

**APPENDIX 3 – RECORD OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE STRATEGY FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT IN SAFE ACCOMMODATION.**

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<b>OFFICER RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED BY RESPONDENTS TO THE CONSULTATION</b>	
<b>ISSUE RAISED</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
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.	<p>We agree – there will be a need to make sure that practitioners take account of these needs, when supporting victims within safe accommodation settings. This includes shared accommodation as well as members of the victim's own household.</p> <p>Access to school is important and will form part of an assessment of need.</p>
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 accommodation 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 accommodation 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.	<p>We agree – we will be introducing a ‘perpetrator’ approach and staff will begin to be trained in understanding the ‘high harm pathways to violence’ for perpetrators of domestic abuse, who must be culpable for their violence.</p> <p>We agree and an emphasis in the newly commissioned services, funding permitting, will be an increase in the offer of a range of safe accommodation options.</p> <p>We agree that reciprocal arrangements need to be more regional, however, our starting position is to work with neighbouring LA’s who will share the same challenges, including when</p>

	victims are placed here from areas outside of the HIOW.
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.	Noted.
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.	We agree that there is more to do to encourage staff to focus on victims needs, accounting for the abuse and harm caused by perpetrators. Not all staff are in fact trained in DV and so a refreshed training programme, focusing on the harm caused by perpetrators will be built into our approach.
I am surprised there is nothing in there about male victims.	Services and support are open to male victims and the Safe Accommodation Strategy does not exclude them. However, perpetrators of harm are in the vast majority boys and men and this is replicated with sexual assaults. Our aim is to be inclusive of all needs whilst recognising that Domestic Abuse is a gendered crime.
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.	
as a survivor myself i can tell you all these thing are a must.we cant escape it alone.	Noted.
[the proposed actions] are all vitally needed	Noted.
They look very comprehensive	
The priorities sound good.	
These strategies are long overdue!	
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.	Noted – familial abuse and abuse directed at men and boys will be addressed through the strategy.
We welcome this much needed focus on safe accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. We greatly welcome	Noted.

<p>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.</p>	
<p>like the recognition that refuge isnt going to be the only option for victims</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>A survivor led approach which also manages perpetrators better has to be the greatest priorities.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>We do work with PCC and HCC and will work collaboratively on issues such as training and communications where we can. We agree that reciprocal arrangements need to be more regional, however, our starting position is to work with neighbouring LA's who will share the same challenges, including when victims are placed here from areas outside of the H10W.</p>
<p>educating survivors AND perpetrators is a key to ending cycles. this needs to be covered somehow.</p>	<p>We agree – we will be introducing a ‘perpetrator’ approach and staff will begin to be trained in understanding the ‘high harm pathways to violence’ for perpetrators of domestic abuse, who must be culpable for their violence.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Through giving effect to the strategy we are committed to making our domestic abuse services more accessible. Our duties do not extend to pets, but we will of course try to support victims on a case-by case-basis.</p>

<p>Priority for mental health and revives and therapy should be considered. Dispersed independent accommodation with support would be very useful</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>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 incidious 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.</p>	<p>Stalking features in our continuum of risk, as well as violence against women and girls more broadly.</p>
<p>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?)</p>	<p>We have secured additional funding to role out training to schools to raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls and promote healthy relationships at the earliest age.</p>
<p>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 uncler[r].</p>	<p>A range of advocacy services, such as our IDVA's provide this support and is not particular to the Safe Accommodation Strategy.</p>
<p>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.)</p>	<p>We have secured additional funding to roll out training to schools to raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls and promote healthy relationships at the earliest age.</p>
<p>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',</p>	<p>Noted – the New Burdens Funding has been confirmed for three years in the Spending Review. It will be used to support the implementation of this strategy</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Noted and we agree. The survivor voice will be reflected at our strategic board and their input to a wider and Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy (VAWG) will be key. It is within this strategy that the wider issues of VAWG will also be considered – a draft for consultation will be started in the new year. We</p>

<p>specific topic strands develop such as Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence / Abuse, Harmful Cultural Practice etc...</p>	<p>are actively seeking ways to increase the survivor voice in the work we do.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Noted – we have resource dedicated to this issue and a number of providers do deliver services that are targeted at groups with protected characteristics.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>We have secured additional funding to roll out training to schools to raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls and promote healthy relationships at the earliest age. The tender document aligns to both the Safe Accommodation Strategy and a wider strategy on Domestic and Sexual (VAWG) Abuse, yet to be published</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>We agree – we will be introducing a ‘perpetrator’ approach and SCC staff will begin to be trained in understanding the ‘high harm pathways to violence’ for perpetrators of domestic abuse, who must be culpable for their violence.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>We agree – we will be introducing a ‘perpetrator’ approach and SCC staff will begin to be trained in understanding the ‘high harm pathways to violence’ for perpetrators of domestic abuse, who must be culpable for their violence.</p> <p>Discreet funding is set aside to support victims who have NRPF. Unfortunately, this an area of UK law that at a local level we cannot</p>

	change, but will try to influence.
<p>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, helath 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</p>	<p>We agree – we will be introducing a ‘perpetrator’ approach and SCC staff will begin to be trained in understanding the ‘high harm pathways to violence’ for perpetrators of domestic abuse, who must be culpable for their violence. We have secured additional funding to roll out training to schools to raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls and promote healthy relationships at the earliest age. GDPR is often cited as a barrier, but we also have s.115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 that allows for information to be exchanged to prevent a crime.</p>
<p>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.</p>	Noted
<p>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.</p>	Noted

TABLE OF AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT STRATEGY FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT IN SAFE ACCOMMODATION		
Location	Amendment	Reason
Introduction	<b>Added</b> - The recent spending Review made a commitment to 3 years funding, the level of which is still to be confirmed	Update to reflect latest information.
Introduction	<b>Added</b> - The adoption of the Safe Accommodation Strategy is the first stage of a review of Southampton's approach to tackling serious violence, violence against women and girls and sexual violence in all its forms. A new Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy, incorporating violence against women and girls will be developed in 2022 for implementation from 2022 to 2027.	To clarify the role of the Strategy in the Council's wider strategic decision-making in tackling domestic and sexual abuse, serious violence and violence against women and girls.
Key facts and figures	<b>Deleted</b> - DA accounts for approximately 14% of crime in Southampton. Bargate experiences the highest rates of DA in the city. <b>Added</b> - There were 3,156 victims of domestic flagged crime identified in Southampton in 2020/21. 27.4% of domestic crime victims experienced more than 1 crime in the year, with repeat victims accounting for 50.7% of domestic crimes.	Inclusion of most recent data.
Priority 2	New DA Coordinator to scope regional and local approaches to establishing specialist safe accommodation for survivors with protected characteristics (LGBT+,	To take into account feedback in the consultation that the Strategy should adequately take into account men and boys as survivors/victims of domestic abuse.

	Black and minority ethnic communities etc.) as well as men and boys. <b>Added</b> – as well as men and boys	
Priority 2 table	Work with Portsmouth City Council and other Local Authority partners within the region to appraise potential for a managed reciprocal arrangement with neighbouring local authorities and Registered Providers.  Added – Local authority	Clarification.
Priority 3 table	Added - Provide training to practitioners working with children and families to understand the high harm pathways of abuse and violence for perpetrators of domestic abuse.	Clarification of intended action.