

Notice of Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: Monday, 13 July 2026 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



Membership:

Chairman:

Cllr K Salmon

Vice Chairman:

Cllr S Aitkenhead

Cllr J Beesley
Cllr P Canavan
Cllr L Dedman
Cllr C Goodall

Cllr S Mackrow
Cllr L Northover
Cllr Dr F Rice
Cllr T Trent

Cllr O Walters
Cllr C Weight
Cllr G Wright

All Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6464>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Claire Johnston 01202 123663 or email democratic.services@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email press.office@bcpCouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3 July 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

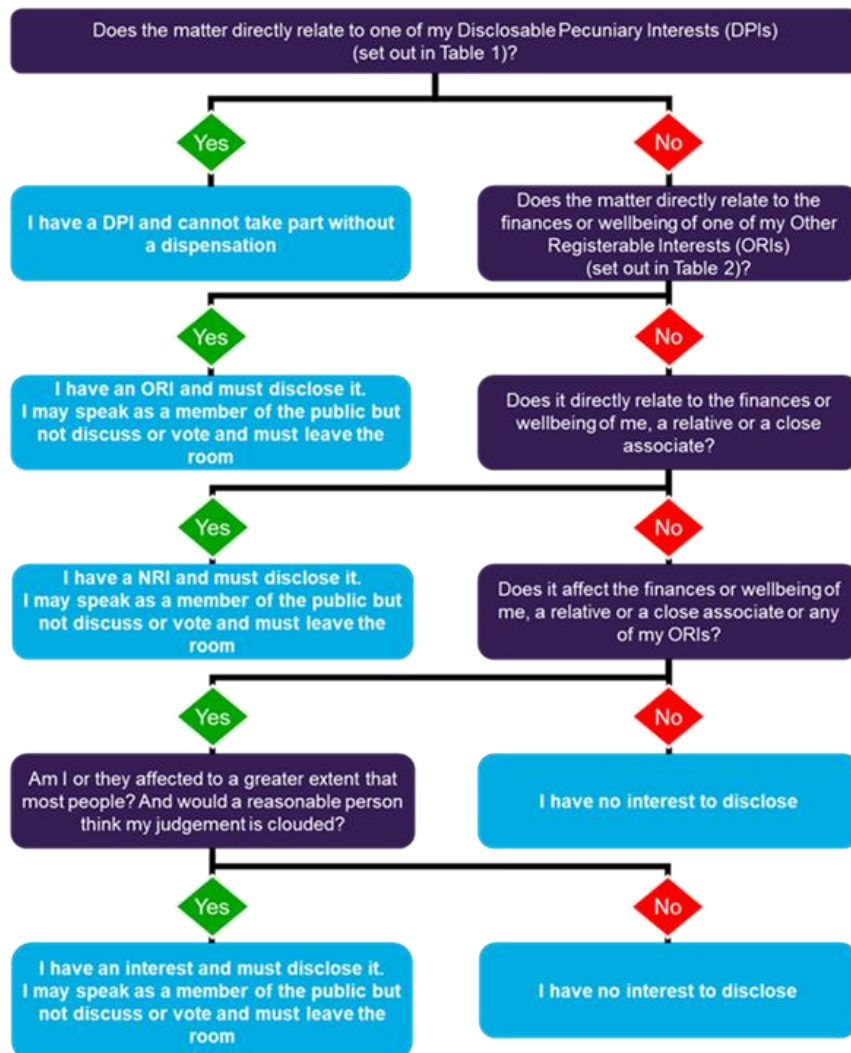


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

5 - 14

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2026.

5. Recommendation Tracker

15 - 54

To consider any outstanding recommendations or actions.

6. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution. Further information on the requirements for submitting these is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday 3 clear working days before the meeting (Tuesday 7 July 2026).

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday the working day before the meeting (Friday 10 July 2026).

The deadline for the submission of a petition is 10 working days before the meeting.

7. Information Considered Between Meetings

The following items were considered by the Board since the last meeting:

- [Corporate Performance Report - Q4](#)

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

8.	Safer BCP (Community Safety Partnership) Domestic Abuse Strategies	55 - 314
	This Cabinet report accompanies the three Domestic Abuse Strategies as part of the Safer CSP Community Safety Partnership's commitment in response to Domestic Abuse in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.	
9.	Bournemouth Town Centre Progress	-
	To consider a presentation on Bournemouth Town Centre Progress in advance of an anticipated in-depth inquiry session at a future meeting.	
10.	Work Plan	315 - 332
	The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.	

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2026 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr K Salmon – Chairman

Cllr S Aitkenhead – Vice-Chairman

Present: Cllr J Beesley, Cllr P Canavan, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr C Goodall,
Cllr S Mackrow, Cllr L Northover and Cllr O Walters

Present
virtually: Cllr F Rice

Also in attendance: Cllr M Cox, Cllr R Herrett and Cllr R Burton

13. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs T Trent and G Wright.

14. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

15. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

16. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May were approved as a correct record.

17. Recommendation Tracker

The recommendation tracker was noted.

18. Public Issues

There were 3 public questions received from Mr Alex McKinstry and 1 public statement from Mr Ian Redmanas follows:

Public Questions in relation to agenda item 7 – BCP Growth Plan

1. A Cabinet supplement from February this year listed three sets of "consultees" on the BCP Growth Plan: namely, Council officers; "businesses across BCP"; and an entity called "the BCP Business Growth Board", which seems to have been constituted around October 2025. Can you provide any further information on this "business growth board", such as: who its members are, including its chair and vice-chair; whether it is

independent of the Council; if not independent of the Council, how its members were appointed; how frequently it meets; and what its remit comprises? Can you also confirm whether this board is likely to be a long-term entity or whether it has been formed chiefly to assist with the Growth Plan's compilation?

Response: Historically, Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) led on pan Dorset business-led growth, led by a Dorset LEP board, consisting of representatives from the private sector, local government leaders, and higher education institutions. Since the LEP reforms in 2024 when LEP's were phased out their responsibilities have moved into councils and to ensure business engagement continues councils have set up Business Growth Boards.

In March 2025 Dorset LEP was wound down and BCP Council invited sector representatives from Universities, Destination Management Board, Port of Poole, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, Start-ups (Chair), Business Improvement District, Voluntary Sector, Cultural Sector, Dorset Chamber of Commerce, Finance and Fintech, Retail, Healthcare, Key development sites, Federation of Small Business, Skills Sector (Vice Chair), Hospitality and Accommodation, Low Carbon, Creative and Digital, Bournemouth Airport and Night-time Economy & Events. The Chair and Vice Chair roles were selected from within the Board whereby representatives put forward nominations and the Board voted to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair is Dan Ware and the Vice Chair is Phil Sayles.

The BCP Business Growth Board meet a minimum of 4 times per (every quarter) but with the Growth Plan development there have been additional meetings.

The remit of the BCP Business Growth Board is to serve as the strategic "Voice of Business" in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, shaping and championing economic growth by advising on strategy, influencing investment and policy, and representing business interests across local, regional, and national partnerships. This includes co-ordinating, endorsing and ensuring effective delivery and accountability of the BCP Growth Plan, a 10-year plan.

2. Will the BCP Growth Plan be going out to public consultation?

Response: The growth plan will not be going for formal public consultation, as this is done by the business growth board and pulls together existing strategies. These strategies, though, have been subject to public consultation

Public Question in relation to agenda item 8 – Financial Outturn 2025/26

The table on page 63 (Appendix A1) provides a breakdown of the overspend in the Wellbeing directorate. This includes a £10.8 million overspend on adult care packages, which is offset to some extent by underspends elsewhere; by client contributions and other income; and by £1,955,000 which is described as "Bad debts provision for deferred

payment". Can you explain in layman's terms what a "bad debts provision for deferred payment" is, exactly; and as this sum relates to bad debts, is there any possibility of the Council not actually receiving this money?

Response: Bad debt provision is a sum of money an organisation may put aside in the eventuality that clients do not repay their debt to the organisation. In terms of Adult Social Care, the accounts need to reflect that service users may not pay assessed contributions or reimburse the Council for the cost of their care if the Council paid up front under specific arrangements.

To date Adult Social Care has had a provisional £1.955m provision for debts linked to deferred payment agreements. Historic analysis however has shown that no deferred payment agreement debt has ever not been recovered because it is secured by a first charge (typically on a clients' property in line with national policy) and, so the decision was made that such provision was not necessary. Such a decision to change this provision can only be applied once, hence it is a one-off adjustment,

Public Statement in relation to agenda item 8 - Financial Outturn 2025/26

Recent Freedom of Information responses raise questions about the performance management arrangements for the Council's seafront trading operations. The Council has confirmed that kiosk opening times are not set centrally, staffing deployment by site is not recorded, and no performance reports or comparisons with previous years are held. While revenue data exists, no site-level performance reports or comparative analysis were identified in the FOI response.

Given that these venues occupy prominent seafront locations and are intended to generate income for the Council, the absence of such management information may limit the Council's ability to assess performance, benchmark operations, identify underperforming assets, and demonstrate that best value is being achieved.

I therefore request that the Committee examines whether current performance management arrangements for Seafront Services provide sufficient assurance that commercial objectives are being met and whether opportunities exist to improve returns from these public assets.

19. BCP Growth Plan Presentation

The Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations Introduced the item, and the Board considered a presentation, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Chair of the Growth Board also attended the meeting to provide their perspective to the Board. An early draft Growth Plan was presented. It was noted that the Plan sets out a 10-year vision to 2036, with the aim of supporting a connected, sustainable, and inclusive economy. Four core themes underpin this vision: Thriving People, a Strong Economy, Vibrant Places, and Connected Places. Key performance measures identified within the Plan include job creation, Gross Value Added (GVA), and levels of inward investment. It was reported that the Plan was developed through a series of sector workshops and wider engagement activity, with strategic leadership and

sector representation provided by a Business Growth Board. The document is intended to be iterative in nature, with ongoing refinement expected as it evolves. Key interventions were highlighted, including the development of strategic regeneration frameworks for major sites, the strengthening of talent pipelines and skills development programmes, and the establishment of a proposed inward investment agency. Additional priorities include infrastructure improvements, particularly in transport and energy capacity, alongside a focused agenda on green skills and sustainability. A number of issues were raised in discussion of this item including:

- **Delivery and Leadership** - It was emphasised that effective delivery of the Growth Plan would rely on strong and coordinated leadership. The need for partnership working between the Council, private sector organisations, and key stakeholders was highlighted. It was further noted that clear accountability for delivery would be required to ensure that progress is maintained and that responsibilities are clearly defined.
- **Integration with Other Strategies** - The need to ensure that the Growth Plan is aligned with other key strategic documents was highlighted. In particular, it was noted that integration with the Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan would be essential to ensure a coordinated approach. It was observed that alignment between these strategies would support more effective delivery and avoid conflicting priorities.
- **Evidence Base** - It was suggested that the assumptions underpinning the proposals within the Plan should be supported by a strengthened evidence base. Members indicated that further data and analysis may be required to test the feasibility of proposed interventions. The importance of clear performance measures and evidence to support decision-making was emphasised.
- **Skills and Workforce** - A need to strengthen the focus on skills and workforce development was identified. It was suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on apprenticeships, vocational training, and trade-based skills. The importance of developing a local workforce capable of meeting future economic demands was highlighted, alongside the need to ensure opportunities are accessible to local residents.
- **Community and Social Enterprise** - Greater recognition of the role of community-led initiatives and social enterprises was suggested. It was noted that such organisations can contribute to inclusive growth and support local economic resilience. It was considered that the Growth Plan could be strengthened by more explicitly acknowledging these sectors and their contribution.
- **Public Accountability** - Concerns were raised regarding the absence of a formal public consultation process. It was suggested that this could limit opportunities for residents and stakeholders to engage with the Plan. The importance of transparency and public involvement in shaping strategic priorities was highlighted.
- **Governance and Accountability** - It was confirmed that the Growth Plan would be subject to Cabinet approval. It was also noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Board could play an ongoing role in monitoring progress. However, it was acknowledged that governance arrangements

required further development, and greater clarity would be needed to ensure effective oversight and accountability.

- Resourcing and Delivery Risks - It was highlighted that delivery would require significant resourcing and external funding. The Plan would need to move beyond high-level aspirations to clearly prioritised, deliverable actions.
- Future Scrutiny - It was confirmed that the O&S Board would identify areas within the Growth Plan for future in-depth scrutiny. The Growth Plan would be treated as a live document, with ongoing Member input encouraged. Members were asked to provide feedback on the clusters and comments on the plan.

The Overview and Scrutiny Board **RECOMMENDED** to the Growth Board:

- a) That it engage with the National Emergency Briefing, and consider showing the briefing to Board members and the wider business community to help inform the future development of the growth plan.**

Voting: 7 in favour 0 against 2 abstentions

- b) That it undertake more extensive process of public consultation to enable a greater degree of public oversight and transparency.**

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30pm and resumed at 7.40pm.

20. Financial Outturn 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update

The Portfolio Holder for Finance presented two reports, The Financial Outturn and the Medium-Term financial plan, copies of which had been circulated to each Member and copies of which appear as Appendices 'B' and 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Financial Outturn Report presented the revenue and capital budget outturn, reserves position, dedicated schools grant outturn, housing revenue account, and results of council company and partner organisations for the financial year 2025/26. The 2025/26 general fund revenue outturn of £4.6m was in line with the quarter three forecast and confirms that demand-led social care services remain the council's most significant financial challenge. This is particularly within children's services which overall has overspent by (£9.1m), being 9% of the service's budget. Planned investment and mitigation for 2026/27 will be critical to improving resilience and bringing these pressures under control. Pressures across the main service areas were partly offset by underspends in Resources and corporate budgets. Included in the budget were itemised savings of £9.6m with 91% achieved through service

transformation, third party spend reduction, staff savings and raising additional income.

The transformation programmes over the last six years have been crucial in reducing annual ongoing expenditure with cumulative revenue savings of £56m over this period from one off investments of £45m to date.

The accumulated deficit of £180m for the dedicated schools grant at 31 March 2026 remains a significant threat to the council's financial stability. Expenditure will continue to outstrip funding by an estimated further £200m over the next two financial years. The required SEND reform plan has been developed and if approved, central government could provide an estimated 90% contribution toward this deficit. This would still leave the council with a residual debt to fund of £38m.

Delivery of the £100m general fund capital programme was 60% spent by the year end, largely funded by government grant, with the balance carried forward into future years. A number of issues were discussed in the discussion of these reports including:

- Children's Services - A substantial increase in children entering care was reported. Costs were driven primarily by numbers rather than increasing costs. It was reported that external review work had been commissioned to identify improvement opportunities.
Adult Social Care - An overspend had occurred for the first time. This was due to demand increases including care home placements and domiciliary care provision. It was noted that cost control mechanisms were effective and that pressures were largely demand-driven and systemic
- Budget Management and Monitoring - It was explained that financial performance was monitored on a monthly basis. Overspends were managed through, departmental accountability, corporate oversight and exception reporting.
- Financial Oversight and Scrutiny - It was emphasised that strengthened financial discipline and robust scrutiny arrangements would be essential. Councillors highlighted the need for close monitoring of budget performance and early identification of variances. The importance of clear and transparent financial reporting to support effective oversight was also noted.
- Reliance on Asset Disposals Concerns were raised regarding the reliance on asset disposals to address financial pressures, particularly in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit. It was noted that uncertainty remained around the availability of suitable assets and the potential long-term impact on the Council's asset base. Further clarity on the strategy and associated risks was requested.
- Long-Term Financial Sustainability - The long-term financial sustainability of the Council was identified as a key concern. It was observed that increasing demand for statutory services, combined with inflationary pressures and funding uncertainty, presented a challenging outlook. It was suggested that more fundamental changes to the Council's operating model may be required.
- Delivery of Transformation and Savings - Attention was drawn to the delivery of transformation and savings programmes. While progress had been made, it was noted that delivery had been slower than

anticipated. Members stressed the importance of ensuring that savings were realistic, closely monitored, and delivered in full, given the limited financial resilience available.

- Demand-Led Service Pressures - Ongoing pressures within demand-led services, particularly Children's Services and Adult Social Care, were highlighted. It was acknowledged that these pressures were being experienced nationally. However, it was emphasised that local mitigation measures, including early intervention and service transformation, would need to be strengthened to manage demand effectively.
- National and Systemic Pressures - It was recognised that many of the financial challenges faced were systemic and national in nature. However, Councillors emphasised that the Council must continue to take proactive steps to manage its financial position, including strengthening governance, improving forecasting, and prioritising available resources effectively.

- Exclusion of the Press and Public -

In order to discuss a figure outlined in the Financial Outturn Report the Board agreed the following resolution:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 5 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

The Board discussed and sought clarification on the information. The Board was also advised that this information was still pertinent to a live legal case and therefore the Council were not able to discuss the matter in a public meeting.

Following the discussion in exempt session the Board moved back into public session for the remainder of the meeting

21. Work Plan

The Chair presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board was asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.

It was noted that a formal scrutiny request had been received in relation to seafront trading operations. The issues raised included concerns regarding the absence of performance data, benchmarking, and clear commercial objectives.

It was agreed that the request would be considered at a future meeting of the Board.

Board Members were asked to contribute to outstanding KLOEs on Asset Management and Disposal and Planning Performance.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm

CHAIRMAN

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TRACKER – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

UPDATED: 17.04.2026

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made *items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.	Recommended to *name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received	Outcome *accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Board meeting – 13 May 2024					
9.	A shared vision for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 2024-28 Strategy and Delivery Plan	RESOLVED that the Board support the recommendations to Cabinet, subject to the suggested amendments from the Board: (a) The delivery plan be approved (b) The measures for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability for delivery be agreed. Note – minor amendments to the measures contained in the report were suggested by the O&S Board and captured in the full minutes of the meeting.	Cabinet, 22 May 2024	Accepted	The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the amendments suggested at O&S Board had been incorporated into the revised version of the Strategy and Delivery Plan supplied for decision by Cabinet.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 16 July 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 27 August 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 23 September 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 1 October 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 21 October 2024					

60.	Blue Badge Service Update Report	The Board resolved that: The Portfolio Holder/Leader and the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Department for Transport to raise the concerns outlined by the O&S Board and that the Portfolio Holder take the issue forward with local MPs and the Local Government Association to encourage local authorities to raise these issues with the Department for Transport and request that central government gives local authorities the freedom to set fees which cover the cost of administering the system and that the system should be simplified in terms of renewal processes.	Portfolio Holder/Leader/ Chief Executive	Partially accepted by the Portfolio Holder	The Portfolio Holder confirmed that they had written to the Department for Transport and provided the response received to the O&S Board at its meeting on 12 May. It was unknown if this had been raised directly with the LGA and at the O&S Board meeting on 12 May the Portfolio Holder undertook to follow up on this.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 18 November 2024					
69.	O&S Budget Working Groups – findings and recommendations	Recommended to Cabinet 1. That the principle of an inflationary increase across all parking charges be endorsed for the 2025/26 budget. 2. That it requests Officers to take into account the suggestion that an assessment be made on using a proportion of surplus income to accelerate the parking charging machine replacement programme prioritising the best value machines in order to reduce future costs (subject to the necessary procurement processes). 3. That Officers be requested to explore options to reduce costs for the Council and make the process easier for the public to pay for car parking, in particular an option to be able to pay in advance/on Council website.	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Partially accepted	Responses provided to the Cabinet meeting on 5 February ://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55921/Appendix%203a%20-%20Portfolio%20Holder%20Responses%20to%20Budget%20Scrutiny.pdf
		1. That it requests that Officers evaluate the retention and recruitment of Civil Enforcement Officers to ensure a robust and resilient workforce to provide an appropriate level of resource and promote safe and appropriate parking. 2. That Officers be requested to ensure adequate resourcing of parking enforcement to reduce inappropriate parking around schools.	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Accepted	Response from Portfolio Holder received at the O&S Board meeting on 3 February 2025 : http://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55808/responses%20from%20Cabinet.pdf

		The O&S Board recommend to Cabinet: 1. That any Resident Card offering is made fully accessible to all those who are not digitally enabled. 2. That there should be an application process for the card with a small financial contribution for the cost of processing and that the card should be a valuable offer that residents are willing to pay a small cost for, so that it can be sustainable in terms of administrative costs. 3. That any charge levied for the card should be the same regardless of the format and that consideration should be given to concessions for disadvantaged groups.	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Partially accepted	Responses provided to the Cabinet meeting on 5 February ://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55921/Appendix%20a%20-%20Portfolio%20Holder%20Responses%20to%20Budget%20Scrutiny.pdf Response from Portfolio Holder received at the O&S Board meeting on 3 February 2025 : http://ced-pri-cms-02.ced.local/documents/s55808/responses%20from%20Cabinet.pdf Note: the residents card offer did not progress as part of the budget
Recommendations from Board meeting – 9 December 2024					
78	Pay and Reward Progress Update	RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to approve option 2 of the proposed process flowchart (Appendix 1 of the report) and the commencement of collective consultation under s188 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 ('TULRCA'), which is a statutory obligation where an employer is proposing to dismiss 20 or more employees.	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Accepted	Negotiations with the pay and reward progress have continued and a new offer had been made to the unions. A ballot was now taking place with the recognised trade unions and an outcome was expected by the end of June 2025. This report was brought to O&S Board and Cabinet
79	Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy (CNHAS) update and Harbour Sail acquisition	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that Cabinet support the recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report: Housing Delivery Council Newbuild Housing and Acquisition Strategy CNHAS update and Harbour Sail a.pdf	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Accepted	The recommendation from Cabinet has not been put before Council because the purchase of Harbour Sail has not proceeded. This was due to timing of the purchase which affected the ability to use the grant for the purchase (which without this grant the scheme was no longer financially viable) and that title restrictions could not be altered to allow flexibility of tenure that was required. The grant has been reallocated to other property acquisitions.

81	BCP Council Libraries – Update on Library Strategy Development	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that Cabinet support the recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report: BCP Council Libraries Update on Library Strategy Development.pdf	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Accepted	The Library strategy is expected to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Cabinet in August and September 2025
Recommendations from Board meeting – 6 January 2025					
90	Devolution	Recommended to the Leader that: a: The Leader arranges an emergency Full Council Meeting at the earliest opportunity to enable a vote of ALL of the available options b: An evidence-based piece of work be undertaken on the pros and cons of a devolution arrangement with both the Solent deal AND Wessex deal, including exploring a public referendum for BCP residents.	Leader of the Council	Partially accepted	Full Council meeting was arranged for 15 January 2025. The Council meeting considered the options of both the Solent deal and the Wessex deal, further information was brought to the Council meeting and Council voted to participate in the priority programme and to move forward with the Wessex proposal.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 13 January 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 3 February 2025					
106.	Council Budget Monitoring 2024/25 at Quarter 3	RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to the Audit and Governance Committee that it instigate an investigation on the Carters Quay development.	Audit and Governance Committee 27 February 2025	Accepted	Update provided to the A&G Committee at its meeting on 29 May. Chief Executive agreed that a report of the governance and process could be produced for the 24 July. It was also agreed to circulate by email the updated provided by the Director, Investment and Development together with the advice previously provided by the Monitoring Officer. Carters Quay - Update.pdf A further report will be taken to Cabinet
Recommendations from Board meeting – 4 March 2025					

115.	Community Governance Review – Draft Recommendations	RESOLVED: that the O&S Board Recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to proposals for Burton and Winkton (A), Hurn (B), Highcliffe & Walkford (C) and Christchurch Town (D) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.	Cabinet date, 5 March 2025	Accepted	Consultation progressed with these proposals. The Consultation closed 22 June 2025. The Working group are processing the outcome of the consultation and a report will be brought back to the October Cabinet meeting.
		RESOLVED: That the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Broadstone (F) and Poole Town (J) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	
		RESOLVED that the Board recommend to Cabinet that that the recommendation for Bournemouth (K) not be forwarded to Council.		Rejected	Cabinet felt that it was important to consult on all areas including (k) Bournemouth Town and therefore supported the recommendations as set out by the task and finish group and did not support recommendation 3 as submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
		RESOLVED that the Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Southbourne (I)) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	
		RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Boscombe and Pokesdown (H) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	

		RESOVLED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Throop and Holdenhurst (E) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment.		Accepted	
		RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that the draft recommendations of the Task and Finish Group relating to Redhill and Northbourne (G) be recommended to Council, for approval for publication and consultation, without amendment		Accepted	
116.	Bournemouth Development Company LLP Business Plan	RESOLVED that the O&S Board recommend to Cabinet that a decision to extend the Winter Gardens site 'Option Execution Date' is deferred by Cabinet until the new BDC Partnerships Business Plan has been approved by Cabinet.	Cabinet, 5 March 2025	Rejected	The Cabinet did amend a recommendation as follows: Agrees the principle of an extension of the Winter Gardens site "Option Execution Date", with details to be agreed to be delegated to the Chief Operations Officer acting in consultation with the Leader of the Council, or until Cabinet have had the opportunity to review a revised partnership business plan including the site development plan for the revised Winter Gardens scheme." It was not able to agree a deferment of this decision as this would stop progress on the Winter Gardens development.
117.	Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	RESOLVED That the Board recommended to Cabinet: 1. That the spending priorities for Strategic CIL as set out in Option 2 of the paper over the period 2024/25 to 2029/30 be agreed provided CIL income is as forecast; and 2. That the report be updated annually for Cabinet and Council.	Cabinet, 5 March 2025	Accepted	Accepted by Cabinet and spending priorities agreed for 2024/25 to 2029/30 for CIL.

11.	Blue Badge Update	The Chair requested that the matter also be raised with the Local Government Association particularly regarding the cost of administering the Blue Badge scheme and the limitations of the current data system	Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customer, Communication and Culture	Unknown	Update on this issue awaited – no deadline date
12.	Arts and Culture Funding	Recommended to Cabinet: 1. That the O&S Board recognise the value of the NPOs funded by BCP to Health and well-being youth and the local economy and urge Cabinet to protect the funding BCP currently provides. 2. That Cabinet endorse the work that's been done with schools by the NPOs and recommends that Cabinet take action to encourage all schools to take part. 3. To explore whether it would be a benefit for a Councillor to be appointed as a member of the Board on any or all of the NPO organisations, and 4. That it ensures that the arts by sea festival goes ahead next year.	Cabinet, 13 May 2025	Accepted	1: The cultural funding remains in the MTFP so there is no change in that position as of the moment. 2: The Portfolio Holder is working with the Cultural Hub to encourage this. 3: The Portfolio Holder has spoken to the NPO and they respectfully suggested that this would not be helpful. The Portfolio Holder agreed with this especially as they would likely be a PH and the Portfolio Holder already had very close links with all of them. 4: We are planning for ABTS next year and awaiting funding news from ACE.

Recommendations from Board meeting – [9 June 2025](#)

22.	Bournemouth Air Festival	The Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed with the recommendation that Cabinet agrees to Option 4 as set out in the report, which acknowledges the ongoing process for new events to come forward and stops any further work on an Air Festival for 2026 onwards.	Cabinet, 18 June 2025	Accepted	Recommendation accepted and confirmed that further work on the Air Festival for 2026 had been discontinued.
23.	Bournemouth Development Company - Winter Gardens Project	1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board supported the following recommendations to Cabinet: (c) Cabinet approves the BDC Partnership Business Plan for 2025 – 2030. (c) Cabinet confirms the extension of the Site Option Execution Date to September 2028, allowing Muse as the Private Sector Partner in the BDC to fund the first stage of work on the new Winter Gardens scheme, resulting in a new Site Development Plan. (c) Cabinet approves proceeding on the understanding that public parking will not be included in a new scheme design.	Cabinet, 18 June 2025	Accepted	The development plans are due to come forward for consideration in December 2025 and it was proposed by the Leader that these would go to full Council.

		2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board welcomed the development of the Town Centre Vision for Bournemouth and requested to scrutinise the regeneration visions for the 3 Towns in the BCP Area as these are redeveloped.			
		3. The Overview and Scrutiny Board welcomed the development of the Town Centre Vision for Bournemouth and requested to scrutinise the regeneration visions for the 3 Towns in the BCP Area as these are redeveloped.		Accepted – update provided	We are developing the narrative across the three towns identifying key strengths and uniqueness to build upon the vision set out in the Corporate Strategy : vibrant places, where healthy people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy natural environment. To support this we've made good progress by the establishment of a Citizen's Panel and the Growth Board. The Citizen's Panel comprises of residents with a focus on the town centre which is helping to provide insight into how residents feel and engage within the space. The Growth Board is a newly established steering group which is comprised of representatives from key sectors within the BCP conurbation including Business Improvement District, education, manufacturing, Starts up and the volunteering sector. These perspectives are helping to shape our vision for BCP as a place which can thrive, for residents to feel civic pride and a destination for visitors to enjoy. The conversation at the O&S focussed on how Winter Gardens fits into the wider context of the Town Centre and committee members asked for that to form part of any proposals from BDC. There is an existing Town Centre Vision which forms part of the Local Plan, and the intention is for BDC to review this to support a future planning application, ensuring it reflects the nature of the development proposals in

					the absence of a formal planning policy framework.
24.	Leisure Services Presentation and Discussion	The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommended that Cabinet be urged to put in place an "Access to Leisure" scheme across the whole BCP area as soon as possible, recognising that people in Poole have lost this facility and with particular emphasis on ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities	Cabinet, 18 June 2025	Accepted – update from Portfolio Holder Provided	The Portfolio holder has asked that officers explore options around a renewed access to leisure facility and bring forward options, including but not limited to; how that would be managed, financial implications, and meeting the recommendation as requested by the Overview and scrutiny board.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 15 July 2025					
31.	Enhancement to Pay and Reward Offer	The Overview and Scrutiny Board supported the following recommendations to Council within the Cabinet report: a) Agree the additional costs associated with enhancing the proposed Pay and Reward offer. b) Agree the additional savings proposals outlined in Appendix 1 to ensure the cost implications of the proposal remain consistent with the February 2025 endorsed Medium Term Financial Plan. c) Agrees the details of the enhanced offer shown in Appendix 4 and 5 that will form the basis of the signed collective agreement with our recognised trade unions. d) Approves the recommended implementation date of 1 December 2025.	Cabinet, 16 July 2025	Accepted	Agreed by Council on 22 July 2025. Work underway to achieve implementation for December 2025.
32.	Scrutiny of Budget Related Cabinet reports – MTFP update report	The Overview and Scrutiny Board endorsed the work of Members and Officers around SEND as set out in recommendation C of the report as follows: In respect of the SEND deficit, note the update and acknowledges the action taken by the Leader and the Director of Finance	Cabinet, 16 July 2025	Accepted	
Recommendations from Board meeting - 22 September 2025					
39.	Residents Card	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board do not support the recommendation as outlined in the report as the Board did not feel that the Cabinet report included sufficient financial details and details of the scheme offers to enable it to make an informed decision. The Board recommend to Cabinet that the report is deferred to allow details of	Cabinet, 1 October 2025	Rejected	Updates were made to the report and the recommendation prior to consideration by Cabinet.

		the financial modelling that has been done to be added, including a cost/benefit analysis and a sensitivity analysis. Once this additional information is included in the report, it should then be brought back to the O&S Board before being taken to Cabinet for decision.			
Recommendations from Board meeting – 30 September 2025					
47.	Community Governance Review – Final Recommendations	All Recommendations as set out within the Cabinet report were supported by the Board: (a) the Task and Finish Group community governance review final recommendations, as set out in paragraphs 49, 62, 74, 92, 104, 117, 128, 140, 152, 166 and 181 of this report be approved; (b) the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make all necessary reorganisation of community governance orders to implement the changes agreed by Council; (c) the Task and Finish Group continue to consider the transfer of civic and ceremonial assets, statutory services and precept requirements for year 1, for each new parish, on the basis of minimal transfer and precept, and a report be presented to full Council in due course.	Cabinet, 1 October 2025	Accepted	The recommendations of Cabinet were referred to Council on 14 October. The Recommendations of Cabinet were agreed by full Council
Recommendations from Board meeting - 20 October 2025					
56.	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update	The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that as part of the Budget setting process. consideration be given to utilising receipts from the existing surplus asset disposal programme for 2026/27 to address some of the repairs and maintenance of publicly facing assets.	Cabinet, 29 October 2025	Partially Accepted but final determination was to reject	The Portfolio Holder advised that this was considered as part of the budget setting process but due to the significant pressures on the delivery of statutory services it was not agreed to include this within the proposed budget – 9 February 2026
57.	BCP Council Libraries Draft Library Strategy	1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that as part of the Library Strategy it looks to maintain staffed hours in libraries, especially in the afternoon period, as open access is rolled out further in the future. 2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that the Library Service put together a list of smaller neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bids to put to Councillors and Neighbourhood Forums immediately upon the opening of future CIL rounds.	Cabinet, 29 October 2025	Accepted	The Portfolio Holder reported that the staff hours in Libraries would be maintained and that a list of potential CIL bids had been created and these were outlined to the Board – 9 February 2026

		3. That the O&S Board support the recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report.			
Recommendations from Board meeting – 17 November 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting					
Recommendations from Board meeting – 8 December 2025					
79.	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update	RESOLVED that the O&S Board advise Cabinet of its support for all recommendations as outlined in the Cabinet report.	Cabinet, 17 December 2025	Accepted	Cabinet noted the support for the recommendations within the report.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 5 January 2026					
87.	Regeneration Progress Report	That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that, to enable effective lobbying of Government in the future, the draft of the BCP Growth Plan be shared with O&S Board Members when available and that Overview and Scrutiny be embedded in the plan's development and approval process.	Cabinet, 14 January 2026	Accepted	Extract from Cabinet minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Salmon and the Board for bringing their recommendation to Cabinet and advised that she was minded to accept the recommendation and that a formal response would be provided to the Board.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 9 February 2026					
95.	Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Plan	The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that the questions asked in the budget consultation be reviewed to ensure that they are relevant to the choices which need to be made in the 2027/28 budget setting.	Cabinet, 11 February 2026	Accepted	Extract from Cabinet minutes: Cabinet acknowledged the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Board and in relation to this the Leader confirmed that the Cabinet accepted the recommendation and advised that they would collaborate with the Chair and the Board to explore ways in which the questions could be improved for the following year.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 23 February 2026					
103.	Consultation Framework Working Group Report	1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that it adopts the Code of Good Practice – see the following link to the draft document: Code of Good Practice 2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that all members should be notified of consultations at least 1 week in advance of going live, providing summary detail of the topic for consultation. 3. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board endorse the ongoing work to produce an internal	Cabinet, 4 March 2026	TBC	Extract from Cabinet minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Salmon and the committee for all their work and for bringing their recommendations to Cabinet and further to this advised that a response would be provided directly to the Board once Cabinet had had the opportunity to consider the recommendations in detail. The Portfolio Holder and Officers reported back to the Board at its meeting on 18 May 2025. The Portfolio

		consultation toolkit, which should provide clear guidance on confidentiality. 4. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that it endorses an approach to every consultation which clearly outlines that it is not a referendum. 5. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet that funding for the establishment of a citizens panel is built into future budgets for Consultations.			Holder advised that the Cabinet and officers welcomed the majority of recommendations but would need to give further consideration regarding the notice period given to Ward Members in some circumstances as it would not always be practical. It was proposed that this would be trialled and a determination made.
103.	Consultation Framework Working Group Report	1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that the Chief Executive bring the Consultation Forward Plan to Group Leaders Meetings on a quarterly basis in order to raise awareness with members. As well as informing of forthcoming consultations the update should provide guidance on confidentiality and expectations for member engagement. 2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to officers that greater clarity be provided around why particular consultation methods were chosen and also clarity on the reason why a consultation is taking place and how the results of the consultation will be used. 3. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend that officers give consideration to the most robust consultation process available, recognising that sample surveys tend to be more robust and consider the additional costs involved with this	Officers	Partially Accepted	The Portfolio Holder and Officers reported back to the Board at its meeting on 18 May 2025. The Portfolio Holder advised that the Cabinet and officers welcomed the majority of recommendations but would need to give further consideration regarding the notice period given to Ward Members in some circumstances as it would not always be practical. It was proposed that this would be trialled and a determination made.
Recommendations from Board meeting – 23 March 2026					
113.	Parking Around Schools	1. That the parking enforcement team be asked to circulate information to all educational settings and councillors with general guidance around the limitations and responsibilities of parking enforcement officers and the police including suitable contact details. 2. That a Communications campaign be organised through the 'safer routes to schools' team regarding an emphasis on enforcement going forwards and that consideration be given	Cabinet, 26 March 2026	TBC	Extract from minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Salmon for their discussion and debate on this item and for bringing the recommendations to Cabinet. In relation to this the Leader advised that a formal response would be provided directly to the Committee by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley once the Cabinet had had the opportunity to

		to using specific information related to educational settings, e.g. levels of fines within a specific area in order to encourage a decrease in the instances of parking infringements to reduce the overall amount of fines. 2. That the relevant Portfolio Holder write to the DfT emphasising the need to increase fines to help with dangerous parking outside schools. 3. That the 'safer routes to schools' team be asked to review if any free resources are available for educational settings, to share with parents to help create a shift in parent driving behaviour including exploring whether Op Relentless Community Funding from Dorset Police could be used for this. 4. That it notes the Board's support for the good work already underway from the Parking Team to look at funding options for camera parking enforcement on school zigzags and the Board's support for the Parking Team's work to increase availability of enforcement officers at key times for school parking issues. 5. That it supports the current review by the Transport Team of road markings at educational settings to ensure that the most appropriate markings are in place. 7. That it agrees that when planning applications are submitted for schools the 'safer routes to schools' team be informed.			consider the recommendations in detail.
114.	Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) relating to parking pressure in high season	1. That, in the development of the Local Plan and/or parking strategy, consideration is given to the provision of parking spaces for people to park overnight and sleep, including travellers, van lifers and holiday makers, ensuring that the communities affected are appropriately consulted. 2. That, in the development of the local plan consideration is given to the provision of camp sites within BCP.	Cabinet, 26 March 2026	TBC	Extract from minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Salmon for their discussion and debate on this item and for bringing the recommendations to Cabinet. In relation to this the Leader advised that a formal response would be provided directly to the Committee by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Response, Environment and Energy, Councillor Andy Hadley once the Cabinet had had the opportunity to consider the recommendations in detail.

		3. That within the Local Transport Plan the provision of park and ride options are given full consideration.			
Recommendations from Board meeting - 18 May 2025					
	Local Plan Process	The Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Cabinet: 1. That further clarification be provided on the stakeholders who will be engaged with beyond the statutory consultees and that Ward members be encouraged to provide the details to officers of any organisations that they feel should be engaged with as stakeholders. 2. That the Working Group Terms of reference be amended to allow the possibility for substitute members provided that group leaders or their nominated representative notify of the change at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting and provided that the substitute attend a briefing with relevant officers prior to the meeting. 3. That a risk concerning the wider potential implications of devolution and local government reorganisation, e.g. changing consultees, be added to the risk register included within the Project Initiation Document	Cabinet – 27 May 2026	Accepted	Cabinet response: The Leader thanked the Board for its recommendations and advised that these were accepted and, subject to Cabinet's agreement, would be incorporated within the formal resolutions of Cabinet.
	Social Value Statement for BCP Council	1. That an action plan, including details of an appropriate governance structure, is produced in order to clearly outline how the social value statement will be taken forward to cover all Council activities beyond procurement. 2. That the O&S Board support the recommendation outlined in the report to approve the Social Value Statement for adoption	Cabinet – 27 May 2026	1. Rejected 2. Accepted	Whilst the Leader advised that Cabinet agreed with the first recommendation in so far as agreeing that social value extended beyond the procurement process, but that Cabinet could not accept the recommendation to commit to an action plan and governance structure that would see how that applies.
Recommendations From Board Meeting – 15 June 2026					

	BCP Growth Plan	That the BCP Growth Board be recommended to: a. Engage with the National Emergency Briefing, and consider showing the briefing to Board members and the wider business community to help inform the future development of the growth plan. b. Undertake more extensive process of public consultation to enable a greater degree of public oversight and transparency.	BCP Growth Board		Updates awaited

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
Actions from Board meeting – 12 May 2025				
10.	BCP Complaints Policy	RESOLVED that the Board further examine the role of councillors in the complaints process, particularly in relation to ward issues and casework.	To ensure the effectiveness of both the Councils complaints process and work of Ward Councillors	Work underway - Cllr S Aitkenhead as rapporteur
Actions from Board meeting – 22 September 2025				
38.	Commercial Operations	Portfolio Holder to provide an update on the current situation in 6 months-time with a view to scheduling further scrutiny when appropriate.	To monitor and receive updates on this area of the Council	Update due to the Board in March.
Actions from Board meeting – 20 October 2025				
57.	BCP Council Library – Draft Library Strategy	A potential item be included on the O&S work programme on a review of income generation opportunities within the library service, including commercialisation options and partnership models.	TBC	
Actions from Board meeting – 5 January 2026				
87.	Regeneration Progress Report	That a small group be convened including Cllrs J Beesley, P Canavan and K Salmon to scope draft Key Lines of Enquiry on a number of the issues raised for future scrutiny in preparation of the O&S Work Programming process.	To ensure that the issues raised are given due consideration and ensure that the work planning process can continue.	
Actions from Board meeting – 23 February 2026				
103.	Consultation Framework Working Group Report	The Board also asked officers to review whether the framework (Code of Good Practice) should more explicitly reference the need for meaningful, decision- relevant consultation questions. Officers agreed to thoroughly check through the Code and make adjustments if required.	To ensure that this is taken into consideration when the Code of Good Practice is adopted.	

ENVIRONEMENT AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

UPDATED: 17.03.26

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made *items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.	Recommended to *name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received	Outcome *accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Committee – 15 May 2024					
8	Improvement of the environment in Poole Park through a trial closure of a park entrance to motor traffic	Cabinet refer the matter to Full Council for decision.	Cabinet, 22 May 2024	Rejected	Extract from Cabinet minutes: 'Cabinet members questioned the benefit of taking the report to full council for further debate and felt that the decision should be made.' Decision made: RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) Agrees that the current trial closure, of the Whitecliff entrance and exit point to motor vehicles, is made permanent in Poole Park. (b) Agrees that current arrangements are retained, and motor vehicles can still access Poole Park and its facilities.'
Recommendations from Committee – 11 September 2024					
15	Plant-based and reduced meat and dairy diets: discussion paper	RESOLVED that a. the Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the information presented in the discussion paper and gave their views on possible approaches Cabinet may wish to take in relation to the promotion of plant-based and reduced meat and dairy diets. These proposals will then be subject to further evidence-gathering and consultation. b. To support the treaty and do more work outside the committee on the position statement. c. The draft position statement be brought back to the Committee for further consideration with information	Portfolio Holder and Officers	Accepted	A revised position statement with measurable objectives was returned to the committee for further scrutiny in October 2025.

		about how it can be measured against SMART objectives in order for the Council to be more ambitious and positive on this issue			
Recommendations from Committee – 20 November 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee – 26 February 2025					
38	Climate Action Annual Report 2023/24	RESOLVED that a) The Committee propose to the Portfolio Holder that on the front page of the BCP Greenhouse Gas Emissions Dashboard an additional box is added to highlight the context of any carbon reduction relevant to the annual carbon reduction target b) Embedded carbon cost to be included in the calculation and displayed on the dashboard where available.	Portfolio Holder	Unknown - seek update	
39	Housing Strategy Review	RESOLVED that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that that the Housing Strategy Steering Group be comprised of one member from each political group and one unaligned member.	Cabinet, 2 April 2025	Accepted	Extract from Cabinet minutes: ‘The Portfolio Holder thanked the Environment and Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their thorough debate at the Committee and expressed support for their recommendation.’ Decision made: RESOLVED that Cabinet: - (a) Approved the Revised Housing Strategy Delivery Plan at appendix B; (b) Approved the extension of the current Housing Strategy Period to 2027; (c) Approved the governance structure as set out in paragraphs 7-11 of the report; and (d) Approved that the steering group being formed be made up of 1 member of each Political group and 1 unaligned member.
Recommendations from Committee – 2 April 2025					
49	Recommendations from the Safer	Recommendations to Cabinet	Cabinet date, 26 November 25	Agreed	1. The proposed Safe Accommodation Strategy delivery plan includes a number of actions around communication, training and specialist

	Accommodation Strategy Working Group	1. That as part of the Safe Accommodation Strategy development, officers consider an awareness campaign and/or guidance materials on the different types of financial support that are available to support those fleeing domestic abuse, in particular in relation to different types of housing tenure (e.g. shared tenancies, joint mortgages), in order to break down a significant barrier to survivors accessing support to end their abuse. 2. That the engagement plan for the Safe Accommodation Strategy should ensure that the voices of those with lived experience are heard and reflected within the Strategy. 3. That an all councillor briefing session be added to the Safe Accommodation Strategy engagement plan, to ensure members are adequately informed about the strategy and able to contribute views, and to enable them to fulfil their role within the community by communicating the benefits of the Safe Accommodation Strategy to residents. 4. a) that the provision of safe accommodation and associated commissioning process be reviewed, b) that scrutiny members be invited to review and input into this review, prior to the commencement of commissioning, through an additional meeting of this working group. 5. That the use of temporary accommodation be continuously reviewed and specific KPIs be established for monitoring the success of the new safe accommodation model, including occupancy rates, length of stay, outcomes for survivors (e.g., successful move-on to permanent housing), and survivor satisfaction. These KPIs should be reviewed regularly by the relevant scrutiny committee to ensure accountability and transparency. 6. That Cabinet, with the support of the council's Corporate Management Board, be requested to take a			advice that will ensure any household receives correct and clear information. Please see attached strategy delivery plan. 2. Public consultation on the three domestic abuse strategies (Prevention of Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation and Perpetrator Strategies) has been completed, alongside several sessions on the Safe Accommodation Strategy with our established experts by experience group, including a dedicated session on the delivery plan. We will continue working with this group to monitor implementation, which includes actions to train and support experts by experience so they can actively participate in the commissioning and procurement of domestic abuse services. 3. An all councillor briefing will be arranged in due course. 4. The Safe Accommodation Strategy will be submitted with a commissioning plan for scrutiny and review. 5. The proposed Safe Accommodation Strategy delivery plan sets out several actions that will contribute to this recommendation including the following: 2.1.3 We will minimise the use of temporary accommodation and where this is provided, as a last resort, specialist Domestic Abuse support will be offered until the household can move into safe accommodation. 5.1.1 Set up a task and finish group under the governance of the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group to agree future data monitoring across commissioned services, BCP Homes, BCP Council Housing, Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care. 6. The Safe Accommodation Strategy will be submitted with a commissioning plan which will set out the procurement intentions for the next 3 years.

		view on forthcoming decisions that may be of significant or contentious public impact, regardless of decision-making thresholds, and an all councillor briefing be held before any such decisions are made, to enable all councillors, and particularly ward councillors, to be properly informed.			
Recommendations from Committee – 14 May 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee – 9 July 2025					
17	Local Area Energy Plan	It is RECOMMENDED that: 1) The recommendation as outlined in the report be approved by Cabinet. 2) Cabinet add as an external stakeholder, the community to be represented in all stakeholder engagement, including any panels, meetings or focus groups.	Cabinet	Partially accepted	Cabinet approved the recommendations in the report and so accepted recommendation 1 from O&S. Cabinet were silent on recommendation 2 from O&S – seek an update.
18	Email and Document Storage Retention – Impact Analysis on Costs and Environmental Factors & Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED to cabinet that: as per Option (B), the Committee supports the continuation of activity already underway, as part of the Councils Data and Innovation Programme, to re-assess and profile Microsoft 365 end-user licensing requirements, moving colleagues to lower-costs licenses where appropriate.	Cabinet	Unknown	Cabinet did not address this recommendation at the meeting The committee may wish to seek an update on this recommendation response, although the recommendation itself shows support for continued work within the council and so would require noting by Cabinet and not consideration.
Recommendations from Committee – 8 October 2025					
26	Plant-based and reduced meat and dairy diets: draft position statement and action plan	RESOLVED that: a) All mentions of the word vegan be replaced with Plant-Based throughout the paper. b) Switching the target from 20% for plant-based concessions to 25%. c) That Council adopt the position statements and strategy for plant based diets in BCP Council with the amendments above.	Received by Cabinet, 29 October 2025. Then deferred by Cabinet for consideration at 26 November 2025 meeting	Unknown	Awaiting response from Portfolio Holder

Recommendations from Committee – 19 November 2025					
	Waste Strategy for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council 2026-2036	RESOLVED that the committee supported the recommendations as set out in the report to Cabinet including Option 1 regarding the removal of current separate kerbside battery collections but requested an additional point be included in respect of this option to read: (ii) and to develop a convenient battery recycling scheme with local businesses to create more easily accessible drop off points and in addition, requested the strategy at appendix 1 be amended to include the following: - (a) Paragraph 5.1 of Appendix 1 'A Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2028' be amended to include '<i>and incineration</i>' so that the paragraph reads '<i>5.1 Tendering waste disposal contracts that embed the waste hierarchy and minimise the use of landfill and incineration</i>'; and (b) Paragraph 5.3 of Appendix 1 'A Waste Strategy for BCP Council 2026-2028' be amended to include '<i>whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal</i>' so that the paragraph reads '<i>5.3 Prioritising waste site proximity where possible, so waste travels only as far as it needs to and reduces the significant carbon impact of transporting waste whilst also considering the carbon footprint of the type of disposal</i>'.	Cabinet, 17 December 2025	Partially accepted	Extract from Cabinet minutes: The Portfolio Holder thanked the Environment and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration of the report and their recommendations. In relation to this the Portfolio Holder advised that he felt the additional recommendation of (ii) was not necessary as people would be signposted to available organisations, and that this would include those who offered a postal collection of batteries which would assist those unable to access those in shops. In addition, the Portfolio Holder advised that any shops selling batteries were required to provide a collection of used batteries. Further to this the Portfolio Holder advised that the recommendations raised in relation to paragraph 5.1 and 5.3 would be included within the tendering priorities and that he was happy to accept both of those recommendations. The seconder advised that they were also content with these.
Recommendations from Committee – 25 February 2026					
9	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 Update	i) The committee endorse the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026–2031 and consider any further improvements ahead of consideration at Cabinet in May 2026 ii) supports the co-production of the Delivery Plan with people who have lived experience and through a working group of Homelessness Delivery Board members.	Cabinet, 4 March 2026	TBC	Extract from Cabinet minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Rigby and the committee for all their work and for bringing their recommendations to Cabinet. In relation to this the Leader thanked the Committee for their endorsement of the strategy and advised that a response would be provided directly to the Committee once Cabinet had had the opportunity to consider the recommendations in detail.

Recommendations from Committee – 20 May 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 15 July 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 9 September 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 18 November 2026					
Recommendations from Committee –					

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OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
No current agreed actions				

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

UPDATED: 18.03.26

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made *items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.	Recommended to *name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received	Outcome *accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Committee – 24 July 2024					
10	Child Exploitation Working Group Findings Report	RESOLVED that the Committee RECOMMEND to Cabinet: - That partnership working be promoted to ensure increased communication around the issues highlighted with parents, schools, children and youth services. - That earlier age-appropriate education be implemented within schools across BCP regarding the risks associated with exploitation, drugs and the dangers of carrying weapons.	Cabinet, 2 October 2024	Partially accepted	Extract from 2.10.24 Cabinet minutes: 'The Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People, Education and Skills spoke in support of the recommendations whilst highlighting with regards to recommendation 2 as set out above that BCP couldn't dictate the curriculum but can certainly look at ways to support it. The Leader advised that the Cabinet would take the matter away and go back to the Chair of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.' Update given by Portfolio Holder to O&S Committee at 26.11.24 meeting. Extract minute: 'The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People provided a verbal update which included: An update on the outstanding Cabinet recommendation from previous meetings related to knife crime and drug/alcohol use in schools. The Education Improvement Service collaborated with police and community groups to gather data on school programs addressing these issues, but challenges remained in obtaining detailed information.

					OFSTED had recommended that schools incorporate local safeguarding issues, such as knife crime, into their curriculum. There are current resources available for Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education, with additional materials being sourced from providers attending conferences. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People highlighted that he also found free resources online through organisations like the DfE. In response to the Cabinet recommendations around earlier age-appropriate education. There was a need to assess existing educational initiatives related to this at both primary and secondary levels regarding knife crime awareness. Advised of upcoming events including webinars and community events focused on knife crime and related issues.'

38

Recommendations from Committee – 19 September 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.

Recommendations from Committee – [26 November 2024](#)

36	Linwood Special School SEND Post 16 Provision at Ted Webster	It was RESOLVED that Cabinet be recommended to approve (a) in the report: Cabinet approves the scheme to develop a satellite of Linwood School hosted at the former Ted Webster Children's Centre providing a total of 60 Post 16 places including the associated capital investment necessary to develop the scheme as contained in Appendix 1 (Exempt). The scheme is fully funded from the council's grant allocation of High Needs Provision Capital and will progress in line with the project programme set out at paragraph 12	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Accepted	Cabinet agreed to the recommendations in the report, as endorsed by O&S.

Recommendations from Committee –28 January 2025 – No recommendations made at this meeting.

Recommendations from Committee – [11 March 2025](#)

69	SEND Improvement Update	It was Proposed, Seconded and RECOMMENDED to better assess the impact on children, young people and families of any potential budget overspend in the SEND service budget, the Committee recommends that Cabinet requests a report be provided to Cabinet by June 2025 which outlines: - the likely overspend in the budget - which areas have been identified to overspend - the options to ensure the budget limit is met - an appraisal of the impact on children and families of these factors	Cabinet, 2 April 2025	Accepted	Cabinet requested a report on 'SEND Budget Pressures' as recommended by the O&S committee. The report was considered by Cabinet at the 16 July 2025 meeting. Cabinet noted the report.
Recommendations from Committee – 10 June 2025					
11	Youth Justice Service Plan 2025-26	RESOLVED that the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the Youth Justice Plan so that Cabinet can recommend its approval to the Full Council.	Cabinet, 26 November 2025	Accepted	Youth Justice Plan approved by Cabinet for recommendation to Council. Youth Justice Plan approved by Council.
12	Housing for Care Experienced Young People	It was Proposed, Seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Committee seeks assurance that the new Joint Housing protocol has been successfully agreed and is working effectively to ensure our Care Experienced Young People are seeing an improved service and are in receipt of timely advice and safe housing that suits their individual needs and hopes for the future.	Officers	Unknown, but Officers were in support of the recommendation in the meeting.	Seek update
Recommendations from Committee – 15 September 2025 - No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee – 25 November 2025					
9	Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions	Comment to Cabinet: The committee agreed to make Cabinet aware that the Committee appreciates the detrimental impact of school exclusions, which were highlighted in the report, and recognises the work that is underway to address this. The committee agreed that through this work the council's primary focus is improved outcomes for the children of BCP but that this work will also likely bring budgetary savings such as:	Cabinet, 26 November 2025	Not applicable	The Cabinet thanked the committee for its work on this. Note: the constitution requires no response from Cabinet to comments from O&S.

		• A reduction in exclusions and associated costs (e.g. transport, AP placements, tribunal processes) • Improved outcomes for vulnerable pupils, reducing future demand on social care, youth justice, and post-16 support service • A reduction in the need for unregistered and costly AP as more needs are met by schools			
10	Home to School Transport	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to endorse the recommendation within the report to Cabinet, this being that Cabinet: ‘Agree to tender an external provider to deliver a transformation project over three years with a total cost of £1.5 million funded by the flexible use of capital receipts to deliver service improvements and by the end of the project on-going savings in SEND school transport projected at £3 million (net of additional resource requirement)’	Cabinet, 26 November 2025	Accepted	Report recommendations agreed by Cabinet for recommendation to Council. Report recommendations agreed by Council.

Recommendations from Committee – 27 January 2026

40 55	Invest to Save Budgets in the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	RESOLVED that the Committee agreed the following recommendations and that they be passed to Cabinet: a.) Note the current High Needs Block (HNB) position and the impact and cost avoidance of the initiatives implemented to date including the increased supply of specialist places, the early years inclusion model (Dingley’s Promise) and the positive impact of the Portage Service. b.) Endorse the invest-to-save programme and the establishment of the High Needs Block Deficit Recovery Plan Board, including its role in approving a benefits-measurement framework to evidence cost avoidance and prevent double-counting across initiatives. c.) Support the progression of the following priority initiatives: • Digitalisation of High Needs funding processes (integrated with the SCM upgrade) • Synergy Case Management (SCM) upgrade to go-live (target May–June 2026) • Pre-EHCP targeted funding model (subject to affordability and governance)	Cabinet, 4 February 2026	TBC	Extract from Cabinet minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Carr-Brown and the Committee for bringing their recommendations to Cabinet and further to this the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services, Councillor Richard Burton advised that he would attend a future meeting of the Committee to formally respond to the recommendations.

56	Family Hubs Working Group Final Report	The Committee agreed the Working Group's recommendations to Officers: 1. Continue to build on the strong foundations of community engagement, with a focus on inclusivity and responsiveness. 2. Explore ways to support staff wellbeing that are informed by staff experiences and feedback. 3. Develop clear measures of effectiveness relating to Family Hubs, with key performance indicators focused on reach, inclusivity and responsiveness to evolving community needs, supported by improved data collection and feedback.	Officers		
56	Family Hubs Working Group Final Report	The Committee agreed to make Cabinet aware that the Working Group recommended Cabinet: 1. Notes the scrutiny that has been undertaken on Family Hubs and the Working Group's finding of the strong staff commitment to community engagement. 2. Endorses continued support for Family Hubs, with future priorities to include investment in staff capacity, professional development and enhanced tools to evidence impact.	Cabinet, 4 February 2026	TBC	Extract from Cabinet minutes: The Leader thanked Councillor Carr-Brown and the Committee for bringing their recommendations to Cabinet and further to this the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Councillor Richard Burton advised that he would attend a future meeting of the Committee to formally respond to the recommendations.

14

Recommendations from Committee – 10 March 2026 - No recommendations made at this meeting.

Recommendations from Committee – 16 June 2026

14	BCP Council's alignment with the National Youth Strategy	The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommend to Cabinet the recommendations set out in the report.	Cabinet (Officers advised that a date for consideration by Cabinet had not yet been confirmed)	TBC	
14	BCP Council's alignment with the National Youth Strategy	The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Recommend to Cabinet that, within the summary of implications section of all Council reports, a requirement be included to consider the impact on children and young people.	Cabinet, 24 June 2026	TBC	

15	Youth Justice Plan 2026-2027	the Committee endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2026–2027 so that Cabinet can recommend its approval to Full Council.	Cabinet, 24 June 2026	TBC	
Recommendations from Committee – 14 September 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 24 November 2026					
Recommendations from Committee – 26 January 2027					
Recommendations from Committee – 9 March 2027					

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
11 March 2025				
69	SEND Improvement Update SEND Improvement Update.pdf	Decision made: The officers agreed to share the full review of the DSG finances as well as the SEND improvement board's response to the review. Action – Officers aware The Committee requested an update on the ongoing work regarding education outside of school and home education and asked that it be shared with the Committee. Action – Officers aware		
15 September 2025				
25	<u>Alternative Provision Improvement Plan</u> Alternative Provision Improvement Plan Final.pdf	Decision Made: The Committee discussed the routes into AP, including exclusions and EHCPs, and officers agreed to provide further data on this breakdown. Action – Officers aware		To be incorporated into new SEND/AP Strategy
27 January 2026				
51	<u>Recommendation Tracker</u>	Members agreed to review the tracker in more depth around June 2026. Action – Committee aware		
53	<u>Members of Youth Parliament Update</u>	The mental health training video would be shared with Members when available, and officers would confirm whether it would be appropriate to present the video at a future Committee meeting or to circulate it outside the meeting. Action – Officers aware		

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
54	<u>Housing for Care Experienced Young People</u>	The Committee was advised that Youth Homelessness Board data is reported regularly, and it was agreed that officers would provide the Committee with a summary of these metrics, including information on repeat homelessness and outcomes for care experienced young people. Action – Officers aware		
55	<u>Invest to Save Budgets in the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)</u>	Officers agreed to circulate information on the Portage service to Members and, if helpful, arrange a short briefing session on the service. Action – Officers aware		

HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

UPDATED: 18.03.26

Minute number	Item	Recommendation made *items remain for monitoring until implementation is complete or committee agree to remove.	Recommended to *name of receiving body/ Officer, and date received	Outcome *accepted/ partially accepted/ rejected/ unknown.	Implementation updates
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 20 May 2024					
11	Data Working Group Final Report	The Committee recommend to the O&S Board: - that a similar [data] toolkit be developed for all O&S committees to reflect the relevant data and policy landscape within the remit of these committees. This to be added to the O&S Action Plan. - that the Data Use Toolkit be highlighted within the O&S annual report to Council.	Overview and Scrutiny Board (16 July 2024).	Recommendations accepted.	Toolkit development for all O&S committees has been added to the O&S Action Plan. Toolkit for the Children's O&S Committee is near completion. All others are yet to start and will be developed when resources allow. The Data Use Toolkit was highlighted within the 2023/24 O&S annual report to Council. (Update by O&S Specialist, 24/4/25)
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 15 July 2024					
21	Adult Social Care Business Transformation Case	The Committee recommend that Cabinet recommends that Council: a) Approves the business case for a new adult social care transformation delivery model to improve outcomes for residents and to achieve financial efficiencies and savings enabled by investment. b) Agrees to the establishment of a formal transformation programme; 'Fulfilled Lives'. c) Agrees to the proposed investment of £2.9M, with Corporate Management Board being provided 6-monthly stage reviews on the progress of the transformation programme.	Cabinet (17 July 24) and Council (23 July 24)	Recommendations partially accepted at both Cabinet and Council	The final decision of Council was different from the committee recommendation as follows: Resolved that Council: (a) Approves in principle the business case for a new adult social care transformation delivery model to improve outcomes for residents and to achieve financial efficiencies and savings enabled by investment of up to 2.9M; (b) Agrees to the establishment of a formal transformation programme; 'Fulfilled Lives'; (c) Agrees to an initial 12-month investment of 1.79M, with an interim report to Cabinet on progress of the design phase in January 2025 and a full report by July 2025, with recommendations for further investment; and

		d) Invites the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide regular scrutiny of progress towards benefits and sustainable change. In particular, the Committee be invited to review the progress against the four priority areas of the Fulfilled Lives programme and the risks and opportunities of data with ASC transformation			(d) Invites the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide regular scrutiny of progress towards benefits and sustainable change. In particular the Committee be invited to review the progress against the four priority areas of the Fulfilled Lives programme and the risks and opportunities of data with ASC transformation. Implementation update required on a)-c) above. Implementation update on d) above: The Health & ASC O&S Committee now receives regular reports on the Fulfilled Lives programme to provide opportunity for ongoing scrutiny of the transformation delivery. (Update by O&S Specialist, 24/4/25)
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 24 September 2024 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 2 December 2024					
46	Health and Social Care for the Homeless	The Committee recommend that Cabinet: Discuss the issues caused by a lack of funding for rough sleepers with no local connection and those without an identified priority need with a view to developing solutions in partnership with other local authorities and key stakeholders such as the Integrated Care Board and relevant ministers to create a robust system that does not fail our most vulnerable or unfairly place the responsibility for caring for these people on local particular local authorities, with a view to getting something in place before the new strategy.	Cabinet, 10 December 2024	Acceptance unknown – recommendation received by Cabinet with advice that it would be considered at a future meeting of the Cabinet.	Cllr Kieron Wilson is responding by email to this recommendation.

47	Transforming Urgent and Emergency Care Services	The Committee recommend that Cabinet recommends to Council: a) Notes the summary of the diagnostic review, including improved outcomes for residents and financial benefits for the Council. b) Notes that under the draft Partnership Agreement with Dorset health and care partners, anticipated benefits are significantly in excess of costs to the Council. c) Delegates to the Corporate Director for Wellbeing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Law and Governance and the Director of Finance, authority to enter into the Partnership Agreement to undertake the proposed transformation programme.	Cabinet (10 December 2024) and Council (10 December 2024)	Recommendations accepted at both Cabinet and Council	
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 3 March 2025					
61	Adult Social Care Strategy 2025-28	The Committee recommend to Cabinet: - the inclusion of some clear targets ideally linked to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) within the Adult Social Care Strategy; and - the inclusion of an overview of how to better integrate performance and activity data with finance data in the Adult Social Care Strategy.	Cabinet (2 April 2025)	Response unknown – recommendations ‘welcomed’ by Cabinet but no clear response given.	The final decision of Cabinet did not reflect the recommendations made by the committee, and was as follows: ‘Resolved that the new ASC Strategy 2025-28 is linked to the Corporate Vision and supports corporate priorities under ‘Our People and Communities.’ Update required. Committee may wish to seek a response from relevant Portfolio Holder back into committee.
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 19 May 2025 No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 14 July 2025					
20	Adult Social Care Fulfilled Lives	The HASC O&S Committee: 1. Supports the recommendation to Cabinet that Council approves the request	Cabinet 26 July 2025	Accepted	Cabinet and Council approved the release of the remaining £1.1m as outlined at part 1 of the recommendation.

	Transformation Programme	for the release of the remaining £1.11m funding that was previously agreed to allow the Fulfilled Lives Programme to reach completion and realisation of the benefits; and 2. Continues to monitor this four-year programme in particular around self-directed support and support at home that will enable people to stay independent.			
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 23 September 2025					
30	Get Dorset & BCP Working Plan - GD&BCPWP	The Committee RECOMMENDS that: 1) The recommendations as outlined in the report be approved by Cabinet. 2) That Cabinet agree for the Get Dorset & BCP Working Plan to return to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate stage for further scrutiny, to enable Members to review its delivery, assess its impact in supporting individuals to return to work, and consider whether intended outcomes are being achieved.	Cabinet 1 October 2025	Accepted	Report recommendations agreed by Council.
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 1 December 2025					
44	FutureCare Programme – Mid Programme Review	RESOLVED that the Committee requests the programme return to its next meeting on 2 March 2026 with detailed financial and impact data to scrutinise.	Officers	Accepted	Coming back to Committee on 2 March with further information requested.
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 2 March 2026 – No recommendations made at this meeting.					
Recommendations from Committee meeting – 19 May 2026					

Recommendations from Committee meeting – 20 July 2026

Recommendations from Committee meeting – 22 September 2026

Recommendations from Committee meeting – 30 November 2026

Recommendations from Committee meeting – 1 March 2027

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

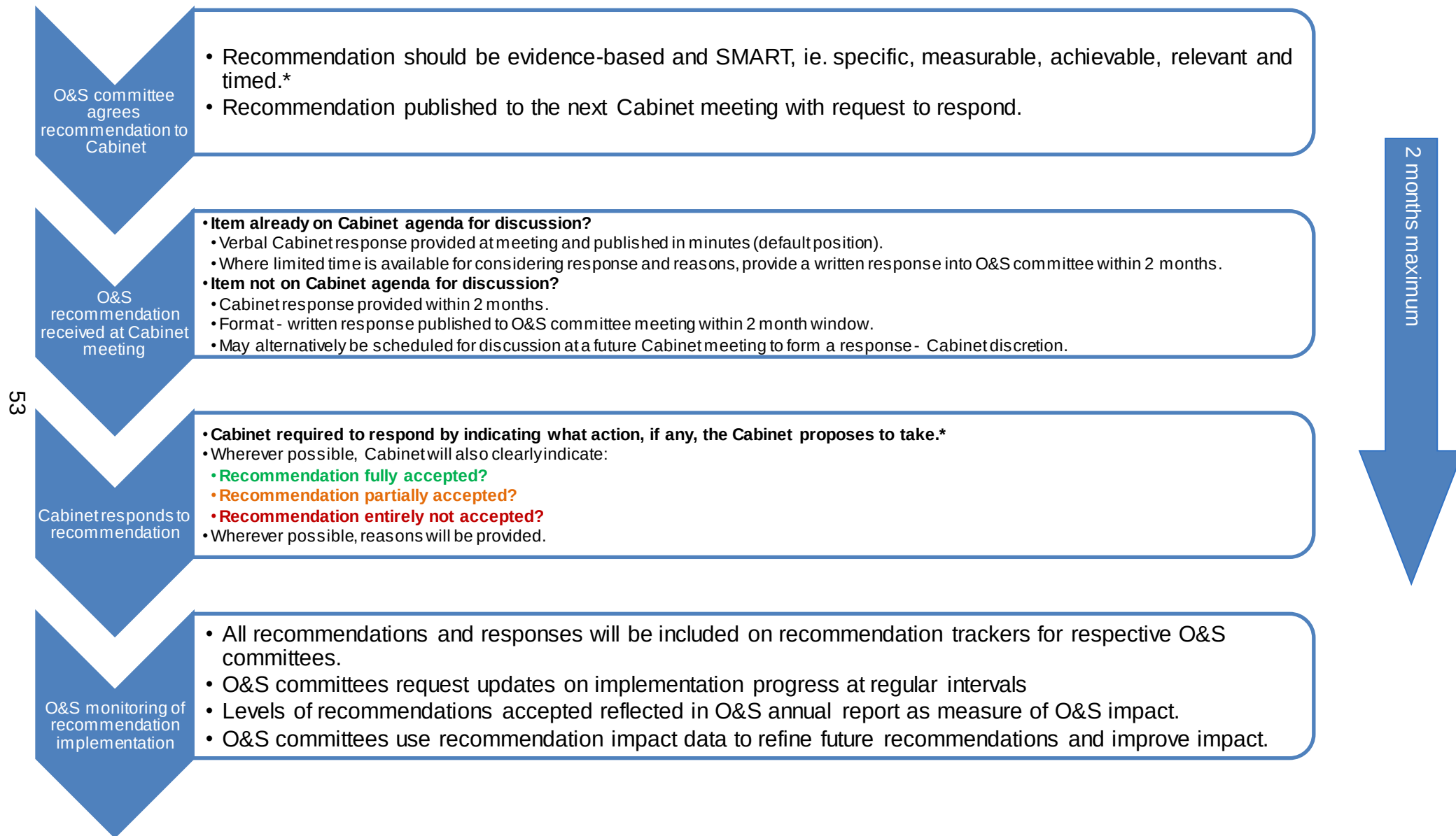
Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 25 September 2023				
20	National Suicide Prevention Strategy	Decision Made: The Board was advised that Public Health was unsure of the amount which would be allocated to the BCP area, as the closing dates for bids had not yet happened, however bids were being worked on and once any funding was known, the Committee could be informed. Action – Public Health aware		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 15 July 24				
	Adult Social Care Transformation Business Case	Decision Made: That key risks and Key Performance Indicators be included in future reports regarding the Transformation Programme Action – Officers aware	To enable the Committee to have this information when scrutinising	
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 24 September 24				
34.	Adult Social Care Budget Presentation	Decision made: In response to a query regarding the activities and outcomes of the Live Well Dorset programme, the Committee was advised that it had managed to reach those living in the most deprived areas of BCP and that access could potentially be provided to the dashboard for the Committee to see the output. Action: to be considered further		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 3 March 25				

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
59.	The Transformation of UHD Hospitals	Decision Made: That the Director of Adult Social Care be the contact for any Cllrs wishing to visit the new facilities ACTION – Director and Cllrs aware.		
64.	Work Plan	Decision Made: As requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the Committee will monitor the proposed increase of block booked beds for long-term care and that an update on progress against this be provided at an appropriate time. ACTION – added to the work plan with no date yet identified.		An update requested under budget presentation in September 2025
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 19 May 25				
11	FutureCare Programme Update	Decision Made: That the Committee receive data regarding bed capacity and workforce numbers at an appropriate time. Action – Officers aware Decision Made: That the Committee receive data around benefits tracking and monitoring to be reported to a meeting at a future date. Action – Officers aware and added to the work plan Decision Made: That the Committee receive further information regarding capacity within secondary care to fulfil the future need. Action – Officers aware		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 14 July 25				
20.	Adult Social Care Fulfilled Lives Transformation Programme	Decision Made: That the Committee receive quantitative data about the impact in future reports.		

Minute number	Item	Action* *Items remain until action completed.	Benefit	Updates
		Action – Officers aware		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 23 September 25				
31.	Tricuro: Business Plan Review and Objectives 2025-26	Decision Made: The Committee requested data on service capacity, particularly at the Moordown centre. Officers confirmed that capacity data is available via dashboards and would be circulated to the Committee. Action – Officers aware Decision made: The Committee was advised of the officer's commitment to ongoing engagement and agreed that progress updates should be provided between formal planning cycles to support continued collaboration and oversight Action – Officers aware		
Actions arising from Committee meeting – 1 December 2025				
44.	FutureCare Programme – Mid Programme Review	Decision Made: The importance of tracking savings through to tangible outcomes, such as reduced home care hours and improved reablement was highlighted, and the Chair requested detailed data analysis at a future meeting. Action – added to work plan for 2 March 2026	To enable the Committee to fully scrutinise the impact of the programme in terms of tangible outcomes and savings	Coming back to Committee on 2 March 2026.
45.	Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) Update	Decision Made: The Committee requested the programme DiS dashboard be shared with them to consider further. Action – Officers aware.		

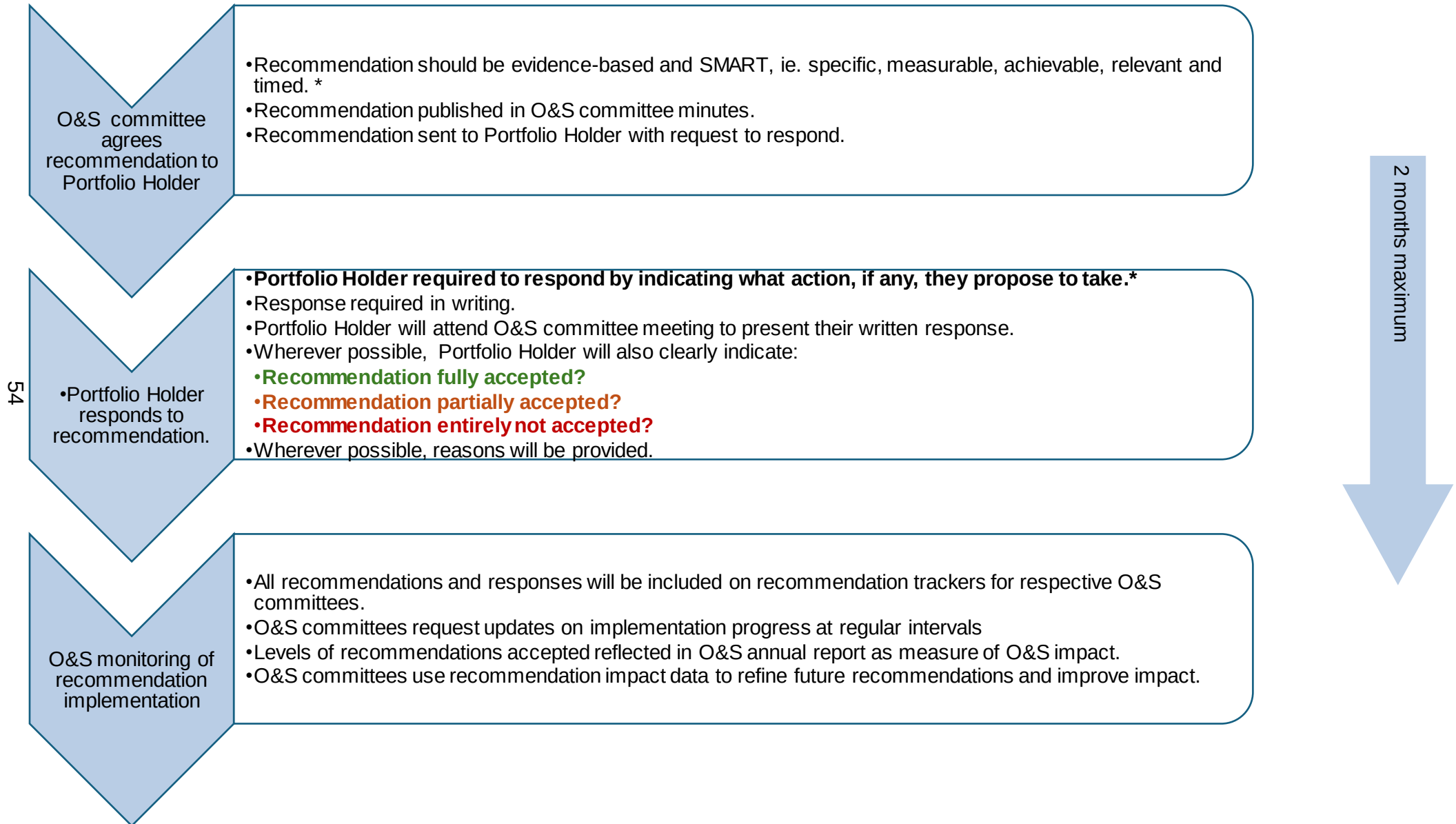
O&S Recommendations / Executive response process

Cabinet process:



* [Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK](#)

Portfolio Holder process



CABINET



Report subject	Safer BCP (Community Safety Partnership) Domestic Abuse Strategies
Meeting date	22 nd July 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This Cabinet report accompanies the three Domestic Abuse Strategies as part of the Safer CSP Community Safety Partnership's commitment in response to Domestic Abuse in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Cabinet approve: • The overarching Safer BCP Prevention of Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-31 • The Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026-31 • The Perpetrator Strategy 2026-31 • The accompanying Safe Accommodation & Community Services Commissioning Plan
Reason for recommendations	It is a statutory requirement under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 for local authorities to create a Safe Accommodation strategy every five years. These three strategies form the Council's strategic framework to preventing and respond to domestic abuse across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector agencies. Whilst it is not a requirement to have a Perpetrator Strategy or an overarching Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy, the Community Safety Partnership have developed these complimentary strategies to focus on preventative, early intervention work and ensure that a holistic approach is taken to addressing domestic abuse and perpetrating behaviours in BCP. All three strategies have been developed through significant public consultation and development, including lived experience groups, Councillor task and finish group and wider stakeholder

	engagement. The commissioning plan that accompanies the strategies will inform the commissioning of our domestic abuse services in BCP.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Kieron Wilson
Corporate Director	Laura Ambler, Corporate Director for Wellbeing
Report Authors	Cat McMillan, Head of Communities, Partnerships & Community Safety; Ben Tomlin, Head of Strategic Housing and Partnerships; Tracey Kybert, Specialist Housing Programme Lead
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

- Domestic abuse remains a significant issue locally and nationally, with 5,467 domestic abuse crimes recorded in BCP in 2023/24 and high levels of repeat victimisation. The three strategies provide a whole-system, coordinated response aligned to statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, including the requirement to deliver safe accommodation and support for survivors.
- The strategies are built on four overarching priorities:
 - Prevent abuse before it occurs
 - Protect and recover survivors
 - Pursue perpetrators and hold them accountable
 - Strengthen relationships through partnership working

Together, they set out a comprehensive approach addressing:

- Prevention and early intervention
 - Survivor support and housing provision
 - Perpetrator behaviour change and enforcement
 - Multi-agency coordination and data improvement
- Cabinet approval is sought to formalise adoption and enable delivery through a multi-agency implementation plan. Throughout the strategies we refer to those affected as 'Survivors' of Domestic Abuse. This is to reflect the strength and courage they have

shown in response to the harm that has been levied against them and also the feedback from our lived experience group.

4. Domestic abuse is a complex and pervasive issue affecting individuals, families and communities regardless of background. Nationally, 2.3 million people experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2024, with domestic abuse also being a leading cause of homelessness.

Locally:

- 734 high-risk MARAC cases were heard in 2023–24
- 40% of recorded crimes involved repeat victims
- 898 repeat suspects were linked to 2,443 offences

Domestic abuse also has significant impacts on children, who are recognised in law as victims where they experience or witness abuse.

5. BCP Council and partners have statutory duties relating to domestic abuse under:

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Serious Violence Duty

These strategies respond to those duties and build on the previous 2020–2025 strategy. The three strategies operate as a suite of interdependent documents:

6. The “Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026 - 2031” (Appendix 1) sets the overarching vision that no resident should live in fear of domestic abuse. It focuses on prevention, survivor support, perpetrator accountability, and partnership activity and embedding a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) approach to domestic abuse as recommended by SafeLives and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for the UK.
7. The “Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026 – 2031’ (Appendix 2) meets our statutory duty to provide support within safe accommodation. It establishes priorities including:
 - Prevention and early identification
 - Access to appropriate housing and support
 - Supporting survivors to remain at home or move on

It also responds to historical capacity challenges for support (e.g. 77% of refuge applicants not accepted historically).

8. The “Perpetrator Strategy 2026 – 2031’ (Appendix 3) focuses on changing behaviour and reducing reoffending; promoting a shift from “why doesn’t the victim

leave?” to “why doesn’t the perpetrator stop?”. It supports evidence-based interventions with proven reductions in reoffending.

Key Priorities and Objectives

9. Prevention and early intervention forms the foundation of our domestic abuse focus, particularly around:
 - Increasing public awareness and education of domestic abuse and perpetrator behaviours
 - Targeting children and young people (for support and education)
 - Identifying abuse earlier and reducing escalation
10. Protecting and Supporting Survivors is also fundamental to our work, ensuring that we:
 - Improve access to safe accommodation and community support
 - Deliver trauma-informed, survivor-led services
 - Address inequalities and barriers for marginalised groups
11. Tackling Perpetrators is key to breaking the cycle and preventing future abuse, and our focus here is on evidence driven practices including:
 - Expanding access to behaviour change programmes
 - Strengthening enforcement and accountability
 - Developing integrated referral pathways
12. Partnership and System Leadership underpins the activity of the three strategies, ensuring accountability and challenge by:
 - Strengthening our multi-agency governance (Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, Community Safety Partnership)
 - Embedding Coordinated Community Response
 - Improving data sharing and performance monitoring

Outcomes and Impact

13. The strategies aim to achieve:
 - Reduction in domestic abuse prevalence and harm
 - Increased safety and recovery outcomes for survivors
 - Increased number of perpetrators engaging in interventions
 - Improved housing stability and reduced homelessness

14. Safe accommodation investment will:

- Reduce homelessness linked to domestic abuse
- Improve long-term outcomes for children and families

15. Delivery of the three strategies will be funded through (Appendix 4 Safe Accommodation & Community Services Commissioning Plan):

- Existing Council budgets
- Government grants (including Safe Accommodation Grant funding)
- Partner contributions

16. Evidence shows that perpetrator programmes can reduce offending (e.g. 30% reduction in incidents and significant harm reduction outcomes). National evidence indicates strong value for money, particularly for early intervention programmes such as the UP2U Domestic abuse perpetrator programme which seeks to change harmful behaviours. The Up2U perpetrator programme saved approximately £749,714 in 2023/24 through reduced harm. Future commissioning and funding opportunities will be explored to sustain and expand provision.

17. The strategies have been informed by:

- Public consultation
- Lived experience surveys
- Experts by Experience Board
- Partner agency feedback
- Survivor voice has been central to development, ensuring services are trauma-informed and responsive.

Consultation Report Summary (Domestic Abuse Strategies 2025–2030)

18. Public consultation was undertaken on all three strategies between the 17th March 2025 and the 28th April 2025. The full consultation report is attached as Appendix 5 but in summary there was:

- **Strong support for the overall direction:**
Stakeholders broadly supported the proposed strategies, particularly the focus on prevention, survivor support, and holding perpetrators accountable.
- **Need for greater awareness and accessibility:**
Many respondents highlighted that people often do not know what services are available or how to access them, indicating a need for clearer communication and outreach.

- **Improving survivor experience:**
Feedback emphasised the importance of trauma-informed, person-centred support, with consistent, compassionate responses from professionals across all services.
- **Gaps in provision and inclusion:**
Respondents identified unmet needs for specific groups, including those with high complexity needs, disabled survivors, LGBTQ+ individuals, male victims, and those with no recourse to public funds.
- **Housing and accommodation challenges:**
Access to safe accommodation remains a key issue, with demand exceeding supply and limited options for people with larger families or complex needs.
- **Importance of early intervention and education:**
There was strong support for preventative work, including education in schools, public awareness campaigns, and earlier identification of abuse.
- **Focus on perpetrators welcomed:**
Contributors supported the emphasis on behaviour change programmes and stronger accountability, alongside early intervention with those using harmful behaviours.
- **Value of partnership working:**
Effective multi-agency collaboration was seen as essential, with calls for better coordination, data sharing, and clearer pathways between services.
- **Central role of lived experience:**
Respondents stressed the importance of continuing to involve survivors in shaping services to ensure they are relevant, effective, and responsive.

Commissioning of Domestic Abuse Services

19. The Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Community Services Commissioning Plan (Appendix 4) sets out how the council will organise and improve services for people affected by domestic abuse. It brings together housing (safe accommodation) and community support into one joined-up system, so people can get the right help at the right time. The focus is on preventing abuse where possible, identifying it earlier, and helping more people stay safely in their own homes through outreach, security measures, and specialist support. For those who cannot stay at home, the plan expands access to different types of safe accommodation and ensures all services provide high-quality, trauma-informed support.
20. From August 2027, services will be redesigned into a single, more flexible model that combines community outreach with a range of accommodation options, including refuge and dispersed housing. The plan is supported by funding of £1.44 million per year, although there may be financial pressures in later years, which will be managed through efficiencies and future funding opportunities. A full procurement process will take place during 2026–2027 to appoint a specialist domestic abuse support provision to deliver high-quality services. Key risks, such as increased demand or

limited provider interest, have been identified, with plans in place to manage these and maintain effective support for residents.

Summary of financial implications

21. Appendix 4 details the financial implications of the commissioning of future services.

Summary of legal implications

22. The strategies support compliance with the:

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (including safe accommodation duty)
- Equality Act 2010
- Safeguarding responsibilities

Adoption ensures the Council meets statutory requirements to:

- Assess need for survivors of domestic abuse
- Publish strategies
- Commission and monitor services

Implementation of the strategies will be overseen by:

- The BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (DASG)
- Safer BCP Partnership

23. Progress will be monitored through:

- Delivery plans
- Key performance indicators
- Annual reviews and reporting

Summary of human resources implications

24. No impact as a result of the adoption of the strategies.

Summary of sustainability impact

25. No impacts.

Summary of public health implications

26. The fundamental purpose of the three strategies is to address the significant mental, physical and financial impact that domestic abuse has upon our local communities.

Summary of equality implications

27. A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 6). The research and data conducted for the three new Safer BCP domestic abuse strategies indicate people with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage may have different experiences of domestic abuse and face additional barriers when disclosing domestic abuse and accessing support services.

Experiences of abuse through a gendered lens allows us to recognise the societal imposed norms, roles and expectations of masculinity and femininity and how this effects intimate partner relationships and family structures and considers power dynamics. Intersectionality theory explains the intersect between social categorisations applied to an individual or group which create an overlap of disadvantage and discrimination.

28. By using a gendered and intersectional lens to develop these strategies we can guide our response to domestic abuse across BCP Council area to ensure that all members of BCP can receive fair and equal treatment when accessing services. In relation to violence against women and girls and domestic abuse the barriers and discrimination survivors with intersecting identities face when accessing support around domestic abuse, are well documented, and the strategies have been developed with that in mind.

The Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy, Safe Accommodation Strategy and Perpetrator Strategy aim to address inequalities in access to information and services, by using the intersectional analysis to inform the strategies and the comprehensive delivery plans.

29. The overwhelming identification through research both locally and nationally is that those with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage are:

- under-represented in DA services,
- struggle to access appropriate services which are culturally competent,
- a coordinated response from services is greatly variable leading to re-victimisation
- often experience societal and/or organisational discrimination in addition to the domestic abuse.

30. The survivors of domestic abuse affected are; women, men, LGBTQ+ people, BAME people, disabled people, older people and children and young people, as well as care experienced adults, pregnant women, people with mental health conditions, carers and armed forces families.

The strategies and delivery plans aim to eliminate the barriers faced by individuals with protected characteristics in BCP experiencing domestic abuse. By implementing the following methods, we anticipate achieving the following outcomes:

- Education and training of professionals and communities on protected characteristics, unconscious bias and intersectionality and domestic abuse.
 - Outcome: Increased awareness and understanding will lead to more effective and inclusive support.

- Commissioning of specialist domestic abuse community services and domestic abuse safe accommodation, with a requirement that the service providers are trained in protected characteristics and intersectionality,
 - Outcome: Improved understanding of the needs of those with protected characteristics and the support provided will lead to improved life outcomes.
- BCP domestic abuse safe accommodation will be modelled to meet the needs of all who may need to access it, including those with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage.
 - Outcome: A safe supported environment will be provided for everyone regardless of their background and circumstances which will lead to improved life outcomes.
- Development of the survivor voice work to ensure the voices of all survivors and those that are currently underrepresented, inform the work we do in response to domestic abuse in BCP.
 - Outcome: Interventions will be better tailored to meet the needs of all individuals affected by domestic abuse, leading to improved support and life outcomes
- Targeted information is available to individuals with protected characteristics across BCP, so that they know the services understand their needs and are available for them.
 - Outcome: This will ensure individuals know the services understand their unique needs and are available to support them, leading to better access to resources and improved overall well-being.
- Community engagement is developed across BCP with individuals and communities which are underrepresented in domestic abuse services.
 - Outcome: Communities are better represented and their specific needs are addressed leading to more effective and comprehensive domestic abuse services.
- Professional relationships are further developed to ensure pathways of support are collaborative and consider the whole person.
 - Outcome: Support pathways will be integrated and comprehensive, addressing various aspects of an individual's needs.
- Work with both the BCP Safeguarding Adults Board and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership around domestic abuse will be strengthened and pathways to support embedded within teams.
 - Outcome: An integrated and supportive environment for individuals affected by domestic abuse.
- Data collection will be improved so emerging themes and local need can be recognised and responded to.
 - Outcome: Emerging needs and trends are identified to ensure resources and services are directed to areas with the greatest need.
- Education of children and young people across BCP about violence against women and girl, domestic abuse and positive masculinity to help reduce sexual discriminatory behaviours.

- Outcome: There will be a safe and more inclusive environment for everyone.
31. A key positive outcome of the strategies is to improve domestic abuse support services in BCP, tailored to the diverse needs of survivors of domestic abuse and children, including those with protected characteristics, through commissioning specialist domestic abuse providers for community and safe accommodation services. Through community engagement and targeted materials, we will engage with all survivors of domestic abuse from underrepresented groups across BCP, reducing risk to these survivors and their children and improving longer term outcomes.
 32. There will be ongoing consultation with people who have lived experience of domestic abuse and work to engage underrepresented groups, to ensure that we continue to hear the voices of all survivors and respond to these using a co-production framework so these voices help shape the domestic abuse work across BCP.
 33. Through education and awareness raising with professionals and communities we aim for them to understand the dynamics of domestic abuse better but also the additional issues faced by marginalised members of the community and reduce discriminatory beliefs and behaviours across BCP.
 34. We will develop the BCP primary prevention offering, educating children and young people to help reduce current and future sexually discriminatory and sexually harmful behaviours.
 35. We will further develop the relationships across agencies and professionals, to ensure a joined up and whole person response to survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse, this will help to reduce risk, mitigate long term harm and improve longer term outcomes for all.
 36. The improved data collection will help to identify local needs and themes and enable the partnership to respond to domestic abuse in a more localised way whilst also learning from national research and data.
 37. Extensive consultation has been conducted, including a public consultation, consultation with the experts by experience board, the BCP domestic abuse survey, stakeholder workshops and domestic abuse provider events. This comprehensive approach ensures that the strategies are not developed in isolation and incorporate the perspectives of a diverse range of individuals and organisations, thereby meeting the needs of all.
 38. All three strategies will be reviewed annually from (2025-2030). The Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (DASG) will oversee the implementation through a detailed delivery plan and report to the Community Safety Partnership Executive Board every six months to ensure accountability and achievement of the strategy outcomes.

Summary of risk assessment

39. Funding from central government for Domestic Abuse services has not increased in line with inflation over the last 5 years, which when coupled with the pressure on local government resources places a risk upon our ability to deliver the level of

service we strive to achieve for survivors of domestic abuse. The following summarises our approach to trying to mitigate these pressures.

Risk	Mitigation
Insufficient capacity in services	Commissioning and partnership approach
Funding uncertainty	Diversified funding streams
Inconsistent data	Development of shared data framework
Barriers for marginalised groups	Targeted inclusion strategies

Background papers

Domestic Abuse [statutory guidance](#).

Appendices

Appendix 1- Prevention of Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-31

Appendix 2- Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026-31

Appendix 3- Perpetrator Strategy 2026-31

Appendix 4- Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Community Services
Commissioning Plan

Appendix 5- Consultation Report

Appendix 6- Equality Impact Assessment

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Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

SAFER BCP
PREVENTING
DOMESTIC ABUSE
STRATEGY

2026-2031



BCP Council, Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services, The Probation Service and Our Dorset Health Services.

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Safer BCP Partnership's Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-31.

The Safer BCP Partnership was formed as the Community Safety Partnership for BCP Council area in April 2019 following local government re-organisation.

The partnership consists of BCP Council, Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services, The Probation Service and Our Dorset Health Services.

This strategy and its delivery plan are owned by the Safer BCP Partnership and there is a joint commitment across the partnership to its implementation. In addition to specific duties for BCP Council as the Local Authority, the BCP Community Safety Partnership, Safer BCP, holds the statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's).



Domestic abuse is a complex social problem that impacts people, communities, and services across our society. It is very common and can happen regardless of social group, class, age, gender, race, disability or sexuality of the individuals involved.

This strategy details the work undertaken by the Safer BCP Partnership over the last four years and our plans to address domestic abuse across the conurbation over the next five years. We have used our lived experience surveys, our Experts by Experience board, our Domestic Abuse Needs Assessments, public consultation results and our Strategic Needs Assessments to build on our understanding of local need, to develop our strategic priorities, to inform and develop our local response and to review whether our local provision effectively meets the needs of survivors, their families and children and those who use abusive behaviours.



Thank you

We would like to thank those who have helped shape our strategy with their lived experience through our public consultation and surveys and through the Experts by Experience Board.

Tackling domestic violence and abuse is everyone's business and we hope by increased community engagement, multi-agency working and robust survivor, child and perpetrator response services we will end domestic abuse across the BCP Council area.

**Our vision is that
"no resident living in
Bournemouth, Christchurch
and Poole, should live in fear
of or experience domestic
abuse" and this strategy is
our commitment to working
together over the next five
years with our aim to end
domestic abuse in our area.**

This strategy builds on the Safer BCP Partnership's Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-2025 which was written in 2020 during the Covid 19 pandemic and in anticipation for the Domestic Abuse Duty coming into effect in 2021.

The Safer BCP Partnership is fully committed to ending domestic abuse in the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area.

Extensive work has been undertaken to listen to the voices of survivors of domestic abuse to inform how services respond to abuse. Research, review and collaboration has taken place to make the BCP area a safer place to live and visit, with an on-going commitment by all partners to continue to make this happen.

The new Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-31 uses the knowledge gained since the last strategy and information gathered from survivors of domestic abuse, children and young people who have suffered domestic abuse and those who use abusive behaviours to build a comprehensive and effective strategy to reduce domestic abuse in our communities.

Chief Superintendent Heather Dixey,
Chair of the Safer BCP Partnership

Cllr Kieron Wilson,
Cabinet Member for Housing
and Regulatory Services,
Vice Chair of the Safer BCP Partnership



**No resident living in Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole,
should live in fear of or experience domestic abuse.**



OUR APPROACH



This strategy is set within the wider context of the Domestic Abuse Duty, the National Domestic Abuse Plan, the National Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021, the National Violence Against Women and Girls Statement of Expectation 2022, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's priorities and the Istanbul Convention Article 12 obligations; all of which we have used to set our priorities aligning with the central government framework.

This strategy is underpinned by listening to the voices of survivors of domestic abuse and what they have told us about their experiences, as well as gendered and intersectional analysis. Our strategy and delivery plan have been written using the following local data:

- Workshops, surveys and focus groups with domestic abuse victim/survivors and professionals.

- Housing and commissioned services data.
- BCP Domestic Abuse Lived Experience Survey 2024.
- Co-production with the BCP Domestic Abuse Experts by Experience board.
- Standing Together Needs Assessment 2021.
- Safer BCP Strategic Assessment 2024.
- Safer BCP Serious Violence Needs Assessment 2024.
- Safer BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy.
- Lessons learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews.
- Public consultation feedback.

We have used national research and best practice around domestic abuse, which provide quantitative and qualitative data and evaluation details to inform this strategy and delivery plan. These pieces of research are invaluable in tracking domestic abuse themes on a larger scale to develop our response and inform best practice.

Links to other strategies

The BCP Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2022-2025, sets out the strategic priorities for the partnership using an evidence-based approach. These are:

- Tackle violent crime in all its forms.
- Keep young people and adults-at-risk safe from exploitation, including online risks.
- Work with communities to deal with antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime hotspots, including ASB linked to substance misuse.
- Tackle issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The Home Office's national **Serious Violence Strategy** sets out the government's response to serious violent crime and in addition to the above, the Safer BCP Partnership also has statutory duties under the Serious Violent Crime Duty. **The Safer BCP Partnership's Serious Violence Strategy**, was adopted in January 2024. The four priorities for Safer BCP under the Serious Violence Duty are:

- Sexual Assaults and Rape
- Violence Against the Person- Knife Crime
- Robbery
- Domestic Abuse

This strategy sits alongside the new BCP Safe Accommodation Strategy and the new BCP Perpetrator Strategy which also cover the period 2026-2031.

The BCP Council's Corporate Strategy also sets out a clear vision where 'nature, coast, communities and towns come together to create a healthy and sustainable environment'. It includes a priority of 'People and Communities who care for each other, have access to great opportunities, a safe place to call home and live their best lives.' It includes key objectives that are relevant to the Domestic Abuse Duty, which are to:

- Ensure the most vulnerable receive the care they need to feel secure and supported.
- Work with partners to ensure everyone feels safe.

Alongside complementary priorities of our statutory partners, the duty also aligns with the **Dorset Police and Crime Plan 2021-29**, particularly in relation to the PCC's commitments to cut crime, to fight violent crime and high harm, and to put victims and communities first.

The introduction of the **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** and the **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022** gives greater focus on violence, both within and outside the home, and on our collective ability to effectively safeguard and protect those within our communities who are vulnerable to these and other forms of harm. **From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives** is an ambitious and action-focused 10-year strategy to enable real and sustained change. Combating drugs is one of the government's top priorities and ministers across government are engaged and focused on delivering our strategy.

We recognise that successful delivery of this Strategy depends on robust and effective partnership working. The Strategy will be supported by annual multi-agency partnership plans aligned to a robust performance framework so impact can be measured. Performance will be reported to the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, the Safer BCP Partnership Executive Board and the BCP Council Overview & Scrutiny Board.

Links to other strategic groups

Our work to address domestic abuse links closely with the **BCP Adults Safeguarding Board**, and **BCP Safeguarding Children's Partnership** alongside other groups including Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, Serious Violence Delivery Group, Sex Workers Risk Assessment Conference, MARAC (High risk domestic abuse) and other task and finish groups as identified through monthly data analysis.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has a cross-government definition of domestic abuse and is in two parts. Having a precise definition means we all understand what is meant by domestic abuse.

The definition of domestic abuse can be found in Section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The definition of domestic abuse is:

“(2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if:

(a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and

(b) the behaviour is abusive.

(3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

(a) physical or sexual abuse

(b) violent or threatening behaviour

(c) controlling or coercive behaviour

(d) economic abuse

(e) psychological, emotional, or other abuse and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.”



The definition also encompasses what is called Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Forced Marriage and it is clear that victims are not confined to one gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or socio-economic group.

While the definition above applies to those aged 16 or above, Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) can equally involve children under 16 as well as over 16. There is currently no legal definition of child and adolescent, however it is recognised as a form of domestic abuse.

Further information on the new statutory definition of domestic abuse can be found in the Statutory Guidance:

Definition of domestic violence and abuse: guide for local areas - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



- Extends the 'revenge porn' offence to cover the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress.
- Clarifies the law to further deter claims of "rough sex gone wrong" in cases involving death or serious injury.
- Creates a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts.
- Establishes in law the role of Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of local authorities, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse.
- Places a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- Places the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's Law") on a statutory footing.
- Ensures that when local authorities rehouse victims of domestic abuse, they do not lose a secure lifetime or assured tenancy.

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- Places the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's Law") on a statutory footing.
- Ensures that when local authorities rehouse victims of domestic abuse, they do not lose a secure lifetime or assured tenancy.

- All eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse are automatically provided with a 'priority need' for homelessness assistance.
- Stops vexatious family proceedings that can further traumatise victims by clarifying the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989.
- Prohibits GPs and other health professionals from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.

The Act places a duty on local authorities in England to:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board with which it will consult as it performs certain specified functions.
- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area.
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of domestic abuse support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.
- Give effect to the domestic abuse strategy (through commissioning/de-commissioning decisions).
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the domestic abuse strategy.
- Report back to central government.

Other recent developments in UK legislation include:

- Claire's Law (2014): A scheme allowing an individual to ask Police to check whether a new or existing partner has a violent past. A disclosure can be made by the Police if it is legal, proportionate and necessary to do so.
- Coercive Control Offence (2015): Victims who experience coercive and controlling behaviour that stops short of serious physical violence, but amounts to extreme psychological and emotional abuse, can bring their perpetrators to justice.
- Stalking Protections Orders (2020): A civil order that protects victims from stalking, harassment, and other unwanted contact.
- Serious Violence Duty 2024: for local partnerships to undertake an assessment of the type of Serious Violence that most impacts their area and to develop a strategy and interventions to address them. In the BCP area, domestic violence is one of the four key priorities under the Duty.

THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC ABUSE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children are now recognised in law, as victims in their own right if they witness or experience domestic abuse.

They could witness domestic abuse between adults, experience domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships and use abusive behaviours in relationships. Some children will be incited to undertake physical violence and/or psychological abuse by the perpetrator, causing untold amounts of harm to the child. Witnessing domestic abuse and violence is a



known Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). ACEs are known to have a lifelong impact on the children who are exposed to them, including poorer outcomes across all areas of their lives such as education, employment, mental health and physical health. Not all adults realise the harm caused to children and young people living with domestic abuse and we need to raise awareness within communities about these risks.

National statistics show the real and tangible links between domestic abuse and harm to children and young people:



A study of

139

overview reports from Serious Case Reviews (SCR) found that about two-thirds (63%) of cases featured domestic abuse³

An estimated

20%

or 1 in 5 children have lived with an adult perpetrating domestic abuse¹

16,000

children are living with domestic abuse today²

In the review of

293

SCRs Sidebotham et al (2016) found that domestic abuse was a feature in almost all instances of filicide⁴

1 in 5

teenage girls have experienced domestic abuse in their dating relationship⁵

¹ NSPCC: Child abuse and neglect in the UK today, 2019

² Women's Aid: The Hidden Victims of Domestic Abuse, 2018

³ Women's Aid, Nineteen Child Homicides, 2016

⁴ Department of Education, Pathways to harm, pathways to protection: a triennial analysis of serious case reviews 2011 to 2014

⁵ SafeLives, 2017. Safe Young Lives – Young People & Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse and pregnancy:



1in3

Women experience domestic abuse during pregnancy, approximately

275,000 women per year in England and Wales ⁶

Domestic abuse during pregnancy puts the mother and unborn child **in danger** ⁷

It increases **the risk of miscarriage**, infection, premature birth, and injury or death to the baby ⁸

It can lead to **structural brain changes** in the unborn baby ⁹

14

Maternal deaths during 2014-16 were murders. 10 women died during pregnancy or up to six weeks after pregnancy, and four in the period from six weeks to a year after the pregnancy. All 14 were killed by a partner or former partner ¹⁰

Quote from a domestic abuse survivor:



He made them kick and punch me and they did because they were so frightened of him. [Son] kicked me, he punched me in the face. But, when he had done it his father told him he hadn't done it hard enough, and he was to go and put his shoes on and do it harder. ¹¹

Anonymous, Radford and Hestor, 2006.



⁶ NHS, 2023

⁷ British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 2005

⁸ NHS, 2023

⁹ University of Bath, Domestic abuse in pregnancy linked to structural brain changes in babies, 2023

¹⁰ MBBRACE-UK, Saving Lives, Improving Mother's Care, 2017

¹¹ Radford and Hestor, Mothering through domestic violence, 2006

THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL PICTURE



The latest figures, to the year ending March 2023, found that around **one in four women (27%)** have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16. For men, the figure is around one in seven (13.9%). For partner abuse only, the figures are 22.7% for women and 10.2% for men (ONS, 2023).¹²

In the year ending December 2023, across the UK the Police recorded a **domestic abuse offence approximately every 40 seconds** (ONS, 2024).¹³

A total of **242 domestic abuse related deaths** were recorded between April 2022 to March 2023 nationally.¹⁴

In post separation abuse cases, **50% of victims sighted their abuser as an ex-partner** after they had separated.¹⁵

In the UK, **women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse**: 93% of those going to MARAC and 95% accessing an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service are women.¹⁶

The number of suspected **suicides of victims following domestic abuse overtook intimate partner homicides** for the first time during 2024.¹⁷

Recent studies found that **one in seven** UK women experienced **economic abuse** from a current or former partner – equivalent to 4.1 million women.¹⁸

Those with **disabilities are also more likely to experience domestic abuse**. Disabled women are significantly more likely to experience domestic abuse and disabled men are more likely to experience higher rates of domestic abuse than non-disabled men.¹⁹

It takes a **disabled person on average 3.3 years to seek support for domestic abuse**, compared to 2.2 years for a non-disabled person.²⁰

Evidence suggests that **60-80% of LGBTQ+ survivors of domestic abuse have never reported incidents** to the police or attempted to seek help or advice from support services.²¹

¹² Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2023). Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2023. Published online: ONS

¹³ Office for National Statistics (2024). Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2023. Available online

¹⁴ Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides 2020-2023 Year 3 Report, available online

¹⁵ Spearman, Post Separation Abuse: A Concept Analysis, 2022

¹⁶ Safelives, Insights IDVA dataset, 2021-2022

¹⁷ NPCC, Scale of homicides and suicides by domestic abuse victims revealed, 2024

¹⁸ Surviving economic abuse, 2024, online

¹⁹ Safelives, Disabled Survivors Too, 2017

²⁰ Safelives, Disabled Survivors Too, 2017

²¹ Magic and Kelley, LGBTQ+ and Peoples Experience of Domestic Abuse: A report on GALOP's domestic abuse service, 2018

32% of victims over the age of 60 are living with their perpetrator, compared to 9% of under 60's.

44% of victims over the age of 60 are abused by family members, compared to 6% of under 60's.

BCP Council has the **12th largest population** of any council in England.²²

18% of residents identify as being from a **minoritised ethnic group**.

22% of the BCP Council area are **over the age of 65**, around 3% more than the national average.

18% of the population identify as having a **long-term illness or disability**.

3.9% identify as being **LGBTQ+**.

More than **51%** of households in the BCP area are **affected by deprivation**, with 1 in 10 residents (45,500) living in areas considered within the 20% most deprived in England, compared to 1 in 5 (83,768) living in areas considered amongst the least deprived in England.

1,925 referrals were made to our commissioned community domestic abuse service in 2024-2025.

The commissioned community domestic abuse service received **1,012 calls** to their helpline during 2024-2025.

The Health Domestic Abuse Advocates (Health DAA) had **430 referrals** in 2024/25 and delivered **domestic abuse training** to **388 health professionals**.

The Children and Young People domestic abuse advocates (CYPDAA) **worked with over 200 children and young people** in 2024/25.

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) heard **721 high risk domestic abuse cases** in the year 2024/25. 95% of cases heard were for female victims.²³

Domestic abuse crimes in by year

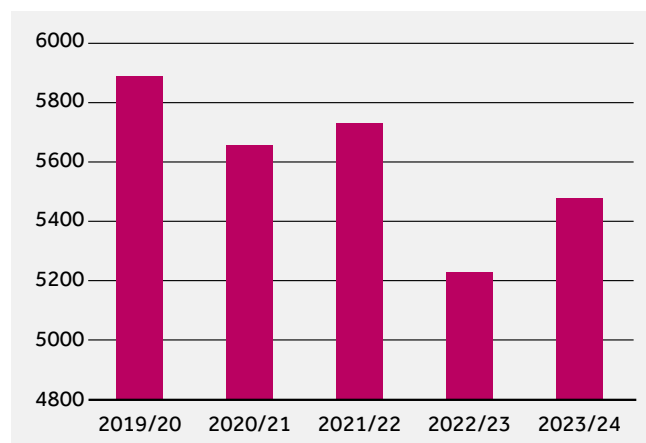


Figure 1 above shows the numbers of domestic abuse crimes recorded by Dorset Police in the BCP area per financial year. However, we know that domestic abuse is an under-reported crime and therefore it is likely that in reality these figures are higher. The figure shows that numbers were highest in 2019/2020, and lowest in 2022/23. Although there are notable fluctuations between the years, there were no years which showed a statistically significant change, meaning that crime rates for all of the years are within a 'normal' range.

5,467 domestic abuse crimes were recorded in the BCP area in year 23-24. 63% of these offences were committed by current or ex-partners.²⁴

²² Office for National Statistics, Census, 2021

²³ BCP MARAC Annual report 2023-2024

²⁴ BCP Council, Strategic Assessment, 2024-2025

Figure 2 below shows the numbers of domestic abuse incidents recorded by Dorset Police. An incident is any event that comes to police attention and is recorded as an incident. If the police find sufficient evidence of criminal activity, a crime will usually be recorded.²⁵

Table 3 below uses Dorset Police domestic abuse crime data to provide information on the type of domestic abuse crimes which were reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in the financial year 2023/24. The majority of domestic abuse recorded crime in the BCP area had a main crime group of violence against the person.

Domestic abuse incidents in the BCP area by year

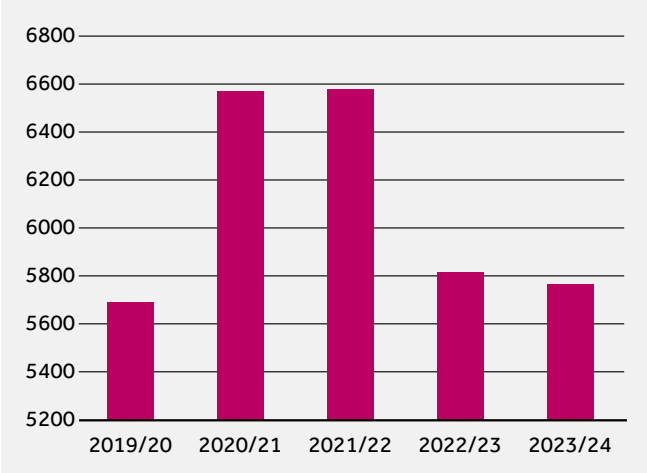


Figure 2 - DA incident numbers by year in BCP

Table 3 below shows the top 10 crime types when the main crime group was violence against the person.

Main crime group	Count	%
Violence Against the Person	4,247	77.68%
Criminal Damage	381	6.97%
Sexual Offences	273	4.99%
Public Order	226	4.13%
Theft	163	2.98%
Other Offences	48	0.88%
Dwelling Burglary	42	0.77%
Drug Offences	26	0.48%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	21	0.38%
Possession of Weapons	17	0.31%
Robbery	10	0.18%
Blank	9	0.16%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	4	0.07%
Total	5467	100%

Table 2- Main crime group for domestic abuse crimes in BCP reported to and recorded by Dorset Police in financial year 2023/24

²⁵ Lewis, S., Birks, D., Chandan, S.K., Chenevoy, N., Cumbria Constabulary. (2023). Understanding the Geospatial and Contextual Patterns of Rural Domestic Abuse: An Exploratory Study'. Available at: Understanding the Geospatial and Contextual Patterns of Rural Domestic Abuse: An Exploratory Study - White Rose Research Online

Table 4 below shows the top 10 crime types when the main crime group was violence against the person.

Crime Type	Count	%
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Section 47)	985	23.19%
Common assault (S39) and assault without injury (Class 105A)	856	20.16%
Assault by beating (recordable)	598	14.08%
Stalking involving serious alarm / distress (recordable)	327	7.70%
Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation - Serious Crime Act 2015 s75	241	5.67%
Stalking involving fear of violence (recordable)	226	5.32%
Stalking without fear / alarm / distress (recordable)	225	5.30%
Harassment without violence (recordable)	163	3.84%
Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature (recordable)	162	3.81%
Engage in controlling / coercive behaviour in an intimate / family relationship (recordable)	99	2.33%

Table 4 - Top 10 crime types when the main crime group was violence against the person for DA crimes reported to and recorded by Dorset Police, occurring in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

2,216 occurrences involved repeat victims, accounting for 40% of all domestic abuse recorded crime. 72% of these occurrences also involved repeat suspects. This suggests that 72% of repeat victims were victimised multiple times as part of the same relationship.

15% of the occurrences involving repeat victims involved suspects who were suspects just once. This suggests that 15% of repeat victims were victimised as a result of different relationships. 13% of suspects were unidentified when the victim was a repeat victim.

In total, there were **3,360 suspects** for the 5,467 domestic abuse crimes recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24. There were 743 occurrences which did not have identified suspects. Unidentified suspects made up 14% of the data.

Of the 3,360 suspects, **2,401 (72%) were male**, and **958 (29%) were female**. There was 1 suspect whose gender was unidentified.

Age group	Count	%
Under 10	3	0.09
10-14	21	0.63
15-19	259	7.71
20-24	333	9.91
25-29	396	11.79
30-34	490	14.58
35-39	496	14.76
40-44	457	13.60
45-49	280	8.33
50-54	240	7.14
55-59	172	5.12
60-64	80	2.38
65-69	39	1.16
70-74	23	0.68
75-79	26	0.77
80-84	9	0.27
85-89	11	0.33
90+	3	0.09
Blank	22	0.65
Total	3360	100.00

Table 5 - Age groups for suspects of domestic abuse crimes recorded by Dorset Police in BCP in financial year 2023/24.

Table 5 shows the age groups for suspects of domestic abuse in BCP in financial year 2023/24. The age groupings for suspects follow a very similar pattern to victims of domestic abuse. The age groups 30-34 and 35-39 are the largest, with the age groups 25-29 and 40-44 also being high.

- **898 individuals** were repeat suspects. These 898 individuals were involved in 2,443 recorded domestic abuse crimes.
- There were **2,461 unique suspects**, who appeared just once within the data 2023/24. These suspects who appeared just once were responsible for 50% of domestic abuse recorded crimes.
- **156 individuals** presented to BCP Council with a statutory homelessness requirement and domestic abuse as a support need in 2022-2023. ²⁶
- Data from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, details that **162 households had become homeless** in the year to March 2021, while forty-two needed assistance to avoid losing their homes due to domestic abuse. That means a total of 204 households needed a place to stay due to domestic abuse during 2020-21. ²⁷
- **306 people** applied for a refuge space in BCP 2020-2021, however 77% of those were unable to be accepted for reasons such as: too close to refuge; too high needs; no suitable space for size of family and/or low DASH score compared to other referrals (The Dash risk checklist is used by frontline professionals to identify and assess risks when a potential victim discloses domestic abuse, honour based violence or stalking).

- **4,004 victims** of domestic abuse were recorded by Dorset police across BCP, of which 68% were female, 32% male. ²⁸
- **7,322 reported incidents** of stalking and harassment took place in 22-23 across Dorset, 70% of reports are from female victims, only 3% of these reports resulted in a perpetrator being charged with stalking or harassment. ²⁹
- **2,576 reports of stalking** were reported in Dorset, 80% were female victims and only 3% were prosecuted for Stalking. ³⁰
- **88% of reported stalking** incidences in Dorset are by an ex-partner. ³¹
- During 2023-4 we started the coordination of four Domestic Homicide Reviews and the findings of these will be reported through to the CSP and relevant Safeguarding Boards once signed off by the Home Office. All four of the victims were female.
- The UP2U perpetrator programme saw an **8% increase in referrals** to 85 in the 2024/5 year.

²⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Homelessness Tables, 2022-2023

²⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Homelessness Tables, 2020-2021

²⁸ BCP Council, Strategic Assessment, 2024-2025

²⁹ Dorset Police, Stalking and Harassment, 2022-2023

³⁰ Dorset Police, Stalking and Harassment, 2022-2023

³¹ Dorset Police, Stalking and Harassment, 2022-2023

PROGRESS AGAINST THE PREVENTING DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2020-2025

The Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-24 had four strategic priorities:

Priority 1
Prevent violence and abuse

Priority 2
Provision of services

Priority 3
Partnership working

Priority 4
Responding to perpetrators

Progress against:

Priority 1
Prevent violence and abuse

We said that we would focus on:

- Ensuring all victims receive appropriate service provision.
- Ensuring there is a single pathway to access services.
- Ensuring that the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is effective.
- Ensuring the workforce is skilled and knowledgeable.
- Children and young people have the skills to identify and develop healthy relationships.

- Survivors with care and support needs are safeguarded.

Since we published the SAFER BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy we have:

- Used campaigns across the BCP area to raise awareness of domestic abuse and how to challenge it.
- Developed a Front Door system to children's social care, so families can access specialised support at the point of referral.
- Produced 'pathways to support' for professionals for all domestic abuse services; victim/survivors, children and young people, and perpetrators making it easier for professionals to navigate and refer to the correct services.
- Provided Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) training across BCP for colleagues and partners.
- Established a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), placed in the MASH team to provide specialised domestic abuse support and advice at the point of contact.
- Used Family Hubs across the BCP area as an early access to support system.
- Developed an easy access to Claire's Law disclosure system through Dorset Police.
- Provided Child on Parent abuse training across the BCP area for colleagues and partners.

- Provided Level 1 and Level 2 Domestic Abuse training for BCP Council staff. This is available to partner agencies across the area.
- Hosted domestic abuse forums as a network for practitioners who encounter domestic abuse survivors in their services, offering themed educational opportunities every 6 weeks to upskill and educate as well as forging relationships across colleagues and partners to improve the response to domestic abuse.
- Accredited BCP Council with the White Ribbon Campaign, which aims to educate and raise awareness of the harm caused by violence against women and girls.
- Hosted learning events following each Domestic Homicide Review, so that the learning can prevent further deaths.

Progress against:

Priority 2

Provision of service and

Priority 3

Partnership working

We said that we would focus on:

- Co-producing and co-evaluating our services with service users.
- Ensuring there is quick, fair and easy access to services.
- Providing specialist services in a number of different settings.
- Reviewing and improving our practices, learning from lessons and sharing knowledge.
- Ensuring services are able to meet and respond to capacity.
- Work with a wide a range of agencies and community and voluntary sector organisations to protect the most vulnerable through effective data sharing.
- Reviewing service provision with partners and service users.
- Highlighting good practice and share learning from DHRs and Serious Case Reviews (adults and children).

Since we published the SAFER BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy we have:

- Provided a Domestic Abuse Community Outreach Service.
- Provided Safe Accommodation spaces across the BCP Council area.
- Provided eight specialised Safe Accommodation spaces for female victims with complex needs, including mental health, substance misuse and homelessness.
- Employed six Children and Young People's Specialist Domestic Abuse Workers across the BCP area.
- We have Children and Young People's specialists who can provide therapeutic interventions.
- We have an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) working in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to provide specialist support at the point of contact.
- Provided a 'By and For' (refers to organisations that are specifically designed and led by individuals from the communities they serve) national services list to our partners working with victim/survivors across the BCP area.

- We have recruited Health IDVAs in two main hospitals in the BCP area who provide support and education to health colleagues and victim/survivors of domestic abuse who can also be both patients and staff.
- We have provided male refuge spaces.
- We have recruited a Domestic Abuse Specialist in the housing team to give advice and support to victim/survivors in temporary accommodation.
- Hosted 6 weekly domestic abuse forums to share knowledge and information on local services.
- Have a Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, whose aim is to reduce domestic abuse and the harm it causes across BCP Council area by implementing strategic assessment and solutions.
- Have a Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead to co-ordinate the domestic abuse response across the BCP area.
- Run a Perpetrator and Stalking working group to share local information, learning, recognise local themes and agree how to respond.
- Set up a local Experts by Experience Board so we can listen to the voices of those who have experienced domestic abuse to help guide our response.
- Have an established MARAC core group of attendees who commit to sharing information where appropriate to reduce the risk caused by domestic abuse.
- Have a MARAC Steering Group who are responsible for quality assuring the BCP Council MARAC process.



I think more information needs to be out there for everyone. It can be hard to understand you are a victim of domestic abuse because you always think of violence and not the other types like financial abuse, emotional abuse and coercive control. And then you don't seek help because you don't even know you are a victim.

Anonymous survivor, BCP Experts by Experience Board, 2025.



Progress against:

Priority 4

Responding to perpetrators

We said that we would focus on:

- Holding serial perpetrators of domestic abuse to account through the criminal justice system.
- Increasing the number of victimless prosecutions.
- Prioritising the safety of survivors using both criminal and civil powers.
- Offering behavioural change programmes to perpetrators.

- Co-ordinated work with local legal practices to support victim/survivors in gaining protection orders.
- Developed a draft Perpetrator Strategy as a guiding arm on how to address those that use harmful behaviours in a comprehensive way using a whole systems approach.
- Support the work of the High Harm Perpetrator Panel (HHPP) which looks to work with the highest risk perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Have an established and proficient MARAC process which aims to challenge perpetrator behaviour and focuses on holding perpetrators to account.

Since we published the BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy we have:

- Provided a behaviour change programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse to any person residing in BCP Council area, perpetrators can be referred or self-refer to the programme.
- Worked alongside academic partners to ensure we are using the most appropriate and researched programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Hosted a perpetrator working group with colleagues and partners, to review local data and themes and provide an actionable response to local perpetrator issues.
- Supported victim/survivors to report domestic abuse to the police through our community outreach team.
- Provided advocacy support to victim/survivors in court, and emotional and practical support.

A FOCUS ON EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE WITHIN OUR EXISTING WORK

Progressive Masculinity Seminars

We hosted a series of Progressive Masculinity Seminars across the BCP Council area.

Progressive Masculinity is an organisation which empowers boys and men to construct models of masculinity consistent with their values. Their mission is to challenge outdated models of masculinity and promote a healthier, more open-minded perspective. By offering this training across BCP Council area we hope to help facilitate this mission.

White Ribbon Accreditation

White Ribbon is the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys in the conversation about violence against women and girls. BCP Council has gained accreditation which means they now have three years to complete White Ribbon's comprehensive action plan which includes educating men and boys about VAWG and the harm it causes, reviewing our training offering, reviewing our domestic abuse services and engaging our communities. These actions will align with our domestic abuse delivery plan. Find out more about White Ribbon here; [White Ribbon UK](https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/).

MASH IDVA

We have an experienced IDVA who sits within the BCP Council MASH team. The IDVA can help identify domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity when the referral comes into the MASH, ensuring the children, victim/survivor and perpetrator are offered the correct support at the point of contact. It



also allows for risk assessment at an early stage and for safety measures to be in place to prevent further harm to the children and victim/survivor as soon as possible. The service provides a domestic abuse specialist within the MASH team to educate and inform colleagues, as well as to provide their support to victim/survivors when needed and help them gain the correct support needed in a timely manner.

HEALTH Domestic Abuse Advocates (DAA)

We have two Health Domestic Abuse Advocates in both our main hospitals in Poole and Bournemouth. They offer a two-pronged service; training our health partners in domestic abuse, so they are best equipped to respond to disclosures appropriately and, working directly with victim/survivors who are visiting the hospitals. We have found that the Health DAA reach a different demographic of older victim/survivors which we were not seeing through our outreach services. Hospital referrals to MARAC have increased since their roles started.

Domestic Abuse Recovery Together (DART)

Through Domestic Abuse Recovering Together (DART™), children and mothers can talk to each other about domestic abuse, learn to communicate and rebuild their relationship. Over ten weeks, mothers and children aged 7-14 meet for a weekly two-hour group session. They work together for an hour at the start of the group and then take part in activities in separate groups and at the end of each session, they join together again. Women learn more about how domestic abuse happens and how it affects children and explore experiences and strategies that can be used as a parent. Children take part in activities that help them build their own understanding of domestic abuse and how they are feeling.

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation

The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance's (DAHA) mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse. BCP Council's Housing and Community Services have committed to adopting DAHA's set of values and standards through accreditation to demonstrate that we have safe and effective interventions for domestic abuse. This work focuses specifically on BCP Homes' social housing tenants/residents but is expected to permeate and directly contribute as part of meeting the wider aims as outlined within this strategy. BCP Council Housing Services shares the vision to end domestic abuse for our residents.



The most important thing is to be heard and for those professionals to really understand the dynamics and impact of domestic abuse has on survivors, not just whilst in the relationship but for a lifetime.

Anonymous survivor, Women's Aid, Are you listening? 2022.



LISTENING BROADLY AND LISTENING DEEPLY

Experts by Experience Board

In 2024 we established an Experts by Experience Board of female survivors of domestic abuse to help shape and inform the development of our domestic abuse strategies and our commissioning of not and future services. We also engaged with other members of the BCP community who are survivors of domestic abuse but did not want to be part of a group, including men and members of the LGBTQ+ community. This is some of the feedback that they gave us on their experiences of domestic abuse:

"Freedom programme and Power to change have been really helpful!"

"I want more awareness out in the community to make everyone aware of domestic abuse."

"The kid's school signposted me to services and helped me make the referral."

"I think all children need more education on domestic abuse."

"I didn't know where to start to find help!"

"Victims must be believed; it is so hard to ask for support and then when you are not believed you feel completely isolated."

"My domestic abuse advocate was really helpful and kind."

"I couldn't access any support because my Mum was the perpetrator and professionals didn't recognise this as domestic abuse, even though I was an adult and it was domestic abuse."

"I think more information needs to be out there for everyone, it can be hard to understand you are a victim of domestic abuse because you always think of violence and not the other types like financial abuse, emotional abuse and coercive control and then you don't seek help because you don't even know you are a victim."

"A mum at the school told me who I needed to phone to get support."

"The domestic abuse services need to be publicised better; it can be hard to find where to get support."

"I was discriminated against because of my mental health."

"I don't think anyone understands the long-term consequences of domestic abuse and what an impact it has on your mental health for years to come, including how little things can trigger the memories and it can make it hard to function."

"My kids rang the police, and they came really quickly."

"I think we really need to target boys and young men, to educate them better before they start having relationships."

"The survivor groups have changed my life."

"More needs to be done to help the people who suffer, I felt like he got everything given to him on Probation and all I got was accused of not protecting my children."

"Being a male survivor of a female abuser, I couldn't get help anywhere and all the services treated me terribly."

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office conducted widescale research with survivors of domestic abuse to find out what support they wanted – over 4,000 survivors across England responded. The results are shown in the table below.

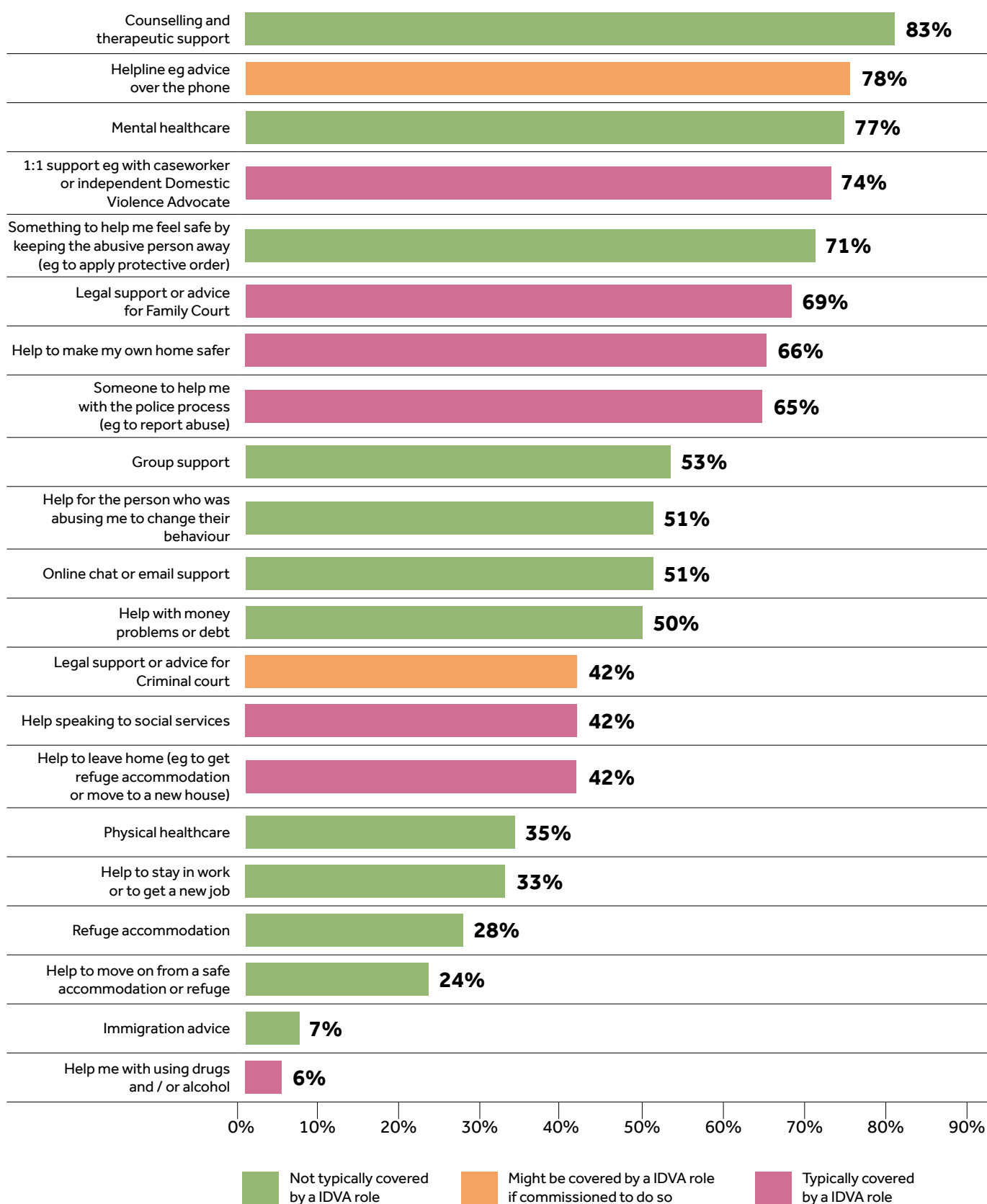


Figure 6 - Percentage of respondents wanting support for domestic abuse during the previous three years, according to intervention type.

BCP Domestic Abuse Survey:

The BCP Domestic Abuse Survey 2024 highlighted some key areas for improvement and development:

- 1 Most respondents who felt support was not available to them, said so because they were not aware of the support available.
- 2 Respondents were not happy with the response they received from organisations/ professionals after they told them about the domestic abuse they experienced for the first time.
- 3 Less than a fifth of respondents said they spoke to a housing provider about the abuse they had experienced (1 in 20).
- 4 Most respondents said they have not accessed support to ensure their accommodation is safe (71%).
- 5 Most respondents said the children currently living with them were not exposed to domestic abuse.
- 6 Respondents said the main reason their children did not receive support was that they were not aware of the services available.
- 7 A lack of support post-separation particularly with co-parenting
- 8 A lack of counselling support for victims/ survivors and their children.
- 9 Long waiting times for services.



Being part of something where I,
as a survivor, can help a fellow survivor feels like
a no-brainer to me...
I used to say, "this is my life".
I now say; "that was my life".

Safelives Pioneer, Safelives, 2023.



OUR PRIORITIES



The BCP area is a place where domestic abuse is not tolerated, and we will work to ensure no resident lives in fear of abuse.

We are using the four priorities from the National Domestic Abuse Plan to guide our work across the BCP Council area in response to domestic abuse.



OUR PRIORITIES

1. PREVENT

Prioritising prevention

– We recognise that the most effective approach to preventing domestic abuse is through education and early intervention. By educating individuals, we aim to prevent people from becoming perpetrators and encourage victims to seek help earlier.

In order to prevent abuse happening in the first place we aim to educate and empower local residents. We want to provide communities in the BCP area, including children, with information on domestic abuse and give them the tools to recognise and challenge abusive behaviours, in their homes and in the community.

Our three strategic objectives are:

- **Education** – to increase and improve the recognition of domestic abuse and the harm it causes.
- **Early intervention** – to minimise the harm of domestic abuse.
- **Challenging behaviours** – taking a whole system approach towards domestic abuse.



We will:

- 1 Increase public awareness of domestic abuse, including coercive control and stalking and harassment.
- 2 Continually improve our early intervention pathway to support children experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), to reduce those children becoming victims and/or perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- 3 Work with our Safeguarding partners to identify and support early intervention in vulnerable adults, including those with learning disabilities and older victims.
- 4 Support domestic abuse Champions and Ambassadors across BCP Council, to raise awareness and to help ensure a better response to domestic abuse by our colleagues and the wider community.
- 5 Introduce Bystander Intervention Awareness campaigns, to challenge harmful attitudes, language and behaviour relating to domestic abuse – from challenging a disrespectful statement to noticing signs of domestic abuse and offering support that can then be undertaken by anyone.
- 6 Continue to provide violence against women and girls learning opportunities to educate and change attitudes and beliefs.

- 7 Implement a training package for schools with a focus on boys, learning about the societal and individual impact of harm caused by violence against women and girls, and how they can challenge it.
- 8 Research and explore pathways for children and young people using harmful behaviours.
- 9 Commit to the three – year White Ribbon accreditation action plan to continually challenge violence against women and girls in BCP Council area.
- 10 Make ACE training readily available to educate colleagues and partners.

Fact

Research conducted in partnership between University College London, the University of Kent and the Association of School and College Leaders in 2024, found a fourfold increase in the level of misogynistic content in the “For You” page of TikTok accounts over just five days on the platform in an algorithmic modelling study. Through interviews with young people and school leaders, the researchers also found that hateful ideologies and misogynistic tropes have moved off screens and into schools, becoming embedded in mainstream youth cultures.³³



Primary prevention aims to prevent domestic abuse from ever happening by challenging attitudes, values and the structures that sustain inequality and violence.



United Nations Women, 2021.

³³ University of Kent, Safer Scrolling - How algorithms popularise and gamify online hate and misogyny for young people, 2024.

OUR PRIORITIES

2. PROTECT AND RECOVER



We will support all survivors of domestic abuse to get the support they need to live healthy lives free from abuse, with access to education, employment, health services and housing.

This priority is covered in more detail through the BCP Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026-31.

We will strive to commission the best possible services across BCP Council area to support all survivors of domestic abuse and collaborate with our partner agencies to improve access to these services.

We recognise that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach will not be effective for all survivors. Experiences of domestic abuse and access to safety will differ based on identities such as race, gender, sexuality, disability and more. We will recognise and respond to how discrimination can present significant barriers for survivors to access support.

Our four strategic objectives are:

- **Commissioning** – providing quality services that are adaptable to meet the needs of our communities.
- **Victim led** – using trauma informed approaches and prevent re-traumatisation.
- **Accessibility** – ensuring there are clear, accessible pathways to services and support.
- **Experts by experience** – ensuring services are shaped by people with lived experiences of domestic abuse.

We will:

- 1 Commission high quality specialist domestic abuse services to work across BCP Council area.
- 2 Use our Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026-2031, to guide our work and commission the best quality safe accommodation services for survivors of domestic abuse.
- 3 Use the Preventing Domestic Abuse 2026-2031 delivery plan to deliver our domestic abuse response across BCP Council area.
- 4 Provide rapid response, trauma informed services, which avoid waiting lists and losing people in the system, which could make them more at risk of further harm.

- 5 Commission high quality specialist domestic abuse support services for children and young people.
- 6 Provide clear and accessible pathways for all victim/survivors and children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.
- 7 Explore how we can provide a single point of contact within each domestic abuse service to make it easier for victim/survivors to access help.
- 8 Provide inclusive and progressive services to all victim/survivors of domestic abuse including those who have protected characteristics and intersectionality, by upskilling and educating the people who work with victim/survivors.
- 9 Make a comprehensive plan of how to reach victims/survivors who are furthest from our services, focusing on those with protected characteristics, mental health and substance misuse barriers.
- 10 Provide a domestic abuse specialised counselling service to adult and child victim/survivors.
- 11 Work with survivors of domestic abuse through an Experts by Experience Board to offer on-going peer and professional support network.
- 12 Provide education and tools to address the link between suicidality and domestic abuse.

Specialist domestic abuse services

Specialist domestic abuse services, offer a holistic package of wrap around support and wellbeing services.

Access to specialist domestic abuse services prevents further abuse and reduces duplication of effort and pressure on other services.



A strong team dynamic needs to exist between the psychological recovery and practical steps to be settled and safe, and a to and fro interdependency between the disciplines to attain the most effective outcomes.

Anonymous, 2022, p72.³⁴



³⁴ Women's Aid, Are you listening? 7 Pillars for a survivor-led approach to mental health support, 2022

OUR PRIORITIES

3. PURSUE

We will pursue perpetrators and hold them accountable for their actions. We will offer behaviour change courses to perpetrators so they can access support for sustainable change around their harmful behaviours. This is covered in more detail in our **SAFER BCP Perpetrator Strategy 2026-31**.

We will support survivors to report domestic abuse and be listened to. We will support our victim/survivors in reporting domestic abuse to the police and advocate on their behalf without prejudice. We will work with our partners to establish ways to identify those causing harm. We will provide a holistic approach to those that cause harm but also commit to pursuing perpetrators of domestic abuse to hold them accountable for their actions.

Our three strategic priorities are:

- **Accountable** – ensuring perpetrators are held to account for their actions.
- **Listening** – we will listen to victims of domestic abuse and believe them.
- **Change** – we will support perpetrators who want to change their harmful behaviours.



We will:

- 1 Continue to provide a behaviour change programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse across the BCP Council area.
- 2 Review, assess and develop the behaviour change programmes we use to ensure they are using the most up-to-date knowledge on how to address domestic abuse perpetration.
- 3 Recognise intersectional barriers to accessing behaviour change programmes and provide a targeted campaign in these areas.
- 4 Increase the number of perpetrators accessing the behaviour change programme through awareness campaigns, events and collaboration with colleagues and partners.
- 5 Encourage multi-agency working to provide a whole systems holistic response to those who cause harm.
- 6 Recognise that the person causing harm may also be experiencing multiple disadvantages.
- 7 Develop and provide awareness of perpetrators of domestic abuse to colleagues and partners to encourage earlier recognition of perpetrator behaviours, leading to a swifter response to harmful behaviour.

- 8 Develop a more targeted response to perpetrators who use stalking as part of their harmful behaviour.
- 9 Increase the use of trauma informed practice by all colleagues and partners to victim/survivors of domestic abuse and through education increase the reporting of domestic abuse to seek positive criminal justice outcomes and access to 'orders' to enhance safety.
- 10 Work towards actioning our Perpetrator Strategy to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse.

Fact

There are approximately 400,000 perpetrators causing high and medium levels of harm (including murder) across England and Wales, and yet only a tiny percentage of these – fewer than 1% – get a specialist intervention that might prevent future abusive behaviour.³⁵



My Up2U worker has undoubtedly made the most impact in my life in the history of me having talking therapy. I am 3 months sober- which has never happened before. I wanted to thank him for the support, mentorship over last year. It really has made a noticeable impact on my cognitive functions and no doubt will be woven into my inner tapestry of coping mechanisms for years to come.

Anonymous, BCP Up2U CHR Completer client survey, 2024.



³⁵ Respect DVPP Commissioning Guidance for Police and Crime Commissioners, 2013

OUR PRIORITIES

4. RELATIONSHIPS



We will lead by example by working collaboratively with our colleagues, partners and communities to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse across the BCP Council area. A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) will shift the focus away from individuals being responsible for their own safety onto the communities and services which support them.

Coordinated Community Response model (CCR)

The CCR encompasses the broadest possible response to domestic abuse, addressing prevention, early intervention, dealing with crisis, risk fluctuation, and long-term recovery and safety – working with a wide range of services, pathways, agencies and systems.

The fundamental premise of the CCR is that no single agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of a household or individual within that household, but all may have insights and can provide interventions that are crucial to their safety and wellbeing. The CCR enables a whole system response to a whole person. It shifts responsibility for safety away from individual survivors to the community and services existing to support them.

Survivors of domestic abuse, adults or children, require a coordinated, multiagency approach with all agencies working collaboratively to provide a response that is effective in meeting their needs and making them safer. The model guides coordinators to build interventions within their systems that are aligned with the lived experience of victims/survivors.

The CCR is made up of twelve components which are:

- 1 **Survivor Voice and Engagement** – the voices of those with lived experience of domestic abuse should be integral in guiding local strategies and developing services.
- 2 **Intersectionality** – an intersectional response must be aligned across all partners in the CCR and the additional barriers marginalised communities face need to be acknowledged and responded to.
- 3 **Shared objective** – all partners in the CCR need to have a shared objective and vision, to guide their work together whilst recognising that while partners may have a different priority in terms of their work, they can still hold a shared objective and ethos and prevent silo working.

³⁶ Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse - A refreshed guide to effective domestic abuse partnership work – The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) 2020 – available online

- 4 **Structure and governance** – governance and structure between the partners through strategic and operational groups will help guide and create shared objectives and allow for implementation of the domestic abuse agenda in a CCR model.
- 5 **Strategy and leadership** – Strategic leadership enables the CCR model to be implemented across the partnership and strategies are there to provide a guiding arm to the domestic abuse response and the creation of delivery plans. Primary prevention of domestic abuse should play a key role in local strategies.
- 6 **Specialist services** – specialist domestic abuse services are an essential part of the CCR model, providing appropriate support for survivors and a sustainable approach to domestic abuse.
- 7 **Representation** – the right representation of all agencies at the right level is key to ensuring the success of the CCR. It is essential that consideration is given to which agencies need to be represented and where their input is required.
- 8 **Resources** – a combination of resources are essential for a comprehensive response to domestic abuse at local level, including funding, commitment, assets, people and drive to ensure sustainable services are implemented.
- 9 **Coordination** – the coordination of services around survivors, children and perpetrators shapes the way for reducing risk and long-term change in domestic abuse. This is the responsibility of all agencies involved in the CCR and does not fall to one individual but through a collective system.
- 10 **Training** – training across localities ensures a collective understanding of domestic abuse and VAWG, enhancing a coordinated response and creating shared objectives.
- 11 **Data** – local data collection is required to track local thematic data and ensure the local CCR are responding and modelling in response to local need. It also allows for the measurement of success against a deliverable.
- 12 **Policies and processes** – collective and agency-centric policy and procedures document the why and how a response is delivered, and helps build a framework for delivery for DA, VAWG and the CCR model.
[1][2]

To end domestic abuse we need to look at the whole person, the individuals and family members involved, so that responses are coordinated and sustainable. It is essential that all professionals and the wider community are educated and prepared to take on appropriate roles, to activate change and intervene to end the harm caused by domestic abuse.

Our strategic priorities are:

- **Joined up** – we will work with partners to ensure that the needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse are met.
- **Holistic** – we will strive to ensure that all the needs of the individual are met.
- **Quality** – we will work towards achieving White Ribbon and DAHA accreditation.

[1] Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse, In Search of Excellence, A refreshed guide to effective domestic abuse partnership work – The Coordinated Community response (CCR), 2020, available online.

[2] Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse – CCR Leaders Course. 101

We will

- 1 Continue to sit at a strategic level across multi-agency partnerships to address domestic abuse across BCP Council area.
- 2 Enhance opportunities for multi-agency working by developing innovative ways of collaboratively working.
- 3 Continue to develop and collaborate with our Experts by Experience Board to ensure survivor voices continuously inform our response to domestic abuse.
- 4 Offer educational and learning opportunities to colleagues, partners and the community to enhance their knowledge of domestic abuse, enabling them to effectively respond.
- 5 Commit to the actions under the White Ribbon Campaign which include: education of men and boys about the harm caused by gender-based violence; education of communities about the harm caused by gender-based violence and; engagement of communities as a response to gender-based violence.
- 6 Develop a platform for real-time sharing of local domestic abuse services to ensure professionals and communities know what is available.
- 7 Commit to taking the actions to gain the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation to improve our response to domestic abuse across BCP Council housing and community services.
- 8 Work towards CCR accreditation to enhance our whole systems response to victim/survivors.



The more you are working together the better the outcomes you're going to be able to achieve, but absolutely it requires strong leadership from a strategic perspective.

Research participant, STADA, In Search of Excellence, 2020.



WE WILL KNOW WE ARE SUCCESSFUL WHEN



- People know where to get support and how to access it.
- Accessibility to domestic abuse services increases.
- Victim/survivors feel listened to and understood.
- Reports to police about domestic abuse increase.
- More perpetrators of domestic abuse access behaviour change programmes.
- Children and young people suffering domestic abuse receive timely support increasing their likelihood of being able to thrive.
- Our colleagues and partners feel confident to recognise domestic abuse and take the appropriate action as a response.
- We identify and support all victim/survivors of domestic abuse, including those that often find it hard to access support from marginalised communities.
- Our children and young people are educated about the harmful effects of domestic abuse and gender-based violence, so they can make healthier choices in their futures.
- Our children and young people are educated about healthy relationships.
- All people within our communities feel equipped to respond to domestic abuse.
- Victim/survivors are considered as a whole person and the response to their need is met, to reduce risk and enhance long-term outcomes.
- More perpetrators of domestic abuse are held to account for their actions through the Criminal Justice System.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

The work identified within this strategy will be funded by the local authority budget alongside grant funding and partnership budgets.

We will continue to explore and apply for funding opportunities where appropriate to help successfully deliver this strategy and meet the needs of BCP Council area.

Help is available

If you or someone you know needs support around domestic abuse, there is help available from the organisations listed below and more information can be found here including:

Help with domestic abuse | BCP

Local support organisations:

- BCP BCHA Domestic Abuse Referrals & Support Line 01202 710 777
- BCP Refuge 01202 547 755
- Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS) 01202 308 855
- Victim Support Dorset 0300 303 0163
- Paragon Dorset 0800 032 5204



There are also national organisations which can help:

- **'By and For' services**
- National Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247
- The National Centre for Domestic Violence
0800 970 2070
- Women's Aid 0808 2000 247
- Mankind Initiative 01823 334 244

Link to other Strategies:





DELIVERY PLAN

PRIORITY 1 – PREVENT

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
Public awareness of domestic abuse, including coercive control and stalking and harassment will be improved	Develop a rolling programme of community education and awareness around domestic abuse and its' impact	BCP Council		✓	✓	✓	✓
A multiagency training offer for domestic abuse which is trauma informed and up to date with current research, will be available	Design a BCP domestic abuse training framework	BCP Council		✓			
All agencies are aware of their role in Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	Include the MARAC training in the BCP domestic abuse level 2 training and offer on-demand training when required	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓		✓
Domestic abuse Champions and Ambassadors across BCP Council will raise awareness to colleagues and the wider community	Create an internal communications plan for BCP Council colleagues to support them becoming White Ribbon and/or domestic abuse Champions and Ambassadors	BCP Council		✓	✓		✓
Workforce development and competency around domestic abuse will continue to improve and develop	Commission ad-hoc violence against women and girls (VAWG) learning opportunities via the bi-monthly domestic abuse forums, and during other key dates throughout the year eg, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence and Sexual Violence Awareness Week	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓		✓
Children and young people will learn about the societal and individual impact of harm caused by violence against women and girls, domestic abuse and how they can change the narrative	Share the Women's Aid Expect Respect free training offer with schools and colleges	BCP Council	✓		✓		✓
	Support delivery of the new Harmful Sexual Behaviour framework across the BCP area	BCP Council and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)	✓	✓			
	Commission positive masculinity workshops into secondary schools	Community Safety Partnership (CSP)			✓		✓
	Support implementation of Relationship Sex Education (RSE) including healthy relationship training into all education settings	BCP Council			✓		

The early intervention pathway to support children experiencing domestic abuse, to reduce those children becoming victims and/or perpetrators of domestic abuse will be robust and informed by best practice	Ensure domestic abuse and its effects on children and young people training is available to all colleagues and partners across the BCP area	BCP Council	✓				
	Review the domestic abuse intervention pathway in Early Help and Children's Social Care (CSC)	BCP Council		✓	✓		
The early intervention pathway for vulnerable adults experiencing domestic abuse, including those with learning disabilities and older victims, will be established and embedded across the BCP area	Review the domestic abuse intervention pathway for vulnerable adults including older adults and those with learning disabilities	BCP Council		✓	✓		
	Ensure training on domestic abuse and vulnerable adults is available across the BCP area for all colleagues and partners	BCP Council		✓			
Children and young people using harmful behaviours, in the home and/or in intimate relationships will be supported to make sustainable change to improve their long-term outcomes	Identify programmes which can be used with children and young people using harmful behaviours	BCP Council			✓	✓	
	Raise awareness of child on parent and peer to peer abuse	BCP Council		✓			
Bystander Intervention Awareness campaigns will be established and embedded across BCP Council area to challenge harmful attitudes, language and behaviour relating to domestic abuse and VAWG	Roll out the #Justdont campaign	BCP Council					
	Advertise the free Suzy Lamplugh trust 'Stand Up Against Harassment – Bystander Training' to BCP Council staff and the wider community	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BCP Council area will be an area where victim blaming and dehumanising language is not tolerated or used	Educate professionals and the community of the harm caused by using victim blaming and dehumanising language, on the Safer BCP and BCP Council domestic abuse webpages	BCP Council			✓	✓	✓
BCP Council to maintain the White Ribbon accreditation	Continue the work in the white ribbon action plan over the next three-years working in conjunction with the domestic abuse delivery plan	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓		



PRIORITY 2 – PROTECT AND RECOVER

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
Specialist domestic abuse community services will be modelled to reflect local need	Develop a comprehensive commissioning plan for specialist domestic abuse community outreach services	BCP Council	✓	✓			
	Continue to develop data collection to ensure services meet the needs of all across the BCP area	Domestic Abuse Strategic Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Safe Accommodation offering will continue to be developed based on local need and best practice	The Safe Accommodation strategy will guide the work in developing the offering in the BCP area	BCP Council	✓	✓			
Children and young people who have suffered domestic abuse will get the correct specialist support to help them recover from the abuse	Include children and young people's specialist domestic abuse services within the commissioning plans	BCP Council	✓	✓			
Health Domestic Abuse Advocates (DAA) will be embedded in the local health services	Explore sustainable funding with NHS colleagues for the health DAA scheme	BCP Council and NHS	✓	✓			
A domestic abuse counselling service for adult and child survivors will be explored as part of the holistic response to domestic abuse	Explore a domestic abuse counselling service and funding options	BCP Council			✓	✓	
All services will have a clear pathway to accessing support for the community and professionals	Develop communications plans for domestic abuse services for integration and high visibility into the community	BCP Council and Commissioned Service Providers		✓	✓		
	Embed awareness of the domestic abuse services across the agencies in the BCP area to enable easy referral pathways	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group and Commissioned Service Providers		✓	✓		
	Publish a children and young peoples' domestic abuse advocate (CYPDAA) pathway document for all agencies across the BCP area	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Survivors with protected characteristics and multiple disadvantage will have access to domestic abuse support services without facing additional barriers to support	Continue to develop and use gendered and intersectional analysis to ensure all survivors of domestic abuse are supported appropriately and without discrimination	Domestic Abuse Strategic Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Ensure the services we commission have appropriate training to enable them to work with all survivors in a culturally appropriate way	BCP Council	✓	✓			
	Provide culturally appropriate domestic abuse resources for the communities we work across	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Deliver intersectionality awareness training to professionals across the BCP area	BCP Council	✓		✓		✓
	Publish a 'By and For' services list for professionals and the community	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Survivors accessing domestic abuse services across the BCP area will be responded to in a trauma informed and responsive way which supports safety and recovery	Explore the feasibility of a single point of contact model for domestic abuse services across the BCP area to enhance the survivors' experience and reduce re-victimisation	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group	✓	✓			
Suicide related to domestic abuse will be reduced	Explore funding options for a community mental health Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)	BCP Council		✓			
	Resources relating to domestic abuse and mental health will be shared with professionals across the BCP area, including Safelives 'Mental Health Practice' Briefing and the Domestic Abuse and suicidality toolkit	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	A suicide safety plan will be developed for use by professionals in contact with those affected by domestic abuse	BCP Council and CMHT	✓	✓			
The link between suicidality and domestic abuse will be understood and responded to	Explore training options available on suicidality and domestic abuse	BCP Council			✓		
Survivors will have access to education, training and employment opportunities	A pathway will be developed to make the Dorset 'Connect to Work' scheme readily available to survivors	BCP Council and commissioned service providers		✓			
	The national 'Access to Work' scheme will be promoted to survivors of domestic abuse who are eligible	BCP Council and commissioned service providers		✓			
Those with lived experience of domestic abuse will inform and shape the way we respond to domestic abuse across BCP	Develop a co-production framework for domestic abuse survivor work, to ensure we capture and utilise their voices in all the domestic abuse work we do across the BCP Council area	BCP Council		✓			
	Develop a framework for capturing the voices of child survivors of domestic abuse	BCP Council			✓		



PRIORITY 3 – RELATIONSHIPS

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
All relevant statutory, VCS agencies and individuals across the BCP Council area will sit across strategic partnerships to address domestic abuse	Ensure all relevant organisations, departments and individuals sit at the correct strategic level to influence change and implement tasks	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work collaboratively at a local and national level to support the domestic abuse response across BCP	Maintain regional and national partnership engagement	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	All relevant agencies will attend multiagency meetings to reduce and respond to domestic abuse when required	BCP Community Safety Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Share key learning points locally through strategic groups and improved communications	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Improve workforce competency to identify and respond to domestic abuse	Continue to deliver and publicise domestic abuse training opportunities for agencies across the partnership	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Develop a platform for real-time sharing of local domestic abuse services and educational materials across the partnership	BCP Council		✓	✓		
The Community Safety Partnership will have a shared vision on how to prevent and respond to domestic abuse	Continue to develop the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) partnership and model across the BCP Community Safety Partnership	BCP Community Safety Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	BCP Council domestic abuse lead to attain CCR leader accreditation	BCP Council	✓				
The Experts by Experience will inform all the work we do in response to domestic abuse	A representative from the Experts by Experience group will sit on the BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group to feedback at a strategic level	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Experts by Experience will have oversight of domestic abuse work being developed and their input will be included	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Data collection will be improved to identify trends, gaps and emerging needs around domestic abuse in the BCP area	New domestic abuse data collection sets will be developed through research and agreed at DASG	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group.	✓				
Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation will be achieved by BCP Homes	Commit to undertaking the actions to gain the DAHA accreditation to improve our response to domestic abuse across BCP Council	BCP Council	✓	✓			
Performance will be measured to help track progress, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions	Monitor the performance of the strategies through measurables and the domestic abuse key performance indicators (KPI) using qualitative and quantitative data	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



PRIORITY 4 – PURSUE

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
All perpetrators of domestic abuse in the BCP area will have the opportunity to be accountable for their behaviours by engaging with behaviour change programmes	Ensure the programmes we offer in the BCP area hold the perpetrator to account whilst treating them with respect and as individuals	BCP Council	✓				
	Provide perpetrator behaviour change programmes which are aligned with national recommendations and guidance	BCP Council	✓				
Perpetrators of domestic abuse who use stalking as part of their abusive behaviour will be engaged appropriately	Explore the current offering for those who use stalking behaviours as part of the domestic abuse	Probation Service		✓			
	Increase the use of stalking protection orders (SPO's) to increase survivor safety	Dorset Police	✓				
Survivors of domestic abuse will feel listened to and supported to report domestic abuse to the police.	Work with the Criminal Justice Service in the BCP area to look at improving prosecution rates for domestic abuse related offences	BCP Community Safety Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Increase the use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN's) to increase survivor safety	Dorset Police	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) response will be increased for survivors	Explore the model of Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group	✓	✓	✓		
The Safer BCP Perpetrator Strategy 2026-2031 will be actioned	Form a SAFER BCP Perpetrator working group to implement the Perpetrator Strategy	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group		✓			
Survivors of domestic abuse will feel seen and heard	Provide trauma-informed domestic abuse training for all professionals across the BCP area who could interact with survivors of domestic abuse to improve confidence in reporting	BCP Council	✓				
Perpetrators of domestic abuse will be given the opportunity to change their behaviour through behaviour change programmes	Continue to offer perpetrator behaviour change programmes across the BCP area	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Develop sustainable funding plans for the behaviour change programmes	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group	✓	✓			
	Commission academic review and research to ensure we are using the most effective programmes	BCP Domestic Abuse Strategic Group	✓				
Increase the numbers of perpetrator's accessing the perpetrator behaviour change programme	Raise awareness of the BCP Council perpetrator behaviour change programme to professionals and the community	BCP Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agencies will be more aware of domestic abuse perpetrators and how to refer them in to support pathways	Develop and provide awareness of perpetrators of domestic abuse to colleagues and partners to encourage earlier recognition of perpetrator behaviours, leading to a swifter response to harmful behaviour	BCP Council		✓	✓	✓	



SAFERBCP



Partnership

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Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

SAFER BCP
SAFE
ACCOMMODATION
STRATEGY

2026-2031

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INTRODUCTION

This strategy is part of the wider Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Community Safety Partnership's response to domestic abuse and contributes to the BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-2031.

It sets out how we plan to respond to our statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and our commitment to the delivery of Safe Accommodation within BCP for people fleeing domestic abuse over the next five years.

This strategy supports the vision of the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy (2026 – 2031) “that no resident living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, should live in fear of or experience domestic abuse”.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 sets out in statute that local authorities must prepare and publish a local strategy based on a robust needs assessment that details the ways in which provision for accommodation-based domestic abuse support will be developed, commissioned, and delivered.

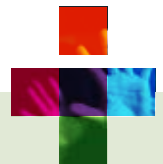


The Act provides guidance on how to further protect the millions of people who suffer and experience domestic abuse, as well as measures to strengthen the response to those who use abusive behaviours. The Act sets out the requirements around the provision of Safe Accommodation:

- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their areas for survivors and their children including those who come from outside of the area.
- Prepare and publish a Safe Accommodation Strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment.
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning-decommissioning decisions).
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
- Report back annually to central government.

Thank you

We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to shaping this strategy, including stakeholders and individuals with lived experience, through our public consultation, surveys and the Experts by Experience Board.



WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has a cross-government definition of domestic abuse and is in two parts. Having a precise definition means we all understand what is meant by domestic abuse.

The definition of domestic abuse can be found in Section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The definition of domestic abuse is:

“(2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if:

(a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and

(b) the behaviour is abusive.

(3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

(a) physical or sexual abuse

(b) violent or threatening behaviour

(c) controlling or coercive behaviour

(d) economic abuse

(e) psychological, emotional, or other abuse and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.”



The definition also encompasses what is called Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Forced Marriage and it is clear that victims are not confined to one gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or socio-economic group.

While the definition above applies to those aged 16 or above, Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA) can equally involve children under 16 as well as over 16. There is currently no legal definition of adolescent to parent violence and abuse, however it is recognised as a form of domestic abuse. Further information on the new statutory definition of domestic abuse can be found in the Statutory Guidance:

Definition of domestic violence and abuse: guide for local areas - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



BCP PREVENTING DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2026-2031



Safer BCP, the Community Safety Partnership for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area commits to a collaborative, robust and effective response to Domestic Abuse following three key principles.

- 1 We will **put the survivor at the centre** of all work.
- 2 We will **respond to local need** based on needs assessments, local data collection and lessons learnt from Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- 3 We will **work collaboratively** to ensure a consistent zero tolerance approach to domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is not merely a collection of statistics and descriptions; it inflicts immense harm on millions of survivors and survivors each year. BCP Council and the BCP Community Safety Partnership are committed to reducing this harm by offering the most comprehensive Safe Accommodation service possible within our current capabilities.

This strategy sets out our aims around Safe Accommodation in line with the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy under the following four priorities:



SAFE ACCOMMODATION



Safe Accommodation for the purpose of s.57 of the Act is defined by the Domestic Abuse Support (Relevant Accommodation and Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Sanctuary Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

It includes accommodation provided by local housing authorities, a private registered provider of social housing, or a registered charity whose objectives can include provision of support to survivors of domestic abuse.

Safe Accommodation can take many forms, and the table below gives a definition of the types of accommodation which includes provision of support to survivors and their children.

Table 1: Safe Accommodation

Accommodation	Description
Refuge	A refuge offers single gender or single sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. The address will not be publicly available. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, but in both cases the service will enable peer support from other refuge residents.
Dispersed accommodation	Self-contained accommodation dedicated to supporting survivors of domestic abuse with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for survivors who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces, and/or where peer support from other residents may not be appropriate, owing to complex support needs, or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a women only refuge, for example.
Specialist accommodation	Specialist Safe Accommodation offering single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s) eg. LGBTQ+, disability and/or who share one or more vulnerabilities requiring additional support e.g. substance misuse, mental ill health.

Move on accommodation	Dedicated accommodation facilitating move on from more intensive services for those who still need low level support around domestic abuse.
Sanctuary schemes	Providing enhanced security measures to survivors' remaining in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation.
Other domestic abuse emergency accommodation	Other safe spaces provided on a temporary basis to those experiencing domestic abuse in an emergency, must be provided by Local Housing Authorities (LHA), social housing providers or specialist charities. Bed and Breakfast which is not separate and self-contained is not a form of Safe Accommodation.

The statutory guidance sets out the different types of domestic abuse support that might be provided under the Duty. The aim is to ensure that survivors and their children in Safe Accommodation receive expert help provided by specialist staff from domestic abuse support services. This includes support that is directly provided within Safe Accommodation

services such as refuges, and outreach support services provided to survivors in other types of relevant accommodation, including their homes in the case of a sanctuary scheme. It is the responsibility of the local authority to assess whether an individual survivor needs accommodation-based support and ensure that their support needs are met.

Table 2: Examples of support required for accommodation-based survivors.

Type of support	Example
Advocacy	Risk assessment and development of safety plans. Liaison with other professionals, eg, social workers, Health.
General advice	Financial, Benefits, back-to-work support, legal.
Housing advice and support	Securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
Domestic abuse prevention	Support to recognise the sign of domestic abuse to prevent re-victimisation. Domestic abuse courses.
Specialist support for those with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage	Interpretation services, using by and for specialist organisations when required, drug and alcohol services, mental health support.
Children's support	Advocacy, dedicated 1-2-1 support, group work.

THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL PICTURE



Nationally, we know that Domestic Abuse is a leading cause of homelessness for women. National data shows that **1 in 5 women** who experience Domestic Abuse **will become homeless** compared to just 1% of women who do not experience domestic abuse. ¹

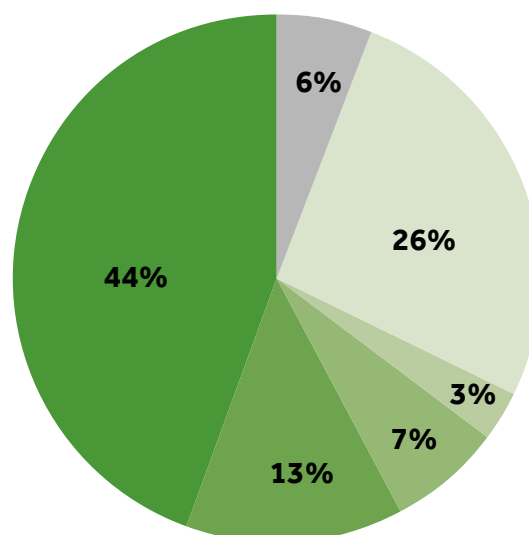
Figures on male survivors who become homeless owing to domestic abuse are unavailable at this time, but one can assume a proportion of male survivors will also become homeless owing to domestic abuse and surveys suggest male survivors find it very hard to access support for domestic abuse. Survivors of domestic abuse are legally classed as a vulnerable adult entitling them to priority housing support.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that **2.3 million people** aged 16 years and over (1.6 million women and 712,000 men) experienced domestic abuse in the year ending (YE) March 2024.

National figures show that the police recorded **851,062 domestic abuse-related crimes** in England and Wales in the YE March 2024.

There were **51,183 domestic abuse-related prosecutions** in England and Wales in the YE March 2024. Of these, 38,776 resulted in convictions and 12,407 resulted in non-convictions. ²

National data shows the number of individuals accessing Safe Accommodation by type below. In 2022-2023, of the **51,000 individuals** supported, just under half of those were children. It was estimated that **25,000 individuals** who applied for Safe Accommodation were not supported, owing to capacity constraints. For **5,500 of those** individuals the reason they were not supported was because the Local Authority could not meet their needs owing to multiple disadvantage. ³



44% Refuge 22,490	7% Specialist 3,780
26% Sanctuary 13,380	6% Other 2,910
13% Dispersed 6,660	3% Second stage 1,450

¹ Centre for Homelessness Impact, Women, Homelessness and Violence: What works?, 2021

² www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2024

³ HM Government, Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Report: "A Patchwork of Provision: how to meet the needs of victims and survivors across England and Wales", 2023.

Local picture

Table 3: Table 3 shows Dorset Police data for the last 3 years relating to Domestic Abuse crimes and incidents, which shows consistency across the 3 years with a slight reduction in figures for 22/23.

Domestic Abuse	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Violent Crimes	4,708	4,348	4,514
Incidents	6,554	5,719	6,353
Serious Sexual offence	249	199	238
MARAC Cases	743	725	734

Table 4: Table 4 shows the utilisation data for Bournemouth and Poole refuges across the last 3 years; there was a reduction in 2023/2024 owing to a large-scale enquiry during which time the service was closed to new referrals.

Service	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Bournemouth Refuge	93%	92%	78%
Poole Refuge	97%	95%	76%

In addition to our commissioned Safe Accommodation, households can be accommodated in temporary accommodation when there are no vacancies, or our commissioned Safe Accommodation will not meet their needs. As of the 7th January 2025, there were 30 households being supported in temporary accommodation as a result of fleeing domestic abuse. In the BCP area there are well established accommodation based

and community services in place supporting survivors of domestic abuse. These include refuge and respite room accommodation as well as home security for people in their own homes, outreach service, hospital in reach and children's specialist support. The current provision has been in place for a number of years with service delivery models which predate the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Table 5: Table 5 shows the number of households that approached the Council for assistance owing to being homeless or worried about becoming homeless because of domestic abuse in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
No. of Domestic Abuse Approaches	340	416	439
No. owed a homeless duty	204	167	168
Prevention (prevented from becoming homeless)	50	50	39

Housing data for those placed in temporary accommodation in September 2024 showed the following groups were unable to access refuge accommodation.

- Survivors with higher levels of need due to mental ill-health, substance misuse and accessibility.
- Survivors with a disability, including learning and physical disability (e.g. wheelchair user).
- Survivors local to BCP who do not want to flee the area but cannot safely access refuge.
- Families with 3+ children.
- Children's needs too high for refuge.
- Support needs too high for refuge.
- Older male children.

Needs Assessment Key Findings

The following summary is taken from the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment commissioned in 2021, our most recent data analysis report compiled by the BCP Domestic Abuse Commissioning Manager and our own Domestic Abuse Lived Experience survey 2023.

- In 20/21 77% of those applying for a refuge space were not accepted, the reasons being 'too close to refuge', 'too high needs', 'no suitable space for size of family' and 'prioritisation of referrals with higher risk scores'.

- There are no refuge spaces which can accommodate a wheelchair user.
- There are no refuge spaces that can accommodate families with 3+ children owing to room sizes and shared living facilities.
- There is only 1 male space situated within a female refuge.
- Half of refuge clients were recorded as having a disability, of which 67% were mental health issues.
- 176 households were supported to remain in their own homes in 23/24 because of target hardening works carried out by BCP Council.
- Local survivors wanted more support to remain in their own homes.
- Most respondents from the domestic abuse survey felt support was not available because they were not aware of what services were available.

Whilst there has been progress and improvements since the Safe Accommodation needs assessment in 2021, BCP Council acknowledges that there is still work to be done. We aim to enhance our Safe Accommodation offer over the next five years as part of the broader initiative to end domestic abuse across Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole.

Successes and Challenges within BCP

Success	Challenge
There is one refuge in BCP with 18 self-contained units which can accommodate women and children, commissioned by BCP Council. It shows examples of risk reduction and improved outcomes for survivors.	Current refuge provision cannot meet demand and does not cater for all needs. Of those referred into refuge 77% were not accepted and alternative provision was found. There are gaps in provision for those with protected characteristics, however, there was a lack of data to properly define this need. Not all survivors need high impact DA support. Survivors with Disabilities, Survivors who identify as LGBTQ+ and those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) face challenges in accessing support. Families with older teenage sons cannot access refuge.
There is one male refuge space which is attached to the above-mentioned women's refuge and meets the need of one male domestic abuse survivor.	This space is attached to the female refuge which is not appropriate, and feedback suggests males do not fully access all the support on offer as a result. The male service is always at capacity, with temporary accommodation in frequent use as an alternative. Local data shows 39 males presented to BCP Housing as homeless owing to domestic abuse in 23-24, evidencing the gap between need and provision. National data suggests 82% of men found it hard to access domestic abuse support of any kind.⁴
There is an 8-bed unit for female survivors who are also at risk of homelessness and have multiple disadvantage, this has shown a great degree of success evidencing best practice, significant partnership working, risk reduction and improved outcomes.	Funding for this project was initially provided by the DLUHC Respite Room pilot, followed by the Rough Sleepers Initiative and the New Burdens grant. However, future funding for this project is not guaranteed at this time.
BCP Council were awarded capital and revenue funding in 23/24 under the 3 year Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP) to deliver 70 units of housing led accommodation. A women-only block of 10 units within this programme has been identified. Women with multiple disadvantages including experience of Domestic Abuse will be accommodated.	This is not dedicated to only survivors of domestic abuse and specialised support into this service is yet to be established.

⁴ Mark Brookes, Mankind Initiative. "Male victims of domestic abuse and partner abuse: 70 key facts", 2023.

Our Target Hardening scheme works well, with an easy referral pathway working with all tenants across both the social housing and private sector. This supports more DA survivors to remain in their own home by providing improved home security.	This is not currently linked into specialist domestic abuse support so is not a comprehensive Sanctuary Scheme. Sanctuary schemes provide survivors of domestic violence and hate crime with a way to stay safe in their home and stop them from becoming homeless. The awareness of the current Target Hardening scheme amongst colleagues, partners and the community varies. The awareness and knowledge of civil orders, non-molestation orders and occupation orders, which offer an additional layer of protection for survivors when remaining in their own homes, varies across different organisations providing a service.
Move on accommodation A rent deposit scheme enables survivors to move on from Safe Accommodation into more settled housing. The landlord liaison team maintain relationships within the private rental sector, to secure accommodation. Tenancy sustainment officers support individuals for up to 12 months once they have found settled accommodation.	Affordability, quality and availability of private rentals can make finding move on accommodation a challenge.⁵ Availability of social housing is limited and there is high demand for housing.⁶
BCP Council is progressing with Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation. DAHA strives to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process. Published a Domestic Abuse Tenants policy for BCP Homes.	DAHA requires a cultural shift around domestic abuse and can be difficult to embed with colleagues and tenants. Policies and procedures around domestic abuse need creating, producing and embedding organisationally. The case management systems do not allow for easy data analysis, and they are varied across the organisation.

⁵ Crisis, "Falling Short: Housing benefit and the rising costs of renting in England", 2022.

⁶ National Housing Federation, "People in Housing Need- he Scale and Shape of Housing Need in England", 2021.

Across BCP there are now 6 Children and Young People Domestic Abuse Advocates (CYPDAA), 5 commissioned by BCP Council and 1 by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Mapping and pathway guidance and documents have been distributed to colleagues and partners along with details on how to access CYPDAA support which is also available for the public on the BCP Council website. Published a 'By and For' National list for all to access, to enhance the correct support offering to minoritised individuals and those with intersecting characteristics.	National data suggests children and young people accessing DA specialist provision is lowest in the South West, suggesting there is more to be done in publicising these services and ensuring children and young people get the support they need. ⁷ Some of these services are grant funded therefore the ongoing sustainability is unknown.
A Domestic Abuse Housing Advocate has been employed to work with all survivors and their children who are placed in temporary accommodation because of domestic abuse. Families with children are prioritised for family hostels and self-contained temporary accommodation. Recruited a group of Domestic Abuse Champions within the Housing team who will act as domestic abuse specialists within Housing. They will receive advanced training and support to better assist their clients and colleagues.	The volume of survivors in temporary accommodation remains high.
A domestic abuse lived experience survey was rolled out across BCP, and a report was written from this. An 'Experts by Experience' survivor voice group has been established.	Extracting information to inform service development can be challenging owing to the variation in responses, but work is being undertaken to take actions from all lived experience work and some individuals are reviewing policies for BCP Council to ensure the authentic voice is heard. The Experts by Experience group is a new initiative and feedback is only just starting to be collated.

⁷ HM Government, Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Report: "A Patchwork of Provision: how to meet the needs of victims and survivors across England and Wales", 2023.

BCP Council offers comprehensive DA training at Level 1 and Level 2, Housing DA training and regular additional DA related training opportunities including intersectional awareness to staff and other professionals.	Ensuring all colleagues attend the relevant training and recording of training needs modelling. Dissemination of training opportunities does not have a clear pathway.
There is an established Domestic Abuse Local Strategic Board with full representation from relevant partner organisations. A Safe Accommodation task and finish working group has addressed the recommendations from the needs assessment 2021.	

Best Practice

The Respite Rooms National Pilot Programme provided single sex short stay supported accommodation for survivors of Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) who were experiencing, or at risk of, street homelessness. It provided vulnerable women with intensive, trauma informed support and helped them make choices and decisions around their next steps for recovery. The programme started operation in October 2021 in 12 English Local Authorities (LAs). The pilot ran for 18 months with funding of £5.4 million and provided 121 bedspaces.⁸

BCP Council were successful in securing funding to become one of the 12 LA's to pilot this scheme. The national programme evaluation was positive as was the local review which demonstrated significant outcomes. The service has continued with funding through additional grants as it was so well received and needed in the area. Our co-located multi-agency team within the Respite Rooms provision effectively meets the needs of the women accessing the service. Service users rated the support they received very highly.



In the past I've been treated like I was a problem, a nuisance, basically scum. When I got any help, it wasn't because they really wanted to help me, it was because they wanted me to go away, like, they'd do whatever little they could to just make me someone else's problem. Shove me in a hostel with men sticking needles in their arms, when they know I've got a problem myself and I'm black and blue from what a man did to me, why not? Who cares about her, she's a stupid [slur for a sex worker] junkie, just make her go away. Make her invisible. But you know who cares? They [Respite Rooms staff] do. They actually treat me like a human being, not like a [expletive].

Anonymous, 2023, p54.⁸



⁸ DLHUC, Respite Rooms Pilot Programme Evaluation: Final Report, 2023.

OUR SAFE ACCOMMODATION PRIORITIES

The following five priorities will be the focus of the BCP Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026 – 2031 Delivery Plan:

Priority 1 **Prevention and Early Identification**

Priority 2 **Access to appropriate housing and support services**

Priority 3 **Support survivors to return home and move on**

Priority 4 **Relationships**

Priority 5 **Improve Data Collection and Ensure Responses are Survivor Led**

Priority 1 **Prevention and early identification**

Survivors (adults and children) are supported at an early stage with options to remain safe at home to prevent homelessness

We will:

- Monitor and uphold the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation principles.



- Align with the overarching BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy's "Prevent" priority to ensure the early identification of survivors of domestic abuse to prevent homelessness.
- Ensure survivors have access to advice, guidance and support which enables them to reach decisions about their future.
- Ensure all housing staff can identify and respond effectively to survivors of domestic abuse.
- Ensure partner organisations, practitioners and the community have access to quality information on available services and pathways, to encourage the early identification of domestic abuse to prevent homelessness.
- Align with the overarching BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy's "Pursue" priority, which focuses on taking appropriate action against perpetrators and where required housing solutions to reduce risk. This approach aims to protect victims, enabling them to remain in their home and, in turn, prevent homelessness.

Priority 2

Access to appropriate housing and support services

Accommodation options and appropriate support is in place for all survivors when they need it.

We will:

- Respond to survivors presenting to Housing with domestic abuse as a risk for homelessness by prioritising in accordance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- Commission Safe Accommodation through a specialist domestic abuse organisation that meets the needs of everyone.
- Ensure that services are of a consistently high quality in terms of both support and the accommodation provided to enable survivors to recover and rebuild.
- Provide comprehensive trauma informed support tailored to the needs of those requiring Safe Accommodation, including those with protected characteristics and children without prejudice and barriers.
- Enhance our understanding of the barriers faced by individuals with protected characteristics in accessing Safe Accommodation.
- Further understand the challenges faced by those with No Recourse to Public Funds, through education and collaboration with services for minority ethnic groups.
- Ensure robust community services are in place to provide consistent support to survivors throughout their journey wherever they may be living.

Priority 3

Support survivors to return home and move on

Work collaboratively with survivors to return home safely or move into alternative long-term accommodation.

We will:

- Establish clear pathways for move on accommodation in collaboration with our housing partners. This will include exploring managed reciprocal schemes as an additional option for move on accommodation out of area.
- Ensure that survivors can move on and re-settle within a community by providing effective resettlement support, helping them to rebuild their lives and integrate smoothly into their new environment.
- Collaborate closely with partners to explore and find solutions to common issues around move-on.
- Commissioned Safe Accommodation services are effectively delivered and monitored through key performance indicators to manage throughput efficiently.
- Dorset Police will continue to utilise and promote the use of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to remove perpetrators from addresses to allow survivors to return to the home, obtain civil orders, and work with support agencies.

Priority 4 Relationships

Ensure effective, multi-agency working to meet the housing needs of survivors of domestic abuse.

We will:

- Explore co-location opportunities with specialist domestic abuse services.
- Work closely with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead to embed the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to Domestic Abuse within housing services.
- Bring together housing organisations and the domestic abuse sector through a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to keep survivors safe and hold perpetrators to account.
- Continue to sit at a strategic and operational level across multi-agency partnerships to address domestic abuse across the BCP Council area.



Being homeless because of domestic abuse is different from general homelessness. Survivors are not simply without housing they have been forcibly displaced by trauma. Leaving a home is not a choice; it's an act of survival. A secure home from the start can prevent breakdown, mental health crises, and re-entry into homelessness services. It's not only the right thing it's economically sound policy.



Priority 5 Improve Data Collection and Ensure Responses are Survivor Led

Continue to develop our understanding of needs through improved data collection and ensure survivors have an effective voice.

We will:

- Develop a partnership minimum data set to identify and understand gaps, trends, emerging needs and future demands for Safe Accommodation.
- Ensure data sets record protected characteristics to understand the level of need for individuals with protected characteristics.
- Develop a performance framework with key performance indicators to monitor and measure the impact and success of this strategy.
- Be informed by those with lived experience, including underrepresented groups and those with multiple disadvantage, to better shape Safe Accommodation services.
- Continue to grow and utilise our Experts by Experience Board to capture their expertise and guidance.

TARGET OUTCOMES

In focusing on the priorities above we will ensure the following outcomes are achieved.

- Survivors have the option to remain in their own homes with the necessary support to do so.
- A variety of Safe Accommodation options are available, along with resettlement support.
- Specialist provision and Safe Accommodation for those with protected characteristics.
- Specialist support and Safe Accommodation for male survivors.
- A highly trained workforce supporting those accessing Safe Accommodation.
- Specialist support for children including therapeutic and resettlement support
- Training for housing staff and a specialist worker such as an IDVA based within housing teams.
- Survivors and agencies know the services and support available to those experiencing domestic abuse.



Delivering the Strategy

This Safe Accommodation Strategy (2026-2031) will be reviewed annually. The Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (DASG) will oversee the implementation through a detailed delivery plan and report to the Community Safety Partnership Executive Board every six months to ensure accountability and achievement of the strategy outcomes.

Measuring Success

A task and finish group will be formed to develop both quantitative and qualitative data sets. This data will inform key performance indicators, which will measure the outcomes and impact of this strategy.

Links with other strategies

- **BCP Council Corporate Strategy**
(2024-2028) which sets out 2 key priorities:

Our Place and Environment

Vibrant places where people and nature flourish, with a thriving economy in a healthy, natural environment.

Our People and Communities

Everyone leads a fulfilled life, maximising opportunity for all.

- BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026- 2031
- BCP Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2026-2031
- BCP Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy (2021-2025)



HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know needs support around domestic abuse, there is help available from the organisations listed below and more information can be found here including:

'By and For' services

Help with domestic abuse | BCP

Local support organisations

- BCP BCHA Domestic Abuse Referrals & Support Line 01202 710 777
- BCP Refuge 01202 547 755
- Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS) 01202 308 855
- Victim Support Dorset 0300 303 0163
- Paragon Dorset 0800 032 5204
- BCP Council Housing Options 01202 123147



There are also national organisations which can help:

- National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247
- The National Centre for Domestic Violence 0800 970 2070
- Women's Aid 0808 2000 247
- Mankind Initiative 01823 334 244



DELIVERY PLAN

PRIORITY 1 – PREVENTION AND EARLY IDENTIFICATION

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
1.1 BCP Homes and Housing Options achieve and maintain the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation.	1.1.1 Completion of the DAHA accreditation for BCP Council Housing Services.	BCP Homes, Housing Options, BCP Repairs & Maintenance Team		✓			
	1.1.2 Continue to monitor the impact and outcomes of the DAHA accreditation.	BCP Homes, Housing Options, BCP Repairs & Maintenance Team			✓	✓	✓
	1.1.3 Develop targeted training programme for BCP Council housing staff to meet the criteria of the accreditation and ensure customers and tenants are fully supported.	BCP Homes, Housing Options, BCP Repairs & Maintenance Team	✓	✓			
1.2 Survivors are informed of their housing rights and the support services available to them.	1.2.1 Develop a comprehensive five year Communications plan to ensure information is accessible and readily available to survivors, stakeholders and professionals in the BCP Council area. This will reflect the requirements of the DAHA accreditation for BCP Council Housing Services and the wider Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Awareness & Engagement Plan. This will be monitored through the Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and formally reviewed on an annual basis.	Safer BCP Partnership Partners*	✓				
	1.2.2 Ensure our Children's Early Help offer is fully informed around housing options through training and the BCP Safe Accommodation Communication's Plan.	Early Help & Targeted Intervention		✓			
	1.2.3 The new Domestic Abuse Champions will establish and maintain links with all our commissioned and non-commissioned specialist domestic abuse services.	BCP Homes, Housing Options, BCP Repairs & Maintenance Team	✓				
	1.2.4 Review current training to ensure the Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession and services available to individuals with no recourse to public funds, is sufficiently covered.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Public Health & Communities	✓				
	1.2.5 Include a specialist domestic abuse housing advocate role within the recommissioning of domestic abuse services.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships		✓			

* Safer BCP Partnership Partners are BCP Council, Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services, The Probation Service and Our Dorset Health Services.



1.3 Survivors can safely remain in their homes, reducing the risk of homelessness.	1.3.1 Enhance the target hardening service by creating a comprehensive Sanctuary Scheme based on the guidance provided by DAHA.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships		✓			
	1.3.2 Commission good quality community based specialist domestic abuse services to support survivors and prevent homelessness.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Public Health & Communities		✓			
	1.3.3 Ensure Housing staff understand the criminal and civil remedies available to remove perpetrators from the home.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Public Health & Communities	✓				
	1.3.4 Our targeted domestic abuse training programme will ensure staff know how to advise and support survivors seeking to remove perpetrators and will consider accommodation options for the person displaying harmful behaviours, helping survivors to remain and feel safe in their own home.	BCP Homes and Housing Options		✓			
	1.3.5 The new BCP Homes Management Moves Policy will identify survivors as eligible for management moves as required.	BCP Homes	✓				
	1.3.6 Reach agreement with Registered Social Landlords in the BCP Council area to deliver a survivor led service to minimise the need to move and where required facilitate management moves.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Registered Social Landlords				✓	

* Safer BCP Partnership Partners are BCP Council, Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services, The Probation Service and Our Dorset Health Services.



PRIORITY 2 – ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
2.1 All survivors will have access to Safe Accommodation with specialist support.	2.1.1 Develop a commissioning plan to meet the housing needs of all survivors of domestic abuse (adults and children).	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Public Health & Communities	✓				
	2.1.2 Commission specialist Domestic Abuse services that support adults and children: • Remaining in their home • Residing in Safe Accommodation and temporary accommodation • Making their own temporary accommodation arrangements.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships		✓			
	2.1.3 We will minimise the use of temporary accommodation and where this is provided, as a last resort, specialist Domestic Abuse support will be offered until the household can move into Safe Accommodation.	Housing Options			✓		
	2.1.4 Develop an inclusive quality Safe Accommodation offer through existing stock, development and procurement and registered provider relationships which meet the identified needs as set out in the strategy.	Housing Delivery		✓			
2.2 All survivors will have access to Safe Accommodation which meets their specific risk levels and support needs.	2.2.1 Develop a clear pathway into safe accommodation which is based on individuals' risk and support needs.	Housing Delivery		✓	✓		
	2.2.2 All housing staff will have a clear understanding of the pathway and referral processes into specialist Domestic Abuse services.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Commissioned Service Providers			✓		
2.3 Survivors with protected characteristics and multiple needs will have their accommodation and support needs fully met.	2.3.1 Our targeted training programme will ensure Housing staff and commissioned services understand the housing needs of those with protected characteristics, as defined in the Equality Act 2010.	BCP Homes, Housing Options, BCP Repairs & Maintenance Team and Commissioned Service Providers		✓			
	2.3.2 Develop an inclusive quality accommodation offer for Safe Accommodation which meets the identified needs of people with protected characteristics, as defined in the Equality Act 2010.	Housing Delivery		✓			
	2.3.3 Commissioned services will provide specialist Domestic Abuse support that meets the needs of survivors with protected characteristics/multiple needs.	Commissioned Service Providers		✓			



PRIORITY 3 – SUPPORT TO RETURN HOME AND MOVE ON

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
3.1 All survivors in Safe Accommodation are supported to move onto independent accommodation.	3.1.1 Commissioned providers of Safe Accommodation are required to provide reliable accurate advice around housing options including access to rent deposit scheme, tenancy sustainment and landlord incentives in the private rented sector.	Commissioned Service Providers		✓			
	3.1.2 Commissioned services are supported and robustly monitored to ensure sufficient managed moves through Safe Accommodation.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships			✓		
3.2 Survivors maintain stable housing and retain their social housing tenancy.	3.2.1 Strategic Housing Partnerships to consider a reciprocal social housing scheme. The scheme is a collaboration between housing associations and local authorities in the South West of England, ensuring survivors of domestic abuse can access safe, managed moves across Council borders without losing their security of tenure.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships			✓		
3.3 Enhanced safety and stability for survivors moving on from Safe Accommodation.	3.3.1 The new commissioned community support service provision will include resettlement support for people moving on from Safe Accommodation.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships		✓			
3.4 Survivors if safe to do so can return home.	3.4.1 Housing staff explore options for supporting survivors who wish to return home, ensuring it is safe to do so.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Commissioned Support Providers		✓			



PRIORITY 4 – RELATIONSHIPS

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
4.1 A robust partnership and community response to domestic abuse.	4.1.1 Work with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead to facilitate and enhance the Coordinated Community Response to survivors of domestic abuse.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships			✓		
	4.1.2 Strengthen partnerships with local organisations and community groups to expand the resources and support available to survivors in line with the 5 year Communications Plan.	Safer BCP Partnership Partners *		✓			

* Safer BCP Partnership Partners are BCP Council, Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services, The Probation Service and Our Dorset Health Services.



PRIORITY 5 – IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION AND ENSURE RESPONSES ARE SURVIVOR LED

Outcome	Actions	Lead	Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
5.1 We will gain a clear understanding of emerging needs and trends to better address and meet identified need.	5.1.1 Set up a task and finish group under the governance of the DASG to agree future data monitoring across commissioned services, BCP Homes, BCP Council Housing, Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care.	Safer BCP Partnership Partners*		✓			
	5.1.2 Ensure housing and specialist services data for homelessness and Safe Accommodation applicants record protected characteristics, as defined in the Equality Act 2010, to ensure levels of need are captured and inform service delivery.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Commissioned Service Providers	✓				
	5.1.3 Continue to report and review key data sets to Central Government.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Commissioned Service Providers	✓				
	5.1.4 Ensure adequate resource to fully review and evaluate data sets to inform future strategy and commissioning of specialist domestic abuse services.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Public Health & Communities		✓			
	5.1.5 Formal review of strategy and needs data to inform new strategy and commissioning plan.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships and Public Health & Communities					✓
5.2 Survivors will have a key role in the design and delivery of Safe Accommodation and future service provision.	5.2.1 Experts by Experience to be trained and supported to take part in the commissioning and procurement of Domestic Abuse services.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships	✓				
	5.2.2 Introduce a peer review approach as part of the ongoing evaluation of Safe Accommodation.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships, Public Health & Communities and Commissioned Service Providers			✓		
	5.2.3 Review the current processes for obtaining and evaluating customer feedback through Housing Options, BCP Homes and commissioned services.	Strategic Housing & Partnerships, BCP Homes and Commissioned Service Providers		✓			

* Safer BCP Partnership Partners are BCP Council, Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services, The Probation Service and Our Dorset Health Services.



SAFERBCP



Partnership



Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

**SAFER BCP
PERPETRATOR
STRATEGY**

2026-2031



BCP Council, Dorset Police,
Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue
Services, The Probation Service
and Our Dorset

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THE VISION



The BCP Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy, 2026-2031 supports and underpins the delivery of the overarching BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-2031 and as such, both strategies should be read alongside each other.

Our collective vision for the BCP Council area is for every adult and child experiencing domestic abuse to be seen, be safe and be heard, and free from the harm caused by perpetrator behaviour. This strategy aligns with two of the main priorities from the BCP Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-2031:

■ PREVENT

Recognising that the best way to deal with domestic abuse is to stop people from becoming perpetrators and victims to begin with; and

■ PURSUE

Pursuing perpetrators and holding them accountable for their actions.

Domestic abuse can only end if we address those that are perpetrating the abuse. This means giving those who have used abusive behaviours the chance to change and to have a system in place to challenge those not willing to change.

We will address abuse in all its forms while also exploring other factors which are likely to have contributed to the abusive behaviours.

It is essential that we stop asking **'Why won't they leave'** and start thinking **'Why don't they stop?'** and that responsibility is put on the perpetrator rather than the victim/survivor to allow both parties to move forward with a healthy understanding of a relationship.

The Istanbul Convention article 12, highlighted that the rehabilitation of perpetrators is a key tool in any initiative or action against gender-based violence.

By working with perpetrators of domestic abuse we aim to positively improve the lives of those around them, including their children whose voices are sometimes not heard. Preliminary research by Bournemouth University has identified that users of our current perpetrator behaviour change programme, UP2U; Creating Healthy Relationships (Up2U:CHR), have noted benefits to relationships more generally – for example with employers and others in addition to ex/partners and children.¹

By working in partnership with other agencies and those who have experienced domestic abuse it can help tackle the problem and find solutions.

The objectives of this strategy will form an action plan which will be delivered by the BCP Perpetrator Working Group who will report back to and have overseeing governance through the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (DASG). Key performance indicators developed to measure the effectiveness of the BCP Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026 – 2031 will also cover this strategy.



Never even crossed my mind – the impact of my behaviour
and the effect it has on other people, because again,
I always had this thought that I was king of the castle.
It never crossed my mind until now...

Participant, Project Mirabel, 2015.



¹ Cole, 2025, personal communication.

THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL PICTURE

When considering our response to those that use domestically abusive behaviours, it is essential we look at both the national and local picture.

Research around perpetrators of domestic abuse remains comparatively low compared to studies on domestic abuse and survivors, but the studies which have been done show positive results for behaviour change programmes, evidencing the need for them as a valuable response to domestic abuse.

In the BCP Council area, data from the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which focusses on cases of high-risk domestic abuse tells us that 95% of the perpetrators of the abuse in cases heard at MARAC were male, with the majority between the ages of 20 and 49 years old and of White British ethnicity.



Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

- **734** MARAC cases were heard in BCP 2023-2024. ²
- **161** cases were repeat cases at MARAC, meaning 22% were presented to MARAC more than once within a 12-month period. ³
- **5,467** domestic abuse crimes were reported to Dorset Police in 23-24. ⁴
- **2,216** of the police recorded crime occurrences involved repeat victims, accounting for 40% of all domestic abuse recorded crime. 72% of these occurrences also involved repeat suspects. This suggests that 72% of repeat victims were victimised multiple times as part of the same relationship. ⁵
- **26%** of victims experienced four or more recorded DA crimes in the financial year 2023/24. ⁶
- **898** individuals were repeat suspects. These 898 individuals were involved in 2,443 recorded domestic abuse crimes. ⁷

² BCP Council, BCP MARAC Annual Update 2023-2024.

³ BCP Council, BCP MARAC Annual Update 2023-2024.

⁴ BCP Council, Strategic Needs Assessment, 2023-2024.

⁵ BCP Council, Strategic Needs Assessment, 2023-2024.

⁶ BCP Council, Strategic Needs Assessment, 2023-2024.

⁷ BCP Council, Strategic Needs Assessment, 2023-2024.

- Our BCP Perpetrator Programme, Up2U Creating Healthy Relationships (Up2U:CHR), received **121** enquiries and 78 referrals in 23-24. This was a **90%** increase in referrals on the previous year.⁸
- Using the Greater Manchester New Economic Unit cost database, the Up2U:CHR programme saved BCP Council and local services **£749,714** due to the reduction in abusive behaviours by those who completed the programme, evidencing that victims/survivors, including children, experienced a reduction of harm.⁹

NATIONAL

- **Over 80%** of domestic abuse survivors agree that perpetrator programmes are an essential part of the support intervention.¹⁰
- There are approximately **400,000** perpetrators causing high (including murder) and medium levels of harm across England and Wales, and yet only a tiny percentage of these access behaviour-change programmes.
- **Fewer than 1%** of perpetrators get a specialist intervention that might prevent future abusive behaviour.¹¹
- A recent study showed a **30% reduction** in the number of criminal Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) incidents amongst a cohort of perpetrators receiving an intervention compared to the control group.¹²
- A perpetrator intervention was found to have a **65% reduction** in DVA related offending and a social return on investment of £14 for every £1 spent.¹³
- In 2015, Project Mirabal was published with the results of a 5 year investigation into the effectiveness of perpetrator programmes in the UK. They found that:
 - those injured as a result of violence fell from 61% to just 2%.
 - two forms of abuse, use of a weapon (30%) and pressure to unwanted sexual activity (29%) stopped completely.
 - potentially lethal behaviours (strangle, choke, drown, smother) dropped from 50% to 2%.
 - lower risk violence (punch, kick, burn, beaten) also fell to 2% from 54%.¹⁴

⁸ BCP Council, Up2U CHR Annual Update, 2023-2024.

⁹ BCP Council, Up2U CHR Annual Update, 2023-2024.

¹⁰ SafeLives, Every Story Matters, 2018.

¹¹ Respect, DVPP Commissioning Guidance for Police and Crime Commissioners, 2013.

¹² Professor Marianne Hester et al, University of Bristol, Evaluation of Year 2 of the Drive Project – A Pilot to Address High Risk Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse 2019.

¹³ Northumbria University, An evaluation of the MATAC approach, 2017.

¹⁴ Kelly and Westmarland, Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes: Steps Towards Change, Project Mirabal Final Report, 2015.

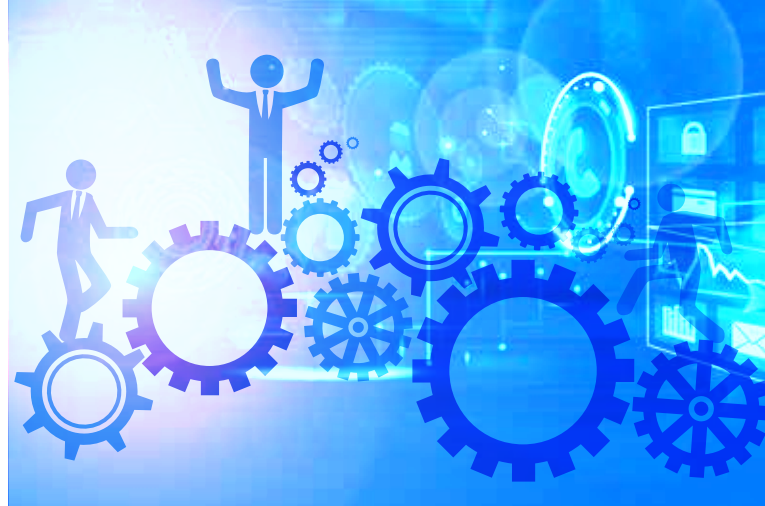
OUR CURRENT WORK AROUND PERPETRATING BEHAVIOUR

UP2U: Creating Healthy Relationships (CHR) – is a programme designed to help perpetrators of domestic abuse learn about healthy relationships, develop new skills and break the cycle of violence.

The programme involves a five-week assessment module that precedes the programme and determines risk levels based upon need rather than reoffending, which is a person-centred approach. This is followed by one-to-one sessions led by experienced facilitators who support perpetrators in understanding the impact of their actions, recognising unhealthy patterns and adopting positive behaviours. The programme is cognitive behaviour therapy based, tapping in to thinking and reasoning skills.

Participation is voluntary and self-referrals are also accepted as the service is committed to being preventative and supporting those who want to change their harmful behaviours.

Partner support is offered to enhance the safeguarding of victims/survivors, as well as working with bi-directional abuse couples.



The programme also works with people who have bail conditions and are in legal proceedings. Up2U:CHR is open to people of all genders and the programme pathways are tailored to the client's specific needs.

High Harm Perpetrator Panel (HHPP) Dorset

The HHPP is a group of different agencies that work together to deal with people who cause serious harm in cases of domestic abuse, stalking and sexually harmful behaviours.

The HHPP targets the most severe cases and serial offenders. The HHPP aims to:

- protect victims/survivors and children from harm.
- help offenders change their behaviour.
- stop offenders from committing more crimes.

Project CARA

Conditional Cautioning and Relationship Abuse

Project CARA applies a conditional caution to an offender to attend CARA workshops. The workshops allow the offender to reflect on their behaviour and access wider support services. The aims of the course are to:

- reflect on the offence and path to CARA.
- learn what domestic abuse is.
- understand the effects on victims and offenders.
- recognise how domestic abuse harms children.
- identify personal risk factors and ways to manage conflicts safely.
- discuss accessing other services like mental health or substance use support.

The BCP Council and Bournemouth University Perpetrator Programme Review Project

This project aims to review local, national and international programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse and literature, alongside stakeholder engagement to make recommendations on a best practice model for a perpetrator programme.



It was an eye opener – thanks to this course that has given me and my partner more insight on how we can improve and maintain our relationship in a healthy way.

Hampshire and IOW Constabulary, Project CARA review, 2022.



THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BCP PERPETRATOR STRATEGY

- We will support and disrupt perpetrators to change their behaviour. We will act if they fail to stop or seek help – to break the cycle of domestic abuse.
- We will provide a programme for perpetrators to help them recognise and change their harmful behaviours.
- We will make sure victim/survivors are seen as experts in their own experience and have the opportunity to receive help.
- We will hear the voice of perpetrators to help shape their intervention.
- We will recognise that creating whole systems approaches for perpetrators greatly reduces the chances of them using harmful behaviours.
- We will end victim/survivor blaming and shaming through changing our language, attitude and collective culture.
- We recognise freedom is a fundamental human right and is most restricted by perpetrators.
- We need to stop asking why survivors don't leave and start asking why perpetrators don't stop.



Our aims

Our aim is to take a holistic approach to perpetrators to address all areas of their life and to help develop practical solutions to address these. We will look at the whole person and the factors around them which can influence them seeking help and support and their ability to change, such as drugs and alcohol for example.

Factors we know can influence an individual's ability to access support and activate change in their lives are:

- Housing
- Risk of Exploitation
- Finances
- Safeguarding
- Family
- Employment
- Emotional Health
- Offending
- Health
- Relationships
- Education
- Substance misuse

Using a holistic approach involves a coordinated response to those who use harmful behaviours, utilising specialist services and all services which may interact with perpetrators across the locality. We can engage with perpetrators and look to address any unmet needs and offer support. This robust response, alongside behaviour change programmes and holding perpetrators to account for their actions, will reduce domestic abuse across the BCP Council area.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We have set our objectives in the context of local and national research and data around perpetrators of domestic abuse. We will provide interventions and services to reduce the perpetration of domestic abuse across BCP Council area and in-turn reduce the suffering caused to the victim/survivors. We will do this by:

Providing perpetrator programmes

Filling gaps in provision with effective early intervention and behaviour change opportunities for all those that use harmful behaviours, including:

- Households with children.
- Any male or female perpetrator of DA assessed as low to very high risk.
- Young perpetrators of DA (16-24).
- Perpetrators of Adolescent Intimate Relationship Abuse.
- Young people involved in Child to Parent Violence (CPV.)
- High risk, repeat and serial perpetrators.
- Co-perpetrating couples.

Establishing Referral Pathways

- Establish and disseminate referral pathways for perpetrator programmes to colleagues and partners which are easy to access.
- Ensure our perpetrator programme is visible in local communities for those who want to self-refer without barriers.

Actively engaging marginalised communities

- Engage marginalised and/or isolated communities, including people from ethnic minorities, people from LGBTQ+ communities, people who are disabled and military personnel and their families through awareness raising and education directly into these communities.
- Consider the barriers to support due to intersectionality and inequality and enhance our response through education and action.

Supporting multi-agency engagement

- Establish a perpetrator working group to enhance relationships and look at solutions for data collection to evidence the outcomes from the perpetrator strategy.
- Encourage all agencies to be responsible for holding perpetrators to account.
- Support the co-working of those that use harmful behaviours to enhance a whole person response, to reduce the use of harmful behaviours by individuals.
- Continually review risk assessment processes to ensure multi-agency information sharing on perpetrators.
- Explore the pooling of partnership resources and funding to deliver services that meet our local need.

- Support a community training model across multi-agency sectors to support a cultural shift towards engaging perpetrators, promoting identification, engagement and signposting to referral pathways and look to best practice for enhanced training models across the perpetrator sector.

Evidence based approach

The Safer BCP Partnership is committed to ensuring that any domestic abuse perpetrator intervention is either a recognised accredited scheme, has proven outcomes or follows the principles laid out in the Respect Accreditation Standards and the national standards for perpetrator interventions and that any new approaches are held to these standards.

Respect Accreditation Standards:

- Do no harm
- Gender matters
- Safety first
- Sustainable change
- Fulfilling lives
- The system counts
- Services for all
- Respectful communities
- Competent staff
- Measurably effective services

The National standards for perpetrator interventions:

- The priority outcome for perpetrator interventions should be enhanced safety and freedom (space for action) for all victim-survivors, including children.
- Interventions should be located within a wider co-ordinated community response in which all agencies share the responsibility of holding abusive behaviour in view, enabling change in perpetrators and enhancing the safety and freedom (space for action) of victim-survivors and children.
- Interventions should hold perpetrators to account, whilst treating them with respect, and offering opportunities to choose to change.
- The right intervention should be offered to the right people at the right time.
- Interventions should be delivered equitably with respect to protected characteristics that intersect and overlap.
- Interventions should be delivered by staff who are skilled and supported in responding to domestic abuse.
- Monitoring and evaluation of interventions should take place to improve practice and expand the knowledge base.

All professionals working with domestic abuse perpetrators in BCP Council area will ensure that any intervention takes place at the earliest opportunity and is safe, places the needs and safety of adult and child survivors at its heart and is delivered hand in hand with coordinated support for the survivor.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know needs support around domestic abuse, there is help available from the organisations listed below and more information can be found here including:

Help with domestic abuse | BCP

Local support organisations:

- BCP BCHA Domestic Abuse Referrals & Support Line 01202 710 777
- BCP Refuge 01202 547 755
- Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS) 01202 308 855
- Victim Support Dorset 0300 303 0163
- Paragon Dorset 0800 032 5204



There are also national organisations which can help:

- 'By and For' services
- National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247
- The National Centre for Domestic Violence 0800 970 2070
- Women's Aid 0808 2000 247
- Mankind Initiative 01823 334 244

Link to other Strategies:



BCP DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PATHWAY

Purpose

This document has been created to provide agencies and practitioners with an understanding and overview of the various domestic abuse perpetrator programmes and interventions on offer in BCP Council area. This document includes:

- Details of the perpetrator programmes and interventions on offer in BCP, who they are for, and how to access them.
- Details on how the programmes and interventions link into wider multi-agency information sharing and risk management processes for people experiencing domestic abuse.
- An illustration on pathways for those cases that involve children, and those that don't.
- Reference to further information on the support services available to people affected by domestic abuse.

Please note, this document doesn't aim to replace any individual agencies or practitioners' responsibilities for safeguarding and/or risk management processes. Please always consult with your line manager and/or agency leads for domestic abuse where these are available. This document is for illustration and information purposes only.



Governance

This document is overseen by the BCP Community Safety Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group. This document will be updated periodically.

For more information, please contact the document author.

Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead
Community Safety Team
BCP Council
communitysafetyBCP@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

UP2U Family Practice Model

Description

Up2U Family Practice is a therapeutic 'behaviour change' programme to support individuals in recognising and managing thoughts and feelings and having healthier relationships.

Who it's for

Parents/Carers who have unhealthy relationships with children, partners, family members, professionals or other adults; where there is parental conflict or Low risk domestic abuse. Also suitable for Children/Young People who are using unhealthy behaviours towards parents, siblings, friends, other children or other adults.

How to refer in

Referrals are made through children's social care when a family is already known to them.

UP2U Creating Healthy Relationships

Description

Up2U: Creating Healthy Relationships (Up2U:CHR) is a programme developed by Portsmouth City Council for people who use domestically abusive behaviours in their intimate partner relationships. Up2U:CHR is an assessment led intervention programme responding to individual need, risk and responsivity by offering tailored packages of support.

Who it's for

Up2U is a needs-based intervention, the programme which can be tailored to work with all genders from the age of 16 and can be delivered to people who use domestically abusive behaviours in same sex relationships. When someone is accepted onto Up2U, support is offered to their partner/ex-partner to ensure ongoing safety and risk management. To be eligible for referral, a person must accept that they use abusive or unhealthy behaviours in their relationship and want to change these behaviours.

How to refer in

Self and professional referrals accepted.

All referrals should go to the central referral centre.

Email: Up2U@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Project CARA – Conditional Cautioning & Relationship Abuse

Description

Conditional Cautions with the condition for the offender to attend the CARA workshops enables the offender to be held accountable for their actions in a proportionate and meaningful way whilst respecting the views of the victim. The workshops allow the offender to reflect on their behaviour and access wider support services.

The aims of the course are as follows:

To reflect on offence and journey to CARA, gain understanding of domestic abuse, understand the effects of domestic abuse on themselves and victims, recognise the damaging effects of domestic abuse on children, establish personal risk factors, short term time out strategies and safe conflict within an intimate relationship, identify future goals & strategies following CARA.

Who it's for

- Adult males 18+
- No previous convictions or cautions for DA in the previous two years
- Relationship between parties: Present or past intimate partners only
- Eligible offences: minor assaults categorised by law as common assault and battery, criminal damage, harassment, threatening behaviour, domestic theft related offences
- Admission and (Crown Prosecution Service agree overwhelming evidence is present) no possibility of an offence
- Past minor convictions permitted unless offender is currently serving a community-based sentence or order

How to refer in

Dorset Police internal only using the below process.

In order to make the decision to issue an offender with a Conditional Caution for a domestic abuse offence and then to set CARA as the condition you must ensure you first follow the Adult OoCD Domestic Abuse and Conditional Caution flowchart followed by the Is CARA Appropriate? guidance. All decisions must be authorised by a suitably trained Sergeant. The Adult OoCD team will check all CC's issued and if CARA is being set incorrectly as the condition these may be sent back for the Conditional Caution to be re-issued.

Probation Services

Description

Building Choices is a cognitive-behavioural programme, consisting of group and one to one sessions. Determined by an assessment of risk and need, The programme supports skill development in emotion management, healthy thinking, healthy relationships, sense of purpose, and healthy sex where relevant.

Building Choices provides a structured opportunity to learn, strengthen and practice skills and behaviour that targets areas of common criminogenic need without defining or limiting what participants can address by offence labels. A need led approach enables participants to personalise criminogenic needs by considering how areas apply specifically to themselves and what skills will personally be important to develop. Overall, Building Choices enables participants to develop skills for change and future focused goals that may support them in building a crime free life.

Who it's for

The programme is suitable for all genders aged 18 and above, who are assessed as posing a medium or high risk of causing serious harm. And it is suitable for people with Learning Disability & Challenges (LDC).

How to refer in

Referral into the programme is made at court and ordered by the residing judge and/or pre-sentencing recommendations and forms part of the sentencing requirement for individuals in the criminal justice system. Alternatively, it can be a Licence requirement for those being released from custody on Licence.

Restorative Justice Dorset

Description

Restorative Justice (RJ) processes bring those harmed by crime and those responsible for the harm into communication with each other, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

RJ has a proven, significant impact in supporting victims in achieving closure and allowing them to move on with their lives. 85% of victims who have participated in Restorative Justice would recommend it to others.

Who it's for

Referrals for restorative justice involving incidents of domestic abuse are only considered if they are victim initiated.

There must be an identifiable victim, an identified harmer or charged offender, and an admission of responsibility or a guilty plea/finding of guilt if the case is proceeding through the courts system.

No offence is excluded but all cases are subject to a multi-agency risk assessment as to suitability for a RJ intervention.

The service is free of charge, voluntary and impartial. If a victim or offender is being supported by a CJS agency or partner, we will update that organisation. About the outcomes of RJ activities and

How to refer in

The service takes referrals from the police, victims, victims' services organisations, offender management agencies and any other organisation that is working with victims or offenders.

Telephone: 07535 692669 / 07535 692584

Email: RJDorset@restorativesolutions.org.uk

Secure email RJDorset@restorativesolutions.org.uk.cjsm.net

Visit our website: rjdorset.org.uk

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE HIGH-RISK MULTI-AGENCY PROCESS FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE

BCP Council area

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

MARAC is a local, multi-agency, victim focused process, where information is shared on victims identified as being at highest risk of harm following domestic violence and abuse between different statutory and voluntary sector agencies within the BCP Council area and solutions / actions created to address the risks.

Referring into MARAC -this includes guidance on how to complete a SafeLives DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence) risk assessment.

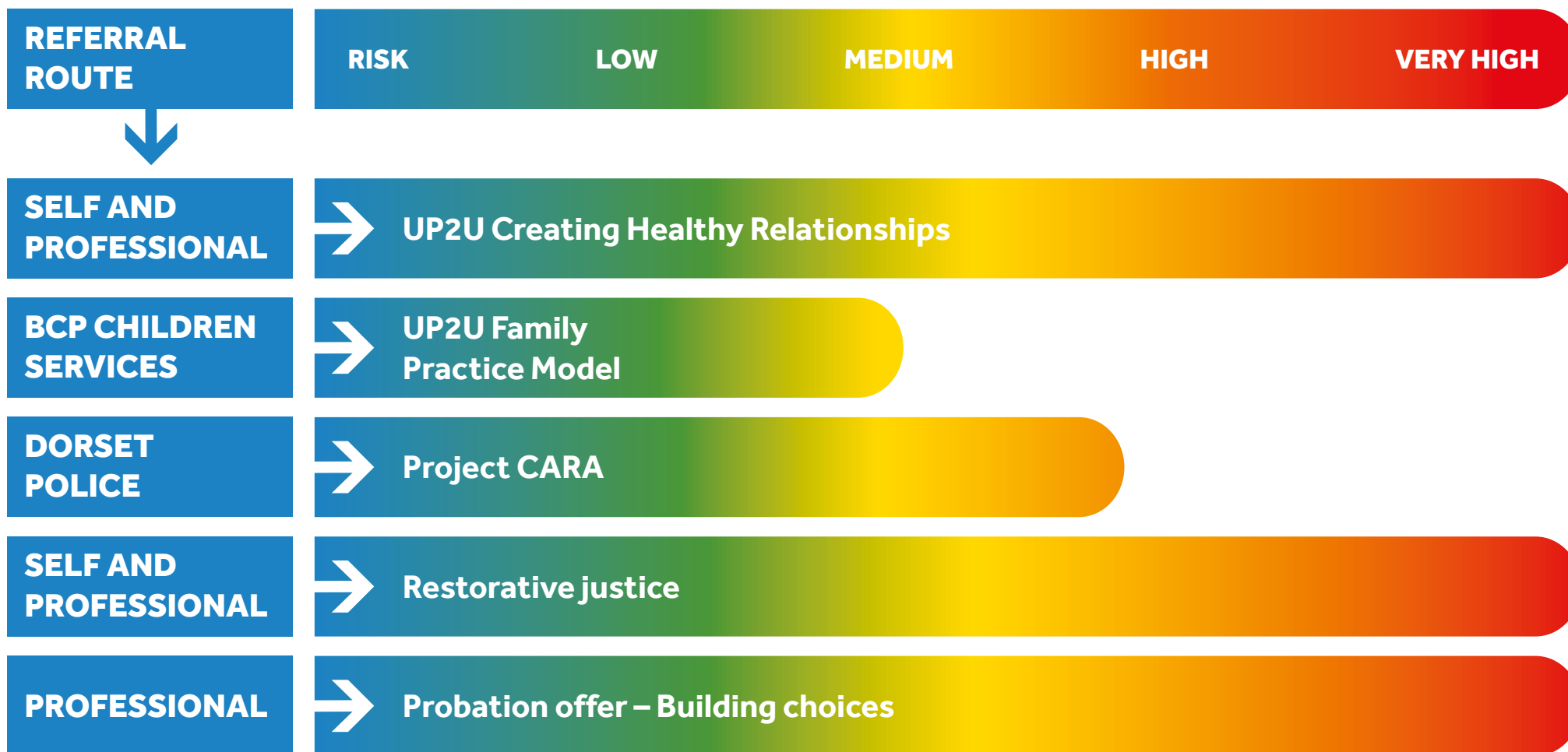
Further information on the support available

- Help with domestic abuse | BCP
- Advice about domestic abuse | Dorset Police
- Respect respect.uk.net
- In an emergency call 999.

Safeguarding

- Worried about a child
- Worried about an adult at risk

BCP DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PATHWAY



Always consider:

- Support for the person experiencing the abuse
- Safety planning for the person experiencing the abuse
- Wider support for children and family
- Safeguarding



SAFERBCP



Partnership

Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation & Community Services Commissioning Plan

1. Introduction

This document outlines the strategic commissioning approach for domestic abuse services, covering both safe accommodation and community-based support. It should be considered alongside wider initiatives aimed at tackling domestic abuse, including the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026–2031, the Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026–2031, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Strategy 2026–2031 and their respective delivery plans.

The commissioning plan directly delivers the priorities set out in the Safe Accommodation Strategy by combining them into a single, integrated service model that delivers accommodation-based and community support.

It supports **Prevention and Early Identification** through investment in community outreach, sanctuary-style support, and early intervention services such as hospital advocacy, enabling more survivors to remain safely at home.

It addresses **Access to Appropriate Housing and Support** by expanding the range of accommodation options, including refuge, dispersed and block provision, designed to meet the needs of groups currently underserved, alongside a requirement for all services to provide specialist, trauma-informed domestic abuse support.

The plan enables **Return Home and Move-On** through clear pathways across community, temporary, and safe accommodation, with built-in resettlement and throughput expectations.

It strengthens **Partnership Working** by bringing services together under a coordinated commissioning approach aligned to the Community Safety Partnership and overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group.

Finally, it supports **Data and Survivor-Led Services** through defined performance measures, regular contract monitoring, and the involvement of Experts by Experience in service design and procurement, ensuring that services are informed by lived experience and responsive to emerging need.

Extensive consultation has been undertaken with the public, stakeholders, and experts by experience to ensure that the strategies and priorities guiding the commissioning plan reflect the needs of communities across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area, including households that are resettling locally.

2. Legislation

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 represents a landmark step in strengthening the national response to domestic abuse. Key provisions relevant to this commissioning plan include:

- **Support for Victims:** Local authorities are legally required to provide accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- **Homelessness Assistance:** Victims are now recognised as having a priority need for homelessness support, ensuring quicker access to safe housing.
- **Protection Measures:** The Act introduces Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, offering immediate and longer-term safeguards for victims.

The [Victim Service Commissioning Guidance](#) 2024, jointly developed by the Ministry of Justice and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), provides a comprehensive framework to support local commissioners in delivering effective, tailored victim support services. This document sets out the approach taken by BCP Council in commissioning Domestic Abuse service in line with this best practice guidance.

3. Governance

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (DASG) brings together statutory and voluntary sector partners to work collaboratively to deliver a coordinated strategic response to domestic abuse across the BCP area. It oversees the allocation of the Safe Accommodation Grant and the commissioning of domestic abuse services. The group ensures alignment with local strategies and promotes collaborative working across agencies.

The DASG reports directly to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Executive Board, which provides strategic oversight and governance on the implementation of the Preventing Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategies, and monitors progress against associated delivery plans.

The CSP Executive Board is a statutory body tasked with reducing crime and disorder comprised of representatives from specified authorities under the Crime & Disorder Act, namely Local authority, Dorset Police, Dorset NHS, Probation Service and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue service. The CSP submits an annual report to the BCP Overview and Scrutiny Committee, ensuring transparency, scrutiny and accountability.

4. Commissioning Arrangements

The existing services provide support for individuals affected by domestic abuse, into accommodation and community settings. Safe Accommodation services focus on providing secure housing alongside specialist support to enable recovery and independence. Community-based services deliver a broader range of support, including outreach, advocacy, and prevention activity to reduce harm and build resilience among individuals and families.

Under the new Prevention of Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategies, the commissioning of services will be brought together under a single, co-ordinated approach. This will ensure that services are planned and delivered in line with the identified needs and priorities set out within the strategies, supported by one overarching commissioning plan. This approach will involve all partners within the CSP, strengthening collaboration and enabling a more cohesive and effective system of support.

All existing contracts have been extended on an annual basis, with current extensions in place until August 2027, ensuring continuity of provision while the new commissioning arrangements are developed and implemented in line with the proposed timetable outlined in Section 11.

5. Current Service Provision

Current provision includes a mix of commissioned and in-house services, spanning both accommodation and community support.

These include:

- Refuge and respite accommodation
- Sanctuary Scheme and temporary accommodation support
- Community outreach and advocacy across all housing tenure
- Specialist services (e.g. children, hospital advocacy, therapeutic programmes)
- In-house functions (e.g. MARAC, training, perpetrator programme)

6. Future Service Provision

From August 2027, the commissioning of domestic abuse services will adopt a fully integrated model, combining both community and building-based safe accommodation services, including block accommodation provision. This approach aims to deliver a seamless and responsive service that meets the diverse needs of individuals and families affected by domestic abuse.

The new service delivery model will improve coordination, accountability, and outcomes across the system and reflect the council's commitment to delivering high-quality, person-centred support through more efficient and joined-up commissioning.

The specialist Community Outreach support offer will adopt a flexible approach, responding to where demand arises. It is expected that, due to the preventative support provided by Housing Options and increased capacity in safe accommodation, the need for support within temporary accommodation will decrease over time, while support for survivors in their own homes will increase.

Community Services

These services will support individuals or families who remain in their own homes or are accommodated in temporary or dispersed settings, as well as those transitioning from supported accommodation.

Key elements include:

- Community outreach: support people to remain in their own homes (all housing tenure), with (Sanctuary Scheme) or without security measures, and those in dispersed and temporary accommodation or moving on from supported accommodation.
- Hospital Support Service: delivering specialist domestic abuse services within hospital settings.
- Children's Services: delivering tailored support for younger victims and those affected by domestic abuse within the family context.
- Therapeutic Groupwork: Structured programmes aimed at recovery, resilience, and empowerment delivered by the community outreach staff.

Building Based Safe Accommodation

This provision will offer secure housing options for people unable to remain safely in their current living arrangements:

- 2 x Block accommodation (between 25 and 30 units): Self-contained units designed to support households that will benefit from group work and peer support within a communal setting.
- Dispersed accommodation (15 units): A number of properties across the BCP area ranging in size and facilities to meet the specific needs of households that require flexible accommodation solutions.

Funding

Table 1 below sets out the Council base budget and grant funding alongside the proposed costs for all services.

Table 1: Domestic Abuse Income and Expenditure

	Year 1 26/27 (£)	Year 2 27/28 (£)	Year 3 28/29 (£)	Year 4 29/30 (£)	Year 5 30/31 (£)
Income					
Safe Accommodation Grant	974,401	983,628	1,001,184	1,001,184*	1,001,184*
Communities base budget**	231,300	231,300	231,300	231,300	231,300
Housing budget** and funding allocation	208,856	228,842	239,750	270,059	301,200
Total Funding	1,414,557	1,443,770	1,472,234	1,502,543	1,533,684
Expenditure / Service					
Safe Accommodation and Community Commissioned Services	963,055	982,312	1,001,959	1,022,002	1,042,442
Non-commissioned Services including DA training, MARAC Chair, DA Projects	304,380	310,008	314,675	320,507	326,457
Inhouse costs including Target Hardening Senior DA Housing Officer and Housing Advocates	147,122	151,450	155,600	160,034	164,785
Total Expenditure	1,414,557	1,443,770	1,472,234	1,502,543	1,533,684

* The Domestic Abuse Grant is confirmed for Years 1 to 3. Assumed funding for Years 4 and 5 is based on continuation at the Year 3 level, pending future government confirmation.

** Budgets are subject to the Council's approved MTFP and future funding decisions.

7. Accommodation Provision

In the forthcoming commissioning model, support services will be commissioned separately from the accommodation provision. This separation allows for greater flexibility in the tendering process, enhances security of accommodation assets for the Local Authority regardless of the support provider, and may help broaden the market by attracting bids from specialist domestic abuse providers who are not landlords.

Accommodation units will be sourced through a combination of Council-owned property and stock held by Registered Social Landlords. The existing purpose-built refuge provision, which provides 18 units of self-contained accommodation with communal facilities for group work and peer support, has been retained with agreement from the landlord. The site also includes a newly refurbished children's play area, enhancing the therapeutic environment for children.

The accommodation will comprise of the following:

- 1 block of 18 self-contained units with communal areas provided through a registered social landlord
- 1 block of 10 self-contained units provided through Council or Registered Provider stock
- 15 self-contained properties provided through Council and Registered Provider stock
 - 3 x 3 beds
 - 8 x 2 beds
 - 4 x 1 beds

8. Client Support Numbers

The service will aim to support a defined number of individuals and households, based on historic demand trends, enhanced performance targets, and a strategic shift towards prevention-focused interventions. These projections reflect the ambitions of the Safe Accommodation Strategy, which seeks to reduce the number of households needing to relocate owing to domestic abuse.

The client support numbers will be used to:

- Inform service capacity planning.
- Set performance expectations for the commissioned provider.
- Monitor progress against strategic outcomes.

Detailed figures will be included in the service specification and form part of the quarterly contract monitoring framework.

Community Outreach Service

The commissioned provider will be expected to deliver services to the following number of people annually, based on historical demand, enhanced performance targets, and a strategic emphasis on prevention:

- Outreach Support:
 - 185 individuals supported through community outreach services across all housing tenure.
- Groupwork Programmes:
 - 6 accredited survivor programmes
 - 4 Pattern Changing Programmes
- Accommodation-Based Support:
 - 30 households supported in dispersed accommodation (based on a maximum 6-month stay).
 - 50 individuals supported in their own homes in receipt of security measures (Sanctuary Scheme) or in temporary accommodation.
- Children:
 - 200 children supported by dedicated workers.
- Health Advocacy Service:
 - 200 individuals supported.

- 20 health staff supported directly.
- 100 health professionals trained annually.

Building Based Safe Accommodation

The commissioned provider will be expected to deliver support to the following number of individuals annually, based on unit capacity and average length of stay:

- **High Support Accommodation**
 - 15 individuals supported per year
 - Based on 10 self-contained units with an average maximum stay of 9 months
- **Medium/Low Support Accommodation**
 - 36 individuals supported per year
 - Based on 18 accommodation units with an average maximum stay of 6 months

These figures will inform service planning, staffing levels, and performance monitoring, and will be reviewed annually in line with demand and strategic priorities.

The services outlined in **Table 1** are based on the following key assumptions, which inform the scope and delivery model of the future commissioned domestic abuse services:

- All services will deliver **both specialist domestic abuse support** (accredited to recognised standards) and **housing-related support**, ensuring a holistic response to individual needs.
- **Households will have choice** regarding their accommodation placement and the level of support they receive, promoting autonomy and person-centred care.
- Individuals receiving **security measures** will also be offered a **support service** concurrently, ensuring emotional and practical support alongside physical safety.
- The **dispersed accommodation units** will be designed to meet the needs of:
 - **Male survivors**
 - Households with **adult male children**
 - **Larger families**
 - Survivors with **protected characteristics** requiring tailored accommodation solutions
- The **Community Outreach service** will operate with **flexibility**, responding to demand across:
 - Households in **privately owned/rented and social housing properties**
 - Households receiving **security measures**
 - Households in **Temporary accommodation**

9. Type of Support

Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, local authorities have a statutory duty to commission safe accommodation that incorporates specialist support services delivered by trained domestic abuse professionals. Historically, legacy contracts have primarily focused on housing-related support, often delivered by non-specialist organisations.

The upcoming-recommissioning process will ensure full compliance with the Act by embedding specialist domestic abuse support within all accommodation-based services. This means future services will not only provide safe and secure housing, but also deliver expert, trauma informed support, through specialist trained staff, ensuring a consistent and high-quality response to those affected by domestic abuse.

10. Service Outcomes and Outputs

The commissioned provider will be required to contribute to the delivery of the strategic priorities outlined in the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy, Safe Accommodation Strategy and Perpetrator Strategy. Successful delivery of the contract will be evidenced through a set of clearly defined service outcomes and outputs, which will be detailed within the service specification. These will reflect both the strategic aims and the operational expectations of the domestic abuse services.

The provider will be expected to:

- Deliver measurable outcomes aligned with strategic priorities.
- Report on agreed outputs and performance indicators.
- Participate in quarterly contract monitoring processes, supported by robust data collection and reporting mechanisms.

The service performance framework will ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement across all elements of service delivery.

11. Procurement

The timeline set out in Table 2 below outlines the key stages of the procurement and mobilisation process, ensuring transparency and effective planning across all stakeholders. Each milestone is designed to support a smooth transition from current arrangements to the new service model, with a strong focus on quality, continuity, and readiness.

This structured approach enables the Council to effectively implement a Framework Agreement divided into Lots, supporting the delivery of a fully integrated domestic abuse service model. The timeline reflects critical activities including market engagement, tendering, evaluation, and mobilisation, culminating in the launch of new services in August 2027.

This approach will ensure:

- Flexibility in contracting and service delivery.
- Market diversity, encouraging participation from a broad range of providers.
- Strategic alignment with the Domestic Abuse Act, ensuring statutory compliance and best practice.

The tendering process will:

- Separate accommodation provision from support delivery, allowing the Council to retain control over accommodation assets while enabling specialist providers to focus on delivering high-quality, trauma-informed support.

- Ensure safe and secure housing alongside tailored support services for individuals and families affected by domestic abuse.
- Encourage a diverse provider market, including organisations that specialise in domestic abuse support but do not own or manage property.
- Embed specialist support within all accommodation-based services, ensuring full compliance with the Domestic Abuse Act.
- Mandate accredited training and workforce development:
- Deliver accredited training and work with accredited training organisations to ensure staff maintain high standards of practice.
- Ensure a consistent and high-quality response across all domestic abuse services through ongoing professional development.

Procurement Summary Timeline

- Tender launch: November 2026
- Contract mobilisation: August 2027
- Contract term: 5 years (initial 3 years + optional up to 2-year extension)

Table 2: Procurement Timetable

Safe Accommodation Strategy Key Milestones	
Prevention of Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation and Perpetrator Strategies and commissioning plan - presented for sign off to Cabinet	22 nd July 2026
Budget agreement – Council Approval	22 nd July 2026
Expenditure Control Stage 1 & 2 – Approval to proceed	31 st July 2026
Workshops - key elements of service specification with Experts by Experience Board/stakeholders	August/September 2026
Service Specification Finalised	September 2026
Provider Market Engagement Event	September 2026
Expenditure Control – Stage 3 Sign off to Publish	October 2026
Safe Accommodation Tender Live	November 2026 to January 2027
Tender Evaluation Window	January to March 2027
Expenditure Control – Stage 4 Sign off to Award	April 2027
Standstill starts/ends	April 2027
Contract Award	April 2027
Implementation/Transition period	May – July 2027
Anticipated Contract Start Date	August 2027

12. Key Risks and Mitigations

The table below details the key risks and the controls in place to safeguard the successful delivery of the programme.

Table 3: Key risks and mitigations

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Funding shortfall from Year 3	Reduced service capacity	Efficiency savings, future funding bids, flexible commissioning
Market failure / limited bids	Reduced competition	Early market engagement and lot-based procurement
Transition risks during mobilisation	Service disruption	Detailed mobilisation plan and phased transition
Demand exceeding projections	Pressure on services	Flexible delivery model and regular review
Workforce challenges	Reduced service quality	Requirement for accredited training and workforce development

13. Associated Papers

Prevention of Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026 – 2031

Safe Accommodation Strategy 2026 - 2031

Perpetrator Strategy 2026 – 2031

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DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGIES CONSULTATION

17 March to 28 April 2025

Report June 2025

Research and Consultation Team

Executive Summary



- 85 responses in total:
 - 56 responses to the Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 Survey
 - 16 responses to the Draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 Survey
 - 13 responses to the Draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 Survey.

Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 Survey



- 56 responses in total
- Most respondents said they:
 - Were responding as a BCP Council resident
 - Found out about the consultation through BCP Council email
 - Agree with the proposed Vision for tackling domestic abuse in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)
 - Strongly agree with all the proposed Priorities
 - Ranked 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' as the most important Priority
 - Agree with the statement, "the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to tackle domestic abuse across BCP".
- Respondents agree with the proposed **Vision** primarily because they felt no one should be a victim of domestic abuse
- Respondents agree with the **Prevent - Prioritising prevention** Priority because they felt education and awareness of domestic abuse is vital to preventing it, particularly in schools
- Respondents agree with the **Protect and recover** Priority because they felt it is important for victims of domestic abuse to have easy access to streamlined services that provide various forms of long-term support to manage the impacts of domestic abuse
- Respondents agree with the **Pursue** Priority because they felt it is vital for perpetrators of domestic abuse to be educated about why their behaviour is harmful and it will bring justice for victims
- Respondents agree with the **Relationships** Priority because they felt it is essential for services to work collaboratively to successfully address the complex challenges of domestic abuse



- Respondents agree with the with the statement, “**the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to tackle domestic abuse across BCP**” because they felt it is clear in its objectives and goals, is detailed, will help educate children about domestic abuse and will help to protect vulnerable people
- Improvements respondents suggested to the **Vision** include:
 - Focusing more on prevention work with perpetrators
 - Enabling families’ voices to be heard more
 - Adding more information about why domestic abuse occurs
 - Making it clearer how domestic abuse will be prevented
 - Adding more information specifically around children
 - Adding an implementation timeline
 - Adding police data
 - Adding greater clarity to the definition of domestic abuse.



- Improvements respondents suggested to the **Prevent - Prioritising prevention** Priority include:
 - Educating children including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) about domestic abuse
 - Teaching people how to recognise abusive relationships to maximise the effectiveness of prevention
 - Focusing more on punishing perpetrators of domestic abuse because services are not powerful enough to change their behaviour alone
 - Having appropriate role models within support services
 - Defining clearly what early intervention looks like
 - Educating boys early on in a non-discriminatory way
 - Adding training around reporting domestic abuse, sex education, communication and managing emotions
 - Support should be fully inclusive of the LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority communities and for people with disabilities.
- Improvements respondents suggested to the **Protect and recover** Priority include:
 - Adding details of how safety and protection will be available for victims of domestic abuse
 - Adding details of how risk will be managed
 - Prioritising relationships and housing more
 - Focusing on greater deterrents to stop perpetrators
 - Making support easily accessible
 - Adding information about support for children
 - Adding more resource and increasing availability of services.



- Providing services for male and female victims
- Making access to trauma-informed services easier and faster
- Incorporating an evaluative feedback process that the council can use to measure its performance.

- Improvements respondents suggested to the **Pursue** Priority include:
 - Focusing more on prosecuting perpetrators of domestic abuse as a key deterrent for repeat offenses
 - Rehabilitating perpetrators while they are imprisoned
 - Adding more information on how this will be implemented
 - Investigating perpetrators' backgrounds to find the root cause of the harmful behaviour
 - Making participation in rehabilitation mandatory
 - Monitoring behaviour change courses to evaluate their effectiveness
 - Making behaviour change courses available in different languages and suitable for people with different needs including neurodiversity.



- Improvements respondents suggested to the **Relationship** Priority include:
 - Adding more information on resources, promotion and implementation
 - Placing greater importance on individuals being fully accountable for their choices and actions, rather than support services or local communities
 - Adding details about appropriate training for staff and victims to ensure domestic abuse is being tackled in the most effective way
 - Adding information on how serious issues can be identified in the early stages of domestic abuse by all parties involved
 - Adding information on how victims of domestic abuse from immigrant communities can access support
 - Educating girls about becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse
 - Ensuring lived experienced plays a central role.
- Improvements respondents suggested to the statement, “**the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to tackle domestic abuse across BCP**” include:
 - Adding more information on implementation

- More support services and refuge places for male victims of domestic abuse and those with no recourse to public funds, e.g. victims from immigrant communities
- Focusing more on prevention.



Draft Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 Survey

- 16 responses in total
- Most respondents said they:
 - Were responding as a BCP Council resident
 - Found out about the consultation through BCP Council email
 - Understood the draft Strategy fully or mostly
 - Strongly agree with all the proposed Priorities
 - Ranked 'Priority 1: Prevention and early identification' as the most important Priority
 - Think the draft Strategy will be effective in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse
 - Agree with the statement, "the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how safe accommodation for domestic abuse survivors will be provided across BCP".



- Respondents agree with the **Prevention and early identification** Priority because they felt it highlights the importance of early intervention and providing safe environments for victims of domestic abuse and their families
- Respondents agree with the **Appropriate access to housing and support services** Priority because they felt it gives survivors the right types of support to recover, rebuild and grow
- Respondents agree with the **Support to return home and move on** Priority because they felt it highlights the importance of safety and security in long-term housing options for survivors of domestic abuse
- Respondents agree with the **Relationships and Partnerships** Priority because it they felt provides survivors with support that prioritises their wellbeing, encourages organisations to work together, gives hope and emphasises the importance of support from family and peers



- Respondents agree with the Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led Priority because they felt it enables accurate, real-time data to be collected about survivors' needs and experiences, and for their voices to have a central role in decision making
- Improvements respondents suggested to the **Priorities** include:
 - More details on:
 - key deliverables
 - costs/funding
 - practical implementation of the aims
 - how placements will be managed
 - how partnerships will work
 - how services will be inclusive, especially for survivors with complex needs and disabilities
 - how survivors' voices would be incorporated into the Strategy
 - how organisations would collaborate to build an effective data collection process.
 - More accommodation support for male survivors
 - Targeting perpetrators to reduce homelessness.

Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 Survey



- 13 responses in total
- Most respondents said they:
 - Were responding as a BCP Council resident
 - Found out about the consultation through BCP Council email
 - Strongly agree with the statement of strategic aims
 - Strongly agree with adopting a holistic approach to working with perpetrators of domestic abuse
 - Agree with the statement, "The draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to address working with those using harmful behaviours across BCP".
- Respondents agree with the **Statement** of strategic aims because they felt domestic abuse can only be prevented if we understand the root causes of it and work with perpetrators to change their behaviour
- Respondents agree with **adopting a holistic approach** to working with individuals that use harmful behaviours because they felt it would be effective in bringing about long-term, sustainable behaviour change and highlights how other societal factors play a role in harmful behaviours



- Respondents agree with the statement, “**The draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to address working with those using harmful behaviours across BCP**” because they felt it is clear and concise and explains the main aims of the Strategy in a comprehensive way
- Improvements respondents suggested to the **Statement** of strategic aims include:
 - More details on:
 - how accessible rehabilitation programmes are
 - how the people we need to target will attend these programmes
 - how those at the highest risk of repeat harm, or those from underrepresented groups, will be engaged with referral pathways
 - consistency in the support provided across agencies
 - long-term funding.
- Improvements respondents suggested to **adopting a holistic approach to working with individuals that use harmful behaviours** include:



- More details on:
 - how it will be implemented across agencies
 - who will coordinate the wraparound support
 - how to ensure services talk to each other and avoid duplication or missed risks
 - what resources will be available to meet wider needs like housing, finances, or employment.
- Improvements respondents suggested to **Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030** include:
 - More details on:
 - making the aims of the Strategy sustainable
 - how programmes will be funded long-term
 - how consistent access will be delivered
 - how outcomes will be tracked and shared
 - how perpetrators in underrepresented groups will be identified and supported to change.

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1 Introduction

Safer BCP, the Community Safety Partnership for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP), are committed to ending domestic abuse in all its forms across the BCP area.

To facilitate this, we have reviewed our current domestic abuse strategies and have written three new draft strategies to cover our domestic abuse agenda in a comprehensive way.

We have used national and local research and the voices of survivors of domestic abuse and their families, to help achieve our vision that Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is a safe area to live, work and visit.

In this consultation, Safer BCP wanted to hear from all residents including:

- those with lived experience and survivors of domestic abuse including family members and friends
- perpetrators of domestic abuse
- professionals working with victims, survivors, perpetrators and anyone affected by domestic abuse.

The consultation ran from **17 March to 28 April 2025**.

2 Background

2.1 The Strategies

The three proposed strategies are as follows:

1. The draft [Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030](#) is the overarching strategy to our response to domestic abuse across the BCP area, detailing our proposed priorities and how we aim to take our plans forward with partnership agencies.
2. The draft [Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030](#) is focused on the provision of safe accommodation in the BCP area for survivors of domestic abuse who need support around their housing needs.
3. The draft [Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030](#) is focused on how we respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse across the BCP area. The Strategy aims to prevent people from perpetrating domestic abuse, thereby preventing the harm caused to individuals, children and society.

All the draft strategies will be accompanied by delivery plans once they have been approved, which will include actions and measurable outcomes that will enable us to measure the effectiveness of our response.

This will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, which includes a variety of statutory and voluntary agencies and those with lived experience of domestic abuse.

2.2 Domestic Abuse Defined

We define domestic abuse as a pattern of behaviour that an abuser uses to control their partner which might include degrading, threatening, coercive or violent behaviour (including sexual violence). Domestic abuse can involve:

- Coercive control (a pattern of controlling and manipulative behaviours designed to isolate, deprive and exploit another person)
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Physical or sexual abuse
- Financial or economic abuse
- Harassment and stalking
- Online or digital abuse
- Post-separation abuse
- Tech-abuse.

Domestic abuse can happen between partners, spouses, family members, roommates, or any individuals in a close relationship. It is not limited to any specific gender, age, or sexual orientation. It can affect anyone, regardless of their background or identity.

3 Methodology

The consultation used online and paper surveys to ensure broad participation from residents and key stakeholders.

It was hosted on the BCP [Engagement HQ](#) platform and was promoted through various channels including:

- Social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram)
- Emails to key stakeholders
- Posters in libraries
- A full breakdown of the communications activity for this consultation can be found in the [Communications Report](#)
- Details of engagement rates can be found in the [Engagement HQ Analytics](#) section.

The main consultation page was hosted from the council's Engagement HQ Platform along with a brief description of the consultation and had all the relevant documents and support information:

haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-strategies.

The consultation was designed in Engagement HQ (engagement platform software). The online responses were downloaded from the software for analysis. The data was checked and verified in preparation for analysis and held in the Research and Consultation Team's secure area.

The online surveys were designed and hosted in Engagement HQ. The online responses were downloaded into Excel for analysis. The data was checked and verified in preparation for analysis and held in the BCP Council Research and Consultation Team's secure area. Quantitative analysis was carried out using Excel to identify the frequencies for each question.

The write in (qualitative) responses were exported into Excel and coded into categories. Qualitative research does not seek to quantify data, instead, its purpose is to provide deeper insights into reasoning and impact and many researchers therefore believe that numbers should not be included in reporting. The numbers of people mentioning the most prevalent codes are provided in this report to give an indication of the magnitude of response. Importantly, however, given the nature of the data, this does not provide an indication of significance or salience in relation to the question asked.

3.1 Participation

During the consultation period, paper copies of the strategies and surveys were available on request at any of BCP's libraries.

Respondents could give us their views by:

- Reading the draft Strategies
- Completing the online surveys
- Alternatively, by completing a paper survey for the each of the Strategies, which could also be downloaded on the [main consultation page](#) or collected from any [BCP library](#)
- Paper surveys could also be dropped in the 'Have Your Say' boxes in any BCP library or posted to:

Domestic Abuse Strategies Consultation, Research and Consultation Team,
BCP Council, Civic Centre, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth, BH2 6DY.

3.2 Safety of Respondents

To help keep respondents safe, we placed the following statement on the consultation webpage and on each page of the surveys to enable respondents to leave the pages quickly if they felt unsafe:

"If you need to exit this page at any time please click [here](#)."

3.3 Support

If respondents had any questions, needed support or needed the documents/surveys in a different format, they could email communitysafetybcp@bcpcouncil.gov.uk.

They could also refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for more information.

3.4 How to get help

We provided a list of local and national organisations on the consultation webpage that respondents could contact if they needed support urgently:

- Local support organisations:
 - [BCP BCHA Domestic Abuse Referrals & Support Line](#): 01202 710 777
 - [BCP Refuge](#): 01202 710 777
 - [Housing](#) 01202 123 147
 - [Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service \(STARS\)](#): 01202 308 855
 - [Victim Support](#) (Dorset support): 0300 303 0163.
- National support organisations:
 - [National Domestic Violence Helpline](#): 0808 2000 247
 - [The National Centre for Domestic Violence](#): 0800 970 2070
 - [Women's Aid](#): 0808 2000 247.

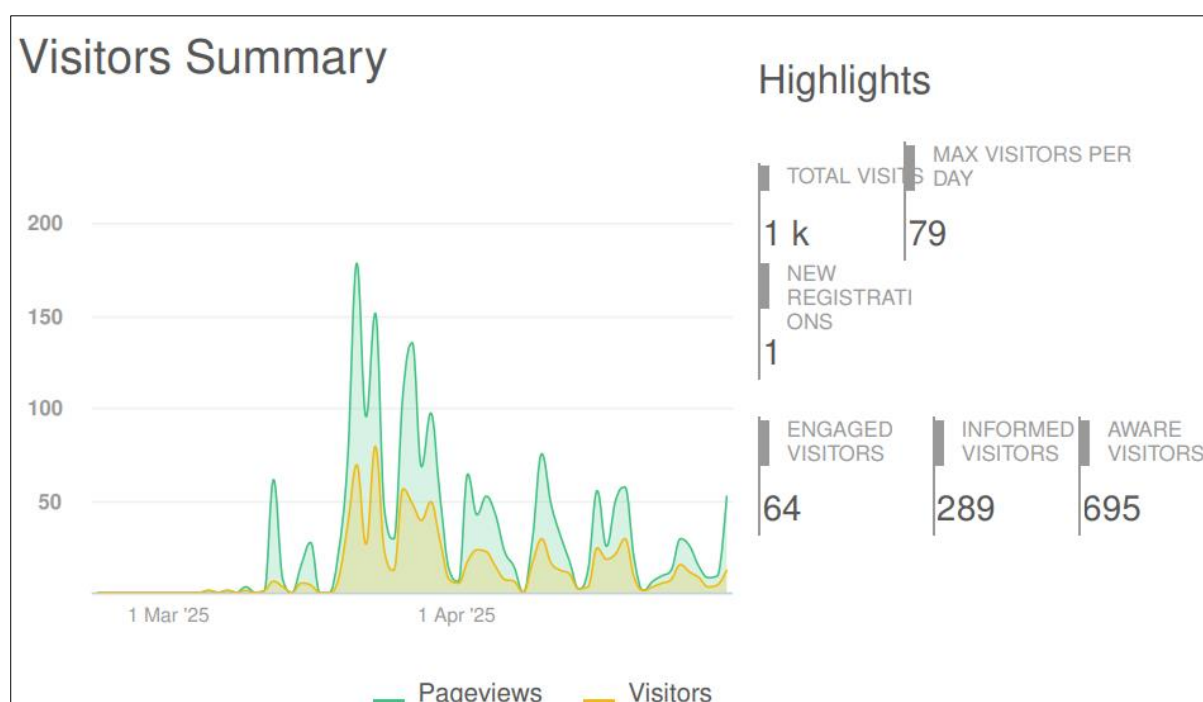
4 Engagement Figures

This section shows the engagement figures for each method used during the consultation.

4.1 Engagement HQ Analytics

The consultation was hosted on the council's engagement platform '[Engagement HQ](#)'. There were 1,219 visits to the [consultation page](#) with 695 **aware visitors** (i.e. a visitor who has made at least one single visit to the webpage) and 289 **informed visitors** (i.e. a visitor who has taken the 'next step' from being aware and clicked on something).

Engagement HQ Measurement Figures



Visitors engaged with the content on the main consultation page as follows:

- 183 visitors downloaded documents 321 times, including:
 - 182 downloads of the [Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030](#)
 - 90 downloads of the [Draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030](#)
 - 39 downloads of the [Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030](#)
 - 4 downloads of the [consultation poster](#)
 - 2 downloads of the Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 - Paper Survey
 - 2 downloads of the [Domestic Abuse Strategies Consultation – FAQs](#) document
 - 1 download of the Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 - Paper Survey
 - 1 download of the Draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 - Paper Survey.
- Visitors also viewed the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) 41 times.

The majority of visitors to the consultation page on Engagement HQ came via Google (119 visits) and Facebook (99 visits). A full breakdown of the site referrals can be seen below:

TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
www.google.com	109
m.facebook.com	45
lm.facebook.com	34
bcpcouncil.sharepoint.com	20
l.facebook.com	20
android-app	12
statics.teams.cdn.office.net	12
www.google.co.uk	10
www.fid.bcpccouncil.gov.uk	8
www.linkedin.com	7
mailchi.mp	6
linktr.ee	5
us19.campaign-archive.com	5
l.instagram.com	4
blogs.bournemouth.ac.uk	3

5 Communications Report

Below is a breakdown of the communications activity carried out by BCP Council to promote the Domestic Abuse Strategies Consultation as widely as possible.

The council used a variety of methods to promote the consultations including social media posts on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and Instagram along with [posters in libraries](#).

11 social media posts had a total reach¹ of 20,661 people, a total engagement² of 1,008 people and a total of 21,905 impressions³. Below are details of how people interacted with our social media posts during the consultation period:

¹ The total number of people who see the posts.

² The number of unique people who engaged with the posts, i.e., commented or liked.

³ The number of times people saw the posts.

Facebook	Total	Instagram	Total	LinkedIn	Total
Reactions	77	Likes	16	Likes	23
Clicks	338	Saved	1	Clicks	29
Other clicks	455	Comments	0	Comments	2
Comments	10			Shares	1
Shares	46				

Below is the best performing social media posts based on reach:

 14 Apr. 2025 "No resident living within or visiting Bournemouth... Reach 5.9K Engagement 267 Impressions 6.1K	 19 Mar. 2025 Domestic Abuse Domestic abuse can happen to anyone. Reach 4.6K Engagement 196 Impressions 4.9K	 26 Mar. 2025 Domestic Abuse Safer BCP, the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Reach 3.9K Engagement 113 Impressions 4.2K

Below is the best performing social media posts based on impressions:

 19 Mar. 2025 Domestic Abuse Domestic abuse can happen to anyone. Engagement 39 Impressions 194	 26 Mar. 2025 Domestic Abuse Safer BCP, the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Engagement 16 Impressions 157

Below is the best performing social media posts based on likes:



Domestic Abuse
Strategies Consultation

19 Mar. 2025

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone. Have your say...

Engagement	4
Likes	2
Reposts	2



Domestic Abuse
Strategies Consultation

26 Mar. 2025

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone. Have your say...

Engagement	5
Likes	0
Reposts	1

6 Analysis and results

A total of 85 people responded to the consultation surveys. This was made up of:

- 56 responses to the Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 survey
- 16 responses to the Draft Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 survey
- 13 responses to the Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 survey.

Please see the [Engagement HQ Analytics](#) section for additional information on the levels of engagement with the consultation aside from those who responded.

Figures in this report are presented as a percentage of people who answered the question i.e. excluding 'don't know', 'not applicable' and 'no reply', unless otherwise stated, for the Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 Survey results. The percentages in this report will not always add up to 100%. This can be because of rounding, or because respondents are allowed to select more than one response.

Due to the low numbers of responses to the Draft Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 and Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 surveys, the figures are presented as the number of people who answered a question, i.e. excluding 'don't know', 'not applicable' and 'no reply', instead of percentages. This is a more accurate way of reporting results when a low number of responses have been received.

Please note that where numbers have been provided for the most prevalent codes to open-ended questions in this report, this is to give an indication of the magnitude of response rather than an indication of significance or salience in relation to the question asked.

7 Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 Survey

There was a total of 56 responses to this survey.

The draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 is the overarching strategy to BCP Council's response to domestic abuse across the BCP area, detailing our proposed priorities and how we aim to take our plans forward with partnership agencies.

Our definition of domestic abuse can be found [here](#).

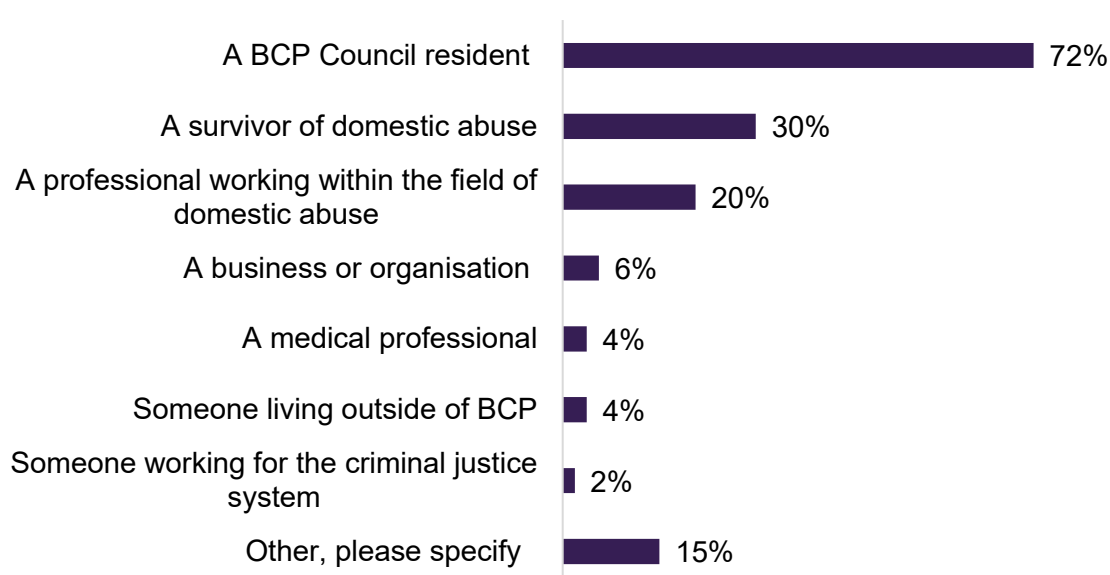
We asked respondents to read the [draft Strategy](#) before responding to the questions. An Executive Summary of all the findings for this section can be found [here](#).

7.1 Respondent Type

Q1. Are you responding as a:

Please note respondents could select more than one option for this question.

Over seven-tenths of respondents said they were responding as a 'BCP Council resident' (72%), while less than a third said they were responding as a 'survivor of domestic abuse' (30%), and a fifth of respondents said they were responding as 'a professional working within the field of domestic abuse' (20%). Less than a tenth said they were responding as 'a business or organisation' (6%), 'a medical professional' (4%), as 'someone living outside of BCP' (4%), and 'someone working for the criminal justice system' (2%). Over a tenth said they were responding in a different capacity which are outlined below (15%).



Base: 54 respondents

The other ways that the respondents said they were responding to the survey were:

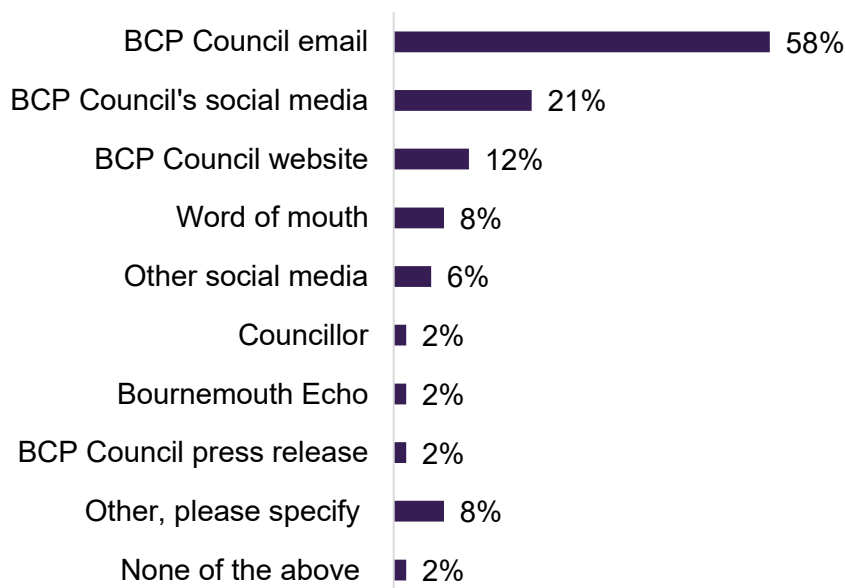
- On behalf of local organisations
- As a parent of a domestic abuse survivor and retired professional working in safeguarding services
- As a BCP Council worker
- As a professional within youth justice and a parent of a female survivor of domestic abuse
- Childhood Survivor, now an adult.

7.2 Consultation Awareness

Q2. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please note respondents could select more than one option for this question.

More than half of respondents said they found out about the consultation through 'BCP Council email' (58%), while a fifth said they find out through 'BCP Council's social media' posts (21%), and over a tenth of respondents said they found out about the consultation through the 'BCP Council website' (12%). Less than a tenth of respondents said they found out about the consultation through 'word of mouth' (8%), 'other social media' posts (6%), a 'Councillor' (2%), the 'Bournemouth Echo' (2%), and BCP Council's press release (2%). Less than a tenth said they found out about the consultation through different means, which are outlined below (8%), and some respondents said 'none of the above' (2%).



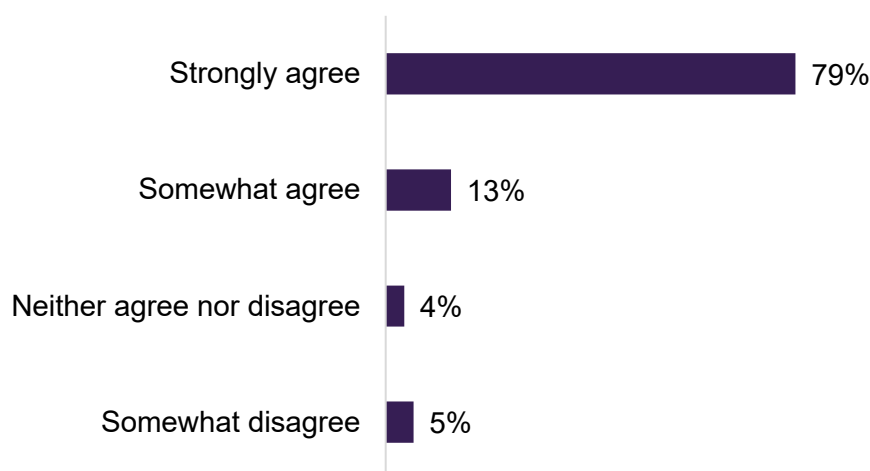
Base: 52 respondents

7.3 Our Vision

Our vision is that 'no resident living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, should live in fear of, or experience, domestic abuse'. This Strategy is our commitment to delivering this vision by working together over the next five years to end domestic abuse in our area.

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our vision?

Nine-tenths of respondents said they 'agree' with our vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 that, 'no resident living in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, should live in fear of, or experience, domestic abuse' (92%), while less than a tenth said they 'neither agree nor disagree' with our vision (4%) or said they 'somewhat disagree' (5%).



Base: All respondents

Q4. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with our vision.



48 comments

48 respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. 36 of these respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the Vision, while seven respondents said they 'somewhat agree' when answering the previous question. Two respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree', while three respondents said they 'somewhat disagree'.

The responses have been analysed according to the response they gave to the previous question, i.e. 'strongly agree', 'somewhat disagree' etc. You can use the links below to jump to the different comments:

- [Strongly agree comments](#)
- [Somewhat agree comments](#)
- [Neither agree nor disagree comments](#)
- [Somewhat disagree comments](#)

‘Strongly agree’ Comments

The ‘strongly agree’ comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 1: ‘Strongly agree’ comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Important aim to strive for	15
No one should suffer from domestic abuse	13
Survivor of domestic abuse	5
Clear and easy to understand	3

Important aim to strive for

15 respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt ending domestic abuse is an important aim to strive for in order to build safer communities and to protect families.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“[It is] vital that the Local Authority works towards this vision and aim for all.”



“It’s simple but to the point, I like the inclusion of ‘fear of’ which includes those people that maybe have left a relationship or those in coercive and controlling relationships that live in fear of repercussions every day.”



“Although I believe it will take generations to change people’s perception and the reality of bullying in relationships the Vision is what a civilised society should expect.”



“Working with service users in our charity, it is very clear that domestic violence is on the increase and needs to have this focus.”



"I agree with the Vision because it shows a real commitment to ending domestic abuse and building safer communities. It recognises that everyone's experience is different and that support needs to be accessible and tailored. I really value the focus on listening to survivors, working together across services, and tackling abuse from all angles - prevention, support, and holding perpetrators accountable."



"I agree that preventing domestic abuse is the right thing to do. Families need to feel safe. Abused families need all professionals to listen and take action to protect them. Make them feel safe when they are in danger."

Some of the respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the Vision but were sceptical about whether it could be implemented and bring about positive change, including for male victims of domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



"An ideal to be aimed for but probably unattainable."



"I agree that this should be your aim. However, having experienced and gone on to learn about reasons for domestic abuse I think it will be difficult to "stop" abusers abusing... education and prevention (empowering victims to leave) will be key."



"I totally agree with your vision, shame it won't be enacted though as you seem to be adhering to the stereotype that victims are all female."

No one should suffer from domestic abuse

13 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt nobody should experience the suffering that comes from domestic abuse.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"I agree with the Vision as it is a basic right that every human has and should be afforded."



"Domestic abuse is abhorrent; it significantly impacts on victims/survivors and their families."



“Domestic violence damages everyone involved, victim, perpetrator, their families, neighbours, emergency and support services, children in the same class at school as affected children etc etc. A coordinated response is essential.”



“Common sense and universal acceptance that no one should be in fear from a partner / relative / friend.”

Survivor of domestic abuse

Five respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they have been victims of domestic abuse or have people close to them who have been victims of domestic abuse.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“Having lived in fear for many years I understand how it impacts all areas of your life & health.”



“I was [a] domestic abuse victim.”



“I have several friends that have been involved in domestic abuse relationships. The relationships have been that of a couple, and then also one relationship is that of mother and son in a coercive/controlling relationship.”

Clear and easy to understand

Three respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because it is clear, focused and easy to understand.

These comments are shown below:



“Clear and explicit.”



“It's a clear vision which includes all BCP residents. Easy to understand and to the point.”



“It is clear and unambiguous.”

‘Somewhat agree’ comments

Seven respondents said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it is unrealistic to expect domestic violence to end. They also felt the Vision should focus more on prevention work with perpetrators, be more inclusive of people living outside the BCP area and enable families’ voices to be heard more.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“We have to be realistic about this - I'm not sure it's something we can 'end'. Will you be doing lots of work with perpetrators and prevention work to enable this? That is key if you want to 'end' domestic abuse.”



“I agree, but it seems unrealistic because I think there is a lack of discussion within schools, workplaces and general life about consent, respect etc.”



“I do not feel the views of the family or the input of the family is used enough or at all to identify, support and to plan with victims and the professionals. My experience was that the police and professionals often see family members as overly dramatic, interfering and don't use them to support strategies early enough. I also wasn't provided with a reason for a Claires Law refusal which left family feeling even more desperate. Support with cases where possible should be holistic and not prescriptive.”



“Not only people living in BCP area, but everyone, including visitors.”

‘Neither agree nor disagree’ comments

Two respondents said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it does not reflect the aims in the Strategy and is missing key information around why domestic abuse happens.

These comments are shown below:



"The Vision doesn't make sense to me. It suggests that BCP [Council] are going to wipe out domestic abuse so that no one lives in fear of it. How is it going to do that? The draft document states various very good initiatives and plans for preventing abuse through education and preventing re-offending through perpetrator programmes but the Vision statement is confusing."



"Domestic abuse is linked strongly to whole societal values which also need attention, e.g. pertaining to other groups such as failing young white males in education/lack of appropriate role models."

'Somewhat disagree' comments

Three respondents said they 'somewhat disagree' with the with the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt the Vision is not inclusive enough by only focusing on BCP residents, while also saying it is hard to monitor incidences of domestic abuse, and there are more important priorities to focus on.

These comments are shown below:



"Because it is and will be extremely hard to monitor these occasions and you are basically in the hands of the victim. They will need to feel supported, listened to and guaranteed safety as well as successful prosecution... I don't think this will be possible."



"I agree that this is the Vision, but in practice, the issue with saying "no resident living in BCP" is that many victims of domestic violence are immigrants with no recourse to public funds, and all of the mitigations provided by the council (Housing, Support Workers, Refuge) are only available to victims who are British or have indefinite leave to remain. I think that the Vision should either actually mean no resident, or it should state more clearly who the Vision excludes."



"Preventing any kind of abuse is important but priority should be on BCP's decline and the quality of the streets, shops, parks, safety, [cleanliness]..."

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

Q5. Is there anything else you would like to say about our vision?



26 comments

These respondents provided further comments about the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. These comments have been coded into themes in order to make them easier to interpret and are shown in the table below:

Table 2: 'Vision' further comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Suggestions	10
Other comments	10
Criticisms	5

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on the 'Suggestions' and 'Criticisms' themes.

Suggestions

10 respondents provided further comments suggesting ways for how the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 could be improved including rephrasing text, adding more information specifically around children, adding an implementation timeline, including non-BCP residents, including police data, and adding greater clarity to the definition of domestic abuse.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"Ensure this vision covers children as victims of domestic abuse."



"Children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse need to be specifically mentioned, not just residents which implies adults."



"I agree but need to do more in terms of educating others about consent, boundaries and respect."



"You need to be clear about your definition of abuse - what may seem abusive to one person may not to another."



“There should be a timeline commitment for the council and police to follow. It is great having policies but we find many domestic violence victims struggle with gaining access to protection and have to wait too long.”



“It needs to be backed by sufficient police investigative resources, police who will report incidents that they become aware of, police who are willing to act as witnesses when they are witness to domestic abuse, police who do not offer offenders with false defence (e.g. telling offenders they have sexsomnia so they can use that to defend their behaviour/sexual assault).”

Criticisms

Five respondents provided further comments that criticised the Vision in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it was vague, unrealistic, discriminated against men, and lacked meaning.

These comments are shown below:



“Sounds a bit vague.”



“It is utopian.”



“Yes, got really hopeful when I started reading it but of course it's all focused on male perpetrators.”



“Maybe different language could be used - 'end' domestic abuse is setting the bar extremely high - if there is one incident of domestic abuse you haven't met the target?”



“[I] would like to hear more about [the] strategy for this - the vision on its own is pretty empty.”

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

7.4 Proposed Priorities

We are proposing to focus on four key priorities in this Strategy which are based on national guidance. These are:

1. Prevent - Prioritising prevention
2. Protect and recover
3. Pursue
4. Relationships

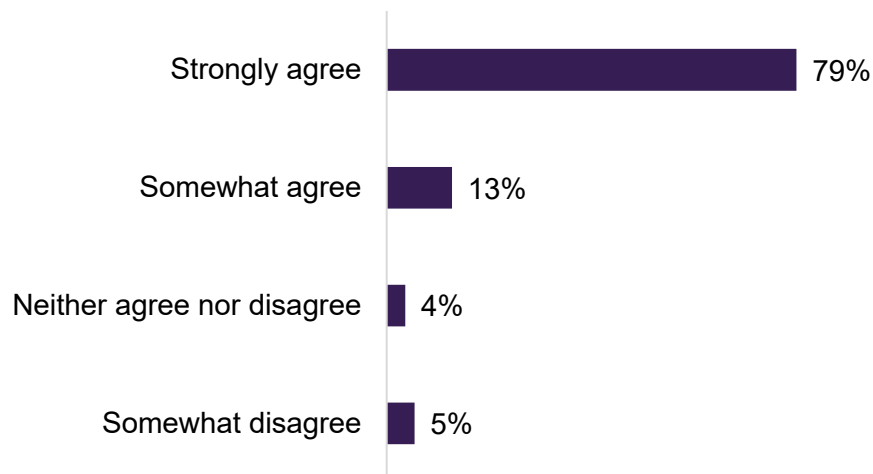
Respondents' views on these proposed Priorities are detailed below.

7.4.1 Priority 1: Prevent - Prioritising prevention

We recognise that the most effective approach to preventing domestic abuse is through education and early intervention. This Priority aims to prevent people from becoming perpetrators and encourage victims to seek help earlier by educating individuals.

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

More than four-fifths of respondents said they 'agree' with the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 (88%), while less than a tenth said they 'somewhat disagree' (5%) or 'neither agree nor disagree' (4%) with this Priority.



Base: All respondents

Q7. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



48 comments

48 respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. 33 of these respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority, while eight respondents said they 'somewhat agree', three respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree', and four respondents said they 'somewhat disagree' when answering the previous question.

The responses have been analysed according to the response they gave to the previous question, i.e. 'strongly agree', 'somewhat disagree' etc. You can use the links below to jump to the different comments:

- [Strongly agree comments](#)
- [Somewhat agree comments](#)
- [Neither agree nor disagree comments](#)
- [Somewhat disagree comments](#)

'Strongly agree' Comments

The 'strongly agree' comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 3: 'Strongly agree' comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Education is key	19
Prevention is the main priority	10
Other comments	4

Education is key

These respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because education and awareness of domestic abuse is vital to preventing it. They felt it was particularly important to promote education around domestic abuse in schools as this was considered one of the most effective forms of early intervention. Respondents felt education should be targeted at victims, perpetrators, young people and the wider population so there is greater awareness of the different types of abuse and of the signs of being both a victim and perpetrator of domestic abuse.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“Educating both potential perpetrators and potential victims, will not only highlight current domestic abuse that is taking place, but empower people to recognise domestic abuse and know how to respond and signpost help. Perpetrators will be made aware of what a healthy relationship looks like and hopefully break the cycle of abuse.”



“Awareness of acceptable behaviour needs to start early and the public needs to be aware of what is acceptable behaviour in the UK regardless of culture.”



“Young people need to know & recognise the warning signs before the abuse starts.”



“I strongly agree because education and early intervention are key to stopping abuse before it starts. Raising awareness helps people spot unhealthy behaviours, reach out for support sooner, and challenge harmful attitudes. Prevention is the most effective way to make long-term change and reduce harm across our communities.”



“Education and training on relationships is very important for all - especially for people with learning disabilities and or autism.”



“Education needs to start in school that incorporates awareness raising of how technology / social media feeds into this and how people can keep themselves safe.”



“Because this is the most cost-effective way to stop domestic abuse and doesn't require the time of highly trained professionals to execute. If the whole population is educated to recognise and value what constitutes a healthy relationship and given the tools to develop healthy relationships this would go a very long way to ending domestic abuse.”

Prevention is the main priority

These respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt prevention is the most important component in stopping domestic abuse from happening and is far more effective than trying to solve the problem once the cycle of abuse has already begun.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"Without addressing prevention nothing will change."



"Agree wholeheartedly that prevention is key rather than stepping in once the abuse has already been carried out."



"I believe much of domestic violence starts in childhood and learning from the society we live in. Prevention is better than cure."



"Once domestic abuse has started occurring it is harder to mitigate than if it is presented from occurring in the first place. Also preventing DA protects those who could potentially be directly impacted from harm and reduces the risk of people becoming perps in the first place."

'Somewhat agree' comments

Eight respondents said they 'somewhat agree' with the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 and referred to a variety of issues that they feel are important to address. These included educating children including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and teaching people how to recognise abusive relationships in order to maximise the benefits of prevention.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"You need to also educate the children that witness domestic violence."



"I was an SEN kid who didn't understand about domestic violence until I was 18. More support for us."



"Prevention starts young. Children who grow up in domestic abuse do not have the knowledge of healthy relationships, I know I did not, and I walked straight into an abusive relationship. Prevention is education."



"Before seeking help individuals need to be able to recognise unhealthy relationships from coercive control through to rape, violence etc... They also need to trust that services can help them to keep safe."



"This will depend on 'who' / 'what services' there are to provide education and early intervention. Without clear funding and commissioning these routes the help required will not be available and the sentiment, whilst well meaning, will not be achievable."



"I do agree that education is important however, no-one starts off being in a relationship thinking that it will end up in a domestic abuse. The abuser is so clever, and the victim doesn't realise the signals, makes excuses for them, then [gets] taken over by fear etc."

'Neither agree nor disagree' comments

Three respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 and referred to a variety of issues that they feel are important to address. These included having appropriate role models within support services, making perpetrators aware of their abusive behaviours, and defining clearly what early intervention looks like.

These comments are shown below:



"Educating individuals - yes, but which individuals? Early intervention - absolutely critical, and life-saving. But what the early intervention looks like is important and which departments of BCP [Council] are being held to this commitment? It must be more than just housing and domestic abuse services - there are so many council-run entities where all staff and volunteers must be aware of how to support at the early intervention stage and do it safely."



"Appropriate male role models will need to be increased in education/social services."



"If perpetrators don't believe they have, or are, an issue, how would anything change?"

'Somewhat disagree' comments

Four respondents said they 'somewhat disagree' with the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt more needs to be done by focusing on punishing perpetrators of domestic abuse because services are not powerful enough to force perpetrators to engage with them in a meaningful way.

These comments are shown below:



"If you pursue first and foremost offenders will become to know they cannot get away with it."



"If someone already has a propensity for violence from an early age, then education won't help. You need to concentrate on successful convictions and jail time."



"Services do not have powers to force a perpetrator to engage in help and support."



"I agree, but I think more needs to be done, it's not as simple as "ooh report it". Most people wouldn't because x, y and z. Personal experience, I do not wish to hurt the other person by reporting it despite what they did. Gaslighting can make people think it's their fault and confuse."

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

Q8. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



21 comments

These respondents provided further comments about the 'Prevent - Prioritising prevention' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030.

These comments have been coded into themes in order to make them easier to interpret and are shown in the table below:

Table 4: ‘Prevent - Prioritising prevention’ further comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Other comments	10
Education	7
Support	5

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on the ‘Education’ and ‘Support’ themes.

Education

Seven respondents provided further comments on the ‘Prevent - Prioritising prevention’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 that focused on educating people further about preventing domestic abuse. They felt that young boys should be educated early on as they were most likely to become perpetrators but this should be done in a way that is not discriminatory. They also felt young people should be taught to value themselves and that training on reporting domestic abuse, sex education, communication and managing emotions are all vital to successfully implementing this Priority.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“Encouraging victims to seek help earlier.... There is so much shame for victims, worry about reporting because of shame, scared to report or worry about it. I think consent needs to be talked about within schools (within sex education) and boundaries need to be talked about. Non-violent communication courses to learn how to say what you need. Courses talk a lot about boundary setting, utilising anger in a healthy way to set boundaries to speak up and say no and consent.”



“Valuing males and females for themselves should be taught and encouraged from the earliest education and development.”



“We really need to target boys and young men to counteract the messages they are bombarded with around toxic masculinity.”



“There should be a focus on men and young boys being educated as they are the main perpetrators.”



“At some stage it needs to be made clear that this is not more male bashing and the messaging has to be positive, not negative, i.e. not 'you must not...' but more 'this is what you can do and aimed at all with an equal emphasis on how to deal with abuse.’”

Support

Five respondents provided further comments on the ‘Prevent - Prioritising prevention’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 that focused on prioritising support for people of all ages and backgrounds. They expressed concern that pursuing prevention may overshadow the support for victims. They said support should be easily accessible, focus more on perpetrators, housing, victims’ rights and training the general population about what to look out for, and be fully inclusive of the LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority communities, and people with disabilities.

These comments are shown below:



“People of all ages including children need to be able to access help easily and securely.”



“It's good to prioritise, although support for those escaping abuse must not take a back seat as prevention would only begin to impact over time. It is not a fix in itself and, whilst it will prevent some future cases, we mustn't let support slip because it is more expensive.”



“My evidence shows that legislation needs to be made to focus more on the perpetrator and housing needs and rights for victims.”



“An increase of places where victims can access support and of training within the population of what to look out for/ code word for support is needed.”



“I strongly agree with this priority - education and early intervention are vital to ending domestic abuse in the long run. That said, it could be strengthened by making sure prevention work is fully inclusive, especially for LGBTQ+ people, disabled survivors, and racially minoritised communities. There's also a real need for consistent, age-appropriate education on healthy relationships in schools and youth settings. Public awareness campaigns should be visible and accessible to everyone, and we need to make sure support is available for people who recognise their own harmful behaviours and want to change before things escalate.”

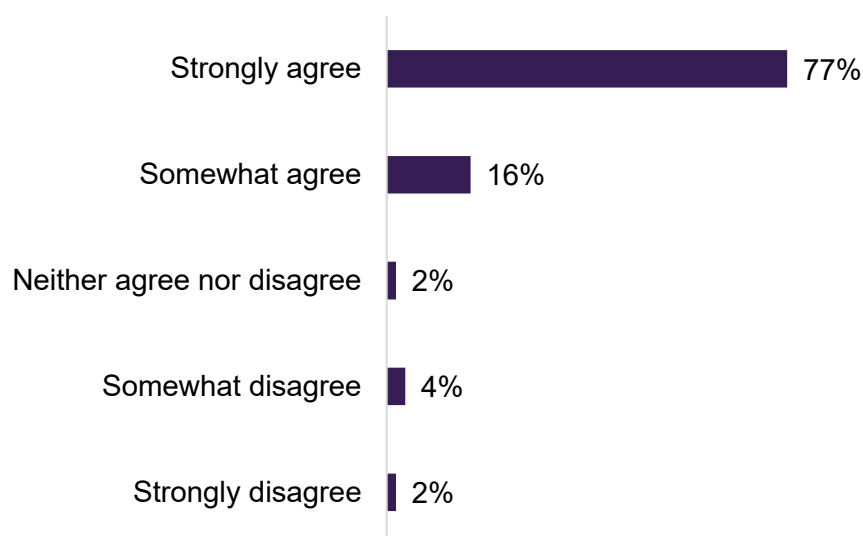
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

7.4.2 Priority 2: Protect and recover

This Priority aims to support all survivors of domestic abuse to get the support they need to live healthy lives free from abuse, with access to education, employment, health services and housing.

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

More than nine-tenths of respondents said they 'agree' with the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 (93%), while less than a tenth said they 'disagree' (6%) or 'neither agree nor disagree' (2%) with this Priority.



Base: All respondents

Q10. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



40 comments

40 respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. 28 of these respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority, while eight respondents said they 'somewhat agree' when answering the previous question. One respondent said they 'strongly disagree', while two respondents said they 'somewhat disagree', and one respondent said they 'neither agree nor disagree'.

The responses have been analysed according to the response they gave to the previous question, i.e. 'strongly agree', 'somewhat disagree' etc. You can use the links below to jump to the different comments:

- [Strongly agree comments](#)
- [Somewhat agree comments](#)
- [Neither agree nor disagree comments](#)
- [Somewhat disagree comments](#)
- [Strongly disagree comments](#)

‘Strongly agree’ comments

The ‘strongly agree’ comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 5: ‘Strongly agree’ comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Support	16
Other comments	7
Impact of domestic abuse	5

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on the ‘Support’ and ‘Impact of domestic abuse’ themes.

Support

16 respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the ‘Protect and recover’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt support is essential for victims of domestic abuse. They felt it is important for victims of domestic abuse to have easy access to streamlined services that provide various forms of long-term support to manage the impacts of domestic abuse. The types of support they felt are important included emergency accommodation, healthcare, education and employment. They also highlighted how important it is for victims to access key information and support in one place rather than having to contact multiple organisations, for access to this information to be quick and for the support to be long-term and inclusive of all people including immigrants who do not have the same rights as BCP residents.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“Displacing victims (away from their support networks if they have them) to far off regions is just not good enough. More emergency accommodation/refuges are needed locally so that victims and their children can stay around family.”



“This needs to be a joined-up process that leads a victim of abuse naturally through a support process with the various areas within BCP.”



"I strongly agree because recovery doesn't end with being safe - survivors need long-term, joined-up support to rebuild their lives. Stable housing, access to health care, education, and employment all play a big part in helping people move forward. A trauma-informed, person-centred approach that takes into account different experiences and barriers is key to making sure support really works for everyone."



"I'd like to see streamlined services. I struggled to find the right support [because] there are so many different places and each seems to operate in isolation and fight for their own funding. Access wellbeing is a great place to reach out to community."



"The speed in which victims can gain support is paramount to prevention and recovery."



"This should be first on the list. Helping the victims to acknowledge they are a domestic abuse victim, working with them to get out of that relationship and then keeping them safe and how to move forward in a happy healthy life."



"Again, vital that survivors are able to access the right support to be able to help them manage the impact of the crime against them."



"I agree support for survivors is essential. And with successful support more people will feel able to report domestic abuse/violence."

Impact of domestic abuse

These respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because of the support it would provide victims of domestic abuse to help them navigate the negative impacts it has. Some respondents gave accounts of their own experiences of domestic abuse as part of their response.

These comments are shown below:



"I know of someone who's only way of escaping domestic violence was to be housed away from the abuser but this resulted in her being constantly moved from one Travelodge to another which was terrible. She ended up returning to the abuser as [she] wanted a home."



"Not having a safe place to go and not having access to money often stops a victim from leaving."



"No one ever protected or helped me and one of my children is critically ill."



"No one should face any form of disadvantage or lack of life opportunities due to having been subjected to domestic abuse."



"I work in BCP Family Hubs delivering [the] Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit so this is something I feel very passionate about. I would welcome a visit if anyone wanted to know more or meet some participants, my name is [name removed]. One of the commonly misunderstood aspects of domestic abuse is that the impact lasts even after the end of the relationship. Victims and their children learn behaviour that keep them safe when in an abusive relationship - cognitive dissonance, suppression of their own emotions/needs, loss of identity, loss of contact with friends and family, try to keep professionals away, Stockholm Syndrome etc and often survivors need support to unlearn these. Children, in particular those that still have contact with the perpetrators, need lots of support with managing all [of] this."



'Somewhat agree' comments

Eight respondents said they 'somewhat agree' with the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt improvements could be made to this Priority. These included adding details of how safety and protection will be available to victims of domestic abuse and how risk would be managed. Some respondents felt relationships should be prioritised more, while others felt greater deterrents are needed to stop perpetrators and also emphasised the importance of support being easily accessible.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"Immediate priority of those experiencing domestic abuse is safety and protection. Need to include this and how risks can be managed/mitigated."



"More deterrent force against who [is] committing crime or abuse."



"You need to take a balanced approach - is the perceived abuser completely to blame or are there two sides to the story? Some abusers may also have been abused."



"It is all things that matter but ultimately, the biggest factor is relationships. When I was trapped in my abusive relationship it was a random member of staff at a children's centre who I had clicked with and had built a relationship with over my children that I then felt I was able to turn to. Education, employment and housing are all secondary to feeling safe enough to have a safe person you trust to make those first steps."



"As previously [stated], infrastructure and services have to be available and accessible to support this."

'Neither agree nor disagree' comments

One respondent said they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 and said the Priority should already be in place and criticised existing services:



"Should be in place already however services are patchy, non-existent or not fit for purpose."

'Somewhat disagree' comments

Two respondents said they 'somewhat disagree' with the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. One respondent said this was because they felt services do not have the powers to change the culture of housing in the BCP area and another respondent asked for more information on where people can access safe accommodation.

These comments are shown below:



"Services are unable to change the culture of BCP housing."



"With the closure of the refuge [are] there facilities for women AND men to stay somewhere safe?"

‘Strongly disagree’ comments

One respondent said they ‘strongly disagree’ with the ‘Protect and recover’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt housing should be prioritised first:



“Housing needs to be first. Making a victim and their children physically safe in terms of where they live must be first.”

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

Q11. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



15 comments

These respondents provided further comments about the ‘Protect and recover’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. These comments have been coded into themes in order to make them easier to interpret and are shown in the table below:

Table 6: ‘Protect and recover’ further comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Suggestions	8
Other comments	4
Criticism	1
No support for staff	1
Query	1

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on all the themes apart from ‘other comments’ as these were not relevant to the question.

Suggestions

Eight respondents provided further comments on the ‘Protect and recover’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 that suggested improvements. They felt it was important to include additional information about support for children who have been victims of domestic abuse, adding more resource and increasing availability of services, providing services for male and female victims, making access to trauma-informed services easier and faster, and

incorporating an evaluative feedback process that the council can use to measure its performance.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“While I strongly support this priority, support needs to be truly accessible and reflect the different challenges survivors face. There could be more focus on what happens after someone has left the abuse - especially around co-parenting, mental health, and the long-term impact of trauma. Safe housing is essential, but there are still barriers for some, like local connection rules, immigration issues, or complex needs. The strategy could also do more to recognise children as survivors in their own right and make sure their recovery is properly supported. And to make all of this work, services need clear, joined-up pathways that are trauma-informed and responsive, so no one falls through the gaps.”



“Reference to support for children living in homes where domestic abuse occurs - safety, coping strategies, recognising domestic abuse [is] not “normal”. On going support, listening, therapy etc...”



“Resources need to be greatly increased and improved.”



“Make counselling easier available please. The trauma of victims is unimaginable and nice they come out to get help, they need help fast, not in a few months.”



“Needs to be places for both men and women.”



“There needs to be a 360-degree feedback process built in to enable the council to measure its successful support management, ensure the process is working, and continue to improve it based on feedback.”

Criticism

One respondent provided a further comment on the ‘Protect and recover’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 criticising what they considered to be legal loopholes in women’s housing rights:



“Women’s rights regarding protecting their housing rights are subject to loopholes in the law and local authorities’ legal obligations and duties.”

No support for staff

One respondent provided a further comment on the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 expressing concerns over whether staff will be supported in implementing this Priority:



"It's all very commendable. Sadly, the professionals have not got the back-ups that they will need."

Query

One respondent provided a further comment on the 'Protect and recover' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 asking for more information on how this Priority will meet the diverse range of needs survivors of domestic abuse have:



"It's all very commendable. Sadly, the professionals have not got the back-ups that they will need."

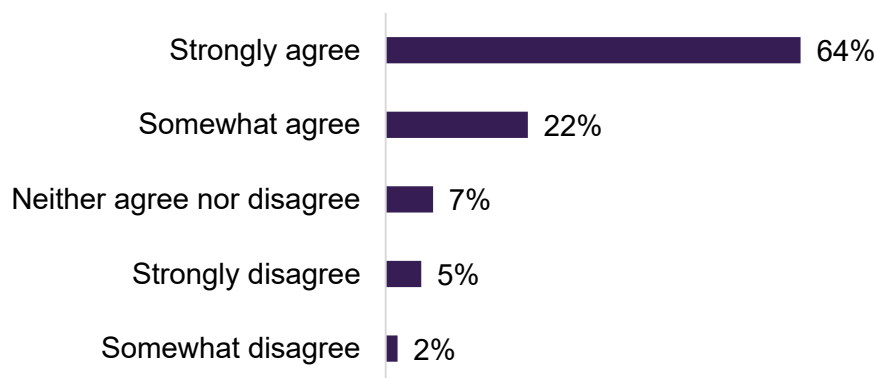
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

7.4.3 Priority 3: Pursue

This Priority aims to pursue perpetrators and hold them accountable for their actions. We will offer behaviour change courses to perpetrators so they can access support for sustainable change around their harmful behaviours.

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

Over four fifths of respondents said they agree with the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 (86%), while less than a tenth said they disagree (7%) or 'neither agree nor disagree' (7%) with this Priority.



Base: 55 respondents

Q13. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



45 comments

45 respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. 26 of these respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority, while 10 respondents said they 'somewhat agree' when answering the previous question. Four respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree', one respondent said they 'somewhat disagree', while three respondents said they 'strongly disagree'.

The responses have been analysed according to the response they gave to the previous question, i.e. 'strongly agree', 'somewhat disagree' etc. You can use the links below to jump to the different comments:

- [Strongly agree comments](#)
- [Somewhat agree comments](#)
- [Neither agree nor disagree comments](#)
- [Somewhat disagree comments](#)
- [Strongly disagree comments](#)

'Strongly agree' Comments

The 'strongly agree' comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 7: 'Strongly agree' comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Education	15
Other comments	5
Justice for victims	3
Implementation	2

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on the 'Education', 'Justice for victims' and 'Implementation' themes.

Education

15 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it is vital for perpetrators of domestic abuse to be educated about why their behaviour is harmful, as several respondents felt this lack of awareness/acknowledgement is a key barrier

to stopping domestic abuse. They also felt education, training and trauma-informed support services play a key role in ensuring perpetrators are accountable for their behaviour, and that behaviour change is sustainable and long-term so that the cycle of abuse is changed. They felt mental health support is key to behaviour change in perpetrators.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“Perpetrators need help to change their behaviour and realise accountability. We are not in favour of an excessive punitive approach.”



“I strongly agree because holding perpetrators to account is crucial for breaking the cycle of abuse and keeping survivors safe. It’s important to have a clear focus on justice, while also offering meaningful opportunities for behaviour change. That balance helps prevent further harm and makes it clear that abuse won’t be tolerated. Giving perpetrators the chance to change - without ever losing sight of survivor safety is key to long-term, sustainable change.”



“Perpetrators will need to change lifelong/ingrained attitudes. Mental health agencies will need to be involved.”



“Sustainable change is the key aspect here - educating those who are causing harm will break the cycle.”



“Behaviour change courses are a vital part of the process.”



“There needs to be strong accountability for those who have perpetuated domestic abuse. However, punishment on its own is unlikely to result in lasting change, education is vital.”



“Perpetrators need to understand the consequences of their behaviour and how it can destroy lives.”



“People can change, though they must want to, some are engrained and may use it as a tick box exercise to get back with their partner. They need a buddy who they will be accountable to which is ongoing for a long period of time.”

Justice for victims

Three respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it is vital perpetrators of domestic abuse are held accountable for their behaviour so there is justice for their victims. They felt it would also show victims they have been believed and that reporting domestic abuse is not a waste of time and can lead to meaningful change.

These comments are shown below:



"Those I work with often report feeling let down by 'the system' as they call it. Justice is a big part of recovery - feeling believed and worthy. It also could act as a deterrent and could increase reporting of domestic abuse – victims [are] far more likely to come forward if they feel they will be protected and justice will be served."



"Prevention is important, but justice for victims is also important."



"Seeing perpetrators be held accountable will hopefully show victims reporting is not a waste of time."

Implementation

Two respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt this Priority needs to be implemented faster after domestic abuse occurs, and further thinking is needed around when perpetrators of domestic abuse are released in the early stages of investigations into harmful behaviour.

These comments are shown below:



"This needs to happen sooner, it took me months of evidence gathering before I could apply for a non-molestation order."



"There needs to be wider thinking about perpetrators being released for further investigations leaving [victims] vulnerable at the first stage of disclosing allegations."

‘Somewhat agree’ comments

The ‘somewhat agree’ comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 8: ‘Somewhat agree’ comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Prosecution	4
Other comments	4
Concerns	2

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on the ‘Prosecution’ and ‘Concerns’ themes.

Prosecution

Four respondents said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt greater focus should be placed on prosecuting perpetrators of domestic abuse as a key deterrent for repeat offenses and as a way for genuine accountability for their actions to take place. They also felt rehabilitation can take place while they are imprisoned.

These comments are shown below:



“They need to prosecuted for their actions and go to prison. First time offenders I agree with the support to change however [for] repeat offenders the money should be spent on supporting the victims.”



“Agree with pursuing the preparator. However, punishment should not be deterred by offering support. Support for change should be given during their sentence or after they have served time. Dependant on the circumstance.”



“It isn't just courses, it is the Criminal Justice System. Pursue convictions, pursue criminal accountability.”



“Yes, prevention courses are useful but I think anyone involved in a domestic abuse situation should be given a minimum prison time. I know that prisons are overrun as a side issue, however, they can be rehabilitated whilst inside and hopefully learn some useful skills before their release. Abuse is a bit like addiction for some and they will go back to the same man/women and restart a further abusive relationship or move onto a new partner and become abusive to them. Like in addiction, the first try at rehab is likely not to work and takes [multiple] attempts to break free of the behaviour.”

Concerns

Two respondents said they 'somewhat agree' with the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they expressed concerns about whether it will work. In particular they felt the council could waste a lot of money on an approach that might not stop perpetrators from changing and, while well meaning, would not bring about lasting change.

These comments are shown below:



"Statistics support [the view] that it is very rare for a person with abusive tendencies to change. Often, they are very manipulative and will sign up to courses because they have to (e.g. court orders or ultimatum from partner) and go along with the course whilst being the same or worse. This is what I have read from people who work trying to rehabilitate abusive people. My concern is that the council shouldn't be putting loads of money into this if it's not going to work."



"Pursue, support, courses to effect change - how will they be measured and how do you evidence change? [It is an] idealistic approach, well-meaning but the reality of the outcomes [are] unachievable."

'Neither agree nor disagree' comments

Four respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they questioned the effectiveness of behaviour change courses and perpetrators need to willingly engage and there is no guarantee this will happen.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"Behaviour change courses are not giving enough motivation for perpetrators to not become recidivist."



"Of course, they are accountable but not many courses you give them [removed] won't stop them doing it again. I cannot ever trust my 'ex dad'."



"I'm concerned about behaviour change courses being used as a cheaper and more accessible option when imprisonment would ideally be more appropriate. Moreover, research shows that things like behaviour change courses only work if the attendee is freely choosing to access them. This feels like it's only addressing a small part of what this priority could be covering to be more effective."

‘Somewhat disagree’ comments

One respondent said they ‘somewhat disagree’ with the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they questioned whether perpetrators of domestic abuse would engage with this process and called for harsher sentencing:



“I don't think those living with violence themselves will engage with these services, behaviour breeds behaviour and if they have been abused themselves to them that is a normal way of life - harsher sentencing is also needed.”

‘Strongly disagree’ comments

Three respondents said they ‘strongly disagree’ with the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt the council do not have the powers to make perpetrators accountable and change their behaviour, while saying that this should be considered the most important Priority and querying how this Priority would be implemented.

These comments are shown below:



“This should be the first priority.”



“No powers to force perpetrators you mentioned in the above that you will OFFER. This is not enough.”



“Without conviction how would you implement this?”

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

Q14. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



16 comments

These respondents provided further comments about with the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. These comments have been

coded into themes in order to make them easier to interpret and are shown in the table below:

Table 9: 'Pursue' Priority' further comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Support for perpetrators	5
Other comments	3
Discriminating against victims	2
Prosecution	2
Query	2
Sceptical	2

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on all the themes apart from 'other comments' as these were not relevant to the question.

Support for perpetrators

Five respondents provided further comments on the 'Pursue' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 suggesting how best to support perpetrators in rehabilitating their harmful behaviour. They felt it was important to investigate perpetrators' backgrounds to find the root cause of the harmful behaviour, make participation in rehabilitation mandatory, properly monitor behaviour change courses to evaluate their effectiveness, and to make them available in different languages and suitable for people with different needs including neurodiversity.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"Abusers are often victims of abuse and need help and support. Need to ask, "what happened to you?" rather than "why did you do this?"



"This shouldn't just be offered but made mandatory."



"It would be helpful if this education was available in alternate languages for populations where there is cultural misunderstanding about the extent and need for change in perpetrators from foreign countries."



“While I fully support the focus on accountability and behaviour change, this priority could be strengthened by making sure perpetrator programmes are properly monitored so we know they’re making a real difference - and that survivor safety stays at the centre. There also needs to be a clearer approach for dealing with perpetrators who won’t engage or who continue to pose a risk, including stronger use of legal tools. Barriers like language, neurodiversity, or mental health should be taken into account so programmes are genuinely accessible. And more could be done to tackle stalking, coercive control and post-separation abuse with targeted, proactive responses.”



Discriminating against victims

Two respondents provided further comments on the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 about how victims of domestic abuse can be discriminated against by the police and pressured by the courts to give the perpetrator access to their children.

These comments are shown below:



“I have had some interesting conversations with survivors about courts and how they will order that children have contact with the perpetrator even when they continue to abuse by proxy using the children which is emotional abuse. Children are often subjected to witnessing abuse on new partners. However, if a survivor continues to allow contact they often get labelled as ‘not protecting their children’ in court proceedings. They wanted to know why it’s ok for courts to allow contact but if they do, they aren’t protecting their children.”



“I was originally told by the police it was tit for tat because I hit him when he had me pinned down by my neck. Not only did I instantly lose all faith in the system, I questioned myself. It made me feel like the perpetrator was the one with all the power. Ultimately, the early help worker did an amazing job getting me in touch with an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) who challenged the police but when pursuing, other professionals need to be prepared to challenge.”

Prosecution

Two respondents provided further comments on the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 about how they felt there is a lack of power to act and that domestic violence offences should carry a minimum sentence.

These comments are shown below:



“Not enough powers.”



“Domestic violence should carry a minimum sentence.”

Query

Two respondents provided further comments on the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 querying how perpetrators will be held accountable for their behaviour and where the staff will come from to help stop domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



“How will they be held accountable? Will there be some kind of compensation or charges?”



“Yes, I would like to add. Where are we going to get these professionals to help stop domestic abuse?”

Sceptical

Two respondents provided further comments on the ‘Pursue’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 about how they felt sceptical about domestic abuse being stopped or changed.

These comments are shown below:



“As long as there is misogyny there will be abuse and I know there are female abusers. I am very sceptical that there can be change, I am sorry.”



“I hope that female perpetrators will be pursued equally. I'm not hopeful but have to say I have begun to see some improvements.”

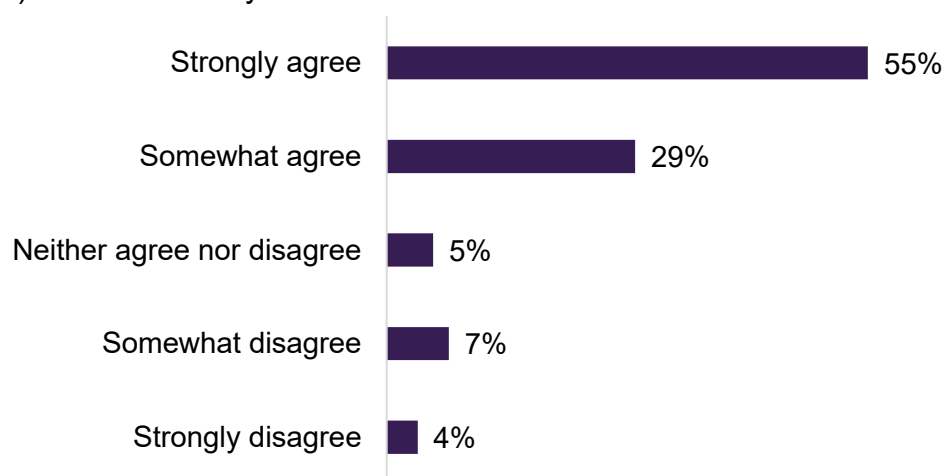
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

7.4.4 Priority 4: Relationships

This Priority aims to lead by example, by working collaboratively with our colleagues, partners and communities to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse across the BCP Council area. A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) will shift the focus away from individuals being responsible for their own safety onto the communities and services which support them.

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

Over four-fifths of respondents said they agree with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 (84%), while over a tenth said they disagree (11%), and less than a tenth of respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree' (5%) with this Priority.



Base: All respondents

Q16. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



40 comments

40 respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. 19 of these respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority, while 14 respondents said they 'somewhat agree' when answering the previous question. Three respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree', while three respondents said they 'somewhat disagree', and one respondent said they 'strongly disagree',

The responses have been analysed according to the response they gave to the previous question, i.e. 'strongly agree', 'somewhat disagree' etc. You can use the links below to jump to the different comments:

- [Strongly agree comments](#)
- [Somewhat agree comments](#)
- [Neither agree nor disagree comments](#)
- [Somewhat disagree comments](#)
- [Strongly disagree comments](#)

‘Strongly agree’ comments

The ‘strongly agree’ comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 10: ‘Strongly agree’ comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Collaborative working	4
Community involvement	3
Sceptical	3
Supporting victims	3
Education	2
Positive comments	2
Level of importance	1
More information	1

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on all the themes apart from ‘positive comments’ as these were general statements of agreement with this Priority.

Collaborative working

Four respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it is essential for services to work collaboratively to successfully address the complex challenges of domestic abuse, i.e. one service or section of society cannot manage this complexity by themselves.

These comments are shown below:



“Collaborative working is essential as there is more than one agency managing victims/survivors and perpetrators.”



“Partnership working, with good communication and a clear and consistent approach will be more effective than any more siloed approaches.”



"I strongly agree because a Coordinated Community Response is essential for making sure support is consistent and joined-up. Domestic abuse is too complex for any one service to deal with alone - working together means earlier, safer interventions and shared responsibility. It also helps shift the focus away from survivors having to manage their own safety and puts it where it belongs: with the systems and services meant to support them."



"It is everyone's responsibility to keep people safe as they can be."

Community involvement

Three respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt communities can play an important role in helping to raise awareness of domestic abuse, encourage collective responsibility and facilitate open dialogue and information sharing between everybody working to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



"Community awareness is a great idea, so many people will still turn a blind eye or mind their own business. Maybe community settings - salons, barbers, cafes, supermarkets, schools, pubs etc could be safe spaces and somewhere people can go to for help/support. Maybe a list could be available or a sticker displayed on window of setting."



"Absolutely it is a community responsibility to keep people free from abuse."



"[Coordinated] Community Response makes stronger links, clearer signposting and open and honest information sharing between stakeholders."

Sceptical

Three respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 but were sceptical about whether this Priority was achievable because they were not sure whether different organisations could work together and communicate successfully, and felt key information could be missed due to current workloads.

These comments are shown below:



"The aim is admirable but not sure how this will be realised in practice and may well be the most difficult to achieve in getting individuals in the various organisations to be proactive."



“A coordinated response is vital - but hard to achieve. Look at the failures in communication still existing between social services and the NHS.”



“I agree, though due to workloads people can miss what is in front of them, as it takes time to uncover what is not often said.”

Supporting victims

Three respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 and emphasised the importance of helping victims and their families to feel comfortable reporting concerns about domestic abuse, being able to discuss their experiences with people in similar positions and to help victims manage feelings of hopelessness and guilt.

These comments are shown below:



“Victims need support to help lift them out of feeling they have nowhere to turn.”



“It’s never the survivors fault.”



“We felt like we were being a nuisance reporting concerns, missing episodes etc due to her being an adult. There is no forum I am aware of for parents and families or child siblings where the long-term impact of domestic abuse can be shared. The ability to support a survivor within the family relies on their own knowledge and for most that is zero. The impact on our family six years on is still alive and impacting us.”

Education

Two respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 and highlighted the need for boys, in particular, to be educated about the impact of domestic abuse as part of a long-term prevention plan, and also for there to be greater accountability for harmful behaviours.

These comments are shown below:



“Education is part of long-term prevention. Boys need to know what is and is not ok and that idiots like Andrew Tate are NOT role models.”



“More accountability is needed.”

Level of importance

One respondent said they ‘strongly agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 but said they felt it is of lower importance than other Priorities:



“Perhaps 2nd or 3rd down on the strategy list.”

More information

One respondent said they ‘strongly agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 but said they would like to see more information on how this Priority will be delivered:



“I strongly agree with this priority but would like to see delivery plans for it to fully understand what the key deliverables are in granulated detail.”

‘Somewhat agree’ comments

The ‘somewhat agree’ comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 11: ‘Somewhat agree’ comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Accountability	4
More information	2
Training	2
Collaborative working	1
Community involvement	1
Immigrant victims	1
Services are responsible not communities	1
Trust	1
Not relevant	1

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on all the themes apart from ‘not relevant’.

Accountability

Four respondents said they 'somewhat agree' with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt individuals should be fully accountable for their choices and actions, not support services. However, along with local communities, they can provide support to help them improve their lives.

These comments are shown below:



"Individuals still need to take some responsibility for their own behaviours and actions, alongside the support from Coordinated Community Response (CCR)."



"Individuals should be responsible for themselves and have the support of services when they are needed."



"Streamline - yes please! But - Individuals should always be responsible for themselves. Services should be there to help and support, but not responsible for the actions of individuals!"



"Again, putting responsibilities onto services to achieve and provide. How will this be funded? Individuals should be responsible for their own actions."

More information

Two respondents said they 'somewhat agree' with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they said they needed more information on resourcing, promotion and implementation to understand how this Priority would work in practice.

These comments are shown below:



"Sounds good but not sure what that means, how it will work and resourcing and promotion?"



"Need to elaborate a bit more on the action - unsure how this will be carried out?"

Training

Two respondents said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt that the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) and victims of domestic abuse should take part in appropriate training to ensure domestic abuse is being tackled in the most effective way.

These comments are shown below:



“Collaborative working is great and a step in the right direction and yes communities and services should be available to support victims and perpetrators, however, all those in Coordinated Community Response (CCR) will need to be appropriately trained for this to work successfully. I feel there may also be resistance for responsibility to be with communities.”



“In principle, this is good. However, it is also beneficial for someone escaping abuse to attend some form of course, like Pattern Changing, to start the "move on process" themselves. We can't fully take on responsibility from an individual.”

Collaborative working

One respondent said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because collaborative working between organisations would help to identify serious issues in the early stages of domestic abuse:



“Working in partnership will help prevent red flags being missed.”

Community involvement

One respondent said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they believe in the power of community involvement to bring about meaningful change:



“I strongly believe in the power of community and social interaction to bring about change.”

Immigrant victims

One respondent said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in

the previous question, they expressed concern over how victims of domestic abuse from immigrant communities would access support when they do not have the same legal rights and funding as BCP residents:



“I agree with this Priority, however, in practice, many immigrant victims of domestic violence (and non-immigrant victims who need legal support) cannot access legal aid or afford the immigration support needed to free themselves from their abusers.”

Services are responsible not communities

One respondent said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt support services should be responsible for people’s safety, not the local community:



“Professional services should be responsible for individuals’ safety, however there shouldn’t be repercussions if people in the local community don’t shoulder the responsibility. There should be advice on how people in the community can report any concerns they have for someone, but it wouldn’t be fair to hold the community responsible for an individuals’ safety.”

Trust

One respondent said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt having relationships with people you can trust and who give you hope, is crucial when supporting survivors of domestic abuse:



“Relationships are absolutely critical. It isn’t even about building relationships from a domestic violence position. Just having a relationship you can trust makes such a huge difference to outcomes. You cannot force someone to leave or force them to take action but you can make them feel not trapped, you can show them they don’t have to fear their children being removed.”

‘Neither agree nor disagree’ comments

Three respondents said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they questioned its effectiveness in stopping perpetrators of domestic abuse and they also had doubts about how it is structured. They also felt everyone is responsible for domestic abuse in communities.

These comments are shown below:



"Seems a bit soft - will not stop those who inflict domestic abuse. Ok as a fourth priority."



"Great to shift victim blaming. I am not sure about the structure proposed."



"Everyone is responsible for domestic violence as this is a safeguarding issue for the victim and children. Focus needs to be for everyone. Individuals are just as responsible."

'Somewhat disagree' comments

Three respondents said they 'somewhat disagree' with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt people should be responsible for their own actions and safety, not communities. They also felt victims of domestic abuse should be supported but were sceptical about whether the harmful effects could be reduced, and felt concerned about placing the responsibility on communities and services that do not have the resources to cope with a challenge of this nature:



"Individuals should be responsible, whether it is for their own actions or their own safety. I'm not sure that a 'community' response is helpful - or entirely healthy."



"I don't think once the harm is done, it can be reduced, but it should be dealt with and the victim whether male or female be treated with dignity and be supported and feel 100% safe."



"It's hard to understand exactly what this means or how it will be achieved. I'm concerned that, rather than only being about trying to ensure each individual doesn't have to fend for themselves, it could also suggest "passing the buck" onto communities and other services that may not be equipped to manage this and shifting responsibility and duty of care away from BCP."

'Strongly disagree' comments

One respondent said they 'strongly disagree' with the 'Relationships' Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because based on what they

have witnessed, victims of domestic abuse are scared to speak up about their experiences:



“I witness domestic violence [removed] daily in my local area and [it is] accepted as the norm. Woman are scared of speaking up because of the consequences from authorities.”

Q17. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



10 comments

These respondents provided further comments about the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret and are shown in the table below:

Table 12: ‘Relationships’ further comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Not relevant	3
Concerns	2
Communication	1
Community groups	1
Education	1
Partnerships	1
Relationships	1

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on all the themes apart from ‘not relevant’.

Concerns

Two respondents provided further comments on the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 and expressed concerns over how a lack of funding and resources could negatively impact the successful implementation of this Priority to ensure victims of domestic abuse are supported effectively.

These comments are shown below:



“I am concerned with this one the most as BCP is nearly bankrupt and you need money for these services and interactions.”



“The Southwest is a known legal aid desert, and many victims of domestic violence are being told simply to "get a free hour" of legal advice, but they are not supported any further to regularise their immigration status independently or divorce easily. Many previously funded BCP legal projects (for example - CAB's Justice Advice Project) have been closed due to lack of funding support.”

Communication

One respondent provided a further comment on the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 highlighting the need for transparency with the public:



“Transparency and data shared to the public is important.”

Community groups

One respondent provided a further comment on the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 about a service that provides support in the local community:



“Access Wellbeing in Poole and Boscombe is great to provide an easy, accessible and safe place for people to reach out for help.”

Education

One respondent provided a further comment on the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 about the need for girls to be educated about perpetrating abusive behaviours:



“Yes, girls need education as well, especially that it's not ok for them to be hitting or controlling their partners.”

Partnerships

One respondent provided a further comment on the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it would only be effective if key agencies successfully work in partnership, improve data sharing and ensure lived experience plays a central role in decision making:



“While I strongly support the commitment to a Coordinated Community Response, it will only work if there’s strong leadership, shared responsibility, and real buy-in from all partners - not just the specialist services. For it to be effective, every agency, including housing, health, education, and justice, needs to be equipped and committed to working in a survivor-focused, trauma-informed way. It would also be good to see more detail on how communities - especially those who don’t usually engage with services - will be supported to play a part. Clear governance, better data sharing, and regular input from people with lived experience will be key to keeping things joined up and making real change happen.”



Relationships

One respondent provided a further comment on the ‘Relationships’ Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 about relationships:



“Relationships take time.”

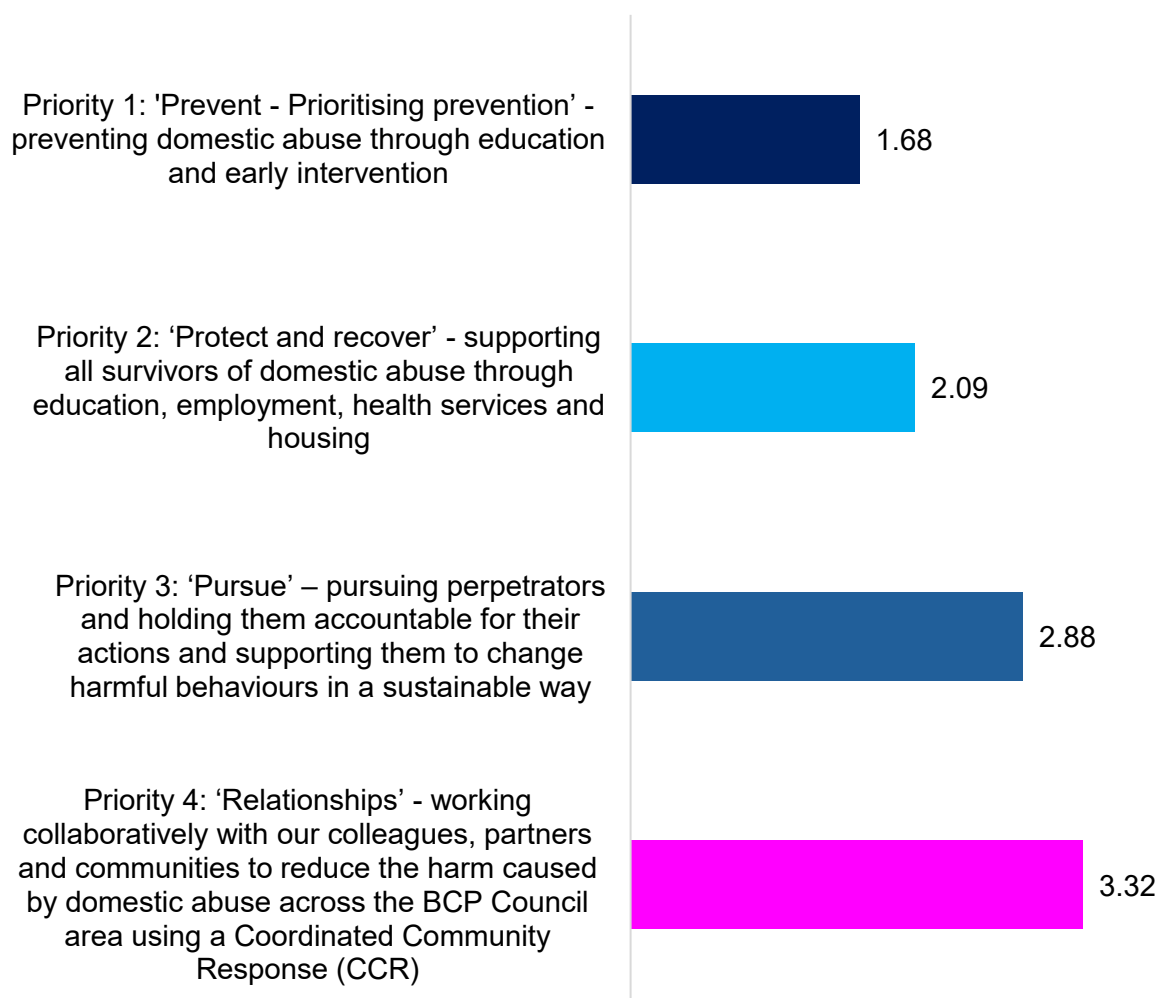
7.4.5 Priorities ranked by importance

Q18. Please rank the four proposed Priorities in order of importance, with the most important at '1' and the least important at '4'.

The chart below shows how respondents ranked each proposed Priority in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. Please note that the more important the Priority is, the lower the value allocated to it.

On average, respondents ranked ‘Prevent - prioritising prevention’ (1.68) as the most important Priority, followed by ‘Protect and recover’ (2.09), and ‘Pursue’ (2.88). Respondents ranked ‘Relationships’ (3.32) as the least important Priority.

Average rank (the lower the value the more important the Priority)

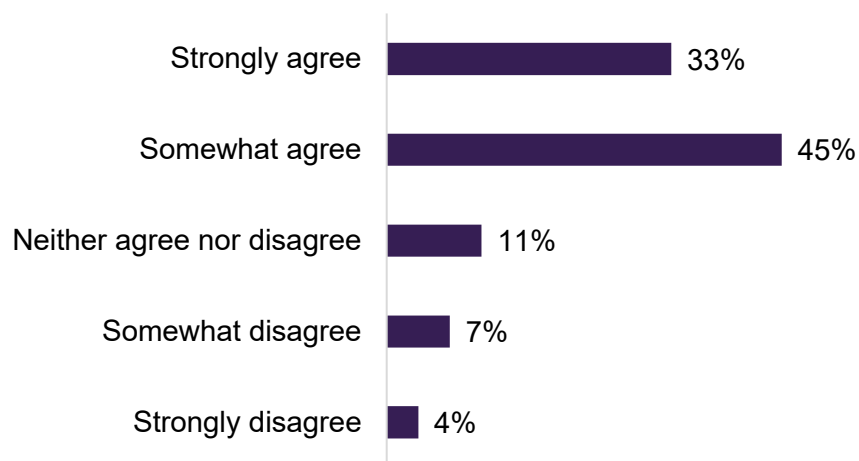


Base: All respondents

7.5 Statement

Q19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement, "The draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to tackle domestic abuse across BCP"?

Over seven-tenths of respondents said they 'agree' with the statement, "the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to tackle domestic abuse across BCP" (78%), while over a tenth said they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the statement (11%), or 'disagree' (11%).



Base: 55 respondents

Q20. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this statement.



33 comments

These respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the statement, "The draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to tackle domestic abuse across BCP". Nine respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement, while 14 respondents said they 'somewhat agree' when answering the previous question. Four respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree', while three respondents said they 'somewhat disagree', and two respondents said they 'strongly disagree' with the statement.

The responses have been analysed according to the response they gave to the previous question, i.e. 'strongly agree', 'somewhat disagree' etc.

Table 13: Statement themes

Theme	No of comments
Strongly agree	9
Somewhat agree	14
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	2

You can use the links below to jump to the different comments:

- [Strongly agree comments](#)
- [Somewhat agree comments](#)
- [Neither agree nor disagree comments](#)
- [Somewhat disagree comments](#)
- [Strongly disagree comments](#)

Strongly agree

These respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the statement because it is clear in its objectives and goals, is detailed, will help educate children about domestic abuse and will help to protect vulnerable people.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“Clearly laid out with SMART goals.”



“This is detailed and gives enough information.”



“It is important to protect vulnerable people.”



“I think it's important for the council to address the issue of domestic abuse. If we are to live in a society where this doesn't happen, the raising and education of children in society is of key importance.”

Somewhat agree

These respondents said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the statement because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt improvements could be made. These comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret.

These are shown in the table below:

Table 14: ‘Somewhat agree’ themes

Theme	No of comments
More information needed	7
Sceptical	3
Collaborative approach	2
Support	1
Too long	1

More information needed

Seven respondents said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the statement because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt more information is needed in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030, specifically around how everything will be implemented.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“[Referring to the] points made. No sense of how this will be achieved.”



“It seems to be a list of ideals without too much about the 'how'. First you have to educate the educators.”



“These are strategic headings. The key is in the detail of how this will be implemented, services delivered, mechanisms to support and ensure perpetrator/survivor engagement, processes to ensure joined up [working] across BCP service areas, costs/budget available, measured and, continually improved.”



“Does not provide the funding and how this will be achieved in real terms and make a difference for survivors of all ages.”



“It sets out key priorities, links to wider national policy, and includes a strong focus on prevention, survivor voice, and multi-agency working. However, it would benefit from clearer timelines, measures of success, and more detail on how the strategy will be implemented in practice - especially around access for marginalised groups and long-term funding for services.”

Sceptical

Three respondents said they 'somewhat agree' with the statement because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt sceptical about having sufficient resources to implement the Strategy effectively, and about whether perpetrators can change.

These comments are shown below:



"I'm sorry I find it very difficult to believe that bullies will change permanently."



"I think it is good in theory, but it is a question of having the resources and the time within the system to implement."



"I agree, but sadly, we have not got the resources. Therefore, not everyone will get tracked well."

Collaborative approach

Two respondents said they 'somewhat agree' with the statement because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt that collaboration across different disciplines at a national level is essential to successfully tackling domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



"It needs a very strong collaborative multi-disciplinary approach led by a strong team!"



"I believe domestic violence is a national issue that should be addressed appropriately throughout the UK and adopted by every council, so that a clear message is issued and the culture changed for longer sustainability of acceptable behaviour."

Support

One respondent said they 'somewhat agree' with the statement and emphasised the importance of supporting each victim of domestic abuse in a way that addresses the unique experience they have gone through:



"Each survivor is unique, and support should always be collaborative, trauma informed."

Too long

One respondent said they 'somewhat agree' with the statement because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they found the statement too long making it hard to understand:



"It is very comprehensive with clear priorities, but is very wordy and this makes it harder to digest"

Neither agree nor disagree

Four respondents said they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the statement because they felt more information is needed in it on to explain how everything will be implemented and criticised the behaviour of police towards victims of domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



"All words until it is acted upon."



"All the buzz words but no detail. I get that a strategy document is not operational, but these are just words at this stage, and I am concerned about the vision as I said previously."



"Dorset Police told me domestic abuse keeps them in a job. I'm not sure how the Local Authority can manage abuse when the police are not all supportive of victims."



"Without seeing delivery plans (to fully understand what the key deliverables are in granulated detail) this could end up being high level indeterminate aspirations that don't actually get delivered."

Somewhat disagree

Three respondents said they 'somewhat disagree' with the statement because they felt there are still doubts about how it will be implemented, it needs to be more prevention-focused and stated they did not believe the statement.

These comments are shown below:



"It's a statement only, the big question remains how it's delivered. I'd like to see accountable, actionable, etc measures."



"This is very much a post action service, more needs to be done for prevention and to inform would be abusers [about] the serious nature and consequences of any action they take out on someone."



"Because I see I won't believe it."

Strongly disagree

Two respondents said they 'strongly disagree' with the statement because of the lack of support services and refuge places for male victims of domestic abuse and those with no recourse to public funds, e.g. victims from immigrant communities.

These comments are shown below:



"The draft plan is general and wide in scope, and it is admirable to want to tackle these problems for ALL residents in BCP, but in practice, many of the supports available to British or settled families are not available to those with a no recourse to public funds condition, and the draft does not address this at all. For instance, BCP Housing has an incredible plan to house everyone in BCP, but they will openly say that their plan does not involve those with no recourse to public funds. From a justice perspective, the Police and justice services DO provide services irrespective of immigration status, but to say that the overarching strategy applies to all residents of BCP without a plan for those with No recourse to public funds is short-sighted. In the past year, I have had approximately 20 clients who were victims of domestic abuse. Nearly all had to stay with their abusers longer than was safe, and many have been unable to leave because of the lack of support services and refuge places for victims with no recourse to public funds. This has affected numerous children, many of whom ended up homeless and destitute and caused greater cost for BCP as a whole. To create a plan without addressing these inequalities of support would be a grave oversight."



"You've ignored male victims, no education for girls/women, no refuge places for men. I accept that a larger proportion of victims are female, but I know men are even less likely to report than women. But by your own figures, 32% of victims are male, of course some of those will be male on male [abuse]."

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

7.6 Further comments

Q21. Is there anything else that you would like to say about the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030?



22 comments

22 respondents provided further comments about the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030. These comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 15: Further comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Improvements	8
Positive comments	7
Other comments	3
Criticisms	2
Queries	2

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on all the themes apart from 'other comments' as these were not relevant to the question.

Improvements

Eight respondents said they felt improvements could be made to the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030, specifically by referencing children more including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN). They wanted to see more information provided on the barriers to getting support, on how both male and female victims of domestic abuse will be supported, on hard to reach groups, and on the role of the police, key statistics and prevention.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"Children MUST be referenced specifically to break the cycle and to help them cope with and survive the trauma."



"Just need SEN (learning disabilities, autism) to be supported as well with correct resources."



"Please consider male victims, we already feel isolated, nor listened to, not believed, nor important."



“Yes...it needs to be available for both men and women.”



“I would like to know numbers regarding how much domestic abuse is reported and how many are dealt with.”



“Prevention needs to start early, with young children, teaching them their value, as sadly this is not always learnt from their parents. Nursery, infants and junior schools. TV adverts for children to know, what is and isn't acceptable, as they only know their life to be normal, not knowing it's actually an abusive environment, for children to know support will be in place if they speak up, rather than being pulled into care, for the perpetrator to be moved from the property until they have shown change. Another thing, the perpetrator could agree to wear a monitor that records when they are becoming aggressive - increased heart rate, to safeguard family. Or to be transparent with a buddy around their views and actions.”



“As a national housing provider, [we] welcome the vision and direction set out in the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025–2030. We really value the focus on prevention, working together, and listening to survivors. The recognition that domestic abuse is everyone's responsibility - including housing - is particularly important to us. From our perspective, access to safe, suitable housing is a vital part of recovery, and we'd welcome more clarity around how the strategy plans to tackle barriers like local connection rules, immigration status, and complex needs. It would also be helpful to see more detail on how all services - including housing - will be supported to work in a trauma-informed, survivor-focused way. We support the emphasis on holding perpetrators to account and offering meaningful routes to change, as long as survivor safety stays at the centre. And we'd like to see continued focus on reaching groups who don't always feel able to come forward or access support.



Positive comments

Seven respondents made positive comments about the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030, saying it was a good start and would help victims of domestic abuse. One respondent shared their lived experience of how beneficial support is and highlighted how important education and relationships are in the recovery process.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"I am happy this is on the agenda, so many more victims out there and we need to remove as many barriers as possible and raise awareness."



"Excellent piece of work and so pleased to see BCP Council working towards gaining White Ribbon accreditation."



"It's a good starting point dealing with a global problem."



"No, but I would say it was BCP staff members (in 2017) who made me feel safe enough to admit what was happening, who helped me advocate for myself and advocated when I couldn't. My situation is an example of just how effective this sort of support is and what a difference it can make. None of the work is quick but it does make a difference. Relationships and education are such a key factor. Education to stop the cycle, relationships to trust to have somewhere to turn."

Criticisms

Two respondents made comments criticising certain aspects of the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 including how domestic abuse is defined, how perpetrators are punished, and because of a lack of information on how the cycle of abuse negatively affects victims of domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



"It's impossible for me to rank preventative measures against immediate necessities (helping victims). One is a very long-term gain (where historically it's harder to get funding) the other is an immediate but shorter-term problem. I am disappointed that there is no suggestion of removing perpetrators from the homes allowing the victim and their children to stay in the family home. Immediate removal and automatic exclusion zones? As well as educating the perpetrators, there needs to be an acknowledgment that victims become trapped in a cycle, whereby they believe the remorse often expressed by perpetrators and do not leave the abusive relationship. They need educating too."





“As an older person I hear of people being punished for 'abuse' which would not have been considered abusive 50 years ago. In some ways this is a good thing, but not always. If people continue becoming more and more 'sensitive' no behaviour will be within the law in another 50 years.”

Queries

Two respondents made comments that asked questions about the draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030 including whether victims of domestic abuse had been consulted before the draft Strategy was written and about whether it is linked to other key BCP Council strategies and policies.

These comments are shown below:



“Was there a consultation with victims prior to the draft???? If not, this was wrong.”



“Is this all linked in with the bigger BCP Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy and the BCP Homes Vulnerable Residents Policy?”

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

7.7 Respondent profile - Draft Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030

The equalities profile is shown below.

Equalities	Group	Number	%
Age	25 - 34 years	4	7%
	35 - 44 years	7	13%
	45 - 54 years	20	36%
	55 - 64 years	12	21%
	65 - 74 years	3	5%
	75 - 84 years	5	9%
	Prefer not to say	5	9%
Gender	Female	38	68%
	Male	11	20%
	Prefer not to say	7	13%
Sexual orientation	Straight / Heterosexual	43	78%
	All other sexual orientations	4	7%
	Prefer not to say	8	15%
Disability	Yes - limited a little/a lot	17	30%
	No	33	59%
	Prefer not to say	6	11%
Disability Type	Hearing (e.g. deaf, partially deaf or hard of hearing)	1	4%
	Reduced physical capacity (e.g. inability to move everyday objects, debilitating pain etc)	7	26%
	Speech (impairments that cause communication problems)	1	4%
	Mobility (such as wheelchair user, need for walking aids etc)	3	11%
	Physical co-ordination (e.g. problems with muscular control, cerebral palsy)	1	4%
	Mental illness (e.g. severe depression or psychosis)	6	22%
	Long Term progressive condition (such as cancer, MS, HIV)	2	7%
	Other disability	6	22%
Ethnic Group	White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	45	82%
	Other White	3	5%
	Prefer not to say	7	13%
Religion	No religion	20	37%
	Christian	24	44%
	Any other religion	3	6%
	Prefer not to say	7	13%
	A BCP Council resident	39	70%

Respondent Type	Someone living outside of BCP	2	4%
	A survivor of domestic abuse	16	29%
	A medical professional	2	4%
	Someone working for the criminal justice system	1	2%
	A professional working within the field of domestic abuse	11	20%
	A business or organisation	3	5%
	Other	8	14%

8 Draft Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 Survey

There was a total of 16 responses to this survey.

The draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 is focused on the provision of safe accommodation in the BCP area for survivors of domestic abuse who need support around their housing needs.

Our definition of domestic abuse can be found [here](#).

We asked respondents to read the [draft Strategy](#) before responding to the questions. An Executive Summary of all the findings for this section can be found [here](#).

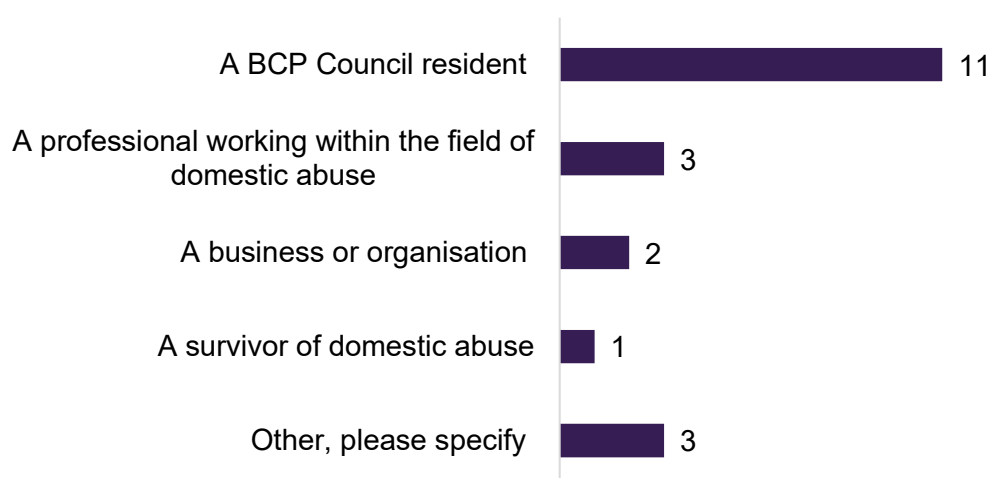
Please note, due to the low numbers of responses, the results for this section of the report are reported in numbers instead of percentages. This is a more accurate way of reporting results when a low number of responses have been received.

8.1 Respondent Type

Q1. Are you responding as:

Please note respondents could select more than one option for this question.

11 respondents said they were a 'BCP Council resident', while three respondents said they were a 'professional working within the field of domestic abuse'. Two respondents said they were responding as a 'business or organisation', while one respondent said they were responding as a 'survivor of domestic abuse'. Three respondents said they were responding in a different capacity which are outlined below.



Base: All respondents

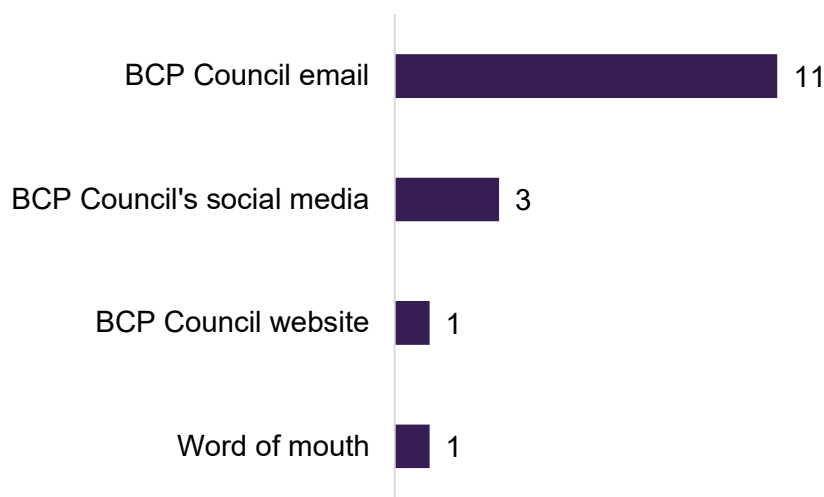
The other ways that the respondents said they were responding to the survey were:

- BCP Local Authority Professional
- BCP [Council] staff
- A local organisation

8.2 Consultation Awareness

Q2. How did you find out about this consultation?

11 respondents said they found out about the consultation through 'BCP Council email', while three respondents said they found out about it through 'BCP Council's social media'. One respondent said they found out about the consultation through the 'BCP Council website' and another respondent said they found out about it through 'word of mouth'.



Base: All respondents

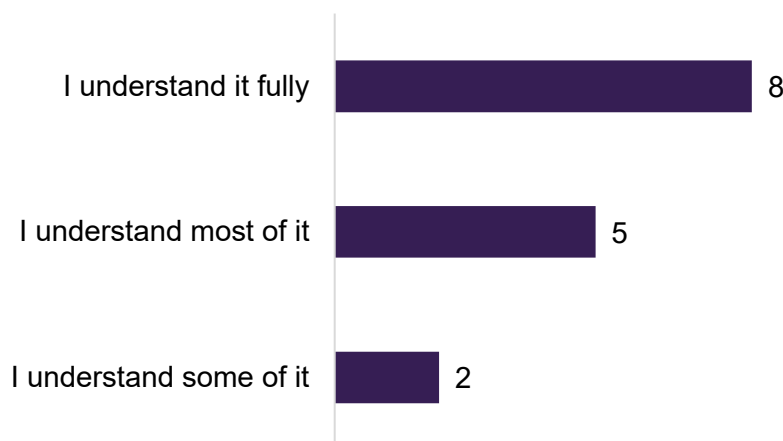
8.3 The Draft Safe Accommodation Strategy

[The Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) set in statute that local authorities must prepare and publish a local strategy based on a robust needs assessment that sets out the ways in which provision for accommodation-based domestic abuse support will be developed, commissioned, and delivered.

The Act provides guidance on how to further protect the millions of people who suffer and experience domestic abuse, as well as measures to strengthen the response to those who use abusive behaviours.

Q3. After reading the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030, how would you describe your understanding of how we plan to approach safe accommodation in the BCP area?

Eight respondents said that after reading the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030, they 'understood it fully', while five respondents said they 'understood most of it', and two respondents said they 'understood some of it'.



Base: 15 respondents

Q4. If you had trouble understanding any of the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030, please tell us what you did not understand and why.



4 comments

Four respondents provided further comments on why they did not understand some aspects of the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. Three of these comments were made by respondents who said they understood most of the draft Strategy, while one respondent did not answer the previous question.

These respondents felt the draft Strategy lacked information about costs and funding, key deliverables, and accommodation placements. They asked for more information to be included on support available for providers to deliver the Strategy and on how current targets will evolve into existing schemes.

These comments are shown below:



“No details about the number of units or costs.”



“Without seeing delivery plans (to fully understand what the key deliverables are in granulated detail) this could end up being high level indeterminate aspirations that don't actually get delivered.”



“Although your plans are clear there are no guidelines to the time these accommodation placements will take, [removed] where these placements may be or how you will ensure placements are available.”



“Overall, the strategy is clear from a housing provider's perspective, although there are areas where further clarity would help us understand our role more fully. Greater detail on how reciprocal housing arrangements and move-on accommodation pathways will operate practically would assist us in planning resources and partnerships effectively. Additionally, while the identified gaps - such as



accommodation for disabled survivors, males, larger families, and those with [No Recourse to Public Funds] (NRPF) - are accurately highlighted, it would be useful to have more information on proposed funding solutions and how providers will be supported to address these specific needs.



Lastly, further clarification on how current target-hardening measures will evolve into integrated sanctuary schemes will help ensure alignment with best practice and our operational processes.”

Q5. Is there anything else you would like to say about your understanding of the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030?



3 comments

Three respondents provided additional comments about their understanding of the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030.

Two respondents said the draft Strategy is comprehensive and clear, while one respondent said they had no further comments.

These comments are shown below:



“It was comprehensive.”



“I think it clearly sets out what the plans are to provide accommodation.”



“No.”

8.4 Proposed Priorities

We are proposing to focus on five key priorities in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 which are based on National guidance. These are:

1. Prevention and early identification
2. Appropriate access to housing and support services
3. Support to return home and move on
4. Relationships and Partnerships
5. Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led.

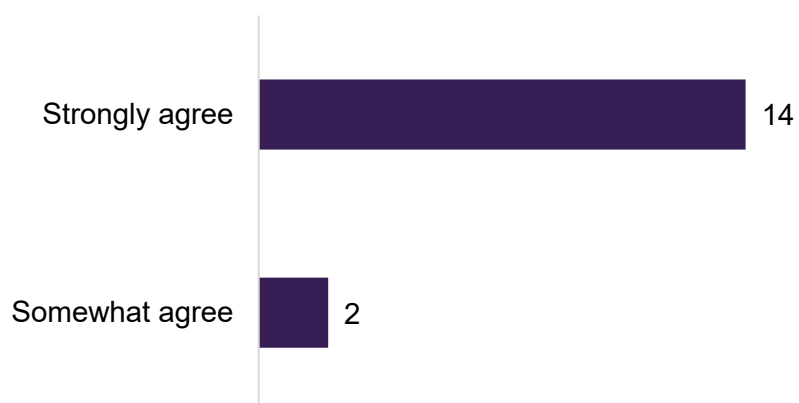
Respondents' views on these proposed Priorities are detailed below.

8.4.1 Priority 1 - Prevention and early identification

This Priority aims to ensure that survivors, both adults and children, are supported at an early stage and provided with options to remain safe at home when it is safe to do so. By doing so, we can strive to prevent homelessness and offer a stable environment for recovery and growth.

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

14 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Prevention and early identification' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030, while two respondents said they 'somewhat agree'.



Base: All respondents

Q7. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



11 comments

11 respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the 'Prevention and early identification' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. Nine respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority, while two respondents said they 'somewhat agree'.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 1: 'Prevention and early identification' themes

Theme	No of comments
Safe environments	5
Early intervention	4
Improved futures	1
Trauma	1

Safe environments

Five respondents said they agree with the 'Prevention and early identification' Priority because it highlights the importance of survivors of domestic abuse and their families having a safe and familiar environment around them.

These comments are shown below:



"Only where it is safe for them to do so."



"Recognition of the impact on children and families and the need for a safe 'home'."



"Early intervention and support is better especially where people can stay safe at home however some victims may not be open to early intervention and may not see they are victims which could put barriers in place for this."



"It is best that families stay in familiar environments, school and places of work if safe to do so."



"They shouldn't have to be the ones uprooted, I agree if it is safe for them to remain in their own home, the perpetrator should be the one to move out."

Early intervention

Four respondents said they agree with the 'Prevention and early identification' Priority because it enables early intervention to take place which is vital for reducing the negative effects of domestic abuse including homelessness and trauma.

These comments are shown below:



"Early intervention by provision of housing for families to remain in their properties or to be removed is paramount in reducing the effects domestic violence has on the victims."



"Prevention of exposure to domestic violence is vital, and ideally this also involves an ability to safeguard accommodation and prevent the harms and disruption of homelessness."



"I think prevention is key to reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse. If we can reduce the impact on children, far less people will have problems as a result of the trauma they have experienced."



"I strongly agree with this because it completely aligns with how we work - making sure survivors (and their children) get support early, stay safe at home whenever possible, and avoid becoming homeless. It's about giving people stability and control, reducing trauma, and helping them recover properly. Plus, tackling things early on stops issues getting worse and means we can focus crisis accommodation on those who really need it. It's exactly how we should be supporting survivors."

Improved futures

One respondent said they agree with the 'Prevention and early identification' Priority because it gives hope to survivors of domestic abuse:



"Gives hope to victims and their children."

Trauma

One respondent said they agree with the 'Prevention and early identification' Priority because of the negative impact trauma has on people:



"The long-term trauma caused by this can be detrimental to a person's life."

Q8. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



2 comments

Two respondents provided further comments about the 'Prevention and early identification' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. These comments included suggestions relating to types of accommodation and managing risk.

These comments are shown below:



"I believe more accommodation such as houses and flats for those fleeing violence would be beneficial rather than [a] refuge."



"One gap is that while it's great to help survivors stay safely at home, there's not enough detail about how we'll practically manage risk - especially if the perpetrator is still around locally. It'd help to know exactly what measures or resources we'll have to keep people safe. Also, the plan mentions target-hardening and sanctuary schemes, but it's not totally clear how these link up with specialist domestic abuse support, which would make things stronger overall."

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

8.4.2 Priority 2 - Appropriate access to housing and support services

This Priority aims to ensure that accommodation options and appropriate support is in place for all survivors when they need it. Services will provide support to aid recovery and growth.

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

All 16 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030.

Q10. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



8 comments

8 respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree with the 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. All respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority when answering the previous question.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 2: 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' themes

Theme	No of comments
Recovery and growth	3
Suitable Support	3
Importance	1
Prevention	1

Recovery and growth

Three respondents said they agree with the 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' Priority because it gives survivors of domestic abuse the support they need to recover from these experiences and start to rebuild their lives.

These comments are shown below:



"The emphasis [is] not just on housing, but support moving forward towards recover and growth."



"Survivors need safe housing to move on with their lives."



"I completely agree with this priority because safe, timely access to housing and the right support is absolutely vital for survivors to start rebuilding their lives. It's not just about having a roof over their head—it's about feeling safe, being believed, and getting support that meets their individual needs. When services are joined up and trauma-informed, they can make a massive difference in someone's ability to recover and move forward."



Suitable Support

Three respondents said they agree with the 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' Priority because survivors of domestic abuse should be given the right types of support regarding safe accommodation.

These comments are shown below:



"Victims should be supported into accommodation. That is safe, secure and provided with support."



"We need to ensure there is access to accommodation to ensure people have the option to leave if they wanted."



"If there is a need to leave a situation of domestic abuse, then there should be minimal additional stresses and challenges in relation to safe accommodation, with suitable support."

Importance

One respondent said they agree with the 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' Priority because housing and feeling safe is vital to all survivors of domestic abuse:



"Housing and feeling safe is very important for all including male survivors."

Prevention

One respondent said they agree with the 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' Priority because providing suitable accommodation options is vital to preventing further harm being caused to survivors of domestic abuse:



"Accommodation options must be suitable and readily available to prevent further distress and trauma."

Q11. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



4 comments

Four respondents provided further comments about the 'Appropriate access to housing and support services' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. These comments included suggestions about supporting male survivors of domestic abuse, the quality of support provided, how services will work logistically, and removing perpetrators from homes. One respondent also had a query about appropriate accommodation options.

These comments are shown below:



"More support for male survivors and accommodation within BCP."



"I think target perpetrators reduce homelessness so people do not have to leave their homes. If they can be removed and the victim can stay safely in the home this reduces all the upheaval in having to move prevent further disruption to their lives."



"That said, there are still gaps that need addressing. We need more detail on how services will be flexible and inclusive - especially for survivors with complex needs, disabilities, or those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). There's also not enough on how we make sure the quality of support is consistent across different types of accommodation. And while the aim is that support is there "when they need it," in reality, we know that waits, capacity issues, and eligibility criteria can make that tricky - so more on how those barriers will be tackled would be helpful."



"How can we ensure there is enough appropriate accommodation options? As we already know there are not enough. This priority could be hard to reach if options are not available to people."

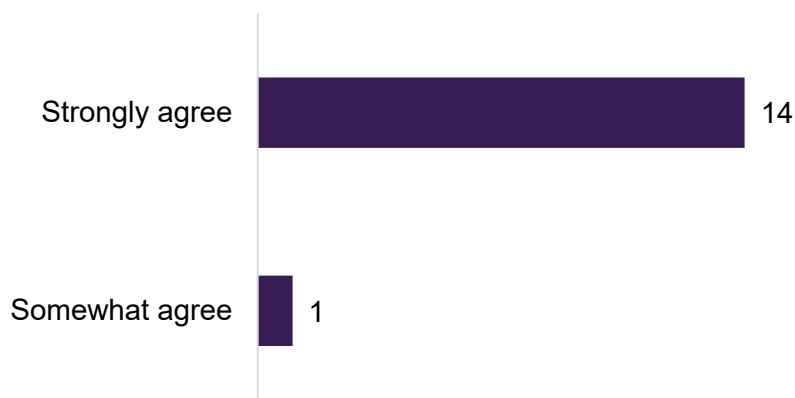
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

8.4.3 Priority 3 - Support to return home and move on

This Priority aims to ensure survivors of domestic abuse are supported to return home safely or move into alternative long-term accommodation, providing them with the stability and security they need to rebuild their lives.

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

14 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Support to return home and move on' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030, while one respondent said they 'somewhat agree'.



Base: 15 respondents

Q13. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



8 comments

Eight respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree with the 'Support to return home and move on' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. Six respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority and one respondent said they 'somewhat agree' when answering the previous question, while another did not provide an answer.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 3: 'Support to return home and move on' themes

Theme	No of comments
Safety	6
Stability	1
Independent living	1

Safety

These respondents said they agree with the 'Support to return home and move on' Priority because it highlights the importance of safety and security in long-term housing options for survivors of domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



"Survivors and their children need safe secure accommodation in a friendly pleasant neighbourhood in order to heal."



"Reiterates [removed] my first answer, with the positive emphasis on the journey towards permanent safety and security for long term gain."



"Safety is the key. People should have viable options, not the best of poor choices."



"Ideally and obviously if safe to do so, then an ability to return home would normally be preferable. Should this not be possible, or wanted due to traumatic memories etc, then another safe, suitable long-term home is a priority."



"Safe housing should be a priority however more should be done by Police to remove the threat from the perpetrator."



"Long term housing options give security to survivors."

Stability

One respondent said they agree with the 'Support to return home and move on' Priority because it provides the stability survivors of domestic abuse need to move forward:



"I agree with this because helping survivors either return home safely or move on to stable, long-term housing is such a key part of recovery. It's not just about escaping abuse—it's about what happens next. People need proper support to feel secure, settle, and rebuild their lives, especially after going through so much. Having that stability makes a huge difference to mental health, confidence, and being able to move forward."

Independent living

One respondent said they agree with the 'Support to return home and move on' Priority because it gives survivors of domestic abuse the appropriate and affordable accommodation to live independently:



"People need to have appropriate and affordable accommodation to be able to move on to independent living. People should not stay in refuges for too long as there are a lot of rules and regulations which inhibits their recovery."

Q14. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



3 comments

Three respondents provided further comments about the 'Support to return home and move on' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. These comments included concerns over how survivors of domestic abuse could be pressured into accepting certain accommodation options, and about how risk will be assessed to ensure survivors receive the most suitable options for their situation. One respondent suggested rephrasing the wording of the Priority.

These comments are shown below:



"I am concerned survivors may be pressured into these options before they are ready. How can we ensure this does not happen?"



"That said, there are a few things that could be clearer. It's not always easy or safe for someone to return home, even with orders in place - so more detail on how risk is assessed and managed in those situations would be helpful. Also, move-on options can be limited, especially with the private rented sector being so stretched and social housing in high demand. It'd be good to know how the strategy plans to overcome those barriers and make sure people don't get stuck in limbo after leaving safe accommodation."



"Maybe this could be re-phrased to reflect a survivor's longer-term wishes. Perhaps include 'Support the survivor to return home or to move on. Then underneath start with: 'Work collaboratively with the survivor to ... It might just need tweaking to really reflect that it is survivor-led."

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

8.4.4 Priority 4 - Relationships and Partnerships

This Priority aims to create a network of support that empowers survivors to rebuild their lives and achieve independence by collaborating with community organisations and stakeholders. We will advocate for policies and practices that protects survivors and promote their wellbeing.

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

All 16 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Relationships and Partnerships' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030.

Q16. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



8 comments

Eight respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the 'Relationships and Partnerships' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. All these respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority when answering the previous question.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 4: 'Relationships and Partnerships' themes

Theme	No of comments
Quality of support	7
Hope	1

Quality of support

These respondents said they agree with the 'Relationships and Partnerships' Priority because it provides a quality of support to survivors of domestic abuse that prioritises their wellbeing, encourages organisations to work in a joined-up way, and emphasises the importance of support from family and peers.

These comments are shown below:



"Agree survivors need to be supported and in a peaceful and friendly environment and supported into independence."



“Protection of survivors and focus on wellbeing supports their empowerment towards independence. This needs policy and practice to underpin, as this ensures that all survivors receive the same standard of support and care.”



“[The] vulnerable need support and will have great difficulty moving on alone.”



“Different organisations offer different kinds of support a one fits all does not work.”



“I completely agree with this - working together with community organisations and other partners is essential. No single service can do it all, and survivors need wraparound support that’s consistent and joined up. When we collaborate properly, we can offer a stronger safety net, better outcomes, and help survivors feel genuinely supported, not bounced around. Advocacy is also key - it’s not just about support but changing systems to protect and empower people long-term.”



“The support of other people, including peers, is fundamental, and in terms of professional support, a joined-up approach is critical.”



“Co-production is the way forward.”

Hope

One respondent said they agree with the ‘Relationships and Partnerships’ Priority because it sends a message of hope and highlights the potential for change:



“This is paramount to domestic violence survivors and a testament to others that there is life after domestic violence. It will also send a message of change.”

Q17. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



1 comment

One respondent provided a further comment about the 'Relationships and Partnerships' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. They felt greater clarification is needed on how partnerships will happen in practice and had several queries relating to this as shown below:



"The Strategy could be clearer on how this collaboration will happen in practice. What does 'joined up working' look like day to day? Who's leading it, and how are community organisations being resourced to play their part? It's also not clear how survivor voice will feed into this - empowerment means involving survivors in shaping services, not just offering support after decisions are made. A bit more detail on this would make the ambition feel more grounded."

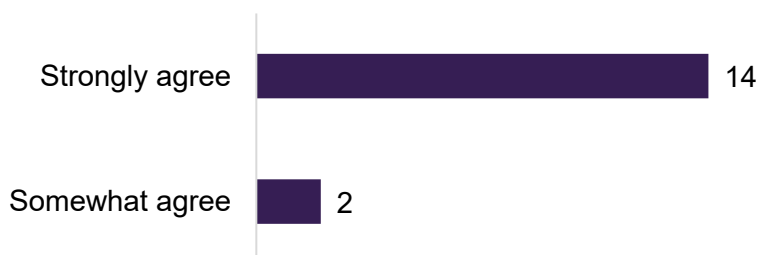
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

8.4.5 Priority 5 - Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led

This Priority aims to continue to develop our understanding of survivors' needs through improved data circulation and ensure they have an effective voice in shaping services. By listening to survivors, we can better meet their needs and support their journey towards recovery and independence.

Q18. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this Priority?

14 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the 'Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030, while two respondents said they 'somewhat agree'.



Base: All respondents

Q19. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this Priority.



7 comments

Seven respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the 'Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. Five respondents said they 'strongly agree' with this Priority and two respondents said they 'somewhat agree' when answering the previous question.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 5: 'Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led' themes

Theme	No of comments
Accurate data	3
Survivor voices and lived experience	3
Not a priority	1

Accurate data

Three respondents said they agree with the 'Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led' Priority because it enables real-time information to be collected about survivors' needs, specifically about hard-to-reach groups like the LGBTQ+ community and ethnic minorities where data is scarce.

These comments are shown below:



"Analysis of real time data ensures that resources and support is utilised effectively for our local community."



"By having accurate data, the right support and policies can be put into place."



"Really important, especially in terms of hidden cases or those where lack of data masks the extent of an issues. An example is LGBTQ+ cases, where data is lacking and therefore not best informing need for provision. This may also be the case for ethnic minorities, and furthermore intersectionality may exacerbate these issues. And at the same time data on its own not sufficient and needs to be augmented by people's insight and stories."

Survivor voices and lived experience

Three respondents said they agree with the 'Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led' Priority because they felt it is vital to listen to survivors' needs and to put them at the heart of the process so services are fit for purpose:

These comments are shown below:



"Survivors need to be listened to. Individuals have different needs in order to heal and lead fulfilled lives."



"Too often services are led by well-meaning professionals and the needs are overlooked."



"I really agree with this - putting survivors at the centre and listening to their experiences is the only way to get services right. Improving data is important too; it helps us understand what's working, where the gaps are, and how we can respond better. Survivor voice and lived experience should guide how we design and deliver support - not just tick a box. It makes everything more relevant, trauma-informed, and impactful."

Not a priority

One respondent said they agree with the 'Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led' Priority because they understand the need for it but did not feel it is a priority:

These comments are shown below:



"I understand the need for this but should not be a priority."

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

Q20. Is there anything else you would like to say about this Priority?



1 comment

One respondent provided a further comment about the 'Improve data collection and ensure responses are survivor led' Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. They felt more information could be provided

on how survivors' voices would be incorporated into the Strategy and how organisations would collaborate to build an effective data collection process:



“That said, it would be helpful to know more about how survivor voices will be embedded long-term, not just through one-off surveys or feedback forms. What’s the plan for making sure it’s diverse, consistent, and actually shapes decisions? On the data side, we need a clearer picture of how different agencies will collect and share information in a way that’s useful and ethical, especially when systems and processes vary so much. Without that, it risks becoming a well-meaning aim that’s hard to deliver in practice.”

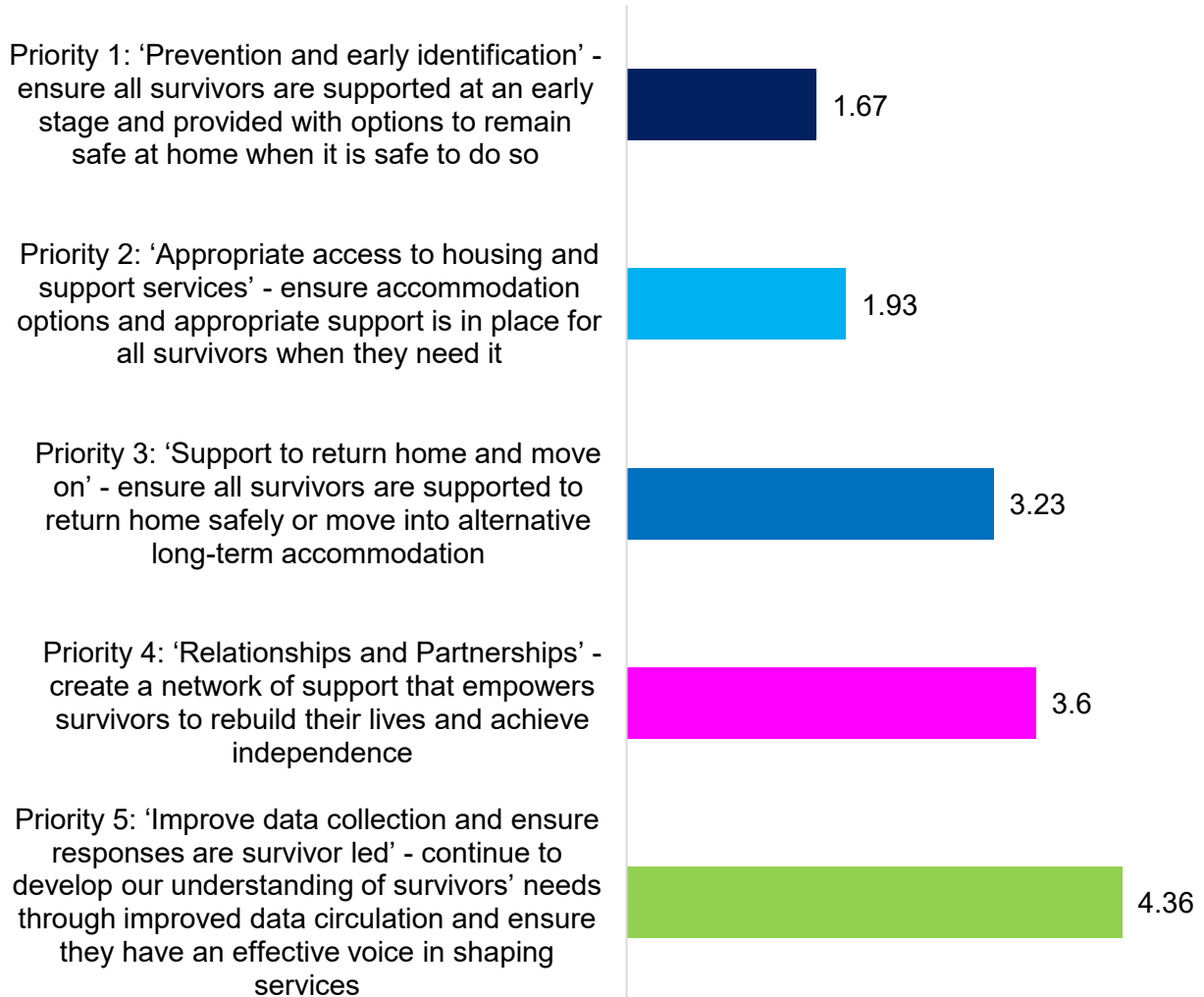
8.4.6 Priorities ranked by importance

Q21. Please rank the five proposed Priorities in order of importance, with the most important at '1' and the least important at '5'?

The chart below shows how respondents ranked each proposed Priority in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030. Please note that the more important the Priority is, the lower the value allocated to it.

On average, respondents ranked ‘prevention and early identification’ (1.67) as the most important Priority, followed by ‘appropriate access to housing and support services’ (1.93), ‘support to return home and move on’ (3.23), and ‘relationships and partnerships’ (3.6). Respondents ranked ‘improving data collection and ensuring responses are survivor led’ (4.36) as the least important Priority.

Average rank (the lower the value the more important the Priority)



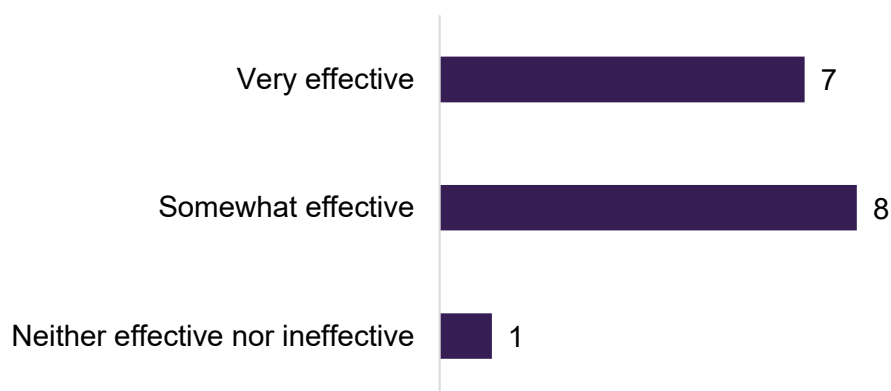
Base: 15 respondents

8.5 Effectiveness

Q22. How effective or ineffective do you think the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 will be in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse?

15 respondents said they think the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 will be effective in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse, while one respondent said they think it would be

‘neither effective nor ineffective’.



Q23. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you think the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 will be effective or ineffective in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse.



Eight respondents provided further comments to explain why they think the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 will be effective or ineffective in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse.

Three respondents said they think it will be ‘very effective’ in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse, while four respondents said they think the draft Strategy will be ‘somewhat effective’ when answering the previous question. One respondent said they think it will be ‘neither effective nor ineffective’.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 6: ‘Effectiveness’ themes

Theme	No of comments
Somewhat effective	4
Very effective	3
Neither effective nor ineffective	1

Somewhat effective

These respondents said they think the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 will be effective in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse but questioned some aspects of its potential effectiveness. They highlighted the importance of adequate funding to implement the draft Strategy as planned and felt the true test of its effectiveness will be in how it is delivered in practice.

These comments are shown below:



“The ideas are good but funding is inadequate.”



“Adequate consistent funding will be required to make sure everyone’s needs are met.”



“No system is perfect however I think you are doing a good thing.”



“Overall, the strategy feels like a solid starting point and has the potential to make a real difference - if the plans are properly followed through and backed with the right support. It’s clear that the team understands the key housing challenges, especially around gaps in refuge provision, support for those with complex needs, and the importance of early intervention and survivor voice. But as always, the real test will be in how it’s delivered. It needs proper funding, clear accountability, and a joined-up approach that supports housing providers like us to play our part.”

Very effective

These respondents said they think the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 will be very effective in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse. They felt the draft Strategy provides improvements to the current offer of safe accommodation than currently exists and could make a significant difference to survivors of domestic abuse if there is awareness of it, it is easy to access, delivers on the actual needs they have, and all agencies buy into the proposed approach.

These comments are shown below:



“Very effective if it works and victims have easy, straightforward access. So they feel safe enough to take action.”



"It provides wider consideration, and scope and type of accommodation options, than is currently the case."



"Very [effective] if there is the buy-in and awareness from all of the various stakeholders."

Neither effective nor ineffective

One respondent said they think the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 will be neither effective nor ineffective in addressing the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse. They felt unsure about how effective the draft Strategy could be without key information on how it would be delivered:



"Without seeing delivery plans (to fully understand what the key deliverables are in granulated detail) this could end up being high level indeterminate aspirations that don't actually get delivered."

Q24. Is there anything else you would like to say about this?



1 comment

One respondent provided a further comment about ranking the Priorities in the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030:



"Referencing the previous page of ranking the priorities, I don't think this should happen. They are all equally important and perhaps the wrong message is given by ranking them."

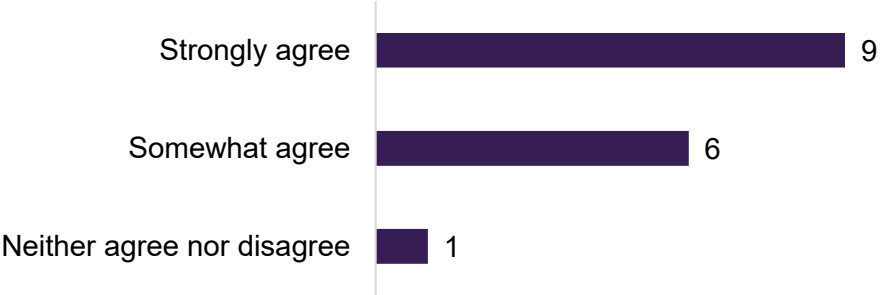
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

8.6 Statement

Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement, "The draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how safe accommodation for domestic abuse survivors will be provided across BCP"?

15 respondents said they agree with the statement, "the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how safe

accommodation for domestic abuse survivors will be provided across BCP", while one respondent said they 'neither agree nor disagree' with the statement.



Base: All respondents

Q26. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

 4 comments

Four respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the statement, "The draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how safe accommodation for domestic abuse survivors will be provided across BCP". Two respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement when answering the previous question, while one respondent said they 'somewhat agree' and another respondent said they 'neither agree nor disagree'.

These comments have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 7: Statement themes

Theme	No of comments
Strongly agree	2
Somewhat agree	1
Neither agree nor disagree	1

Strongly agree

Two respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement because it clearly outlines the Vision, priorities, and types of accommodation and support that should be available for survivors of domestic abuse. However, one respondent felt improvements could still be made.

These comments are shown below:



“It clearly demonstrates how to improve provision and outcomes, as well as maximizing early prevention.”



“I’d say I mostly agree with the statement. The strategy gives a good overall picture of the Vision, priorities, and the types of accommodation and support that should be available. It’s clear on the direction of travel and shows a good understanding of local needs and where things need to improve. That said, there are still a few areas where more detail would help - especially around how some of the plans will be delivered in practice, what support housing providers will get, and how the harder-to-reach groups will be prioritised. So, while it’s a strong overview, it could go further in giving a clearer idea of how things will actually look day-to-day.”

Somewhat agree

One respondent said they ‘somewhat agree’ with some aspects of the statement but had concerns over how the Vision would be implemented:



“The aim is good but we are not sure it will be able to be implemented due to competing priorities and a lack of housing and staff to help.”

Neither agree nor disagree

One respondent said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the statement because they felt key information was missing about the delivery of the draft Strategy:



“Without seeing delivery plans (to fully understand what the key deliverables are in granulated detail) this could end up being high level indeterminate aspirations that don’t actually get delivered.”

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

8.7 Further comments

Q27. Is there anything else that you would like to say about the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030?

There were no responses received for this question.

8.8 Respondent profile - Draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2030

The equalities profile is shown below.

Equalities	Group	Number
Age	25 - 34 years	1
	35 - 44 years	1
	45 - 54 years	8
	55 - 64 years	4
	65 - 74 years	1
	75 - 84 years	1
	Prefer not to say	1
Gender	Female	14
	Male	1
	Prefer not to say	1
Sexual orientation	Straight / Heterosexual	14
	All other sexual orientations	1
	Prefer not to say	1
Disability	Yes - limited a little/a lot	1
	No	14
	Prefer not to say	1
Disability Type	Reduced physical capacity (e.g. inability to move everyday objects, debilitating pain etc)	1
Ethnic Group	White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	14
	Prefer not to say	1
Religion	No religion	6
	Christian	7
	Prefer not to say	2
Respondent Type	A BCP Council resident	11
	A survivor of domestic abuse	1
	A professional working within the field of domestic abuse	3
	A business or organisation	2
	Other	3

9 Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 Survey

There was a total of 13 responses to this survey.

The draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 is focused on how we respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse across the BCP area. The strategy aims to prevent people from perpetrating domestic abuse, thereby preventing the harm caused to individuals, children and society.

Our definition of domestic abuse can be found [here](#).

We asked respondents to read the [full draft Strategy](#) before responding to the questions. An Executive Summary of all the findings for this section can be found [here](#).

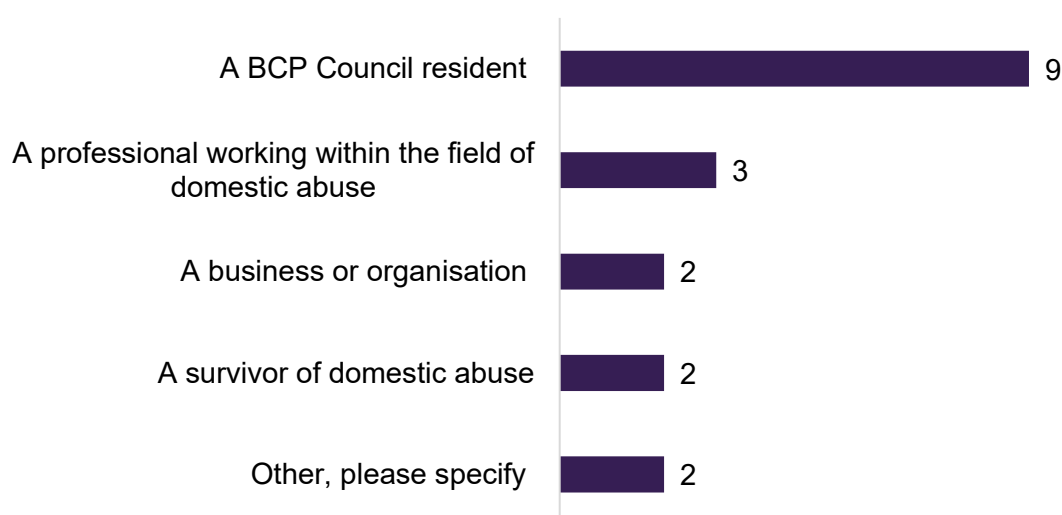
Please note, due to the low number of responses, the results for this section of the report are reported in numbers instead of percentages. This is a more accurate way of reporting results when a low number of responses have been received.

9.1 Respondent Type

Q1. Are you responding as:

Please note respondents could select more than one option for this question.

Nine respondents said they were a 'BCP Council resident', while three respondents said they were a 'professional working within the field of domestic abuse'. Two respondents said they were responding as a 'business or organisation', as a 'survivor of domestic abuse' or in a different capacity which are outlined below.



Base: All respondents

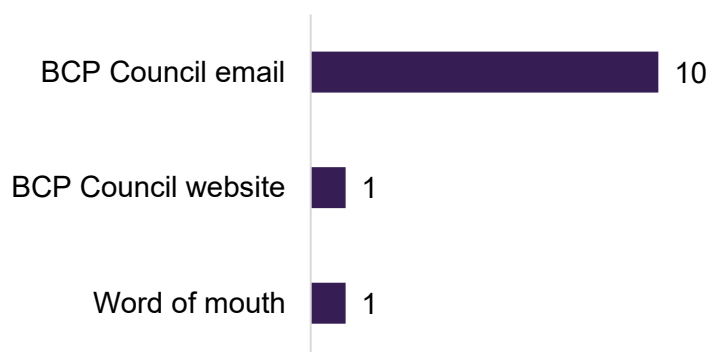
The other ways that the respondents said they were responding to the survey were:

- BCP Local Authority Professional
- A local organisation

9.2 Consultation Awareness

Q2. How did you find out about this consultation?

10 respondents said they found out about the consultation through 'BCP Council email', one respondent said they found out about the consultation through the 'BCP Council website' and another respondent said they found out about it through 'word of mouth'.



Base: 12 respondents

9.3 The Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 Survey

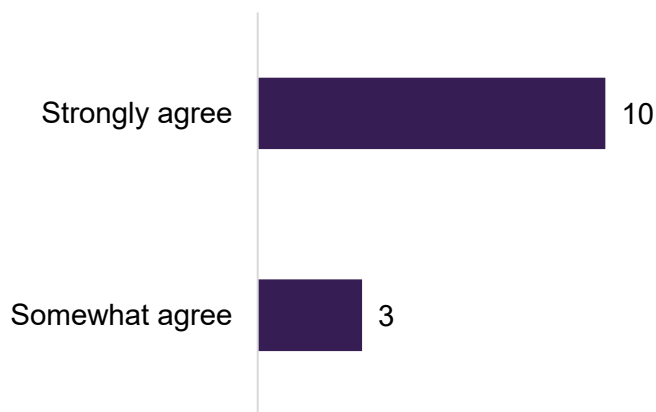
This draft Strategy is focused on how we respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse across the BCP area. It aims to prevent people from perpetrating domestic abuse, thereby preventing the harm caused to individuals, children and society.

9.4 Statement of Strategy Aims

Domestic abuse can only end if we address those that are perpetrating the abuse. This means giving those who have made mistakes, or been abusive, the chance to change and to have a system in place to challenge those not willing to change.

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

10 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement of strategic aims in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030, while three respondents said they 'somewhat agree'.



Base: All respondents

Q4. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this statement.



9 comments

Nine respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the statement in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030. Seven respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement when answering the previous question, while two respondents said they 'somewhat agree'.

The responses have been analysed according to the response they gave to the previous question, i.e. 'strongly agree', 'somewhat disagree' etc. You can use the links below to jump to the different comments:

- [Strongly agree comments](#)
- [Somewhat agree comments](#)

'Strongly agree' Comments

The 'strongly agree' comments have been coded into sub-themes to make them easier to interpret. These are shown in the table below:

Table 1: 'Strongly agree' comments themes

Theme	No of comments
Behaviour change	3
Prevention	2
Root cause	2

Behaviour change

Two respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement of strategic aims in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt that without working with perpetrators they would never change, and the statement also raises awareness of how important healthy relationships are in preventing domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



"This is about behaviour change and also linked to a wider understanding of how society views the roles of men and women - we need to focus on respectful and kind partnerships/relationships."



"Strongly agree with action against perpetrators. They probably would never change!"



"Resolving a case by ensuring an existing victim is made safe only resolves the issue for that person/family. Resolving the perpetrator behaviour prevents this [from] simply moving onto another victim and perhaps escalating in nature. Also, many perpetrators will have been victims themselves and so need help."

Prevention

Two respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt working with perpetrators is the only way to prevent domestic abuse and said there is data to support this view.

These comments are shown below:



"I fully agree with the statement above. As the only way to stop domestic abuse or prevent it is to prevent the perpetrator from [offending] or reoffending."



"The data clearly demonstrates the positive impact on reducing domestic abuse through perpetrator programmes."

Root cause

Two respondents said they 'strongly agree' with the statement in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 because they felt it is vital to understand the root cause of perpetrators' behaviour to prevent domestic abuse.

These comments are shown below:



“Without addressing the cause we will not move forward.”



“I agree with this because we won’t end domestic abuse unless we deal with the people causing the harm. Survivors shouldn’t be the ones expected to keep moving or managing risk - perpetrators need to be held accountable and given real opportunities to change. We know that with the right support, change is possible, and where people aren’t willing to engage, there needs to be a system in place to step in. It’s about shifting the focus back to the root of the problem and not just picking up the pieces after.”

‘Somewhat agree’ comments

Two respondents said they ‘somewhat agree’ with the statement in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 because, despite agreeing in the previous question, they felt the effectiveness of the statement depends on the perpetrator’s ability to acknowledge their harmful behaviour and their willingness to change. They also had some doubts about how domestic abuse is defined.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“Change is always possible but only if recognised by the perpetrator and they are willing to change.”



“Deciding on who will benefit from being educated to change is difficult. What is a mistake - one kick or two? What degree of abuse is considered [changeable]? Culture plays a big part in the ability to change and having a short course may raise awareness but doesn’t necessarily see change. However, saying all that, we need to try a rehabilitation process and review its impact.”

Q5. Is there anything else you would like to say about this statement?



4 comments

Four respondents provided additional comments about the statement in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030.

Two respondents said it's vital that perpetrators of domestic abuse acknowledge their harmful behaviour and the impact it has on others, as they felt a lack of acknowledgement represents a significant barrier in attempts to rehabilitate perpetrators. One respondent said they would like more information on a variety of areas and suggested ways for the statement to be improved.

Below is a selection of these comments:



"I think everybody deserves a chance to change. However, only if they are genuinely willing and want to actually change their behaviours."



"I think that in relation to psychological abuse perpetrators struggle to admit doing anything wrong and are likely to divert responsibility to the victim."



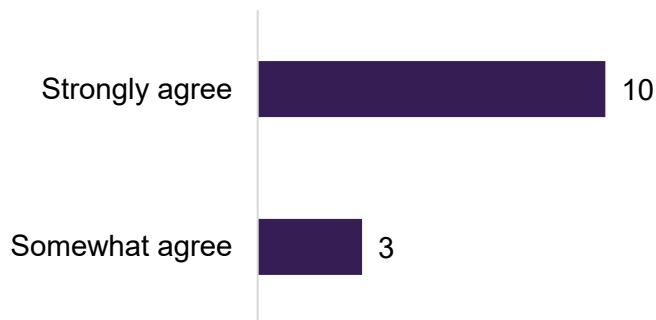
"That said, there are a few things that could be clearer. While the strategy mentions a lot of good work like Up2U and CARA, it's not always obvious how accessible these programmes are or how we make sure the right people are actually engaging. It also doesn't go into much detail about how we're reaching those at the highest risk of repeat harm or those from underrepresented groups. More focus on referral pathways, consistency across agencies, and long-term funding would help strengthen the approach."

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

9.5 Adopting a Holistic Approach

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with adopting a holistic approach to working with individuals that use harmful behaviours as outlined in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030?

10 respondents said they 'strongly agree' with adopting a holistic approach to working with individuals that use harmful behaviours as outlined in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030, while three respondents said they 'somewhat agree'.



Base: All respondents

Q7. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this approach.



7 comments

Seven respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with adopting a holistic approach to working with individuals that use harmful behaviours as outlined in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030. All of these respondents said they 'strongly agree' when answering the previous question.

These respondents said they 'strongly agree' with a holistic approach because they felt it would be effective in bringing about long-term, sustainable behaviour change in perpetrators and highlights how other societal factors play a role in harmful behaviours.

These comments are shown below:



"I think this invasive strategy could be very effective."



"It is the only way for it to have any long-lasting impact."



"A holistic approach is vital to ensure sustained change and understanding of the impact of the behaviours."



“Behaviour will not change if addressed as a one-off or isolated incident. The whole person needs to be addressed by tackling history and ongoing ideation.”



“This is a societal issue.”



“A holistic approach is important and more effective.”



“I agree with taking a holistic approach because harmful behaviour doesn’t happen in a vacuum - it’s often linked to other issues like mental health, substance use, trauma, or housing instability. If we want real, lasting change, we need to look at the whole person, not just their behaviour in isolation. Supporting people to address the root causes alongside holding them accountable gives them a better chance of breaking the cycle for good. It’s not about making excuses - it’s about doing what actually works to keep survivors safe.”

Q8. Is there anything else you would like to say about this approach to working with perpetrators of domestic abuse?



3 comments

Three respondents provided further comments about adopting a holistic approach to working with individuals that use harmful behaviours as outlined in the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030. They felt this approach would help reduce domestic abuse but one respondent felt there was information missing about how it would be implemented and about the resources available to support its implementation.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“By trying these actions, the percentage of domestic abuse could rapidly decrease.”



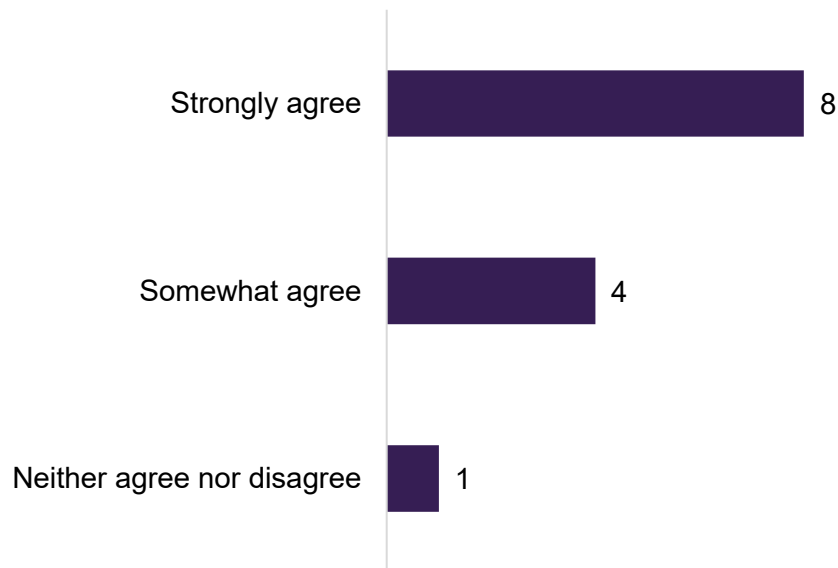
“The strategy outlines the holistic approach well, but it could be stronger on how this will work practically across agencies. Who’s coordinating that wraparound support? How do we make sure services talk to each other and avoid duplication or missed risks? It also doesn’t go into detail about what resources are available to meet wider needs like housing, finances, or employment - without that, the holistic bit risks staying more of a principle than a practice.”

Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

9.6 Overview Statement

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement, “The draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to address working with those using harmful behaviours across BCP”?

12 respondents said they agree with the statement, “the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to address working with those using harmful behaviours across BCP”, while one respondent said they ‘neither agree nor disagree’ with the statement.



Base: All respondents

Q10. Please tell us the reasons for your answer whether you agree or disagree with this statement.



5 comments

Five respondents provided further comments to explain why they agree or disagree with the statement, “the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 gives me a good overview of how we plan to address working with those using harmful behaviours across BCP”. All of these respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ when answering the previous question.

These respondents said they ‘strongly agree’ with the statement because it is clear and concise and explains the main aims of the Strategy in a comprehensive way. However, one respondent felt improvements could be made.

These comments are shown below:



“I think a good amount of points have been thought about and included to cover all areas and aspects of the program.”



“It seems clearly defined.”



“Clear and concise with good and compelling reasons to maximise this approach. Given the return of investment and the outcomes, which demonstrate a huge drop off in harmful behaviour, it could be argued that not to further invest in this would be a dereliction of duty.”



“I’d say I mostly agree - the strategy gives a solid overview of the approach BCP plans to take. It clearly outlines the vision, current programmes like Up2U and CARA, and the intention to hold people accountable while offering support to change. The focus on early intervention, whole-person approaches, and multi-agency working shows a good understanding of what’s needed to tackle this properly. That said, there are a few areas that could be clearer. It doesn’t go into much detail about how consistent access to programmes will be managed, or how we’ll ensure those most at risk are actually engaging. It also touches on working with marginalised groups but could say more about how we’ll reduce barriers for them. A bit more on referral pathways, resources, and how the whole system will be joined up in practice would make the strategy feel more complete.”

9.7 Further comments

Q11. Is there anything else that you would like to say about the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030?



5 comments

Five respondents provided further comments about the draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030. These included suggestions for improvements including educating children about the importance of healthy relationships in preventing domestic abuse and providing support staff with training on how to work with perpetrators. One respondent, despite agreeing with the holistic approach to dealing with perpetrators, said they have concerns about its implementation in practice. Another respondent made a positive comment about the draft Strategy.

Below is a selection of these comments:



“I think it looks very strong and water tight for changes to be made to BCP in addressing perpetrators in the most effective way.”



“I think thought needs to be given to relationship advice for those under 16 - the children's commissioner report shows that even younger people are getting 'unhealthy' depictions of relationships and gender roles from social media and the internet. We need to start young. Focussing on what constitutes a positive unhealthy relationship for all.”



“Yes - overall, it's a really positive step forward. It's great to see a clear focus on accountability, early intervention, and behaviour change, rather than just managing risk after the fact. The commitment to a holistic, whole-system approach is really encouraging, and it's clear there's been thought around how this links to survivor safety and the wider domestic abuse strategy. That said, the impact will come down to how well it's resourced and embedded across agencies. It'd be good to see more around sustainability - how programmes will be funded long-term, how we'll ensure consistent access, and how outcomes will be tracked and shared. Also, making sure we're reaching underrepresented groups and not just the most “visible” cases is key if we really want this to be inclusive and effective.”



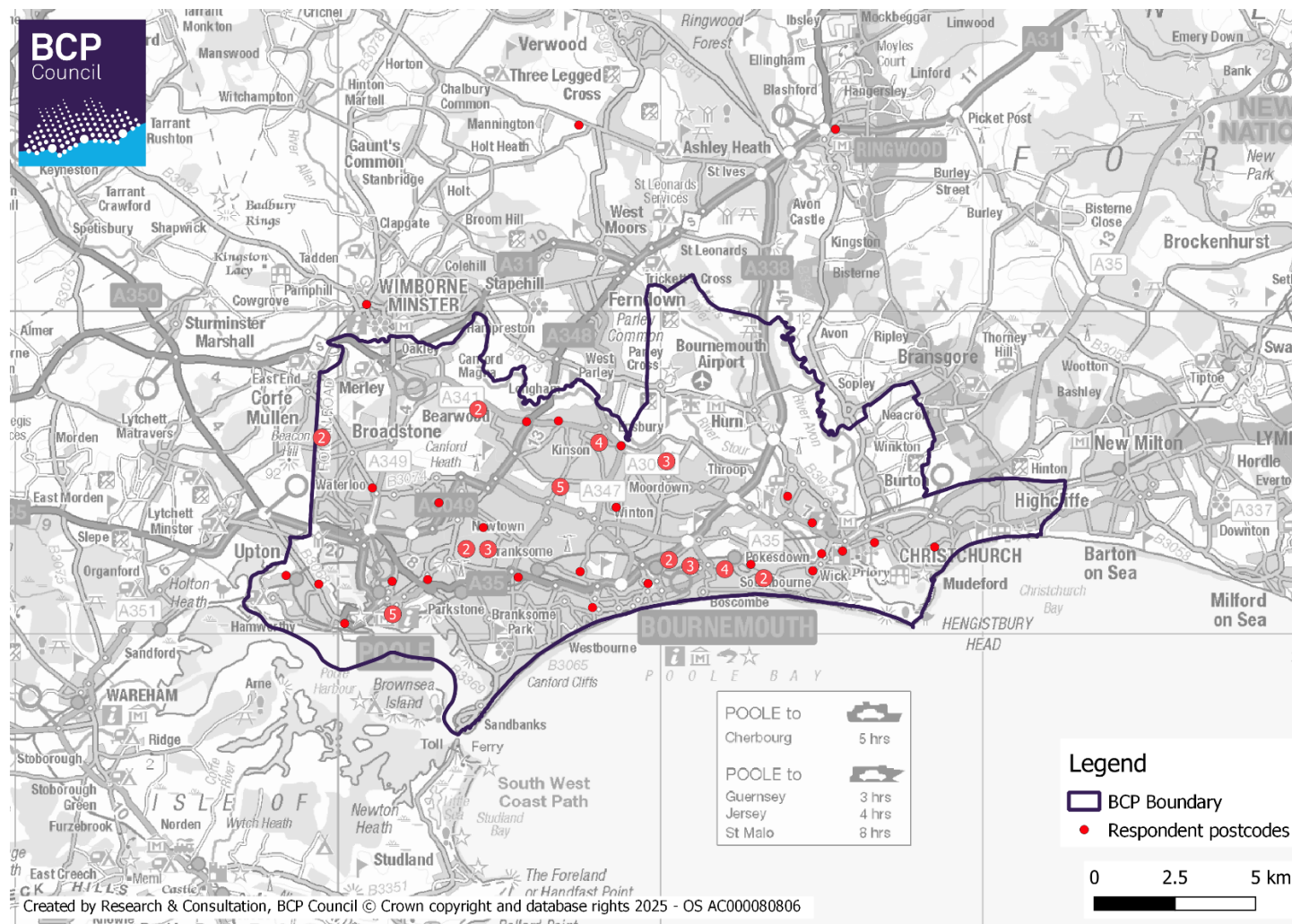
“Training and support for wider professionals on how to work with people who are perpetrators.”

9.8 Respondent profile – Draft Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy 2025-2030 Survey

The equalities profile is shown below.

Equalities	Group	Number
Age	25-34 years	1
	35-44 years	1
	45-54 years	5
	55-64 years	3
	65-74 years	2
	Prefer not to say	1
Gender	Female	10
	Male	2
	Prefer not to say	1
Sexual orientation	Straight / Heterosexual	11
	All other sexual orientations	1
	Prefer not to say	1
Disability	Yes - limited a little/a lot	2
	No	10
	Prefer not to say	1
Disability Type	Mental illness (e.g. severe depression or psychosis)	2
Ethnic Group	White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	12
Religion	No religion	5
	Christian	6
	Prefer not to say	2
Respondent Type	A BCP Council resident	9
	A survivor of domestic abuse	2
	A professional working within the field of domestic abuse	3
	A business or organisation	2

10 Appendix 1 - Respondent postcodes by area (all surveys)



11 Appendix 2 - Respondent postcodes by ward (all surveys)

The table below shows all respondent postcodes by ward.

Ward	Count
Newtown & Heatherlands	6
Poole Town	6
Boscombe East & Pokesdown	5
Wallisdown & Winton West	5
Christchurch Town	4
Redhill & Northbourne	4
East Cliff & Springbourne	3
Hamworthy	3
Kinson	3
Muscliff & Strouden Park	3
Bearwood & Merley	2
Boscombe West	2
Broadstone	2
West Purbeck	2
West Southbourne	2
Bournemouth Central	1
Canford Cliffs	1
Canford Heath	1
Commons	1
Creekmoor	1
East Southbourne & Tuckton	1
Mudford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe	1
Parkstone	1
Stour & Allen Vale	1
Swanage	1
Talbot & Branksome Woods	1
Westbourne & West Cliff	1
Wimborne Minster	1
Winton East	1
No postcode provided	9
Grand Total	75

12 Appendix 3 - Consultation poster



Safer BCP, the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Community Safety Partnership, are committed to ending domestic abuse in all forms across the BCP area.

To do this, we have written three new draft strategies to reduce domestic abuse and improve the safety of victims, survivors, their children and families.

Before any decisions are made, we would like to hear your views on:

- The draft **Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy** 2025-2030
- The draft **Safe Accommodation Strategy** 2025-2030
- The draft **Perpetrator Strategy** 2025-2030



Have your say by visiting:
[haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/
domestic-abuse-strategies](https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/domestic-abuse-strategies)

Consultation closes 11.59pm
Monday **28 April 2025**



Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Purpose

What is being reviewed?

Updated- "The Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025 -2030"
New "The Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025 -2030"
New "The Perpetrator Strategy 2025 -2030"

The strategies will define BCP's key priorities to address domestic abuse across BCP as defined under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Each strategy will have a delivery plan to ensure effective implementation of the following proposed priorities. The actions and mitigating measures contained within the Action Plan at the end of this document have been identified through the work of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, lived experience board and dedicated domestic abuse teams as part of the development of the three strategies to ensure that we take positive action to reduce the harm and impact of domestic abuse on certain protected characteristics. As such, the action plan identifies where certain groups are currently negatively impacted and has put in place actions to address this through the strategies and associated delivery plans. These will be developed further following the feedback from the public consultation.

The "Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-30" priorities are:

- Prevent
- Protect and Recover
- Pursue
- Relationships

The "Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-30" priorities are:

- Early intervention and Prevention
- Accessible Services
- Support to Return Home
- Relationships
- Improve Data Collection and Responses are Survivor Led

The "Perpetrator Strategy 2025-30" aims and objectives are:

To take a holistic approach to perpetrators to address all areas of their life, to help develop practical solutions to address these. We believe this approach, alongside behaviour change programmes will help to reduce the use and incidences of harmful behaviours of domestic abuse across BCP Council area.

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	The "Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030" replaces the "Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-2025" to build on its success and address emerging challenges. The "Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-30" and the "Perpetrator Strategy 2025-30" are new strategies covering the same period and sit under the overarching Prevent Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-30.
Service Lead and Service Unit:	Housing and Communities
People involved in EIA process:	Cat McMillan - Head of Communities, Partnerships and Community Safety; Tracey Kybert – Specialist Housing Programme Lead; Lisa Dowry – Domestic Abuse Commissioning Manager; Tina Symington – Community Safety Manager; Katie Blake – Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead; Portfolio Holder – Cllr Kieron Wilson; Stakeholders and those with lived experience of domestic abuse. Housing Task and Finish Group. Domestic Abuse Strategic Group. Community Safety Partnership Executive Board.
Date/s EIA started and reviewed:	27 th January 2025

Background

The "Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2030" replaces the "Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020-2025" to build on its success and address emerging issues and trends.

The "Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-30" and the "Perpetrator Strategy 2025-30" are new strategies covering the same period and sit under the overarching "Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-30". Although all three strategies are separate, they are interlinked due to the complexities of domestic abuse and therefore need to be considered as part of a holistic approach to addressing domestic abuse rather than in isolation.

The introduction of the "Safe Accommodation Strategy" and "Perpetrator Strategy" aim to provide a more comprehensive and targeted response to the housing needs of individuals experiencing domestic abuse and addressing the behaviour of perpetrators.

Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategic priorities:

- Prevent
- Protect and Recover
- Pursue
- Relationships

Safe Accommodation Strategic priorities:

- Early intervention and Prevention
- Accessible Services
- Support to Return Home
- Relationships
- Improve Data Collection and Responses are Survivor Led

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The Perpetrator Strategy's aims and objectives are:

To take a holistic approach to perpetrators to address all areas of their life, to help develop practical solutions to address these. We believe this approach, alongside behaviour change programmes will help to reduce the use and incidences of harmful behaviours of domestic abuse across BCP Council area.

Each strategy will include a delivery plan to ensure its priorities are met. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be used to monitor the impact of these strategies. The delivery plan and the KPIs will be monitored by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, providing governance and accountability for all three strategies in line with the Duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Expected Outcomes of the three strategies are:

1. Enhanced Prevention and Awareness of domestic abuse

- Increased public awareness and education on domestic abuse to prevent its occurrence and reduce the cycle.
- Improved early identification and intervention measures to identify and support at risk individuals experiencing domestic abuse.
- Primary prevention interventions to educate children and young people about domestic abuse, healthy relationships and positive masculinity to help ensure their futures are abuse free.

2. Improved Support Services

- Enhanced access to specialist domestic abuse community support services and safe accommodation for survivors and their children, to promote early risk reduction and improved long-term outcomes.
- Increased education and awareness in the specialist domestic abuse services to meet the diverse needs of survivors, including individuals with protected characteristics and multiple disadvantage.

3. Accountability and Rehabilitation for Perpetrators

- Effective interventions to hold perpetrators accountable and reduce reoffending rates.
- Increased collaboration among agencies to provide comprehensive support and monitoring of perpetrators.
- Effective interventions that offer the opportunity for individuals to change their abusive behaviour and develop healthy relationships.

4. Enhance the collaboration between agencies to provide a comprehensive response to domestic abuse

- Streamlined processes, making it easier for individuals to access the help when they need it without unnecessary delays.
- Consistent and coordinated care will ensure that individuals do not fall through the cracks and receive continuous support throughout their recovery.

5. Improved data collection and ensure that responses to domestic abuse are survivor led

- Improved data collection will help to understand the prevalence, types, and impacts of domestic abuse across different demographics.
- Survivor-led responses will prioritise the needs and voices of survivors, empowering them to take control of their recovery and future.
- The response to domestic abuse will ensure that support services are tailored to the individual needs of survivors, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

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The intended beneficiaries of the strategies are:
Survivors of Domestic Abuse

Individuals who have suffered domestic abuse will benefit from enhanced safety, support services and pathways to recovery, aiding their recovery from the impact of domestic abuse.

Children and Families

Children and families affected by domestic abuse will receive better protection and support, helping to break the cycle of abuse.

Perpetrators

Perpetrators will have access to behavioural change programmes designed to address their behaviour and reduced the likelihood of reoffending

Communities

Communities will benefit from increased awareness and prevention efforts, leading to a reduction in domestic abuse incidents and fostering a safer environment for all.

These strategies aim to create a holistic and effective response to domestic abuse, ensuring that all individuals and communities are supported and protected alongside work to change behaviours through education and early intervention and effectively 'break the cycle' of domestic abuse in BCP.

Consultation and Research

Research and consultation for the strategies took place between 2021 and 2025.

- Standing Together, a national organisation for domestic abuse completed a needs assessment in 2021. The findings from this assessment contributed to the priorities within the strategies, particularly the Safe Accommodation Strategy.
- Literature and research review was completed to examine National and International Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse Policy, current domestic abuse themes, best practice recommendations and how domestic abuse impacts those with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage.
- Local data was used to recognise local needs and emerging themes and gaps in provision. And to inform the gendered and intersectional analysis.
- National data was used for comparison and analysis.
- In 2023, a public consultation was conducted to evaluate the response to domestic abuse across BCP. This consultation engaged stakeholders, the public, individuals with lived experience, and providers of domestic abuse services. And this was used to inform the strategies.
- Ongoing discussions and consultation regarding the strategies took place at the Domestic Abuse Housing Task and Finish Group from December 2022 to July 2024.
- The Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy was developed with stakeholder workshops input in August 2024.
- The Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy was presented to the experts by experience board in September 2024 and the feedback collated into the final draft.
- The Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy was sent to Domestic Abuse Strategic Group members for consultation in September 2024 and feedback was collated into the final draft.
- The Perpetrator Strategy was presented to the BCP Perpetrator working group members in February 2025 and feedback was collated into the final draft.
- The Safe Accommodation strategy was presented to a stakeholder workshop and provider event in March 2025.
- A public consultation for all three strategies on Engagement HQ was started in March 2025 and is currently live, this feedback will be fed into the strategies in May 2025.
- Next steps are for the strategies to be presented to the Community Safety Partnership executive board in May 2025 and Cabinet in June 2025.

Commented [VE1]: Can we explain acronyms?

Commented [VE2]: Domestic Abuse Strategy Group?

Commented [VE3]: Ideally we would like the results of that consultation fed into the EIA eg were people generally supportive and where any amendments made to the strategies as a result of the consultation.

Findings

The findings of the research conducted for this EIA shows the following:

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Individuals with protected characteristics may have different experiences of domestic abuse or may be impacted in unique ways. They also face additional barriers when disclosing domestic abuse and accessing support services, which are as follows:

Sex

Domestic abuse is considered a gendered crime due to how it disproportionately affects women. When considered through a gendered lens it allows us to recognise the societal imposed norms, roles and expectations of masculinity and femininity and how this affects intimate partner relationships and family structures and considers power dynamics.

- Current statistics indicate that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.
- Of all domestic abuse related crimes 75% of the victims are female.
- 85% of intimate partner homicides have female victims and 75% of victims of suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse are female.
- In BCP 95% of victim cases heard at the BCP Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) are women.

The gender distribution of clients in the UP2U: Creating Healthy Relationships (CHR) program, which aims to address abusive behaviours within relationships, shows that 87% are male and 13% are female. This aligns with national data on domestic abuse prosecutions. It's particularly encouraging as it indicates that UP2U (CHR) is effectively reaching females who have exhibited domestically abusive behaviours.

Although women are significantly more likely to be injured or killed in incidents of domestic abuse, men are less likely to report domestic abuse to the police. Men who do report domestic abuse often face social stigma related to their perceived challenge to their masculinity, or fear of not being believed by authorities and the risk of being falsely accused of being the perpetrator.

Positive Impact of the Strategies

The strategies focus on gender equality will ensure that survivors of domestic abuse, particularly women, have better access to support services

The strategies will lead to a broader cultural and attitudinal changes that challenge the social norms and beliefs that underpin domestic abuse.

Addressing the inequalities will help reduce the stigma and discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, both within the context of domestic abuse and in broader society. This will lead to a more inclusive and supportive community.

Sexual orientation and gender reassignment

In the 2021 National Census 3.9% of BCP residents identified as LGBTQ+ people, compared to the national average of 3.2%.

LGBTQ+ people are more at risk to be subjected to particular forms of power and control as a result of the social rejection of their identity and the general landscape of discrimination and continued social stigmatisation around those in the community.

This may include:

- Homophobia/Biphobia/Transphobia or manipulation of someone's internalised Homophobia/Biphobia/Transphobia
- Threats to 'out' someone to their family/ colleagues/ friends

According to National MARAC data, 1.6% of referrals were for LGBTQ+ people and BCP MARAC data shows 1% of referrals 23/24 were for LGBTQ+ people, so whilst we are in keeping with the national average it shows underreporting and/or under referring for this demographic.

National research conducted by Gallop with the LGBTQ+ community shows:

- Around 6 in 10 (61%) of LGBTQ+ survivors did not seek support from services following a particular instance of abuse by a family member or a partner/ex-partner.

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- Of those who sought support only 3% of support seekers received advocacy services after a particular experience of abuse by a family member or partner/ex-partner. However, nearly 9 times as many LGBTQ+ survivors reported wanting advocacy after the abuse.
- Trans, non-binary and gender-diverse+, and pan/queer survivors reported high levels of concern about being mistreated by services or that services may not understand their identities.

All individuals accessing the UP2U: (CHR) programme have identified as being heterosexual. This indicates a gap in the support for the LGBTQ+ community, highlighting the need to better engage and include individuals from this demographic.

Positive Impact of the Strategies

The strategies recognition of the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals will ensure that support services are more inclusive and accessible.

Addressing the additional barriers LGBTQ+ individuals face in reporting abuse due to fear of discrimination or lack of understanding from service providers will create a more supportive environment that encourages reporting and disclosure.

Training and awareness programs for service providers will improve their understanding of the specific issues faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, leading to more empathetic and effective support.

Disability

In the National 2021 Census, 18% of BCP residents identified as having a long-term illness or disability. However, according to local MARAC data, only 0.8% of referrals were for people with a disability.

This indicates a significant underrepresentation of people with a disability within BCP.

People with disabilities are often in particularly vulnerable circumstances. Certain disabilities, particularly physical disabilities, may decrease their ability to physically defend themselves and escape from abuse. Other disabilities can limit a person's ability to understand and recognise potential signs of abuse.

According to the 2021 Census there are around 16 thousand people aged 50 or over in BCP whose health status is bad or very bad. The proportion in bad or very bad health increases to 15% for those aged 75 years and over, from 8% at age 65 to 74. There are around 21 thousand people aged 50 or over whose disability limits their day-to-day activities. This represents around a tenth of people aged 50 to 74 and over a fifth aged 75 or over. This is particularly significant given the growth in the population aged 75- 84 in the short to medium term, and aged 85 and over in the longer term. As the older population increases, the number of people living with ill health and with multiple long-term conditions will increase too. This will generate significant additional demand for future care and support services.

People with disabilities are more likely to experience abuse for longer periods of time because they have difficulties and concerns when accessing the support that they need.

Their reliance on other people means that often they are reliant on their abuser for personal care or mobility. This sometimes means that they are reluctant to report the abuse because they are dependent on that person, they may also believe that the person enables them to stay out of institutional care.

It can be hard for someone to disclose their abuse because they have no opportunity to see a health or social care professional without their abuser being present. This is especially true if their abuser is their carer.

If the person lives with their abuser, they may be concerned about moving out of their home as their home may have been specially adapted for their needs. Many feel trapped because they feel there are no other care options for them.

The Witness Support, Preparation and Profiling Service provides support to victims and witnesses of crime with learning difficulties in BCP. Over 50 % of cases that come through the service involve domestic abuse and sexual violence. The service worker supports people with learning disabilities seeking justice by helping them report offences to the police and if required will support them through the court process to ensure that the court understands their needs as victims or witnesses.

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Recently, we have encountered two cases involving older carers that have been referred for Domestic Homicide Reviews in BCP. We believe this is an emerging issue that warrants further investigation and understanding through our domestic abuse services.

Only 3.8% of individuals accessing UP2U: Creating Healthy Relationships perpetrator programme Identified as having a disability.

Positive Impact of the Strategies

The strategies recognition of the unique challenges faced by people with a disability will ensure that support services are more inclusive and accessible.

Training and awareness programs for service providers will improve their understanding of the specific issues faced by people with a disability, leading to more empathetic and effective support.

Mental Health

According to the Mental Health Foundation, research suggests that women experiencing domestic abuse are more likely to experience mental health illnesses. In contrast women with mental health illnesses are more likely to be abused, with 30-60% of women with a mental health illness have experienced domestic abuse.

A study conducted by King's College; Institute of Psychology found:

- Compared to women without a mental health illness, women with depressive disorders were around 2 and a ½ times more likely to have experienced domestic abuse over their adult lifetime, women with anxiety disorders were over 3 and a ½ times more likely and women with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) were around 7 times more likely.

Women with other disorders including obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), eating disorders, common mental health problems, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder were also at an increased risk of domestic abuse compared to women without a mental health illness. Men with all types of mental disorders were also at an increased risk of domestic abuse. However, prevalence estimates for men were lower than those for women, indicating that it is less common for men to be victims of repeated severe domestic abuse.

In 2024 domestic abuse related deaths with completed suicides, overtook domestic homicide committed by the perpetrator.

Positive Impact of the Strategies

Reduce the stigma associated with both mental health issues and domestic abuse which will create a more supportive and understanding community for survivors.

Training for service providers on the mental health impacts of domestic abuse will lead to more empathetic and effective support.

Survivors will receive comprehensive care that addresses both the physical and psychological impacts of abuse which will improve their recovery and overall well-being.

Age

Older people

In the National Census 2021, BCP figures show that 22% of resident are over the age of 65, compared to a national average of 18%.

National studies show us that:

- 32% of victims over the age of 60 are living with the perpetrator compared to 9% of under 60's.
- 44% of victims over the age of 60 are abused by family members compared to 6% of under 60's.

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Data from 2023/24 shows that the largest age group for BCP MARAC victims was 30-39, followed by 20-29-year-olds at 27%.

We are observing an emerging trend in BCP of older victims of domestic abuse in Domestic Homicide Reviews within the context of carer stress. This issue requires further exploration and attention through our domestic abuse services.

Refuge data for 2023/24 shows no individuals aged 65+ accessed refuge accommodation. This indicates older people are underrepresented in refuge and we need to understand this better in order to ensure that all those who need support are able to access it.

Safelives research 'Older People and Domestic Abuse' states on average, older victims experience abuse for twice as long before seeking help as those aged under 61 and nearly half have a disability.

Older victims are less likely to attempt to leave their perpetrator in the year before accessing help and more likely to be living with the perpetrator after getting support. The report also details that older people are statistically more likely to suffer from health problems, reduced mobility or other disabilities, which can exacerbate their vulnerability to harm. Another common barrier is generational attitudes about abuse that leads to older victims being far less likely to identify their situation as abuse.

Older people are also vulnerable to abuse from their adult children, especially economic abuse. This type of abuse is now included in the national definition of domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

BCP has an older age profile than the national average. Over two fifths of the current BCP population are aged 50 and over (41%); around a fifth are aged over 65 (22%), and 3.4% are aged 85 and over. This compares to 38%, 19% and 2.5% respectively for England. There is significant variation in numbers of older people within the older age bands.

There are:

1. A large cohort in their mid-70s born in the post war baby boom.
2. Higher numbers in their mid to late-50s - the 60s baby boomers.
3. A higher proportion of women, particularly from age 85 onwards. 53% of the population aged 65-84 are female, compared to 61% of those aged 85+.

This variation has implications for current needs and demand for services as well as an impact on future population trends.

UP2U: Creating Healthy Relationships perpetrator programme service users were between the ages of 20 and 54, indicating there are young and older potential service users not getting access to the programme.

Positive Outcomes of the Strategies

Increased awareness among older adults about the signs of abuse and the resources available to them.

The strategies recognition of the unique barriers faced by older people will ensure that support services are more inclusive and accessible.

Training and awareness programs for service providers will improve their understanding of the specific issues faced by older people, leading to more empathetic and effective support.

Children and young people

According to Barnardo's, children who witness domestic abuse are at risk of both short and long-term physical and mental health problems. Every child will be affected differently to the trauma of domestic abuse.

Short-term effects of domestic abuse:

For young children this can include:

- bed-wetting
- increased sensitivity and crying
- difficulty sleeping or falling asleep
- separation anxiety

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For school aged children this can include:

- a loss of drive to participate in activities and school
- lower grades in school
- feeling guilty and to blame for the abuse happening to them
- getting into trouble more often
- physical signs such as headaches and stomach aches

For teenagers this can include:

- acting out in negative ways such as missing school or fighting with family members
- having low self-esteem
- finding it difficult to make friends
- engaging in risky behaviours such as using alcohol and other drugs

Long-term effects of domestic abuse:

- mental health problems, such as becoming anxious or depressed. Low mental health can also lead to big impacts on physical health, including self-harm or developing an eating disorder
- having a lowered sense of self-worth
- using alcohol and other drugs as unhealthy coping mechanisms
- repeating behaviours seen in their domestic setting

Since the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children that have been exposed to domestic abuse are now recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, rather than just witnesses.

BCP MARAC 23/24 had 492 children listed as dependants of the adults referred which meant 67% of MARAC referrals had children involved, this had risen 7% on the previous year.

Further work is needed to embed children and young people's voices in the domestic abuse work we do.

Positive Impact of the Strategies

Improved outcomes for children and young people, including enhanced emotional well-being and higher educational attainment.

Challenging and changing social norms around domestic abuse will help break the cycle of abuse.

Minority Ethnic Groups

In the 2021 National Census, 9% of BCP residents identified as black or global majority ethnicity and a further 9% from white minoritised groups.

The ethnicity of survivors accessing domestic abuse services across BCP is not routinely collected by Dorset Police, MARAC or domestic abuse services. Therefore, further efforts are needed to explore how to gather more local data on the ethnicity of those accessing services. While MARAC and domestic abuse services are working to improve this data collection. It often depends on the referrer, making it challenging to record consistently. Additionally, Dorset police do not routinely collect this data, and this is being further explored.

The ethnicity of service users of the UP2U: Creating Healthy Relationships perpetrator programme remains predominantly white with just over 6% being in the non-white category which closely reflects the overall demographic of the BCP area.

Minority ethnic groups can encounter additional barriers when accessing support due to cultural expectations and practice, as well as lack of culturally competent support services. There are also increased risks from additional VAWG practices including HBA, FGM and forced marriage.

Positive Impact of the Strategies

Raising awareness and educating communities about domestic abuse will help reduce stigma and encourage more individuals to seek help.

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Services will continue to be inclusive and culturally sensitive which will lead to significant positive outcomes, including increased access to services, better support, and more effective interventions.

Training and awareness programs for service providers will improve their understanding of the specific issues faced by minority ethnic groups, leading to more empathetic and effective support.

Religion or Belief

Perpetrators can use religious texts or ideologies to manipulate and control their victim, to justify or excuse what they do, or to keep their victim in an abusive relationship.

Seeking support can be a huge challenge for many victims, particularly where there is a real or perceived threat of ostracism from their faith community. There are also increased risks from additional VAWG practices including HBA, FGM and forced marriage

We have only recently started collecting honour-based abuse data for MARAC referrals, Q3 24/25, there were 6 cases, representing 3% of all referrals.

Positive Impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategies

Providing tailored support that respects and understands the religious beliefs of survivors will lead to more effective interventions. Services will be sensitive to religious practices and values, which can help survivors feel more comfortable and understood.

Addressing spiritual abuse, which involves the misuse of religious texts and authority for coercive and controlling purposes by recognising and combating spiritual abuse, will prevent the continuation of abusive structures within religious contexts.

Pregnancy

Around 30% of domestic abuse begins during pregnancy, while 40 to 60% of women experiencing domestic abuse are abused during pregnancy. 1 in 3 women experience domestic abuse during pregnancy, approximately 275,000 women per year in England and Wales. Domestic abuse during pregnancy is also known to escalate.

The BCP domestic abuse health advocates receive a significant number of referrals for pregnant women across the main BCP hospitals.

Positive Impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategies

Improved health outcomes, enhanced safety, and better support for both the mother and the unborn child.

Social and Economic

Data shows that domestic abuse violent crime has a strong correlation to the most deprived areas in our community – geographical analysis revealed that domestic abuse reported to the police appears to correlate with deprivation. (Data source, Community Safety Partnership).

More than 51 per cent of households in BCP are affected by deprivation, with some communities in the region being in the top 2 per cent of the UK's most deprived areas, in contrast with others that lie in the top 1 percent of least deprived.

Under the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019, BCP Council's ranking is 146th out of 317 English Authorities. Deprivation is a lack of the necessities. It covers a wide range of factors that impact heavily on both individuals and families. The Indices of Deprivation combines seven domains to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation.

Positive Impact of the Domestic Abuse Strategies

Improved access to services will lead to, economic empowerment, enhanced safety, and better mental health outcomes for individuals of lower economic status and those living in deprived areas.

The strategies recognise that people with protected characteristics are often underrepresented in domestic abuse services, resulting in many not accessing the support they need. To address this, the delivery plans include specific actions to address these disparities to ensure that all survivors

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can access the available support. Much of the effort will be focused on understanding these disparities and implementing measures to ensure equitable service provision for all.

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Conclusion

Summary of Equality Implications

The research and data conducted for the three new Safer BCP domestic abuse strategies indicate people with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage may have different experiences of domestic abuse and face additional barriers when disclosing domestic abuse and accessing support services.

Experiences of abuse through a gendered lens allows us to recognise the societal imposed norms, roles and expectations of masculinity and femininity and how this effects intimate partner relationships and family structures and considers power dynamics. Intersectionality theory explains the intersect between social categorisations applied to an individual or group which create an overlap of disadvantage and discrimination.

By using a gendered and intersectional lens to develop these strategies we can guide our response to domestic abuse across BCP Council area to ensure that all members of BCP can receive fair and equal treatment when accessing services. In relation to violence against women and girls and domestic abuse the barriers and discrimination survivors with intersecting identities face when accessing support around domestic abuse, are well documented, and the strategies have been developed with that in mind.

The Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy, Safe Accommodation Strategy and Perpetrator Strategy aim to address inequalities in access to information and services, by using the intersectional analysis to inform the strategies and the comprehensive delivery plans.

The overwhelming identification through research both locally and nationally is that those with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage are:

- under-represented in DA services,
- struggle to access appropriate services which are culturally competent,
- a coordinated response from services is greatly variable leading to revictimisation
- often experience societal and/or organisational discrimination in addition to the domestic abuse.

The survivors of domestic abuse affected are; women, men, LGBTQ+ people, BAME people, disabled people, older people and children and young people, as well as care experienced adults, pregnant women, people with mental health conditions, carers and armed forces families.

The strategies and delivery plans aim to eliminate the barriers faced by individuals with protected characteristics in BCP experiencing domestic abuse. By implementing the following methods, we anticipate achieving the following outcomes:

- 1) Education and training of professionals and communities on protected characteristics, unconscious bias and intersectionality and domestic abuse.
Outcome: Increased awareness and understanding will lead to more effective and inclusive support.
- 2) Commissioning of specialist domestic abuse community services and domestic abuse safe accommodation, with a requirement that the service providers are trained in protected characteristics and intersectionality.
Outcome: Improved understanding of the needs of those with protected characteristics and the support provided will lead to improved life outcomes.
- 3) BCP domestic abuse safe accommodation will be modelled to meet the needs of all who may need to access it, including those with protected characteristics and/or multiple disadvantage.
Outcome: A safe supported environment will be provided for everyone regardless of their background and circumstances which will lead to improved life outcomes.

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- 4) Development of the survivor voice work to ensure the voices of all survivors and those that are currently underrepresented, inform the work we do in response to domestic abuse in BCP.
Outcome: Interventions will be better tailored to meet the needs of all individuals affected by domestic abuse, leading to improved support and life outcomes
- 5) Targeted information is available to individuals with protected characteristics across BCP, so that they know the services understand their needs and are available for them.
Outcome: This will ensure individuals know the services understand their unique needs and are available to support them, leading to better access to resources and improved overall well-being.
- 6) Community engagement is developed across BCP with individuals and communities which are underrepresented in domestic abuse services.
Outcome: Communities are better represented and their specific needs are addressed leading to more effective and comprehensive domestic abuse services.
- 7) Professional relationships are further developed to ensure pathways of support are collaborative and consider the whole person.
Outcome: Support pathways will be integrated and comprehensive, addressing various aspects of an individual's needs.
- 8) Work with both the BCP Safeguarding Adults Board and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership around domestic abuse will be strengthened and pathways to support embedded within teams.
Outcome: An integrated and supportive environment for individuals affected by domestic abuse.
- 9) Data collection will be improved so emerging themes and local need can be recognised and responded to.
Outcome: Emerging needs and trends are identified to ensure resources and services are directed to areas with the greatest need.
- 10) Education of children and young people across BCP about violence against women and girl, domestic abuse and positive masculinity to help reduce sexual discriminatory behaviours.
Outcome: There will be a safe and more inclusive environment for everyone.

A key positive outcome of the strategies is to improve domestic abuse support services in BCP, tailored to the diverse needs of survivors of domestic abuse and children, including those with protected characteristics, through commissioning specialist domestic abuse providers for community and safe accommodation services. Through community engagement and targeted materials, we will engage with all survivors of domestic abuse from underrepresented groups across BCP, reducing risk to these survivors and their children and improving longer term outcomes.

There will be ongoing consultation with people who have lived experience of domestic abuse and work to engage underrepresented groups, to ensure that we continue to hear the voices of all survivors and respond to these using a co-production framework so these voices help shape the domestic abuse work across BCP. Through education and awareness raising with professionals and communities we aim for them to understand the dynamics of domestic abuse better but also the additional issues faced by marginalised members of the community and reduce discriminatory beliefs and behaviours across BCP.

We will develop the BCP primary prevention offering, educating children and young people to help reduce current and future sexually discriminatory and sexually harmful behaviours.

We will further develop the relationships across agencies and professionals, to ensure a joined up and whole person response to survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse, this will help to reduce risk, mitigate long term harm and improve longer term outcomes for all.

The improved data collection will help to identify local needs and themes and enable the partnership to respond to domestic abuse in a more localised way whilst also learning from national research and data.

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Extensive consultation has been conducted, including a public consultation, consultation with the experts by experience board, the BCP domestic abuse survey, stakeholder workshops and domestic abuse provider events. This comprehensive approach ensures that the strategies are not developed in isolation and incorporate the perspectives of a diverse range of individuals and organisations, thereby meeting the needs of all.

All three strategies will be reviewed annually from (2025-2030). The Domestic Abuse Strategic Group (DASG) will oversee the implementation through a detailed delivery plan and report to the Community Safety Partnership Executive Board every six months to ensure accountability and achievement of the strategy outcomes.

Form Version 1.2

Prepared by:

Date:

Marked as CONTROLLED - INTERNAL

Equality Impact Assessment: Report and EIA Action Plan

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Please complete this Action Plan for any negative or unknown impacts identified above. Use the table from the Capturing Evidence form to assist.

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact	Timescale	Responsible officer
Sex – domestic abuse disproportionality affects women and women are significantly more likely to be murdered or seriously harmed in a domestic abuse context.	- Specialist domestic abuse services will be commissioned by BCP Council to ensure the provider uses a gendered approach to domestic abuse.	Q1 26/27	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- Women only safe accommodation will be commissioned by BCP Council to ensure there is an accommodation and domestic abuse specialist support offering that reflects need.	Q1 26/27	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- Training and education for professionals and the community to raise awareness of the gendered nature of domestic abuse, will be provided.	Q1 25/26	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
	- Survivor voice work will continue to be developed for women survivors of domestic abuse, including a co-production framework to ensure the voices inform domestic abuse strategy, policy and practice across BCP.	Q4 25/26	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.

	- Bystander intervention awareness training to be offered to professionals and the community to educate them on how to intervene safely if they see people using abusive behaviours. - #justdont campaign (aimed at men and boys to challenge sexually abusive behaviours) to be rolled out across BCP using various assets and PR.	Q4 25/26 Q1 25/26	BCP Council Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
Sex – men have barriers to accessing support for domestic abuse.	- Commissioned specialised domestic abuse services will provide support services for men. - . Male only safe accommodation will be commissioned by BCP Council to ensure there is an accommodation and domestic abuse specialist support offering that reflects need. - Training and education for professionals and the community will raise awareness of domestic abuse affecting men. - Domestic abuse forum to be held on Men's Domestic Abuse awareness day in	Q1 26/27. Q1 25/26. Q3 25/26. Q3 25/26.	BCP Council Housing and Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Housing and Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health and Communities. BCP Council Public Health and Communities. & Communities.

	November to raise awareness of domestic abuse for men locally. - Survivor voice work will continue to be developed for male survivors of domestic abuse, including a co-production framework to ensure their voices inform domestic abuse strategy, policy and practice across BCP.	Q4 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
Sexual orientation and gender reassignment – barriers to accessing support, low referral numbers into DA services and additional domestically abusive behaviours experienced by LGBTQ+ people. Low referral rates into the Up2U:CHR programme for LGBTQ+ people.	- Produce targeted domestic abuse leaflets and information for LGBTQ+ people.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities and BCP Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation.
	- An expectation the commissioned DA services will be trained on the dynamics of DA for LGBTQ+ people and reach into them through community engagement.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- Safe accommodation for LGBTQ+ survivors will be provided through a dispersed accommodation model.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- Training and education for professionals and the community will raise awareness of domestic abuse affecting LGBTQ+ people.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
	- Data collection to further understand the local demographic of LGBTQ+	Q4 25/26.	Safer BCP Partnership agencies.

	people and local need, will be developed across the partnership and agencies.		
	- Up2U:CHR needs to be more widely publicised into the LGBTQ+ community.	Q2 26/27.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
Disability – low referral rates into DA services, increased risk of harm to those with disabilities, barriers to accessing services and information.	- Provide easy read DA information for people with a learning disability.	Q4 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP People First Forum.
	- Produce targeted domestic abuse leaflets and information for people with disabilities.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation.
	- Distribute the easy read DASH to relevant professionals.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
	- Training and education for professionals and the community will raise awareness of domestic abuse and its effects on people with disabilities, to include the DA and disabilities toolkit.	Q2 26/27.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
	- Work with the BCP Safeguarding partnership to develop domestic abuse awareness and referral routes.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Adults Board.
	- Safe accommodation for survivors with disabilities will be provided	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- An expectation the commissioned DA services will be trained on the dynamics of DA for people with disabilities and	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.

	reach out to them through community engagement. - Accessible specialist domestic abuse services will be made available in a space to meet their needs. - Further research and data collection to understand the nature of disabilities across BCP so the response can be tailored to need.	Q1 26/27. Q4 25/26.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities. Safer BCP Partnership agencies.
Mental health –increased risk of MH conditions and suicide associated with being a victim of domestic abuse.	- Strengthen partnership working across the locality with colleagues in mental health, to provide both a DA and MH informed response to survivors. - Explore DA and suicidality nationally and locally to inform and improve practice. - Share DA and suicidality toolkit across partner agencies. - Raise awareness of the risks domestic abuse poses to mental health for professionals and the community. - Explore how BCP's Suicide Prevention Strategy can fully reflect the correlation between domestic abuse and suicide.	Q4 26/27. Q4 25/26. Q1 25/26. Q4 25/26. Q4 26/27.	Safer BCP Partnership agencies. BCP Council Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities.

Age Children and Young People -Victims of DA through witnessing DA in the home. - Victims of DA in intimate relationships. - Lack of education on violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, unhealthy masculinity and healthy relationships leading to unhealthy futures.	- Commissioned specialist domestic abuse community support services will provide support for children and young people.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- Safe accommodation commissioning plan to consider the needs of children and young people in the model of services to be commissioned.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- Training and education for professionals and the community will raise awareness of domestic abuse and its effects on children and young people.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
	- Survivor voice work will continue to be developed for child and young people survivors of domestic abuse, including a co-production framework to ensure the voices inform domestic abuse strategy, policy and practice across BCP.	Q4 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership.
	- A harmful sexual behaviour framework will be developed to be delivered into secondary schools across BCP to educate young people.	Q3 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health and Communities.
	- The Women's Aid Expect Respect free training to be advertised to schools across BCP.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Education.

	- Relationship and Sex Education day to be marked with a provider event in BCP. - Positive masculinity training for young people to be developed and planned for boys across BCP. - Data collection to further understand the local scale and needs of children and young people suffering domestic abuse in BCP. - Further research into the prevalence, effects and pathways for young people who are care experienced and suffer domestic abuse in their intimate relationships.	Q1 25/26. Q4 25/26. Q4 25/26. Q4 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Education. BCP Council Public Health & Communities. Safer BCP Partnership agencies. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership. .
Age Older people - lack of referrals into DA services, barriers to accessing support, increased risks with carer stress alongside domestic abuse or as a stand-alone issue, increased risk from family members providing care and isolation.	- Training and education for professionals and the community will raise awareness of domestic abuse and its effects on older people, to include the DA and older abuse toolkit. - Work with the BCP Safeguarding partnership to develop domestic abuse awareness and referral routes.	Q2 25/26. Q2 26/27.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Adults Board.

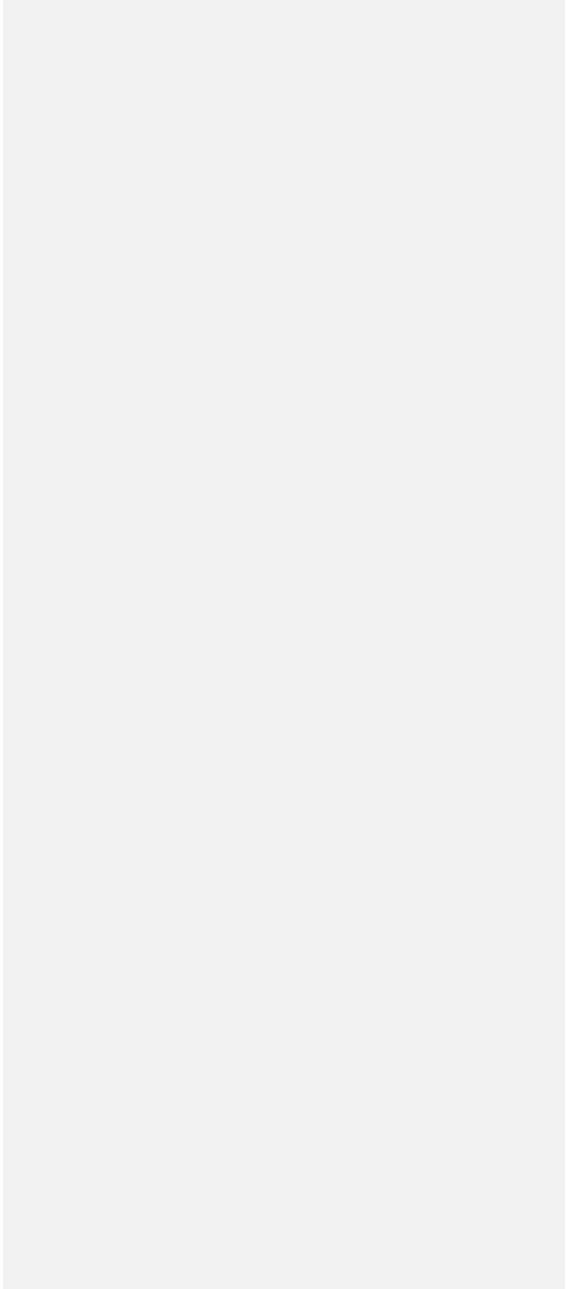
	- Safe accommodation modelling to consider how to work with older survivors needing accommodation-based support. - An expectation the commissioned DA services will be trained on the dynamics of DA for older people and reach into them through community engagement. - Carer stress awareness to be developed across BCP. - Survivor voice work will continue to be developed for older survivors of domestic abuse, including a co-production framework to ensure their voices inform domestic abuse strategy, policy and practice across BCP. - Data collection to further understand the local scale and needs of older young people suffering domestic abuse in BCP. - Produce targeted domestic abuse leaflets and information for older people.	Q1 26/27. Q1 26/27. Q1 25/26. Q1 26/27. Q2 26/27. Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Adults Board. BCP Council Public Health & Communities. Safer BCP Partnership agencies. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation
Minority Ethnic Groups - lack of referrals into DA services, barriers to accessing culturally competent support, potential language barriers,	- Training and education for professionals and the community will raise awareness of domestic abuse and its effects on different races to include the BAME and DA toolkit.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.

barriers to support due to immigration status, increased risk of harmful VAWG practices, and lack of understanding about the demographic locally.	- Produce targeted domestic abuse leaflets and information for BAME communities.	Q2 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation
	- Training for professionals around harmful VAWG practices including HBA, FGM and forced marriage.	Q2 26/27.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership.
	- Safe accommodation modelling to consider how to work with BAME survivors in a culturally competent way.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- An expectation the commissioned DA services will be trained on the dynamics of DA on BAME people and reach out to them through community engagement.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.
	- Survivor voice work will continue to be developed for BAME survivors of domestic abuse, including a co-production framework to ensure the voices inform domestic abuse strategy, policy and practice across BCP.	Q1 26/27.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
	- Data collection to further understand the local demographics and needs of BAME people suffering domestic abuse in BCP.	Q1 26/27.	Safer BCP Partnership agencies.
	- Improve our understanding of immigration status and no recourse to	Q3 26/27.	Safer BCP Partnership agencies.

	public funds for people accessing all DA support services in BCP. - To consider how we offer DA information to those who do not use English as their first language, both in person and via other promotional materials.	Q3 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
Religion or belief - lack of referrals into DA services, barriers to accessing culturally competent support and increased risk of harmful VAWG practices.	- Training and education for professionals and the community will raise awareness of domestic abuse and how this may look in different religions or beliefs, and to explore the further barriers to support access. - Training for professionals around harmful VAWG practices including HBA, FGM and forced marriage. - Safe accommodation modelling to consider how to work with survivors who have religious beliefs in a culturally competent way.	Q4 25/26. Q2 26/27. Q1 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership. BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities.

	- An expectation the commissioned DA services will be trained on the dynamics for people who have religious beliefs and reach into them through community engagement. - Survivor voice work will continue to be developed for all survivors of domestic abuse, to include those with religious beliefs, including a co-production framework to ensure the voices inform domestic abuse strategy, policy and practice across BCP. - Data collection to further understand the local demographic of religious belief systems to inform response and practice.	Q1 25/26. Q1 25/26.	BCP Council Housing, and Public Health & Communities. BCP Council Public Health & Communities. Safer BCP Partnership agencies.
Pregnancy - increased risk of DA starting during pregnancy, increased risk of harm to unborn child and increased risk of domestic homicide.	- Strengthen partnership working across the locality with colleagues in maternity/health visiting services and domestic abuse support services. - Explore DA training for maternity/health visiting colleagues, offer the BCP DA L2 training to maternity services. - Understand the process for maternity/health visiting services when gathering domestic abuse information from clients.	Q1 26/27. Q1 26/27. Q4 25/26. Q3 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and NHS Dorset. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and NHS Dorset. Safer BCP Partnership and NHS Dorset. BCP Council Public Health & Communities.

	- To consider a domestic <i>abuse</i> leaflet tailored to pregnant women to distribute via health locally.		
Socioeconomic factors - violent crime including violent domestic abuse is shown to be higher in areas of deprivation, increased risk of higher risk DA.	- Develop an understanding, if high risk domestic abuse in BCP is linked to areas of deprivation. - Explore a domestic abuse drop-in style service placed in food banks to offer support and advice.	Q4 25/26. Q1 26/27.	Safer BCP Partnership agencies. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and Dorset Police.
Armed forces communities - statistically more likely to experience and perpetrate DA.	- Develop relationships between the Ministry of Defence Safeguarding unit and local specialist domestic abuse services, including those for children and the Up2U:Creating Healthy Relationships programme.	Q4 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities.
Care experienced adults - gaps in pathway post 18 for support around domestic abuse and increased risk due to vulnerabilities.	- Strengthen partnership working across the locality with colleagues in the Children in Care teams, youth justice team and domestic abuse support services.	Q3 25/26.	BCP Council Public Health & Communities, BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service.
Carers - theme emerging around carer stress and domestic abuse.	- Identify learning needs of work force around carers and domestic abuse. - Explore domestic abuse data collection on carers and domestic abuse.	Q4 25/26. Q4 25/26,	Safer BCP Partnership agencies. BCP Council Public Health & Communities, and BCP Safeguarding Adults Board.



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD



Report subject	Work Plan
Meeting date	13 July 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board is asked to consider and identify work priorities for publication in a Work Plan.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: the Overview and Scrutiny Board review, update and confirm the Work Plan.
Reason for recommendations	The Council's Constitution requires all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda.
Portfolio Holder(s):	N/A – Overview and Scrutiny is a non-executive function
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Work Plan updates

1. This report provides the latest version of the Committee's Work Plan at Appendix A and guidance on how to populate and review the Work Plan in line with the Council's Constitution. For the purposes of this report, all references to Overview and Scrutiny Committees shall also apply to the Overview and Scrutiny Board unless otherwise stated.
2. Items added to the Work Plan since the last publication are highlighted as **'NEW'**. Councillors are asked to consider and confirm the latest Work Plan, subject to any updates agreed at the meeting.
3. The most recent [Cabinet Forward Plan](#) can be viewed on the council's website. This link is included in each O&S Work Plan report for councillors to view and refer to when considering whether any items of pre-decision scrutiny will join the O&S Committee Work Plan.

Resources to support O&S Work

4. The Constitution requires that O&S committees take account of the resources available to support proposals for O&S work. Advice on maximising the resource available to O&S Committees is set out in the O&S Work Planning Guidance document referenced below.

Work programming guidance and tools

5. The [Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference](#) document provides detail on the principles of scrutiny at BCP Council, the membership, functions and remit of each O&S committee and the variety of working methods available.
6. [The O&S Work Planning Guidance](#) document provides detail on all aspects of work planning including how to determine requests for scrutiny in line with the Council's constitution.
7. The [O&S Framework for scrutiny topic selection](#) was drawn up by O&S councillors in conjunction with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. The framework provides detail on the criteria for proactive, reactive and pre-decision scrutiny topics, and guidance on how these can be selected to contribute to value-added scrutiny outcomes.
8. The '[Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny](#)' form is an example form to be used by councillors and residents when making a new suggestion for a scrutiny topic. Word copies of the form are available from Democratic Services upon request by using the contact details on this agenda.
9. Performance information: progress against the council's Corporate Strategy can be viewed on the council's [Performance Dashboard](#). The dashboard includes ratings to show where the council is on target, areas for monitoring or where action is required, and explanations. The dashboard includes measures relevant to all O&S committees and is provided to assist committees in their horizon scanning and work selection process.
10. The Overview and Scrutiny Board has utilised a structured [Decision Matrix](#) as part of the process for prioritising work plan items. Evaluating suggested topics on the following measures: resident impact, urgency, influence and the value scrutiny could add.

In Year Scrutiny Requests

11. Pre-decision topics can be identified and confirmed by the Board on a monthly basis when the Cabinet Forward Plan is refreshed.
12. Working group suggestions will be passed to the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs Group for consideration. The Group will agree the order of progression for working groups, in line with Constitution requirements which allow for one working group to be progressed at a time across the whole O&S function.
13. Key Lines of Enquiry documents will be progressed for individual scrutiny topics. Advice on scoping will be sought from officers to strengthen inquiries (in line with usual practice) and from the O&S Chairs and Vice Chairs Group (to provide additional test and challenge, in line with updated Constitution requirements).
14. In year topic requests: notwithstanding the Board's planning of its annual programme of work, councillors retain the right to suggest scrutiny topics throughout the year. Requests for scrutiny work may also be made by residents and other council bodies, such as full Council, at any time. For arising 'in year' requests, the Board is recommended to make use of the matrix tool to assess the topics in an evidence-led way. Where scrutiny capacity is reached, the Board can weigh up the value of swapping scrutiny topics for others by referring to the body of evidence generated through the annual work planning workshop.

Options Appraisal

15. The O&S Committee is asked to review, update and confirm its Work Plan, taking account of the supporting documents provided and including the determination of any new requests for scrutiny. This will ensure member ownership of the Work Plan and that reports can be prepared in a timely way.
16. If updates to the Work Plan are not confirmed there may be an impact on timeliness of reports and other scrutiny activity.

Summary of financial implications

17. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

18. There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Council's Constitution requires that all O&S bodies set out proposed work in a Work Plan which will be published with each agenda. The recommendation proposed in this report will fulfil this requirement.

Summary of human resources implications

19. There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

20. There are no sustainability resources implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

21. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

22. There are no equality implications arising from this report. Any councillor and any member of the public may make suggestions for overview and scrutiny work. Further detail on this process is included within O&S Procedure Rules at Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Summary of risk assessment

23. There is a risk of challenge to the Council if the Constitutional requirement to establish and publish a Work Plan is not met.

Background papers

- [Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference](#)
- [O&S Work Planning Guidance document](#)
- [O&S Framework for scrutiny topic selection](#)
- [‘Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny’](#)

Further detail on these background papers is contained within the body of this report.

Appendices

Appendix A - Current O&S Work Plan

Appendix B - Scrutiny Request Form

Council Overview and Scrutiny Board – Work Plan Framework 2026/27 - updated 02/07/2026

Guidance notes:

- 2/3 items per committee meeting is the recommended maximum for effective scrutiny.
- The O&S Board will approach work through a lens of **RESIDENT IMPACT, EXPERIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT**
- Items requiring further scoping are identified and should be scoped using the [Key Lines of Enquiry tool](#).

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
Meeting Date: 13 July 2026				
1.	Bournemouth Town Centre Progress To consider a report on the current progress on this issue including Citizens' Panel work and HSRA.	Presentation and discussion	Portfolio Holder for Destination, Leisure and Commercial operations and Leader of the Council	Note that this will provide introductory information on this issue and a more in-depth report and enquiry session with relevant parties is being pursued
2.	Domestic Abuse Strategies To consider a Cabinet report which outlines the proposed strategies for approval.	Pre-Decision scrutiny of a Cabinet Report	Corporate Director for Wellbeing / PH Housing and Regulatory Services	Not currently on the Cabinet Forward Plan but expected to be considered at the July meeting
Meeting Date: 24 August 2026				
1	Asset Transfer and Disposal Process (TBC)	Committee Report	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	KLOE document to be completed – seeking contributions from Board Members

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
2.	Planning Performance Update To receive an update from Planning on current performance and issues highlighted within the key lines of enquiry document and potential to include information on planning requested in the Lower Gardens item requested.	Committee Report	Director of Planning - Leader of the Council	
3.	Cabinet Feedback on O&S recommendations from April to June	Verbal update from Cabinet Portfolio Holders	Director of Planning and Transport / Leader of the Council	Using the currently completed KLOE – Board members are asked to contribute any further issues
Meeting Date: 21 September 2026				
1.	Medium Term Financial Plan Update Report Scrutiny and monitoring of the latest Cabinet report of the MTFP update	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to scrutinise MTFP reports
2.	Potential update on Local Plan (TBC	TBC	Director of Planning and Transport / Leader of the Council	
Meeting Date: 19 October 2026				
	Quarter 1 Financial Outturn Report To enable the O&S Board to monitor the Council's developing financial situation.	Cabinet report to be circulated to Board members for information	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	
	Regeneration update item (TBC)	Committee Report		

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
Meeting Date: 16 November 2026				
	Devolution (TBC)			
Meeting Date: 7 December 2026				
1.	Medium Term Financial Plan Update Report Scrutiny and monitoring of the latest Cabinet report of the MTFP update.	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to scrutinise MTFP reports
2.	Proactive/reactive scrutiny item(s) to be determined			
3.	Quarter 2 Financial Outturn Report To enable the O&S Board to monitor the Council's developing financial situation.	Cabinet report to be circulated to Board members for information	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to monitor outturn reports
Meeting Date: 4 January 2027				
	Local Safeguarding Partnership – Annual Report Scrutiny of the annual report in the Board's role as designated crime and disorder scrutiny body.	Committee Report – Invite to Chair of the partnership	Corporate Director for Wellbeing – PH Housing and Regulatory Services	
Meeting Date: 1 February 2027 – BUDGET MEETING				

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	2027/28 Proposed Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan	Scrutiny of Cabinet Report and verbal updates from Directors	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to scrutinise MTFP reports
	Proactive/reactive scrutiny item(s) to be determined			
Meeting Date: 22 February 2027				
	Town Councils To consider a progress report on how the Town Councils are developing and any issues which have arisen since their formation.	Committee Report	Leader of the Council / PH – Communities and Partnerships	
Meeting Date: 22 March 2027				
	Proactive/reactive scrutiny item(s) to be determined –			
	Quarter 3 Financial Outturn Report To enable the O&S Board to monitor the Council's developing financial situation.	Cabinet report to be circulated to Board members for information	Chief Finance Officer / PH – Finance	O&S Board regular request to monitor outturn reports
Items for scrutiny (Meeting dates and/or methods to be determined)				
	Regeneration Updates (x2) Regeneration was a strong focus for the Board in work planning and it is expected that the Board will consider at least 2 further regeneration reports	Committee Reports (TBC)	Director of Investment and Development / Leader of the Council	One update suggested for October – remaining update to be scheduled

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	during the municipal year - the timing of these will need to be scheduled.			
	Local Plan Updates (x3) The Local Plan was a key priority for the O&S Board and as such it is expected that a number of updates will be considered by the Board – the timing of these will need to be scheduled.	Committee Reports (TBC)	Director of Planning and Transport / Leader of the Council	All to be scheduled in.
	Estates and Asset Disposal (x2) This was also one of the most important areas identified – An initial report on the Asset transfer and disposal process is requested followed by a further reports on asset disposals later in the year	Committee Reports (TBC)	Director of Finance / PH - Finance	Initial report scheduled for August meeting – following report to be scheduled for later in the year.
	Councillor Involvement in the Complaints Process Initial rapporteur work being carried out. Report to come to a future Committee – date to be determined	Committee Report	Director of Marketing, Communications and Policy	
	Devolution The Board agreed to hold a slot for potential reactive scrutiny of this issue later in the year.	TBC	TBC	
	Domestic Abuse Strategies	Pre-Decision scrutiny of a Cabinet Report	Corporate Director for Wellbeing / PH Housing and Regulatory Services	Currently on Cabinet FP with date TBD

Key:  Pre-Decision Scrutiny  Pro/Re-active Scrutiny  Information Items

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	To consider a Cabinet report which outlines the proposed strategies.			
Working Groups and items addressed through alternative scrutiny methods				
	Residents Parking Policy It was suggested that this had high resident impact and could look at: • Comparative practice in other councils • Creative solution-finding • Working alongside officers	Potential topic for a Working Group	Director of Commercial Operations / PH – Destination, Leisure and Commercial Operations	Limited to one in depth piece of work across O&S bodies – suggestions from across scrutiny bodies to be agreed and prioritised by Chair's group
	Councillor involvement in the Complaints process The Board previously agreed to ask Cllr Aitkenhead as rapporteur to undertake to find out more information on this issue.	Initially through a Rapporteur to gather information – Cllr S Aitkenhead		Cllr Aitkenhead will report on initial findings to the O&S Board meeting on 23 March
	Charminster Library			A KLOE is being developed for
	Briefing Sessions			
	Dates for O&S Board Briefing Sessions for 2026/27:		Potential Topics for Briefing Sessions	
	• Monday 27 July 2026		Homes England	
	• Monday 5 October 2026		Voluntary Sector / BIDS /Partnerships	

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

	Subject and purpose	How will the scrutiny be done?	Lead Officer/Portfolio Holder	Additional Information
	Monday 25 January 2027		Council Operating Model	

Items not included in the work plan

The following are the items which the Board agreed not to progress during the work planning process:

1a. Licensing – It was agreed not to progress this item subject to a discussion with relevant officers to ascertain any value which the Board could add in this area. The issue recorded a low score using the prioritisation matrix.

3e. Dorset Heathlands Recreation Mitigation Strategy
3f. Dorset Heathlands Air Quality Mitigation Strategy
3g. New Forest Recreation Mitigation Strategy
3h. Poole Harbour Recreation Mitigation Strategy



These issues all recorded a low score using the prioritisation matrix. A number of groups did not consider they could add value on these issues. Some commented that some of these issues may be better suited to the Environment and Place O&S Committee.

5a – Councillors and Officers working together – It was agreed not to progress this issue – It received a low prioritisation score in the matrix and the Board did not consider that it could add value in this area

5b – staff culture and satisfaction – It was agreed not to progress this issue. Although this scored in the mid range in prioritisation it was noted that no staff survey was planned until 2027 which limited the scope for scrutiny. However it was suggested that the Board could instead add value by inputting into questions within the survey.

6a – Council operating model – programme and projects centre of expertise – It was suggested that this was best suited towards a briefing topic

- 8b - Three towns challenges - This topic only received a mid to low score in the prioritisation matrix and it was therefore agreed not to progress this
- 8c - Working more collectively across BCP geographical areas - This was a legacy item but it was not considered that the Board would be able to add value at this stage and received lower scores in the prioritisation matrix.

Key: Pre-Decision Scrutiny Pro/Re-active Scrutiny Information Items

- 9b - Accounting for social value in decision making - Although this received a low score it was agreed that it should be taken into account when the Board considered 9A - The Social Value Statement as pre-decision scrutiny

10b Business improvement districts – Received low prioritisation score but it was suggested that this would be suitable for a briefing session if time allowed.

11a Age-friendly communities progress – Agreed not to progress this at this stage as one or more groups did not consider further value could be added by scrutiny.

11b – Partnership working with voluntary and community centres – Agreed not to progress this at this stage as one or more groups did not consider further value could be added by scrutiny. It was suggested that this may be suitable for a briefing session.

Request for consideration of an issue by Overview and Scrutiny

Guidance on the use of this form:

This form is for use by councillors and members of the public who want to request that an item joins an Overview and Scrutiny agenda. Any issue may be suggested, provided it affects the BCP area or the inhabitants of the area in some way. Scrutiny of the issue can only be requested once in a 12 month period.

The form may also be used for the reporting of a referral item to Overview and Scrutiny by another body of the council, such as Cabinet or Council.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee receiving the request will make an assessment of the issue using the detail provided in this form and determine whether to add it to its forward plan of work.

They may take a variety of steps to progress the issue, including requesting more information on it from officers of the council, asking for a member of the overview and scrutiny committee to 'champion' the issue and report back, or establishing a small working group of councillors to look at the issue in more detail.

If the Committee does not agree to progress the issue it will set out reasons for this and they will be provided to the person submitting this form.

More information can be found at Part 4.C of the BCP Council Constitution
<https://democracy.bpcouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

Please complete all sections as fully as possible

1. Issue requested for scrutiny

Performance Management, Commercial Oversight and Best Value within BCP Council's Seafront Trading Operations.

I request that Overview and Scrutiny examine whether the Council's current arrangements for managing, monitoring and reporting on its seafront trading operations provide sufficient assurance that commercial objectives are being achieved and that publicly owned assets are delivering best value for residents.

Recent Freedom of Information responses indicate that kiosk opening times are not set or monitored centrally, staffing deployment by individual site is not recorded, and no site-level performance reports, benchmarking information or year-on-year comparisons are held. Whilst revenue data exists, there appears to

be limited management information available to assess the relative performance of individual venues or identify opportunities for improvement.

Given the prominence of these seafront locations, their role in generating income for the Council, and the financial pressures facing local government, scrutiny is requested to determine whether current governance and performance management arrangements are sufficient to ensure that commercial opportunities are being maximised and public assets are being managed effectively.

2. Desired outcome resulting from Overview and Scrutiny engagement, including the value to be added to the Council, the BCP area or its inhabitants.

The desired outcome is an evidence-based assessment of whether the Council has appropriate systems, performance measures and governance arrangements in place to effectively manage its seafront trading portfolio and maximise value from publicly owned assets.

The review should seek to:

- Establish what operational and financial performance information is currently collected and used by management.
- Determine whether existing arrangements provide sufficient assurance regarding efficiency, profitability and service delivery.
- Assess whether the Council can demonstrate that it is achieving best value from its seafront trading assets.
- Identify opportunities to improve commercial performance, customer experience and income generation.
- Consider whether site-level reporting, benchmarking and trend analysis should be introduced or strengthened.
- Improve transparency and accountability in relation to commercial operations operated by, or on behalf of, the Council.
- Examine whether current operating models are delivering the optimum balance of financial return, visitor experience and community benefit.
- Consider whether alternative operating models, including partnerships with local businesses, specialist operators, artisan traders or concessionaires, could improve performance and generate additional income.
- Explore opportunities for pilot schemes or trial arrangements that would allow different commercial approaches to be tested and evaluated using measurable outcomes.
- Identify any organisational, procurement or governance barriers that may be limiting innovation or preventing potentially beneficial commercial opportunities from being assessed.

This work has the potential to generate tangible benefits for the Council, residents and visitors. Improved performance management may identify opportunities to

increase income from existing assets, improve the quality and attractiveness of the seafront offer, support local independent businesses and strengthen the local economy.

The review could also help determine whether selected sites would benefit from alternative operating arrangements, including partnerships with local independent operators or artisan traders, where these may offer greater flexibility, innovation, customer appeal or financial return. Any such consideration should be evidence-led and based on measurable outcomes rather than assumptions about the relative merits of Council-operated or externally operated models.

Ultimately, the review should provide assurance that seafront assets are being managed in a way that maximises value for taxpayers, enhances the visitor experience, supports local enterprise and contributes positively to the reputation of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole as a premier coastal destination.

3. Background to the issue

This request arises from information disclosed through Freedom of Information requests together with observations of Council-operated seafront venues and correspondence concerning their commercial management.

The Freedom of Information responses indicate that:

- Kiosk opening times are not centrally prescribed or monitored.
- Staffing deployment by individual site is not recorded.
- No site-level performance reports are held.
- No year-on-year comparative performance reports were identified.
- Revenue information exists but is not supported by broader operational performance analysis.

These responses raise questions about how performance is measured, how underperforming assets are identified, how operational decisions are evaluated and how the Council demonstrates that commercial objectives are being met.

Additional concerns arise from observations of Council-operated venues compared with nearby private-sector operators. For example, on a recent day of mixed sunshine and showers in Southbourne, nearby businesses including Cafe Riva and SOBO Beach were open and attracting customers. By contrast, the Council-operated Prom Café at Fisherman's Walk was closed. The site displayed ice cream prices but no opening times and provided no clear indication of the wider food and drink offer available. Whilst a seating area is provided, there is limited covered seating available during poor weather compared with nearby competing venues.

Similarly, concerns have been raised regarding the operation of the Durley Chine Eco Hub, where questions have been asked about customer demand, utilisation of

the site and the Council's willingness to consider alternative commercial approaches or trial opportunities that may improve performance.

These examples do not in themselves prove underperformance. However, they illustrate why robust management information, benchmarking and performance monitoring are important. Without such information it is difficult for councillors, residents and taxpayers to understand whether Council-operated venues are achieving their commercial objectives, maximising revenue opportunities and delivering best value.

The purpose of this scrutiny request is therefore not to review individual operational decisions or the performance of individual staff members. Rather, it is to establish whether the Council possesses sufficient management information, governance arrangements and commercial oversight mechanisms to effectively manage its seafront trading portfolio and maximise benefits for residents and taxpayers.

4. Proposed method of scrutiny - (for example, a committee report or a working group investigation)

A formal scrutiny review supported by officer evidence, documentary analysis, benchmarking and comparison with good practice elsewhere.

The review could include:

- A report from Seafront Services and relevant corporate officers setting out current performance management arrangements.
- Examination of the operational and financial data currently collected.
- Review of commercial objectives, performance indicators and reporting mechanisms.
- Assessment of how opening hours, staffing levels, product mix, facilities, marketing activity and asset utilisation are evaluated and monitored.
- Consideration of whether sufficient information exists to demonstrate compliance with the Council's Best Value duty.
- Examination of how opportunities for innovation, commercial partnerships and alternative operating models are assessed and evaluated.

The review should also include benchmarking against comparable coastal destinations and local authorities to understand how other organisations manage and maximise the value of similar assets. This could include consideration of:

- Performance monitoring and reporting arrangements.
- Opening hours and seasonal operating models.
- Use of concessions, licences and partnerships with independent operators.
- Support for local businesses and artisan traders.
- Customer experience, facilities and weather resilience.

- Revenue generation and commercial strategy.
- Approaches to activating underutilised assets and sites.

Potential comparator locations could include Weymouth, Swanage, Lymington, Milford-on-Sea, Brighton and Torquay, together with any other coastal authorities considered relevant by officers or the Committee.

Where examples of good practice are identified, the review should consider whether similar approaches could be trialled within BCP and implemented on a rolling basis where there is clear evidence of potential benefit.

If appropriate, the Committee may wish to establish a small cross-party working group to undertake more detailed investigation and report back with recommendations.

5. Key dates and anticipated timescale for the scrutiny work

It is requested that this matter be considered for inclusion within the Committee's work programme at the earliest practical opportunity, given that the seafront trading season is already underway.

Rather than waiting for a final report at the conclusion of a lengthy review, the emphasis should be on obtaining key management information quickly and implementing improvements where appropriate as findings emerge.

Suggested approach:

- Initial consideration by Overview and Scrutiny – next available meeting.
- Request for officers to provide details of current performance monitoring arrangements, available management information and commercial objectives.
- Identification of any significant gaps in reporting, benchmarking or performance measurement.
- Where practical and appropriate, introduction of improvements on a rolling basis throughout the season rather than waiting for completion of the review.
- Periodic progress updates to the Committee as further information becomes available.

This approach would allow opportunities for increased income generation, improved customer experience and operational improvements to be realised during the current trading season rather than being deferred until a final report is produced.

6. Notes/ additional guidance

This request is submitted in the public interest and is intended to support constructive scrutiny of governance, commercial performance and best value arrangements.

The request does not seek to challenge individual officers, staff members or operational decisions. Rather, it seeks assurance that appropriate systems, data and performance measures are in place to enable effective oversight of a significant portfolio of publicly owned commercial assets.

Given the importance of seafront trading operations to visitor experience, local economic activity and Council income generation, there is a legitimate public interest in ensuring that opportunities for improvement are identified, evaluated and acted upon where appropriate.

The review would provide assurance to residents, councillors and stakeholders that public assets are being managed effectively, transparently and in a manner that maximises value for the communities they serve.

Document last reviewed – January 2022

Contact – democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk