

**Wirral Council**

**Domestic Abuse Safe  
Accommodation Strategy**

**2021-2024**

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**DRAFT**

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Domestic abuse is one of the most cruel and complex crimes in today's society, and one that can affect anyone, leaving physical and emotional scars that can last a lifetime.
- 1.2 Its impact will last far beyond the moment the abuse occurred, with its consequences affecting not only the victim, but also their children. Indeed, for children, the witnessing or hearing one of their parents being abusive or violent towards the other can be a very distressing, painful and damaging experience that can have a profound effect on the rest of their lives.
- 1.3 The majority of domestic abuse is perpetrated in the home, a place which is meant to be an environment of safety and nurturing for families, but for survivors the home becomes a place of danger. Across the UK, Domestic abuse is the third most common cause of homelessness.
- 1.4 Domestic Abuse affects people from all socio-economic backgrounds and households may be living in very different housing circumstances, with different resources available to them when Domestic Abuse occurs. For example, some people will be living in owner-occupied property, others residing in social housing or the private rented sector. Survivors may wish to stay in the same tenure or want or need to move into a new tenure, for example an owner occupier might need a rented home following a relationship breakdown as a result of Domestic Abuse.
- 1.5 Sadly, many survivors will remain in abusive relationships because of the lack of access to safe, long-term, independent, and affordable accommodation; or because they are unable to move home away from family, schools, and other support networks, into temporary accommodation that is frequently located in a new area.
- 1.6 This is Wirral's first strategy for the provision of support in safe accommodation. The strategy sets out how Wirral Council's Housing Department, in partnership with members of the Domestic Abuse Alliance, will respond to our statutory duties under the new Domestic Abuse Act and explore ways to improve the offer of support in safe accommodation - to meet identified need - over a three-year period, taking into consideration any available and approved expenditure of new burden funding. The actions set out within this strategy will enhance existing services, pathways and structures and improve the gathering of data and intelligence. This strategy is very much a living document and, in addition to the required annual refresh, will be reviewed on a regular basis to take into account new developments and feedback from the Domestic Abuse Alliance and its composite sub-groups.
- 1.7 This strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure we are responding to the emerging needs of survivors of domestic abuse who access support within Wirral.
- 1.8 Through this strategy, our aims are to:
  - ensure all survivors and their children, including those from out of area, have access to safe, appropriate accommodation and support services at their point of need.
  - ensure survivors are able to remain safely in their accommodation if they choose and it is safe to do so.
  - provide move on accommodation options for survivors to support long-term recovery and independence.

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- ensure that other duties/legislation introduced as part of the Domestic Abuse Act (secure tenancies and homelessness) are considered in the context of safe accommodation and a Whole Housing Approach
- commission support in safe accommodation for individuals and children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse, that is appropriate to their individual needs.

1.9 We will achieve these aims through the establishment of four priority areas, each underpinned by a series of key actions. These priorities are:

1. **EARLY IDENTIFICATION, INTERVENTION & PREVENTION.**
2. **SURVIVORS HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF APPROPRIATE HOUSING OPTIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES, WHICH INCREASE SAFETY AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS / LOSS OF TENURE.**
3. **DA RESPONSES ARE SURVIVOR-LED**
4. **SUPPORT TO MOVE-ON OR RETURN HOME**

1.10 This strategy has been drafted with the recognition that domestic abuse is a gendered crime where women suffer disproportionately as survivors and men as perpetrators. For this reason, our Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024 is strongly linked to the needs of victim's gender. We acknowledge that, not exclusively but often, safe accommodation is mostly accessed by women and children.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act, which was enacted into law on the 30th April 2021, sets out a wide range of reforms across criminal justice, the family courts, housing and health and clear duties both for national and local government:

- A legal definition of domestic violence that acknowledges children as survivors,
- A national Domestic Abuse Commissioner who will advocate for survivors and life-saving domestic violence services,
- A legal duty for local authorities to provide "safe housing" and support for survivors,
- New safeguards for survivors in family and civil courts, including a prohibition on abusers cross-examining their victims, and a prohibition on abusers interrogating their victims,
- New criminal offences, such as coercive control after a divorce, non-fatal strangling, and threatening to reveal private sexual photographs,
- The employment of the defence of "rough sex" by abusers is prohibited,
- Ensure that all survivors are given priority need if presenting as homeless and will be able to maintain a secure tenancy in social housing if they need to flee an abuser,
- GPs are prohibited from charging for medical evidence of domestic violence,
- A requirement that the government create a code of practice outlining how data is exchanged between the public services that survivors report to (such as the police) and immigration enforcement.

2.2 As mentioned in the list above, the Act established a new duty upon Tier 1 local authorities in England to provide support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

2.3 This is referred to as the Safe Accommodation Duty, the duty itself is not a requirement to provide ‘safe accommodation’, but instead to assess the needs of and provide support to victim survivors and their children within safe accommodation. The Act sets out definitions of what is meant by the terms ‘safe accommodation’ and ‘support’.

**‘Safe Accommodation’**

- **Refuges** (including those that provide dedicated specialist support, such as specialist refuges for Black or minority ethnic, LGBT+, and disabled survivors).
- **Dispersed / semi-independent / move-on and emergency accommodation** with the same level of specialist DA support as provided within a refuge; and,
- **Sanctuary schemes**, which provide enhanced physical security measures within a home.

**‘Support’**

- **Overall management of services within relevant accommodation**
- **Support with the day-to-day running of the service**
- **Advocacy support**
- **Domestic abuse prevention advice**
- **Specialist support for survivors**
- **Children’s support**
- **Housing-related support**
- **Advice service**
- **Counselling and therapy**

2.4 In addition to the duty of the provision of support within safe accommodation, the Domestic Abuse Act also requires Local Authorities to undertake a needs assessment of safe accommodation and support provision across the area every 3 years and refreshed annually.

2.5 The Act requires that the needs assessment should include some specific datasets and must identify the needs of survivors accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation from across local authority boundaries.

2.6 It is the expectation of The Act that the needs assessment provides the basis for the development of this strategy, setting out how the identified needs will be met.

2.7 The Act also requires the establishment of a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to oversee the implementation and delivery of the safe accommodation strategy; and to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy. Membership should include:

- The Tier 1 Authority,
- Representative for survivors of domestic abuse,
- Representative for children of domestic abuse survivors
- Domestic abuse charities and other Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) organisations
- Health Care services
- Policing /criminal justice
- Housing

2.8 In Wirral, our Local Domestic Alliance arrangements are set out in section XX of this strategy, which will be delivered through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

## 3.0 Local Context

3.1 At the local level, there have been significant developments which need to be taken account of within this Strategy, such as Wirral Council's 2025 Plan<sup>1</sup> that prioritises the importance of protecting our most vulnerable residents and reducing the volume of reporting of domestic abuse incidents; and, critically, the Council's 'Domestic Abuse – No More Excuses' 2020-2025 Strategy that highlights five key priority areas:

- Be there when we are needed
- Increase safety for those at risk, without adding to their trauma
- Reduce opportunities for perpetrators to abuse
- Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs
- A better, kinder future for the next generation

3.2 The 'No More Excuses' Strategy also reported the following worrying statistics for Wirral in 2019/20:

- **2,037 women** and **749 men** were the victim of a domestic abuse crime.
- In almost **50%** of domestic abuse crimes the perpetrator was an ex-partner.
- There were **997** high risk referrals to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
- Outcomes for children living with domestic abuse were **31-34%** lower than their peers.
- There were **275 perpetrators** with multiple survivors.
- **834 individuals** were the victim of more than one domestic abuse crime.
- In only 20.2% of cases did the victim and perpetrator live within the same postcode.
- Repeat Victimisation Rate was **29%** in Wirral and **31%** nationally.
- **2,780** children referred to Children's Services because of domestic abuse.
- **705 women** and **2,128** men were recorded as perpetrators of domestic abuse.

3.3 The Safe Accommodation Strategy will be linked and joined-up with, as far as possible, other relevant areas, such as (but not limited to): Violence Against Women and Girls, Modern Slavery, Community Safety, Survivors Strategy, Housing and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, Safeguarding and Troubled Families.

## 4.0 Housing & Domestic Abuse

4.1 There is a legal requirement for all English councils to have a scheme for the allocation of social rented housing, more commonly known as Housing Association accommodation. Across Merseyside, there is a common housing allocation scheme in operation called 'Property Pool Plus'.

4.2 Through the Property Pool Plus Scheme, accommodation is allocated by considering an applicant's priority status, choice, and preference. It seeks to make social housing more accessible and quicker to access for those who need it most, by allocating certain people in a higher priority based on their situation.

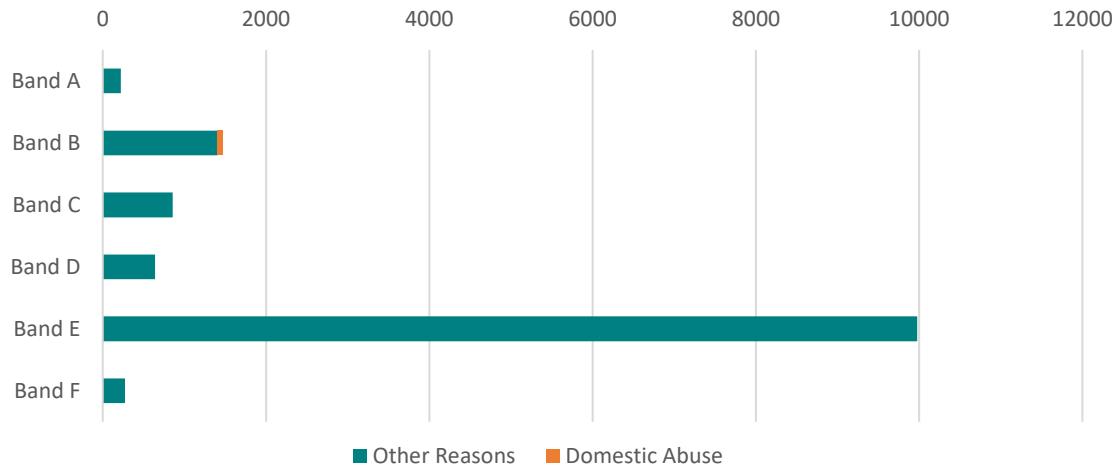
4.3 There are six priority bands within the Property Pool Plus Scheme, A – F, and these different bands reflect the broad categories of housing need, from very high to very low. An applicant is placed in a band which reflects their priority and housing need as determined by the Property Pool Plus allocations policy. People experiencing domestic abuse can be awarded a Band B priority to enable them to move quicker. The Property Pool Plus Scheme is not, however,

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/Health%20and%20social%20care/adult%20social%20care/Domestic%20Abuse%20Strategy%202020.pdf>

intended as an emergency accommodation option and for those people in immediate risk of harm, an application to the Housing Options Service (see section below) provides a faster intervention through the application of homeless legislation.

4.4 At the time of drafting, there are 13, 439 people with live applications with the Property Pool Plus Scheme, broken down within the following bandings:

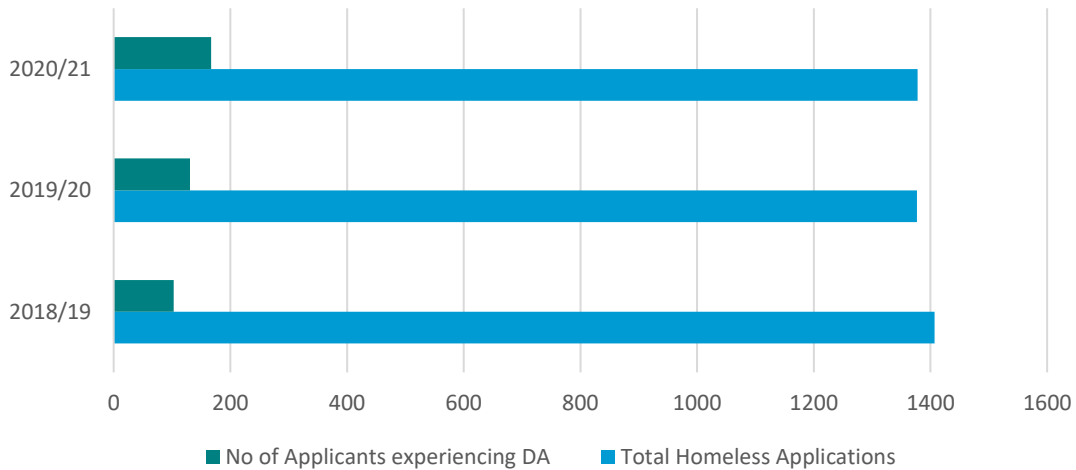


Breakdown of Property Pool Plus Applicants by Priority Banding (as at 30/9/21)

## 5.0 Homelessness & Domestic Abuse

- 5.1 There were 1378 homeless applications in total in 2020/21, 12% (n=166) of which were households where domestic abuse was present. This is slightly higher than the national picture in which 1 in 11 households (8.7%) recorded domestic abuse as their main reason for being homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- 5.2 The numbers of applicants to the Council’s Housing Options Service experiencing domestic abuse has increased over the past 2 years, albeit by comparatively low numbers, as has the overall number of applicants.
- 5.3 In terms of demographics of those presenting to the Housing Options Service as homeless as a consequence of domestic abuse (as the primary reason for their presentation) the majority (51%) were single person households, with the remaining being households with children.
- 5.4 The majority (89%) of homeless applicants experiencing domestic abuse were female. In terms of older and younger survivors, local data highlights that 3 applicants were between the ages of 16 and 18 and 1 was over 75.
- 5.5 The majority of applicant’s are not disabled.
- 5.6 Most victim and survivors were owed a relief duty with domestic abuse victims accounting for 75.86% of all main duties owed, making it one of the primary factors for main duties in Wirral. Where victims were owed a relief duty, 11% went on to be owed a main duty after the 56 days elapsed. For victims owed a duty, the most common accommodation outcome was social housing (90.27% of victims owed a relief duty who secured accommodation did so in a Registered Provider tenancy) with 9.72% in the private rented sector.

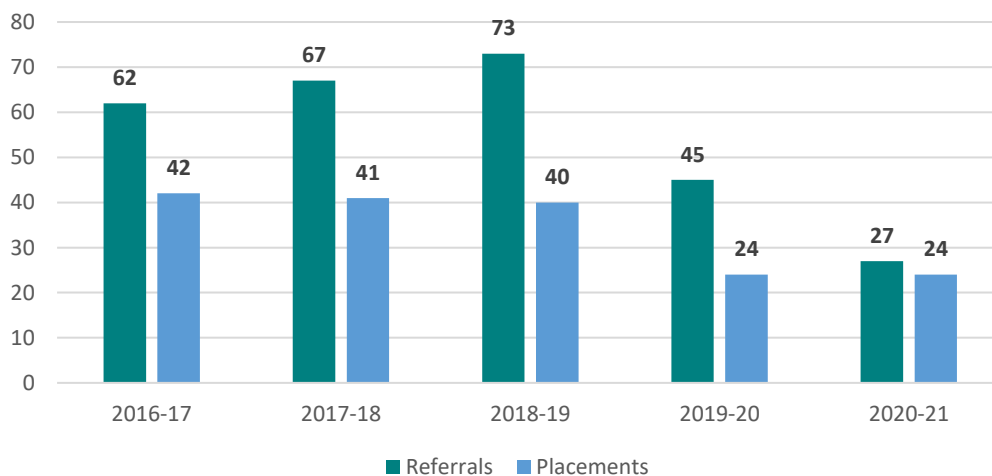
Total Homeless Applications / No of Applicants reporting DA 2018-2021



## 6.0 Specialist Domestic Abuse Housing

- 6.1 Through it's Supported Housing Programme, the Council's Housing Department currently commissions Wirral Women and Children's Aid (WWACA), a charitable organisation who have provided a service within the Borough since 1980 in response to increasing incidences of domestic abuse, to provide refuge accommodation for women fleeing domestic abuse.
- 6.2 The Refuge is a purpose-built accommodation-based service comprising 12 bedspaces that enable the accommodating of a mix of single women and women with children. The Refuge also provides transitional resettlement and outreach support for up to 20 women
- 6.3 The Refuge delivers housing-related support to its residents which will include assistance to secure permanent accommodation, support to maximise benefits, advice around accessing primary healthcare services and employment, training and education opportunities and specific domestic abuse support such as safety planning.

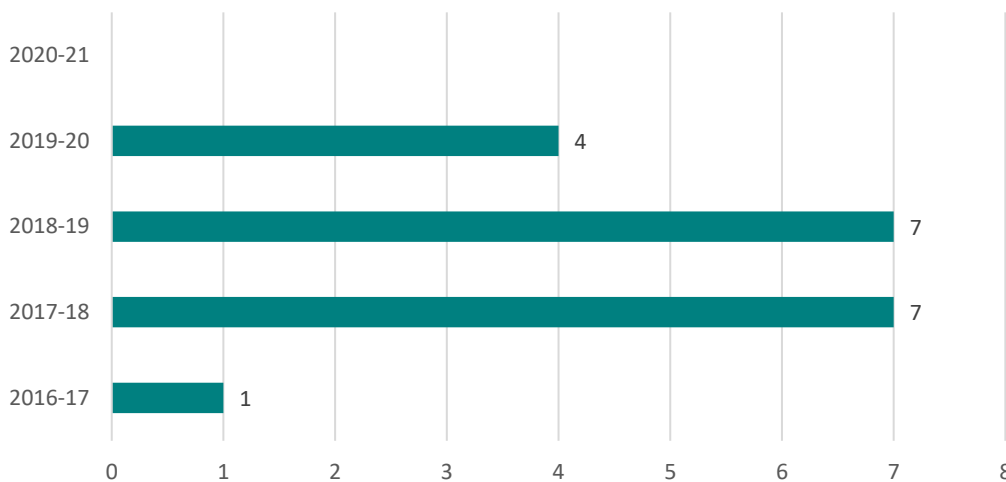
Referrals & Placements - Refuge Accommodation 2016-21



6.4 Over recent years, the Refuge has reported that the presenting issues of women attempting to access the refuge have grown increasingly complex, particularly around factors such as undiagnosed/unresolved mental health problems or ongoing substance misuse and offending behaviour. National statistics indicate that:

- Women experiencing DA are up to fifteen times more likely to misuse alcohol and nine times more likely to misuse other drugs than women generally.
- Experiences of DA are more common among adults with all kinds of mental health disorders than in the general population. Research found that, compared to women with no mental health disorders, women with depressive disorders are around 2.5 times more likely to have been victims of DA.
- One survey of female offenders conducted by Women in Prison found around 80% of respondents disclosing previous experiences of domestic and/or sexual violence.

Service Refusals due to Complex Needs and/or high levels of risk 2016-21

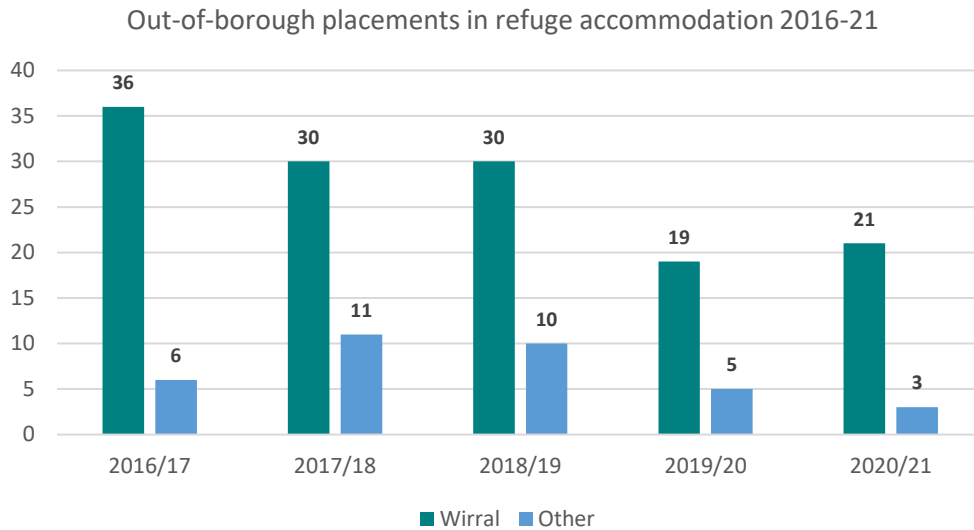


6.5 Although the Refuge endeavours to support all women that approach the service for help, the presence of children in the service mean that some women with complex needs are declined accommodation, due to the risk issues they present to other residents and their children. It is widely recognised within the DA safeguarding professional arena, substance misuse, mental health and DA are known as the ‘toxic trio’ when managing high risk cases.

6.6 Arising from issues of safety, it is sometimes necessary for a survivor to access a refuge in a different area. The area that a survivor moves to in order to access a refuge could depend on choice or necessity or both. Contributing factors are likely to include refuge availability at the time of fleeing an abusive partner (refuge spaces cannot be booked in advance and are often oversubscribed), the need for specialist services and their availability (such as mental health support), personal requirements (such as rooms to accommodate children), transport to work, connections to friends, family and work in the area, knowledge of an area or the chance to secure move on accommodation from that borough.

6.7 As such, in the same way that a Survivor from Wirral may have to access a refuge elsewhere in the country, so do survivors from other parts of the UK come to access the refuge here.





6.8 The chart above shows a comparison of the numbers of survivors that have a local connection to Wirral accessing the refuge, against those that don't. It can be seen that, since 2016, 20% of refuge placements have been for survivors from outside of the Wirral.

## 7.0 Needs Assessment

7.1 To inform this strategy, and in line with statutory guidance, an examination of a range of different data sources, and anecdotal information has been undertaken, the outcome of which has been summarised earlier in this strategy and in the following table.

## SUMMARY OF NEEDS ANALYSIS

SAFE ACCOMMODATION	SUPPORT	SAFE SPACE	HOUSING OPTIONS
<p>The current level of refuge provision within Wirral is unable to meet the demand for it.</p> <p>Although the Refuge can accommodate survivors that present with complex needs (substance misuse, mental health etc.), due to the presence of children, it is not always appropriate to do so.</p> <p>Due to its physical layout, the Refuge is only able to accommodate one physically disabled victim of abuse.</p> <p>Again, while the Refuge will endeavour to accommodate all (female) survivors of domestic abuse, it is not a specialist service for, say LGBTQ+ survivors</p> <p>There is no provision to accommodate any survivors who are Male.</p> <p>It is estimated that a total of <b>xx</b>, high quality, self-contained units of accommodation is required in the first instance for all of the above groups. <b>(Liverpool put 30!)</b></p> <p>Due to the limited availability of appropriate social housing stock in Wirral, and in proximity to schools and other support networks, there is a 'bottleneck' or 'bed-blocking' within the Refuge. Those who no</p>	<p>There is limited funded early intervention to support people to stay in their homes when safe to do so.</p> <p>There is limited investment in resettlement support for survivors moving on from refuge.</p> <p>Further specialist support is required for people with protected characteristics in Wirral, as well as those with complex needs.</p> <p>There is also little or no support, including therapeutic interventions, for children and teenagers placed in the Refuge.</p>	<p>While temporary accommodation properties in a dispersed, community-based setting can be provided in an emergency, it is not always appropriate. There are currently no other alternatives in Wirral in situations of an emergency nature when survivors may have initially left their situation but are unable to access anywhere safe, at the time they are most at risk.</p>	<p>Availability of social housing stock for survivors to 'move on' can be limited, especially one bed properties and properties for larger families, both inside and outside of the borough.</p> <p>The ability of survivors to move-on can be impacted by previous housing debt and high costs of private rent.</p> <p>Survivors report that there is an unreported safe accommodation demand that is met by survivors 'sofa surfing' and living with family and friends.</p> <p>Consultation indicates that where it is possible and safe to do so, it is preferable to move the perpetrator out of the family home, rather than the victim (and their children, if applicable).</p> <p>&lt;Some comment about staffing capacity/limited resources within HOT to provide an enhanced service, taking into account the requirements of the new bill?&gt;</p>

longer need the level of support provided in the Refuge are unable to move-on to independent living, meaning that bed spaces are not being freed-up for those who do require it. This leads to people being turned away from the Refuge.

In these scenarios, the Council will have no alternative but to place the victim in temporary accommodation. Victim consultation indicates that, on occasion, some of these placements can be inappropriate, which may result in the victim returning to a perpetrator.

## 8.0 Our Priorities

- 8.1 Our strategic priorities are based on the key elements of the Statutory Guidance for local authorities across England and a Whole Housing Approach, and are set out below

### PRIORITY ONE

#### EARLY IDENTIFICATION, INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

Taking a prevention and early intervention approach reduces risk and harm, preventing homicide in the most serious of cases. However, we know that survivors can often struggle to access the services and support they need, and this is partly due to a lack of awareness of support available. We know that survivors have stated that finding out about services and options earlier would have improved their experiences.

Domestic abuse is a leading cause of homelessness amongst women and is not something that is always disclosed by survivors at the point of access to homeless support. It can lead to loss of accommodation due to complaints of anti-social behaviour, rent arrears and property damage associated with the abuse. Preventing homelessness and loss of tenure results in improved outcomes for survivors and their children and reduces expenditure of public monies. Effective intervention at the earliest possible stage reduces the risk of accommodation loss and protects security of tenure.

National data shows that 85% of survivors sought help on multiple occasions in the year before they got the help they needed. It is therefore imperative that local services, especially housing providers, identify abuse and intervene at the earliest possible stage. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation provides a framework for DA good practice in housing. Specialist DA services must have the expertise and knowledge to support the diversities and complex realities of survivors.

What will we do?	When will we do it by?
Develop a programme of awareness raising campaigns about the signs of DA, and where/how to access support. To address low representation of survivors with Protected Characteristics in services, targeted awareness raising campaigns will be delivered.	
Map registered and supported housing providers' current responses (routine enquiry, trauma informed practice, referral processes) and work with them to develop one shared approach to identifying and responding to domestic abuse.	
Ensure, through contract requirements, staff working in commissioned specialist DA services (including refuge) have access to training on housing law, Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC), the domestic violence rule in immigration law,	

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economic abuse and home ownership and providing services to survivors with Protected Characteristics, such as, Black and minoritized, LGBT+, and people who are disabled or experience multiple disadvantages.	
Work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and other LCR Councils to explore the potential to develop training that is accessible to staff working in supported housing settings and private rental sector (PRS) landlords	
Work with the OPCC and other LCR Councils to further explore how to enhance safeguarding conditions and standards within the PRS. HMO Licensing Regulatory Schemes to include explicit requirements regarding DA.	

## PRIORITY TWO

### **SURVIVORS HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF APPROPRIATE HOUSING OPTIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES, WHICH INCREASE SAFETY AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS / LOSS OF TENURE**

Survivors should not have to choose between having to sell their home, or give up their tenancy, in order to achieve safety. Indeed, many survivors experience further victimisation due to having to move or sell their property (rather than the perpetrator) and / or through loss of tenure security.

A Whole Housing Approach (WHA) provides a framework for both the DA and housing sectors to work collaboratively to resolve the immediate and longer-term housing needs of survivors. A WHA considers the complex needs of diverse communities of survivors across all housing tenure types (social, private rented, privately owned, and supported accommodation) to increase housing sustainment and reduce homelessness. A properly coordinated WHA increases the availability of housing options and support for survivors which, in turn, helps to remove the barriers to safety and reduce inequalities for marginalised survivors

We know that unfortunately, especially with the additional demands that have arisen because of the Covid pandemic, there are a number of individuals and families who have been placed in emergency accommodation which would be considered unsuitable in line with the DLUHC definition of 'safe' in relation to domestic abuse. This includes temporary accommodation, such as a bed and breakfast, or a hotel. We recognise that this is not the best housing option for a victim/survivor of domestic abuse, and we are working to reduce the number of these placements over the duration of this strategy.

We know that moving on from short term safe accommodation to more settled accommodation can be difficult, and we also know that since the Choice Based Lettings service reopened in September 2021 following the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of households bidding for available properties has increased and the average wait time for social housing has lengthened, it is therefore vital that there are a range of other housing options available.

Refuge provision is, undeniably, a vital and lifesaving resource, but it is not always suitable for or, indeed, accessible to all. The availability of additional security measures (Sanctuary) at home can increase safety for

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some survivors, but others will be unable to remain in accommodation due to the associated risk. Therefore, it is crucial that there are other local options to complement these provisions. Many survivors will be in other forms of accommodation-based services, such as supported housing, and it is vital these services are DA informed. Stable and secure housing, particularly after survivors have been required to move due to DA, is a vital need.

Community DA services play a vital role in supporting survivors to access housing options and legal advice and, without effective professional pathway navigation that these services provide, many survivors would be unable to access the support they need. While men and boys do experience DA, national and local data shows most survivors are female and, consequently, DA responses must be underpinned by a gender-informed approach, with access to women-only services being vital.

What will we do?	When will we do it by?
Review the current offer of women-only services and explore:  The introduction of a requirement for providers to work towards Women’s Aid Federation of England National Quality Standards/ Imkaan Safe Minimum Quality Standards.  Reviewing the suitability and capacity of existing refuge properties, within the scope of the provisions of the Act; and the potential for inclusion of further advocacy, therapeutic and resettlement support	
We will explore opportunities to expand the offer of Sanctuary Schemes, as part of homelessness assessment for survivors presenting at the Housing Options Service (e.g., offer of Sanctuary made with the purpose of enabling a survivor to remain in existing accommodation).	
Start to map / develop pathways for additional security measures in Registered Provider stock, including waiting times and other barriers / challenges.	
Explore the use of New Burdens or Homeless Prevention funding to work with partners to establish a dedicated Flexible Fund, inclusive of dedicated resource pool of safety equipment such as personal safety alarms, doorbell, and window alarms.	
Explore and develop safe accommodation pathways for women with complex needs experiencing DA	

## PRIORITY THREE

### DA RESPONSES ARE SURVIVOR-LED

This strategy recognises the importance of including the voice of survivors in any developments in the DA/Housing Sector, so their lived experience can provide a catalyst for change. This Strategy also acknowledges that many practitioners in the specialist sector are survivors themselves and have built expert knowledge over time. This Strategy commits to consult with survivors in any future refresh and to co-produce future strategies.

What will we do?	When will we do it by?
We will, as a priority, listen to the voices of survivors and children to influence service delivery, policy, and system development.	
We will work with survivors to ensure that information on where to go to get help is easily available and accessible to survivors in a range of formats.	
We will explore the potential to develop a safe place for people to access immediately when they have to leave home in an emergency and will work with survivors to ensure that such a place is appropriate to people leaving their home in such circumstances.	

## PRIORITY FOUR

### SUPPORT TO MOVE-ON OR RETURN HOME

In Wirral, we recognise that longer term housing options for survivors are essential to ensure they do not remain living within unsettled accommodation such as refuge or temporary accommodation for an extended length of time. The needs of survivors within different tenures are important to consider in terms of support, as both homeowners or those with joint tenancies will also have a considerable amount of practical needs to be met before they can move-on or return home.

For survivors in social housing and privately rented accommodation, sharing a joint tenancy with the perpetrator represents a significant barrier to safety and housing security. For as long as a perpetrator remains named as a joint tenant, he will be able to give notice to end the tenancy without the survivor’s consent or knowledge even if he has physically left the property. A victim will not be able to change the locks or restrict his access to the property. As joint tenants they are classed as a single legal entity meaning the victim can be left with financial liability for any damage or rent arrears if the perpetrator refuses to pay. Access to legal and financial support for survivors, is therefore crucial.

What will we do?	When will we do it by?
<p>We will seek to remove the practical barriers to move-on by:</p> <p>Exploring the gap in accommodation to see how much of this would be addressed if people were able to move out of refuge and dispersed properties quicker, and potential commissioning of extra housing units if required.</p>	

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<p>Co-operating with any partnerships between domestic abuse services and the legal and financial sectors to ensure long term ongoing advice.</p> <p>Increase the numbers who can access accommodation by increasing the numbers who successfully move on to other accommodation.</p>	
<p>Support survivors with their emotional and wellbeing recovery by:</p> <p>Exploring the potential for commissioning of resettlement and longer-term support including peer support, for survivors.</p> <p>Exploring the potential for commissioning a safe accommodation support service includes resettlement workers to ensure longer term support.</p>	



