

Customer Access Review – Full Assessment

Assessment details	
Assessment area	Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy 2024-27
Date of assessment	October 2023
Directorate and Service	Housing and Public Protection, Housing Services
Manager	Housing Solutions & Private Sector Manager
Officer conducting assessment	Housing Policy & Performance Officer
Step 1: Scoping the assessment	
1. What are the aims and objectives of the activity or proposal?	<p>The Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy 2024-27 sets out a plan and policy statement for how the Council's Housing Service will assist and support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to ensure that victims and survivors of domestic abuse have access to a range of housing services that support clear and accessible pathways to housing, help and support where victims and survivors can live safely, securely and free of abuse.</p>
2. Who will be affected by the activity or proposal?	All residents including housing applicants, homeless applicants and Dartford Borough Council tenants.
3. How does the activity or proposal contribute to: a) any key performance indicators? b) policies, values or objectives of Dartford Borough Council?	<p>The Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy contributes towards the following Corporate Plan key performance indicators and strategic aims:</p> <p>a) Key performance indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EARPI-15 - Number of domestic abuse incidents • HPI-15 - Number of applicants on the Housing Register • HPI-16 - Number of homeless applicants placed in Temporary Accommodation • HPI-17 - Number of households where homelessness has been prevented <p>b) Strategic aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a safer Borough in which to live, work and socialise • To facilitate quality, choice and diversity in the housing market, assist in meeting housing need in Dartford and deliver high quality services to service users <p>The Strategy also contributes to the Corporate Plan strategic objective (HS3) – to improve the housing circumstances of those most in need.</p>
4. Which aspects of the activity or proposal are dictated by	There will be a requirement on the Council, as a social housing landlord, to comply with the Regulator of Social Housing's proposed new Neighbourhood and Community Standard, by ensuring that:

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<p>legislation/regulation and where do we have discretion in how they are delivered?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a Policy for how cases of domestic abuse are responded to; • There is co-operation with appropriate local authority departments (tier one) to support the local authority in meeting its duty to develop a strategy and commission services for victims of domestic abuse with their children within safe accommodation. <p>The new Neighbourhood and Community Standard is expected to come into force in April 2024.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy and its delivery is intended to be compatible with the following relevant legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse Act 2021 • Housing Act 1996 • Homelessness Act 2002 • Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 • Crime and Disorder Act 1998 • Children Act 1989 • Children Act 2004 • Adoption & Children Act 2002 • Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 • Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 • Care Act 2014 • Serious Crime Act 2015 • Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 • Equality Act 2010 • Data Protection Act 2018 <p>Other key statutory guidance for which the Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy will comply with includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse: Statutory Guidance Framework • The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme or ‘Clare’s Law’ • Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities • Improving Access to Social Housing for Victims of Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance • Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021

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<p>5. What do you know about the groups of people who will be affected? (i.e. demographic information in relation to the protected characteristic groups of age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership)</p>	<p><u>Dartford Population Profile</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender – There are slightly more female residents than male residents in Dartford where 51% are female and 49% are male, which is the same as the overall England ratio of females and males. • Age – The median age in Dartford is 37 years, which is slightly lower than the overall England mean age of 40 years. 21.1% of Dartford’s population is aged 14 years or under. This is followed by residents aged 35 to 44 years (15.7%), 25 to 34 years (15.2%), 45 to 54 years (13.3%), 55 to 64 years (10.8%), 15 to 24 years (10.2%), 65 to 74 years (7.4%), and aged 75 years and over (6.4%) • Ethnicity – The largest ethnic group that people in Dartford identify with is White at 74.5%. This is followed by Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African (10.50%), Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (9.90%), Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (3.10%), and Other ethnic groups (2.00%) • Disability – 15.9% of Dartford’s population are disabled. Of this, 6.6% of people’s activities are limited a lot and 9.3% of people’s activities are limited a little. • Religion – 48.1% of Dartford’s population connect or identify with the Christian religion, followed by 3.8% Hindu, 3.5% Muslim, 1.7% Hindu, 0.6% Buddhist, 0.1% Jewish, and 0.4% other religion. 36.5% of Dartford’s population did not connect or identify with any religion and 5.3% did not answer this question in the Census. • Sexual orientation – 91.2% of Dartford’s population aged 16 years and over identified as straight or heterosexual. 1.5% described themselves as gay or lesbian. 0.91% described themselves as bisexual. 0.14% described themselves as pansexual; 0.03% described themselves as asexual; 0.00% described themselves as queer. 0.01% described themselves as ‘other sexual orientation’. 6.54% did not answer this question in the Census. <p>(Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics)</p>

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Step 2: Information collection	
	<p data-bbox="656 225 1458 252"><u>Homeless Acceptances for Reason of Domestic Abuse</u></p> <p data-bbox="656 296 2119 392">Domestic abuse accounted for 6.76% of homeless applicants who accepted a prevention duty and 25.57% of applicants who accepted a relief duty in 2022-23. 4.46% of applicants owed a main duty were in priority need due to domestic abuse.</p> <p data-bbox="656 427 2119 491">(Source: Official homelessness statistics published, Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC))</p> <p data-bbox="656 531 1122 558"><u>Understanding Domestic Abuse</u></p> <p data-bbox="656 603 2119 810">Women are disproportionately the victims of domestic abuse. However, domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of gender, age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and marriage and civil partnership. Domestic abuse can also be present in specific ways within different communities, and individuals can be victims of multiple and different abusive behaviours because of the way the different characteristics intersect and overlap. The level of domestic abuse is difficult to quantify as it is often a hidden and under-reported crime.</p> <p data-bbox="656 842 1832 869">(Source: Domestic abuse, draft statutory guidance framework, Home Office, July 2021)</p> <p data-bbox="656 914 2119 978">The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 2.4 million adults aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="656 1018 763 1045">Gender</p> <p data-bbox="656 1054 1738 1082">In England and Wales, according to the CSEW for the year ending March 2022:</p> <ul data-bbox="707 1091 2119 1299" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="707 1091 2119 1187">• It is estimated that 1.7 million females and 699,000 males aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2022. This is a prevalence rate of approximately 7 in 100 women and 3 in 100 men.<li data-bbox="707 1197 1648 1224">• The victim was female in 74.1% of domestic-abuse related crimes.<li data-bbox="707 1233 2119 1299">• Between the year ending March 2019 and the year ending March 2021, 72.1% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 12.3% of victims of non-domestic homicide. <p data-bbox="656 1343 2119 1407">(Source: Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2022, ONS, November 2022)</p>

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Step 2: Information collection	
	<p>Age Domestic abuse can be experienced at any age. Children are now defined as victims under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 if they have seen, heard or experienced the effects of the abusive behaviour. The 2022 Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Update reported that in 2021, 40% of domestic abuse incidents reported to Kent Police had a child (or children) recorded as an involved party. This equates to approximately 1,500 incidents a month.</p> <p>The CSEW data for the year ending March 2022 showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significantly higher proportion of adults aged 20 to 24 years were victims of any domestic abuse (10.2%) compared with those in age categories of 55 years and over. • Over half of violence against the person offences were identified as domestic abuse related for women aged between 20 and 44 years. <p>Disability For the year ending March 2022, the CSEW found there were a significantly higher percentage of adults with a disability who experienced domestic abuse in the last year than those without.</p> <p>Statistics from a SafeLives report on disabled people and domestic abuse state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than non-disabled women; • Disabled clients typically experience domestic abuse for a longer period of time (average length 3.3 years when compared to 2.3 years); • Disabled clients who are experiencing domestic abuse are twice as likely to have previously planned or attempted suicide (22% compared to 11%); • Disabled clients are more likely to be experiencing abuse from an adult family member (14%) compared to non-disabled people (6%). <p>(Source: Disabled Survivors Too: Disabled people and domestic abuse, SafeLives, March 2017)</p> <p>Pregnancy and maternity Pregnancy is a specific risk factor that can make victims more vulnerable. Pregnancy can be a trigger for domestic abuse and existing abuse may get worse during pregnancy or after giving birth. Pregnancy does not cause abuse; however a perpetrator may escalate the abuse when a woman is pregnant.</p>

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Step 2: Information collection	
	<p>SafeLives research (A cry for help: Why we must invest in domestic abuse services in hospitals, 2016) suggests around 30% of domestic abuse begins during pregnancy, while 40–60% of women experiencing domestic abuse are abused during pregnancy.</p> <p>Race For the year ending March 2022, the CSEW showed that those in the Mixed ethnic group were more likely to experience domestic abuse than those in Black, White, and Asian ethnic groups.</p> <p>Specific data from the CSEW in 2019-2020 on 16-74 year olds states that 7.6% in the Mixed ethnic group reported being victims of domestic abuse. This was followed by the White (5.7%), Black (3.7%) and Asian (3.6%) ethnic groups. The Other ethnic group had 5.6% victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>(Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales: victims of domestic abuse, year ending March 2018 to year ending March 2020)</p> <p>Religion or belief Data released from the Home Office states that in the year ending March 2022, there were 2,887 ‘honour’ based offences recorded by the Police in England and Wales. Of these offences, 77 were female genital mutilation (FGM) and 141 were forced marriage offences.</p> <p>(Source: Statistics on so called ‘honour-based’ abuse offences, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022, Home Office, October 2022)</p> <p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) data for the years ending March 2015 to 2017 states that Christian women (5.7%) were more likely to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months than Muslim women (2.9%) and Hindu women (1.8%). Women with no religion were more likely to have experienced partner abuse the most in the last 12 months (7.4%).</p> <p>(Source: Women most at risk of experiencing partner abuse in England and Wales: years ending March 2015 to 2017, ONS, May 2018)</p>

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Step 2: Information collection	
	<p>Sexual orientation ONS data from the 2015/16 CSEW suggests that more than one in four gay men and lesbian women (29%) and more than one in three bisexual people (40%) report at least one form of domestic abuse since the age of 16. While lesbian women report slightly higher rates of domestic abuse to those of heterosexual women (11.4% compared with 7.5%), bisexual women are more than twice as likely to disclose domestic abuse compared to heterosexual women (17.3% compared with 7.5%).</p> <p>Gender identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the National LGBT Survey 2017, 48% of transgender respondents had experienced a negative incident involving someone that they lived with due to being LGBT, or being thought to be LGBT, in the 12 months leading up to the survey. • A report by SafeLives (Transgender Victims’ and Survivors’ Experiences of Domestic Abuse) found that transgender victims/survivors experience specific types of abuse that can be linked to their trans identities. • Stonewall charity (LGBT in Britain: Trans Report) carried out a survey of 871 transgender and non-binary people across Britain and found that over a quarter (28%) of those in a relationship had experienced domestic abuse in the last year. <p>Marriage and civil partnership Domestic abuse can happen within marriage and civil partnership but also applies to partners, ex-partners, or family members regardless of whether the victim and perpetrator live together. According to the CSEW for the end of March 2022, a significantly larger proportion of adults who were separated (15.8%) experienced domestic abuse in the last year than those who were married or civil partnered (2.2%), cohabiting (6.7%), or widowed (4.1%).</p> <p>(Source: Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2022, ONS, November 2022)</p>
<p>6. What consultation has taken place with affected groups? Please describe who was consulted and the key findings</p>	<p>Internal consultation on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy 2024-27 has been carried out with Council officers.</p>

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Step 2: Information collection	
<p>7. Are there any gaps in information? If so, what additional research and/or consultation is needed to ensure that affected groups needs and views are taken into account?</p>	<p>The Council is committed to ensuring the voice of its tenants is heard on matters that affect them. The Regulator of Social Housing places a requirement on social housing landlords to comply with the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard 2017, by ensuring that tenants are given a wide range of opportunities to influence and be involved in the formulation of their landlord’s housing-related policies and strategies. Consultation with Council tenants will be undertaken, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Council tenants will be invited to comment on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy. 2. The Dartford Tenants’ and Leaseholders’ Forum (DTLF) will be invited to comment on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy. The DTLF aims to ensure that the services delivered by the Council are accessible to all. The Forum works as a group to ensure that the views and housing needs of residents are recognised and addressed by the Council, and that those needs and views are placed at the centre of housing services delivery. 3. The Housing Advisory Board (HAB) will be invited to comment on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy. The HAB considers reports on proposed policy, strategy and performance in relation to housing issues and makes recommendations to Cabinet as appropriate. The HAB includes representation from Council officers, elected Members and DTLF members. <p>The Council will also consult with a number of partner agencies to invite their feedback on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy. This will include the North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum, the Kent Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, other local Councils via the Kent Housing Group, and the Police.</p>

Step 3: Assessing the equality impact	
<p>8. Consider whether the activity or proposal has or will have any positive or negative equality impacts on the protected characteristic groups in relation to the following aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) tackling unlawful discrimination b) promoting equality of opportunity c) promoting good relations <p><u>NOTES:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Initial Screening will have identified which aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty are relevant to the activity or proposal for consideration • For existing activities, consider how they are working in practice for each relevant protected group • For new proposals, consider whether there is anything that could give rise to positive and negative equality impacts for each relevant protected group • If there is no identified equality impact, please tick the ‘No Impact’ box and explain why in question 9 • If the equality impact is unclear, please tick the ‘Unknown’ box and explain why in question 9 	

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Step 3: Assessing the equality impact				
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC	POSITIVE IMPACTS	NEGATIVE IMPACTS	NO IMPACT	UNKNOWN
Age	<p>Safeguarding children as victims of domestic abuse Domestic abuse has a detrimental impact on children if they see, hear, or otherwise experience the effects of abuse. Safeguarding referrals for Child Protection/Child in Need, will be made to Children’s Social Services to protect children from harm in accordance with obligations under the Children Act 2004, the Council’s Safeguarding Policy and in tandem with other appropriate actions to address housing need and safety.</p> <p>Safeguarding adults with care and support needs Where adults with care and support needs (i.e. physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance misuse or brain injury) are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, a safeguarding referral will be made to Adult Social Services to protect the adult from harm. Adult safeguarding referrals will be made in accordance with the Council’s Safeguarding Policy and the Care Act 2014. The Council will also assess the need for other means of support to address safety, for example, providing safe accommodation including refuge in the area for all victims, survivors and their children.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Step 3: Assessing the equality impact				
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC	POSITIVE IMPACTS	NEGATIVE IMPACTS	NO IMPACT	UNKNOWN
Disability	<p>Mental health and wellbeing Domestic abuse can have an immediate and/or long lasting effect on the lives of victims including an impact on mental health and wellbeing. Abuse can result in low motivation, low confidence, low self-esteem, confusion, disturbed eating and sleeping, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, self-harm, suicide ideations, and can lead to the misuse of drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism. Victims with complex needs regarding mental health and substance misuse will be signposted to specialist services to help address their mental health and wellbeing needs in tandem with other appropriate actions to address housing need and safety.</p> <p>Safeguarding adults with care and support needs – As under ‘Age’. Where adults with care and support needs (i.e. physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance misuse or brain injury) are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, a safeguarding referral will be made to Adult Social Services to protect the adult from harm. Adult safeguarding referrals will be made in accordance with the Council’s Safeguarding Policy and the Care Act 2014.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Step 3: Assessing the equality impact				
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC	POSITIVE IMPACTS	NEGATIVE IMPACTS	NO IMPACT	UNKNOWN
	<p>The Council will also assess the need for other means of support to address safety, for example, providing safe accommodation including refuge in the area for all victims, survivors and their children.</p> <p>Communication needs In accordance with the Council’s Equality & Diversity Document Framework, the Strategy and information about domestic abuse, and the assistance the Council can provide to address any issues, can be provided in alternative formats, including: Braille, audio tape and large print versions of documents. British Sign Language interpreting services can also be provided upon request. Calls can also be received via Relay UK.</p>			
Sex	<p>Male victims and survivors of domestic abuse While domestic abuse can affect anyone, statistically it affects more women than men. The Council aims to be sensitive to the diverse needs of victims and offers the opportunity for victims and survivors to speak to a member of staff who is of the same sex if this is preferred.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<p>The strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have a differential impact based on gender reassignment. The Council aims to be sensitive to the diverse needs of all victims of domestic abuse.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Step 3: Assessing the equality impact				
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC	POSITIVE IMPACTS	NEGATIVE IMPACTS	NO IMPACT	UNKNOWN
Race	Alternative format and interpreting services In accordance with the Council's Equality & Diversity Document Framework, the Strategy and information about domestic abuse, and the assistance the Council can provide to address any issues, can be provided in alternative formats including documents translated into other languages. Telephone and face-to-face language interpreting services can also be provided upon request.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion/Belief	The strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have a differential impact based on religious belief. Domestic abuse can and does happen to anyone, it is not confined to any one religious belief.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	The strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have any differential impact based on sexual orientation. However, there is limited data available on domestic abuse and sexual orientation. The Council aims to be sensitive to the diverse needs of all victims of domestic abuse.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/Maternity	The strategy is likely to have an overall positive impact and is not expected to have any differential impact based on pregnancy/maternity.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and Civil Partnership*	Not applicable as the Strategy does not apply in the context of employment.	Not applicable as the Strategy does not apply in the context of employment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Regarding the protected characteristic of Marriage and Civil Partnership – public bodies need to comply with the first aim of the Public Sector Equality Duty and only in the context of employment.

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Step 3: Assessing the equality impact	
<p>9. If 'no impact' or 'unknown' was selected, please explain</p>	<p>Not applicable – domestic abuse can affect anyone regardless of protected characteristics.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to advance equality of opportunity between different groups by being sensitive to the diverse needs of victims, considering their protected characteristics. The Strategy recognises how domestic abuse can affect different groups in different ways and how domestic abuse may affect some protected groups disproportionately.</p>
<p>10. If Dartford Borough Council works with partners to deliver the activity or proposal, please describe any circumstances that could give rise to positive or negative equality impacts between different groups</p>	<p>The Council engages with a range of agencies under the following operational and strategic partnership working arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Police • Dartford Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop • North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum • Dartford Homelessness Forum • Dartford Community Safety Partnership • Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference • Kent Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board • Domestic Homicide Reviews • District Child Protection Panels • Adult Safeguarding Case Conferences • Adult Safeguarding Reviews • Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements • Other local housing authorities under reciprocal out of area placement arrangements • Specialist support agencies <p>There are no known circumstances where these partnership working arrangements will have a disproportionate impact on the protected characteristic groups other than to positively improve a victims housing circumstances and safety. Effective communication with partnerships will ensure the correct support is provided through information sharing.</p>

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<p>11. Any other comments</p>	<p>Awareness of the Strategy and the services available from the Council The Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy should have a positive impact on victims of domestic abuse by raising awareness and understanding of how to access the Housing Service and the type of support provided so that the housing needs and safety of all residents experiencing domestic abuse are met and that the diverse needs of victims is taken into account when accessing services.</p> <p>In order to help protect and support victims, it is important to promote this awareness as widely as possible. Information about domestic abuse support services and the Dartford One Stop Shop is currently accessible on the Council's website and promoted on social media and posters. The Strategy will be accessible on the website and in alternative formats on request.</p> <p>Accessing the Housing Service and other specialist services The Strategy contains information on how victims of domestic abuse can approach the Council for assistance. The reporting of domestic abuse to the Council's Housing Service can be made in different ways, including in person, in writing, by telephone, online, via a third party such as the Police, and through the Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop.</p> <p>The Strategy acknowledges that domestic abuse is a multifaceted and unique set of circumstances for each victim and there is no 'one size fits all' approach for providing a response. Where cases involving Council tenants meet a 'complex' threshold, the Strategy explains they will be referred into the Housing Service Complex Case Panel. This joint panel between the Housing Solutions & Private Sector and Tenancy Services Teams work together to put in place plans for Council tenants with complex needs and who may be at risk of homelessness. This includes more than one complex issue which is putting continuation of the tenancy at risk and may include for example, issues of domestic abuse, mental health problems, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, high level rent arrears.</p> <p>In addition to accessing the Housing Service, victims will be referred or signposted to other organisations who can provide additional specialist support to help meet their needs. Section 8 of the Strategy contains a list of specialist organisations providing support and assistance.</p>

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Step 4: Action plan					
12. Based on the information in Steps 1 to 3, please list the actions that will be taken to address: a) any gaps in information and consultation b) how any negative impacts on equality will be mitigated or eradicated					
a) If additional information and/or consultation is required or the impact is still unclear, what actions will you put in place to gather the information you need?					
Information needs	Action	Intended outcome	Date for completion	How this will be monitored	Responsible officer
Views from all Council tenants and leaseholders	Invite comment and input on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy from all Council tenants and leaseholders	Feedback will, at a formative stage, inform any further changes that may be required to the draft Strategy in advance of seeking approval for the Strategy	October/November 2023	Details of the consultation and amendments made to the draft Strategy as a result of the consultation will be included in the Cabinet report	Housing Policy & Performance Officer
Views from the Dartford Tenants' and Leaseholders' Forum	Invite comment and input on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy from the Dartford Tenants' and Leaseholder's Forum	Feedback will, at a formative stage, inform any further changes that may be required to the draft Strategy in advance of seeking approval for the Strategy	October/November 2023	Details of the consultation and amendments made to the draft Strategy as a result of the consultation will be included in the Cabinet report	Housing Policy & Performance Officer
Views from partner agencies	Invite comment and input on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy from partner agencies across Kent	Feedback will, at a formative stage, inform any further changes that may be required to the draft Strategy in advance of seeking approval for the Strategy	October/November 2023	Details of the consultation and any amendments made to the draft Strategy as a result of the consultation will be included in the Cabinet report	Housing Policy & Performance Officer

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Information needs	Action	Intended outcome	Date for completion	How this will be monitored	Responsible officer
Views from the Housing Advisory Board	Invite comment and input on the draft Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy from the Housing Advisory Board	Feedback will, at a formative stage, inform any further changes that may be required to the draft Strategy in advance of seeking approval for the Strategy	January 2024	Details of the consultation and amendments made to the draft Strategy as a result of the consultation will be included in the Cabinet report	Housing Policy & Performance Officer

b) If any negative impacts on equality were found, what actions will you put in place to mitigate or eradicate these impacts?

Identified impacts (and who is affected)	Action	Intended outcome	Date for completion	How this will be monitored	Responsible officer

Step 5: Decision making and future monitoring

13. Which decision making process does this Customer Access Review need to go through? i.e. who does this need to be approved by?	Head of Legal Services & Director of Housing and Public Protection
14. Is the subject of the Customer Access Review going to committee? If yes, include your findings in the committee report and attach this assessment to the report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
15. How will you continue to monitor the activity or proposal on protected characteristic groups?	The Domestic Abuse Housing Strategy will be implemented over a period of three years with regular checks to track progress on the action plan. Changes may be made to the Strategy during the three year period to address legislative, regulatory, best practice or operational issues.
16. When will you review this Customer Access Review?	The Strategy will be reviewed at the end of the three year period, where a new Customer Access Review assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with the review.

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Step 6: Final steps

17. Once this Customer Access Review has been approved, send this assessment to the Policy & Projects Officer.
18. Implement the actions identified from this Customer Access Review and ensure progress is monitored and recorded.

Reviewed by Legal Services:



13 October 2023

Reviewed by Director of Housing & Public Protection:



13 October 2023