



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.bcpccouncil.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.

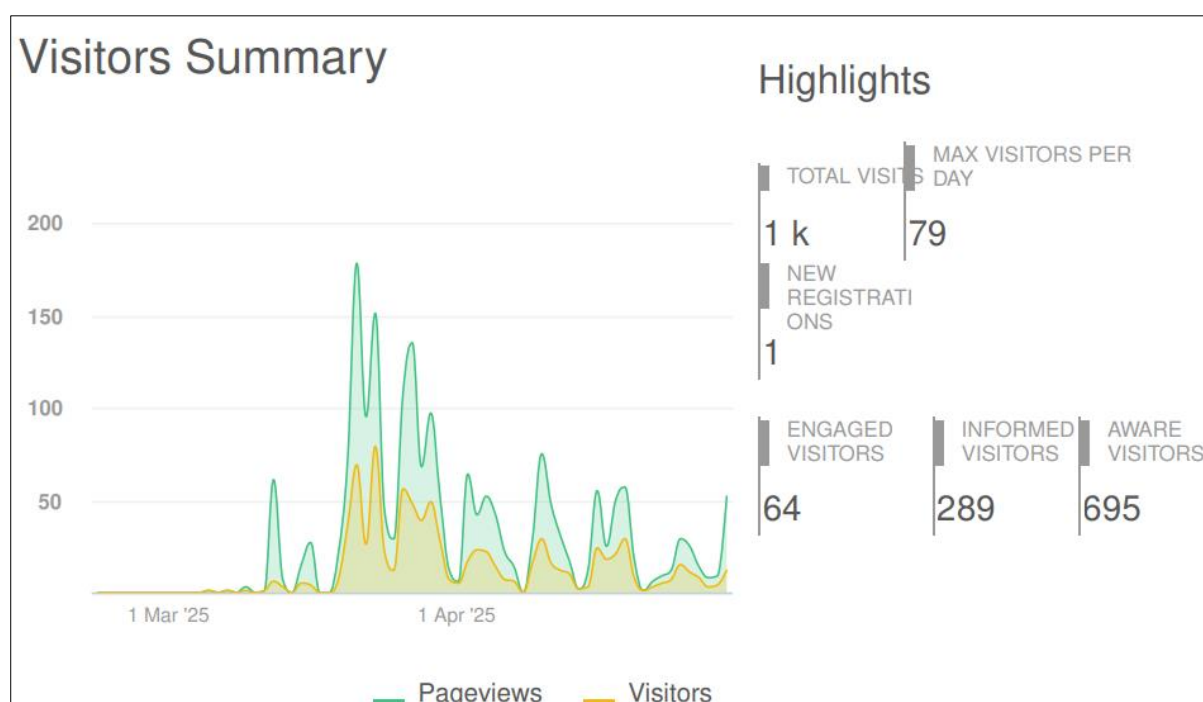
4 Engagement Figures

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 can happen to anyone. Reach 4.6K Engagement 196 Impressions 4.9K	 26 Mar. 2025 Safer BCP, the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Reach 3.9K Engagement 113 Impressions 4.2K
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Below is the best performing social media posts based on impressions:

 19 Mar. 2025 Domestic abuse can happen to anyone. Engagement 39 Impressions 194	 26 Mar. 2025 Safer BCP, the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Engagement 16 Impressions 157
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Below is the best performing social media posts based on likes:



Domestic Abuse
Strategies  Image Consultation 

19 Mar. 2025

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

 Engagement	4
 Likes	2
 Reposts	2



Domestic Abuse
Strategies  Image 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](#).

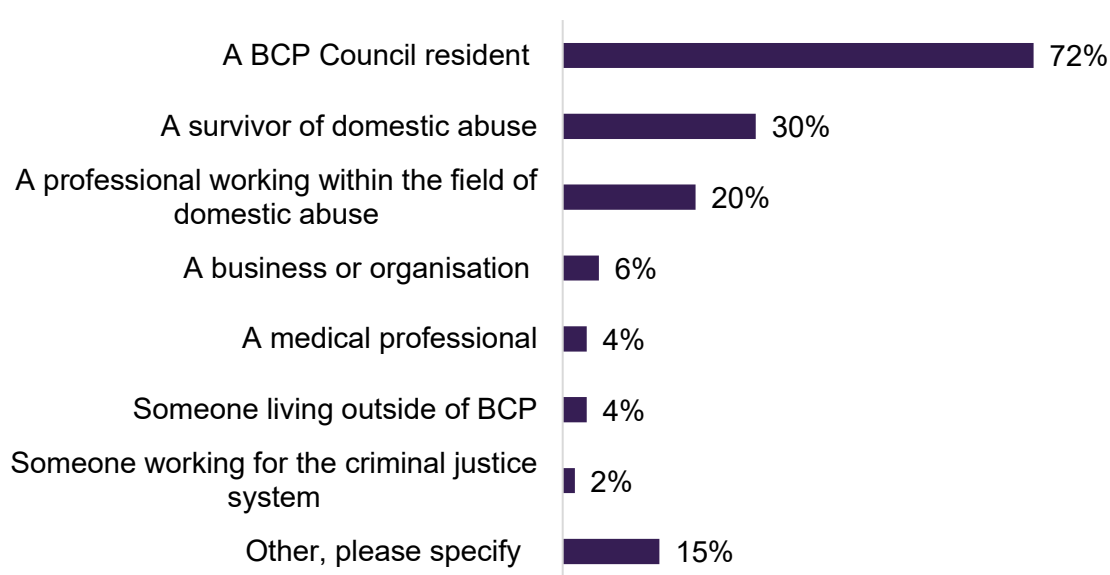
We asked respondents to read the [draft Strategy](#) before responding to the questions. An Executive Summary of all the findings for this section can be found [here](#).

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:

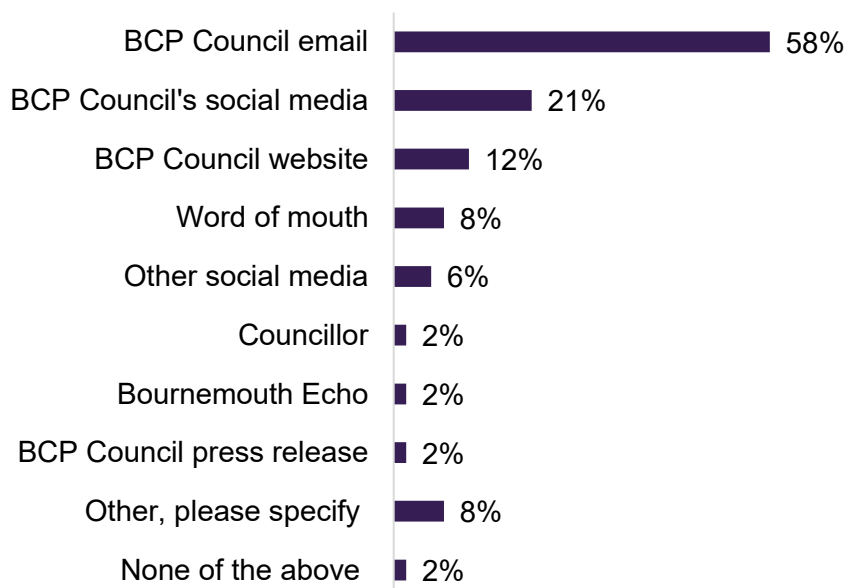
- On behalf of local organisations
- As a parent of a domestic abuse survivor and retired professional working in safeguarding services
- As a BCP Council worker
- As a professional within youth justice and a parent of a female survivor of domestic abuse
- Childhood Survivor, now an adult.

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%).



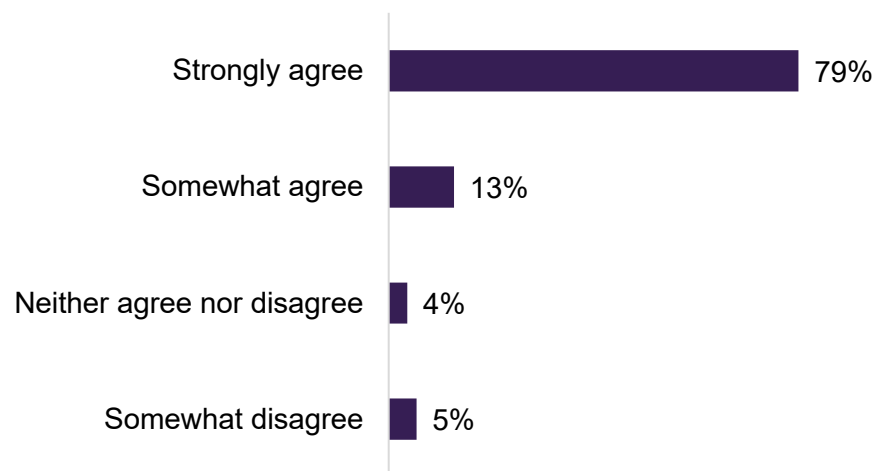
Base: 52 respondents

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

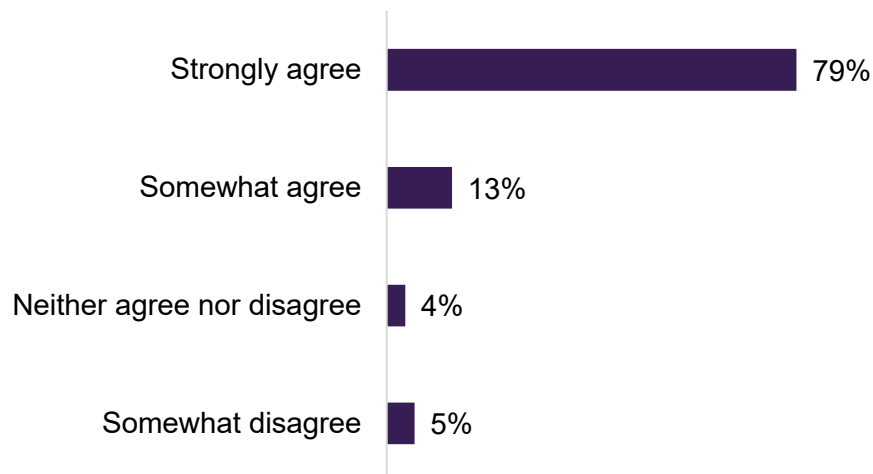
Respondents' views on these proposed Priorities are detailed below.

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.”

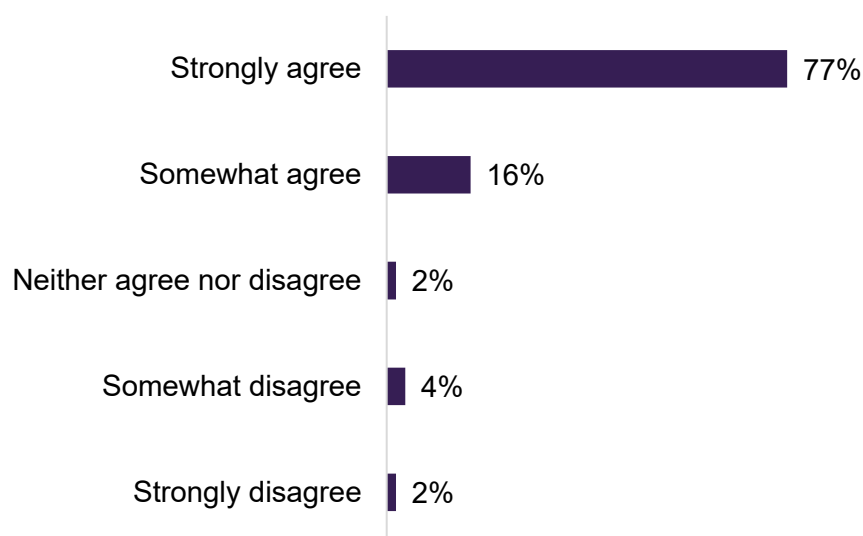
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

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."

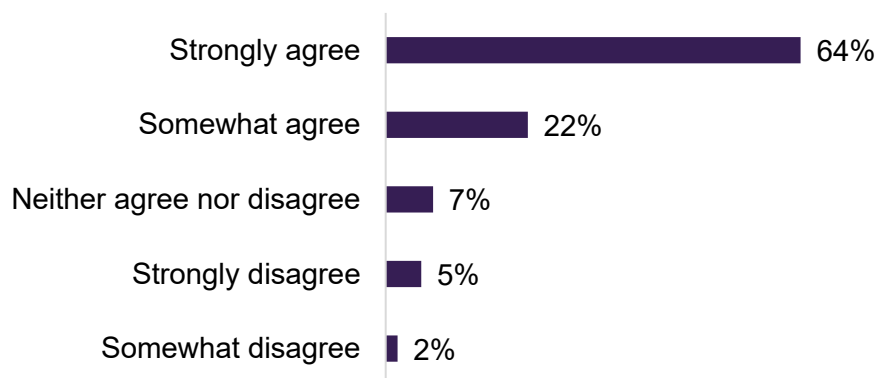
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

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 be 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 perpetrator. 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.”

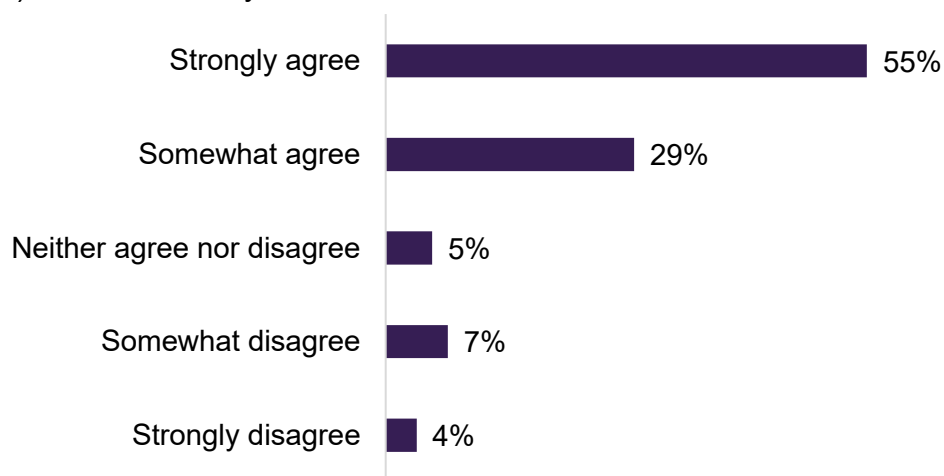
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

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.”

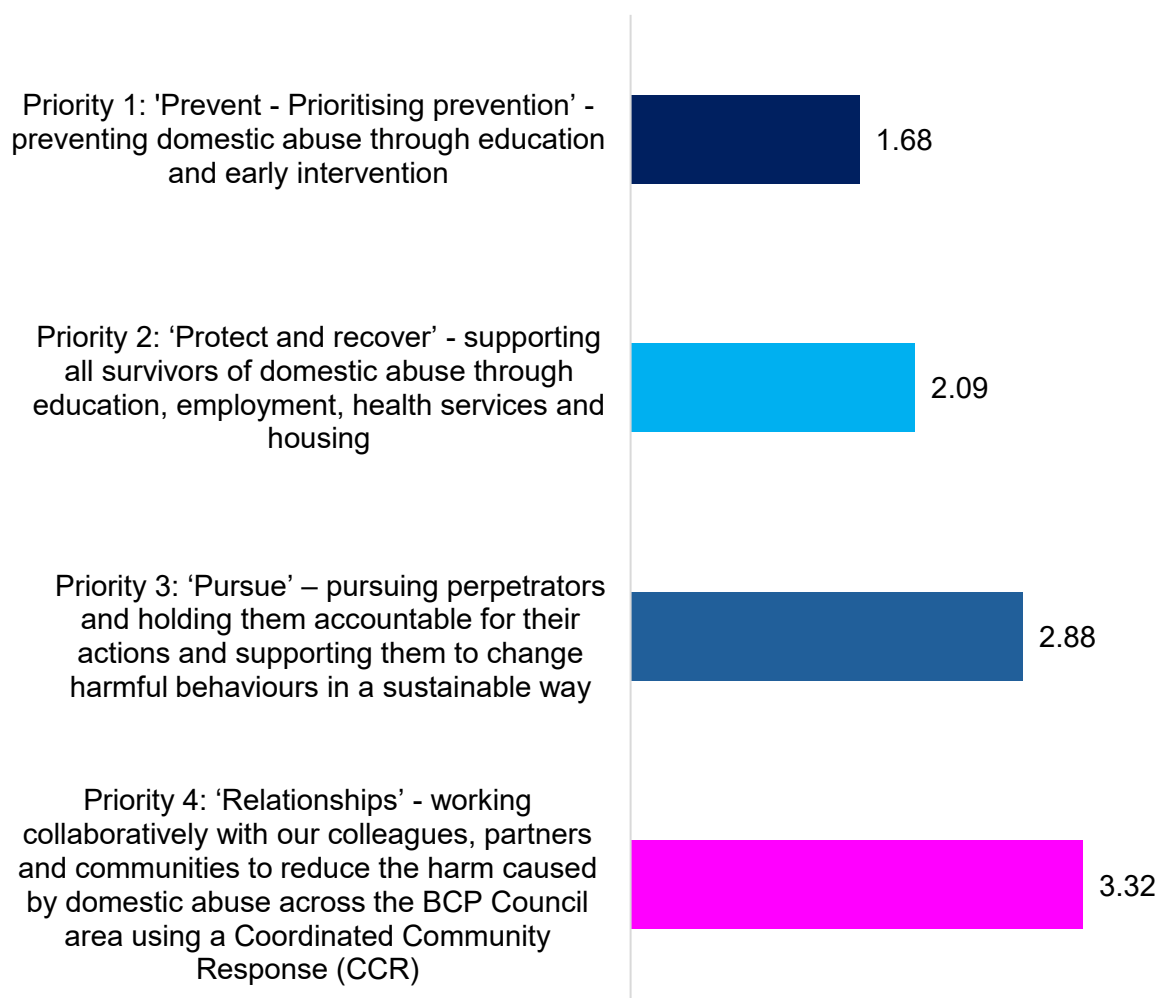
7.4.5 Priorities ranked by importance

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)

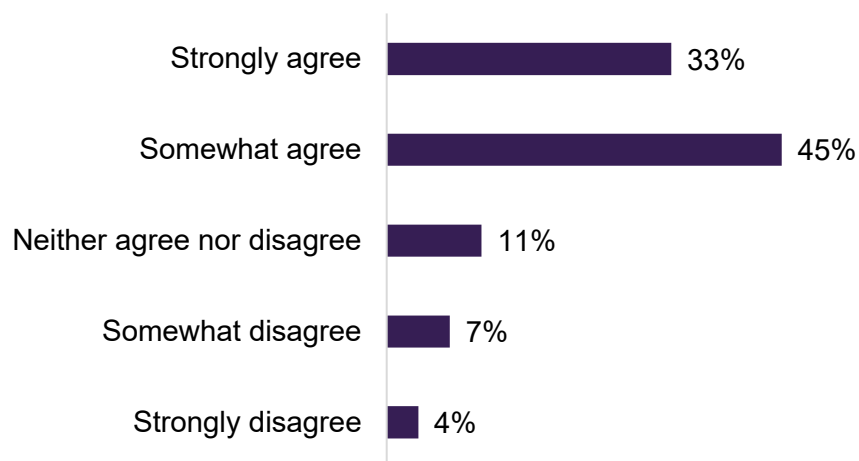


Base: All respondents

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](#).

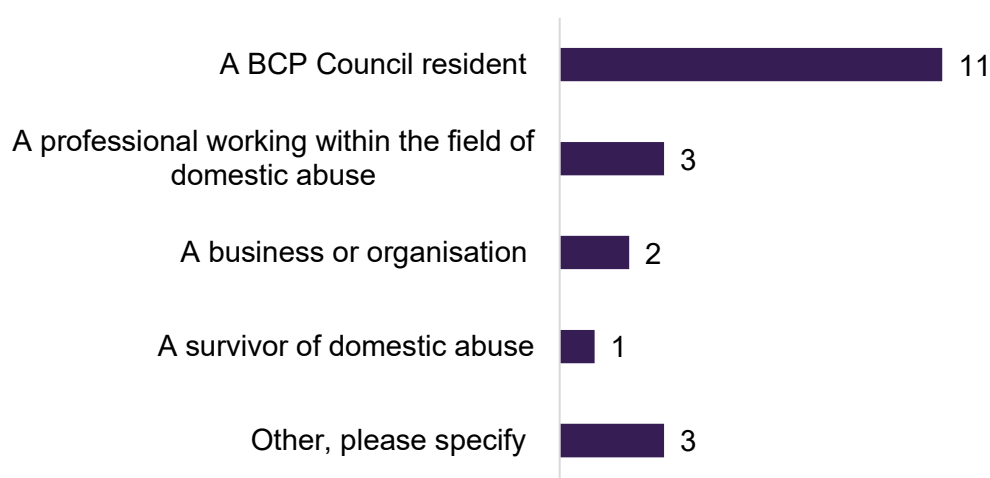
Please note, due to the low numbers of responses, the results for this section of the report are reported in numbers instead of percentages. This is a more accurate way of reporting results when a low number of responses have been received.

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

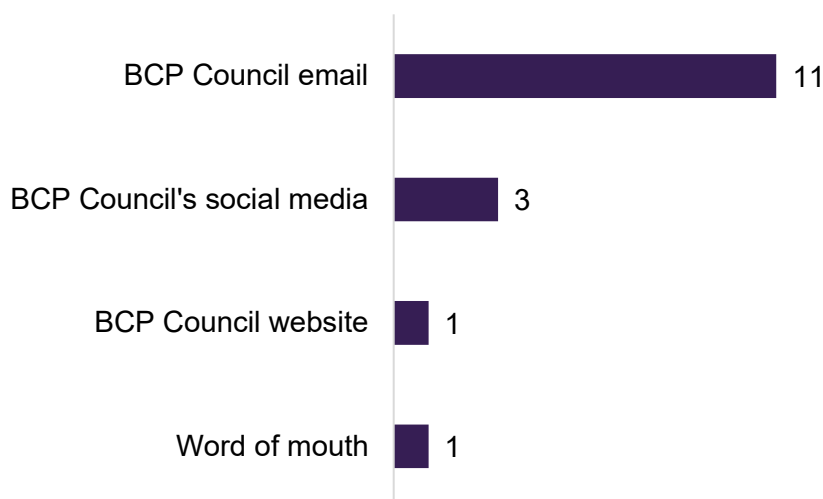
The other ways that the respondents said they were responding to the survey were:

- 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

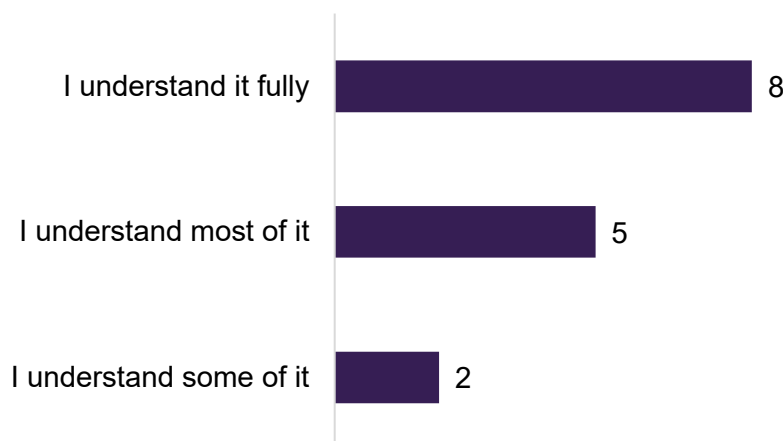
8.3 The Draft Safe Accommodation Strategy

[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.

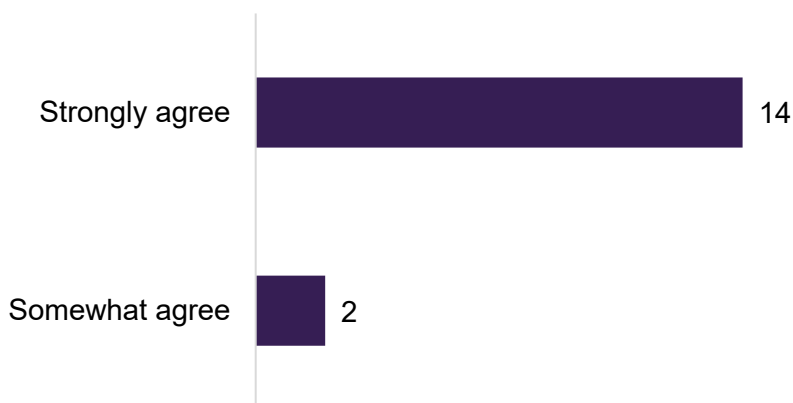
Respondents' views on these proposed Priorities are detailed below.

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."

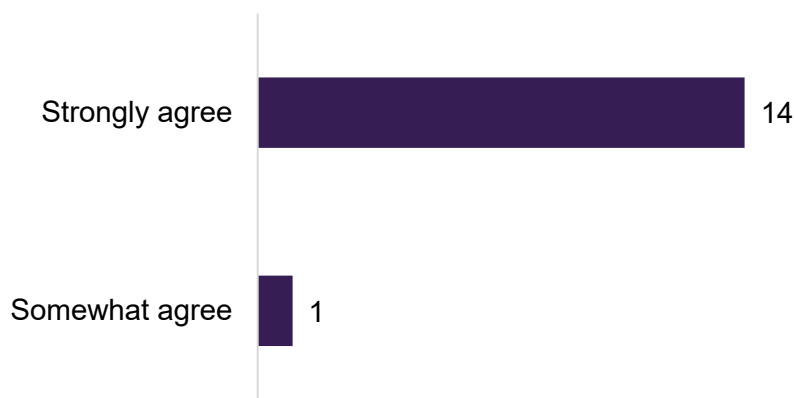
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

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."

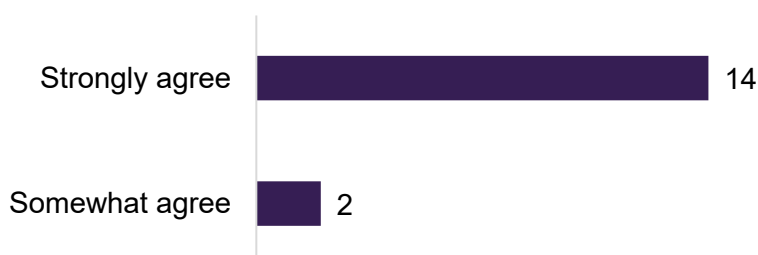
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

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.”

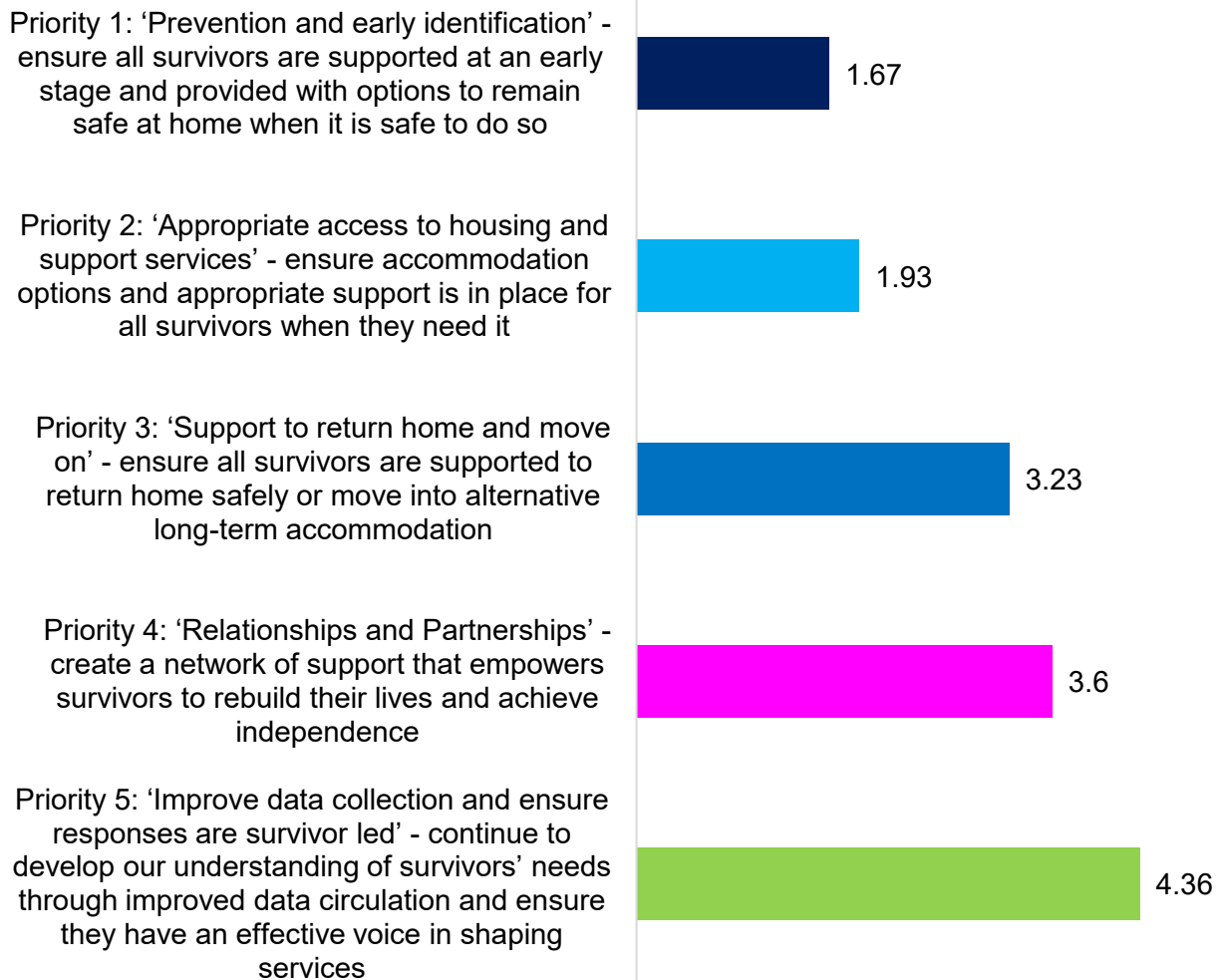
8.4.6 Priorities ranked by importance

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)



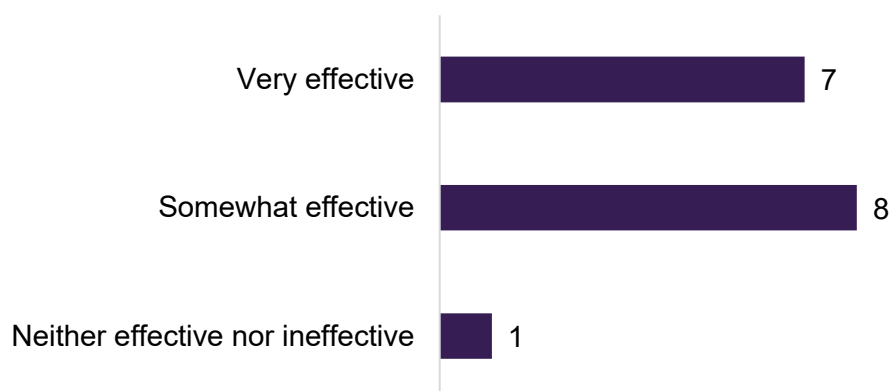
Base: 15 respondents

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.



8 comments

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."

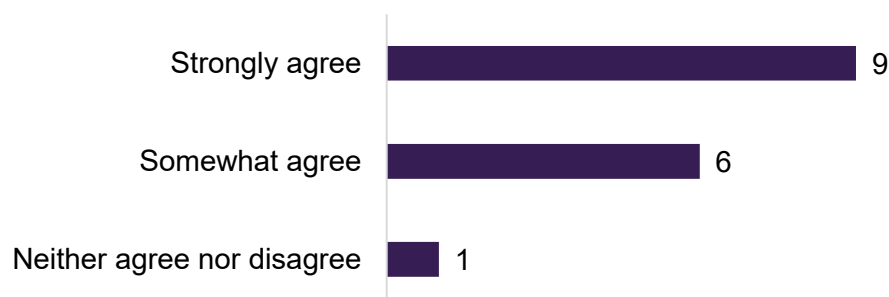
Full details of other themes to emerge from these responses and/or a full list of all the comments is available on request from the Research and Consultation Team.

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](#).

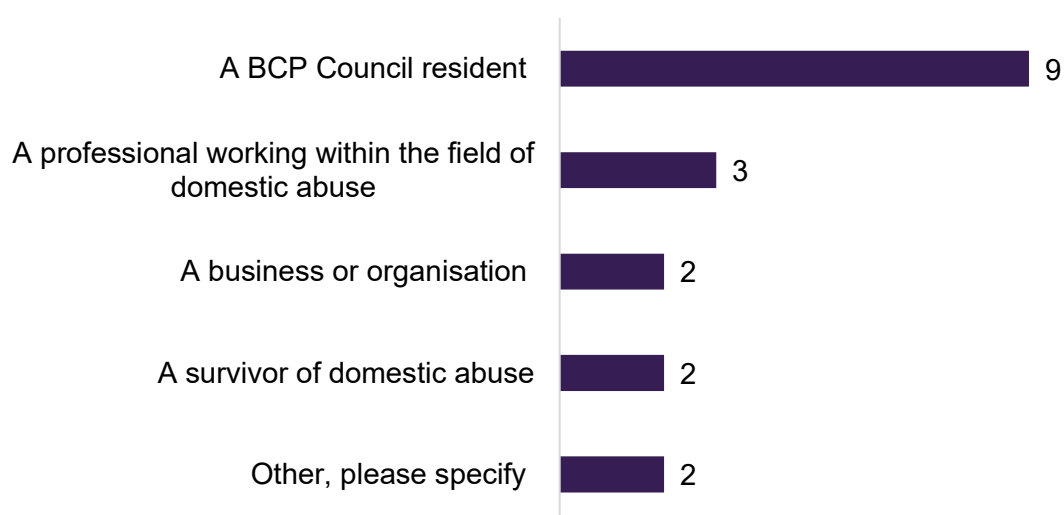
Please note, due to the low number of responses, the results for this section of the report are reported in numbers instead of percentages. This is a more accurate way of reporting results when a low number of responses have been received.

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

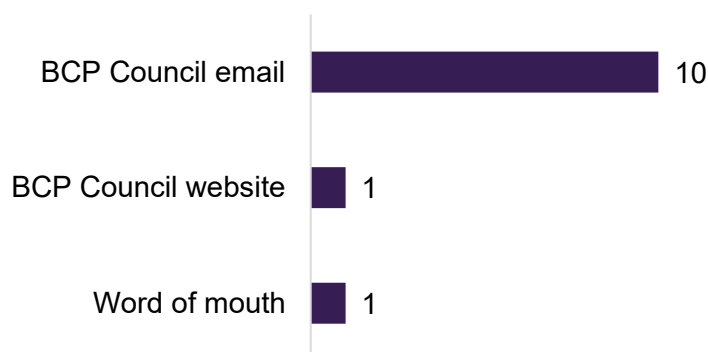
The other ways that the respondents said they were responding to the survey were:

- 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

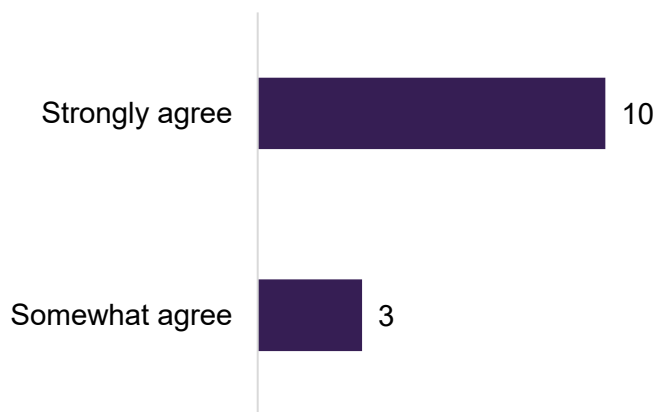
This draft Strategy is focused on how we respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse across the BCP area. It aims to prevent people from perpetrating domestic abuse, thereby preventing the harm caused to individuals, children and society.

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."



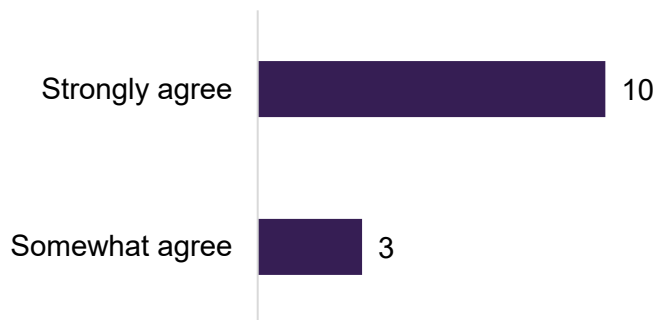
"That said, there are a few things that could be clearer. While the strategy mentions a lot of good work like Up2U and CARA, it's not always obvious how accessible these programmes are or how we make sure the right people are actually engaging. It also doesn't go into much detail about how we're reaching 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.”



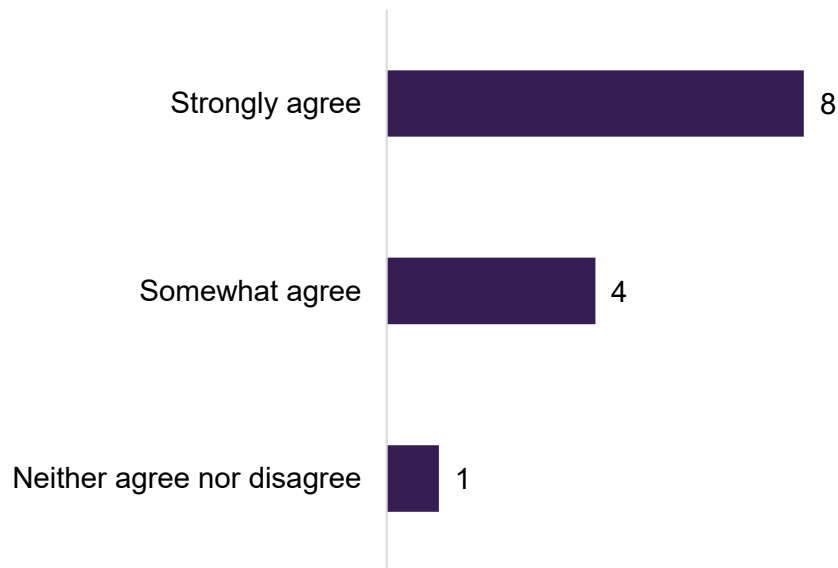
“The strategy outlines the holistic approach well, but it could be stronger on how this will work practically across agencies. Who’s coordinating that wraparound support? How do we make sure services talk to each other and avoid duplication or missed risks? It also doesn’t go into detail about what resources 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."



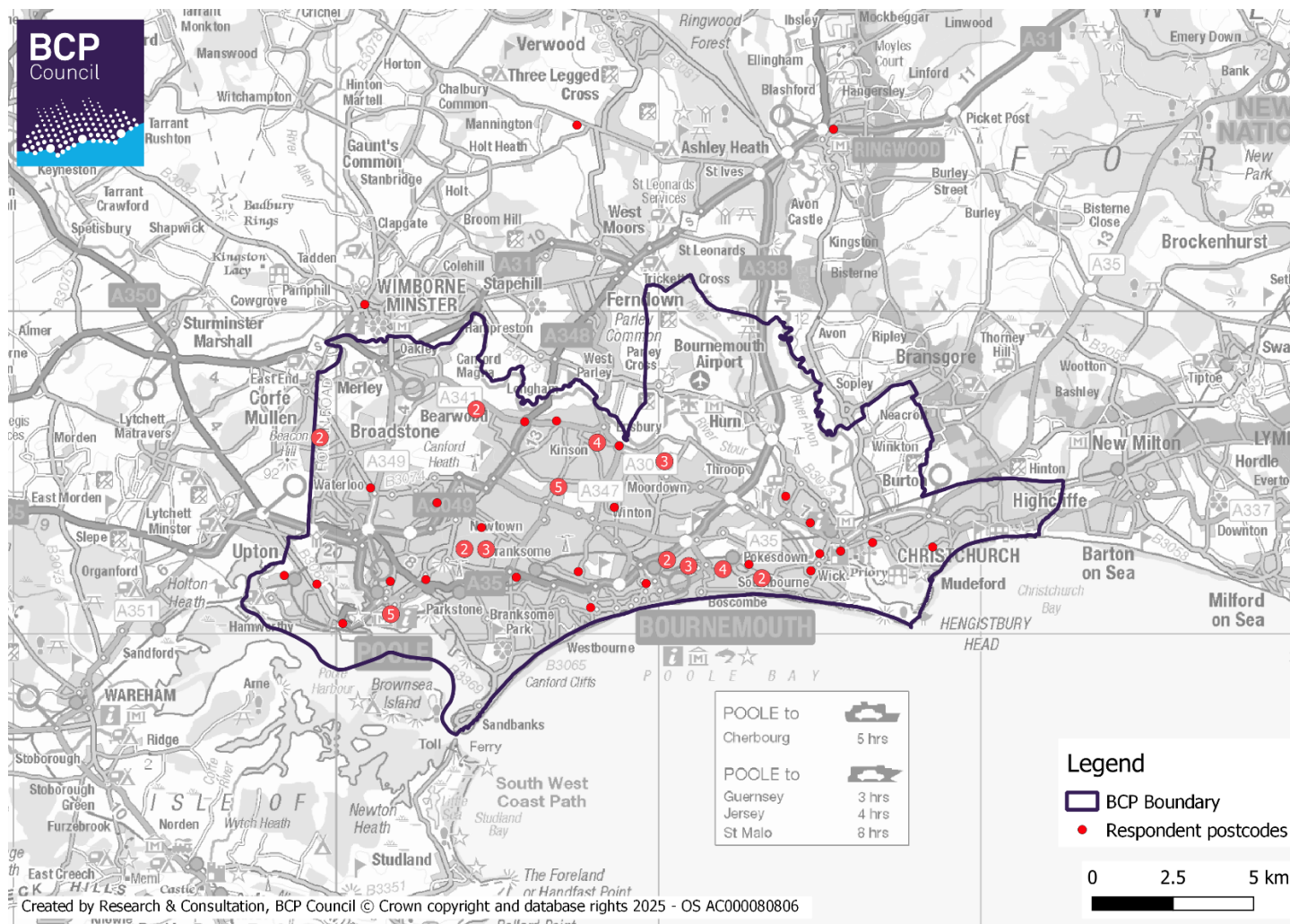
"Training and support for wider professionals on how to work with people who are perpetrators."

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)



Postcode	No of respondents
BH10	10
BH15	8
BH12	6
BH23	6
BH1	5
BH5	5
BH11	4
BH6	4
BH9	4
BH8	3
BH13	2
BH14	2
BH17	2
BH18	2
BH21	2
BH16	1
BH19	1
BH20	1
BH24	1
BH3	1
BH4	1
BH7	1
Outside BCP	2
Total	75

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**

