

1 Background

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 aims to strengthen support for victims of domestic abuse including children by statutory and other agencies and further improve the effectiveness of the justice system including bringing perpetrators to justice and where appropriate providing support to change behaviours. The Act created a statutory definition of domestic abuse, placed new duties on local authorities to convene local domestic abuse partnership boards, undertake domestic abuse needs assessments, publish strategies and to provide support to victims including children in safe accommodation. It also put in place new orders and other measures for example within courts to enhance the support and protection of victims. Statutory guidance has been issued alongside the Act.

2 Why it matters?

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for North Lincolnshire and preventing and reducing it is essential. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on victims and their families. It is crucial that local areas promote awareness of domestic abuse and put it at the top of everyone's agenda as well as transform their responses to it helping to prevent offending, protect victims including children and ensure individuals and families have the support they need. The statutory guidance underpinning the Act has been devised to set standards and promote best practice in responding to domestic abuse and in commissioning specialist support services.

3 What have we done to improve outcomes?

We have developed, consulted upon, published, and are implementing a **North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020/24** which is underpinned by a domestic abuse needs assessment. Our priority is for **individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**. The strategy includes three shine a light area of focus:

- To develop our **early identification and early help** offer to ensure victims, children and perpetrators have equality of access to help and support at the earliest point
- To be transformational in our approach to **safety and support** for victims, children, and perpetrators
- To create a culture and infrastructure to achieve our priority through **working in partnership**

We have established a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board which will oversee the implementation of the strategy and provide oversight, challenge, and support to drive change across the partnership and further improve outcomes for individuals and families.

North Lincolnshire Council have received new burden's funding to deliver enhanced support to victims including children who reside in safe accommodation.

4 What difference has it made?

We are clear about the areas of need in North Lincolnshire and the specific partnership actions that are required to further improve outcomes.

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has brought together system leaders which has enhanced collective responsibility for ensuring that victims of domestic abuse including children have access to appropriate and adequate support. Also, that perpetrators behaviour is addressed through the criminal justice system and/or support is provided to enable behaviour change.

The new funding is providing additional and more intensive services, for example for victims with complex needs.

Our strategy will further focus on building resilience of individuals and families and improving outcomes. This will help us achieve our priority for **individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**.

5 Next steps

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will oversee the progress of the strategy and accompanying delivery plan. We will feed back to government on the progress made against the strategy including expenditure of the new funding. The strategy will strengthen early identification and early help including raising awareness of domestic abuse, further develop varied options of safe accommodation and types of specialist domestic abuse support and develop and implement an expert by experience framework as part of our co-production approach.

6 Develop your learning

- Have a look at our local strategy
- Take some time to understand the statutory definition, your responsibilities and those of other agencies in responding to domestic abuse in the statutory guidance.

7 Further information

- [North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24](#)
- [Draft Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance \(2021\) Home Office](#)
- [Domestic Abuse support within safe accommodation \(2021\) Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#)