Evolutionary Psychology Perspectives (Hamel, 2020)	Literature review and summary of evidence assessing the prevalence and nature of intimate partner violence based on gender
Violence against women in pregnancy and childbirth – (Taft, 2002)	Research undertaken in Australia to identify the prevalence of domestic abuse during pregnancy
Digital Exclusion Map – (Hull City Council 2020)	Map utilising government data on levels of digital exclusion in the city of Hull
Hull People’s Panel survey (Hull City Council, 2021)	Online survey assessing level of awareness of domestic abuse and whether services meet local needs
Domestic Abuse homelessness presentations 2019-20 (Hull City Council)	Service usage data broken down by diversity strand and presence of children in the household

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Source	Reason for using
Domestic Abuse “heat” map 2021 (Humberside Police)	Reported calls to police due to domestic abuse, presented in map form
Domestic Abuse incident attribute breakdown 2021 (Humberside Police)	Breakdown of domestic abuse reported incidents by diversity strand
Service usage and outcome data 2019-20 (Preston Road Women’s Centre)	Breakdown of referrals to service, presenting needs and outcomes
Service usage diversity profile 2020 (Preston Road Women’s Centre)	Diversity profile of service users
Direct let awards and property refusals 2019/20 (Hull City Council)	Diversity profile of applicants with a priority rehousing award due to domestic abuse
Calls for assistance by East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull residents 2021 (Men’s Advice Line)	Service usage data and diversity profile
All approaches to Housing Options Team HCLIC reports 2018-2020 (Hull City Council)	Breakdown of reason for approaches for homelessness assistance
Hull Women’s Aid Children’s service performance information 2018-19 (Hull Women’s Aid)	Service usage data
Hull Women’s Aid origin of referral data (2019-20)	LA origin of service users accommodated
Hull Women’s Aid statistical data (declined referrals 2019-20)	Number of referrals to accommodate declined and reason breakdown
Hull DAP statistical information and outcome data 2020/21	Performance information broken down by gender, sexual orientation, household make up, level of risk
Strength to Change Statistical data and outcome data 2020/21	Performance information broken down by gender, household make up, level of risk
Sanctuary Scheme statistical data 2020/21	Performance information broken down by gender, household make up, level of risk
Hull MARAC Statistic data 2020/21	Performance data mapped against Most Similar Force Area and National Data set and safelives recommended standards.
Hull DAP and Humberside police statistical data to identify unmet need	Performance data broken down into reported call for services, by gender and risk level.
East Riding Domestic Abuse Strategic Review (ERYC 2020)	Review of existing provision in East Riding of Yorkshire and analysis of service take up with reference to protected characteristics

Do your customers and stakeholders agree with your findings and proposed response? If not, why not?

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Feedback session to be arranged

If analysis suggests that people from a protected group will not be affected, an attempt should be made to 'check this out' and this should not be solely based on objective information. If this cannot be achieved within the time frame of the analysis, then it should become an action to be taken in the future and included within the action plan.

Stage 5 - Analysing the impact or effects

When arriving at a judgment about the levels, if any, of impact, you should consider:

- ❖ Equal opportunity
- ❖ Accessing in its widest sense and methods used to regulate access to a service or employment
- ❖ Treatment (the experiences people have when trying to use services)

Your data and your information can come from a wide range of sources including:

- ❖ Local or national census data
- ❖ Satisfaction surveys, complaints
- ❖ Specific Research carried out locally and nationally
- ❖ Research carried out by organisations such as Stonewall, Government Equalities Office etc
- ❖ Trade Unions
- ❖ Consultation with residents and customers
- ❖ Feedback or discussions with partner organisations
- ❖ Feedback and consultations from staff
- ❖ Benchmarking data
- ❖ Self assessments and reports
- ❖ Performance reports

a. What does the 'quantitative' data tell you? Such as:

- ❖ The **number** of different protected groups accessing the service?
- ❖ Are there different **outcomes** for any particular groups accessing the service?
- ❖ Is there any unwanted adverse impact to any particular group/s
- ❖ Is there unlawful prohibited conduct? (discrimination, harassment, victimisation or a failure to make reasonable adjustments)
- ❖ Is there no impact? (no relationship between policy/service/function and people)
- ❖ Neutral impact (no noticeable harmful effects)

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Protected Group	Findings
Age	<p>In terms of access to information about support online, older people and are less likely to have access to sources of advice via the internet. However, the ONS estimates that 47% of over 75 year olds do have access to and use the internet. 83% of 65-74 year olds are also active users. The latest estimates do not take account of the “channel shift” that has occurred during lockdown, where an even greater number of people will now be active internet users.</p> <p>Older people from certain BAME backgrounds are less likely to speak or understand English. The ONS estimates that the over 65s are most affected, particularly those from South East Asian backgrounds or of Arab descent.</p> <p>Research into the prevalence of police reporting due to domestic abuse commissioned by the Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner in 2018 indicates that police reports decrease within older age groups, with the age most affected as either a perpetrator or a victim being 20-29 years. More domestic abuse “heat map” data supplied by Humberside Police shows a significant disparity in reporting rates in different wards within Hull. The areas with lower reporting rates largely correlate with areas of the city that have a higher average age profile. That does not mean that domestic abuse doesn’t occur in these wards, but that the nature of abuse is likely to be experienced differently for these groups.</p> <p>National evidence produced by the SafeLives charity identified that specific barriers exist for older people seeking support due to domestic abuse. This is due to a range of factors, including generational (a perception that marriage is for life), pressure from adult children to stay in the relationship, caring responsibilities for the perpetrator, disability or health needs, reluctance/fear of entering a communal setting with predominantly young people in refuge provision.</p> <p>Teenagers that are involved in domestically abusive intimate partner relationships have no specialist offer of support, and may fall under the jurisdiction of the safeguarding children arena, if under the age of 16, “teen abuse” – aged 13-16. The nature of those relationships is likely to mirror the characteristics of adult domestic abuse.</p> <p>(</p> <p>Child to parent reported domestic abuse police incidents increased by 199% between 2015-18. Male sibling domestic</p>

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	<p>abuse against females is the most common form of sibling violence, with most suspects and victims aged under 16.</p> <p>There is no specialist offer to support families where child on parent domestic abuse is taking place.</p>
Disability	<p>Evidence from the British Crime Survey demonstrates that disabled people are significantly more likely to be victims of domestic abuse than non disabled people.</p> <p>Safelives Charity research shows that disabled people are much more likely to be suffering abuse from a current partner (37%) than non disabled people (28%). Disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than non disabled women, and typically experience abuse for longer (3.3 years compared to 2.3 years for non disabled women).</p> <p>Disabled people are more likely to experience barriers to accessing services (especially those that rely on being able to use a telephone or visit a service in person) and are less likely to be able to secure safe accommodation when they need it (national estimates reveal that just 0.9% of refuge accommodation is accessible for wheelchair users).</p> <p>Disabled people may rely on their abuser to provide their care, and their disability may be used to further control their lives (for instance, withholding medication and aids/adaptations). Conversely, there is a perception that disabled people are unlikely to harm others, yet some perpetrators are disabled and may rely on their victim to care for them. Feelings of guilt and responsibility can act as a barrier in these cases for a victim to seek support.</p> <p>Safelives also explore the issue of learning disability and domestic abuse; "...the misplaced view that disabled people are asexual can mean they receive less education regarding healthy relationships, sexuality and sexual and reproductive health. This means that they may not be equipped with the information to recognise abusive behaviours or understand their rights and how to seek support".</p> <p>The Safelives national dataset shows that women and men with mental health problems are at an increased risk of experiencing violence, regardless of gender and that exposure to domestic abuse increases the onset, duration and reoccurrence of mental health issues.</p>

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	<p>People with learning disabilities may require domestic abuse messaging information in a different format to enable them to understand it. A high percentage of people with learning disabilities rely on family members or support staff to access information across all forms of media.</p> <p>Studies from other regions have stated that over 10% of disabled people had no access to digital media and the ONS estimates this to be higher, at 22%. This is therefore a significant disparity in terms of access to information when compared to other groups. As over 35% of the working age people in Hull have some form of disability, a similar number of people not accessing digital media is significant. Local service usage data does not provide a complete picture of the impact of domestic abuse on disabled people, to inform an understanding about barriers to safe accommodation. MARAC data for 2020/21 (cases referred as high risk following risk assessment) shows that 239 cases involved a disabled survivor.</p>
Gender (Sex)	<p>Local, national and international evidence shows that domestic abuse is a gendered issue in that there is a disproportionate impact on females as victims of male perpetrators. The British Crime Survey shows that 13% of males over the age of 16 have experienced domestic abuse in their lifetime in contrast to 27% of females. The figures are starker when considering sexual violence, with females experiencing this at 10 times the rate of males.</p> <p>Although the ONS estimate that just 1.6% of the UK population do not speak English, 60% of the total are female. Almost 22% of Bangladeshi females and 16% of Pakistani females do not speak or understand English. In Yorkshire and Humberside, almost 45% of Bangladeshi females over the age of 65 do not speak or understand English. This is a significant disparity in terms of access to information when compared to other groups.</p> <p>Action Aid, a charity working internationally to support women and girls describe the issue as follows <i>“Domestic Violence is universal. It is an expression of male dominance over women and it is both a cause and a consequence of women’s serious disadvantage and unequal position in comparison to men. Its impact is felt throughout every layer of society”</i>. They go on to point out that <i>“globally, 38% of all murdered women (in contrast to 6% of all murdered men) are killed by their partner”</i>.</p> <p>Analysis of data showing the number of men seeking support with re housing reveals differential demand for services. Of</p>

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	<p>the 89 council tenant households that were rehoused via a “direct let” rehousing priority due to domestic abuse in 2019/20, 2 were male survivors. Of those making an approach to the homelessness service requiring emergency accommodation in 2021/22, 348 were female headed households and 29 were male. In 5 of the cases involving a male survivor, children were part of the household make up, in contrast to 120 cases involving a female headed household.</p> <p>Analysis of new client data held by Hull DAP shows that in 2020/21, a total of 140 men were referred/self referred for support, compared with 933 women. In terms of the overall caseload analysis for that year, 759 females were victims in repeat incidents of domestic abuse, compared to 13 males. This may indicate that the nature of the domestic abuse experienced takes different forms.</p> <p>The Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned report (2018) “An Assessment of Vulnerability” showed that in relation to reported incidents, females are 6 times more likely to be named as a victim of male violence than a male from female violence. Between 2015-2017, the number of intimate partner reported incidents where males reported being a victim of a female perpetrator increased by 33%. There was a 17% increase in reports from female victims in the same period.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>This element of the analysis includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Trans men - who have previously transitioned, or are currently transitioning, from female to male (FTM) and are therefore living as men.– Trans women - who have previously transitioned, or are currently transitioning, from male to female (MTF) and are therefore living as women.– other gender variant trans people – who have not transitioned on a permanent basis from female-to-male or from male-to-female. Instead they either live partly or fully as the gender which corresponds with the sex they were assigned at birth or live in a non-binary gender which is not clearly male or female. This group includes, but is not limited to, transvestite/ cross-dressing people (those who wear clothing traditionally associated with the other gender either occasionally or more regularly) and androgyne/polygender people

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	<p>(those who have non-binary gender identities and do not identify as male or female)</p> <p>National and local evidence demonstrates that there are barriers to accessing services for people identifying as Transgender. Trans people are not able to access any of the commissioned domestic abuse accommodation available in the city. There is very limited research available that specifically focuses on the needs of Trans people in relation to domestic abuse. The Scottish Transgender Alliance research “Out of Sight, Out of Mind – Transgender People’s Experience of Domestic Abuse” is a small scale qualitative study but provides valuable insight, finding that 80% of respondents reported that they had experienced abusive behaviours from a partner or ex partner. As part of the power and control dynamics in play within domestically abusive relationships. The authors found that <i>“respondents reported high levels of control and coercion from partners relating to the process of transitioning, either by preventing them from expressing their true gender identity or, in a smaller number of cases, forcing them to ‘out’ themselves through threatening to tell others of their trans background or identity.</i></p> <p><i>Another way in which respondents reported emotionally abusive transphobic behaviour from partners or ex-partners was through the use of guilt and shame about their transgender identity”.</i></p> <p><i>They also found that “Abusive partners may use their partner’s transgender identity to control their actions and behaviours. This could be through blaming the problems or abuse within a relationship on the transgender person, based on the inaccurate assumption that it is a ‘choice’ to be transgender”.</i></p> <p>Local data shows that in 2020/21 just 10 people that identified as Transgender were referred or self referred to Hull DAP. The lack of robust diversity monitoring and a reluctance to self report, that would enable Trans people to be identified across all services contributes to a lack of visibility and the ability to assess the true picture of need.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	No evidence of any disproportionate/adverse impact as this protected characteristic is unlikely to affect access to domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services. However, where forced marriage has taken place, this can create the conditions for domestic abuse to start or intensify.

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Pregnancy and maternity	<p>There is significant body of evidence that indicates that domestic abuse can start or intensify during pregnancy. “Reproductive Coercion” (including pregnancy coercion, birth control sabotage and controlling the outcome of a pregnancy) are strongly correlated with intimate partner violence.</p> <p>The Refuge charity reported that 20% of women in their services are pregnant or have recently given birth.</p> <p>Research by Angela Taft in Australia estimated that four to nine in every 100 pregnant women are abused during their pregnancy or soon after the birth.</p> <p>McFarlane et al (2002) identified the link between abuse during pregnancy and an increase likelihood of femicide by her perpetrator.</p> <p><i>J. McFarlane et al. (2002)</i></p> <p>There is no evidence locally identified that there are barriers to accessing safe accommodation and support services for this group, however, anecdotally some survivors may be reluctant to seek help to escape an abusive partner as they fear that their child may be taken away from them.</p>
Race	<p>The UK Femicide Census revealed that in the 10 year period 2008-2018, 84% of victims were born in the UK, with 16% born overseas. This means that non UK born women are at higher risk of femicide, with certain ethnic groups appearing to be disproportionately affected.</p> <p>The authors stated that: <i>“The findings suggest that there may be particular issues facing Eastern European women in the UK that merit further investigation, such as poverty, language barriers, sexual exploitation, economic and social precarity, cultural issues, dependency on men and barriers to accessing support”.</i></p> <p>Imkaan, a charity working with survivors of domestic abuse stated that;</p> <p><i>It’s simply not enough for us to know that disproportionality exists or try to understand the femicide</i></p>

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prevalence and prevention through the lens of an individual case. It is critical to understand the wider system of gendered/intersectional inequalities that contribute to this disproportionality at different levels (interpersonal, community/public, state). Women's immigration status, their lack of state protection which is exploited by perpetrators, the hostile environment and inequitable access to specialist "by and for" support are critical to understanding the underlying factors. For example, when the data tells us that African women are at 300% increased risk and Polish women were three times more likely to be killed or that a significant proportion of women were disabled, we need to explore the multifaceted reasons behind this".

Data held locally by the HCC housing options team for those experiencing domestic abuse service take up broken down by ethnicity indicates that the largest group of people after White British identify as "White Other".

Those with limited/no English language skills are less able to access information in an understandable format and this has been highlighted as an issue within the South East Asian community, particularly for older females. The vast majority of the general population are estimated to speak and understand English according to the ONS (98.4%) and younger age groups across all ethnicities are far less likely to experience language barriers. This however will not be the case for newly arrived communities, for instance, asylum seekers and refugees.

A positive mitigating action in terms of overcoming barriers to accessing information and raising awareness of domestic abuse amongst newly arrived refugees is the established practice of offering face to face sessions with specialist domestic abuse practitioners, facilitated through the Refugee Council, as part of refugee "induction" early resettlement activity in Hull.

It has been highlighted that gypsy and traveller communities are likely to experience high levels of domestic abuse within their communities, and lower reporting levels than the general population. It is suggested by groups advocating on behalf of these communities that this is linked to the presence of cultural rigid gender roles.

Undocumented migrants in the city are at increased risks due to an unwillingness to come forward and become visible to authorities. This also means that communities that may

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	<p>include some undocumented migrants may be more challenging to engage with in terms of providing information and support.</p> <p>It has been highlighted that newly arrived communities (e.g asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers and refugees) may experience specific barriers to accessing advice and information.</p> <p>Following Brexit, the right to reside rules affecting EU nationals have changed. There is the potential that perpetrators may have applied for settlement status in their own right but have failed to do so for their partner, as part of a pattern of coercive control.</p> <p>MARAC data in 2020/21 indicates that 131 survivors that were referred as high risk cases self identified as being from a BAME background.</p>
Religion and belief including non-belief	<p>There is very limited research nationally or locally to establish whether religion and belief/non belief may represent barriers to accessing services. What is available suggests that in some religions, the concept of forgiveness may act as disincentive to leaving an abusive relationship.</p> <p>In relation to accessing safe accommodation, there may be barriers for some survivors who due to their beliefs could not access mixed gender provision. For those accessing single gender communal provision, the use of shared kitchen and bathroom facilities may act as a barrier due to religious beliefs.</p> <p>There is an intersectionality of culture and religion/faith/belief that needs to be considered in terms of access to service issues.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>There is national and local evidence available that indicates that there is a high prevalence of domestic abuse within Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual relationships and that survivors may experience barriers to mainstream services. Research by Stonewall revealed that 40% of gay and bisexual men have experienced domestic abuse from a partner compared to an estimated 14% of men in general. International studies have indicated that all forms of abuse are more likely to occur in homosexual and bisexual couples than in heterosexual ones. Messinger (2011) concluded that lesbian women are at highest risk of being involved in intimate partner violence, followed by heterosexual women, gay men and heterosexual men. He hypothesised that this could be caused by <i>“unique risk factors linked to minority stress that is experienced only by LGB people”</i>.</p>

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	<p>Local service usage data shows that LGB survivors are represented within the statistics but there is a need to ensure accurate and consistent diversity monitoring to build a complete picture. For example, of the 89 council tenants that were re housed via a “direct let” priority self identified as LGB in 2020/21. However, in 11 of the 89 cases, the applicant did not disclose their sexual orientation.</p> <p>In terms of police reporting, between 2015-2018 there was an increase in female same sex domestic abuse incidents of 60%. The same period saw the incidence of male same sex domestic abuse increase by 77%.</p> <p>26 high risk cases of domestic abuse involving LGB survivors were referred to a MARAC during 2020/21.</p>
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Non-statutory protected group

Socio-economic	<p>People in extreme poverty are less likely to have access to digital communications and may also not have the means to access local or national media or have means to contact services for support. As Hull is already the 4th most deprived local authority area in England this means that a large proportion of the population are living in poverty.</p> <p>The tenure profile of those accessing support from Hull DAP indicates that a disproportionately high proportion are council tenants. We know that two thirds of council tenants locally are in receipt of means tested benefits.</p> <p>The Hull wards which are “hot spots” in terms of police reported incidents due to domestic abuse strongly correlate with the most deprived areas in the city.</p> <p>There is a likelihood that survivors who are living in poverty will be more reliant on their partner financially and that this will in turn create a barrier. Survivors who have access to their own financial resources will not face this specific barrier.</p> <p>DWP benefit rules can create issues for survivors who do not intend to return to their tenancy after fleeing domestic abuse. This can lead to rent arrears building up whilst an alternative property is identified, which can take several months. Survivors may feel they have to give up their tenancy which means that they could lose secure tenancy rights. The DA Act will enable local authorities to offer a new secure tenancy in these situations, even if there has been a gap between tenancies starting and ending.</p> <p>As highlighted earlier, newly arrived communities (for example, asylum seekers) are likely to be living on lower incomes than the general population and therefore have more barriers when trying to escape an abusive relationship.</p>
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	<p>There are a variety of increased risk factors that have been identified for homeless people and rough sleepers. Specifically, “entrenched” rough sleepers may struggle to access mainstream hostels or other temporary accommodation due to previous unsuccessful placements and may be more reliant on an abusive partner financially.</p> <p>Those with drug or alcohol addictions are more likely to prioritise meeting those needs and may therefore remain in risky situations, especially if they are reliant on their abusive partner to fund their addiction.</p> <p>What is clear is that domestic abuse affects people from all backgrounds and social classes. However, those with less financial resources are more likely to approach statutory services for support, as they do not have the means to resolve their situation otherwise. For example, if they need to be re housed due to domestic abuse, they will have to come forward and be visible to services. Those in a more secure financial position will have the means to find their own alternative accommodation. In these cases, people may still need to access other forms of advice and support (for instance, emotional support, legal advice).</p>
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a. What does the qualitative data tell you, such as:

- ❖ Customer feedback
- ❖ Comments
- ❖ Complaints
- ❖ Discussions or meetings with stakeholder groups about the impact of the policy, practice, service or function on the protected characteristic groups (e.g. minutes of those meetings)

<i>Protected Group</i>	<i>Findings</i>
Age	<p>Whilst the statistical data indicates that the majority of survivors that seek support due to domestic abuse fall into younger age groups, the issue of age was not highlighted as a major theme by respondents in terms of safe accommodation provision. Older women were well represented in the survivor consultation and had been very positive about the service they had received whilst accommodated at Hull Women’s Aid. However, it was raised that being offered a bed in mixed gender hostel provision might not be appropriate for older women, and could act as a disincentive to leaving an abusive relationship.</p> <p>Practitioners did highlight that there is a gap in provision for teenagers experiencing domestic abuse; with no specialist service in place to respond to their specific needs.</p>

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	<p>Practitioners also commented that child to parent domestic abuse presents particular challenges for services and there is no specialist offer available in these circumstances.</p> <p>A number of respondents mentioned that the current provision to support the children of adult survivors of domestic abuse is insufficient to meet the needs of what is a large number of individuals (many of whom will not access safe accommodation provision and may not therefore be identified). The currently funded capacity of those services to meet the needs of the local population is likely to be inadequate, based on the statistical data of the number of children involved in presentations to the local authority housing options team or/and supported by Hull DAP. Hull DAP's active and open case load for March 2020 was 536 victims who had 749 children. Additionally, during July 2020 and June 2021 Humberside Police shared information with the Local Authority Children's Social Care following 999 calls for reports of domestic abuse for 3184 families who had children.</p> <p>Service users, including children, were very positive about the support they had received from the existing commissioned children's services to move on from their experiences and clearly valued the impact it had on their lives.</p>
Disability	<p>The lack of designated safe accommodation that is accessible to people with physical and sensory disabilities was highlighted by a number of agencies and service users during the consultation. There was also an issue identified in terms of people with sensory impairments not being able to access information about sources of support (one suggestion was for information campaigns to be via radio or through face to face means during GP check-ups, for example). It was also highlighted that disabled people can be reliant on a partner or family member for care and support; this can make it more challenging to seek support, especially if they are always accompanied by their abuser.</p> <p>People with a learning disability might also struggle to access information about sources of support through the existing communication methods.</p> <p>Professionals working at PAUSE agreed: <i>"More specialist input for clients with learning disabilities – Timescales for people with a learning disability they need more time to process information , digest and understand what services do and what services are out there.</i></p>

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	<p><i>Learning disability, grief loss and trauma all affect the ability to engage with services. More understanding of working with clients with a learning disability”.</i></p>
Gender (Sex)	<p>In specific regard to appropriate safe accommodation, respondents highlighted that it was important that survivors had access to gender specific services. Single female survivors who can't access the local refuge provision may be offered a bed space in large, mixed gender hostel provision. This can be a barrier to escaping an abusive relationship and can place a vulnerable survivor at further risk from other perpetrators or associates of the abuser they are fleeing. Many respondents highlighted that single women with complex support needs face multiple barriers to accessing the existing commissioned safe accommodation. Whilst a small number of bed spaces are funded specifically for this group, their needs can often be too high.</p> <p>Some respondents described that survivors have reported being sexually assaulted in these forms of provision. Practitioners working to support survivors to access emergency accommodation described the unsuitability of this provision, which can take the form of emergency beds in shared rooms.</p> <p>Another common theme arising from the consultation was that Universal Credit can be a significant barrier for survivors seeking to escape an abusive relationship. Perpetrators using financial control are likely to claim UC on behalf of their victim, which will include allowances for housing costs. Whilst there is the facility to amend a claim so that the benefit can be split between the parties, this relies on a survivor making it known that they are experiencing domestic abuse to authorities</p> <p>The consultation feedback from agencies and survivors highlighted that whilst there is a good awareness of sources of support for female survivors, there is a lack of visibility about the current service offer for male and LGBTQ+ survivors. The feedback from some respondents suggests that men do not come forward about their experiences because they don't think that they will be taken seriously and that they are not provided with support that focuses on their individual needs. It was suggested that training needs to be made available to highlight the specific needs of male survivors as they are reluctant to come forward about their abuse. It should be noted that whilst respondents did have views about access for male survivors , it was not clear</p>

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whether this was their perception or a view borne out of direct experience of working with male survivors. Specific examples were not provided.

In contrast, practitioners working directly with male survivors had a different view. They estimated that only 30% clients need housing related advice and want to know what their rights are. However, in their experience, they “*always seem to have a (housing) solution in the pipe line*”.

In contrast to the evidence in respect of female survivors, The male practitioners described that their caseloads are “*heavily family related abuse, rather than intimate partner domestic abuse*”. In addition, they described that the abuse experience “*tends to be situational rather than in the context of power and control*”. In only one case did a respondent report that stalking and harassment was a feature of the abuse perpetrated towards a male survivor.

The respondents described that very few of the male survivors that they work with have their children in their care. This view correlates with the analysis of the household make up data of survivors who approach the local authority as homeless, demonstrating a significant difference in the presenting need – i.e female victims are far more likely, based on the available local evidence, to need to access safe accommodation with or without their children than males are.

It was felt by the practitioners that awareness of online forms of domestic abuse needs to be increased.

In terms of recovery work, practitioners noted that male survivors prefer to engage in 1-1 practical activities to support them, but generally do not engage for long enough to participate in longer term group work.

In conclusion, there is clear evidence that both male and female survivors have domestic abuse support needs but the nature of their presenting needs are likely to be skewed because of by their gender. The evidence shows that females are more likely to require emergency accommodation than males, are more likely to be the subject of repeat victimisation, harassment and stalking and are more likely to experience life threatening forms of abuse. This does not negate the devastating experiences suffered by male survivors, but it points to the need to respond in a different way. What is clear is that more publicity/awareness raising needs to be done specifically targeting male survivors, to encourage them to come forward.

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Gender reassignment	<p>As highlighted earlier, Trans survivors are unable to access the female only safe accommodation provision. This was highlighted as a barrier by a number of respondents, particularly in the LGBTQ+ forum consultation.</p> <p>For some Trans survivors, respondents were clear that a mixed gender hostel would not be appropriate. There was a concern that Trans people, who already experience discrimination within communities, would face hostility and intolerance from other service users placed in a communal environment.</p> <p>Whilst the number of Trans survivors approaching services for support is very low (10 approaches to Hull DAP in 2019/20), receiving a sensitive and appropriate response is critical.</p>
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>No specific feedback from respondents was received in relation to this protected characteristic.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Limited feedback was received from respondents in relation to this protected characteristic. However, one survivor raised the issue that she was placed in bed and breakfast accommodation when heavily pregnant without any means to purchase food or essential items. It was suggested that people placed in such an emergency situation should be provided with a form of “welcome pack” with enough provisions to manage for a few days.</p>
Race	<p>Feedback from agencies working specifically with asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, EU migrants and unauthorised migrants described the barriers for those experiencing domestic abuse as including;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immigration status (no recourse to public funds): lack of access to benefits can cause delays in obtaining support although Preston Road Women’s Centre were described as taking a flexible approach - Language: generally the services mentioned are willing to obtain an interpreter but sometimes there are delays in finding a female interpreter or correct language/dialect. There were also concerns raised around children and family members being used as interpreters which is never appropriate, can increase the risks to the victim and is likely to cause secondary trauma for children and young people. - Cultural beliefs (such as normalisation of domestic abuse pressure from families to return to partners, shame of leaving a partner). There needs to be recognition of these issues and how fear of being

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alone in a country far away from family can draw women back to an abusive relationship.

- Lack of knowledge of UK systems

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Immigration status, recourse to public funds and language should not be a barrier to a survivor of abuse being protected. There needs to be immediate accommodation and financial support without hesitation. When a survivor is safe then these issues can be looked at in such a way that the survivor does not feel imperilled by their lack of recourse or immigration status.

Consideration of providing training to a pool of interpreters engaged for the most frequently encountered languages would help to ensure sensitive interpretation is provided that does not embed the client in the cultural issues which normalise abuse. It would also be of use for the interpreter to have a brief conversation after the interpretation session to reduce the level of vicarious trauma experienced. Sensitivity is also required as to the gender of the interpreter. There have been a couple of occasions recently when a male interpreter was used for female survivors of domestic abuse.

Regular attendance at "Open Doors" by domestic abuse specialists, or funding of a dedicated worker, would enable survivors to build trust and open up about their experiences so that they do not suffer in silence.

Greater distribution of **translated** materials in discrete locations (eg toilets) so that survivors can obtain information without the perpetrator being aware. There also needs to be recognition that many women are illiterate in their own language so translated information will not reach them so there may need to be creativity in how to present material pictorially to get the message across.

The development of peer to peer group/s extensively trained in domestic abuse, but also able to explain the culture context to specialist agencies so that issues can be addressed sensitively, whilst at the same time protecting the survivor, without causing return to the perpetrator, would support the development of a culture of safety across the city.

The development of peer to peer male refugee/asylum/migrant groups, possibly involving sports activities, where domestic abuse, amongst other things, can be addressed thereby challenging cultural norms around family life that are considered damaging may lead to a reduction in domestic abuse.

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	<p>Survivors from BAME backgrounds described that concerns around exposure to racial abuse meant that they would only consider accessing accommodation in certain parts of the city. In common with the feedback above, language barriers were highlighted as a key issue; existing publicity (which can be translated on request) is presented in English.</p> <p>Users have suggested that posters and leaflets in different languages should be distributed and placed within locations that are commonly visited by non-English speakers such as in churches, GPs, mosques, factories, schools so that they have accessibility to the information and support available. One service user mentioned that welcome packs available in different languages would be really useful. A female Muslim respondent described that she wanted to purchase Halal meat but nobody was able to direct her to a Halal butchers despite their being so many around the city. She said she felt lonely as she could not communicate in English and wanted to be around her own community to socialise but due to language barriers she was unable to find out about these opportunities.</p>
Religion and belief including non-belief	<p>No specific feedback was received regarding this protected characteristic, but as highlighted earlier, existing communal accommodation provision may not enable the preparation of food to be done in a way that meets religious requirements. Mixed gender provision is also likely to present a barrier for people of certain religions.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The male survivor support workers described that in their experience, same sex domestic abuse often takes the form of both physical and sexual abuse.</p> <p>Service users and agency workers from the LGBTQ+ forum fed back that members of the community feel invisible to services due to a lack of awareness and that promotional publicity of services should visibly reflect them. They suggested that a specialist service or a specialist within a service for LGBTQ+ survivors would encourage people to come forward. They also emphasised that more awareness should be raised in schools as members of the LGBTQ+ community may face domestic abuse from their own family members, as well as from their intimate partners. There are also no support groups in place for LGBTQ victims of DA which they can get more individualised support from.</p> <p>Members of the LGBTQ+ community had a mixed view in terms of the police response. They felt that a greater</p>

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	emphasis on building better community relations would lead to more confidence in seeking support.
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Non-statutory protected group

Socio-economic	<p>A number of service users from Hull Women's Aid raised the issue of Universal Credit being a barrier to escaping an abusive partner, with some reporting that it took several months before their benefits were resolved as the claims were in joint names with their ex partner. In the meantime they were left almost entirely reliant on support from the refuge and/or children's social care.</p> <p>One older respondent did however praise the local jobcentre who had supported her to make her claim for UC and also provided her with a free lap top and access to IT training to enable her to look for employment. She described this as a fantastic service as she had never developed any IT skills as her ex partner had prevented her doing so.</p>
General feedback	<p>Awareness</p> <p>Some respondents had only been made aware of DAP or other support when they contacted the police. Respondents suggested that information in the form of leaflets should be available in women friendly zones such as bra shops, toilets and GPs. More awareness should be generated through radio stations, local newspapers and also community social events.</p> <p>Respondents also suggested that awareness about domestic abuse and the support that is available needs to start within schools.</p> <p>Training</p> <p>Many respondents felt that staff in all agencies that work with people that could potentially be affected by domestic abuse should have in depth training so that they are able to respond effectively; and that this training should focus on the range of situations and diverse groups that may need support.</p> <p>Accessibility of services</p> <p>Respondents felt that it was critical that they could access support easily in an environment in which they felt comfortable and wouldn't arouse the suspicion of the perpetrator. A presence in an innocuous setting such as a drop in at a GP</p>

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surgery or other health setting could be ideal. A number of respondents felt that domestic abuse services should operate out of hours, including weekends, as that is often when incidents occur.

The Specialist DA housing practitioner has unique insight into the issues and barriers that arise when seeking to accommodate people fleeing DA. She felt that many issues could be addressed if a dedicated housing service was available *“that can work closely with agencies where domestic abuse is identified to ensure clients are offered appropriate support, safety planning and housing options”*.

She felt this service could also *“provide support for complex cases as they approach housing options, as often we identify cases that need pre tenancy support and ongoing floating support once they have been allocated a tenancy”*.

This dedicated focus on housing and domestic abuse would also enable suitable safe accommodation to be accessed in an emergency and then followed up, assessed/triaged for housing options as part of a single point of contact (SPOC).

Feedback from the PAUSE team within Children’s Social Care described that *“Purple House have been really effective and Together Women’s Project to access courses and support”*. They added that *“Preston Road Women’s Centre courses were really good for women to access during lockdown. General feedback given of their clients are more likely to decline Hull DAP support but will engage with PRWC or TWP, this may be because of accessing women centre setting easier or prefer to engage with charity sector”*.

PAUSE staff echoed the concerns of many other respondents in relation to survivors with complete needs: *“Housing clients with additional and complex needs. Client was evicted by their supported housing provider due to noise and neighbour complaints which led to homelessness, felt a higher level of floating support may have been able to sustain the tenancy.*

A lot of clients do not meet the threshold for MEAM level with homeless so feel there is a gap in provision of support that can be provided to prevent homelessness or cases where not street homeless”.

Respondents felt that additional floating support and outreach services, in addition to an enhanced online offer, were areas that needed to be strengthened.

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	<p>Respondents from the local authority landlord service described challenges in terms of supporting survivors to secure alternative permanent rehousing and that there wasn't parity of access between council tenants and non council tenants. The system was described as "lumpy" and one central route would be easier to access.</p> <p>Existing arrangements to support easy access to appropriate safe accommodation, including permanent rehousing options should be streamlined and strengthened to avoid people falling between gaps.</p>
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b. Are there any other groups of people who may experience an adverse impact because of the proposals to the change of policy or service who are not listed above?

None identified

c. Gaps in data

What are your main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your changes to policy/function/service on customers? Please indicate whether you have identified ways of filling these gaps.

For instance you may have little or no data on sexual orientation and therefore you should propose to carry out some focused consultation with that specific community through their LGBT Forum (contact the Equality Policy Team for their details)

Gaps in data	Action to deal with this
Diversity profile data is incomplete or not collected at all	<p>All publically funded services should collect diversity profile data in a way that is practically achievable in the context of their operations and this requirement should be an element in all DA service contractual agreements. Service users should be strongly encouraged to complete all elements of equality monitoring and be reassured that their information is secure and will only be used for the purposes of establishing equity of access to services.</p> <p>Some groups are currently completely hidden (for instance, the Roma community).</p>

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Service user satisfaction data across commissioned DA services	Currently incomplete – should be a requirement in all DA service contractual agreements
The number of service users that are turned away from commissioned DA services due to insufficient capacity to accept them Only PRWC and WA	To establish the level and type of unmet need within commissioned DA services
The number of service users that are turned away from commissioned DA services because the nature of the service cannot meet their needs, broken down by the specific reasons (for instance, substance misuse issue, mental health issue)	To establish the level and type of unmet need within commissioned DA services
Source or referral	To establish the percentage of survivors placed within DA commissioned accommodation from out of the local area
The proportion of people experiencing DA that need some form of floating support or safe accommodation	To establish the true need for safe accommodation and allied support in the city.
Census data to inform the local picture of need is out of date	A review of this assessment will need to be conducted once the Census 2021 data is available
The number of children impacted by DA who have to wait on a waiting list to access support	To establish the number of children who have unmet needs

Please remember to also record any **positive** impacts that may occur as a direct result of changing a services or a policy that further the three aims of the general duty:

1. **eliminate discrimination**
2. **advance equal opportunity**
3. **foster good relations between groups**

An example of this could be that as a result of taking elderly people to local community centres for support services which can no longer be delivered in their homes, it has improved good relations between young and old people who now share the community centre.

d. Remember - It will be useful to produce a summary of information that captures the impacts and analysis on both quantitative and qualitative data. This summary of information should be displayed in a graphical format, using charts or graphs if possible. It will also provide an audit trail for how you have arrived at your findings.

Human Rights Impacts

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The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) was brought into force in the UK in October 2000. It is formed of a series of sections that have the effect of placing the protections in the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

Human rights are founded on core principles such as equality, fairness, respect, autonomy and dignity. They protect people's freedom to control their own lives, effectively take part in decisions made by public authorities which impact upon their rights, and get fair and equal services from public authorities. The Act applies to all public authorities and other bodies providing public functions.

Part 1: The Convention – Rights and Freedoms

Article 2: Right to Life	There is likely to be substantial risk of impact around this Article due to the risk to life that domestic abuse presents. The council and its partners need to be mindful of their positive obligations to protect victims' Right to Life and to ensure where individuals and families need support from them that they are provided the most appropriate service that offers the most appropriate protection. This presents a significant risk to females as 38% of all murdered females are killed by their partner and are generally more likely to suffer physical violence from their partners. Risks can be further heightened for those individuals with more complex support needs around mental health or drug and alcohol misuse and that this can often be linked to deprivation. Individuals with complex support needs are less likely to access more specialist provision and have been identified as some of the most difficult to keep safe. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has also highlighted that some of the protections under the new Domestic Abuse Act did not go far enough in terms of protecting migrant women and ensuring they can access appropriate services. Hull's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) does provide a good route for safeguarding those deemed most at risk, it is important to ensure that those from harder to reach communities or those from higher risk groups with complex support needs are able to access the services they need to keep them safe.
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<p>Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way</p>	<p>That impacts on Article 3 of domestic abuse provision is likely to be the same as those under Article 2 – The Right to Life. Again females are the most likely to be impacted, however there is a broader impact in that the threshold for breaches of this Article are much lower than Article 2. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has repeatedly reminded member states that Article 3 imposed a duty that states must take measures to prevent individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults, from being subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment administered by other individuals. Through mechanisms such as MARAC the council and its partners are therefore required to take reasonable action to prevent breaches of Article 3 from happening when they are aware of a real and immediate risk to an individual.</p>
<p>Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/forced labour</p>	<p>There is significant crossover with this Article and other Articles of the Human Rights Act (mainly 2,3 and 8) and other pieces of legislation (Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Care Act 2014). Risks around Article 4 are often present in cases where individuals are groomed into relationships with abusers who subsequently force them into sexual exploitation, slavery or forced labour. This can also affect individuals with learning disabilities through what is often referred to as “mate crime”. As with the other Articles the council and its partners must be aware of the potential risks around potential breaches and how these may link to other Articles of the Human Rights Act and similar legislation. They must also be able to recognise the indicators of modern slavery and have the appropriate mechanisms to report, respond and investigate issues, monitor the risks and communicate them effectively to across partnerships.</p>
<p>Article 5: Right to liberty and security</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Article 6: Right to a fair trial</p>	<p>There are risks around this Article and a number of examples in case law at the European Court of Human Rights where authorities have failed to enact judgements in the favour of survivors of domestic</p>

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	violence and abuse around the eviction of abusers or removal of children at risk of abuse.
Article 7: No punishment without law	N/A
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life	It is important for the council and its partners to recognise that there are potential risks around this Article. There is a substantial amount of case law through the European Court of Human Rights that has found against authorities. State authorities are required to not just protect individuals from arbitrary interference from public authorities but to also operate systems that protect individual rights. Ensuring the privacy of domestic abuse survivors is vital to keeping them safe and ensuring that they are can maintain a family life is important to their overall long-term wellbeing. As domestic abuse survivors are at most risk of serious harm after they have left a relationship appropriate systems and protocols need to be in place to ensure privacy is protected and that there are no other breaches of an individual's human rights under the other Articles. There is a clear line of jurisprudence developing from the European Court of Human Rights that there is a low threshold for domestic violence and liability for public authorities where they fail to adequately protect persons from it.
Article 9: Right to freedom of conscience and religion	Any accommodation provision and provider must not interfere with an individual's rights under this Article. They must make provision for individual's to observe their beliefs where it is reasonable for them to do so and not limit an individual's ability to practice their belief.
Article 10: Right to freedom of expression	N/A
Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association	N/A
Article 12: Right to marry	N/A
Article 14: Right to be not discriminated against	This Article on applies in relation to the other Articles that may be affected. The council will therefore need to ensure that in prioritising those most in need of having their eligible needs met that it is not unwittingly discriminating against any group or protected characteristic either

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	directly or indirectly. All those who will require a service should be able to access so where there are groups who have less services available to them the council and its partners will need to be mindful of this and review their provision accordingly. Traditionally there has been less request for services from males and people from trans groups have struggled to access appropriate provision. Going forward it will be important to continue to engage with different groups to understand their needs and continue to monitor the available provision and its suitability.
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Part 2: The First Protocol

Article 1: Protection of property/peaceful enjoyment	N/A
Article 2: Right to education	Everyone has the right to not be denied access to the education system. This Article may come into play where there are children that are victims of domestic abuse or are the children of survivors who require support in accommodation.
Article 3: Right to free elections	N/A

Stage 6 - Mitigation and promotion

When considering whether there is a mitigating action which could be taken, you may wish to consider the following questions?

- ❖ Have you identified any adverse impact upon the different protected groups as a result of your policy/service which are either unlawful or unwanted?
- ❖ What are the ways you can implement your mitigating actions against those adverse impacts.
- ❖ Are there different ways of delivering the service?
- ❖ Could the service be promoted better with those under represented groups accessing your services?
- ❖ Could application forms and methods of requesting a service be improved or altered to make them easier for the public?
- ❖ If you cannot mitigate unlawful or adverse impact can you please explain why?
- ❖ What can you do to improve and promote equality of opportunity or good relations between different groups in your community as a direct result of your policy/function or service?

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- ❖ Have you identified any adverse impact upon the different protected groups as a result of your policy/service which are either unlawful or unwanted?



The evidence demonstrates that there may be barriers to accessing safe accommodation for certain protected groups. In particular;

- women experiencing multiple disadvantage, who have support needs that cannot be managed safely in the existing commissioned accommodation provision
 - Insufficient capacity within specialist safe accommodation to meet the needs of female survivors locally
 - disabled survivors who require accessible emergency accommodation, who cannot access the existing commissioned accommodation provision
 - Survivors from newly arrived communities who may not be aware of their rights, may not speak English, who may have insecure immigration status, or who have no recourse to public funds
 - Working people who would benefit from accessing the refuge provision are unlikely to be able to afford to do so, due to the high level of rent and service charges (which will be covered for those in receipt of means tested benefits)
 - Trans survivors who cannot access the existing commissioned accommodation provision
 - Children within households affected by domestic abuse, who cannot access therapeutic support as there is insufficient capacity within the existing commissioned services to meet the anticipated need.
 - Other groups may experience barriers but this cannot be determined unless the diversity profile data for all service users, including those unable to be accepted into services, is complete.
- ❖ What are the ways you can implement your mitigating actions against those adverse impacts?
The Domestic Abuse Act grant funding made available to the local authority will enable the commissioning of new services that are designed to increase the capacity of specialist services to provide safe accommodation and support to survivors and their children.

- ❖ Are there different ways of delivering the service?

Yes, there are currently a range of services to support survivors in safe accommodation. Providing services to people in their own home (where it is safe to do so) will overcome some of the identified barriers (for instance, for survivors with older male children, who are working, who have pets, who are living in accommodation adapted for the mobility needs, who have substance misuse, mental health needs or are trans, etc.).

Also, for those who simply don't want to flee and be forced to leave their home, community, faith group, school, college/university and family and support networks behind, the latter being extremely important to aid post abuse recovery

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and rebuild and sustain their confidence and independence in the short and longer term.

Respondents to the Hull People's Panel online survey in April 2021 revealed that there is a preference for accommodation based services that are not within communal settings:

When asked about priorities when it comes to providing services for people who experience domestic abuse the **highest** priorities were:

- More support to remain in their own home (with increased security and assuming it can be made safe)
- More single occupancy accommodation with support (safe flat or house of their own)

However, when the findings were analysed to isolate the responses from the 11% of participants who had previously experienced or were currently experiencing domestic abuse, a different picture emerged.

Respondents who **currently or have previously experienced** domestic abuse place:

Higher than average priority on:

- Mandatory relationship education in schools, colleges, university
- Therapy services / counselling for perpetrators
- More work with and in the justice system

Lower than average priority on:

- More multiple occupancy communal refuges (single room in a shared house with shared facilities)
- More single occupancy accommodation with support (safe flat or house of their own)
- Legal help and advice

For those respondents who have experienced domestic abuse, 43% accessed most information and support from a friend or relative. Over a third (36%) accessed most information and support from some 'Other' source not listed in the survey.

The findings of the People's Panel survey illustrate different perceptions about the most effective ways to respond to domestic abuse. However, what is clear is that survivors themselves are likely to seek support from a friend or relative, rather than anyone else. Awareness raising of the issue of domestic abuse and how to get help should be focussed at this group.

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- ❖ Could the service be promoted better with those under-represented groups accessing your services?

Yes, A programme of awareness raising and publicity that reflects all sections of the community will encourage survivors to come forward for support. This will enable a more accurate assessment of whether service provision needs to be re designed to meet the needs of all groups.

- ❖ Could application forms and methods of requesting a service be improved or altered to make them easier for the public?

There are multiple ways to access services; however, translated information should be provided more routinely, to raise awareness. There may be a need to consider the accessibility of support services outside of normal working hours.

Existing arrangements to support easy access to appropriate safe accommodation, including permanent rehousing options should be streamlined and strengthened to avoid people falling through gaps.

- ❖ If you cannot mitigate unlawful or adverse impact can you please explain why?
N/A

- ❖ What can you do to improve and promote equality of opportunity or good relations between different groups in your community as a direct result of your policy/function or service?

As part of a “Coordinated Community Response”, the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board will assess the impact of strategic activity designed to prevent and respond to the issue within the community. This includes raising awareness about the impact of domestic abuse and challenging the myths that surround it.

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Stage 7 and 8 - Objectives setting/ implementation

Having finalised your findings and proposals for changes or improvement, you need to produce an action plan to demonstrate:

- ❖ What you plan to achieve (your objective)
- ❖ What you intend to do
- ❖ The methods you intend to use
- ❖ The timescale for carrying out actions
- ❖ How success will be monitored

The following action plan must be **SMART** and ensure that success can be measured, and include a way in which further action to deal with partial success can be implemented. The plan must be approved and agreed by senior equality steering groups or the equality programme board. By making the plan public it will also ensure where there are cases of different teams needing to carry out specific actions then this can be achieved, and that performance of others in delivering their part can be monitored.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Planned action</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>How will this be monitored?</i>
<i>All sections of the community are aware of and able to access domestic abuse support</i>	Publicity and communications are tailored to better reflect all sections of the community so that people see themselves reflected and are encouraged to come forward. Consider developing a suite of “explainer videos” in a variety of languages and formats aimed at diverse communities.	<i>Community Safety DA Board</i>	<i>Quarterly from April 2022</i>	<i>DA Board quarterly strategic review</i>
<i>The key role played by family and friends in supporting survivors forms</i>	Publicity is developed and targeted not just at survivors themselves, but at family and	<i>Strategic DA Services Manager</i>	<i>Quarterly from April 2022</i>	<i>DA Board quarterly strategic review</i>

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<p><i>a key aspect of a coordinated community response</i></p>	<p>friends who are often the first or only point of contact when someone is seeking to escape domestic abuse</p>			
<p><i>The Council and its partners have a really clear understanding of the diverse characteristics of those who use services, so that barriers to access can be identified.</i></p>	<p>There should be focussed efforts across all agencies to improve recording of equalities monitoring data, so that a more complete assessment of the needs of diverse groups can be undertaken.</p> <p>Completion of diversity information is a pre requisite within DA services commissioning</p>	<p><i>Strategic DA Services Manager Head of Access and Wellbeing HRS Commissioning Team</i></p>	<p><i>Quarterly from start of new HRS contract awards</i></p>	<p><i>DA Board quarterly strategic review</i></p>
<p><i>The Council and its partners have a clear understanding of unmet need in relation to DA safe accommodation in the city</i></p>	<p>A robust process for collecting data about those who cannot be accommodated within commissioned provision and the reasons for this is established.</p> <p>Reporting mechanisms are a pre requisite within DA services commissioning</p>	<p><i>Strategic DA Services Manager Head of Access and Wellbeing HRS Commissioning Team</i></p>	<p><i>Quarterly from start of new contract awards</i></p>	<p><i>DA Board quarterly strategic review</i></p>
<p><i>The Council maximises its ability to meet the needs of all survivors by working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities to</i></p>	<p>Establish a regional liaison group with LA leads to explore opportunities to share good practice, identify gaps and</p>	<p><i>Strategic DA Services Manager Head of Access and Wellbeing</i></p>	<p><i>April 2022 and ongoing</i></p>	<p><i>DA Board quarterly strategic review</i></p>

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<p><i>ensure the response is consistent and comprehensive</i></p>	<p>potential to jointly commission services. Ensure that partnership working is further embedded with Registered Providers to improve practice in relation to domestic abuse</p>			
<p><i>The Council has one clear, consistent and high quality route for survivors to access when seeking DA safe accommodation</i></p>	<p>Review the existing pathways within the organisation and develop a dedicated DA safe accommodation hub service that minimises opportunities for people to fall between gaps.</p> <p>Promote access to this service and monitor its impact over time.</p>	<p><i>Strategic DA Services Manager</i></p> <p><i>Head of Access and Wellbeing</i></p>	<p><i>January 2022</i></p>	<p><i>DA Board quarterly strategic review</i></p>
<p><i>The Council's strategies and plans reflect the association between DA and other forms of abuse, for example, Modern Slavery</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the suite of safeguarding strategies designed to protect vulnerable adults and children reflect DA and other forms of coercive control.</p>	<p><i>Strategic DA Services Manager</i></p>	<p><i>October 2021</i></p>	<p><i>Strategies are in place and published on the HCC website</i></p>
<p><i>All survivors, including children, are able to access services that meet their needs</i></p>	<p>The gaps in the current provision outlined in this EIA are addressed as part of DA commissioning structures</p>	<p><i>Strategic DA Services Manager</i></p> <p><i>Head of Access and Wellbeing</i></p>	<p><i>Outlined as part of DA Strategy – October 2021</i></p>	<p><i>Proposals to meet identified needs are outlined in next DA Strategy and given effect as soon as possible</i></p>

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Stage 9 - Monitoring and review/ mainstreaming into business plans

Please indicate whether any of your objectives have been added to service or business plans and your arrangements for monitoring and reviewing progress/ future impact?

As outlined above, the findings of this EIA will form the basis of the DA Strategy which will be published in October 2021.

The Housing Related Support recommissioning process will also utilise this evidence base in relation to where resources need to be directed.

In line with the Domestic Abuse Act requirements, the Domestic Abuse Board have a responsibility to oversee the effective implementation of the strategy.

Stage 10 – Quality assurance and publishing the completed analysis

Please ensure that before the finalised analysis is signed off by an officer of at least Assistant Head of Service level that it has been quality assured by a member of the Equality Team. The completed analysis will then need to be published on the council's website.

Quality assured by _____ on _____

Completed analysis approved by _____ on _____

Where and when published?