

## 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 a service to provide community-based prevention and early intervention services for medium risk domestic abuse victims and refuge as part of a wider domestic abuse integrated service model. This will utilise existing revenue from all current contracts and external funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</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 deliver a refuge and support service for medium risk victims in the community setting. The services are designed to respond to a range of challenges identified in the delivery of domestic abuse services in Southampton. In particular the need for local services to prevent or reduce the impact of domestic abuse by intervening earlier and reducing the number of cases escalating to high-risk situations, and better supporting victims with support into safe accommodation.</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 service will 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>○ Identification and access to advice and support</li> <li>○ Intervention and support for medium risk victims</li> <li>○ Education and awareness</li> <li>○ Recovery: group and therapeutic support and counselling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• refuge spaces within Southampton and support in to refuge</li> </ul> <p>Southampton needs to commission the service to address the volume of domestic and sexual abuse.</p> <p>The following are key facts and figures from 2019/20 which underpin the rationale for these services:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic violent crimes have increased by 9.7% between 2018/19 and 2019/20. Domestic violence accounts for an increasing proportion of violent offences over time; almost a third (32.3%) of violent offences in 2019/20.</li> <li>• 72% of domestic flagged crimes known to be committed by current or former spouse or partner.</li> <li>• Strongly patterned by deprivation; Rates are approx. 5x higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived. While SCC are responsible for approx. 14.5% of housing in the city a much greater proportion of DV incidents (44.1%) are potentially linked to SCC social housing (based on postcode analysis).</li> <li>• 52.2% of Southampton HRDA referrals have children and young people in the household (Apr '18 to March '20)</li> <li>• 58.9% of child assessments undertaken in 2018/19 had domestic violence recorded as an assessment factor.</li> <li>• Southampton has the 2nd highest rate for sexual offences among comparator CSPs and 10th highest in England.</li> <li>• 3.4% increase in sexual offences in 2019/20</li> <li>• 13.7% increase in rapes and decrease of -2.7% in other sexual offences.</li> <li>• In 2019/20, 20.8% of sexual offences in Southampton were nonrecent (a similar proportion to the previous year), compared to 23% nationally.</li> <li>• 26% of rapes and 17.2% of other sexual offences in Southampton were non-recent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Summary of Impact and Issues</b></p>	<p>Due to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 being passed by Parliament there will be a renewed focus and an enhanced requirement to provide support services to individuals and families at low to medium levels of domestic abuse. With a Victims Bill also being consulted on at present this is expected to see a similar interest in sexual violence and its devastating impact on victims. Due to part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act there will need to be an enhancement of support into safe accommodation.</p>
<p><b>Potential Positive Impacts</b></p>	<p>Refuge resources will allow people to get support wherever they are living. Other services will be prioritised for local residents, enabling individuals from different backgrounds (gender, transgender and ethnicity) to access appropriate levels of support.</p> <p>Individuals, children and families will be able to remain in their own homes as a result of increased support to them, alongside improved approaches to removing and referring perpetrators to support services.</p> <p>Significant increase in raising awareness and education to prevent domestic and sexual abuse, resulting in fewer people remaining in, or accepting unhealthy relationships.</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> <p>Prioritising support for some of our most complex cases should help them stabilise more quickly, prevent further deterioration and complexity and help reduce pressure on other support services.</p>

<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	Sandra Jerrim, Senior Commissioner, Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU)
<b>Date</b>	04.08.21

<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	
<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 Orientation</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>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>	None noted.	