

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY
2022 – 2027

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION (drop down menu)	4
What is Domestic Abuse?	4
UNDERSTANDING THE WIDER PICTURE (drop down menu)	5
Domestic Abuse Act 2021	5
Safer Barnsley Partnership.....	6
Barnsley 2030.....	10
Violence Against Women and Girls.....	11
DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY (drop down menu)	11
PREVALANCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE (drop down menu)	11
Domestic Abuse service referrals	13
Domestic Abuse and children	14
Domestic Abuse and housing.....	16
SERVICES CURRENTLY IN PLACE TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC ABUSE (drop down menu)	17
Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDAS)	17
Accommodation-based support	18
Support for children.....	18
Domestic Abuse Training	19
Communication and campaigning	19
Operation Encompass	20
South Yorkshire Perpetrator Programme- Cranstoun's Inspire to Change.....	21

Domestic Homicide Reviews.....	21
WHERE ARE OUR GAPS? (drop down menu)	22
The provision of safe and suitable accommodation support	22
Support for children and young people.....	23
Support for perpetrators	24
Review of the MARAC.....	24
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (drop down menu).....	24
1: Providing victims of Domestic Abuse with the right support (drop down menu)	24
2: Preventing Domestic Abuse (drop down menu)	25
3: Ensuring a strong multi-agency response to Domestic Abuse (drop down menu).....	26
4: Holding perpetrators to account and supporting them to change their behaviour (drop down menu)	27
DELIVERY PLAN (drop down menu).....	28
References (drop down menu)	32
Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment.....	35
Appendix B – Domestic Abuse Communications and Training Schedule	45

Please note that the length of this document will be reduced once it has been transferred to an online webpage. The location of where dropdown menus will be are referred to throughout the document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021 – 2027 outlines how Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council will, with its partners, work to tackle and prevent Domestic Abuse in Barnsley.

It is informed by the findings of a comprehensive needs assessment of our Domestic Abuse services, and outlines how we will achieve our strategic priorities below:

1. Providing victims of Domestic Abuse with the right support
2. Preventing Domestic Abuse
3. Ensuring a strong multi-agency response to Domestic Abuse
4. Holding perpetrators to account and support them to change their behaviour.

Our strategy meets the regulations as required by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and contributes to the Safer Barnsley Partnership Plan 2021.

Ultimately, our strategy aims to improve the lives of victims, survivors and their children and help make Barnsley a place where people are safe from Domestic Abuse.

INTRODUCTION (drop down menu)

Domestic Abuse is a crime that has far-reaching repercussions for all of society and has resulted in devastating effects on families, children and local communities, effects which have unfortunately been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Parliament passed the Domestic Abuse Act, a piece of legislation which, amongst other things, requires Local Authorities to develop and publish a Domestic Abuse strategy. It is this regulation, along with Barnsley MBC's own commitment to addressing Domestic Abuse in Barnsley, that has led to the development of this strategy.

[What is Domestic Abuse?](#)

The Home Office defines Domestic Abuse as the abusive behaviour of a person towards another person, who are both aged 16 and over and are personally connected to each other.

Abusive behaviour is defined as any of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour

- Economic abuse – including behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on a person’s ability to obtain, use, or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse

It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a pattern of behaviour.

Domestic Abuse does not only happen in current romantic relationships, and can occur if the people involved:

- Are, or have been, married to each other
- Are, or have been, civil partners of each other
- Have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
- Have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
- Are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other
- Each have, or there has been a time when the each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child
- Are relatives

Domestic Abuse can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender identity, sex, race, sexual orientation, wealth, disability or location of the victim or perpetrator.

UNDERSTANDING THE WIDER PICTURE (drop down menu)

This strategy is part of, and informed by, a wider framework of legislation and governance concerning Domestic Abuse.

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)

The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021.

The Act creates the first statutory definition of Domestic Abuse, including emotional, coercive and controlling behaviour and economic abuse as well as physical violence. The scope of coercive and controlling behaviour has also been extended to incorporate abuse that occurs post-separation. The Act also includes children being given statutory recognition as victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience abuse in the home.

The Act requires Local Authorities to:

- Provide accommodation based support to victims of Domestic Abuse.

- Give victims of Domestic Abuse priority need for homelessness assistance, and grant secure lifetime tenancies when granting new secure tenancies to social tenants who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy
- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- Assess the need for accommodation-based Domestic Abuse support in their area for all victims and their children, including those who come from outside the area
- Develop, publish and give effect to a Domestic Abuse strategy
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
- Report back to central government

The Act also includes several provisions relevant to criminal law and family court proceedings:

- The Act legally establishes the office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and sets out their functions and powers.
- The Act creates a statutory presumption that victims of Domestic Abuse are eligible for special measures in criminal, family and civil courts, and are prohibited from being cross-examined by the person who is alleged to have abused them.
- The Act introduces Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) to protect victims from all forms of Domestic Abuse.
- The Act places the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) on a statutory footing.
- The Act creates a new criminal offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation by another person, and extends the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films to cover threats to disclose.
- The Act provides for a statutory Domestic Abuse perpetrator strategy.
- The Act enables offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody.
- The Act prohibits GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of Domestic Abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.
- The Act provides for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of Domestic Abuse data for immigration purposes.

For further information on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-overarching-factsheet>.

[Safer Barnsley Partnership](#)

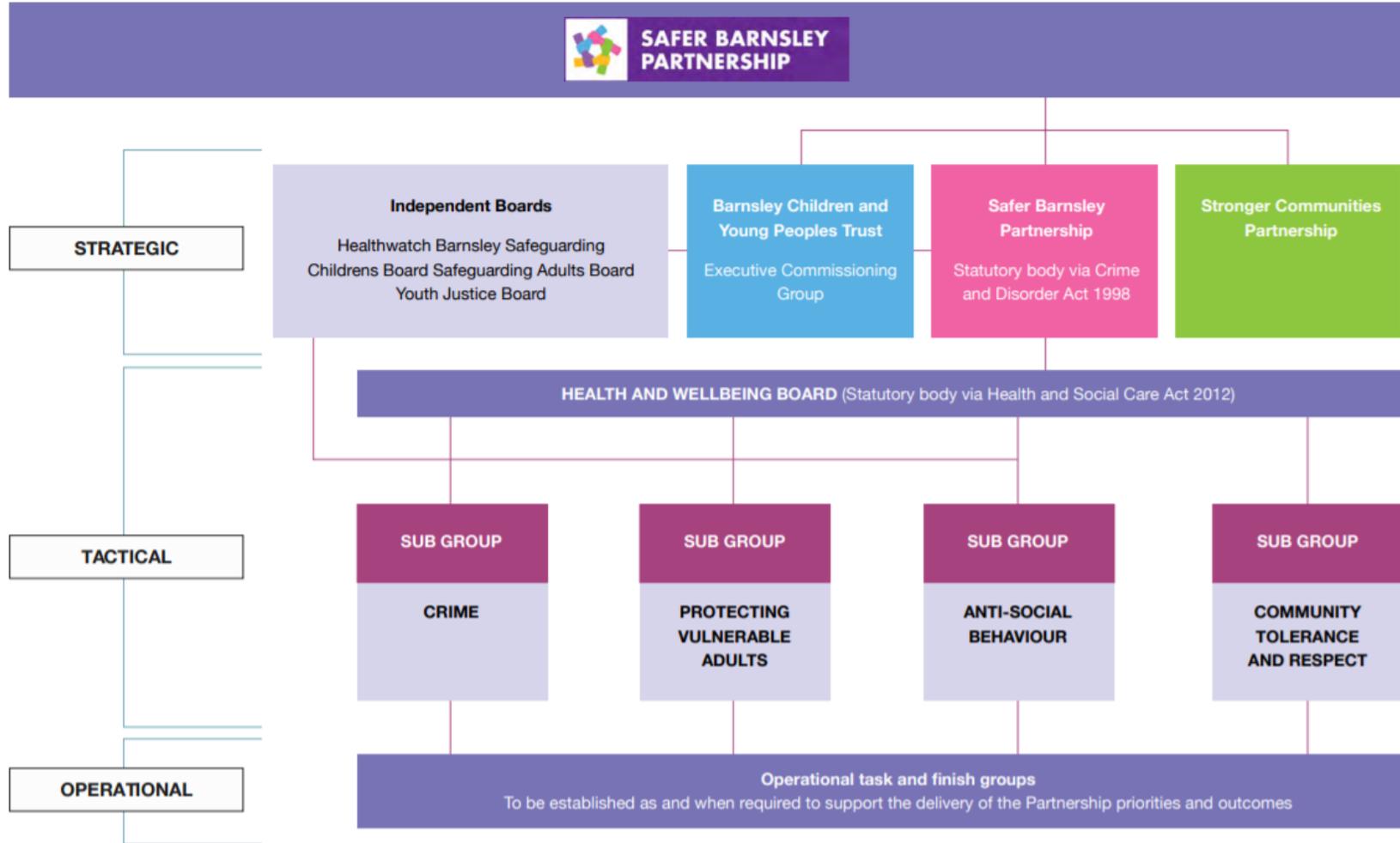
The Barnsley Community Safety Partnership (CSP), known as the Safer Barnsley Partnership, is the statutory partnership responsible for tackling crime and disorder, protecting vulnerable people and reducing reoffending (Safer Barnsley Partnership Annual Plan, 2021).

Domestic Abuse is a key theme in the Safer Barnsley Partnership Violence Reduction Plan, and all members of the partnership are committed to working to end Domestic Abuse and create a culture of zero tolerance towards Domestic Abuse in Barnsley. Amongst others, the Safer Barnsley Partnership's commitments include:

- Improving and enhancing the response to domestic violence by targeting offenders and offering an excellent victim's service.
- Completing the strategic review of substance misuse, domestic abuse and multiple needs services and presenting a business case for recommissioning the service.
- Evidence how the local authority is leading in developing domestic abuse services as proposed in the Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 to ensure victims have safe accommodation.

The priorities of the Safer Barnsley Partnership are delivered through four sub-groups, shown in the diagram below:





A key objective of the PVP Sub-Group is to “work collaboratively to ensure that Domestic Abuse becomes socially unacceptable and that the harm caused to victims and their families is reduced.” Due to Domestic Abuse being a consistently high priority for both the Safer Barnsley Partnership and the PVP Sub-Group, the Sub-Group will perform the function of the multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act. The decision to utilise an established multi-agency partnership with successful working relationships will

build on agencies commitments, avoid complicating and replicating governance structures and ensure that the needs of victims and their children remain at the centre of our Domestic Abuse work.

This strategy is designed to support the Safer Barnsley Partnership Violence Reduction Plan, and feed into the Protecting Vulnerable People Sub-Group's commitment to evidence how Barnsley is leading in developing its Domestic Abuse services.

[Stronger Communities Partnership](#)

The Stronger Communities Partnership is a multi-agency board that contributes towards our Health and Wellbeing vision for the people of Barnsley to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Be active citizens
- Earn a good living

An important initiative in achieving their vision is the [All Age Early Help Strategy](#). Early help is particularly relevant to the prevention of domestic abuse, as it is about focusing on the root causes of problems in order to improve outcomes for children, young people, families and vulnerable adults, and avoiding costly statutory interventions. The shared priorities of the Stronger Communities Partnership for the All Age Early Help Strategy are:

- The right early help, in the right place at the right time
- Ensuring a whole system approach to early help with strong partnership working and system leadership
- Empowering local people and communities to build capacity and resilience, to enable people and communities to do more for themselves

Please note that the All Age Early Help Strategy is currently under development.

The Stronger Communities Partnership is also a partner of [Age Friendly Barnsley](#). Barnsley has joined the network of Age Friendly communities which make it possible for people to continue to stay living in their homes, participate in the activities they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible. Tackling domestic abuse amongst older people faces its own set of challenges, and this strategy takes into account the principles of Age Friendly Barnsley when developing its priorities.

Children and Young People

A welcome provision of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is the recognition of children as victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right, as the impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young people can be incredibly damaging. This strategy acknowledges the importance of working closely with children and young people's services to keep children and families safe, both in tackling and preventing Domestic Abuse in Barnsley.

Barnsley's Children & Young People's Trust (BCYPT) is the local partnership that brings together organisations responsible for providing services for children, young people and families in the borough, who are all working to improve outcomes. This strategy supports the following priorities identified in the [BCYPT's Children & Young People's Plan](#):

- Keeping children and young people safe
- Supporting all children, young people and families to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Encouraging positive relationships and strengthening emotional health
- Improving staff skills to deliver quality services

Safeguarding Adults

Domestic Abuse often co-exists within a range of complex issues, such as mental health issues or substance misuse. The response to Domestic Abuse therefore plays an important role in Barnsley's overall response to safeguarding vulnerable adults.

[Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board](#) is the statutory body that brings together organisations like health, GPS, housing, social care, police and fire service to promote wellbeing and reduce the risk of harm for people with care and support needs. This strategy supports the ambitions of the Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan to:

- To ensure that collectively we all work hard to prevent harm and abuse across Barnsley
- To develop citizen led approaches to safeguarding
- To learn and continually improve

Barnsley 2030

In the prioritisation of developing support services and the prevention of Domestic Abuse, this strategy also supports the Healthy Barnsley ambitions of:

- Everyone being able to enjoy a life in good physical and mental health.

- Fewer people living in poverty, and everyone having the resources they need to look after themselves and their families.
- People can access the right support, at the right time and place and are able to tackle problems early.
- Our diverse communities are welcoming, supportive and resilient.

Violence Against Women and Girls

This strategy will also evidence how Barnsley MBC, together with our Safer Barnsley Partnership partners, will support the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy by:

- Prioritising Prevention
- Supporting Victims
- Supporting the Criminal Justice and Legal system to pursue and remove perpetrators

DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY (drop down menu)

In 2021, we commissioned the work of Imogen Blood Associates to carry out and produce a detailed needs assessment of the Domestic Abuse services provided in Barnsley. Through stakeholder interviews, analysis of a range of service data and case studies, an online survey, and practice sharing discussions, the needs assessment set out to assess the prevalence of domestic abuse in Barnsley and identify gaps in the current provision of domestic abuse services.

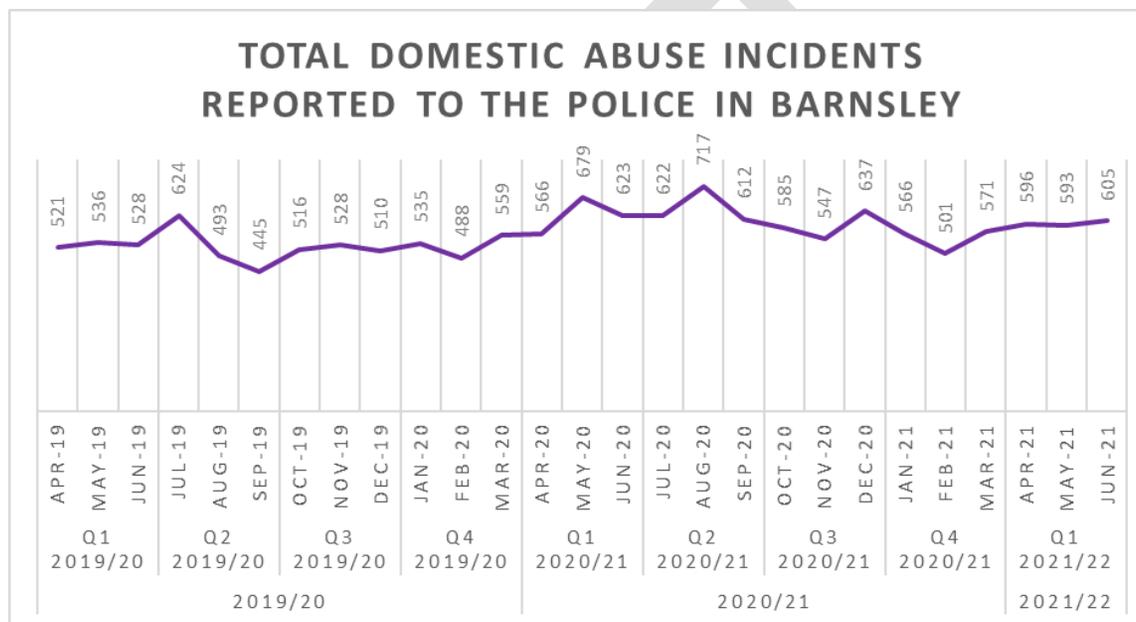
The production of the needs assessment met the Domestic Abuse Act's requirement of assessing the need for accommodation-based Domestic Abuse support, and its findings informed the development of this strategy and are continuing to inform our re-commissioning approach for 2022/2023.

This strategy will be a live document, so that our priorities and aims can appropriately respond to the changing landscape of Domestic Abuse and the needs of victims.

PREVALANCE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE (drop down menu)

Domestic Abuse is ‘a largely hidden crime, occurring primarily at home’ (Women’s Aid, 2021). It is also often unreported to the police making it difficult to accurately quantify (HMIC,2014: Women’s Aid, 2021). However, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated in the year ending March 2020, 7.3% of women (1.6 million) and 3.6% of men (757,000) experienced Domestic Abuse (ONS, 2020a). In this year, 758,942 Domestic Abuse-related crimes were recorded by police in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police) (ONS, 2020b).

More recent data is available at a local level.



During the period April 2019 – June 2021, there was a monthly average of 567 Domestic Abuse incidents (including both crimes and non-crimes) reported to the police in Barnsley. ‘Non-crimes’ are Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the police that do not progress to being categorised as a crime.

On average (since April 2018), 62% of these incidents were deemed to be a crime (while there is some monthly variation, this figure seems to have remained fairly consistent over the whole period since April 2018).

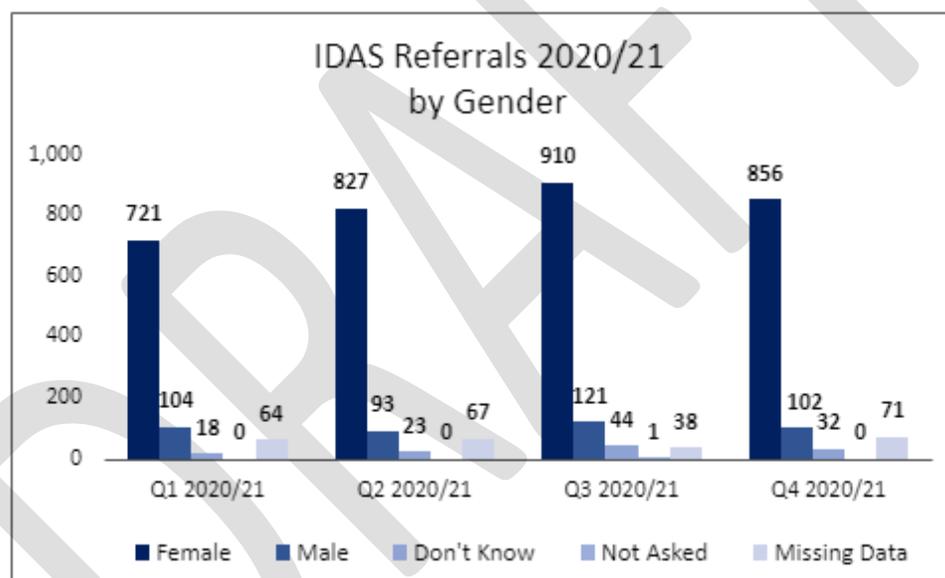
There is evidence of an increase in overall incidents during and since the first Covid lockdown in March 2020. Monthly averages went up from 524 in the year prior to the pandemic (finishing March 2020) to 602 in the year finishing March 2021. There was a very clear spike during the first six months of lockdown, where monthly averages were at 637.

The most recent quarter (to end June 21) shows a slight increase (9.5%) on the previous quarter, but the total remains just below 600.

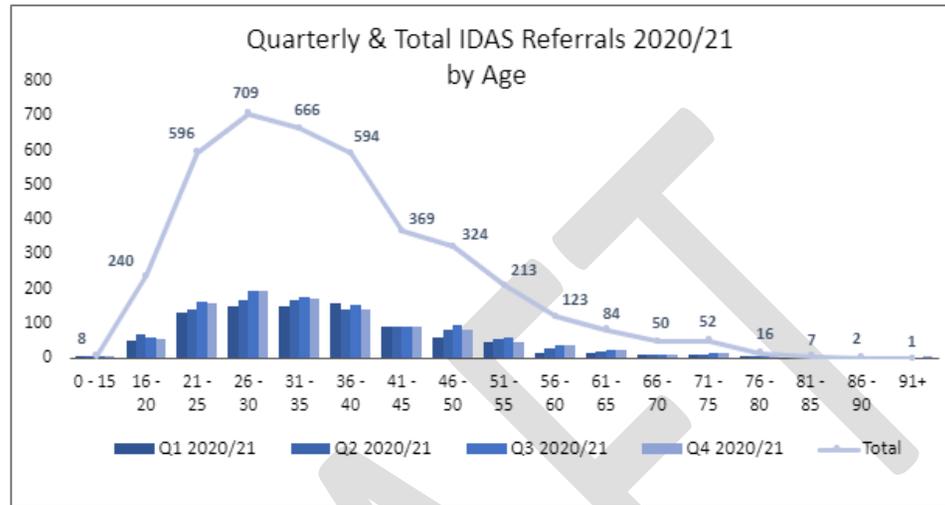
Comparator Police data for South Yorkshire suggests that, when size of population is factored in, Barnsley's incident rate is relatively high compared to neighbouring cities. It is not as high as Doncaster's, but higher than Rotherham's and Sheffield's incident rates.

Domestic Abuse service referrals

During 2020/21, IDAS received a total of 4122 referrals for all of its services, working with 4092 clients and receiving an average of 1022 referrals per quarter. Female victims made up the vast majority of referrals (89%), with 11% of referrals involving male victims. A total of 49 referrals to IDAS (1.2% of referrals) were known to be from transgender victims, and 99 individuals (2.4% of clients) identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.



The highest number of referrals were received from people in the 26-30 age group, with a significant concentration of referrals coming from people in their twenties and thirties. Although the numbers of older people accessing IDAS represent a small minority of the total, the numbers are by no means insignificant. In 2020/21, 104 people in their sixties; 68 people in their seventies; and 10 people aged 80 and over were referred to IDAS.

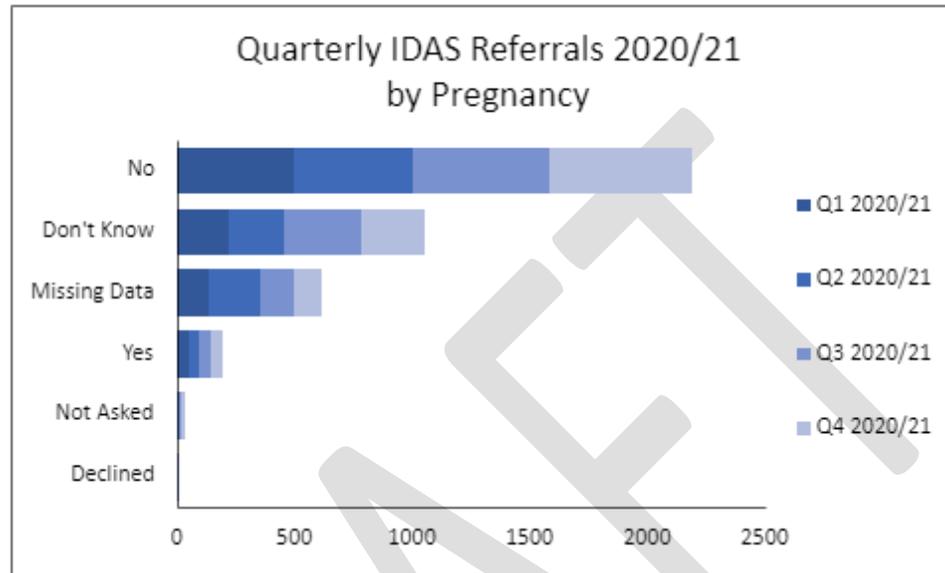


Around 7% of referrals in total are from minority ethnic backgrounds, with the largest minority group being white Eastern Europeans. 2.5% of IDAS clients during 2020/21 stated a language other than English as their main language. This represents 104 people and 27 different community spoken languages.

During 2020/21, 711 of IDAS’s 4092 (17%) clients identified as a disabled person or has having a health condition, with mental health being by far the most common. 348 (8.5%) of IDAS’s clients described themselves as having a mental health condition.

Domestic Abuse and children

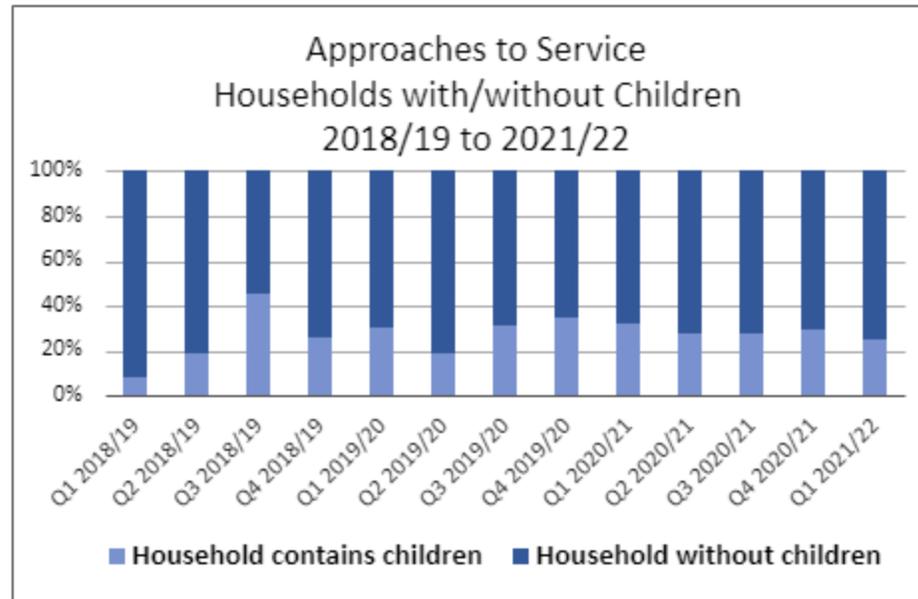
In 2020/2021, 5% of IDAS referrals were from women who were known to be pregnant.



Furthermore, in 2020/21, Domestic Abuse was identified as a risk factor in nearly three-quarters (73%) of cases coming to child protection conferences. Domestic Abuse is by far the most frequently identified risk factor in these audits (parents'/ carers' mental health was the next most common, featuring in just under half of cases).

This figure – as others relating to Domestic Abuse – had jumped up during 2020/21. In the previous two years, 59% (2018/19) and 48% (2019/20) of cases coming to child protection conferences included Domestic Abuse as a risk factor.

The proportion of households containing children approaching Housing Options citing Domestic Abuse has also significantly increased over the past four quarters. Households with children are more likely to make homeless applications than those without: there is a greater proportion of households with children making homeless applications (45%) compared to approaches to the service (27%).



[Domestic Abuse and housing](#)

In the period 2020/21, Housing Options were approached by an average of 96 people citing Domestic Abuse per quarter (32 per month, or 7 per week); (9% the rate of incidents referred to IDAS and 5% the rate of incidents referred to the Police). Women made up the vast majority of individuals making a formal homeless application where Domestic Abuse was the primary cause of homeless – 94% compared to 6% of clients being men. However, men made up 34% of total clients approaching the Housing Options service – a figure not reflected in the number of men making formal homeless applications. Women made up 66% of clients approaching the Housing Options service.



SERVICES CURRENTLY IN PLACE TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC ABUSE (drop down menu)

[Independent Domestic Abuse Service \(IDAS\)](#)

Domestic Abuse can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender identity, sex, race, disability or sexual orientation, and Barnsley Domestic Abuse services are available to anyone who is experiencing Domestic Abuse. Our services are delivered by the specialist charity Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDAS - <https://www.idas.org.uk/>) based in a community hub in Goldthorpe developed by Ministry of Justice (MoJ) grant money. Services delivered by IDAS include:

- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors/Advocates (IDVAs) who offer information and support, crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy and practical and emotional support.

- Therapeutic Groups and Counselling
- Recovery and Safety Planning and Care Co-ordination
- Target Hardening
- Community support
- Recovery check-ups
- Management of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process

Accommodation-based support

Both nationally and locally, accommodation-based support for victims is at the forefront of agendas for service provision. A national report conducted by Women's Aid found that concerns around housing are often a significant barrier for victims leaving an abusive partner, and that victims can be subject to serious financial and emotional hardship following the upheaval of having to leave their home (Women's Aid, 2020).

Current accommodation-based support offered by Barnsley includes commissioning the provision of a women's-only refuge delivered by IDAS, consisting of eight self-contained units. The refuge is available for Barnsley residents, as well as Domestic Abuse victims from other local authority areas.

In partnership with IDAS and Humankind, Barnsley MBC's Housing Options Team also provide specialist support to female offenders with experience of Domestic Abuse through two separate units of safe accommodation, with two more due to be acquired.

Our Housing Options Team provide temporary and emergency accommodation for victims who present as homeless due to Domestic Abuse and work closely with Berneslai Homes to identify suitable properties for victims.

Support for children

The Domestic Abuse Act, for the first time, recognises children exposed to Domestic Abuse as victims in their own right. It is widely recognised that witnessing Domestic Abuse can have devastating long and short term effects on children of all ages, including depression, anxiety, substance misuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, and the replication of abusive relationship dynamics (Royal College of Psychiatrists, 2021). Ahead of our re-commissioning of services in 2022, Barnsley MBC is committed to designing a system that sees through the eyes of children. We will ensure that the right support is available at the right time to those children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse, prioritising early intervention and a holistic approach.

Barnsley MBC recognises the value of therapeutic involvement with children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse and aim to ensure that future service specifications include an offer of therapeutic intervention to families affected by Domestic Abuse as the norm.

IDAS currently provide the following support to the children of victims of Domestic Abuse:

- You & Me Mum: a programme for mothers in refuge, or anyone who may have children but that may not be residing in the refuge with them. This aims to support and empower victims in furthering their understanding of their role as a parent and in addressing the needs of children and young people who have lived with DA.
- Protective behaviours: this programme helps children and adults recognise situations where they feel unsafe or worried, such as feeling stressed, bullied or threatened etc.
- One-to-one parenting courses
- One-to-one support with children around thoughts and feelings
- Safety planning
- Crèche/after school clubs
- Work around topical issues with children such as online abuse, bullying, safety planning when moving on, and Domestic Abuse.
- Trips and seasonal events/parties.

[Domestic Abuse Training](#)

As part of working to ensure that Domestic Abuse can be recognised and dealt with appropriately, IDAS provide training to a range of partners. As well as developing a Domestic Abuse training programme available to all Council employees on Barnsley MBC's online learning system, IDAS provide planned training as part of the BMBC Safeguarding Board training. IDAS also provide training on specific topics to organisations at their request, which will often be delivered by their local IDVA team in order to build positive working relationships with partners. IDAS will also attend team meetings of partners to increase visibility of the service and provide an opportunity for them to ask questions.

[Communication and campaigning](#)

IDAS employ a Communications Officer who manages their Instagram and Facebook accounts, ensuring that their social media presence is always up to date and in line with current news. As well as raising awareness, the social media accounts are used to promote IDAS' services and to highlight the support IDAS receive across North and South Yorkshire.

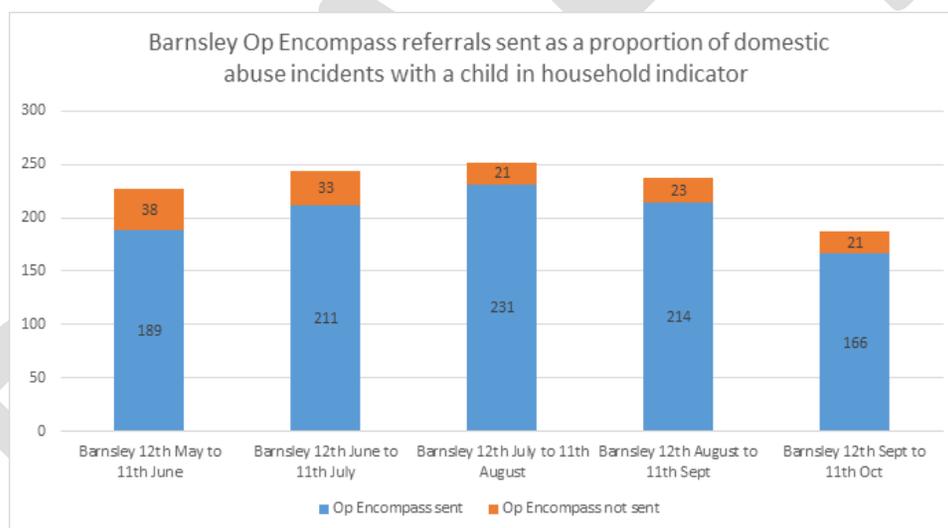
IDAS also participate in local events such as Safeguarding Awareness Week and school galas, with the aims of ensuring they are visible in as many areas of the community as possible, promoting their services and raising awareness.

Stakeholder interviews from the needs assessment report many more victims coming forward following media awareness campaign during COVID. Police data shows that, in 2018/19, there were an average of 9 disclosures per quarter under Clare’s Law; increasing to an average of 29 per quarter in 2019/20 and to 38 per quarter in 2020/21 following the release of media campaigns.

Operation Encompass

All schools and colleges in Barnsley are signed up to Operation Encompass, a national initiative which ensures that a school’s trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) receives a notification prior to the start of the next school day after police have attended a Domestic Abuse incident where there are children involved, to ensure the child is given if needed ‘pastoral’ support.

Represented in the chart below shows the positive uptake of referrals to schools following low level domestic incidents since the project's inception in Barnsley and the roll out of the initiative throughout nursey provision will commence from November 2021.



These specific incidences are not assessed as high risk and not therefore, subject to Safeguarding processes and the safeguarding process continues to run in parallel to this initiative. It offers an opportunity for greater support to the child if the incident is repeated or escalates and encourages better partnership between schools and police. The programme aims to ensure that the sharing of information results in appropriate support being given to children who are experiencing Domestic Abuse.

South Yorkshire Perpetrator Programme- Cranstoun's Inspire to Change

In partnership with our regional neighbours Doncaster Council, Sheffield City Council, Rotherham Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Barnsley MBC commissions a county wide voluntary Domestic Abuse perpetrator programme, delivered by Cranstoun. Cranstoun's Inspire to Change programme is available to perpetrators of all genders from the age of 16+, who have displayed controlling, abusive or violent behaviour in their intimate or inter family relationships. The programme involves working with participants to develop their own tailored engagement plan, which may include one-to-one sessions and group work. Cranstoun's Inspire to Change has been designed to help perpetrators find better ways to manage and control their abusive behaviour, and encourages participants to think and behave more positively in order to prevent harm to their partner and their families.

Due to the management of COVID infection, some programmes will continue to be provided online as well as some face-to-face and group work to ensure participant safety.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves.

There is a statutory requirement for local areas to conduct a DHR following a domestic homicide that meets the criteria. Barnsley's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is responsible for establishing and conducting DHR's in Barnsley. For more information about the process of DHRs and to read previous DHRs conducted by Barnsley's CSP, please visit <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/domestic-homicide-review-dhr/>

DHR's are not designed to assign blame – the purpose of a DHR is to consider and evaluate the circumstances that led to the death of an individual and identify learning opportunities for agencies, so that they can work better together and prevent such tragic situations from happening again.

Barnsley Council is currently designing a process to evaluate "Near Miss" DHRs, to take place in the event that a victim of domestic abuse had sustained a potentially life threatening injury, or serious harm, or significant impairment, and the circumstances of the incident raises concern about the way local professionals and services work together to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.

A "Near Miss" process for DHRs will allow us to ensure that learning opportunities from cases which do not meet the criteria for a DHR are not lost, and provide further opportunities to inform and improve local inter-agency practice in response to domestic abuse.

WHERE ARE OUR GAPS? (drop down menu)

Early findings from Imogen Blood Associate's needs assessment suggest that that Domestic Abuse in Barnsley has become much more complex than the 'traditional' scenario of a female victims fleeing violence from a male perpetrator. Outcomes of interviews with stakeholders suggest that services are seeing more cases of mutual partner conflict, female perpetrators/male victims, same sex couples, older/adult children abusing parents or grandparents, and cases where people do not want to leave the property and/or relationship.

Furthermore, the needs assessment has identified that there are increasing numbers of women who have complex needs, such as mental or physical health issues, substance misuse issues, offending history, and housing instability.

Key gaps identified by Imogen Blood Associates at this stage in their research are as follows:

[The provision of safe and suitable accommodation support](#)

An identified gap in our service provision is the lack of availability of safe and suitable accommodation for victims.

As previously outlined, IDAS is currently commissioned by Barnsley MBC to provide support to clients residing in the women's refuge. The refuge typically receives around 10 referrals per month (120 per year; 33 in the most recent quarter). They are able to accommodate roughly 1 client in every 3 referrals; refusals are both due to lack of vacancies and needs being too high, as the refuge cannot accommodate people with multiple and complex needs.

The lack of vacancies in the refuge is driven by clients staying at the refuge for long periods of time, partially due to lack of suitable accommodation to move to – there are long waitlists for social housing properties, managed by our housing company Berneslai Homes, and significant financial challenges for victims looking to move-on into the private rented sector. There is currently no bond/ rent guarantee/ loan scheme available to refuge clients, and there are significant challenges where women have no recourse to public funds. Further to a lack of move-on accommodation, the needs assessment has identified a lack of short-term emergency accommodation which could be used to offer a safe space for victims or perpetrators to 'cool off' and safely consider their options.

The needs assessment highlighted that there is a significant gap in accommodation support for victims who do not fit the 'traditional' description of a victim of Domestic Abuse – for example, male victims or victims with complex needs. It is particularly challenging to provide accommodation and support to the increasing numbers of women with complex needs – the needs assessment reports that almost all women with complex needs presenting to Housing Options are also survivors of Domestic Abuse, sexual abuse and/or sexual violence, but there is no suitable supported housing in the borough that is suitable for such victims.

The needs assessment has identified that although IDAS have a positive reputation throughout the system, there is a disconnect between the IDAS contract and Barnsley MBC's Housing Options Team. Stakeholder interviews have identified that Housing Options are rarely successful in referring clients into refuge, both due to a lack of vacancies and the needs of clients being too high. There is also an identified need for Housing Options officers to be made further aware of how target-hardening measures can be accessed by victims living in a range of tenures.

Support for children and young people

The Domestic Abuse Act ensures that children are seen as victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right. Therefore, understanding our gaps in support for children and young people is crucial in designing future services.

The needs assessment highlighted that, in Barnsley:

- Households with children are more likely to make homeless applications than those without, and the proportion of households containing children approaching Housing Options citing Domestic Abuse have also shown a significant increase over the last four quarters.
- 823 children were discussed at MARAC meetings during 2020/21.
- Services are reporting an increase in older/adult children abusing parents or grandparents

The needs assessment identified that there is a lack of specialist support for children and young people in relation to Domestic Abuse, and that support for children who are residing in the refuge with their parent is limited.

Support for older people

IDAS referral numbers show a small number of older people accessing support for domestic abuse in Barnsley - in 2020/21, 104 people in their sixties; 68 people in their seventies; and 10 people aged 80 and over were referred to IDAS. This represents roughly 4% of referrals, despite the fact that individuals over 65 contribute to roughly 20% of the Boroughs population. Older people's experiences of domestic abuse can be exacerbated by social, cultural and physical factors. Research conducted by SafeLives found that older people experiencing domestic abuse can be affected by:

- Systematic invisibility
- Long term abuse and dependency issues
- Generational attitudes about abuse may make it hard to identify
- Increased risk of adult family abuse

They also identified that services are not always effectively targeted at older victims, and that there is a need for more coordination between services when responding to domestic abuse in older people.

Support for perpetrators

Stakeholder interviews identified a need for more skilled work with men/perpetrators, and more holistic support in relation to support and accommodation options in order to minimise the risk of repeat incidents. The needs assessment also identified a need for specialist provision for younger perpetrators, male *and* female perpetrators, and voluntary access to healthy relationships courses, as well as mandated programmes for those convicted of offences.

Review of the MARAC

Stakeholder interviews with professionals who attend MARAC highlighted the unsustainable nature of the number of cases reaching MARAC, resulting in lengthy meetings and difficulties in discussing cases in a timely manner. Individual representatives are highly committed to engaging in the MARAC process, but note that MARAC is an “add-on” to their already substantive roles and have limited resource to follow-up and feedback on actions agreed during meetings.

There is also evidence of high levels of repeat referrals, which are currently being further analysed by the MARAC coordinator and Imogen Blood Associates.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (drop down menu)

1: Providing victims of Domestic Abuse with the right support (drop down menu)

This priority focuses on providing victims of Domestic Abuse, and their children, with the quality support they need to keep them safe. This includes meeting the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act by providing safe accommodation to enable victims to leave their abusive situation, and counselling and therapeutic support to provide victims with the confidence they need to move on. It is Barnsley MBC’s priority that our Domestic Abuse services meet the needs of our communities.

Our Aims:

- *Increase our capacity for providing safe accommodation to victims of Domestic Abuse*
 - Objectives:
 - Purchase additional housing units in order to accommodate victims with complex needs and diversify the pool of housing options available

- Review and improve the monitoring of pathways into and out of the refuge
 - Investigate the possibilities of creating a housing advocacy role utilising the homeless prevention fund (targeting the rent arrears/cost of bonds) to unblock housing problems for victims and perpetrators
- *Ensure the development of services is driven by the needs of survivors*
 - Objectives
 - Commission a service which is robust, inclusive, and addresses the needs identified in our 2021 Needs Assessment
 - Establish a framework for frequent needs assessments in order to ensure services are responding to the evolving needs of victims and survivors in Barnsley
 - Establish a Lived Experience Group to provide ongoing feedback on our services
- *Develop an increased offer of community support, including an increased offer of support to children and families*
 - Objectives
 - Contribute to and monitor two full posts working with LGBT+ and minority ethnic victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse
 - Design a service specification which places children at the centre of provision
 - Develop an increased offer of therapeutic support to all children who have been affected by Domestic Abuse
 - Work with our service provider to develop a specialist offer for older people affected by domestic abuse

2: Preventing Domestic Abuse (drop down menu)

Barnsley MBC understands that tackling Domestic Abuse requires real cultural change, and that prevention work is at the heart of this. This includes raising awareness of Domestic Abuse and the services available in order to establish a well-informed population on the dangers and signs of Domestic Abuse. This also includes thinking about the impact of abuse on children and how this affects the likelihood of victims becoming future perpetrators and ensuring that individuals understand the difference between healthy and abusive relationships and know where to go for support. In identifying prevention as a priority, Barnsley MBC also supports the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy.

Our Aims:

- *Continue to develop a strong communications plan to raise awareness and signpost to services*
 - Objectives
 - Work with our service provider and partners to deliver strong and consistent messages through regular community updates and social media campaigns
 - Develop communication campaigns targeted at specific events – Valentines Day, Christmas, sporting tournaments etc.
 - Develop unique communication programmes recognising different experiences of Domestic Abuse – older people, LGBT+ people, people from a minority ethnic background, disabled people, male experiences, etc.

- Develop a curriculum for school safeguarding leads, creating a ‘Wellness’ Hub of Excellence for delivering education around Healthy Relationships
 - Objectives
 - Utilising the infrastructure created by the successful implementation of Operation Encompass to develop a consistent training programme across all schools
 - Establish a peer support network for safeguarding leads in schools

3: Ensuring a strong multi-agency response to Domestic Abuse (drop down menu)

We recognise that in order to end Domestic Abuse, it cannot be tackled in isolation. This means creating and maintaining strong relationships between agencies, based on meaningful communication and partnership working.

Tackling Domestic Abuse is a key theme in the Safer Barnsley Partnership’s Violence Reduction Plan, and much of the work to address this priority is done through the Crime Sub-Group and the Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Sub-Group.

Our Aims:

- *Ensure the MARAC works for all agencies and delivers the best outcome for victims*
 - Objectives
 - Subject to needs assessment recommendations, review and refresh the MARAC process in order to ensure the MARAC works for all agencies and can deliver the best outcomes for victims

- *Maintain and develop positive relationships between agencies who are exposed to victims of Domestic Abuse*
 - Objectives
 - Continue to develop internal and external communications to ensure all agencies are familiar with the referral system for cases of Domestic Abuse
 - Continue to develop and deliver Domestic Abuse training to a range of agencies and ensure that training is a key feature of future service specifications
 - Develop the strong relationships that already exist between professional agencies to include those on the periphery

- *Establish the Protecting Vulnerable People Sub-Group as our Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Function*
 - Objectives
 - Establish Domestic Abuse as a standing agenda item at PVP meetings
 - Develop an appropriate and victim-friendly pathway to ensure that the voice of victims is represented
 - Establish a network of survivors whose voices can be drawn upon for their lived experience expertise

- *Identify opportunities for pooling resources amongst agencies to deliver the best services for victims*
 - Objectives
 - Continue to work closely with our regional neighbours to identify opportunities for the joint commissioning of services
 - Strengthen relationships with Children’s Social Care to ensure resources are fully utilised and explore opportunities for joint commissioning further support for children

- *Develop the expectations of agencies and professionals working together in the future to keep Domestic Abuse on everybody’s agenda and improve the outcomes for victims and their children*
 - Objectives
 - Develop the “Near Miss” DHR process to provide a further channel to identify ongoing learning opportunities for agencies responding to domestic abuse

4: Holding perpetrators to account and supporting them to change their behaviour (drop down menu)

Barnsley MBC recognise that too often, the burden of ending Domestic Abuse has fallen upon victims. In line with the Government’s VAWG strategy, we prioritise the pursual of perpetrators and shifting the onus to change to those perpetrating Domestic Abuse. In prioritising

supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour, we hope to contribute to a culture change in how tackling Domestic Abuse is perceived, prevent re-offending, and create positive outcomes for victims, perpetrators and their children.

Our Aims:

- *Continue to support and develop the existing perpetrator programme to support perpetrators to change behaviour*
 - Objectives
 - Develop access points to the programme across the Borough.
 - Develop communications to ensure the existing perpetrator programme is advertised to all relevant agencies, so the programme is offered to a wide range of perpetrators including younger and female offenders
 - Continue, with our partners, to monitor the existing perpetrator programme to ensure the best outcomes are being delivered for victims and perpetrators in South Yorkshire

- *Support South Yorkshire Police in developing and implementing the MATAC process*
 - MATAC refers to the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination process of identifying and tackling serial perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, and has been piloted in Northumbria and rolled out across six other police forces in the North East and Yorkshire, including SYP.
 - A MATAC panel should bring together local agencies to identify strategies for responding to the most harmful Domestic Abuse perpetrators.
 - For more information on what MATAC looks like, please see <https://barnsleycouncil.sharepoint.com/sites/sshc/Files/Forms/Standard.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2Fsshc%2FFiles%2FProcurement%2FCommissioning%20Activity%2FHealthier%2FDomestic%20Violence%2FMATAC%2F20210311%20SYP%20MATAC%20Handbook%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2Fsshc%2FFiles%2FProcurement%2FCommissioning%20Activity%2FHealthier%2FDomestic%20Violence%2FMATAC&p=true&wdLOR=c57FE2F6E%2D929A%2D45F7%2DB7FD%2D4229AF410E26&ct=1642067427676&or=Outlook-Body&cid=DD324612-753E-44DA-9CA6-3B3220983AD0>
 - We await direction from SYP on how best we can support this process.

DELIVERY PLAN (drop down menu)

Please note that this delivery plan is still under development and will be finalised subject to the outcomes of our local needs assessment, and the identification of lead officers within the organisation and with partner agencies.

Actions, lead officers and the progress of objectives will be monitored internally within Healthier Communities, and will be published at a later date on the council website and activity monitored through PVP and SBPB. Healthier communities, the PVP and SBPB will ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion is considered within the delivery of this Strategy. They will do this by ensuring that relevant schemes of work, as identified within this delivery plan are appropriately impact assessed and that these assessments are used to inform their decision-making processes. Further details of this can be found in the EIA that accompanies this Strategy.

Providing victims of Domestic Abuse with the right support	
Aim: Increase our capacity for providing safe accommodation to victims of Domestic Abuse	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Purchase additional housing units in order to accommodate victims with complex needs	
Review and improve the monitoring of pathways into and out of the refuge	
Investigate the possibilities of creating a housing advocacy role utilising the homeless prevention fund (targeting the rent arrears/cost of bonds) to unblock housing problems for victims and perpetrators	
Aim: Ensure the development of services is driven by the needs of survivors	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Commission a service which is robust, inclusive, and addresses the needs identified in our 2021 Needs Assessment	
Establish a framework for frequent needs assessments in order to ensure services are responding to the evolving needs of victims and survivors in Barnsley	
Establish a Lived Experience Group to provide ongoing feedback on our services	
Aim: Develop an increased offer of community support, including an increased offer of support to children and families	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Design a service specification which places children at the centre of provision	
Develop an increased offer of therapeutic support to all children who have been affected by Domestic Abuse	
Contribute to and monitor two full posts working with LGBT+ and BME victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse	

Preventing Domestic Abuse	
Aim: Continue to develop a strong communications plan to raise awareness and signpost to services	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Work with our service provider and partners to deliver strong and consistent messages through regular community updates and social media campaigns	
Develop communication campaigns targeted at specific events – Valentines Day, Christmas, sporting tournaments etc.	
Develop unique communication programmes recognising different experiences of Domestic Abuse –older people, LGBTQ+, BAME, male experiences etc.	
Aim: Develop a curriculum for school safeguarding leads, creating a ‘Wellness’ Hub of Excellence for delivering education around Healthy Relationships	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Utilise the infrastructure created by the successful implementation of Operation Encompass to develop a consistent training programme across all schools	
Establish a peer support network for safeguarding leads in schools	
Ensuring a strong multi-agency response to Domestic Abuse	
Aim: Ensure the MARAC works for all agencies and delivers the best outcome for victims	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Subject to needs assessment recommendations, review and refresh the MARAC process in order to ensure the MARAC works for all agencies and can deliver the best outcomes for victims	
Aim: Maintain and develop positive relationships between agencies who are exposed to victims of Domestic Abuse	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Continue to develop internal and external communications to ensure all agencies are familiar with the referral system for cases of Domestic Abuse	
Continue to develop and deliver Domestic Abuse training to a range of agencies and ensure that training is a key feature of future service specifications	
Develop the strong relationships that already exist between professional agencies to include those on the periphery	
Aim: Establish the Protecting Vulnerable People Sub-Group as our Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Function	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Establish Domestic Abuse as a standing agenda item at PVP meetings	

Develop an appropriate and victim-friendly pathway to ensure that the voice of victims is represented	
Establish a network of survivors whose voices can be drawn upon for their lived experience expertise	
Aim: Identify opportunities for pooling resources amongst agencies to deliver the best services for victims	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Continue to work closely with our regional neighbours to identify opportunities for the joint commissioning of services	
Strengthen relationships with Children’s Social Care to ensure resources are fully utilised and explore opportunities for joint commissioning further support for children	
Aim: Develop the expectations of agencies and professionals working together in the future to keep Domestic Abuse on everybody’s agenda and improve the outcomes for victims and their children	
<u>Objectives</u>	
Develop the “Near Miss” DHR process to provide a further channel to identify ongoing learning opportunities for agencies responding to domestic abuse	
Holding perpetrators to account and supporting them to change their behaviour.	
Aim: Continue to support and develop the existing perpetrator programme to support perpetrators to change behaviour	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
Develop access points to the programme across the Borough.	
Develop communications to ensure the existing perpetrator programme is advertised to all relevant agencies, so the programme is offered to a wide range of perpetrators including younger and female offenders	
Continue, with our partners, to monitor the existing perpetrator programme to ensure the best outcomes are being delivered for victims and perpetrators in South Yorkshire	
Aim: Support South Yorkshire Police in developing and implementing the MATAAC process	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Progress</u>
We await direction from SYP on how best we can support this process.	

References (drop down menu)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). (2015) *Increasingly everyone's business: A progress report on the police response to domestic abuse*. Available at: <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/increasingly-everyones-business-domestic-abuse-progress-report.pdf>

Home Office (2021). *Domestic Abuse Draft Statutory Guidance Framework*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896640/Draft_statutory_guidance_July_2020.pdf

Home Office (2021). *Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005630/Tackling_Violence_Against_Women_and_Girls_Strategy-July_2021-FINAL.pdf

Middlesbrough Council. *MATAC*. Available at: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/community-support-and-safety/domestic-abuse/one-minute-guides/matac>

Office for National Statistics (ONS). (2020a). *Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2020*. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

Office for National Statistics (ONS). (2020b) *Domestic abuse and the criminal justice system, England and Wales: November 2020*. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseandthecriminaljusticesystemenglandandwales/november2020>

Operation Encompass (2021). *What We Do*. Available at <https://www.operationencompass.org/what-we-do>

Royal College of Psychiatrists (2021). *Domestic violence and abuse – the impact on children and adolescents*. Available at <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/parents-and-young-people/information-for-parents-and-carers/domestic-violence-and-abuse-effects-on-children>

Safer Barnsley Partnership (2021). *Safer Barnsley Partnership Annual Plan: 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022*. Available at <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/18980/safer-barnsley-partnership-plan-2021.pdf>

SafeLives (2016). *Safe Later Lives: Older people and domestic abuse*. Available at <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20Later%20Lives%20-%20Older%20people%20and%20domestic%20abuse.pdf>

Women's Aid (2020). *The Hidden Housing Crisis*. Available at <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/The-Domestic-Abuse-Report-2020-The-Hidden-Housing-Crisis.pdf>

Women's Aid. (2020) *How common is domestic abuse?* Available at: <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/how-common-is-domestic-abuse/>

DRAFT

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment

Domestic Abuse Strategy

Stage 1 Details of the proposal

**Name of service
Directorate**

Protecting Vulnerable People Board
Safer Stronger Healthier Communities

**Name of officer responsible for EIA
Name of senior sponsor**

Mollie Raine

Description / purpose of proposal

This EIA will be used to guide the delivery plan and development of the Council's new Domestic Abuse Strategy

Date EIA started

31st January 2022

Assessment Review date

This EIA can be reviewed annually, in partnership with the review of the domestic abuse service which is currently undergoing a full strategic review.

Stage 2 - About the proposal

What is being proposed?

Barnsley Council's Domestic Abuse Strategy outlines how we will, with our partners, work to tackle and prevent Domestic Abuse (DA) in Barnsley. The strategy identifies the following four strategic priorities:

1. Providing victims of Domestic Abuse with the right support
2. Preventing Domestic Abuse
3. Ensuring a strong multi-agency response to Domestic Abuse
4. Holding perpetrators to account and supporting them to change their behaviour.

The strategy has been informed by a local needs assessment, and outlines the development of the strategy, the prevalence of DA in Barnsley, current services in place to address domestic abuse, identified gaps and a delivery plan of how to address those gaps.

This strategy has been developed in conjunction with the work concerning the full strategic review of Barnsley's domestic abuse services.

Why is the proposal required?

Domestic abuse is an insidious crime and can affect anybody regardless of age, gender identity, sex, race, sexual orientation, wealth, disability, or location of the victim or perpetrator. Domestic abuse can also present in a range of ways – it can be physical, sexual, financial, emotional, and psychological. Domestic abuse has far reaching consequences for all of society, and our strategy needs to address the needs of all potential victims and ensure that there are no barriers to accessing support.

Our strategy supports the Safer Barnsley Partnership Plan, and contributes to the Barnsley 2030 ambition of a Healthy Barnsley. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also requires local authorities to publish and give effect to a local domestic abuse strategy informed by a local needs assessment.

What will this proposal mean for customers?

In line with the domestic abuse service review, the domestic abuse strategy and accompanying needs assessment should identify and make steps to address any gaps in provision of support for vulnerable residents struggling with domestic abuse, specifically considering the needs of Protected Characteristic groups.

Stage 3 - Preliminary screening process

Use the Preliminary screening questions (found in the guidance) to decide whether a full EIA is required

Yes – Light touch EIA required

No – EIA not required (provide rationale below including name of E&I Officer consulted with)

It is our vision that everyone in Barnsley has access to the right support and services to prevent and overcome domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Strategy is key in realizing this vision, and needs to ensure that our response to domestic abuse is truly inclusive.

We will do this by ensuring that relevant schemes of work are appropriately impact assessed, as identified within this Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), and that these assessments are used to inform the decision-making processes concerning the strategy. This will help them to better understand the impact of this Strategy and this can be aggregated as part of the review of the Strategy and this EIA.

The following projects have been identified as key deliverables for the Domestic Abuse Strategy and the table below identifies which of these will require an EIA;

Providing victims of Domestic Abuse with the right support	EIA required?
Purchase additional housing units in order to accommodate victims with complex needs	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Review and improve the monitoring of pathways into and out of the refuge	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Investigate the possibilities of creating a housing advocacy role utilising the homeless prevention fund (targeting the rent arrears/cost of bonds) to unblock housing problems for victims and perpetrators	Yes
Commission a service which is robust, inclusive, and addresses the needs identified in our 2021 Needs Assessment	Yes – completed/ongoing
Establish a framework for frequent needs assessments in order to ensure services are responding to the evolving needs of victims and survivors in Barnsley	Yes

Establish a Lived Experience Group to provide ongoing feedback on our services	Yes
Design a service specification which places children at the centre of provision	No – part of service review EIA (see above)
Develop an increased offer of therapeutic support to all children who have been affected by domestic abuse	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Contribute to and monitor two full posts working with LGBT+ and BME victims and survivors of domestic abuse	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Preventing Domestic Abuse	
EIA Required?	
Work with our service provider and partners to deliver strong and consistent messages through regular community updates and social media campaigns	Possibly not – this will form part of any service specification which has its own EIA?
Develop communication campaigns targeted at specific events – Valentines Day, Christmas, sporting tournaments etc.	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Develop unique communication programmes recognising different experiences of domestic abuse – LGBTQ+, BAME, male experiences etc.	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Utilise the infrastructure created by the successful implementation of Operation Encompass to develop a consistent training programme across all schools	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Establish a peer support network for safeguarding leads in schools	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Ensuring a strong multi-agency response to Domestic Abuse	
EIA required?	
Subject to needs assessment recommendations, review and refresh the MARAC process in order to ensure the MARAC works for all agencies and can deliver the best outcomes for victims	Yes
Continue to develop internal and external communications to ensure all agencies are familiar with the referral system for cases of domestic abuse	No

Continue to develop and deliver domestic abuse training to a range of agencies and ensure that training is a key feature of future service specifications	EIA considerations will be applied once we reach this stage
Develop the strong relationships that already exist between professional agencies to include those on the periphery	No
Establish domestic abuse as a standing agenda item at PVP meetings	No
Develop an appropriate and victim-friendly pathway to ensure that the voice of victims is represented	Yes
Establish a network of survivors whose voices can be drawn upon for their lived experience expertise	Yes
Continue to work closely with our regional neighbours to identify opportunities for the joint commissioning of services	No
Strengthen relationships with Children's Social Care to ensure resources are fully utilised and explore opportunities for joint commissioning further support for children	No
Holding perpetrators to account and supporting them to change their behaviour.	EIA required?
Develop access points to the existing perpetrator programme across the Borough.	Yes
Develop communications to ensure the existing perpetrator programme is advertised to all relevant agencies, so the programme is offered to a wide range of perpetrators including younger and female offenders	No
Continue, with our partners, to monitor the existing perpetrator programme to ensure the best outcomes are being delivered for victims and perpetrators in South Yorkshire	No

Stage 4 - Scoping exercise - What do we know?

Data: Generic demographics

What generic data do you know?

It is important to note is a largely hidden crime, and data provided by any given service or agency will only provide a part of the picture of the actual level of domestic abuse experienced by victims.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales 2020 (available [here](#)), provides the most update to date national picture of the characteristics of victims of domestic abuse and highlights the following:

- an estimated 7.3% of women (1.6 million) and 3.6% of men (757,000) experienced domestic abuse in the last year
- women aged 16 to 19 years were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year than women aged 25 years and over
- those in the Mixed ethnic group were significantly more likely to experience domestic abuse within the last year than those in the Black or Asian ethnic groups
- in the White ethnic group, women were significantly more likely than men to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year (7.7% of women, compared with 3.6% of men)
- adults who were separated or divorced were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse compared with those who were married or civil partnered, cohabiting, single or widowed
- men and women aged 16 to 74 years with a disability were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year than those without
- those who were unemployed were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse within the last year than those who were employed or economically inactive

The main source of evidence we have used to inform this strategy is our local needs assessment carried out by independent research company Imogen Blood Associates, who have compiled and analysed data from our current domestic abuse service provider IDAS, Housing Options, MARAC and South Yorkshire Police.

Data: Service data / feedback

What equalities knowledge do you already know about the service/location/policy/contract?

Equality monitoring data is collected for the domestic abuse service and is monitored on a quarterly basis in contract monitoring meetings. The needs assessment highlighted the following in their analysis of IDAS' 2020/21 referral data.

Any abusive behaviour is challenging and unacceptable but for those from minoritised groups, can be doubly excluding, ensuring multiple disadvantages. For example, any breaks in therapeutic or clinical processes, can be debilitating, delaying transitioning process and subjecting the client to multiple barriers such as identity dysphoria.

Minoritised groups often feel isolated within the abuse and services try to ensure peer support is offered to 'counter' this. Clients who are transitioning or who have transitioned and have not yet fully been absorbed into their respective community, face exclusion particularly if they are male to female transitions. Refuges insist in the single female only, rule regardless of where the client is in the process.

Domestic abuse services try to ensure the client remains within the therapeutic process as much as applicable however, this may put the client in direct harm therefore each individual is assessed for risk on a case-by-case basis.

- In 2020/21, women still made up the vast majority (89%) of referrals to IDAS, though this nevertheless demonstrates a sizeable group of (420) men approaching the service.
- 8% of the cases discussed at the MARAC (i.e., those deemed to be most high risk) involved male victims.
- A total of 49 referrals to IDAS in 2020/21 (i.e., 1.2% of total referrals) were known to be from trans clients. Of these figures, 2 clients had fully transitioned, and the remaining (44) were mid-transition.
- 99 individuals (2.4% of all IDAS clients in 2020/21) identified as Lesbian (44), Gay (10) or Bisexual (Bisexual) and Queer (1).
- 2% of those high-risk cases discussed at MARAC during 2020/21 involved a victim who was known to be LGBTQ+ (19).
- Around 7% of referrals in total are from non-White British ethnic backgrounds, with the largest minority group being white Eastern Europeans.
- 2.5% of IDAS clients during 2020/21 stated a language other than English as their main language. This represents 104 people and 27 different home languages.

- Christianity accounted for the largest specific religious group with small numbers of Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh plus any other religion accounting for the remainder. Specific data regarding religion was recorded for 38% of 2020/21 clients.
- During 2020/21, 711 of IDAS's 4092 (i.e., 17%) clients were known to have a disability and/or health condition, with mental health being the most common. 133 people (3.25% of all clients) had more than one impairment/condition.
- The highest number of referrals were received from people in the 26-30 age group, with a significant concentration of referrals coming from people in their twenties and thirties. 104 people in their sixties; 68 people in their seventies; and 10 people aged 80 and over were referred to IDAS.
- 5% of referrals to IDAS in 2020/21 were from women who were known to be pregnant.

The needs assessment also analysed data from Housing Options and South Yorkshire Police, but equalities data from these organisations was not available at the same level of detail.

Data: Previous / similar EIA's

Has there already been an EIA on all or part of this before, or something related? If so, what were the main issues and actions it identified?

Yes, an EIA was completed on the domestic abuse service review and is available here.

Data: Formal consultation

What information has been gathered from formal consultation?

Part of the local needs assessment was the undertaking of a survey asking both professionals and the public for their views and experience of domestic abuse/domestic abuse services in Barnsley. The survey was distributed across equalities forums by the Customer Engagement team, as well as promoted on social media and to existing IDAS clients.

The survey included questions asking respondents what barriers people may face accessing services in Barnsley, and what they would like a Lived Experience Group to look like.

The profile of respondents is as followed:

- 86% of respondents identified as female, and 9% as male. The remainder of respondents were split equally between those who identified as non-binary and those who preferred not to say.
- 17% of respondents identified themselves as having a gender identity which was different to that assigned at birth. 3% preferred not to say, and the remainder stated that their gender identity was not different to that assigned at birth.
- 88% of respondents were heterosexual/straight, 7% identified as LGBTQ+ and 5% preferred not to say.
- The largest age groups for respondents were those in the 35-44 age group (34%) and the 45-54 age group (31%). Ages ranged from 16-24 and 64-74.
- 5% of respondents preferred not to state their ethnic origin. Of the remainder, 94% described their ethnic origin as White British, the remainder described themselves as Other.
- 26% of respondents stated that yes, they identified as a D/deaf or disabled person, or had a long-term health condition. 69% did not and 5% preferred not to say.
- 45% of respondents had no religion and 4% preferred not to say. Of the remainder, 45% were Christian, 1% Buddhist and 4% Other.

We will use this data, where applicable, to inform our deliverables associated with the domestic abuse service.

Stage 7 – Action plan

To improve your knowledge about the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: community engagement with affected groups, analysis of performance data, service equality monitoring, stakeholder focus group etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date
Project leads to undertake individual EIAs for the projects identified within this assessment.	Rosemary Clewer/Mollie Raine	

To improve or mitigate the equality impact . . .

Actions could include: altering the policy to protect affected group, limiting scope of proposed change, reviewing actual impact in future, phasing-in changes over period of time, monitor service provider performance indicators, etc.

Action we will take:	Lead Officer	Completion date

Stage 8 – Assessment findings

Please summarise how different protected groups are likely to be affected

Summary of equality impact

It is anticipated that the delivery of this strategy will have an impact on the majority of the protected characteristics, particularly those groups of individuals that are likely to face barriers to accessing domestic abuse services.

It is therefore important that individual projects are impact assessed to ensure that they are considering the diverse needs of our community in their planning and implementation.

Summary of next steps

The relevant officers will ensure that equality and inclusion is considered within the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy by ensuring that relevant schemes of work are appropriately impact assessed and that these assessments are used to inform the decision-making processes of any commissioning activity.
This overarching Equality Impact Assessment will be reviewed in line with the review of the Strategy.

Signature (officer responsible for EIA) Date

M. Raine

**** EIA now complete ****

Stage 9 – Assessment Review

**(This is the post implementation review of the EIA based on date in Stage 1 if applicable)
What information did you obtain and what does that tell us about equality of outcomes for different groups?**

Appendix B – Domestic Abuse Communications and Training Schedule

DA Communications and Training Schedule (DRAFT)			
Item	Description	Quarter	Key audience and partners
Valentines Day/Healthy Relationships Campaign (IDAS)	Healthy relationships information	Q1	Councils, University, Colleges (Barnsley College and Northern College), Children's Centres
International Women's Day (IDAS)	Online live event with inspirational women who have	Q1	Feminist societies, Kyra, Survive, Soroptimists, Methodist Women

	led us through the last year. Sarah Hill, CEO of IDAS and Chair of Women's Aid is joined by guest speakers		of Britain, Women's Institute, Local Businesses, Councils, CVS, Community First, HARCVS, CAVCA
Domestic Abuse Act Housing Training	Training delivered by Shelter on the new Housing duties introduced by the DA Act	Q1	Officers in Housing Options and Safer Neighbourhoods
Domestic Abuse Recommission (2023)	Promotion of the tender process and new service provision/contract award	Q 2, 3 and 4	Strategic, operational and public
National Stalking Awareness Week (IDAS)	Signs of stalking, how we can help, safety advice	Q2	Councils, SYP, OPCC, Survivors, Public
Volunteering Week (IDAS)	Thanking IDAS volunteers and champions	Q2	General public/Volunteers
IDAS Tea Party/Coffee Morning (IDAS)	Community spirit, friendship, looking out for each other Raise money for IDAS Increase awareness of IDAS in rural communities	Q2	Soroptimists, Methodist Women of Britain, Women's Institute, local businesses, councils, CVS, Community First, HARCVS, CAVCA
National Elder Abuse Week (IDAS)	Types of abuse Abusive situations particularly affecting older people How to access our services	Q2	Online followers, Councils, SYP, Age UK, GP Safeguarding Leads
IDAS Big Yorkshire Tour virtual fundraising event	Community, awareness raising, fundraising support	Q3	Partners, Fire Service, Police, Army, members of the public
Freshers Weeks	Healthy relationships IDAS services/accessing support Safety advice	Q3	Students, staff at universities and colleges
UN Day to Eliminate Violence against Women & Girls and following 16 days of activism	Domestic abuse and sexual violence disproportionately affects women and girls Awareness of our services Focus on impact of abuse and violence on survivors lives	Q4	Public, SYP, OPCC, Fire & Safety, Councils, Soroptimists, Women's Institutes, Methodist Women of Britain etc

White Ribbon Week	As above, with people pledging zero tolerance to violence against women and girls	Q4	Public, SYP, OPCC, Fire & Safety, Councils
Ongoing DA Service Access pathway and service promotions	Continue to develop awareness raising and strong promotion of DA services throughout the year	Quarterly	Strategic, operational and public
DA Perp Programme	Develop and maintain access and referral process and raise awareness of scheme to all	Quarterly	Strategic, operational and public
DA Strategy	Promotion of new strategy website	TBC	Strategic, operational and public
Internal DA Training	Updated DA training delivered by IDAS to educate managers on how to respond to domestic abuse	TBC (ongoing)	To be delivered to HR Business Partners in the first instance, to then incorporate managers across the authority
External DA training	DA training delivered by IDAS to further educate a range of partners/agencies on how to respond to domestic abuse and to reaffirm the referral process	TBC (ongoing)	Professionals working in education, safeguarding leads, NHS colleagues, and the commercial sector