

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for North Lincolnshire and preventing and reducing domestic abuse is essential if we are to make progress on our priorities of keeping people safe and well, enabling resilient and flourishing communities and enabling economic growth and renewal.

The past year has been challenging for everyone, but doubly so for victims* of domestic abuse. The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions created more opportunities for perpetrators to exhibit abusive behaviour and impacted on some of our best efforts at prevention and early intervention. However, as ever, partners have risen to the challenges and have continued to innovate and provide quality support to victims and children and continued to deliver a non-convicted perpetrator programme during these most difficult of times.

The government roadmap moving forward and the enactment of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which places new duties on local authorities (the most significant being the requirement to make support available for all victims of domestic abuse and children within safe accommodation), provides us with a solid foundation on which to build and implement our strategy leading to better outcomes for victims, children and perpetrators. This will be underpinned by our Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, which enables us to have a better understanding of our local position. Building on our robust partnership working and our commitment to the One Family Approach, we aim to create a system that works for all children and families. Through our Supporting Families Programme, which aligns with our One Family Approach, and our focus on keeping adults with care and support needs safe from abuse and neglect, we will further focus on building resilience of individuals and families and improving outcomes. This will help us achieve our ambition for North Lincolnshire to be the best place to work, visit, invest and to achieve our priority for **individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities.**

Our One Family Approach is articulated within the [North Lincolnshire Children's Commissioning Strategy 2020/24](#) which also clarifies our commissioning intent in relation to health, social care and education for children, young people and families. This is underpinned by the Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire 2020/24 document, which sets out how services support children, young people and families to participate, find help online and in their networks and communities, to be resilient and stay independent.

We will work together to integrate our services and commissioning functions where these improve outcomes. Our strategy takes account of those with protected characteristics, intersectionality and specific additional vulnerabilities, including victims coming into our area. It considers the wider contexts of violence against women and girls, modern slavery, community safety, victims of crime, also housing and homelessness reduction. We are person centred and we will listen to the views and experiences of victims, children and perpetrators, work to build on their strengths, and help them find solutions leading to better outcomes (safe, well, prosperous and connected).

'We want victims, children and perpetrators to be supported by a workforce that is resilient and with the authorisation to do what they think is the right thing to prevent further escalation. Underpinned by our values of equality of opportunity, excellence, self-responsibility and integrity, this strategy will prioritise those who have additional need in order to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes.'

Chair of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Councillor Julie Reed, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

** we acknowledge that victims and survivors are interchangeable terms and within this strategy we will refer to people who have experienced domestic abuse as victims*

INTRODUCTION

Domestic Abuse touches the lives of people across North Lincolnshire. It causes immense harm to victims and children and impacts on the fabric of people's lives and our communities.

This strategy adopts the statutory definition of domestic abuse as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to ensure that domestic abuse is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across agencies and organisations and public attitudes.

'Any single incident or a course of conduct of physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been personally connected to each other'.

A fuller overview of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 can be found in appendix 1.

North Lincolnshire has a strong history of partnership working in addressing domestic abuse. Despite this, there is now evidence that domestic abuse, as elsewhere, is increasing and more people are known to be at risk. We need to find new ways to keep our population safe, well, prosperous and connected, and to enable our communities to thrive. We know that if domestic abuse is left unchecked, it gets worse over time which means the case for identifying victims and intervening earlier to reduce harm is clear. Our priority is **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**. We must therefore take all practicable steps to eliminate domestic abuse, reducing harm and demand for services along the way. To achieve this every agency must understand the fundamental nature of domestic abuse and respond effectively, as a result everyone should expect equality and respect in their relationships.

The North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is a partnership between the local authority, other agencies and organisations, the private and voluntary independent sector and other stakeholders including victims. Partners work together to achieve our areas of focus, defined through this strategy, on preventing and responding to domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

This strategy is accompanied by a needs assessment which brings our data relating to domestic abuse together in one place and helps us understand what is working well in North Lincolnshire and what needs to be improved. A summary overview of key aspects of the needs assessment can be found in appendix 2.

Bringing together information from across our partnership is vital as it enables us to see the 'whole picture' in relation to provision of services and to identify any gaps.

The assessment will be used to inform our commissioning and planning.

An underpinning delivery plan will help us achieve our priority which will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board who have the responsibility of ensuring progress.

SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

Our ambition is for North Lincolnshire to be the best place to work, visit and invest and our priority is **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**. The local authority and its partners, including (but not limited to) specialist domestic abuse providers, the police and crime commissioner, housing and health bodies, will work collaboratively to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right service, at the right time, to achieve the right outcome. This strategy sets out our priority, 'shine a light' areas of focus, intents and partnership actions for system change.

This strategy responds to:

- Adults and young people (16 and 17 years old) who are experiencing domestic abuse
- Children who see, hear or experience domestic abuse
- Those who are perpetrating domestic abuse

It responds to domestic abuse in the context of:

- Abuse between people personally connected to each other
- Abuse which continues after a relationship has ended which is known to be a time of heightened risk for victims and children, and a time when children are often used by a perpetrator to continue the abuse
- Forced marriage, so-called 'honour-based abuse' and other forms of violence against victims that are intrinsically linked to domestic abuse such as female genital mutilation

Forms of Domestic Abuse

Intimate Partner Abuse

- Domestic abuse most commonly takes place in intimate partner relationships including same sex relationships.

Abuse by Family Members

- This can involve abuse by any relative or multiple relatives.

Teenage Relationship Abuse

- Relationship abuse happens at all ages, not just in adult relationships. Young people can experience domestic abuse in their relationships irrespective of whether they live together.
- Victims under 16 will be treated as victims of child abuse and age-appropriate consequences will be considered for young people under 16 who harm.

Child/Adolescent to Parent Abuse

- This can involve children of all ages and does not exclusively involve physical violence and can involve those with parental responsibility, siblings or extended families. For children over 16 it is considered domestic abuse in line with the statutory definition, yet children should be offered support based on their individual needs, avoiding unnecessary criminalisation.

CURRENT PROVISION

Across North Lincolnshire, agencies responding to domestic abuse take a multi-agency approach to identifying, supporting and protecting victims and children and to tackling perpetrators.

Criminal Justice System

- Humberside Police respond to calls to their service and investigate domestic abuse related crimes such as stalking and harassment, assault, criminal damage, rape and coercive control.
- Working collaboratively with adult and children's social care and a wide range of other local services, victims and children are supported and protected, and perpetrators are managed through the criminal justice system including through the courts and Probation Services.
- Humberside Police facilitate a Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) approach to tackling serial perpetrators of domestic abuse together with partner agencies.

One Family Approach

- We know that many victims of domestic abuse do not come into contact with the criminal justice system and that domestic abuse can often be hidden.
- Across North Lincolnshire, through our One Family Approach, there is effective early identification and intervention by a range of agencies, including the voluntary sector, early years providers, schools, colleges, health services, housing services and providers alongside statutory agencies working together who help and protect adults and children from further harm, as well as preventing escalation and recurrence of abuse

North Lincolnshire Council

- The Council provides adult and children's social care services as well as housing advice services including for victims of domestic abuse and children also services for perpetrators.
- The Council provides services to victims at high risk from domestic abuse under specific conditions to enhance the physical security of their properties through 'target hardening' also through the provision of safety equipment. Such sanctuary schemes are designed to make it possible for victims to remain in their own homes if that is what they want and if it is safe to do so.

CURRENT PROVISION – COMMISSIONED SERVICES AND FUNDING

The Blue Door

- The Blue Door Support Service, a Community Interest Company, provides specialist domestic abuse support services to adults and children/young people aged 13 and above across all levels of risk, including those in safe accommodation.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and other specialist workers provide evidenced based risk management, safety planning and a range of interventions to improve safety, reduce domestic abuse related harm, increase resilience and empowerment and improve outcomes for victims and children.
- The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) provision for victims at high risk from domestic abuse is co-ordinated and facilitated through The Blue Door. This service is commissioned by the Council
- The Blue Door provide specialist sexual violence services to those who have experienced this. The Blue Door provide two domestic abuse intervention schemes, Re:Form for non-convicted perpetrators and Who’s In Charge? for parents whose children are presenting with harmful abusive or violent behaviour towards them. These are commissioned or funded through grants from bodies other than the Council.

Housing Association

- A housing association provides intensive housing management services in the local Refuge for women and children who have fled domestic abuse, including those from outside our area.
- In addition, they provide needs assessments for women prior to their accommodation within the Refuge and this is commissioned by the Council.
- The Blue Door provide domestic abuse support services to women in the Refuge.

Future Commissioning

The Council will undertake future commissioning exercises for the provision of specialist domestic abuse services as appropriate.

Government Funding

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have allocated new funding to local authorities for the implementation and delivery of the new duty to provide specialist domestic abuse support services for victims of domestic abuse and children in safe accommodation.

The individual allocation of funding for North Lincolnshire is £342,616 for 2021/22. Future funding will be considered as part of the Government’s next Spending Review.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES

More people affected by domestic abuse received help and support last year

Services remained open, accessible for victims, children and perpetrators during the COVID-19 pandemic

Continued provision of safe accommodation and support services during the pandemic

Rapid response to high risk victims' children referred to children's services 'front door'

Strong management oversight of domestic abuse triage for low/medium risk victims' children

Provided MIFI units which ensured digital connectivity of women in the local Refuge and victims in dispersed accommodation

Increased staff confidence to intervene where perpetrators have remained in families, to provide early help or targeted/specialist support where required

Continued to provide domestic abuse training and produced a domestic abuse toolkit and other connected resources

Continued online group work support e.g. Freedom Programme for victims and Re:Form for non convicted perpetrators

Data development underpinned by analysis and evaluation to shape and influence partnership action

Focused on communications across the partnership to raise awareness and orientate people to local information and support

Improved partnership connectivity (we've talked more than we've ever talked)

Outcomes of engagement confirmed that we have demonstrated our core values in providing support to victims, children and perpetrators

Secured additional grant funding to develop local capacity and interventions to meet the needs of victims, children and perpetrators

Direct feedback from victims and perpetrators has been central to shaping strategic, service and practice development

NATIONAL AND WIDER STATUTORY CONTEXT

In the year up to March 2020, an estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse, around two thirds of whom were women (1.6 million women and 757,000 men) and more than one in ten of all offences recorded by the police are domestic abuse related.

The **Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021** conveys the Government's refreshed approach and ambition to provide a 'once in a generation' opportunity to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls and improve the support and response for victims and survivors. This strategy will go with their forthcoming complementary strategy on domestic abuse. In recognition that men and boys are affected by violence, the Government intend to publish a new position paper on male victims later in 2021.

The **Adoption and Children Act 2002** extended the definition of harm to include 'impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another' which required children who witness domestic abuse at home to be considered in need of help and protection from the Local Authority, as well as those that are directly injured or abused.

The **Care Act 2014** specifies that freedom from abuse and neglect is a key aspect of a person's wellbeing – this includes domestic abuse. These provisions apply to an adult who appears to have needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting those needs), is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the risk of or the experience of that abuse or neglect.

The response to domestic abuse is a complex one that spans a number of statutory and non-statutory agencies, including but not limited to local authorities, community-based agencies, children's services, housing, health (including mental health), drug and alcohol services, specialist domestic abuse agencies, the police and the criminal justice system. Schools and other education bodies also have a central role. In order to support victims, including children, and respond to perpetrators, each agency has a responsibility to work effectively together.

ENSURING EQUALITY IN OUR APPROACH

We know that domestic abuse can happen to anyone, from any background, in any relationship.

Individuals can be the victims of multiple and different abusive behaviours because of the way different characteristics, such as immigration status, sex, race, ethnicity, age, religion or belief, socio-economic position, gender identity and sexual orientation intersect and overlap, particularly in relation to accessing services and support if they are not adequately designed to meet their needs.

This strategy supports agencies, service providers and commissioners to consider this intersectionality when developing their responses to both adult and child victims, in order to fully identify the lived experiences of all victims in relation to the abusive behaviour they experience and ensure that services are provided to victims without discrimination.

The strategy takes into account the responsibilities of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the **Equality Act 2010** to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those from different groups.

As such, this strategy also takes account and responds to the needs of population groups sharing the following protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

AMBITION, PRIORITY AND OUTCOMES

Our ambition is for North Lincolnshire to be the best place to work, visit and invest and our priority is **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities** and through implementing this strategy, we have articulated what successful outcomes will look like:

SAFE	WELL	PROSPEROUS	CONNECTED
<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have increased trust and confidence to report domestic abuse and access flexible specialist support services • Have access to dispersed 'safe accommodation' in varied locations • Have a sense of belonging and feel safe/are safe in their home and in their communities • Feel able to withstand adverse impacts and keep themselves and children safe • Are empowered and supported to identify their strengths and aspirations • Are able to live the life they want after harm occurs • Are enabled to access support so they get safe, stay safe and become independent of services 	<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy positive physical and emotional wellbeing and mental health • Receive the health, care and support they need • Have increased resilience and self esteem • Have access to the care and support services they need which is person-centred and driven by their needs 	<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve economic wellbeing and benefit from family prosperity • Live safely in suitable accommodation which reflects their needs and circumstances, close to their support networks • Are enabled to have social mobility and equal access to resources 	<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have access to effective informed flexible support leading to increased levels of safety and wellbeing at the earliest opportunity • Have their holistic needs considered through whole family working • Are able to access information, support and services which meets their needs at the earliest point
<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are enabled to change their behaviours at the earliest point • Are empowered and supported to identify their strengths and aspirations • Are enabled to access support so they get safe, stay safe and become independent of services 	<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn resilience and self regulation through effective provision • Have increased resilience and self esteem 	<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve economic wellbeing and benefit from family prosperity • Are enabled to have social mobility and equal access to resources 	<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have access to effective informed flexible support leading to sustained non-abusive behaviours • Are able to access information, support and services which meets their needs at the earliest point

SHINE A LIGHT AREAS OF FOCUS

We have articulated the areas of focus on which we will 'shine a light' on for partnership action and system change to contribute to victims, children and perpetrators being safe, well, prosperous and connected and **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**

For these areas in which we want to 'shine a light', there are established partnership arrangements and identified lead officers to drive forward partnership action and system change.

As part of this lead partnerships/lead officers will be responsible for identifying, monitoring and progress reporting through relevant partnership and governance arrangements, underpinned by relevant performance data and analysis, practice wisdom, voice and engagement.

Under our three 'shine a light' areas of focus, we show how our intents and partnership actions and system change reflect the needs identified in our needs assessment and how we intend to address them.

Shine a Light Area of Focus		Lead Partnership
1	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	Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (reporting to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board)
2	To be transformational in our approach to safety and support for victims, children and perpetrators	
3	To create a culture and infrastructure to achieve our priority through working in partnership	

1 - SHINE A LIGHT AREA OF FOCUS: **EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND EARLY HELP**

INTENTS		PARTNERSHIP ACTION AND SYSTEM CHANGE
1	Raising awareness and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raise awareness of the diverse characteristics of domestic abuse victims, including those with a caring role within families, and the barriers to accessing help and support that they have to overcome ➤ Address the stigma associated with reporting and the fear of involving services ➤ Develop awareness of how coercive and controlling behaviours may inhibit individuals disclosing or revealing the extent of domestic abuse ➤ Develop people's awareness, understanding, confidence and competence relating to domestic abuse including stalking and harassment, violence against women and girls, supporting families and trauma informed working ➤ Raise awareness of the impact of harmful family conflict and equip practitioners and families themselves to recognise and resolve this at the earliest stage
2	Safe Places and Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review, refine and develop the range of initiatives and schemes to support and contribute to the local community response i.e. Ask for ANI, Safe Spaces and Safer Places J9 initiative etc
3	Access to support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review and develop the sufficiency of flexible support and services within urban and rural areas to ensure equality of access
4	Early help provision in relation to domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure information advice and support is available through virtual and community mechanisms ➤ Further develop and embed routine professional enquiry by agencies (where appropriate) to enhance early identification of victims of domestic abuse and ensure appropriate assessments, plans and interventions for victims and children ➤ Ensure that mental capacity is effectively considered and advocacy offered where appropriate ➤ Develop early help interventions to address perpetrator behaviours and child/adolescent abuse towards parents/carers and teenage relationship abuse

2- SHINE A LIGHT AREA OF FOCUS: SAFETY AND SUPPORT

INTENTS		PARTNERSHIP ACTION AND SYSTEM CHANGE
1	Safe Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To work with social landlords/housing associations to further develop and provide varied options for safe accommodation taking into consideration the range of protected characteristics ➤ To review and refresh the local Sanctuary Scheme and target hardening to enable victims and children to live in their own homes ➤ To understand the prevalence of victims fleeing into and fleeing from North Lincolnshire and ensure their needs are met through multi agency working and cross border collaboration
2	Specialist domestic abuse support services for victims and children in safe accommodation and wider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop additional capacity to support the implementation of the safe accommodation duty through the creation of Council posts and/or commissioning such provision ➤ Scope, develop and implement a refreshed flexible specialist domestic abuse support services offer for victims and children in safe accommodation, including clarity regarding the links between services ➤ Scope and develop an enhanced children's advocacy offer for the children of victims of domestic abuse living in safe accommodation ➤ Further develop integrated working to address whole family working and take into account holistic needs i.e., in relation to emotional wellbeing and mental health, substance misuse, deaf and disabled victims ➤ Consider and address the availability of support for all victims, including those with protected characteristics ➤ Develop preventative approaches to minimise repeat victimisation, where victims are supported to recognise signs of abusive relationships, including online
3	Support perpetrators to get help and support to change behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop and implement a range of approved perpetrator programmes and interventions for those who have not entered the criminal justice system

3 - SHINE A LIGHT AREA OF FOCUS: **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

INTENTS		PARTNERSHIP ACTION AND SYSTEM CHANGE
1	Data development	➤ Make best use of resources across the partnership to further develop and embed the domestic abuse profile and reporting arrangements
2	Workforce Development	➤ Review, refine and further develop the training and education programme in relation to domestic abuse
3	Work with victims, children and perpetrator voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scope, develop and implement an Experts by Experience Framework as part of our co-production approach to working with people as experts in their own lives ➤ Refresh / develop the Stakeholder Engagement Statement to best reflect our commitment to engaging with victims, children and perpetrators at an individual, service and strategic level to ensure that the views of people with lived experiences shape and influence partnership action
4	White Ribbon Action Plan	➤ Develop and implement the council's refreshed White Ribbon Action Plan in partnership with key stakeholders
5	Learning from local and national processes and reviews	➤ Share good practice and continue to learn from Domestic Homicide Reviews and other reviews where domestic abuse is a feature, research and evidence based approaches to enhance services, support and practice through establishing a learning and improvement framework
6	Enhance our Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference system	➤ Implement the recommendations from the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Review Report 2020/21

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We want victims, children and perpetrators to be supported by a workforce that is resilient and with the authorisation to do what they think is the right thing to prevent further escalation.

Our shared goal

- A workforce who are enabled to help victims, children and perpetrators to achieve our priority for individuals **to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**

Our values

- Equality of opportunity
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Self responsibility

Workforce

- Resilient, well and highly motivated
- Enabled and innovative
- Connected and high performing
- Safe to be ourselves

A workforce who:

- Work together to provide and commission integrated services
- Are diverse and can recognise and work with the diverse population of North Lincolnshire
- Are strengths based and solution focused
- Do the right thing at the earliest point to meet need
- Streamline processes, reduce and overcome barriers and avoid duplication
- Address issues in inequality and demonstrates anti oppressive and anti racist practice
- Are resilient and confident
- Are skilled and competent
- Are supported and receive appropriate supervision
- Work to 'level up' life chances and prioritise services to victims, children and perpetrators

Workforce Engagement Strategy

Will be achieved by:	Being agile in thinking and working practices	Enabling flexible, agile leadership at all levels	Involving the workforce at all levels in decision making	Valuing and recognising achievement	Behaving true to our values – valuing each other
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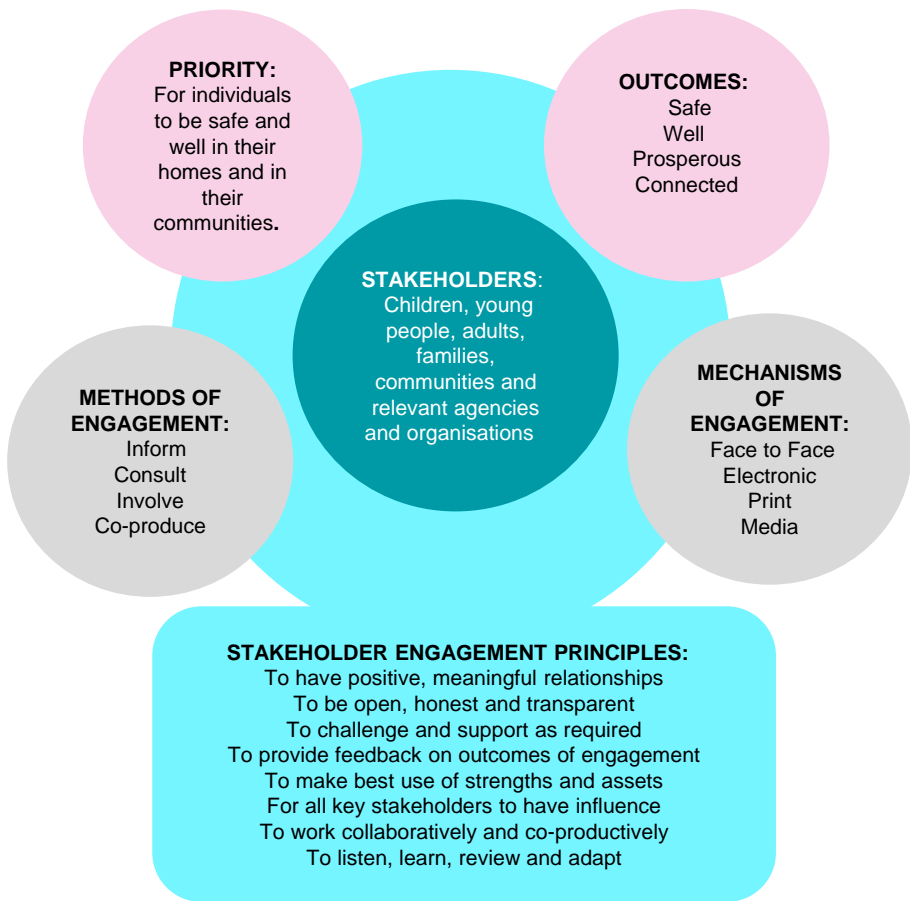
VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT

We will listen to the views and experiences of victims, children and perpetrators, work to build on their strengths and help them find solutions leading to better outcomes (safe, well, prosperous and connected).

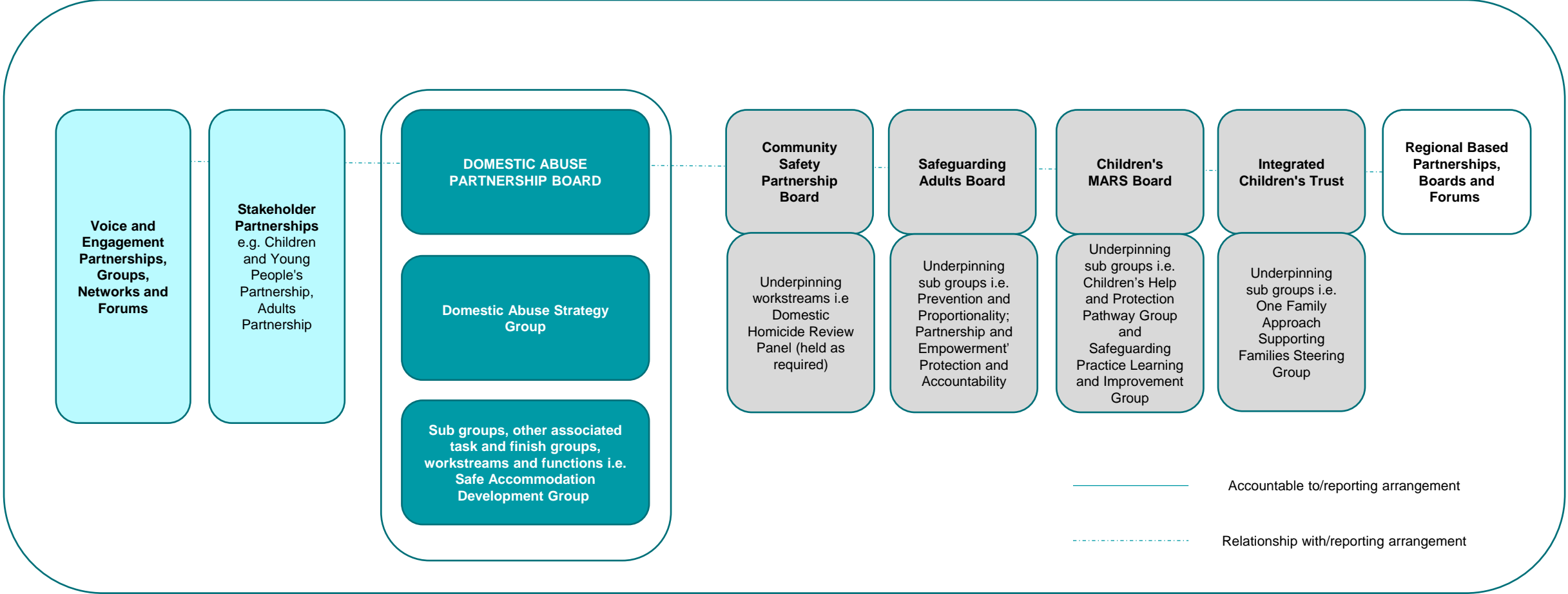
Children, families and communities are at the heart of all we do. By making use of their strengths, assets, views and experiences and by engaging with and working together as partners and with other key stakeholders across the partnership (including the voluntary and community sector), we will co-produce local services and support which meet needs and helps to achieve our priority, leading to better outcomes.

This will be underpinned in our stakeholder engagement statement which clarifies our commitment and mechanisms for engagement at an individual, service and strategic level.

We will do this along with children, young people, adults, families and communities themselves, key partners and stakeholders including the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, education providers, health providers, police and the voluntary and community sector.



GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS



MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT

SHINE A LIGHT AREAS OF FOCUS		LEAD PARTNERSHIP	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE		
			2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
1	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	Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (reporting to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clarity of local offer in relation to community safe places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equitable access to domestic abuse support and services from an urban and rural perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A range of early help programme(s) in place
2	To be transformational in our approach to safety and support for victims, children and perpetrators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Made use of the available funding to create capacity and develop specialist domestic abuse support services for victims and children in safe accommodation ➤ Increased availability of safe accommodation in place ➤ Evidence of whole family working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implemented specialist domestic abuse support services for victims and children in safe accommodation ➤ Increased availability of safe accommodation is in place that meets the needs of all those that need it and their protected characteristics ➤ Evidence of approved perpetrator programmes and interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sufficient safe accommodation and specialist domestic abuse support is in place that meets the needs of all those that need it and their protected characteristics
3	To create a culture and infrastructure to achieve our priority through working in partnership		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Experts by Experience function in place ➤ Report to Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government regarding implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy (annually) ➤ Implement the recommendations from the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference Review 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommissioning of wider domestic abuse support services complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Formally review and evaluate implementation of strategy and develop the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024/27

MONITORING AND REVIEW

We have a commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt and we will demonstrate our success in improving outcomes for victims, children and perpetrators through **performance data and analysis, practice wisdom, voice and engagement and research, reviews and reports.**

Progress relating to our 'shine a light' areas of focus, will be presented on a quarterly basis to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and through other relevant partnership and governance arrangements via identified leads, as appropriate.

An annual progress review of this strategy will be developed and presented to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and through other relevant partnership and governance arrangements as appropriate, including the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government as part of our statutory duty.

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will also have a 'line of sight' on other relevant individual agency and/or partnership strategies and workstreams associated with domestic abuse and progress reports will be presented on an exceptions basis at the request of or agreement from the chair and/or lead officer(s).

If any organisations and/or individuals wish to make any representations regarding the scope and implementation of this strategy, they can do this through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board or via associated workstreams.

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
<p>Ask for ANI, Safe Spaces and Safer Places J9 initiative</p>	<p>Ask for ANI - The Government has developed the Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) codeword scheme to allow victims of domestic abuse to access support from the safety of their local pharmacy. Promotional materials for participating pharmacies will be displayed to show that they are taking part. UK SAYS NO MORE have also developed Safe Spaces in pharmacy consultation rooms for people experiencing domestic abuse.</p> <p>Safe Spaces - are also available in certain participating pharmacies and some banks across the UK. Specialist domestic abuse support information will be available and many Safe Spaces are also prepared to respond to the 'Ask for ANI' codeword, to provide victims with a discreet way to access help calling the police on 999 or specialist support services.</p> <p>Safer Places are the provider of the J9 Initiative which aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist survivors to access support safely by training professionals and members of the community to recognise domestic abuse and respond to survivors. The J9 logo is displayed letting survivors know that they have a safe place to access information and use a telephone to contact support services.</p>
<p><u>Care Act 2014</u></p>	<p>Sets out a clear legal framework for how the health and social care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.</p>
<p>Children's Help and Protection Pathway (CHaPP) Group</p>	<p>The CHaPP Group reports directly to the Children's MARS Board and oversees and seeks assurance in relation to multi-agency working across the 'Early Help and Safeguarding Pathway' including early help services and statutory safeguarding processes.</p>
<p><u>Children's Challenge 2020/24</u></p>	<p>Through surveys and feedback, young people and families have identified some areas of focus to challenge local partners to work together to take action. They have also identified challenges for themselves. These challenges are articulated in the Children's Challenge.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>COVID-19 is a Coronavirus disease named in 2019, primarily transmitted between people by respiratory and contact routes. Transmission is extensive hence precautions to prevent human-to-human transmission are appropriate. The disease is prevalent across the world and is categorised as a pandemic.</p>
<p><u>Domestic Abuse Act 2021</u></p>	<p>A landmark Act to make provision in relation to domestic abuse.</p>

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs)	The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces DAPNs and DAPOs and the latter bring together the strongest elements of the existing protective order regime of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protections Orders (DVPOs) into a single comprehensive, flexible order which will afford more effective and longer-term protection to victims of domestic abuse and children. DVPNs are issued by the police and prohibit perpetrators variously from contacting, threatening, intimidating or harassing their victims. DVPNs are followed up with applications for DVPOs in a magistrates court. The new DAPNs and DAPOs will be piloted before being rolled out nationally and the DVPNs/DVPOs will continue to apply until this point with the police being issued with guidance.
Domestic Abuse Triage	This Domestic Abuse Triage is a specific early help function in relation to children living with domestic abuse cited in Children’s Services which co-locates key partner agencies including the police, health, education, social care and The Blue Door representatives to enable multi-agency information sharing and decision making on cases assessed by the police decision maker as medium or low/standard level (not requiring a contact/referral regarding safeguarding concerns).
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	A DHR is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. They are held to identify the lessons to be learned. DHRs came into effect in April 2011 and were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence , Crime and Victims Act 2004.
Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare’s Law)	This scheme gives any member of the public the right to ask the police if their partner may pose a risk to them. It is often called Clare’s Law after the landmark case that led to it.
Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment	An assessment of need that accompanies the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 which brings our data relating to domestic abuse together in one place and helps us understand what is working well in North Lincolnshire and what needs to be improved.
<u>Equality Act 2010</u>	Public Sector Duty (section 149) included in the Equality Act 2010 ensure there is due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people from different groups.
Experts by Experience Framework	A local framework is being developed to make sure that our services and policies are coproduced, shaped and influenced by the people best placed to know what works: people with lived experience of children’s social care in North Lincolnshire. This will complement and expand on the Adults by Experience approach already in place.

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
Freedom Programme	A domestic abuse programme designed primarily for women as adult victims of domestic abuse.
<u>Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire 2020/24 document</u>	<p>Sets out our local definitions of levels of need, in line with our organisational model.</p> <p>Sets out guidance to professionals about providing early help and making decisions about levels of need.</p> <p>Introduces our One Family Approach practice model, provides the framework for how the provision of help and protection should be undertaken across the partnership.</p> <p>Sets out the principles which underpin multi agency practice in North Lincolnshire.</p>
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor/Advocate
LGBTQ+	The acronym to denote Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Questioning (or Queer) and + to denote other ways of identifying as an individual.
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on high risk domestic abuse victims between multi agency representatives of local police, health, children’s service, housing practitioners, IDVAs, probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The primary focus of the meeting is to safeguard the victim and make links to safeguarding children and to the management of the perpetrator’s behaviour.
Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)	The MATAC meetings allow statutory and voluntary agencies to give a consistent and structured response to managing the risk posed by serial perpetrators of domestic abuse. The relevant agencies share information and decide upon the most appropriate way to reduce or manage the identified risks around domestic abuse.
<u>North Lincolnshire Children’s Commissioning Strategy 2020/24</u>	This document clarifies our integrated One Family Approach and commissioning intent in relation to health, social care and education for children, young people and families.
North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	A partnership between the local authority, other agencies and organisations, including the private and voluntary independent sector and other stakeholders including victims that work together to achieve the areas of focus defined through the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24, on preventing and responding to domestic abuse..

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
One Family Approach (OFA)	<p>The One Family Approach is how we respond to the needs of children and families in North Lincolnshire in the context of an integrated services for children.</p> <p>It provides a vision for a system that places children and families at the centre – a One Family Approach to strategy, commissioning, planning, and practice.</p> <p>It is founded upon our North Lincolnshire culture, values and beliefs, capturing our intent to keep children in their families, their schools and their communities and based upon anti-oppressive working across the partnership.</p> <p>It provides a model for innovative, integrated working which builds upon strengths, find solutions in families and communities, builds resilience and confidence, and enables independence. This practice model is outlined in the Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire 2020/24 document.</p>
Perpetrator (Domestic Abuse)	<p>A person who has shown abusive behaviour towards another person as per the statutory definition under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p>
Polygraph testing	<p>A polygraph, popularly referred to as a lie detector test, is a test that measures psychological changes in the body when a person is asked and answers a series of questions.</p>
Re:Form	<p>A domestic abuse non convicted perpetrator programme that aims to help people who have been abusive to their partner or ex-partner to change their behaviour and develop respectful, non-abusive relationships.</p>
Safe Accommodation	<p>Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the statutory definition of safe accommodation includes the following; refuge accommodation, specialist safe accommodation, dispersed safe self contained accommodation, sanctuary schemes, move-on or second stage accommodation and other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation.</p>
Sanctuary Scheme and target hardening	<p>A Sanctuary Scheme is a multi-agency victim centred initiative which aims to enable victims at risk of violence to remain safely in their own homes by installing a 'Sanctuary' in the home through the provision of support to the household.</p>

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
Shine a Light areas of focus	North Lincolnshire Children’s Commissioning Strategy 2020/24 identifies our commissioning intents to articulate the areas of focus that the Integrated Children’s Trust will ‘Shine a Light’ on for partnership action and system change to contribute to children, young people and families being SAFE, WELL, PROSPEROUS and CONNECTED and so that children live within their family, attend their school and be a part of their community.
Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)	The SPLIG reports directly to the Children’s MARS Board and is responsible for co-ordinating the outcomes of local multi-agency scrutiny and assurance activity and reviews, monitors and implements areas for development to ensure the Children’s MARS arrangements positively impact on our commitment towards continuous improvements to front line practice. The group disseminates learning from local scrutiny and assurance activity.
Supporting Families Programme	Supporting Families helps thousands of families across England to get the help they need to address multiple disadvantages through a whole family approach, delivered by keyworkers, working for local authorities and their partners. The Supporting Families programme in North Lincolnshire is underpinned by the One Family Approach.
<u>The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (section 120)</u>	An Act to state the law relating to adoption, Section 120 clarifies the definition of harm in the Children Act 1989.
<u>The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021</u>	The Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021 conveys the Government's refreshed approach and ambition to provide a 'once in a generation' opportunity to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls and improve the support and response for victims and survivors.
White Ribbon Action Plan	White Ribbon is a movement that aims to end male violence against women. Organisations pledge commitment by producing an action plan on how to achieve their commitment to involving men in ending violence against women and girls.

ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021: STATUTORY DEFINITION

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (hereafter the Act) puts in place a statutory definition of domestic abuse. It defines domestic abuse as abusive behaviour of a person towards another person; if both people are aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other. Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violence or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse

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

Economic abuse means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on a person's ability to:

- acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- obtain goods or services

One person's behaviour towards another person may be abusive despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person, for example, their child.

Two people are "personally connected" to each other if any of the following applies:

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

A person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if:

- the person is a parent of the child, or
- the person has parental responsibility for the child.

Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and is related to one of the people "personally connected".

"Child" means a person under the age of 18 years
 "Civil partnership agreement" has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004
 "Parental responsibility" has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989
 "Relative" has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996

ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021: OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Act is to:

- raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and its impact on victims
- further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice
- strengthen the support for victims of abuse and children provided by other statutory agencies

The Act puts in place:

- the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner, sets out what they can do and which public bodies should co-operate
- new civil preventative orders called Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders
- new duties on local authorities in England to convene a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, assess the need for, prepare and publish strategies and provide support to victims of domestic abuse and children in refuges and other safe accommodation in their areas and report back to central government
- automatic eligibility for victims of domestic abuse to special measures in the criminal, family and civil courts, prohibits perpetrators of certain offences from cross-examining their victims in person in the family and in civil courts in England and Wales (and vice versa) and gives family and civil courts other powers, in certain circumstances
- additional criminal measures such as an extension of the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship to cover post separation abuse, widens the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films to cover threats to disclose, provides for a new offence of strangulation or suffocation and gives clarity that a victim cannot consent to the infliction of serious harm for the purposes of obtaining sexual gratification and extends the jurisdiction of the UK courts so that, where appropriate, UK nationals and residents who commit certain violent and sexual offences outside the UK may be brought to trial in the UK
- the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as Clare's Law) on a statutory footing
- eligibility for victims who are homeless as a result of fleeing domestic abuse, priority need for accommodation secured by the local authority, ensures that people with secure or assured lifetime tenancies are granted a secure lifetime tenancy where the new tenancy is being granted by a local authority for reasons connected to domestic abuse
- disallows certain health professionals from charging for medical evidence of domestic abuse
- polygraph testing for certain domestic abuse offenders following their release from custody on license.

ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021: SAFE ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT DUTY

A substantial change in the Act is the new duty for local authorities to provide support for all victims of domestic abuse and children within safe accommodation also known as relevant accommodation.

To be classified as safe accommodation, it must be 'secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse' and meet the relevant quality standards. This includes the following options:

- Refuge accommodation - offering accommodation and intensive support
- Specialist safe accommodation - such as specialist refuges for those with protected characteristics and/or complex needs
- Dispersed safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) self-contained accommodation - with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge due to complex support needs or for families with teenage sons for example or 'semi-independent accommodation with support for victims
- Sanctuary schemes – properties with local authority enhanced physical security measures within a home or perimeter. This makes it possible for victims to remain in their own homes where it is safe, their choice and where the perpetrator does not live there
- Move-on and / or second stage accommodation – temporary accommodation for victims and families who no longer need intensive support such as that provided in a refuge and who would benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation
- Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation - a safe place with appropriate support to give victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period to consider and make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe. Includes access to wrap around specialist support for victims with complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse

The new duty requires support including specialist domestic abuse help to be provided to all victims of domestic abuse and children within safe accommodation. Support may be provided directly within refuges or in the form of outreach support in other types of safe accommodation such as victims' homes in sanctuary schemes. Domestic abuse support within safe accommodation includes:

- Overall management of services and the day to day running of the service
- Advocacy support and the development of personal safety plans including liaison with other services such as GPs, social workers etc
- Domestic abuse prevention advice to help victims remain safe
- Specialist support for victims designed specifically for victims with protected characteristics (including 'by and for') such as, yet not limited to, faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims and those with additional or complex needs such as mental health or drug and alcohol advice/support
- Children's support including therapy and advocacy and counselling / therapy for both adults and children
- Housing related support and financial or legal support

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: AN OVERVIEW

According to our needs assessment...

- Domestic abuse all too often goes unreported and unrecorded. Nationally it is estimated that **21%** of adults have experienced domestic abuse in their lifetimes, including **28%** of women and **14%** of men. Over the last 12 months, **5%** of adults have experienced domestic abuse (**6%** of women and **2%** of men).
- This translates into nearly **40,000** people in North Lincolnshire* experiencing domestic abuse in their adult lifetimes with just over **10,000** doing so over the last year.
- The large majority of victims do not report to their abuse to the police and fewer still access support or safe accommodation services. We predict that **15 in 100** domestic abuse victims in North Lincolnshire currently go to the police, **6 in 100** access support from The Blue Door, our specialist domestic abuse support provider and **2 in 100** currently access safe accommodation.
- The level of need for safe accommodation over the last year was **233** units of accommodation, provided by **196** target hardened properties, **12** units of refuge accommodation and **25** units of accommodation for homeless victims.

* = of a total population of 172,292

Over the last year.....



DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Domestic abuse related crime in North Lincolnshire is slightly higher than the national average but lower than the Humber area average

71% of victims of domestic abuse related crime in North Lincolnshire are female and 29% are male

92% of those accessing domestic abuse support are female and 8% are male

Over 50% of victims of domestic abuse related crime and over 50% of victims who access domestic abuse support are under the age of 35

Around half of women who move into the refuge come from outside North Lincolnshire. Most stay in the refuge from between 3 and 6 months

Most victims accessing domestic abuse support were abused by ex-partners (56%), followed by current partners (33%) and family members (11%)

Domestic abuse related crime is around three times higher in some urban areas compared with most rural parts of North Lincolnshire

64% of referrals to our domestic abuse support provider also had children present in the household at the time

233 units of safe accommodation provided over the last year – 84% consisted of enhancing physical security measures in victims own homes

Domestic abuse related crimes are most commonly committed between Friday and Monday. Most are committed between 10 - 11pm on a Friday and 8 - 9pm on a Saturday

Most domestic abuse related offences are stalking and harassment offences (737 last year), violence without injury (652) and violence with injury (534)

30% of victims going to the police are repeat victims and 34% of perpetrators are repeat perpetrators

13% of domestic abuse related crimes resulted in a charge or summons last year while there were evidential difficulties in 84% of cases

59 perpetrators were referred to non convicted perpetrator programmes over the last year

19% of domestic abuse related crimes were committed under the influence of drink and drugs last year

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: COVID-19 AND BEYOND

- The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a huge challenge, with perpetrators taking advantage of the restrictions to intensify their abuse and support services transforming the way they deliver services at very short notice.
- Overall, agencies have reported increased demand for services in 2020/21 and many are now helping more people than ever before.
- Police data does not reflect this, reporting a 7% fall in domestic abuse related crimes. This suggests significant levels of underreporting to the police over the past year.
- Service use during the pandemic has followed a distinct pattern, with falling demand for domestic abuse support services during lockdowns with a surge when lockdown restrictions were released.
- The small fall in numbers moving into the refuge this year is a reflection of its finite capacity and the temporary decision to stop taking out-of-area referrals during the first lockdown and in Winter 2020/21.
- Despite launching right at the start of the pandemic, the Re:Form non-convicted perpetrator programme has been a real success, with 59 perpetrators referred since its launch in April 2020.

The impact of COVID-19:

Compared to the previous year, the period from April 2020 to March 2021 has seen ...

- Domestic abuse related crimes recorded fall by 7%
- MARAC cases rise by 46%
- Referrals to The Blue Door up 5%.
- Adult safeguarding referrals for domestic abuse rise by 23%
- Children's services referrals with domestic abuse as a presenting issue fall by 3%
- Properties target hardened rise by 37%
- Accommodation duties owed to homeless domestic abuse victims rise by 21%.
- Move ins at the refuge fall by 25%

The longer view:

Over the past three years we have seen ...

- Domestic abuse related crimes recorded fall from 2,670 to 2,485
- MARAC cases rise from 444 to 695
- Referrals to The Blue Door rise from 1,094 to 1,575
- Adult safeguarding referrals rise from 60 to 228
- Children's services referrals with domestic abuse as a presenting issue rise from 365 to 434
- Properties target hardened rise from 139 to 196
- Accommodation duties owed to homeless domestic abuse victims rise from 12 to 25
- Move ins at the refuge fall from 17 to 12

Domestic Abuse Crimes per 1,000 per year:

Some urban wards in North Lincolnshire have the highest rate of domestic abuse, around 3 times higher than in most rural wards. Those living in the urban parts of North Lincolnshire are also most likely to use our support services.

The North Lincolnshire average of 16 domestic abuse crimes per 1000 per year is higher than the national average (13 per 1000) but lower than the Humber area average (18 per 1000). Domestic abuse is notoriously underreported so rising rates do not necessarily mean that the incidence of domestic abuse in society is rising, instead signalling that victims feel increasingly confident to come forward and get the support they need.

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

To achieve our priority for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities, our support offer must cater to the needs of the whole population. This slide outlines the number of victims with different protected characteristics that have accessed domestic abuse support services over the last 4 years. However, we recognise there is still further data development work required in this area, particularly around the protected characteristics of sexual orientation and disability. *(The % are rounded up/down as appropriate therefore the composite of lines may not always add up to 100%)*

Gender

	Female	Male
Victims of domestic abuse related crime	71%	29%
Victims discussed in MARAC meetings	96%	4%
Victims supported by The Blue Door	94%	6%
Victims supported by the local Refuge	100%	0%
Victims referred to adult safeguarding	78%	21%
Victims securing new accommodation	93%	7%

Although around 3 in 10 victims of domestic abuse crime are male, men currently make up only around 1 in 10 of those accessing support. This is partly because ‘women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse’ (SafeLives). It has been identified that strengthening our support provision for male victims is a local area of need.

Ethnicity

	White British	White Other	Asian	Black	Mixed
Overall population of North Lincolnshire	92%	4%	3%	0%	1%
Victims of domestic abuse related crime	91%	5%	2%	1%	1%
Victims discussed in MARAC meetings	86%	7%	5%	1%	1%
Victims supported by The Blue Door	90%	6%	3%	1%	0%
Victims supported by the local Refuge	86%	11%	3%	0%	0%
Victims referred to adult safeguarding	88%	7%	5%	0%	0%
Victims securing new accommodation	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%

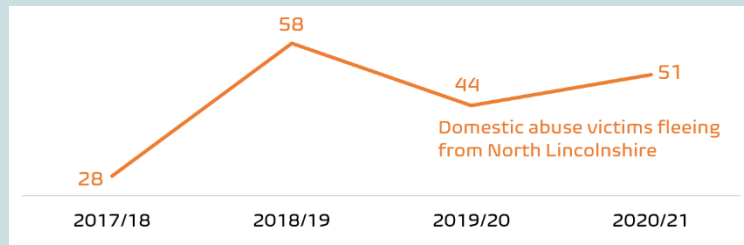
The ethnicity profile of victims accessing domestic abuse support services broadly reflects the overall ethnic composition of North Lincolnshire. Domestic abuse victims from non-white British backgrounds are marginally more likely to access support services since they are more likely to live in those parts of North Lincolnshire where domestic abuse rates are higher.

Age

	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66+
Victims of domestic abuse related crime	24%	32%	21%	14%	6%	3%
Victims supported by The Blue Door	23%	34%	22%	12%	3%	7%
Victims supported by the local Refuge	35%	35%	18%	6%	6%	0%
Victims referred to adult safeguarding	7%	10%	9%	17%	18%	38%
Victims securing new accommodation	17%	33%	33%	9%	7%	2%

While 56% of victims referred to adult safeguarding are aged 56+, those supported in refuge accommodation tend to be younger women, with 70% aged under 35. This reflects younger victims more commonly facing the most violent domestic abuse, while older victims are more likely to be affected by other forms of abuse such as financial abuse which require a different set of interventions.

Victims fleeing North Lincolnshire



Some survivors fleeing domestic abuse will travel across borders in order to seek help and move away from the perpetrator. The Blue Door record the number of victims that they know have fled North Lincolnshire to other parts of the country, although the true figure is likely to be even higher than this.

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES (VICTIMS)

What works well

'I felt I didn't have to do anything alone. I was confident to tell her (IDVA) everything that had happened – she didn't judge me.'

'She gave me her strength; staff were knowledgeable and caring. When I went in (to the local domestic abuse service) I was crawling, when I left I felt liberated, I was walking upright.'

'I find the programme (Freedom) very useful, I enjoy it and it's really helped me notice what I went through at that time, I also took the information in.'

'It wasn't until the police got involved and looked at the criminal damage in my house ... it was coercive control and financial abuse. People ask did he hit you? My bruises are inside and it's had an affect on my daughter ... the police were brilliant and logged everything.'

'Children's Services made sure everything was in place for my child and the school and school nurse helped.'

'When I moved here and the school knew I was working with (the local domestic abuse service) it took support to a different level, everything just connected better with access to the right people.'

'I have never claimed benefits in my life and the woman at the Jobcentre was an angel.'

'The Reablement Team were amazing and understood domestic abuse. They helped me fill in forms and sort out bills.'

'She put me on a college course which gave me more confidence because I was doing something with my life, I am now working and want to write a book.'

What could be improved

'In the criminal court I was with the IDVA and protected all the way. In the family court case, I had to go into the same room as him and it was unpleasant.'

'When I applied for housing, it's difficult as I could have been put anywhere in North Lincs and that was no good as my children go to school in (local town) where we live.'

'The pressure on you is so immense at first, struggling to deal with things let alone being able to talk to your children about what has happened.'

'Coercive control and the violence was so normalised I did not know anything was wrong.'

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES (PERPETRATORS)

What works well

'I didn't realise that my children were affected by my relationship, that the shouting was being reflected in their behaviour, especially the oldest one who would react in the same way imitating our relationship.'

'The course has taught me a lot, it became very obvious that domestic abuse is not just physical, it's mental and verbal as well and I learnt how to talk to someone.'

'The social worker said have you heard of this (Re:Form), will you consider it? I did not realise how massive having the information would be. I would walk away from jobs ... it gives you insight into life, it's helped me through court and how to talk with the social worker.'

'It's opened my eyes to look out for signs if I get a new partner.'

'The Judge listened to professionals and thought on the safeguarding side too. Because I've done Re:Form it is one big reason of why the children went back home.'

'My child's plan has moved to a child in need plan from child protection. Services have really helped.'

What could be improved

'I was looking for support and couldn't find anything until I was told about Re:Form.'

If I could have had some help earlier, it might have helped my relationship.'

'It would help to know someone who has been there and to talk to them. It could inspire someone if they are thinking of walking away (from the programme).'