



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.

- 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 abuse ³

An estimated

20%

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

16,000

children are living with domestic abuse today ²

In the review of

293

SCRs Sidebotham et al (2016) found that domestic abuse was a feature in almost all instances of filicide ⁴

1 in 5

teenage girls have experienced domestic abuse in their dating relationship ⁵

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

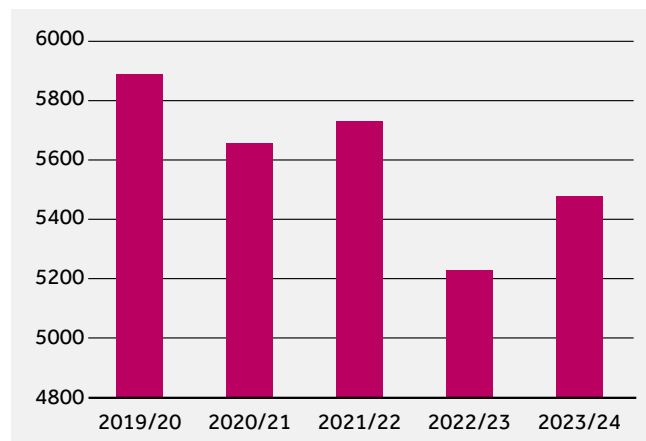


Figure 1 above shows the numbers of domestic abuse crimes recorded by Dorset Police in the BCP area per financial year. However, we know that domestic abuse is an under-reported crime and therefore it is likely that in reality these figures are higher. The figure shows that numbers were highest in 2019/2020, 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

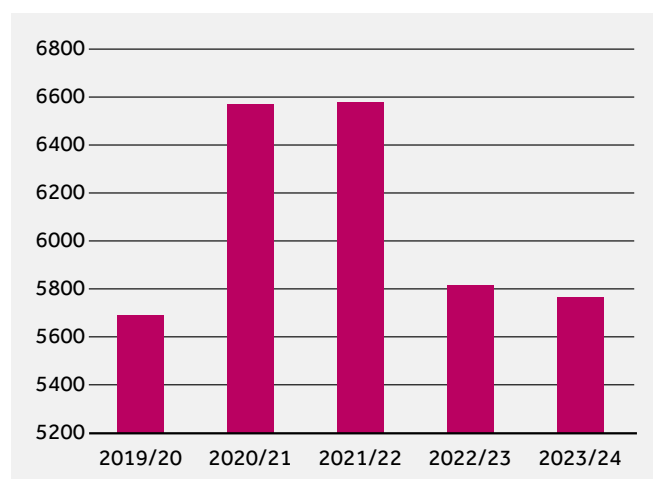


Figure 2 - DA incident numbers by year in BCP

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.

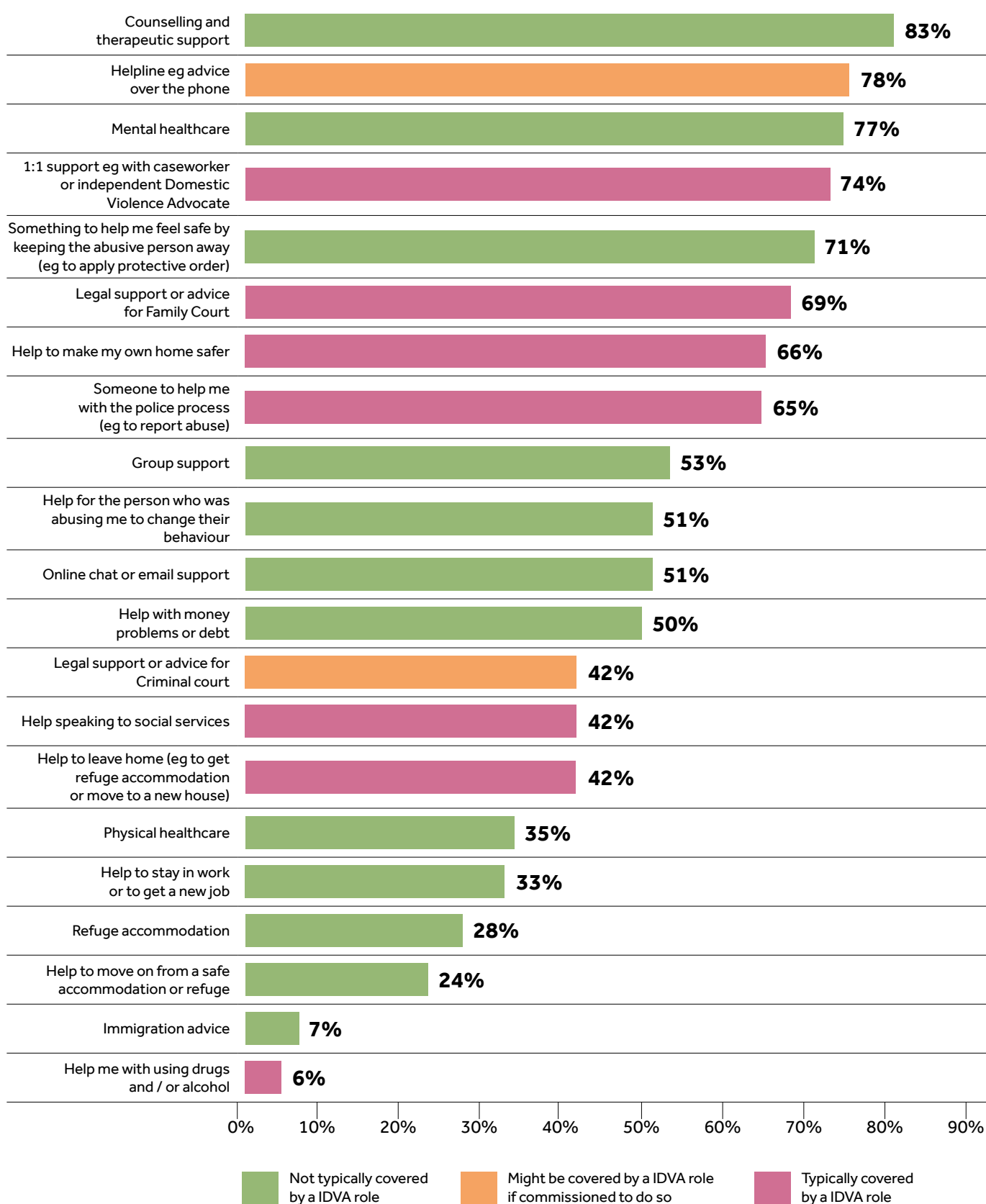


Figure 6 - Percentage of respondents wanting support for domestic abuse during the previous three years, according to intervention type.

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.

- 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.

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.

[illegible]

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		✓	✓	✓	



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