

The background of the slide is a photograph of a fountain at night. The fountain is illuminated with warm, golden light, creating a dramatic contrast against the dark, textured stone wall behind it. The water jets are captured in motion, creating a misty, ethereal atmosphere. The fountain has multiple tiers and jets, with the central one being the tallest and most prominent.

Consultation on a Draft Strategy for the Provision of Support within Safe Accommodation

Full results summary

Data, Intelligence & Insight Team – November 2021

❖ Introduction and Methodology

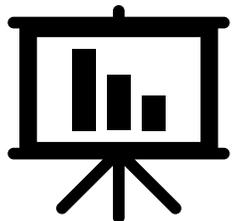
- Introduction
- Consultation principles
- Methodology and promotion
- Interpreting this report
- Who are the respondents

❖ Priorities outlines as part of the provision of support within Safe Accommodation

❖ Impact of the priorities

❖ Priorities and Actions – free text responses

❖ Priorities and Action – unique points and suggestions





Introduction and Methodology



Southampton City Council undertook public consultation on a Draft Strategy for the Provision of Support within Safe Accommodation.

- The consultation took place between **23/09/2021 – 03/11/2021**.
- The aim of this consultation was to:
 - Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposed Strategy for the Provision of Support within Safe Accommodation.
 - Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have.
 - Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objective in a different way.
- This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.
- It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.



Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard, which are meaningful and comply with *The Gunning Principles (considered to be the legal standard for consultations)*:

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made)
2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration'
3. There is adequate time for consideration and response
4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made



New Conversations 2.0
LGA guide to engagement



Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- 1. proposals are still at a formative stage**
A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- 2. there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**
The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response**
There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,¹ despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 4. 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**
Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²)', which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

² BAILII, [England and Wales Court of Appeal \(Civil Decision\) Decisions](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016.

³ BAILII, [United Kingdom Supreme Court](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016

⁴ The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute



- The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback. Questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.
- Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals. Emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.
- The consultation was promoted in the following ways by sending emails or letters to:
 - Stakeholder networks
 - Raised at strategic, regional and local update meetings
 - Shared across commissioning leads
 - Southampton People's Panel (a panel of over 3700 residents)
 - Published on our website
 - Available at local libraries
- All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. In addition anyone could provide feedback in letters and emails. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon similar sentiment or theme. We have also endeavoured to outline all the unique points and suggestions gathered as a part of the consultation and so there are tables of quotes or summaries of these for each theme of comment.



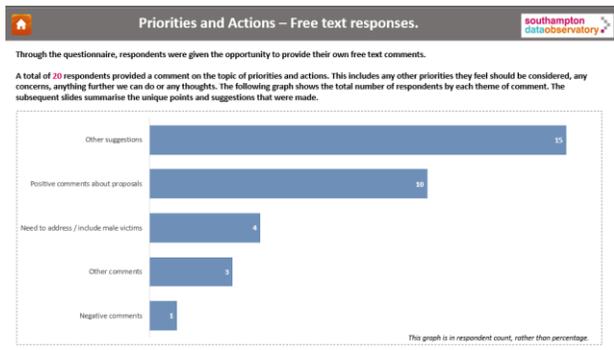
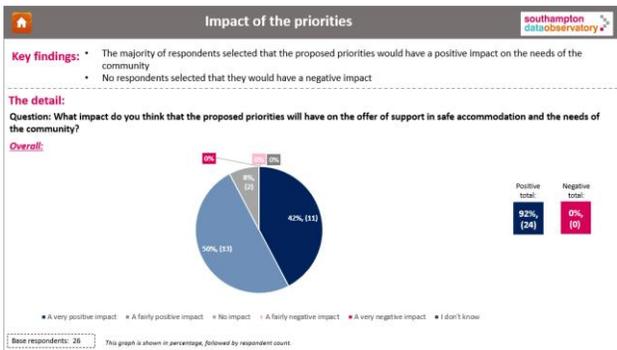
Interpreting this report

- It is not the purpose of this report to make recommendations. It is intended to provide an accurate and objective reflection of the feedback received as part of the consultation, which can be used by decision makers as part of the decision making process.
- For each section and proposal, the following are provided:
 - A summary of the **quantitative results** presented in chart form. This is supplied at both city level (all responses received) and by key demographic group (gender and age) to better understand any variation in opinion / sentiment. The quantitative data is useful for understanding whether there is general agreement or disagreement with a proposal / priority.
 - Qualitative analysis of free text comments.** Free text comments provided by respondents have been **thematically** analysed throughout the questionnaire and grouped by similar sentiment or theme. These **themes** are presented in chart form with an indication of how frequently it was mentioned by unique individuals. Individuals may have commented on more than one theme, so could be represented more than once in a chart. This qualitative information provides a richer picture of respondent views and may identify specific issues that need to be considered or addressed.
 - A list of **unique points or quotes** within each theme. This provides an added level of granularity and allows more in depth exploration of important themes. Again, this may identify specific issues that need to be considered or addressed.

Quantitative analysis

Thematic analysis

Unique points / quotes



Priorities and Actions – Free text responses.

The detail:

A total of 20 respondents provided a comment on the topic of priorities and actions. This includes any other priorities they feel should be considered, any concerns, anything further we can do or any thoughts.

Other comments (11)	Respect comments (10)	Respect comments (1)
Refugees and other places of safety outside their usual home often have other concerns for DA survivors – e.g. single/leaver users sharing their accommodation - this is a potentially problematic issue for DA survivors and their children. Also, the issue of housing for their children. DA survivors very often just everyone else's needs ahead of their own, so if the refuge is not far away from schools etc. they are unlikely to accept it.	as a survivor myself I can tell you all these things are a must you cant escape it alone They are all vitally needed	Respect comments (1) Council staff are supposedly trained to DV are absolutely culture towards female victims of male violence for the most part with victim blaming going. You don't even deal properly with anti social behaviour or what an event makes you think you've achieved any of this in relation to DV? Lots of nice words but your record in dealing with violence against women so even confidence you will achieve any of this.
There is still a focus by professionals on victims and children moving out of the family home rather than enabling the perpetrator. There is an increase both adult and children are often impacted by such an action rather than decreasing the risk. Lack of refuge spaces and lack of specific emergency accommodation for DA survivors are also factors in this situation. Victims who are just covered of a home with a perpetrator and victims who have a job are particularly impacted in their options for safe accommodation for themselves and their children. The impact of residential exchange agreements with other LAs is extremely important in helping victims move to safety when MFL within Southampton have not been sufficient to ensure safety for victims.	I do find the actions you are proposing are very good. The victims need to know where to turn, instead of not knowing where would a safe place for them to go. There are victims who cannot act on because they can't cope with it any longer. I personally know of a friend who's daughter is the victim one to her Dad, screaming & shouting & punching him. It's the best words, I've ever heard. I've heard that it's not just as a safe haven, as he can't take any more from his daughter. He was going to take his (6, but I said to him to come round to me, which he did. He has since let me know that it still goes on. It tells me that he can deal with it & cope, but why should a victim have to try & cope & deal with the awful atmosphere & mental cruelty.	There is a focus on perpetrator management in the city. We welcome this much needed focus on safe accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. We greatly welcome those actions that seek to improve access to safe accommodation where there is domestic abuse. We particularly welcome the actions that look to work across local borders in Hampshire. We would be particularly interested in the extent of a possible MFL strategy for the city, underpinned by engagement with those impacted by DA and MFL issues including survivors, their children, perpetrators and specialist local service providers such as refuge, DV and refuge providers.
	These strategies are long overdue!	I am surprised there is nothing in there about male victims.
	Use the recognition that refuge (st) going to be the only option for victims	also please make services and support open to include male victims.
	A survivor-led approach which also manages perpetrators better has to be the greatest priority.	Nowhere in your plan do you have any action where a male is the victim of domestic abuse, coercive control, or punching. This also needs to be addressed.

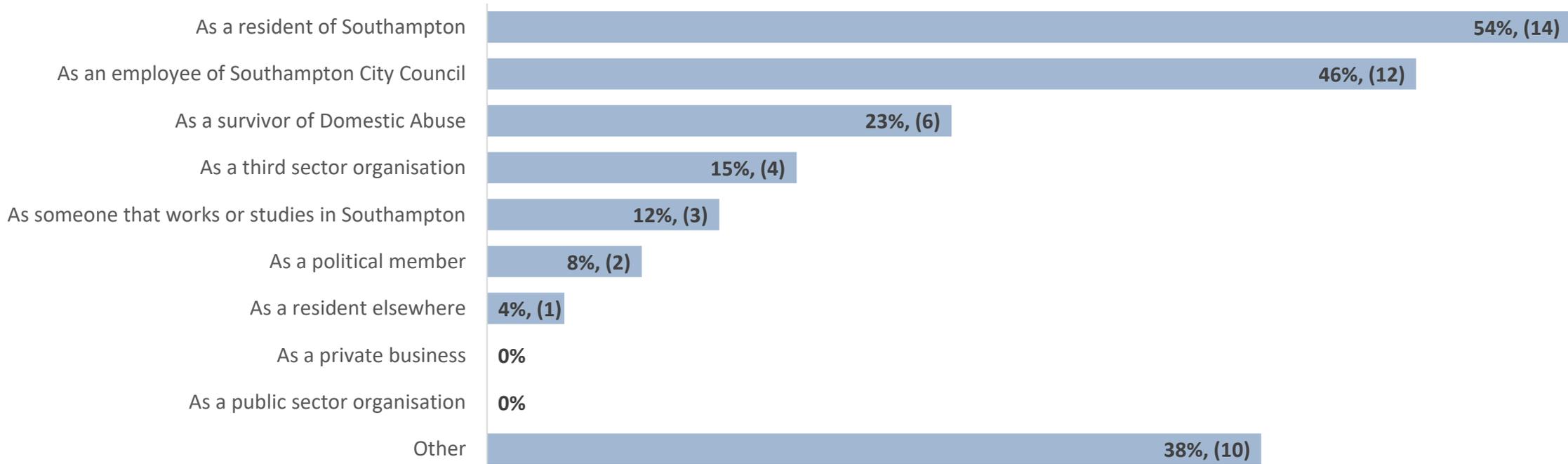


Who are the respondents?

Overall, there were **26** separate responses to the consultation. Responses came through the following routes:

	Total number of responses
Questionnaire	26
Emails / letters	0
Total	26

Respondents from the questionnaire were asked which of the following best described their interest in the consultation:





The topic covered within the questionnaire was the priorities outlined as part of the provision of support within Safe Accommodation . As part of this, respondents were asked to provide feedback on the points of focus below. The following slides in this section detail the feedback provided.

- 1. Early identification, intervention and prevention (Taking a prevention and early intervention approach reduces risk and harm, preventing homicide in the most serious of cases. Survivors often struggle to access the services and support they need.)***
- 2. 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 or move home to achieve safety. Many survivors experience secondary victimisation due to having to move or sell their property and / or through losing security of tenure.)***
- 3. The needs of children and young people (CYP) are understood and supported (Southampton has a large population of CYP. Young people aged 16-24 are most likely to experience DA. Referrals to the local specialist DA CYP service are high, showing that CYP require community support in the City.)***
- 4. Domestic Abuse responses are survivor-led (This strategy recognises the importance of including the voice of survivors throughout the local response to DA so their lived experience can become a catalyst for change and the voice of the specialist sector.)***
- 5. Effective perpetrator management (Effective perpetrator management increases safety for survivors and children. It has the potential to shift the burden from survivors for achieving safety, such as leaving their accommodation, to holding perpetrators accountable.)***
- 6. Improve data and intelligence (Data and intelligence are vital to the commissioning cycle, understanding need and developing strategic and operational responses.)***
- 7. Develop and embed Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse (Agencies are often responding to one aspect of the issue and / or the same problem from different angles. The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) 9 brings statutory and voluntary agencies, including housing and homeless services providers, together to work in partnership in an integrated and coordinated manner to address DA, increase survivor safety and hold perpetrators to account.)***

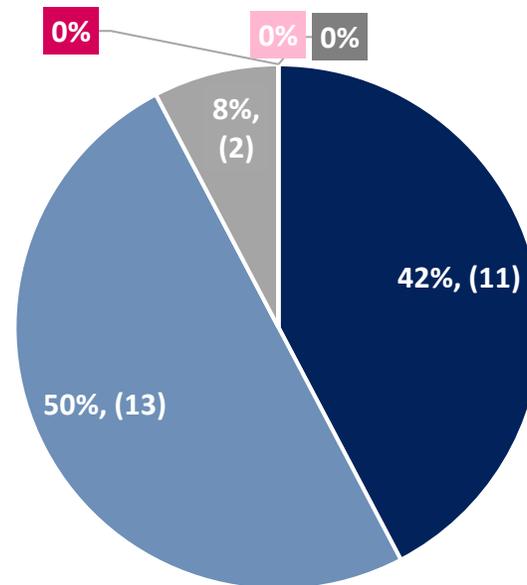


- Key findings:**
- The majority of respondents selected that the proposed priorities would have a positive impact on the needs of the community
 - No respondents selected that they would have a negative impact

The detail:

Question: What impact do you think that the proposed priorities will have on the offer of support in safe accommodation and the needs of the community?

Overall:



Positive total:

**92%,
(24)**

Negative total:

**0%,
(0)**

■ A very positive impact ■ A fairly positive impact ■ No impact ■ A fairly negative impact ■ A very negative impact ■ I don't know

Base respondents: 26

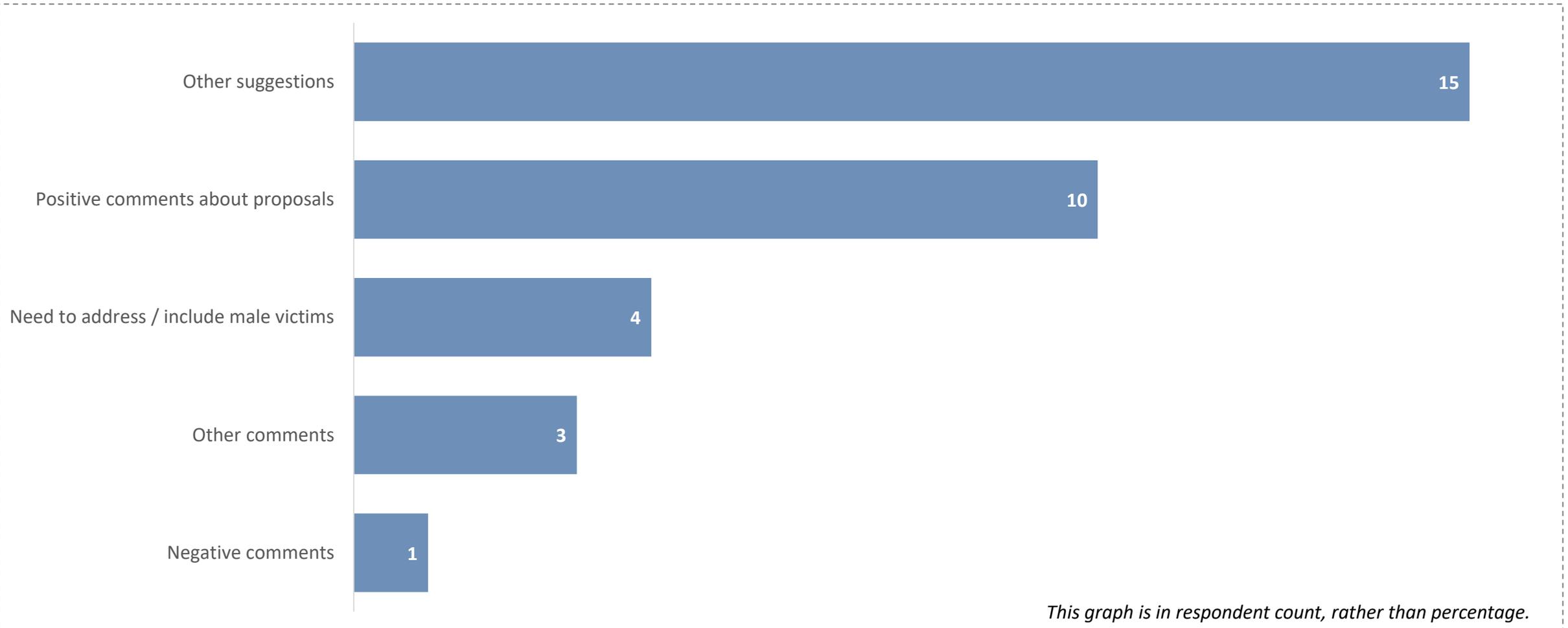
This graph is shown in percentage, followed by respondent count.



Priorities and Actions – Free text responses.

Through the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments.

A total of **20** respondents provided a comment on the topic of priorities and actions. This includes any other priorities they feel should be considered, any concerns, anything further we can do or any thoughts. The following graph shows the total number of respondents by each theme of comment. The subsequent slides summarise the unique points and suggestions that were made.





Priorities and Actions – unique points and suggestions.

The detail:

A total of **20** respondents provided a comment on the topic of priorities and actions. This includes any other priorities they feel should be considered, any concerns, anything further we can do or any thoughts.

Other comments (3)

Refuges and other places of safety outside their usual home often have other concerns for DA survivors - e.g. drug/alcohol users sharing their accommodation - this is particularly problematic when the DA survivors have children. Also, the issue of schooling for their children. DA survivors very often put everyone else's needs ahead of their own, so if the refuge is too far away from schools etc. they are unlikely to accept/stay.

There is still a focus by professionals on victims and children moving out of the family home rather than removing the perpetrator. Risks to all victims both adult and children are often increased by such an action rather than decreasing the risk. Lack of refuge spaces and lack of specific emergency accomodation for DA survivors are also factors in this situation. Victims who are joint owners of a home with a perpetrator and victims who have a job are particularly limited in their options for safe accomodation for themselves and their children if the perpetrator is not removed from the home. The issues of reciprocal exchange agreements with other LAs is extremely important in helping victims move to safety when MM within Southampton have not been sufficient to ensure safety for victims.

I would have answered "very positive" but I know that agencies concerned with supporting victims of DVA are already doing as much as they can with the budgets and staffing levels that are in place currently.

Negative comments (1)

Council staff are supposedly trained in DV yet are absolutely callous towards female victims of male violence for the most part with victim blaming galore. You don't even deal properly with anti social behaviour so what on earth makes you think you'll achieve any of this in relation to DV? Lots of nice words but your record to date as a council is abysmal in dealing with violence against women so zero confidence you will achieve any of this.

Need to address / include male victims (4)

I am surprised there is nothing in there about male victims.

also please make services and support open to include male victims.

Nowhere in your plan do you have any section where a male is the victim of domestic abuse, coercive control, or punching. This also needs to be addressed.



Priorities and Actions – unique points and suggestions.

The detail:

A total of **20** respondents provided a comment on the topic of priorities and actions. This includes any other priorities they feel should be considered, any concerns, anything further we can do or any thoughts.

Positive comments (10)
<i>as a survivor myself i can tell you all these thing are a must.we cant escape it alone.</i>
<i>They are all vitally needed</i>
<i>I do feel the actions you are proposing are very good. The victims need to know where to turn, instead of not knowing where would a safe place for them to go. There are victims who commit suicide because they can't cope with it any longer. I personally know of a friend who's daughter is the violent one to her Dad, screaming & shouting, & punching him, till he feels weak, & vulnerable. I provided a listening ear & told him to come round my flat as a safe haven, as he couldn't take any more from his daughter. He was going to take his life, but i said to him to come round to me, which he did. He has since let me know that it still goes on, & tells me that he can deal with it & cope, but why should a victim have to try & cope & deal with the awful atmosphere & mental cruelty.</i>
<i>They look very comprehensive</i>
<i>The priorities sound good.</i>
<i>We welcome this much needed focus on safe accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. We greatly welcome those actions that seek to improve access to safe accommodation where there is domestic abuse. We particularly welcome the actions that look to work across local borders in Hampshire. We would support all of these strategic priorities being delivered in the context of a broader VAWG strategy for the city, underpinned by engagement with those impacted by DA and VAWG issues including survivors, their children, perpetrators and specialist local service providers such as Yellow Door and refuge providers.</i>
<i>These strategies are long overdue!</i>
<i>like the recognition that refuge isnt going to be the only option for victims</i>
<i>A survivor led approach which also manages perpetrators better has to be the greatest priorities.</i>
<i>The emphasis on perpetrator management is helpful, as simply moving the victim is not always sustainable. Repeat victims often have nowhere safe to move to in the city and with school age children it can be too much to ask victims to disrupt their education.</i>



Priorities and Actions – unique points and suggestions.

The detail:

A total of **20** respondents provided a comment on the topic of priorities and actions. This includes any other priorities they feel should be considered, any concerns, anything further we can do or any thoughts.

Suggestions (15)
<i>YOUR ACTION - Work with Portsmouth City Council and other partners within the region to appraise potential for a Managed Reciprocal arrangement with neighbouring local authorities and Registered Providers MY QUESTION - why only work with neighbouring authorities. This may not be far enough for some people.</i>
<i>educating survivors AND perpetrators is a key to ending cycles. this needs to be covered somehow.</i>
<i>People are trying to phone the national Domestic Abuse line and getting no answer, could the PIPPA line have extended hours for people to make the initial contact? space is needed for people to bring their pets.</i>
<i>Priority for mental health and revives and therapy should be considered. Dispersed independent accommodation with support would be very useful</i>
<i>The council in isolation can't achieve these goals. You also need funding which you don't have. You should also be including stalking victims as there is a lot of crossover in male behaviour between perpetrators of stalking and DV and 1 in 10 adults will be stalked at some point in their lives so it's just as insidious a crime as DV and stalkers often kill their victims too (see stats). You also need to deal with council employees shit attitudes as a matter of urgency.</i>
<i>There needs to be more about education - and from an early age. So developing self-confidence, understanding what is acceptable behaviour. Trying to break the cycle. Lobbying for improvements/ increase in funding to police and legal systems to ensure a faster response and a higher conviction rate (why report it when nothing seems to happen?)</i>
<i>Survivors need ongoing contact and support to make sure they do not go back into the relationship. Can you be more specific about your policies and give examples. The policies seem rather generalised and unclear.</i>
<i>please consider the access to education from the CYP aged 2-18 alongside therapeutic interventions, also please consider how to keep them safe from further harm (e.g. seeing yet more age-inappropriate behaviours from the other adults in their new living arrangements, such as drug use, alcohol, anti-social behaviour etc.)</i>
<i>Funding is key: with the continued reductions imposed by the current government and their clear failure to understand or take responsibility for the deleterious effect of each decision made, a vital component of any strategy must be to ensure the continuing awareness raising and the publicising of statistics to aid this and maintain pressure to maintain funding beyond headline 'handouts',</i>
<i>We feel that this strategy would be richer and further informed if it were co produced with survivors and service users that have experience of DA and have as a result had housing needs. We recognise that this is the intention of future work as stated in Priority 4 however feel this should be an essential and underpinning element of this strategy's development rather than waiting for the future strategy. The majority of the priorities stated within this document are relevant to wider VAWG strategic work rather than solely safe accommodation and DA. This is with the exception of 2, which we suggest is the main focus of this strategy. Beneath this wider strategy we suggest that a number of specific topic strands develop such as Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence / Abuse, Harmful Cultural Practice etc...</i>



Priorities and Actions – unique points and suggestions.

The detail:

A total of **20** respondents provided a comment on the topic of priorities and actions. This includes any other priorities they feel should be considered, any concerns, anything further we can do or any thoughts.

Suggestions (15)

We feel there is a need for a greater focus on actions that ensure people with protected characteristics are enabled to access local specialist services, rather than solely focussing on awareness campaign, for example increased resources in this area. This area could be developed further by engaging with specialist services and survivors with protected characteristics to identify specific needs. Actions within priority 1 should also include investment and commitment to increase prevention work in schools and reach children and young people to prevent abusive relationships, linked to direct access to support - which would link with priority 3.

There is a need to include a focus on prevention in indicators of success such as; asking people / children and young people about their increased understanding of the issues and where to seek help. We suggest that the actions are also aligned with the recently published tender documents for the DASV contract in Southampton. Many actions seem to relate to wider VAWG work rather than purely to resolve safe accommodation issues and we would welcome the development of a wider strategy in this area as stated above.

The responsibility has for far too long been put on the victim and not the perpetrator of Domestic and Sexual Violence. This definitely needs to change, perpetrators should be held to account for their behaviour and made to acknowledge the effect this has on the victim and their children.

Support for victims without recourse to public funds. Specialist training for agencies who work with victims and their children to ensure that they understand the dynamics and risks of domestic abuse to reduce victim blaming, hold perpetrators accountable and support effective safety planning.

As a front line DVA worker I am aware that there could be more and better training in DVA for social workers, I believe that this is being considered currently because unfortunately, sometimes there is still responsibility placed on the victim parent to resolve the abuse from the perpetrator. Also, as social workers are on the front line they could have more impact in relation to pt.1 of the strategy, early intervention and prevention, as could schools, health visitors, early education settings etc. Re: Improve data and intelligence. This is complicated due to GDPR, data protection etc. These policies MUST be in place but I am aware that some professionals are so worried about information sharing and the consequence of sharing in the wrong scenario that relevant info about families, victims and perpetrators is not being shared, this info can be used to help to identify situations in which early intervention could be really key

Further partnership working with other housing authorities to enable greater housing solutions for victims would be brilliant. My concern is that the actions need to be victim led and as an authority we expect the victim to be rehoused which is in some cases adding to the trauma. Greater onus needs to be on perpetrator management.

As part of ensuring victims have access to appropriate support, it would be worth considering commissioning appropriate services for repeat victims, such as how to spot the signs and patterns of abuse. We see many repeat victims often who have been victims from different perpetrators.