



This has been painted by a survivor
of domestic abuse.

'It made a difference for me'

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028



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What is domestic abuse?

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 statutory definition of domestic abuse is:

‘Any single incident or a course of conduct of physical or sexual abuse, violence or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been personally connected to each other’

This definition applies when both parties are aged 16 or over and are personally connected (partners, ex-partners, family members, or individuals who share parental responsibility).

Importantly, the 2021 Act also recognises children and young people as victims of domestic abuse if they see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse, and are related to either the victim or perpetrator.

Foreword

Domestic abuse is a devastating reality that affects individuals, families, and children across every community. Everyone deserves to live in safety, free from fear and harm. This strategy sets out our commitment to addressing domestic abuse in all its forms.

It outlines our approach to prioritising prevention, supporting all those affected by abuse, including the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community and the pursuit of justice for those affected. It reflects the voices of survivors, the insight of professionals, and the determination of our community to build a safer, more compassionate city.

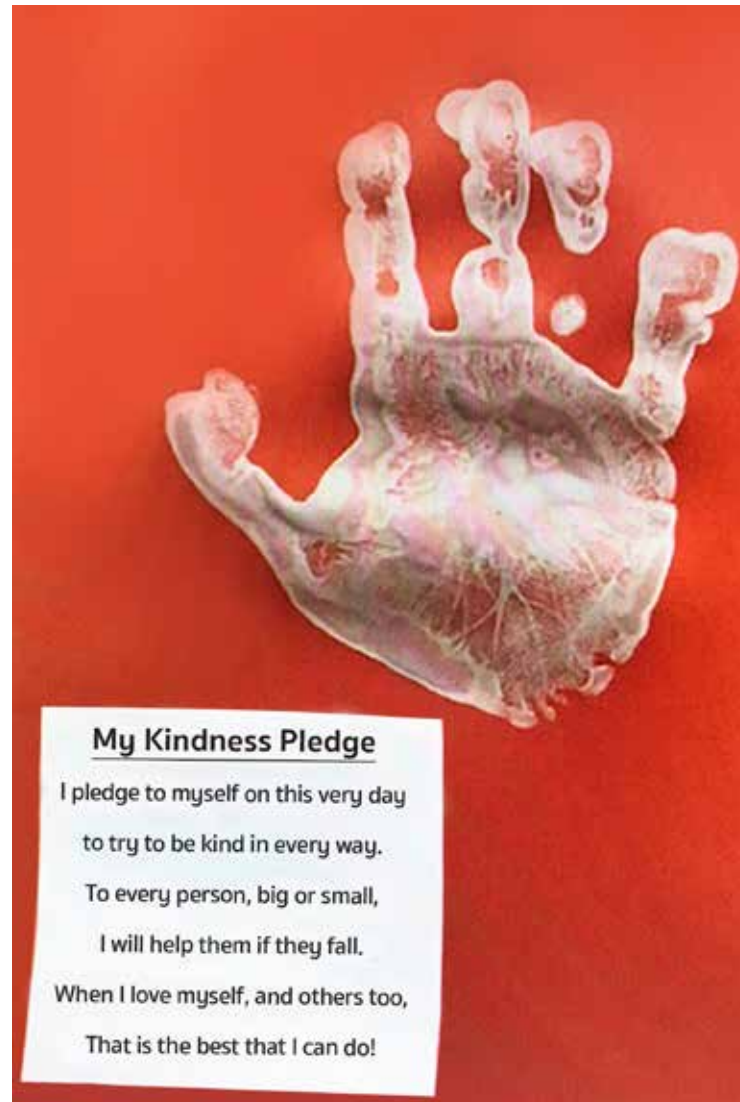
We know behind every statistic is a person – a parent, a child, a family member, or a neighbour whose life may be changed forever by abuse. That is why this strategy is not just a document, but a call to action. It is a pledge to listen, to learn and to lead with empathy and resolve.

Together we can challenge harmful attitudes, strengthen protective networks, and create an environment where abuse is never tolerated.

Tracy Harsley

Chair DA Strategic Board

“Domestic abuse is everyone’s business and all organisations in Hull have a role to play”



People just don’t understand how bad these relationships are. I hope in writing this and sharing this, it may help to raise awareness and help others who don’t understand to understand what it’s like to live with abuse.

*I’d choose the bear,
Honesty I don’t know how they dare,
Pretend to care,
It’s an illusion,
It causes so much confusion*

*One day they care, sweet, loving & kind,
The next, it’s like they’re losing their mind,
So much suppression, causing so much aggression,*

*Living with landmines under your feet,
There’s nowhere to retreat,
The table, isn’t stable,
There’s nowhere to eat
or that’s even safe to
take a seat.*

*I didn’t need more hate or another debate,
I didn’t need tough love,
I needed an escape.*

(A Survivor)

**Thank you for having me, listening to me,
supporting me.**

BRAVE 2024 Women’s Group

The facts in England and Wales

FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 2023

Prevalence

Approximately

2.1 million

adults aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse

This includes

1.4 million women and 751,000 men

DA Homicides and Suicides

2023 - 2024

262

deaths recorded of which:

98 suspected suicides,
80 intimate partners suicide,
39 adult family homicide,
28 unexpected deaths,
11 child deaths

Crime Reports

Police recorded

889,918

abuse-related crimes

The impact on Children

Approximately

20%

of children in the UK

have lived with an adult perpetrating domestic abuse

Prosecutions

There were

51,288

domestic abuse-related prosecutions

Help-seeking Behaviour

Victims at high risk of serious harm live with domestic abuse for an average of

2.5 years

before getting effective help

What we know about Domestic Abuse in Hull

DATES OF STATISTICS?

Police

11,800

Emergency 999 calls

6,500

recorded as a crime

St Andrews and Docklands highest recorded calls

73%

female

and

27%

male victims.

Education

Jan 24 - Dec 24

3187

Operation Encompass notifications sent to Schools

Children's Social Care

Apr 24 - Mar 25

Number of contacts with domestic abuse

3195

Hull City Council Homelessness Team

661

approaches disclosed domestic abuse

HMP Hull

58%

of population have a history of committing domestic abuse

Specialist Domestic Abuse Services

Apr 24 - Dec 24

Hull DAP

Supported **3307** female and **323** male victims

Commissioned Providers

Supported **983** female victims of which **335** were children & young people

Sanctuary Scheme

565 victims & children supported to remain in their own home.

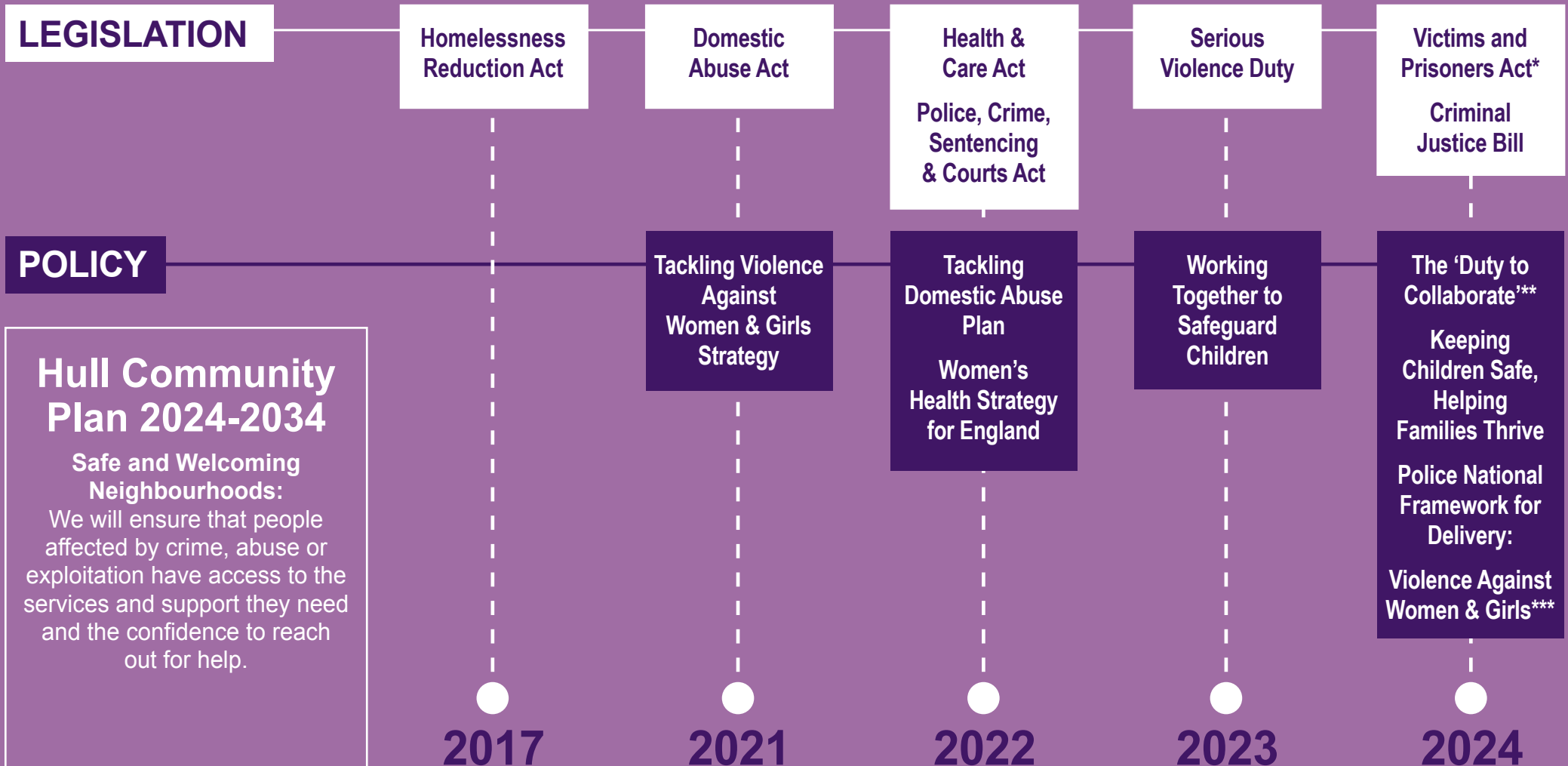
MARAC

1279 high risk victims discussed, **952** residing in the household.

Strength to Change

50 men accessing support at any one time

National and local policy and legislation



* Makes Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISDA) roles statutory.

** This will bring PCCs, Local Authorities, and Integrated Care Boards together to undertake a joint strategic needs assessment by collating data. Integrated Care Boards (ICB) must set out how they will discharge their statutory duty to address needs of victims of abuse in their Joint Forward Plans.

*** Supported a national capability assessment across Police forces to bring about changes in policing that will better support victims of domestic abuse.

THE DOMESTIC ABUSE SYSTEM IN HULL

In 2024 a review of the domestic abuse system in Hull was completed.

A suite of recommendations were developed that focus on addressing operational challenges in the short term.

The recommendations can be grouped into three areas that set the context for our strategy.

1. Relieve System-Wide Pressures

The volume of referrals currently being managed by partners – and the growing demand – is unsustainable. A whole system response must be agreed where all partners sign up to manage this demand more effectively.

2. Developing our Partnership Structure

We want to ensure that we have an effective partnership structure than can deliver our strategy, building on the work we have done over the last three years. We will implement a partnership structure that has a focus on delivery.

3. Moving to a Driven Approach

It is critical that we move towards a data-driven approach to decision making across our system. This will ensure that leaders have the data they need to make strategic decision and staff supporting victims have the data they need to make operational decisions.

OUR VALUES:

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Board have agreed the following set of values which underpins the Coordinated Community Response to service delivery in Hull.



Coordinated community response

In Hull we are committed to embedding the **Coordinated Community Response (CCR)** to strengthen whole system working.

This is a nationally recognised approach that ensures all services work together to support victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and prevent future abuse, creating a safer and more effective system.



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Principles of a Coordinated Community Approach

- **A joined-up approach**
Services must work together so that victims don't have to tell their story multiple times or struggle to find help. Support should be easy to access, timely, and meet all their needs.
- **Holding abusers accountable**
Perpetrators must face real consequences for their actions. Interventions should focus on both punishment and changing harmful behaviour to stop abuse from happening again.
- **Preventing future harm**
By working together, we can better identify warning signs, intervene earlier, and stop abuse from escalating.
- **Clear communication across services**
Agencies must share information and coordinate their efforts to make sure no survivor is left without support and no perpetrator escapes justice.
- **A safer community for everyone**
Our goal is to create a culture where domestic abuse is not tolerated, survivors feel safe asking for help, and people know where to turn if they need support.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: OUR PLAN ON A PAGE

1. PRIORITISING PREVENTION

We will prevent domestic abuse. This means challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours through public awareness campaigns and education programmes to promote healthy relationships.

4. IMPROVING SYSTEMS

We will work together as part of a coordinated community response (CCR) which supports victims, children and young people, holds perpetrators accountable, and strengthens the support available in Hull.

2. SUPPORTING VICTIMS

We will ensure that all victims and survivors impacted by domestic abuse have access to timely, compassionate support through survivor led services. Our focus will be on providing trauma informed services that are strength based, sensitive and responsive to diversity of need.

3. HOLDING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE

We will work in partnership to support victims, children and young people by supporting and engaging perpetrators to change their behaviour. We will work closely with relevant services to hold abusers accountable and reduce reoffending.



1. PRIORITISING PREVENTION

Why prevention is important...

- **Stopping harm before it happens**
Preventing domestic abuse means fewer victims suffer harm.
- **Tackling the real causes**
Abuse doesn't happen in isolation. It's often linked to misogyny, power, control, and unhealthy relationships. Prevention means changing the values, attitudes and behaviours that allow abuse to continue.
- **Getting help earlier**
The sooner support is available the less chance abuse has to escalate. Spotting the signs early can protect victims from further harm.
- **Breaking the cycle**
Children and young people are victims themselves and are deeply affected. Prevention helps to stop abuse continuing by promoting and fostering supportive, safe and healthy relationships.
- **Creating a safer community**
Domestic abuse is everyone's business, and all have a responsibility to end domestic abuse. When communities understand the signs of abuse and act, fewer victims suffer in silence.
- **Building a future without abuse**
Over time, prevention changes society, so respect, safety, and healthy relationships become the norm.

Our strategic objectives for prioritising prevention...

Reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in Hull by promoting a culture of prevention.

Tackle the root causes of domestic abuse through evidence-based prevention strategies and behavioural change initiatives.

Embed a city-wide culture of awareness and education to challenge attitudes, increase understanding and prevent domestic abuse.

Deliver a data driven, multi-agency approach to early intervention ensuring timely prevention efforts.



2. SUPPORTING VICTIMS

Why supporting victims is important...

- **Support that understands trauma**
Getting help feels safe and supportive. Services need to understand the emotional, psychological, and physical impact of abuse, so victims feel believed, heard, respected, and not judged.
- **Organisations know how to help**
Anyone supporting victims should have the right training and knowledge to understand abuse, risk, spot the signs, and provide the right victim led trauma informed support at the right time.
- **Help for every part of life**
Abuse can affect every aspect of a victim's life. Everyone's circumstances are unique, support should be victim and survivor led so they don't have to struggle to find help on their own and are not turned away from support.
- **Support that respects diversity of need**
Services should be inclusive and accessible towards different backgrounds, cultures, languages, and needs, making sure every victim and survivor gets the right help appropriate to their needs.
- **Help when and how you need it**
Support should be easy to access. Victims should get help and support when they need it, as well as ongoing support to recover and rebuild their lives.

Our strategic objectives for supporting victims...

Ensure everyone has access to victim led trauma informed services as part of a coordinated community response.

Make sure victim voice informs service delivery and continual improvement to ensure needs are met effectively.

Work collaboratively to create a seamless journey of victim centred support.

Monitor and evaluate service quality and effectiveness to quality drive improvements.

Deliver trauma informed services that are available and accessible for all and are responsive to diversity of need leaving no one behind.



The Starfish Story

As an old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a boy ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the boy, he asked why he was doing this. He answered that the starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

'But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish. How can your effort make any difference?' said the old man.

The boy looked at the starfish in his hand, threw it safely into the waves and said,

"it made a difference to that one!"

3. HOLDING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE

Why pursuing perpetrators is important...

- **Holding perpetrators accountable**
Perpetrators are to be held 100% accountable for the harm caused to victims and their children. When they commit domestic abuse, they must face the full consequences for their behaviour and actions. Holding perpetrators accountable can reduce further harm and abuse from continuing.
- **A justice system that takes abuse seriously**
Police and courts must act proactively when abuse is disclosed and reported, and victims must be supported and their level of risk identified throughout the process.
- **Gathering the right evidence**
Building strong cases means collecting the relevant evidence to ensure successful prosecutions. This helps reduce pressure on victims and repeat victimisation and leads to more successful prosecutions.
- **Supporting victims and holding perpetrators accountable**
Ensuring all victims, including children, are supported to achieving best evidence and have access to support and special measures when preparing for and attending court.
- **Stopping repeat perpetrators**
Programmes that challenge perpetrators repeat behaviours and hold them accountable can reduce reoffending and reduce risk.

- **Organisations working together**
All organisations must have a shared approach and work together, to ensure all perpetrators are identified so all victim are believed and are provided with essential support. Professionals know about Clare's Law and how it can help to support victims.

Our strategic objectives for holding perpetrators accountable...

Increase successful prosecutions in the Criminal Justice System and secure positive outcomes for victims.

Embed a culture of accountability ensuring that perpetrators are consistently held accountable for their behaviour.

Address perpetrator behaviour by delivering interventions that prevent and reduce harm to victims and children.

Deliver statutory and non-statutory perpetrator programmes that drive long-term change.

Engage with the local community to identify and report domestic abuse.

"I referred myself to strength to change, I knew I had a problem and was suffering with my mental health, struggling to control my emotions, and taking all my anger out on my partner through emotional abuse. When I joined the programme I wasn't in acceptance of how bad my behaviour was and passed the blame onto others to justify my abuse. Whilst initially working with strength to change I continued to be abusive to my partner to the point the abuse turned physical and myself ending up in prison and the relationship ending.

Once I was released from prison I immediately returned to the programme as I realised that I could no longer continue with my behaviour as it was. The journey was emotional talking about how I had acted but as I learnt the tools the programme taught me, I began to realise that my problems were my problems and that I was using abuse to deflect my own failings. Tools such as the reality check, pressure pot, and being aware of the uncomfortable feelings is ok and to intercept these early to ensure they do not build up to the point of becoming abusive.

I realise now I had a real problem of minimalising and justifying my actions instead of being accountable for them. I have accepted I have been abusive to my ex-partner and my children also suffered almost to the point of them being taken into care. With the help of Strength to Change, my children no longer have social service involvement, and I am starting to have more involvement in their life in a positive way which is allowing me to be the father I always wanted to be" (2025)



4. IMPROVING SYSTEMS

Why improving systems is important...

- **A joined-up approach**
Support should be easy to find and accessible. Organisations must work together so victims get the right help at the right time, without having to navigate complicated systems on their own.
- **Bringing services together**
Organisations must work together to support and empower all victims through their journey.
- **Sharing information to protect victims**
Organisations should share data safely to get a full picture of domestic abuse in Hull, helping to improve responses and enhance their safety.
- **Working with community organisations**
Voluntary and community organisations must have the knowledge and experience to spot the signs of domestic abuse. Their knowledge and local support must be included in the wider response to domestic abuse.
- **Partnering with businesses**
Employers and businesses have a role to play by offering domestic abuse training for their staff, raising awareness, engaging with domestic abuse services and providing support for employees.
- **Joint commissioning**
Local commissioners need to work together to maximise the best use of finite funding opportunities, to ensure high quality services are commissioned.

Our strategic objectives for improving systems...

Build on the work of the Hull Domestic Abuse Board and its partners to drive system-wide improvements.

Embed a whole system approach so that all partners and organisations see domestic abuse as 'their business'.

Engage VCSE, businesses and the private sector to raise awareness and enhance support.

Integrate services through more effective joint commissioning ensuring sustainability.

Survivors were asked what they would like from agencies in Hull and they said:



Measuring our impact

An annual delivery plan overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board will set out the activity we need to undertake to implement our strategy. Detailed activity indicators have been developed to monitor progress aligned to our strategic priorities. We will track the difference the strategy is making - not just whether we are delivering activity, but whether we are achieving impact.

Outcome-focused:

We will measure improvements in people's safety, wellbeing and experience – not just outputs.

Priority-aligned:

Each priority will have a small number of key indicators to track over time.

Evidence and insight:

We will use data (e.g. service use, outcomes, trends) and lived experience to understand what's working.

Accountability:

Progress will be reviewed regularly by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board with transparent reporting.

Priority	We will know we are making progress when...
1. PRIORITISING PREVENTION	People are better able to recognise abuse, and earlier help is reaching those at risk before harm escalates.
2. SUPPORTING VICTIMS	Victims and survivors can access timely, tailored support, and report improved safety, wellbeing, and recovery.
3. HOLDING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE	Perpetrators are identified earlier, face consequences, and more are engaged in behaviour change interventions.
4. IMPROVING SYSTEMS	Services are working in a more joined-up way, with clearer pathways, shared data, and fewer gaps or duplications in support.

Our structure

Our structure brings together Survivors with lived experience, experts in the field of domestic abuse from different organisations to work in partnership and deliver our strategy.



LA Domestic Abuse Duty: Accommodation Duty

2021-24

We said we would undertake the following in line with the Needs Assessment recommendations which have been completed:

- ✓ Increase the capacity of the existing specialist commissioned services contracted via the current Housing Related Support Framework by awarding a 50% increase in funding to be deployed to enhance the availability of specialist floating support and to respond to victims with complex needs. To give providers certainty, the intention is to offer these contract variations for a 3-year period.
- ✓ Create a dedicated housing and domestic abuse hub based within the local authority housing options team and DAP team who will adopt and promote a Whole Housing Approach model. It is proposed that this is jointly funded via Domestic Abuse “new burdens” Grant and Preventing Homelessness Grant.
- ✓ Develop a range of publicity in a variety of formats to encourage groups that are currently underrepresented as victims to come forward for support. To also raise awareness of the impact on children and young people.
- ✓ Commission additional therapeutic support services for children and young people that complements the existing commissioned provision.

2025-2028

We will continue to review and commission DA services in line with the Needs Assessment and requirements of the New Burdens Grant.

- ✓ Commission 24-hour domestic abuse refuge accommodation for those forced to flee their homes. To provide support in a safe and trauma informed environment to enable victims and their children to recover together from the trauma experienced. Included in this commission will be integral support for children and young people residing in the refuge.
- ✓ Commission specialist support for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse to enable them to recover from the trauma and achieve their full potential. This includes specialist therapy and support to rebuild their attachment and relationship with the none-abusing parent.
- ✓ Increase the 24-hour accommodation offer for victims with additional and complexity of need to ensure they are able to access accommodation that can support them to recover and regain their independence.
- ✓ Increase the offer for victims with intersectionality of need.
- ✓ To create a range of materials to raise awareness of domestic abuse and promote services.
- ✓ LA Commissioned Providers will follow the quality standards aligned to domestic abuse safe accommodation support services as described in the service specifications.



OUR IMPACT 2021-2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: PREVENTION

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED:

- ✓ Delivered community awareness rising events each year.
- ✓ Launched the 'No bad Treatment Campaign'
- ✓ Delivered White Ribbon sessions across the city and in educational settings
- ✓ Created the DA champions role and recruited 453 from across organisation in the city.

SUPPORT WE HAVE DELIVERED:

Between
January 2021 and December 2024,

761

professionals have attended
domestic abuse training

Between
January 2021 and December 2023

15,670

Children and young people
have taken part in
White Ribbon activities



OUR IMPACT ACCORDING TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS:

"I didn't recognise my situation as being abusive; I thought this was how it is"

Client

"If you see this going on - adult or child - you need to tell someone as this is not ok or report it to the police"

Child after completing White Ribbon Work in school.

"In reception we had a lot of children hitting out at other pupils, but this has decreased since the white ribbon day"

School Feedback

"I was so frightened about what would happen if I told someone, but it turned out to be the best thing I ever did"

Client

OUR IMPACT 2021-2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: PROVISION

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED:

- ✓ Increased support through commissioned domestic abuse services for adult and child victims and survivors.
- ✓ Created additional support for children impacted by domestic abuse.
- ✓ Created a bespoke DA Housing Hub.
- ✓ Enhanced the sanctuary Scheme to enable victims and their children to remain in their own home.

SUPPORT WE HAVE DELIVERED:

565 clients and their children supported through the Sanctuary Scheme to remain in their own home

The DAP Service supported **4,997** clients

Hull City Council Housing Services (January - December 24) have had **661** domestic abuse approaches

983 victims supported by the commissioned domestic abuse providers of which **335** were children and young people

Children and Young Peoples Services (April 23 - March 24) Number of contacts with DA were **3915** (20% of all contacts)

OUR IMPACT ACCORDING TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS:

"I contacted a DA service, and they arranged for extra security to be fitted on my property and a lifeline alarm was installed, this made both myself and my children feel safer" Client

"I'm very happy now and so are my children, so different from what they were, they've come out of their shells and have settled in school and are doing great" Client

Thank you for all your help and guidance to get me into accommodation. I appreciate it very much. I am very happy with the accommodation and so grateful to have had help from you" Client

"My experience in this group has been ace. This is a life changing group for male victims of Domestic abuse" Fortis men's group

OUR IMPACT 2021-2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: PERPETRATORS

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED:

- ✓ Delivered a police pilot signposting perpetrators from custody.
- ✓ Police worked with Suzie Lamplugh Trust and other organisations to enhance the offer for victims of domestic abuse and stalking.
- ✓ Partners are working alongside police Operation Soteria to enhance support to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- ✓ “We Can Talk About Domestic Abuse” project rolled out to enhance knowledge around engaging with families.

SUPPORT WE HAVE DELIVERED:

23,302 Domestic abuse incidents reported to police of which
15,504 crimed

50 men at any one time accessing the **STRENGTH TO CHANGE** voluntary perpetrator programme

991 prosecutions

766 convictions

337 Right to Know & **337** Right to Ask applications received

58% of the population of HMP Hull have a history of committing domestic abuse

OUR IMPACT ACCORDING TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS:

“He will speak to me about what’s on his mind and he communicates a lot better... I’m not afraid to speak my mind to him”

Partner of man accessing Crossroads

“He doesn’t punch and smash things as often...and he thinks before he speaks more now”

Partner of man accessing Crossroads

“I felt with him going on the STC programme, even though he didn’t really work with them that this helped with feeling like he was being held responsible for his abusive behaviour”.

Ex-partner

“When he didn’t work with STC it was good because I was still able to get the support myself”.

Partner

OUR IMPACT 2021-2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: PARTNERSHIP

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED:

- ✓ Worked with the neighbouring authorities to raise awareness of the impact on diverse communities.
- ✓ Jointly developed and held Humber-wide learning events for professionals working across Humberside.
- ✓ Developed a process for collecting data from across the partnership.
- ✓ Worked with employers across organisations to adopt a domestic abuse staff policy.

SUPPORT WE HAVE DELIVERED:

1,619

high risk victims
and their children (1,427)
discussed at MARAC

3,521

professionals attended
Humber-wide learning events

442

Domestic Abuse Champions
recruited from across
organisations in the city

OUR IMPACT ACCORDING TO VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS:

"As a DA Champion I feel more confidence to speak to colleagues about DA and knowing that I am raising awareness" Hull DA Champion

"My situation was discussed at a MARAC, it surprised me how many people wanted to help me, I felt much safer" Client

"A benefit of being a domestic abuse champion is the great guest speakers and information sharing and gaining new insights and perspectives" Hull DA Champion

"Create a culture of openness about domestic abuse to create awareness, and also, so that victims do not feel ashamed to talk about their experience" Hull DA Champion



Community Safety Partnership
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Hull
HU9 1DB

This strategy is available in different formats.

Developed in partnership with:



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This picture has been painted by a survivor.
'It made a difference for me'