**Derby and Derbyshire**

**Domestic Abuse**

**Support in Accommodation Strategy**

**2021 – 2024**

**December 2021**

**Version 2**

**Introduction**

## Domestic abuse is a cruel and complex crime which anyone can be affected by. The impact of it can last a lifetime, very often across generations. Tragically, it sometimes leads to the loss of life.

## The [Office for National Statistics (ONS)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020) estimate that 1.6 million women and 757,000 men aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales during the year to March 2020 (5.5% of the population).[[1]](#footnote-1)

## A fifth of homicides of persons aged 16 years and over are domestic abuse related. Three-quarters of domestic homicide victims are female. In the 3 years to March 2019, 274 women and 83 men were victims of domestic homicides.

## Domestic abuse remains high on the national agenda with the Domestic Abuse Act becoming law in April 2021. The Government is committed to raising awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families, further improving the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice, as well as strengthening the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies.

## In Derby and Derbyshire, significant progress has been made in terms of how local stakeholders work together to raise awareness and deliver support and prevention work in relation to domestic abuse; and there is ongoing commitment and determination to ensure that domestic abuse services continue to be reviewed and improved for all victims.

The vision for Derby and Derbyshire, as will be set out in the holistic Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence Strategy for Derby and Derbyshire, is that everyone can live safe lives, without the threat or experience of domestic abuse or sexual violence. The Domestic Abuse Support in Accommodation Strategy will focus solely on how local partners intend to work together in a coordinated and cohesive way to meet new statutory duties to provide safe accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (The DA Act).

**Scope**

The Domestic Abuse Support in Accommodation Strategy sets out the shared ambitions for Derby and Derbyshire in terms of how local partners and services will work together to effectively address the provision of domestic abuse support in safe accommodation across the city and the county.

It has been produced by Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council on behalf of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board; in partnership with local stakeholders working together throughout Derbyshire, including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and District and Borough Councils.

For local partners across Derby and Derbyshire, over the next three years, the focus of delivery for DA support in safe accommodation will be to achieve the following objectives:

* Undertake early intervention, before the point of crisis, to give people choices, including support in short term emergency accommodation.
* Provide domestic abuse support in a range of safe accommodation, so that family make-up, individual needs and complexities are not barriers to accessing the help that victims require.
* Address the needs of all communities accessing our services and invest in support that reflects their characteristics, so that their experience is an inclusive one.
* Support victims and their families who wish to build a life within our communities, when they are ready to move on from intensive support in safe accommodation.
* Ensure services are accessible and provide up-to-date information about what is available so that victims and professionals know how to access services and the support available.
* Increasing our understanding and support for children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.
* Work with sanctuary schemes and target hardening providers to provide support to enable people to remain safely in their own homes.

Public authorities are bound by the [Public Sector Equality Duty](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-equality-duty) and therefore must consider how their policies or decisions affect people who are protected under the [Equality Act 2010](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2021/347/contents/made).  This strategy aims to be fully inclusive and, throughout the development of it, careful consideration has been given to how the needs of those with protected characteristics can be met.

Domestic abuse support in accommodation services will be regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure they continue to meet the needs of victims.

**Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

The government’s commitment to tackling domestic abuse is clear, with the introduction of key legislative measures contained within the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/introduction/enacted). For the first time, a statutory definition of domestic abuse has been created, which is:

*Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:*

* *Psychological / emotional – e.g. victim-blaming, name-calling, belittling*
* *Physical – e.g. hurting or threatening to hurt physically*
* *Sexual – e.g. forced to take part in unwanted, unsafe or degrading activity*
* *Economic – e.g. restricting finances / access to work, getting a victim into debt*
* *Coercive control – e.g. isolating, monitoring, threats, humiliation[[2]](#footnote-2)*

The Act also recognises the impact of domestic abuse on those who are ‘personally connected’ [[3]](#footnote-3)and defines what is meant by this as:

*“…intimate partners, ex-partners, family members or individuals who share parental responsibility for a child.”*

There is no requirement for the victim and perpetrator to live in the same household. Also, for the first time, the DA Act recognises that a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, domestic abuse and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator is also to be regarded as a victim of domestic abuse.

For further details of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and what it intends to achieve, see this [overarching factsheet](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-overarching-factsheet).

**Duty to Provide Support in Safe Accommodation**

[Part 4 of the DA Act](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services) places a statutory duty on Tier One authorities for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation, who need it and provides clarity over governance and accountability. District and Borough Councils (Tier Two) are required to co-operate with Tier One authorities, in so far as is reasonably practicable.

Safe accommodation [[4]](#footnote-4)is defined as that which is:

*“…solely dedicated to providing a safe place to stay for victims of domestic abuse, including expert support…”*

Safe accommodation includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Refuge accommodation | Single gender or single sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. |
| Specialist safe accommodation | Single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s) and may include services delivered by organisations who reflect those characteristics. |
| Dispersed accommodation | Including safe accommodation with similar levels of support to that in a communal refuge but accommodation more suited to clients for whom communal accommodation is inappropriate and safe accommodation which is semi-independent for clients requiring a lesser degree of support. |
| Sanctuary Schemes | Where properties have been ‘target-hardened’ with additional security to enable victims to remain in their own homes if safe for them to do so.  |
| Second stage, step-down or move-on accommodation | Provided to victims and their children, who are moving on from other forms of relevant accommodation and/or who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and settled accommodation.  |
| Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation | A safe place (single gendered or single sex, secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) with domestic abuse support tied to the accommodation to enable victims to make informed decisions when leaving a perpetrator and seeking safe accommodation.  |

The support that local authorities have a duty to provide within safe accommodation includes:

* Overall management of services within relevant safe accommodation.
* Support with the day-to-day running of the service.
* Advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
* Domestic abuse prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online), and to prevent re-victimisation.
* Specialist support for victims, designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics (including ‘by and for’ support delivered by organisations reflecting those characteristics).
* Designed specifically for victims with additional and / or complex needs including sign posting accordingly.
* Children’s support – including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker (for example, a young people’s violence advisor, Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) or outreach worker specialised in working with children).
* Housing-related advice support.
* Advice service – including financial and legal support.
* Counselling and therapy – including group / emotional support for both adults and children.

This duty is separate to local authority housing duties under the [Housing Act 1996](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/section/2/enacted) and [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents) and does not place a requirement on authorities to provide domestic abuse victims with accommodation. However, local authorities must still comply with their duties under homelessness law in line with the Chapter 8 of the [Homelessness Code of Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities) for local authorities.

**Governance**

The Derby and Derbyshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board has provided both a strategic and advisory function in influencing the shape of our partnership response to domestic abuse and sexual violence by:

* Ensuring a holistic response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence across other related areas such as housing, health, early years and childhood support, social care, policing and criminal justice services.
* Providing expert advice to support the development and implementation of a local strategy and multi - agency action plan to drive effective working in relation to domestic abuse and sexual violence.
* Working in partnership to ensure victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support.
* Promoting local services and ensure referral pathways facilitate easy access to services.
* Effectively engaging with domestic abuse victims and expert services in understanding the range and complexity of needs.
* Supporting commissioning and decommissioning decisions (where appropriate) through a joint commissioning strategy.
* Providing oversight and governance of Domestic Homicide Reviews, including the implementation of recommendations.
* Agreeing a common outcomes framework and analyse performance and outcome data to inform decision making.

To fulfil the requirements of the safe accommodation duty, the Board will henceforth be known as the Derby and Derbyshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board and will function as the Local Partnership Board for Derby and Derbyshire. Meeting quarterly, the Board has representation from the following agencies:

* Derbyshire Constabulary (Chair)
* Derbyshire County Council (Vice Chair)
* Derby City Council
* Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
* Derbyshire District and Borough Council representation
* Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership
* Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board
* Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups
* Derbyshire Criminal Justice Board
* National Probation Service
* NHS England
* Victims of DA
* DA Charities and voluntary sector
* Sexual Assault Referral Centre

Membership of the Board has been reviewed, to ensure the interests of all stakeholders are represented and that there is compliance with the DA Act statutory guidance[[5]](#footnote-5). .

**Local Context**

Applying the national estimated prevalence to Derbyshire’s population:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Gender | In 2019 -20, the estimated number of domestic abuse victims were between 30,000 and 33,000.In the City, based on midyear population estimates for 2020/21, it is estimated that there were between 7,800 women and 3,700 men who were victims of domestic abuse.  |
| Woman with kid with solid fill | It is estimated that there were between 19,500 - 21,500 dependent children (of the estimated number) of domestic abuse victims. Derbyshire’s DA Needs Assessment highlighted the significant number of children who are from households where domestic abuse has taken place.Over the three years 2018-2021, in Derbyshire, on average, approximately one third of all referrals into Children’s Safeguarding identified domestic abuse as an issue. |
|  | The number of contacts to Childrens and Young Peoples services in the city for domestic abuse increased by 1,856 on the previous year and increased from 30.9% of all contacts in 20118/19 to 37.4% in 2020/21 |
| Scales of justice | Over last two years (2019-20 and 2020-21) a monthly average of 1,060 Domestic Abuse incidents reported to Police in the County Council Area of which 913 were recorded as crimes. In 2020/21, there were 6,666 Police Domestic Abuse Calls for Service to Police in the City Council Area and 5,919 recorded crimes |

The Derby and Derbyshire, statistical needs analysis identified that domestic abuse is more prevalent for those:

* + under 24 years of age,
	+ with a disability,
	+ who are sick or ill on a long term or temporary basis, those who are unemployed, and those who are not yet retired,
	+ who are single, separated or divorced,
	+ who are single parents,
	+ who are social housing tenants

There is less engagement, reporting and recording of incidents for those:

* + who are from ethnic minority communities,
	+ who reside in rural areas

These statistics are based upon recorded incidents and it is recognised there are specific barriers to people in the latter two communities reaching out for help.

The Derbyshire DA Helpline received 7,714 incoming calls within normal hours during 2020-2021, and a further 1,500 calls outside normal hours. Although the overall volume of calls reduced during the pandemic by 22%, calls resulting in emotional or practical support to clients, or their family or friends increased by 42% to 977. 1,934 referrals to support services were received by the Helpline.

During 2020-21 there were 230 referrals of adults into the commissioned accommodation services and 161 adults accommodated and 156 Children, around two-thirds of the clients in the commissioned accommodation services have a child or children. Half of the children of clients are under 5 years of age.

In the City, there were 172 referrals of adults into the commissioned accommodation services with only 45 being accommodated as new referrals. Support was provided for an average of 90 days.

Domestic Abuse represents a significant reason for the presentation of clients seeking temporary accommodation to homelessness services. For the three years 2018 – 2021, the County as a whole received the following presentations of homelessness where the principle reason for this was identified as domestic abuse:

* 2018 - 2019 = 287 of whom 64 were given temporary accommodation
* 2019 - 2020 = 256 of whom 58 were given temporary accommodation
* 2020 - 2021 = 309 of whom 67 were given temporary accommodation

The number of homelessness approaches to Derby Homes, as the settled home loss reason of domestic abuse, fell from 380 in 2019/20 to 335 in 2020/21. It seemed that there were fewer approached because of lockdown but numbers have started to increase again with 103 recorded in the first quarter of 2021-22.

**Domestic Abuse Support Services in Derby & Derbyshire**

Core services for domestic abuse victims in Derby and Derbyshire are commissioned and funded by different partners, including Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

There is commitment to provide ongoing support in safe accommodation so that people can relocate in an emergency. Many of the people to whom support is provided are from out of area, due to the need to relocate a safe distance away from the perpetrator, and this service will continue to be provided.

Derby and Derbyshire’s DA Needs Assessments provide full details of both commissioned and non-commissioned DA services across Derbyshire.

In brief, the following domestic abuse services for women, men and their children are available:

* Domestic Abuse Helplines in the City and County as a single point of contact for victims, their friends and families seeking advice and support, and for professionals referring or seeking advice.
* Accommodation - a combination of communal refuge spaces and supported dispersed properties are commissioned and available to those fleeing domestic abuse situation with support for adults. Within the city this includes specialist south Asian refuge provision and within the County support for children.
* Outreach – Support offered in the community, including ongoing needs and risk assessment, safety planning, advocacy and emotional support. In the City specialist south Asian outreach is provided and within the County support is provided for children by domestic abuse specialists.
* Self-esteem and confidence building programmes – e.g. Freedom Programme, Power to Change. In the County, this includes art therapy and mental health support work, available to adults and children.
* IDVA service delivering time-limited support to domestic abuse victims assessed as being at high risk of homicide or serious harm, subject to MARAC procedures, with the aim of reducing that risk.
* Perpetrator programmes - including intervention for high harm / high risk abusers (DRIVE) and a range of interventions with lower risk adult abusers and programmes for young people who are displaying abusive behaviours in intimate or familial relationships raising. With associated support for victims and those affected by the abuse.

**Outcomes of Needs Assessment**

Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council worked in partnership on the local needs assessments and collaboratively with the wider domestic abuse partnership. Statistical analysis of available and relevant local data was undertaken at the city and county level. Supported with three consultations covering DA service providers and public agencies; the public and the faith and voluntary sector. Two separate needs assessments (for the City and the County) have then been produced using the data collected for each area.

Both the Derby Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2021) and the Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2021) are key to understanding the scale of the wider domestic abuse issues that exist locally and enable any gaps in domestic abuse services / provision to be identified, which will inform the wider DA & SV Strategy.

Based upon the statistical data provided, the main accommodation-based support issues and needs identified in the County were:

* Refuge spaces in the County meet the recommended level but not all of these are commissioned by the County Council.
* The provision of move-on properties and support has been shown to be beneficial for those victims who are ready to move on from refuge but have a continuing need for support.
* There is a need to ensure support is available for victims with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and for victims with complex needs (including those suffering homelessness, mental health, and substance misuse issues).
* The commissioned IDVA services in the County Council area are below the recommended level, however additional funding by the PCC/Ministry of Justice has increased this capacity and it remains to ensure consistency of delivery throughout the county and, in particular, to ensure intensive support is provided to those victims in accommodation who are at high risk.
* There is a need to encourage victims aged 35 and older, male victims, and victims with disabilities to engage with the services.
* The need to enable victims to remain in their own homes with enhanced safety measures.
* The Domestic Abuse Commissioner report showed that the provision of specialist court-related domestic abuse support improves the experiences of survivors and that the current service needs to be sustainable.

Based upon the statistical data provided, the main accommodation-based support issues and needs identified in the City were:

* 25 refuge spaces in the City are close to the recommended level of 26 family spaces, but demand is significantly higher.
* There is no provision in the City Council area for refuge spaces for male victims.
* There are no children’s workers based in the refuges (although children are supported alongside their parent by the adult workers).
* There is a need to encourage victims aged 35 and older and victims from the LGBT+ communities to engage with the services.
* The IDVA services in the City Council area meet the recommended level but are commissioned by the PCC. The IDVA services include the provision of intensive support to those victims in accommodation who are at high risk.
* There is a need to ensure support is available for victims with complex needs, including mental health and substance misuse issues.
* There is a need to encourage victims aged 35 and older, male victims, and victims with disabilities to report DA and engage with the services.
* The current Sanctuary Scheme is reliant upon a single funder and unsustainable in its current form
* The Domestic Abuse Commissioner report showed that the provision of specialist court-related domestic abuse support improves the experiences of survivors and that the current service needs to be sustainable.

Based upon the survey responses, the accommodation-based support needs / gaps (or opportunities) identified include:

* Improved response to non-typical presentations of domestic abuse. For example, abuse in familial settings, involving older people, where there is disability or a care relationship, where the victim is male and specialist support for those with protected characteristics.
* Improved engagement with the voluntary & community sector in order to improve service delivery and enhance inclusion.
* The lack of safe accommodation for under-represented communities (for example traveller and migrant communities).
* Improve our response when there is a need for a immediate and urgent safe accommodation, including out-of-hours presentations.
* Improve our response to those with complex needs, including substance misuse and mental health issues.
* Improved promotion of domestic abuse support services to particular communities and involvement of them in service development, with specialism reflected in commissioning.
* Addressing the scope and appeal of accommodation related support services to further address the needs of victims including those with disabilities, men, LGBT+ and those who are older.

**Our Response**

**Collaboration**

* Involvement in collaborative commissioning of services between LA’s, OPCC, Health, Police and other partners to facilitate comprehensive, sustainable support in accommodation across the City and County.
* Working with housing authorities on the provision of a short-term emergency response, to enable people to make decisions about their situation and to provide access to immediate safe accommodation
* Support housing authorities to develop advocacy and support within Housing / LA Depts to support victims.
* Districts / Borough Councils, in collaboration with the County, work to improve the response to domestic abuse by raising awareness and performing the administrative / strategic role to meet the new duty.
* Developing a Training, Education and Communication Strategy as part of the joint City / County Strategy.

**Range of accommodation and support**

* Increasing the number of support workers, including children’s support workers, to enable commissioned services to provide increased safe accommodation, including flexible dispersed properties.
* Piloting a short-term accommodation support package - to provide a temporary place of safety, with immediate DA support and intensive activity to determine next moves into refuge or other housing options..
* Commissioning practical support, including legal support for those in accommodation.
* Improving the availability of and access to counselling services and group recovery services to ensure that accommodation-based clients are not reliant on short term additional grant funding.
* Continuance of additional support for adults and children currently in receipt of Covid-19 emergency funding.
* Commission risk-based support workers in safe accommodation.
* Extend the hours of operation for DA Helplines.
* Explore opportunities for additional accommodation settings to address the breadth of provision required, including continued specialist support for children and young people, support in accommodation for male victims, and support for those with NRPF.
* Reviewing and implementing a sustainable Sanctuary Scheme

**Address particular needs of communities**

* Continuance and further development of complex needs support in refuge
* Develop Specialist support for victims, designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics and complex needs by:
	+ undertaking research into their experiences of DA and support provided
	+ including ‘by and for’ support delivered by organisations reflecting those characteristics in future commissioning
	+ ensuring the experiences and voices of victims of domestic abuse, children as victims of domestic abuse, charities and other voluntary organisations working with victims of domestic abuse have a place and voice in shaping future strategies and delivery
* Provision of dedicated child support workers within safe accommodation.
* Improve support for victims with complex needs, including mental health and substance misuse issues
* Maintain specialist support and advocacy for seldom heard communities and those reluctant to engage with statutory services

**Supporting survivors to thrive in our communities**

* Continuance and development of move-on / step-down support (former MHCLG grant funding).
* Continuance and development of community outreach service for adults and children.
* Support those provided with sanctuary schemes and target hardening measures, enabling people to remain safely in their own homes.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Derby and Derbyshire DA & SV Partnership Board has overall responsibility for the delivery of this strategy. Measures will be developed and agreed to monitor the impact of it. Objectives will be underpinned by detailed action plans, with outcomes monitored regularly by the Board.

To ensure that delivery plans are flexible and responsive, this strategy will be reviewed annually, alongside the Needs Assessments; with regular updates provided to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The objectives set out in this strategy will have been delivered when:

* More victims are accessing the accommodation-based support provided.
* A range of safe and accessible accommodation is available so more victims can access it irrespective of their particular needs.
* Victims of domestic abuse that require “safe accommodation and support” are not housed in generic temporary accommodation.
* A range of community based domestic abuse services are in place alongside safe accommodation support.
* Adults and children referred to services report that they felt they were listened to; that they feel safer, support was provided when they needed it and their situation improved.
* Increased referrals reflect that services are more widely understood by public and professionals.
* Survivors are supported into the community of their choice.
* The support offered leads to a reduction in the number of domestic abuse victims experiencing repeat victimisation.

**Appendix A**

**Associated National and Local Strategies**

As well as the DA Act 2021, the Statutory Guidance sets out that Local Authorities must ensure they comply with their obligations under a range of associated Acts, including the:

* [Equality Act 2010](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance)
* [Human Rights Act 1998](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en)
* [Children Act 2004](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents)
* [Housing Act 1996](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents)
* [Homelessness Act 2002](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/section/2)
* [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/contents)
* [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents)
* [Modern Slavery Act 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted)

Local Authorities should also consider their Part 4 duties alongside the following guidance and legislation:

* [Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-access-to-social-housing-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse) in refuges or other types of temporary accommodations: statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England.
* [Homelessness Code of Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities)
* [Keeping Children Safe in Education](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/912592/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_Sep_2020.pdf): Statutory guidance for schools and colleges
* [Working together to safeguard children](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2): A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
* [Violence against women and girls](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-national-statement-of-expectations) (including men and boys): national statement of expectations
* [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005630/Tackling_Violence_Against_Women_and_Girls_Strategy-July_2021-FINAL.pdf)
* [Care Act 2014](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets/care-act-factsheets) makes provisions on physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing, and protection from abuse and neglect.
* [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance for Domestic Violence and Abuse: Multi-Agency Working, 2014](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph50)
* [Children Act 1989](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1000549/The_Children_Act_1989_guidance_and_regulations_Volume_2_care_planning__placement_and_case_review.pdf)
* [Adoption and Children Act 2002](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/38/contents)
* [Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/28/contents)
* [Protection of Freedom’s Act, 2012](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/9/contents/enacted)
* [Serious Crime Act, 2015](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/serious-crime-bill)
* [Prevent Strategy, 2011](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)
* [Modern Slavery Strategy, 2014](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/383764/Modern_Slavery_Strategy_FINAL_DEC2015.pdf)

**UK Legislation**

Although domestic abuse now has a statutory definition, it is not a specific criminal offence. However, there are a number of offences that perpetrators can be prosecuted for depending on the specific acts, such as murder, rape, manslaughter, assault, criminal damage, harassment and threatening behaviour. There are also civil orders to protect people from harmful acts such as harassment, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

More recent developments in UK legislation include:

* [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Claire’s Law), 2014](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme-factsheet): A scheme allowing an individual to ask Police to check whether a new or existing partner has a violent past. A disclosure can be made by the Police if it is legal, proportionate, and necessary to do so.
* [Coercive Control Offence, 2015](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482528/Controlling_or_coercive_behaviour_-_statutory_guidance.pdf): Victims who experience coercive and controlling behaviour that stops short of serious physical violence, but amounts to extreme psychological and emotional abuse, can bring their perpetrators to justice.
* [Stalking Protections Orders, 2020](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951354/SPOs_statutory_guidance_English_with_changes__002_.pdf): A civil order that protects victims from stalking, harassment and other unwanted contact.
* The DA Act 2021 introduced a new civil [Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DAPN)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955459/Draft_statutory_guidance_for_police_on_domestic_abuse_protection_notices_and_orders.pdf) to provide immediate protection following a domestic abuse incident, and a new civil [Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955459/Draft_statutory_guidance_for_police_on_domestic_abuse_protection_notices_and_orders.pdf) to provide flexible, longer-term protection for victims.

**Local Strategic Drivers**

This strategy links to a number of local strategic drivers, research and guidance including:

* [Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan, 2019-2022](https://www.derbyshiresab.org.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/derbyshire-safeguarding-adults-board-strategic-plan-2019-to-2022.pdf)
* [Derbyshire and Derby Safeguarding Adults Boards Practice Guidance April 2020](https://www.derbyshiresab.org.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/derbyshire-and-derby-safeguarding-adults-boards-practice-guidance.pdf)
* [Derbyshire Children’s Services Service Plan Update, 2020/21](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/council/policies-plans/service-planning/childrens-services-service-plan.pdf)
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