

## Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **public sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of the budget proposals and consider mitigating action.

<p><b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b></p>	<p>To commission services to provide Prevention, Early Intervention, refuge and perpetrator services as part of a wider Domestic Violence integrated service model. This will use existing revenue from all current contracts and grant funding and will involve a redeployment of funds from refuge provision to support the development of community based services to reflect the need to support more victims to remain in their homes and local community networks.</p>
<p><b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b></p>	<p>The new service will provide a firm foundation, through a single procurement process, to establish the foundation for prevention, early intervention, refuge and perpetrator work to be undertaken in the community setting. The services are designed to respond to a range of challenges and gaps identified in the delivery of domestic violence services in Southampton. In particular the need for local services to prevent or reduce the impact of domestic violence by intervening earlier and reducing the number of cases escalating to high-risk situations. In addition, the service will increase attention on removing the perpetrator from the situation rather than forcing the victim and their children to flee to temporary accommodation and education.</p> <p>Early intervention will also seek to break the cycle of intergenerational abuse. The services will provide a continuum of support to victims, especially at medium-risk level to either prevent escalation to high risk, or where support has been provided in high risks situations, offering a continuum of support (step down), thereby preventing them from escalating back to high risk.</p> <p>The commissioned services will expand on current provision to provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A co-ordinated Community and voluntary sector response that focuses on prevention &amp; early intervention and involve             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education and awareness</li> <li>○ Identification and access to advice and support</li> <li>○ Community development: volunteering and support</li> <li>○ Recovery: group and therapeutic support and counselling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• refuge spaces within Southampton and</li> <li>• Perpetrator service, in liaison with Hampshire wide perpetrator services.</li> </ul>

	<p>There is a strong case for change. Southampton needs to make changes to address the volume of DASV, which is substantially above national average; Southampton has more than twice the national average high-risk cases (going to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee, MARAC); above national average reporting rates - locally 5.2% of the female population report Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) to the police compared to 3.6% nationally. There were 4,702 DVA calls to police last year. In Southampton there are twice as many children of high-risk victims than national average; 606 in 2012/13, 878 in 2013/14 (ONS National violence Against Women and Girls Strategy) – compared to national average of 289 for the same period. There were 217 victims reporting sexual violence to the police in 2012/13 and 236 in 2013/14. There were 1,605 calls to Rape Crisis Helpline in 2012/13 and 2,611 in 2013/14.</p> <p>The impact of violence and abuse on public services is very high. In Southampton (Children and Families Services in 2012/13) 28% of safeguarding referrals had DVA as a factor; Child Protection Conferences include DVA in 80% of cases – this is around 10% higher than similar national case profiles. DVA accounts for around 20% of violent crime in Southampton (Strategic Assessment 2012), which is higher than national average and this is reflected in Southampton’s poor comparative position for violent crime against other most similar cities.</p>
<b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b>	There will be an increase level of support and services to individuals and families at low to medium levels of domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV). There will be increased focus and services to work with perpetrators, enabling more families and individuals to remain in their own home safely and correspondingly fewer refuge spaces available for people, including families, from other areas.
<b>Potential Positive Impacts</b>	<p>Significant increase in raising awareness and education to prevent DASV, resulting in fewer people remaining in, or accepting unhealthy relationships.</p> <p>Individuals, children and families will be able to remain in their own homes as a result of increased support to them, and improved approaches to removing and supporting perpetrators.</p> <p>Services will be prioritised for local residents, enabling individuals from different backgrounds (gender, transgender and ethnicity) to access appropriate levels of support.</p> <p>Reduction in harm to individuals and families resulting from earlier intervention and support, contributing to an individual’s wellbeing as well as overall improvements for Southampton residents.</p>
<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Sandra Jerrim, Senior Commissioner, Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU)
<b>Date</b>	30.01.2015

<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	
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<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

### Potential Impact

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Age</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will benefit all ages, including children and older victims.	
<b>Disability</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals, including those with disabilities.	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals and help address any local stigma and barriers.	
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals and help address any local stigma and barriers.	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals and help ensure continuity of care during pregnancy.	
<b>Race</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals, located within suitable community networks and culturally relevant settings.	
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals, located within suitable community networks and culturally relevant settings.	
<b>Sex</b>	No negative impact, increased community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals, including men.	
<b>Sexual</b>	No negative impact, increased	

<b>Orientation</b>	community services will be able to offer increased personalised support to individuals and help address any local stigma and barriers.	
<b>Community Safety</b>	No negative impact. Increased support and focus on perpetrators can only improve local community safety. This may involve behaviour change or prosecution as appropriate.	
<b>Poverty</b>	No negative impact as increased community based services will be available for all socio-economic groups, including those disproportionately impacted by DASV and from lower socio-economic areas in Southampton.	
<b>Other Significant Impacts</b>	<p>Reduction in refuge spaces could result in reduced access to safe accommodation being experienced by local residents</p> <p>Reduction in refuge spaces could result in reduced access to safe accommodation being experienced by individuals or families from other areas.</p>	<p>Setting priority criteria will ensure access to local families is retained.</p> <p>This will be supported by greater use of target hardening approaches, working with housing to secure permanent accommodation quicker and increased focus on perpetrators.</p> <p>Southampton will continue to contribute a reasonable level of refuge spaces to the national resource of refuge spaces.</p>