

**Time and Date**

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 16th November 2021

Place

Council Chamber, Council House, Coventry CV1 5RR

Please note that in line with current Government and City Council guidelines in relation to Covid, there will be reduced public access to the meeting to manage numbers attending safely. If you wish to attend in person, please contact the Governance Services Officer indicated at the end of the agenda.

Public business

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 14)
 - (a) To agree the minutes from the meeting of Cabinet on 12th October 2021
 - (b) Matters arising
4. **Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan** (Pages 15 - 110)
Report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
5. **Outstanding Issues**
There are no outstanding issues
6. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

Private business

Nil

Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House, Coventry

Monday, 8 November 2021

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Salmon, Governance Services, Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

Membership

Cabinet Members:

Councillors R Brown, K Caan, G Duggins (Chair), P Hetheron, A S Khan (Deputy Chair), M Mutton, J O'Boyle, K Sandhu, P Seaman and D Welsh

Non-voting Deputy Cabinet Members:

Councillors P Akhtar, B Gittins, G Hayre and G Lloyd

By invitation:

Councillors P Male and G Ridley (Non-voting Opposition representatives)

Public Access

Please note that in line with current Government and City Council Covid guidelines, there will be reduced public access to the meeting to manage numbers attending safely.

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<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/publicAttendanceMeetings>

Michelle Salmon

Governance Services

Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 October 2021

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor AS Khan(Deputy Chair)
Councillor R Brown
Councillor K Caan
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor P Seaman
Councillor D Welsh

Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members: Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor G Lloyd

Non-Voting Opposition
Members: Councillor G Ridley
Councillor P Male

Other Non-Voting
Members: Councillors N Akhtar
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor C Thomas

Employees (by Service):

Chief Executive M Reeves

Adult Services P Fahy (Director of Adult Services), A Errington

Children J Gregg (Director of Children), N Jeffreys

Education and Skills K Nelson (Director of Education and Skills), R Sugars,
C Webb

Finance B Hastie (Director of Finance)

Legal and Governance J Newman (Director of Law and Governance), S Bennett,
L Knight

Property Services and
Development R Moon (Director of Property Services and Development),
L Hobbs

Transportation and Highways C Knight (Director of Transportation and Highways),
J Seddon

Apologies: Councillor L Bigham
Councillor B Gittins
Councillor R Lakha

Public Business

29. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor P Akhtar declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the matters referred to in Minute 34, headed 'Coventry Transport Strategy' and Minute 35, headed 'Coventry Very Light Rail'. He withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of these matters.

30. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st August 2021 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

31. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED that the Cabinet agrees to exclude the press and public under Sections 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the private report in Minute 41 below headed 'SEND Proposals for the Use of the Woodlands Site' on the grounds that the report involves the likely disclosure of information contained in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as it contains information relating to the financial affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information) and in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

32. **Coventry City Council's Youth Justice Strategy and Plan - 2021-23 (Youth Justice Plan)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Children's Services, which sought Council endorsement of the Coventry Youth Offending Service (CYOS) Youth Justice Plan for 2021-23, which was appended to the report.

The report indicated that Youth Offending Teams were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The functions assigned to the Youth Offending Service include the duty upon the local authority, under the Children Act 1989, to take all reasonable steps to encourage children not to commit offences. The Crime and Disorder Act imposed a duty on each local authority, acting in cooperation with its Statutory Partners (Police, Health and Probation), to ensure that all Youth Justice services are available in their area to such an extent as is appropriate for the area. The key tasks of the service were set out in the report.

The Crime and Disorder Act also imposed a duty to complete and submit a Youth Justice Plan each year, which provides an overview of CYOS achievements against key indicators, plans and target and identifies the key strategic priorities for the next 12-24 months. The plan also demonstrates, in line with the Youth Justice Board grant requirements, the continued delivery of statutory responsibilities as described in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The CYOS has submitted its plan which demonstrates the delivery of the statutory functions and the methods for achieving this to the Youth Justice Board. The Plan outlined specific areas including:

- Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements
- Resources and Services
- Performances and Priorities
- Responding to the Pandemic and Recovery from Covid 19
- Challenges, risks and opportunities
- Improvement and Business Plan.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommend that the Council endorse the Youth Justice Strategy and Plan 2021/2023.

33. Adult Social Care Annual Report and Key Areas of Improvement 2020/21 (Local Account)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Adult Services, which set out the Adult Social Care Annual Report and Key Areas of Improvement 2020/21.

The Adult Social Care Annual Report and Key Areas of Improvement 2020/21 (also referred to as the Local Account) describes the performance of Adult Social Care and the progress made against the priorities for the year. It also provides specific examples of the operational activities to support service users and carers.

Although there is no statutory requirement to produce an annual report, it is considered good practice as it provides an opportunity to be open and transparent about the successes and challenges facing Adult Social Care and to show what is being done to improve the outcomes for those that come into contact with the service. The production of the annual report is part of the Local Government Association's approach to Sector Led Improvement. This approach was launched following the removal of national targets and assessments for Adult Social Care. However, the Government has announced an intention for a formal oversight regime for Adult Social Care to be introduced, led by the Care Quality Commission. No details or specific timescales have been set for this, but the indication is that a move away from Sector Led Improvement will be forthcoming.

The production of the 2020/21 report has drawn on the pool of feedback and information that was gathered over the year from a range of sources including social care staff, Adult Social Care Stakeholder Reference Group, providers, partner organisations and people that have been in contact with Adult Social Care along with their families and carers. It reflects the performance and activities throughout the main period of the Covid-19 pandemic to date.

The Local Account also looks forward to 2021/22 and includes summary details regarding key areas for improvement. These are improvements the service intends to look at to achieve better service delivery, improve outcomes for people and, in doing so, to create a stable provider market for the City, within the context of the Adult Social Care reforms recently announced.

The Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) at its meeting on 29th September 2021. The Board had welcomed the report and supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet:

- 1. Note the comments from the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5).**
- 2. Approve the Adult Social Care Annual Report and Key Areas of Improvement 2020/21 (Local Account).**

34. Coventry Transport Strategy

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transportation and Highways, which set out the Coventry Transport Strategy.

The Council has developed a draft Coventry Transport Strategy, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report submitted. The Strategy sets out a long term (15 year) vision for the way that people and goods will travel to, from and around the City in the future. Through the exploitation of new technologies and ideas, which are being developed in the City, it is intended to achieve the following 4 broad objectives:

- Supporting the City's economic recovery and enabling long term growth;
- Delivering a sustainable, low carbon transport system;
- Ensuring equality of opportunity;
- Maximising health and wellbeing.

The draft Strategy is closely linked to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the region as a whole. The LTP is currently under review and the Coventry Transport Plan will form part of the final West Midlands LTP.

A public consultation on the draft Coventry Transport Strategy is proposed, with a view to the adoption of the final Strategy before the end of March 2022.

The Strategy is supported by a separate draft Implementation Plan, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, which is focussed primarily on the first five years of the Strategy (2022/23 – 2026/27). The Plan sets out the specific transport schemes that will be delivered in order to implement the Strategy and reflects an expected five-year funding settlement between the Department for Transport and the WMCA - the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) – which is expected to provide the bulk of the funding required for many of these schemes.

Discussions between the Department for Transport and WMCA are ongoing, however, it is expected that a final funding allocation will be confirmed before the end of 2021 as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. The draft Implementation Plan will be updated to reflect this prior to the Council being asked to adopt the final Strategy before the end of March 2022.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet:

- 1. Approve the draft Coventry Transport Strategy as shown in Appendix 1 of the report, for public consultation.**
- 2. Note that following the consultation, a further report will be produced for Cabinet to adopt the Coventry Transport Strategy.**

35. Coventry Very Light Rail

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Transportation and Highways, which provided a progress update on Coventry Very Light Rail, a flagship project for the Council.

The Coventry Strategic Transport Investment Strategy 'Connecting Coventry', approved by Council in January 2017, aims to maximise the economic potential of the city through investment in transport infrastructure to support growth and jobs. It set out an ambitious £620m programme over the next ten years to improve the resilience of the road network, ensuring connectivity to job opportunities, expansion of railway capacity, including Coventry Very Light Rail (CVLR) and linking key development opportunities and employment sites.

A progress report in March 2018 provided an update on how the strategy had progressed and sought further approvals to take forward the schemes in the Strategy to delivery.

The report now submitted provides a further update on Coventry's Transport Strategy and outlined the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement submission recently approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) for submission to Government. This made provision for securing funding for the CVLR project for the 2022-27 period, subject to Government approval.

The CVLR project is supported by Transport for West Midlands and has gained national and global interest. Appendix 1 of the report outlined the VLR vision, progress to date, next steps and evidence of progress. It was proposed that delivery of a City Centre CVLR Demonstrator be brought forward to showcase the City's position as a world class centre for innovation. The CVLR team will explore the viability of delivering the infrastructure required to operate a city demonstrator between the Railway Station and Pool Meadow. The report also outlined capital investment by the Council of up to £3.2m required to deliver the first route, the funding opportunities currently identified, together with the project's funding requirements for the 2021/22 financial year. This investment is essential in 2021/22 to deliver the following activities:

- Enable progression of the business and commercial case for the first route.
- Enable the procurement of the Outline Design Concept and Operations and Maintenance input for the first route.
- Progression of the track workstream to enable Test Track facilities of the new track design to be procured and constructed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet recommend that Council:

- 1. Approve the allocation of up to £3.2m corporate reserves to the CVLR programme activities to maintain programme which is working towards a delivery of a first route for Coventry at the earliest opportunity.**
- 2. Subject to approval of recommendation 1 above, delegate authority to the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to determine the final allocation from corporate resources once the outcome of funding bids are known.**
- 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Transportation and Highways, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, to finalise and negotiate the terms of, and enter into, the relevant legal agreements as well as any associated documents deemed necessary pursuant to the procurements in relation to the CVLR activities.**

36. Coventry One Strategic Plan and Education Capital Programme

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills, which set out the Coventry One Strategic Plan and Education Capital Programme.

Under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, the Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places and fair, appropriate access to education. It is the Council's role to plan, commission and organise school places in a way that raises standards, manages supply and demand and creates a diverse infrastructure.

The Coventry One Strategic Plan was first presented to Council on 2nd October 2018 and set out pupils forecasts for special, primary and secondary education across education planning areas in response to rising or falling pupil cohorts across the City. It outlines the strategy proposed by the Local Authority and the Coventry Education Partnership to meet the additional places required in secondary provision from 2019 to 2024. Work has also been undertaken to look at the Special School provision and the primary estate in line with falling birth rates and new housing, outlining how the Local Authority will mitigate against these factors.

It is proposed that the strategy will be a flexible plan, able to adapt to shifting mechanisms of parental preferences, unforeseen changes in supply and demand of school places and future birth rates. To do this, the One Strategic Plan will be monitored and updated annually with presentation to the Cabinet Member with the Education Portfolio and Cabinet, alongside a wider process of constant review of School Place Planning. In addition, the procuring of places will take place annually so as not to create an unstable number of school places.

The Cabinet noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established to ensure partnership commitment between the Council and secondary schools. Subject to approval, this will be rolled out to primary and special schools. The partnerships signify a commitment and cooperation between the Council, governing bodies and school leadership teams to meet the

educational needs of children and young people in the City, ensure the sustainability of Coventry schools and to enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations.

As part of this process, numerous options have been discussed at both Coventry Education Partnership meetings and the Secondary Headteacher Executive. The preferred option has been approved by the Coventry Education Partnership as being the best valid option keeping in line with the Local Authority's statutory requirement as outlined by the DfE to:

- Spend capital funding efficiently;
- Safeguard the quality of places in the system;
- Manage down spare capacity in the estate where it exists.

Capital allocations to meet projected shortfalls in provision are provided by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to all Local Authorities based upon the data provided in the annual School Capacity return. Demand for places minus the supply of places is multiplied by a cost per pupil; place to inform the final allocation. This return informs the ESFA of the expected change in pupil numbers over the next few years, the current capacity of schools to meet those numbers and the planned changes to that capacity. The next tranche of funding will be announced in March 2022.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet:

- 1. Authorise the programme of work outlined in the Coventry One Strategic Plan for Primary, Secondary Education and Special Education Needs (SEN).**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills to agree the most appropriate route for the works to be delivered and awarded.**

37. SEND Proposal for the Use of the Woodlands Site

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills, which set out the next steps in the SEND proposal for the use of the Woodlands school site.

A corresponding private report detailing confidential financial matters was also submitted for consideration (Minute 41 below refers).

The report indicated that Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a statutory duty on councils to ensure that there are sufficient school places and fair, appropriate access to education for all. It is the Council's role to plan, commission and organise school places in a way that raises standards, manages supply and demand and creates a diverse infrastructure.

This means that local authorities have to provide a continuum of provision to meet a continuum of need. Whilst Coventry has relatively few specialist provisions delivered in the form of resourced centres / units in mainstream schools, it does have a good range of special school provision. Consequently, very few Coventry children have to attend schools outside of the City, which is a position that needs to be maintained.

However, the recent evidenced growth in need, specifically in the area of complex communication (autism spectrum conditions) and social emotional and mental health (SEMH), has placed a level of demand on the special school system that exceeds supply. School age Education, Health and Care Plans have increased from 2,145 in January 2020 to 2,344 in January 2021, demonstrating a 26% growth across a 5-year period.

On 30th October 2018, the Cabinet approved in principle the refurbishing of the existing Woodlands School site to provide a new home for the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools and the potential subsequent relocation of the Woodfields schools to the Woodlands site. It was agreed that a further report be submitted containing a full detailed feasibility study. Approval of this feasibility study would enable education to proceed with a more detailed examination of the costings and look at the funding sources available.

Following an Ofsted inspection at Woodfield School in March 2020, which resulted in a grading of 'Inadequate', Woodfield School is required to academise. The Governing Body of the school has made a successful application to the Secretary of State for an Academy Order under the Academies Act 2010. Following the West Midlands Headteacher Board in October 2020, it was agreed that Woodfield School will join the Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust (Sidney Stringer MAT) as a convertor academy and thereafter will cease to be maintained by the Local Authority. The Council, in conjunction with the Department for Education, Woodfield School and Sidney Stringer MAT are working towards a target conversion date of 1st April 2022, subject to leases being agreed and all other agreements in place. The conversion is also dependent upon significant progress being made on this project.

The move to the Woodlands site allows both Woodfield primary and secondary phases to benefit from shared working practices, provision of more efficient and improved facilities and a purpose designed building. It would also allow Woodfield School to increase the number of pupils. In addition, the refurbishment of the Woodlands site would potentially allow a continuation and expansion of the community sporting provision that has been successfully provided at the site for many years.

The existing Woodlands buildings are of a 1950's vintage and are Grade II listed. As such, significant investment is required to allow them to be used as a modern SEND school. The DfE transferred the building across to the Council in September 2017. The condition report highlighted a sum required for the upkeep and maintenance costs and many of the buildings have remained vacant since the Woodlands Academy closure.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet:

- 1. Note the outcome of the feasibility study report (as identified in the corresponding private report) and the consultation set out in Appendices 3 and 4.**

2. **Approve the commencement of a competitive procurement process to appoint the design team and the building contractor to enable the delivery of the capital refurbishment works required on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary Schools.**
 3. **Subject to acting within approved budgets, delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to undertake the necessary due diligence including but not limited to the award of contracts to successful tenderers and entry into all necessary legal agreements.**
 4. **Note that where the costs of delivering the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools to the Woodlands Site exceeds the approved budget limit (“the Shortfall Gap”) a further report will be presented to Cabinet and Council for the approval of the Shortfall Gap prior to award of the contract to the successful building contractor.**
 5. **Recommends that Council:**
 - a. **Approve the capital budget for the delivery of the capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools in the sum identified in the corresponding private report.**
 - b. **Approve that the Council capital programme is adjusted to facilitate the recommendation set out in a. Above.**
 - c. **Delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance to refine and manage the financial projections within the capital budget associated with the delivery of capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary Schools.**
38. **Academies Act 2010 - Grant of temporary 5-year excluded act lease following the proposed academy conversion in respect of Woodfield School site and the grant of a 125-year Long Lease in respect of Woodlands School site to the Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills, which set out proposals for the grant of a temporary 5-year excluded act lease following the proposed academy conversion of Woodfield School site and the grant of a 125-year Long Lease in respect of Woodlands School site to the Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

The report indicated that although authority was delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills in respect of academy conversion sign-off, officers considered that a formal Cabinet report is appropriate for the academy conversion of Woodfield Primary and Secondary school (Woodfield School) given the unique

nature of this conversion. There is a requirement for multiple leases and also a significant cost implication for the Council in relation to the planned works at the existing Woodfield School sites and the Woodlands School site, the aim of which is to continue and improve SEND education provision and opportunities in the City.

Following an Ofsted inspection at Woodfield School in March 2020, which resulted in a grading of 'Inadequate', Woodfield School is required to academise. The Governing Body of the school has made a successful application to the Secretary of State for an Academy Order under the Academies Act 2010 (the 2010 Act). Following the West Midlands Headteacher Board in October 2020, it was agreed that Woodfield School will join the Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust (Sidney Stinger MAT) as a convertor academy and thereafter will cease to be maintained by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide appropriate education provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The Council aims to deliver support for children and young people in SEND in the mainstream sector where possible, and within their community, to enable them to enjoy the same range of experiences and opportunities as children with no additional needs. Following the conversion to an academy, Sidney Stringer MAT will provide the appropriate education provision for children and young children with SEND from Woodfield School.

It is proposed that the Sidney Stringer MAT will use and occupy Woodfield School for the delivery of the aforementioned educational provisions under a 5-year lease and, upon the practical completion of agreed works being carried out by the Council to the adjoining Woodlands School, Sidney Stringer MAT will decant from Woodfield School to Woodlands School. At the point of practical completion of the agreed works at Woodlands School and relocation of Woodfield School to this site, even if this is prior to the expiry of the 5-year term of the Woodfield School temporary leases, it is agreed that Sidney Stringer will surrender the 5-year lease of Woodfield School and complete a 125-year lease of the agreed land and buildings at Woodlands School in accordance with Section 1 of the 2010 Act.

This will enable officers to subsequently market and dispose of Woodfield School together with surplus playing field land at Woodlands School for housing development thereby securing a capital receipt for the Council.

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet:

- 1. Note Woodfield School's intent to convert to an academy by joining the Sidney Stringer MAT.**
- 2. Authorise the Director of Law and Governance to agree and complete the suite of legal documentation to facilitate the short-term 5-year lease in respect of Woodfield School, the grant of 125-year long lease in respect of Woodlands School, the separate lease or leases in respect of the Site Services Officer (SSO) accommodation and any necessary Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA).**

3. **Delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, to agree where necessary any amendments to the legal agreements arising from further consideration by both the Council and Sidney Stringer MAT.**

39. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

40. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

There were no other items of public business.

41. **SEND Proposal for the Use of the Woodlands Site**

Further to Minute 37 above, the Cabinet considered a private report of the Director of Education and Skills, which set out commercially confidential matters relating to the next steps in the SEND proposal for the use of the Woodlands school site.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet:

1. **Note the outcome of the feasibility study report in Appendix 1 and the consultation in Appendices 4 and 5 of the report.**
2. **Approve the commencement of a competitive procurement process to appoint the design team and the building contractor to enable the delivery of the capital refurbishment works required on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary Schools.**
3. **Subject to acting within approved budgets, delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to undertake the necessary due diligence including, but not limited to, the award of contracts to successful tenderers and entry into all necessary legal agreements.**
4. **Note that where the cost of delivery the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools to the Woodlands Site exceeds the approved budget limit (“the Shortfall Gap”), a further report will be presented to Cabinet and / or Council for the approval of the Shortfall Gap prior to the award of the contract to the successful building contractor.**
5. **Recommends that Council:**
 - a. **Approve a capital budget for the delivery of the capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands Site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools in the sum set out in the report.**

- b. Approve that the Council capital programme is adjusted to facilitate the recommendation set out in a. above**
- c. Delegate authority to the Director of Education and Skills and the Director of Finance to refine and manage the financial projections within the capital budget associated with the delivery of capital refurbishment works on the Woodlands site to facilitate the relocation of the existing Woodfield Primary and Secondary schools.**

42. Any other items of private business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

There were no other items of private business.

(Meeting closed at 2.55 pm)



Cabinet

16 November 2021

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A S Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan

Is this a key decision?

Yes - the proposals are likely to have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the City

Executive Summary:

Domestic abuse is a manifestation of one-person (or persons) exerting power and control over another with whom they share a personal connection. Domestic abuse can take many forms including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, economic and emotional abuse. It also includes honour-based violence, forced marriage, other culturally recognised forms of abuse and a range of controlling and coercive behaviours. Preventing harm from Domestic Abuse is a priority within Coventry and is a key measure within the One Coventry Plan. Coventry's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 – 2023 outlines the city's approach to addressing domestic abuse, including honour-based violence and forced marriage.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act provides, for the first time, a statutory definition of domestic abuse and delivers a number of significant changes to improve the protection of victims within the community and the criminal justice system. Cabinet received a report in June 2021 outlining the new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Work on the new duties has commenced. A new statutory board, the "Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board" has been established. A needs assessment has been carried out, including extensive consultation with survivors, domestic abuse service providers and stakeholders. Recommendations have been reviewed within the context of the current Coventry Domestic Abuse strategy and an action plan has been developed. New services for victims and their children have been commissioned.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Note the findings and recommendations of the needs assessment.
- 2) Acknowledge the findings of the needs assessment, strategy refresh and action plan under the duties set out by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- 3) Approve the strategy refresh and action plan which includes provision of support for victims and their children in line with the duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- 4) Approve the extension of the current overarching Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy to 2025
- 5) Note progress in commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation to fulfil the functions of the Act using the grant of £849,930 in 2021/2022 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Needs assessment – executive summary, key findings and recommendations
Appendix 2 – Action Plan
Appendix 3 - Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2023: Addendum and Extension to 2025

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 – 2023
https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/27376/domestic_abuse_strategy_2018-2023

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Domestic abuse is a manifestation of one-person (or persons) exerting power and control over another with whom they share a personal connection.
- 1.2 Preventing harm from domestic abuse is a priority within Coventry and is a key measure within the One Coventry Plan. The Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018- 2023 outlines Coventry’s approach to addressing domestic abuse which includes honour-based violence, forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- 1.3 In 2019/20, there were 29.7 domestic abuse related incidents and crimes in the West Midlands Police area per 1,000 population (source: Office for National Statistics). This has risen by 26% since 2015/16 and is above the national average of 28 incidents and crimes per 1,000 population. The under-reporting of domestic abuse is well documented and the actual level of victimisation in the city will be higher.
- 1.4 The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on domestic abuse victimisation. Control measures put in place to limit infection have also reduced the time and space for victims to seek help, has been used as a tool for further abusive behaviours and placed a number of additional pressures on families and individuals. Other measures – such as legislation to protect people from being evicted from their homes under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the impact of Coronavirus on Court proceedings, including changes to how some proceedings are conducted and a delay in cases being heard in Court, in both criminal and civil proceedings has meant that different parts of the local system have experienced differing trends of victimisation and demand. Domestic abuse is also an issue in relation to adult safeguarding and is one of the categories of abuse identified under the care act 2014.

Overall, levels of reported domestic abuse increased significantly during the first lockdown in May and June 2020 and have remained broadly stable at this higher level. Police, commissioned services and Children’s Services all reflect higher levels of demand and an increase in the level of case complexity and risk.

- 1.5 During 2018/19 the average number of monthly reports involving domestic abuse to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was 326. Between April 2020 and March 2021 this rose to a monthly average of 415 reports per month, a 27% increase on the two previous years as shown in the table below:

Average per month	Apr 18 – Mar 19	Apr 19 – Mar 20	Apr 20 – Mar 21
DA referrals	326	327	415
Total referrals	1263	1551	1748
% of referrals that are DA	26%	21%	24%

- 1.6 Police report that while acquisitive and other crimes are falling, domestic abuse continues to show increased reporting – data up to the beginning of December 2020 showed that reporting increased by 45% compared to the previous year. Measuring accurate levels of domestic abuse is complex. The recent CREST report commissioned by West Midlands Police to explain the increased reporting states that the risk is likely to be due to an increased awareness of domestic abuse, as well as better police recording practices following the Home Office Crime Data Integrity Inspections together with changes in legislation. The trajectory of increase in the rate of domestic abuse-related crimes

recorded by police in the West Midlands Police is in line with its MSF (Most Similar Force) areas. During the pandemic the West Midlands saw a significant increase in domestic abuse which was not seen nationally but echoed in at least five other PFAs (Police Force Area's). Initial findings from London City University and the University of Durham suggest that the pandemic 'exposed, rather than created the domestic abuse crisis' i.e. it may be that these areas were particularly good at encouraging reporting during this time.

- 1.7 Calls to the local Safe to Talk helpline have fluctuated significantly throughout the year, reflecting the changes in freedom and ability for victims to seek help and concerns from professionals and other third parties like neighbours during the various periods of heightened restrictions over the course of the pandemic. On average, calls to the helpline are about 20 – 25%% higher than in the period prior to the pandemic.
- 1.8 Similarly, since the end of the initial UK lockdown in June 2020, demand on specialist domestic abuse services has fluctuated, reflecting victims' ability to access support, but has remained at levels significantly greater than those recorded pre-COVID. Average monthly referrals to Coventry Haven's community outreach support (providing safety planning and other community-based support for people not involved in civil or criminal court proceedings) numbered 113 between April 2020 and June 2021, twice the average monthly referrals than the previous 6 months (56).
- 1.9 During the pandemic, the City Council invested additional resources in schemes to protect victims, including:
 - creating 7 additional temporary units of specialist accommodation for 12 months from July 2020
 - safeguarding 35 units of accommodation within the voluntary and community sector
 - temporarily continuing 13 further units of accommodation previously funded using short term government grant otherwise due to close in March 2021
 - employing 3 additional domestic abuse specialists to be co-located with the police and provide an immediate response to victims for a 2-year pilot
 - employing a 0.5FTE worker to create and support a new network of domestic abuse leads within frontline services.
 - Additional funding for counselling for victims of sexual violence to tackle the waiting list backlog
- 1.10 The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The aims of the Act are to:
 - Raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families.
 - Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice.
 - Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies
 - The Act also specifically makes provision for, amongst other things, the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner. It seeks to specifically make provision about certain offences and abusive behaviour, committed even outside the United Kingdom. .
- 1.11 Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the duties of the Local Authority include
 - assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in its area,
 - prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area, and
 - monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
 - a duty to appoint the multi-agency The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
 - a duty to provide accommodation-based support to victims and their children in refuges and safe accommodation,

- and report back to central government, and a duty to give effect to the strategy.
- 1.12 Cabinet received a paper detailing the requirements of the Act in June 2021 with recommendations to:
- approve the creation of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the local authority, in line with the duty upon the Local Authority to do so within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021;
 - approve acceptance of the grant of £849,930 in 2021/2022 for to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation;
 - note the Council's new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

2. Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

- 2.1 Local authorities are required to establish a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the Council. The purpose of this new statutory board is to provide advice to the local authority in relation to domestic abuse - as a minimum to provide advice on its duties to:
- assess the need for domestic abuse support in its area
 - prepare and publish a strategy to provide support
 - monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
 - consider the local authority's annual report to the new national Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
- 2.2 The Coventry Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board has been established and is chaired Cllr P Akhtar, Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and meets bimonthly. The Act sets out statutory membership of the Board which includes people representing local authorities, victims and their children, domestic abuse charities or voluntary organisations, health care providers and the police or other criminal justice agencies. A head-teacher representative on the Board is currently being arranged.
- 2.3 A Task and Finish group (Our Voices) has been set up to look at how the voices of children and victims of domestic abuse are represented on the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. Members of the group represent Public Health, Children's Services Early Help, CCC Children's Champion, Panahghar, Relate, Valley House and Coventry Women's Aid.

3. Needs Assessment

- 3.1 The Act places a duty upon local authorities to conduct a needs assessment for accommodation-based support each year and to publish a strategy to direct commissioning and decommissioning decisions for safe accommodation. The needs assessment was commissioned from S2 Analytics who worked closely with Local Authority officers, providers and other stakeholders.
- 3.2 The needs assessment incorporated a comprehensive engagement exercise which included surveys completed by 71 survivors and 51 practitioners, multiple focus groups and more than 30 interviews with stakeholders. The intelligence from this was supplemented with data from multiple sources and a literature review. While the initial focus of the needs assessment was on accommodation-based support, the information gathered enabled analysis of current needs across the wider agenda of domestic abuse. The full needs assessment can be found at:
https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/5118/domestic_abuse_strategy_2018-2023

3.3 The Executive Summary (appendix 1) contains the key findings and 23 recommendations across a number of areas:

- Criminal and civil justice system
- Perpetrators
- Health services
- Safe accommodation for victims and families
- Support for victims and their children
- Housing
- Individuals with no recourse to public funds or language challenges

3.4 These recommendations have been reviewed by a steering group of the Local Partnership Board and by the Board itself. A series of actions have been developed in response to the needs identified (included in Appendix 2) with lead agencies nominated to take the work forwards. Delivery of the action plan will be monitored by the Local Partnership Board, including full evaluation of commissioned services.

3.5 The needs assessment and action plan presented here are in response to the requirement of the new DA Act 2021 and sits alongside a broader action plan that encompasses other areas of business including prevention and early intervention, work within schools, training and additional wider work that is ongoing and sits under the DA Local Partnership Board

4. Domestic Abuse Strategy Extension to 2025

4.1 The Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2023 uses the 4P framework of Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue to support a systematic multi-agency approach to tackling Domestic Abuse.

4.2 This framework has been reviewed in light of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and a strategy addendum has been produced (appendix 3). The measures detailed in the Act fit within our current 4P framework. In addition, the recommendations and actions from the needs assessment all contribute to delivering one or more of the 4Ps as shown in the action plan in appendix 3.

4.3 It is proposed that the current Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy is extended through to 2025, with the new action plan. This will allow officer and partner resource to be focused on delivering the actions from the needs assessment and initial evaluation of the impact of these. This will then feed into a full strategy refresh for 2025.

5. Newly commissioned services

5.1 The Act places a duty upon local authorities to provide safe accommodation for victims and their children, who are also defined as victims under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, dedicated specialist accommodation which meets specific domestic abuse quality standards and a range of specialist support for victims in safe accommodation. 'Sanctuary schemes', whereby victims are helped to remain in their own home by providing extra domestic security and support, are included within the definition of safe accommodation.

5.2 The Act requires that all victims in safe accommodation should have access to and places a duty upon the Local Authority to provide this support, which includes:

- advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers);

- domestic abuse prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation;
- specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and/or complex needs, for example, interpreters, faith services, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, and immigration advice;
- children’s support – including play therapy and child advocacy;
- housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home and advice on how to live safely and independently; and
- counselling and therapy for both adults and children.

5.3 The Government provided Coventry City Council with a grant of £849,930 in 2021/22 to “fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation”. The funding for future years is dependent on the new burden assessment.

5.4 The report to Cabinet on 15 June 2021 set out initial proposals for commissioning services with this funding which have been further developed. The following additional provision has been commissioned using the grant:

- Continuation of funding of 13 units of accommodation previously funded by a limited-term MHCLG grant to 30 September 2022. This will maintain the number of commissioned units at 67
- Introduction of a discretionary grant scheme to support victim/survivors in safe accommodation with a broader range of help including, for example, translation services and support to access move-on accommodation.
- Widened eligibility of the current WISH service providing emotional and therapeutic support to children experiencing domestic abuse to all children in safe accommodation
- Introduction of specialist legal support for all victims in safe accommodation with insecure immigration status in safe accommodation
- Introduction of family support workers to provide a range of interventions with parents and children in specialist supported accommodation, including support in relation to parenting and encouraging good school attendance
- Introduction of a specialist counselling and mental health support service for adult victims in safe accommodation

5.5 The above services have been commissioned for delivery up to September 2022 from existing City Council commissioned domestic abuse services including Haven, Valley House, Panahghar and Relate; the only exception to this is the procurement of specialist counselling for adult victims from Coventry and Warwickshire Mind. When there is clarity on future funding from the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review, a longer-term investment plan will be developed to ensure the duties of the Act are met. Full evaluation of services to measure delivery of quality outcomes will be part of the commissioning process.

6. Options considered and recommended proposal

6.1 The option to retain the current strategy end date of 2023 was considered. This would mean that work on the new strategy would have to start early in 2022. The needs assessment for the Act has been comprehensive, and both the requirements of the Act and the actions from the needs assessment all fit within the current 4Ps framework. Developing a new strategy is a significant project and it was felt that extending the current one would allow more time to implement the actions.

6.2 The option to spend the entire grant on commissioned services only through to the end of this financial year was considered. This option was rejected as future funding is still uncertain and it would not have been possible to commission the level of services needed on such a short contract. The grant has been used to commission services initially for 12 months. A small contingency fund has been established to mitigate any cost pressures this year, particularly in relation to the discretionary grant scheme. Funding plans will be reviewed once funding for future years has been clarified following the Government's comprehensive spending review.

7. Results of consultation undertaken

7.1 The needs assessment includes significant consultation work with survivors, service providers and stakeholder. Consultation was undertaken through questionnaires, focus groups and interviews. Detailed findings from the consultation are included in the full needs assessment. The results from the consultation were used along with the data and the evidence base to generate the key findings and recommendations.

7.2 The Domestic Abuse Act requires that the Local Partnership Board is consulted on the strategy for the provision of accommodation-based support in its area. Members of the Local Partnership Board were involved in the needs assessment. Initial findings were presented at the July Board meeting. A sub-group was convened to review the findings and recommendations, and to agree the action plan. The proposed Domestic Abuse strategy extension to 2025, the key findings from the needs assessment and the action plan were discussed and agreed at the September meeting of the Local Partnership Board.

8. Timetable for implementing this decision

8.1 The Strategy extension to 2025 and action plan will be implemented with immediate effect.

9. Comments from the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance

9.1 Financial implications

The Government has provided Coventry City Council with a grant of £849,930 in 2021/22 for the purpose of and the expectation that the Council start to prepare and fulfil the relevant functions under the duty.

No funding has been provided beyond 2021/22 and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government state that any further funding would be confirmed as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Grant terms do not include a requirement for spend to be completed by 31st March 2022, and as per paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 above, the plan is to commit the grant over the period up to 30th September 2022 to reflect time for the needs assessment to be used to drive the relevant commissioning activity as funding is confirmed in the longer term.

9.2 Legal implications

The Domestic Abuse Act places a number of duties on the Local Authority as detailed within this report.

The establishment of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, which is a statutory board of the Council, has previously been approved and this has now been set up. The Board has a number of statutory functions as detailed within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and must be consulted with in respect of the strategy Cabinet is being asked to approve.

Before approving the strategy, Cabinet must be satisfied that the following have been consulted in accordance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021;

- (a) the domestic abuse local partnership board appointed by the relevant local authority under section 58,
- (b) any local authority for an area within the relevant local authority's area, and
- (c) such other persons as the relevant local authority considers appropriate.

Cabinet will note that the body of this report details that (a) above has been completed as the Domestic Local Partnership Board were consulted in respect of the strategy on the 15th June 2021 , and the requirement to consult in accordance with (b) above is not applicable as there is no other local authority within the area of Coventry City Council.

(c) is detailed in 2.2 of this report.

10. Other implications

10.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The services support the One Coventry Plan vision to help to make communities safer, improve the health and wellbeing of local residents and protect our most vulnerable people by keeping children and adults safe from harm and improving services for people experiencing domestic abuse.

10.2 How is risk being managed?

Key risks are:

- **Absence of future funding:** No 'additional burden' funding has been confirmed beyond 2021/22. The needs assessment in consultation with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, will determine commissioning arrangements from 2022/23 onwards.
- **Increase in demand:** It is anticipated that the Act will increase and widen reporting of domestic abuse and increase demand on a range of services including specialist accommodation-based and community-based domestic abuse services, criminal justice agencies, social care, safeguarding and homelessness provision. The broader statutory definition of domestic abuse may increase the nature of victims who approach agencies for support; again, the impact of this will be monitored through existing forums and the new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.

10.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Domestic abuse is a significant issue for many functions of the City Council, including Adult's and Children's Services, Safeguarding, Housing, Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety. Domestic abuse is priority for the Council and is featured within the One Coventry Plan.

Delivery of the action plan will require working across these different functions and teams at both a strategic and an operational level.

10.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this work. The needs assessment considered the needs of groups with protected characteristics. This will be considered further in the evaluation of services and the annual refresh of the needs assessment and strategy.

10.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

There are no implications.

10.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Delivery of the strategy will require partnership working. Lead organisations have been identified in the action plan. The work will be overseen by the Local Partnership Board where partners are represented.

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COVENTRY

COVENTRY DOMESTIC ABUSE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

v6



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOTE ON NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This needs assessment was completed in the Summer of 2021. The data included in the needs assessment covers the time period impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to recognise that this period was an exceptional time and had an impact on the data for all services. The data for the period impacted by the pandemic is not reflective of previous years and this should be taken into account when viewing the information included in this report.

INTRODUCTION

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a statutory duty on Tier One local authorities to deliver support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within refuges and other safe accommodation, and to assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who require highly specialist support and those who come from outside the area.

As well as assessing the specific needs mentioned in the Domestic Abuse Act relating to refuges and safe accommodation, this assessment aims to take a wider view of domestic abuse need. The assessment draws on data and information from a wide range of sources to build a picture of domestic abuse need across the whole of Coventry.

This assessment provides a shared understanding of local need to inform the development of local services and enable victims, perpetrators, their families and children to have their needs met more effectively.

The information in this document is correct at the time of writing.

KEY FINDINGS

POLICE

There has been an increase in domestic abuse incidents in Coventry.

There was a total of 9,280 domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police during 2020. This is a 33% increase on the previous highest number over the analysed period which was 7,000 during 2019.

There has been increases in various offence types where there is a domestic abuse flag – with stalking seeing the largest increase.

“Pursue Course of Conduct In Breach Of S1(1) Which Amounts To Stalking” saw an annual average of 19 incidents a month during 2016-19. There were 421 in 2020, equating to a 2145% increase.

By ward, Binley & Willenhall show the highest increases in incidents with a domestic abuse flag and also a high rate per 100,000 population..

Wainbody ward and Earlsdon ward both have low rates and low increases in reported incidents relative to the other wards in Coventry. Binley & Willenhall had one of the highest increases and shows the highest rate per 100,000 population.

35% of the victims during 2016 to 2020 were repeat victims.

8% of the victims during this period appeared 5 or more times.

There has been an increase in male victims.

Males accounted for 26% of victims recorded in 2020, which is a 6 percentage point increase on the 20% recorded in 2016.

There has been a shift in the age structure of the victims.

The 55+ age group has increased from 9% of the total number of victims in 2016 to 11% in 2020. Conversely, the 18-24 age group has seen a decrease from 22% to 18%.

MARAC

There has been an increase in referrals to MARAC in 12 months to June 2021.

The 613 referrals in the 12 months to June 2021 is the highest in any 12-month period. There has been a 69% increase over the past 5 years. This is similar to the West Midlands.

45% of the referrals to MARAC in the 12 months to June 2021 were repeat cases.

This is slightly higher than the previous 2 years.

In the past 2 years there has been an increase in IDVA and partnership referrals.

Partnership referrals include mental health, health services, and 'other'.

PERPETRATOR

In Coventry, there is one local authority commissioned perpetrator programme; Choose2Change provided by Relate.

There were high attrition rates in the Choose2Change Domestic Abuse Programme. The programme is in-depth but difficult for people to complete.

IRIS

IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) to improve Primary Care awareness of domestic abuse and support to Victims was launched in June 2018. In the first full year of service delivery, only 50% of the GP Practices were able to participate in IRIS as only one Advocate Educator resource was commissioned.

2020-21 saw the recruitment of a second Advocate Educator and an increase in training sessions. Subsequently, there has been a higher volume of referrals with only 4 Practices not currently signed up.

There appears to be a moderate to fairly-strong correlation between the number of training sessions delivered by postcode and the number of referrals received.

The CV4 and CV5 postcodes had a low number of training sessions, which may have impacted on the number of referrals. CV5 has since increased training session with the numbers of referrals increasing possibly as a result. CV4 is potentially an area of unmet need.

SAFE ACCOMMODATION

The Domestic Abuse Act places a duty on local authorities to assess the need for support and prepare strategies to provide support for victims who reside in relevant accommodation ('safe accommodation').

Domestic Abuse Act guidance describes a variety of different types of safe accommodation:

Refuge accommodation, specialist safe accommodation, dispersed accommodation, safe self-contained accommodation, safe self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation, sanctuary schemes, move-on/ second stage accommodation, other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation. Bed and breakfast accommodation is not considered as relevant, safe accommodation.

In Coventry there is the following specialist accommodation provision: Valley House (LA funding) – 54 units + 20 units (temporary MHCLG and COVID funding), Coventry Haven (Independent) – 17 units, Panahghar (Independent) – 18 units.

The recommended number of refuge spaces for Coventry (using the Council of Europe formula) is 35 with the actual number commissioned exceeding this by 19 spaces.

Domestic Abuse Act guidance describes domestic abuse support as accommodation support, childrens' support, housing-related support, and advice service.

Data indicates that there are a range of needs present amongst residents in refuges including mental health, legal support needs, and housing support needs.

In Haven, 8% of referrals in 2020-21 were rejected due to capacity.

Of the 126 referred to Haven during 2020-21, 39 (31%) were accommodated. 10 (8%) were not accommodated for due to no capacity. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted this figure as Haven did not advertise spaces and instead kept them available for Coventry homeless.

30% of referrals to Panahghar were rejected due to lack of capacity.

Of the 79 referred to Panahghar during 2020-21, 48 (61%) were accommodated. 24 (30%) were not accommodated for due to no capacity.

Only 2 (1%) of the 241 referrals to Valley House were rejected due to a lack of space.

Current demand is short by 36 spaces per year.

This does not take into account the impact of Covid-19, and peaks and troughs during the year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

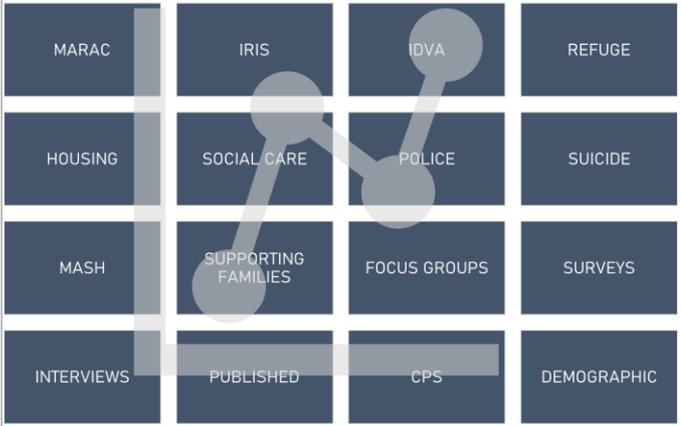
Relate, Panahghar and Coventry Haven are commissioned to provide services to those impacted by domestic abuse living in the community.

Services include community outreach, IDVA support, group work, perpetrator services, children's specific support, a domestic abuse helpline, and the early intervention project.

INDEX OF RECOMMENDATIONS

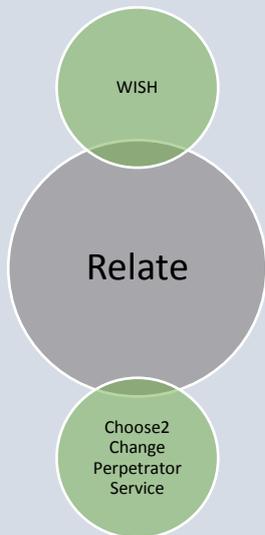
Key Finding	Page	Title	Summary
1	19	Specialist Court IDVA	Support need in relation to support with the Criminal and Civil Justice System (C & CJS).
2	20	CJS Knowledge Gap	A knowledge gap amongst practitioners relating to the Criminal Justice Service response and available specialist support
3	21	Children And Family Courts	Gaps in the monitoring of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) decisions
4	30	Perpetrator Programmes	Lack in offering for high-risk perpetrators.
5	31	Perpetrator Referrals	There were high attrition rates in the Choose to Change Domestic Abuse Programme. The programme is in-depth but difficult for participants to complete.
6	32	GP & IRIS Perpetrator Pathway	Data from the IRIS programme indicated that perpetrators did disclose abuse to their GP.
7	36	Iris Training	The participation of GPs in training has a strong correlation with referrals.
8	38	Barriers To Registering for Health Services	Healthcare settings to assess how 'Domestic Abuse friendly' their registration systems are and make adjustments based on specialist advice.
9	43	Refuge Spaces	Supply and demand of refuge spaces in Coventry.
10	44	Temporary Accommodation for Victims of DA	Need for floating support to meet needs of those in TA.
11	45	Target Hardening	Consider expanding scheme.
12	48	Anxiety and Trauma	Exploration of a psychologically informed model within refuges.
13	49	Children and Young People	Review children's support in refuges.
14	50	Housing Support	Training for housing staff and linked professionals on the impact, risks and interventions for families affected by domestic violence
15	52	Role of Housing Keyworker	Importance of keyworkers to the housing process.
16	53	Housing Managers	Consider adopting a Whole Housing Approach to raise awareness across the partnership of quality assurance standards and safe minimum practice.
17	54	Housing Officer	Addressing fears of those refusing housing offers.
18	55	Limited Housing Stock	Limited availability of housing for larger families requires further exploration.
19	56	Private Housing	Service users being directed towards private housing require a guarantor, which refuge residents tend not to be able to provide.
20	57	Furnishing Properties	Setting up of a fund to help with moving/furnishing costs.
21	61	Specialist Childrens' Support	Explore widening the specialist children's service response to meet the needs of all children, not just those with a Social Care involvement.
22	63	No Recourse to Public Fund	Further explore the particular needs and challenges for this population in partnership with specialist services to identify practical solutions.
23	64	Translators	Requirement for additional support in this area.

OUR APPROACH

SURVEYS	FOCUS GROUPS
<p>71 SURVIVOR SURVEYS COMPLETED</p> <p>51 PRACTITIONER SURVEYS COMPLETED</p>  <p>SUPPORT SERVICES PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS COMPLEX NEEDS CRIMINAL JUSTICE</p> <p>HOUSING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HEALTH</p>	<p>Multiple Groups Completed</p>  <p>SURVIVORS YOUNG PEOPLE STAFF</p> <p>VALLEY HOUSE PANAHGHAR</p> <p>POSITIVE YOUTH FOUNDATION COVENTRY HAVEN</p>
DATA ANALYSIS	1-2-1 INTERVIEWS
<p>Multiple Data Sources Analysed</p> 	<p>30+</p>  <p>1-2-1 INTERVIEWS COMPLETED WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS</p>



SPECIALIST DOMESTIC SERVICES



WISH
Support service for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

Choose 2 Change
Domestic abuse perpetrator programme.

Supported Accommodation
54 units of supported accommodation



Refuge
18 units (BME Specialist)

IDVA
BME Specialist

Community Outreach
Work with standard and medium risk. Offering support, training, and awareness.

Early Intervention Project (Haven & Panahghar)
Embedded with police
Medium and low risk cases

Safe to Talk
Helpline, website, social media

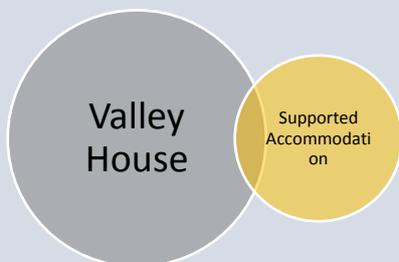
Refuge
18 units

Community Outreach
Standard and medium risk Support and training

Outreach and Aftercare
Group work and 1-2-1

Sanctuary Scheme
Target Hardening

IRIS Support
Advocate Educators
Training to GPs



OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT



SUPPORT SERVICES

Working Well

- Provision of advocacy support
- Prevention advice

“When I was assigned a key worker, she appeared to listen (over the telephone) without judgement and she provided me with support.”

Survivor, 35-44

Area for Development

- Counselling and therapy

“The key workers are great at supporting my daughter’s mental health, 11 years ago she was diagnosed with BPD ... with their help she has stayed strong.”

Survivor, 55-64



PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Area for Development

- Translators

Potential Knowledge Gap

- Faith Service
- Interpreters for hard of hearing
- Dedicated support for LGBTQ+



COMPLEX NEEDS

Working Well

- Drug and alcohol advice and support

“On an initial appointment with Coventry Haven, they identified that I could possibly be suffering from PTSD. I was then diagnosed by a doctor. Had this not been suggested to me, I wouldn't have had this diagnosis and no one over the years had identified this in me, yet when looking back at what was happening to me, it was completely obvious that that was behind the majority of my illness. I then was able to access the counselling services that have been absolutely imperative in my recovery.

Survivor, 35-44

Area for Development

- Mental health advice and support



COURT

Potential Knowledge Gap

- Support to attend court hearings
- Court Orders & Immigration law
- Advice on Legal Matters

“I wasn’t advised as to the terms of the non-molestation. I was unable to contact anyone via phone or email and had to wait on paperwork arriving. The order was given for 6 months, not the 12 requested, as explained, there were danger dates where it’s anticipated he will attempt contact.”

Survivor 35-44



HOUSING

Working Well

- Temporary/ refuge accommodation

“Coventry homelessness team did not seem to understand abuse and victim blame”

Survivor, 35-44



CYP

Working Well

- Info on impacts of DA on children

Potential Knowledge Gap

- Child advocacy

Area for Development

- Counselling
- Trauma support for children

“Support to children was unable to be offered at school. Family are no longer able to make the referral and can only come from social care if open to services.”

Survivor, 35-44



HEALTH

Working Well

- Advice / support on managing health issues
- Advice on local GP's and Dentists

“I had a support plan which included an area around my health, and I hadn't appreciated how much of my poor health was because of how I was living and being abused. I was registered straight away at the doctors and supported in being able to tell him what I was feeling about my concerns. I had been worrying about my sexual health and my worker helped me to book an appointment to get all of the tests I needed.”

Survivor 25-34

DEMOGRAPHICS

KEY FINDINGS

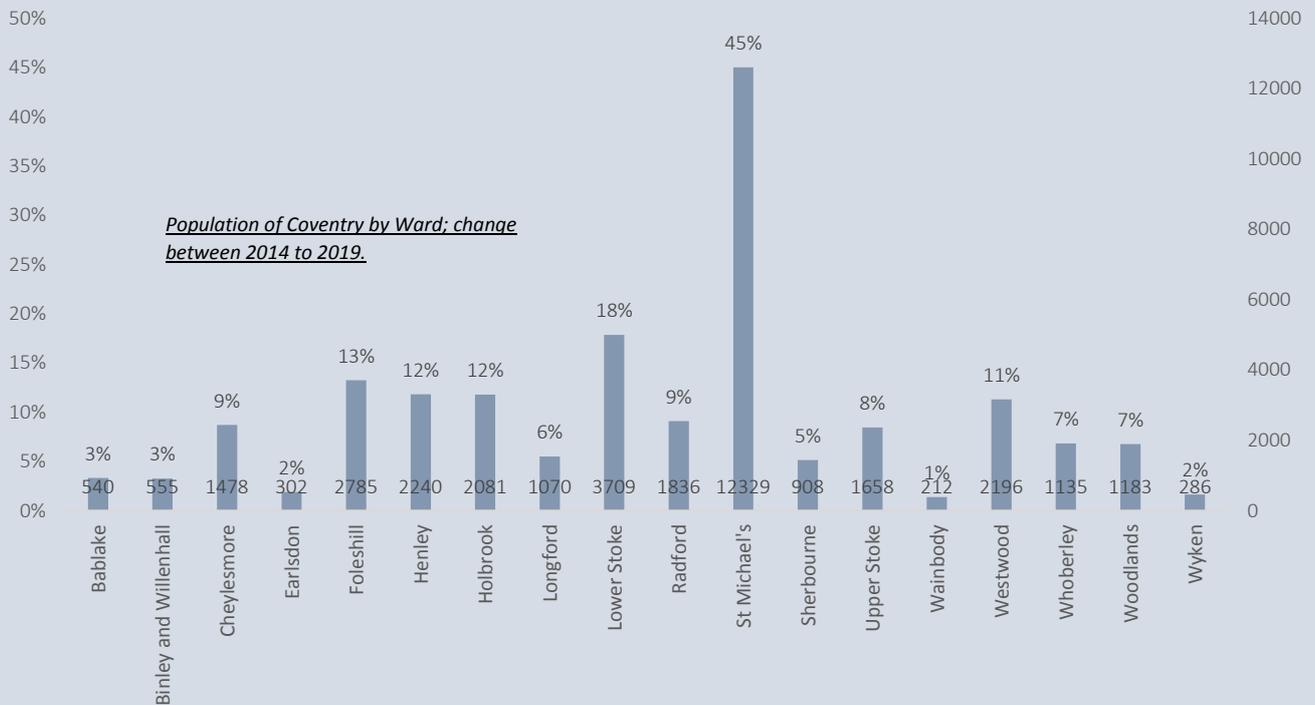
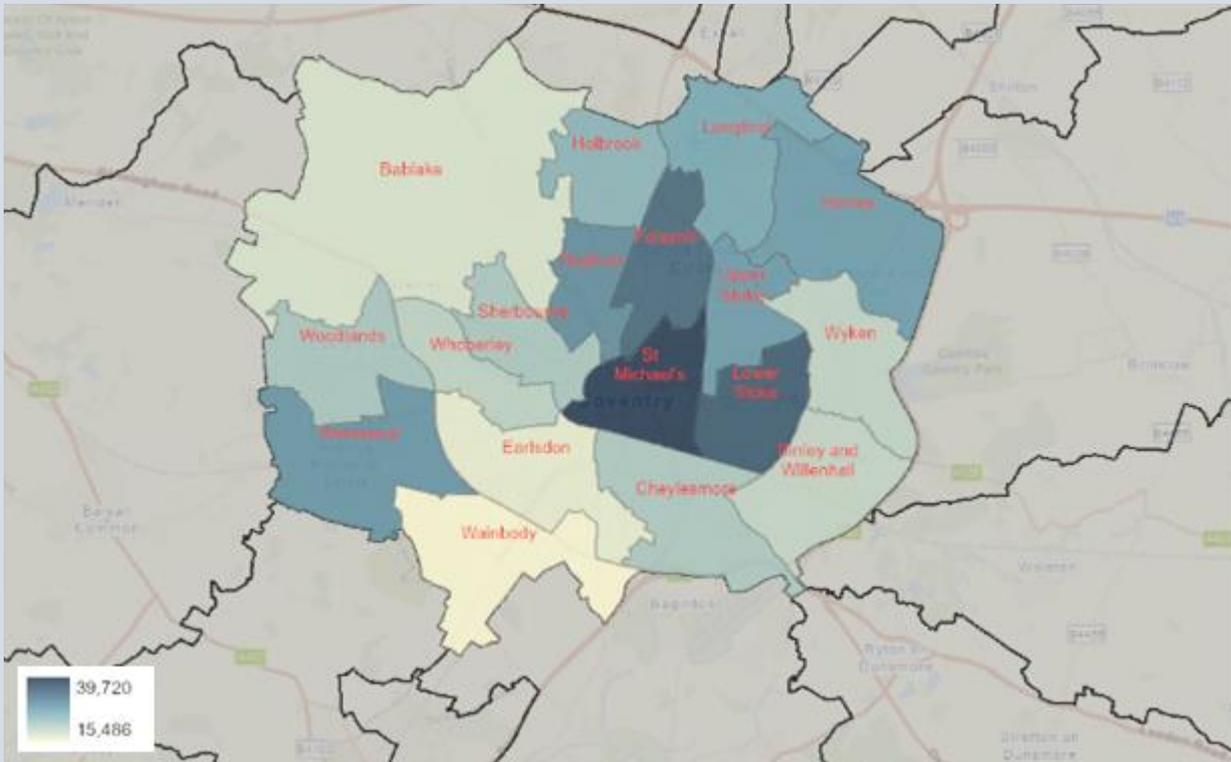
THE POPULATION HAS SEEN YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASES

- The latest available ONS Mid-Year estimates provide a figure of 371,521 population for Coventry.
- Since 2014, the population has grown on average 7,300 per year; however recent years has seen slower growth. The increase is due to natural change and international migration.
- Based on population size, Coventry is the ninth largest city in England.
- The split between males and females is relatively even.



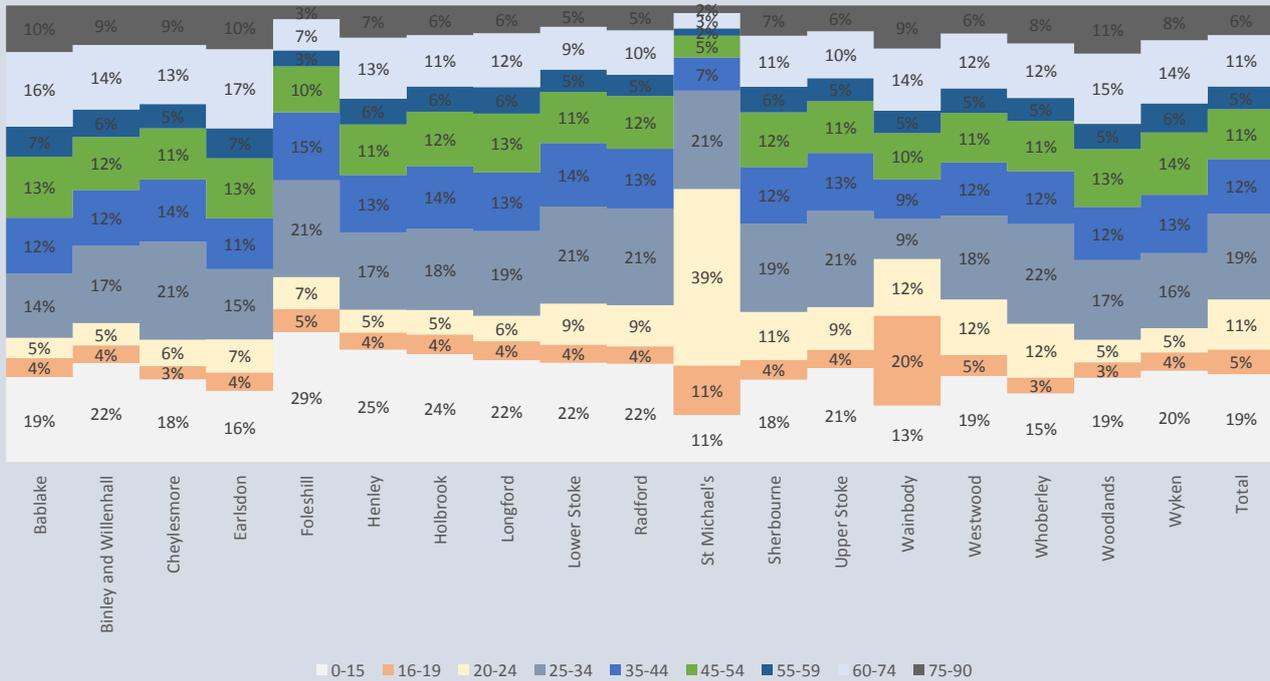
WARD ANALYSIS

- Coventry is made up of 18 wards.
- The population by ward ranges from 15,486 in Wainbody to 39,720 in St Michael's.
- The chart shows the change in population by ward since 2014 and highlights the significant growth in population in the St Michael's ward. St Michael's is home to the university and the population change reflects the increase in the student population.



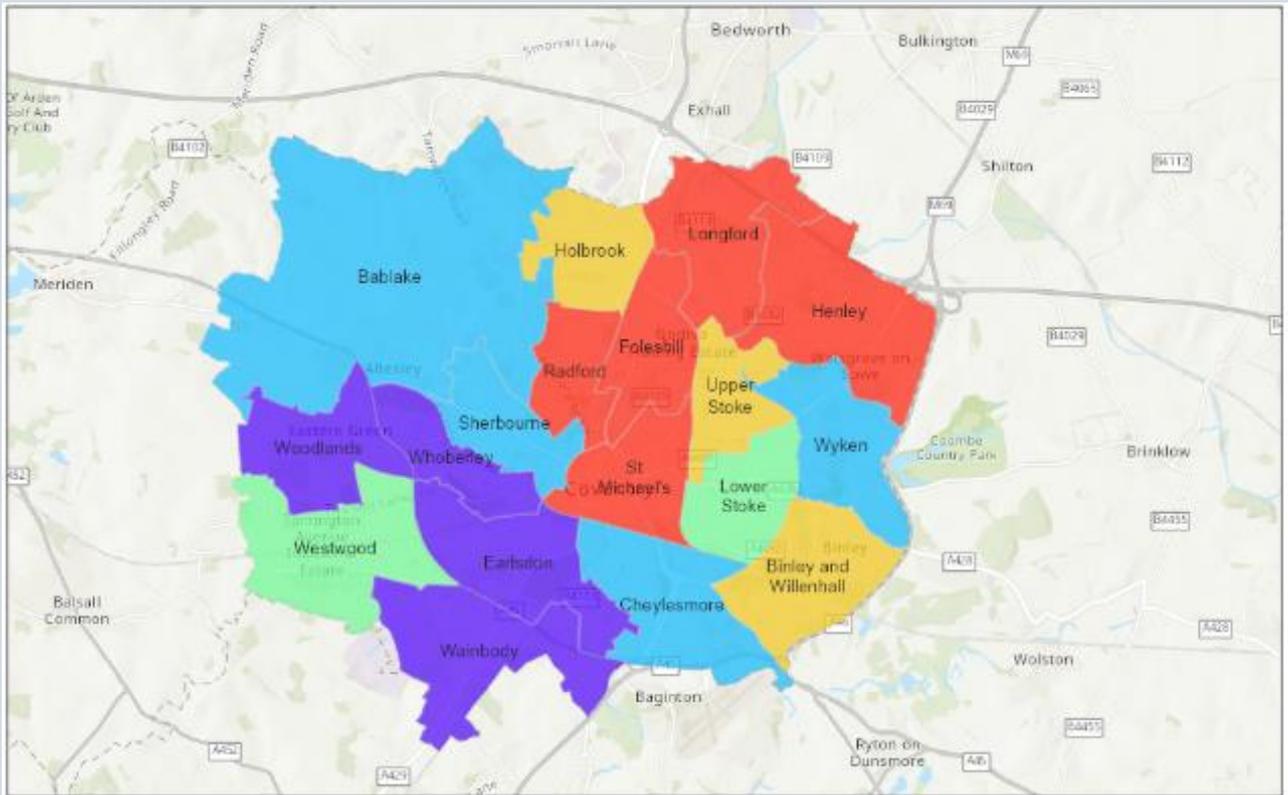
THERE ARE VARIANCES IN THE AGE STRUCTURE BETWEEN WARDS

- Below shows the population of Coventry by ward and by age bands. The age bands reflect those recorded in the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW).



THERE IS SIGNIFICANT POLARISATION OF DEPRIVATION BETWEEN THE WARDS

- It is estimated that 19% of the neighbourhoods in Coventry are amongst the 10% most deprived in the Country.
- The following map shows the IMD decile by ward, where 1 is the most deprived (most deprived 10%) and 10 is the least. Note that the calculations are the average of the Lower Super Output Areas in the Ward as IMD is not produced at Ward level.
- Combining the IMD along with other factors such as age may help to understand prevalence. For example, Bablake Ward has a lower expected prevalence based on age, and in addition, low deprivation.



RECOMMENDATIONS

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

- No recommendations relating to demographics.

PREVALENCE

KEY FINDING

EXPECTED PREVALENCE - OVERVIEW

- Applying the domestic abuse prevalence by age from the CSEW gives a figure of 15,793 for Coventry. The actual number of crime incidents recorded was 9,280. The expected number is based only on age and does not take into account other factors such as ethnicity and deprivation.
- Below shows the expected prevalence and the actual number of DV incidents as a rate per 100,000 population.

EXPECTED NUMBER OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE
INCIDENTS
15,793

RECORDED NUMBER OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE
INCIDENTS
9,280

UNIQUE NUMBER OF
VICTIMS
5,579

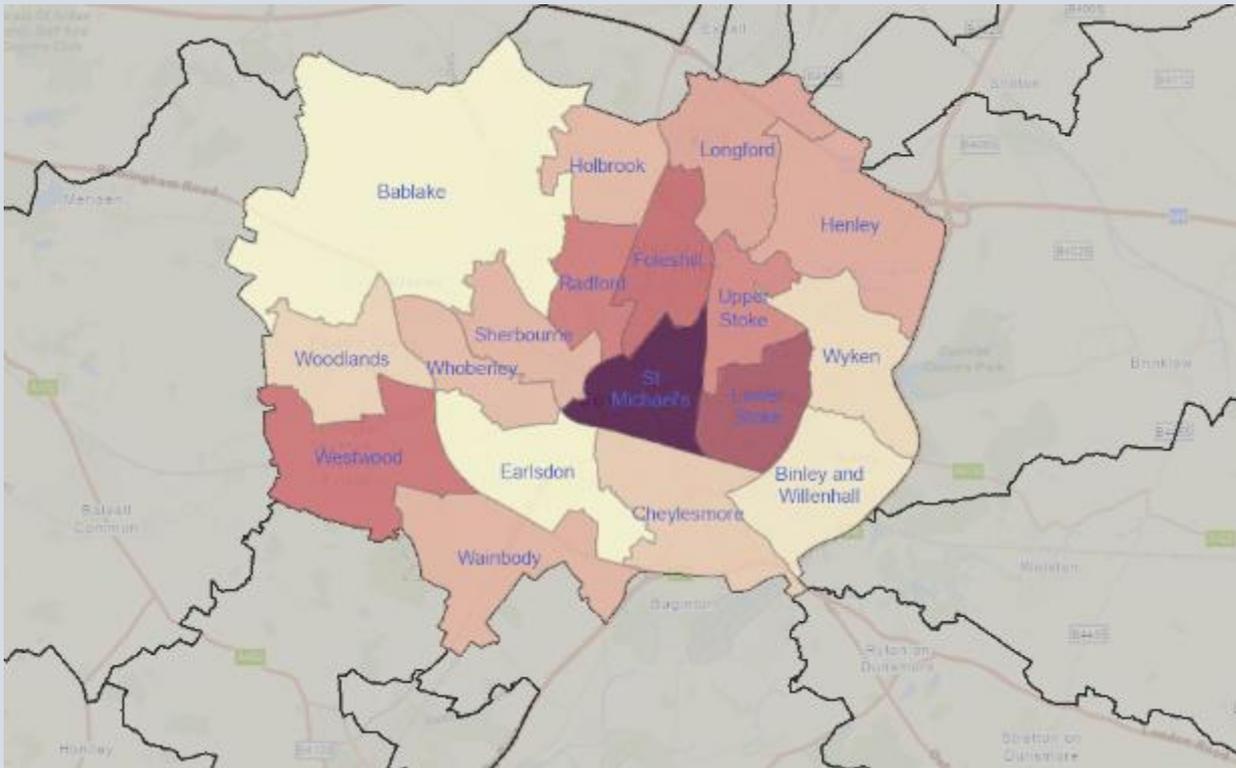
EXPECTED PREVALENCE – BY AGE

- The following table shows the expected and actual prevalence of domestic abuse by age group.
- The expected prevalence is taken from the Crime Survey of England & Wales (CSEW) with the actual prevalence taken from police data and covers all domestic abuse flagged incidents.

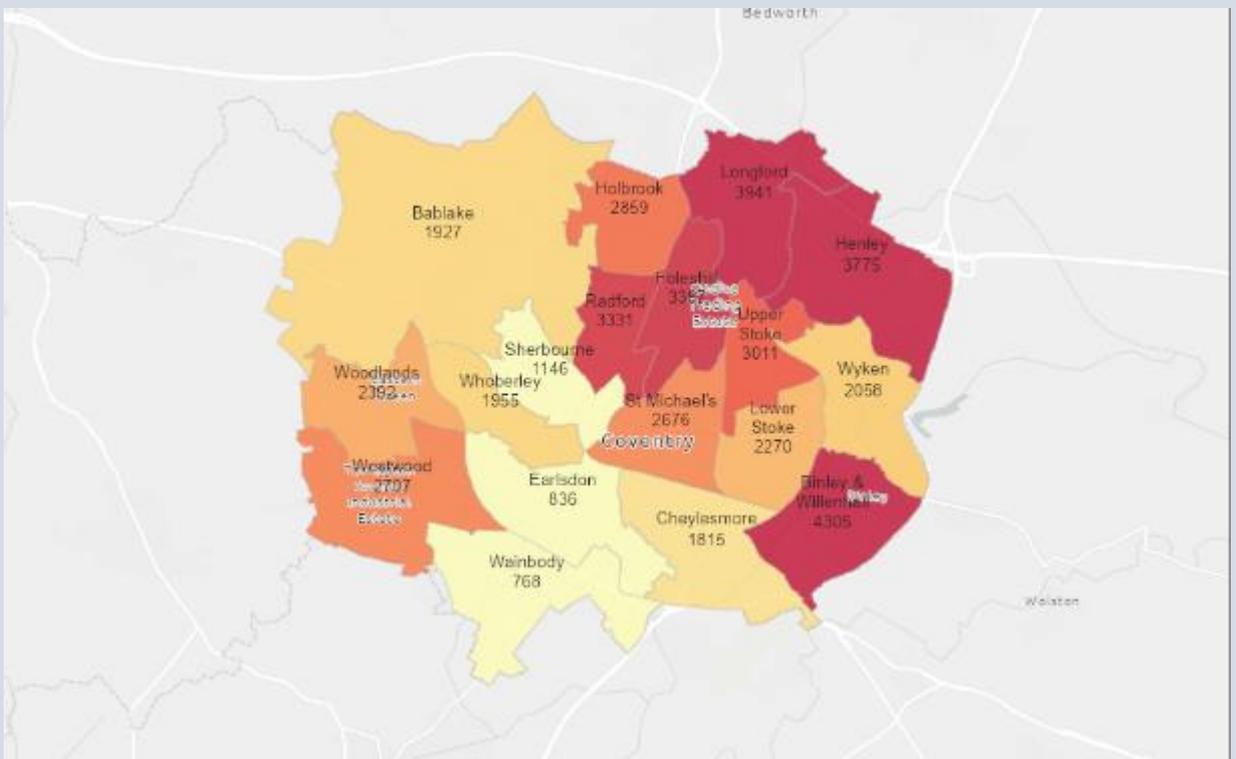
Prevalence of domestic abuse in the last year among adults aged 16 to 74 – Any Domestic Abuse	Men		Women		All	
	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected	Actual
Under 16	-	0.0	-	0.1	-	0.0
16-19	5.3	1.0	14.0	3.1	9.5	2.0
20-24	4.9	0.7	10.0	3.2	7.4	1.9
25-34	4.2	1.1	7.7	4.0	5.9	2.5
35-44	4.2	1.4	6.9	4.5	5.6	2.9
45-54	3.7	1.2	7.7	2.6	5.7	1.9
55-59	2.5	0.8	6.5	1.7	4.6	1.2
60-74	1.9	0.5	4.4	1.0	3.2	0.7
75+	-	0.3	-	0.4	-	0.4
ALL ADULTS	3.6	0.7	7.3	2.3	5.5	1.5

EXPECTED PREVALENCE – BY WARD

- Below shows the expected prevalence of DV incidents as a rate per 100,000 population.



- Total DV incidents in 2020; rate per 100,000 population.



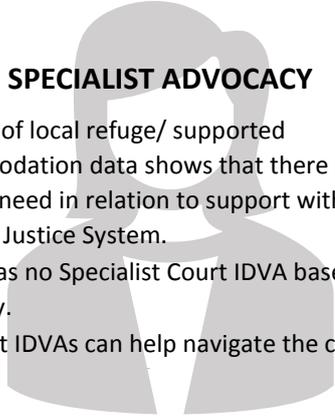
CIVIL & CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



KEY FINDINGS

SPECIALIST ADVOCACY

- Analysis of local refuge/ supported accommodation data shows that there is a support need in relation to support within the Criminal Justice System.
- There was no Specialist Court IDVA based in Coventry.
- Specialist IDVAs can help navigate the court

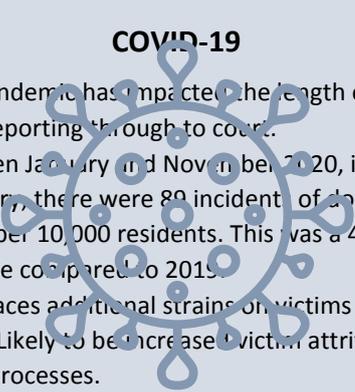


SAFE LIVES REPORT

- The Safe Lives Report '*Understanding court support for victims of domestic abuse*' makes a number of recommendations in relation to court processes:
 - Need for urgent action on court backlogs and increased long-term investment.
 - Recognising the role of IDVAs as an integral part of court systems.
 - Realising 'trauma-informed' courts and cultural change training for all professionals.

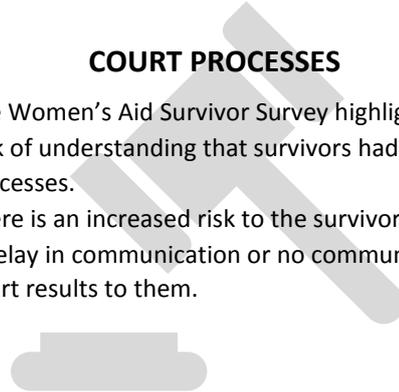
COVID-19

- The pandemic has impacted the length of cases from reporting through to court.
- Between January and November 2020, in Coventry, there were 89 incidents of domestic abuse per 10,000 residents. This was a 45% increase compared to 2019.
- This places additional strains on victims – "life on hold". Likely to be increase victim attrition from court processes.



COURT PROCESSES

- The Women's Aid Survivor Survey highlighted the lack of understanding that survivors had of court processes.
- There is an increased risk to the survivor if there is a delay in communication or no communication of court results to them.



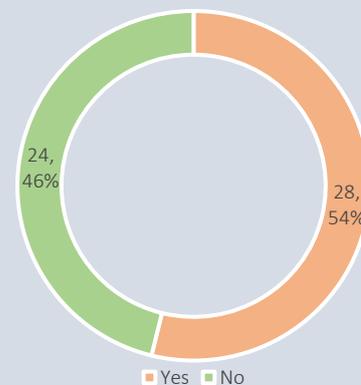
CAFCASS

- Feedback from practitioners show that there are sometimes gaps in the monitoring of CAFCASS decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDING 1 – COURT IDVA

- Analysis of local refuge data shows that there is a support need in relation to support with the Criminal and Civil Justice System (C & CJS).
- The Women’s Aid Survivor Survey highlighted the lack of understanding that survivors had of court processes and the complexity and risks for survivors and their children while engaging with the C & CJS.



The chart shows the proportion of residents in Valley House in 2020 who required support with legal issues.

“I wasn’t advised as to the terms of the non-molestation [order]. I was unable to contact anyone via phone or email and had to wait on paperwork arriving.”

“The order was given for 6 months, not the 12 requested, as explained, there were danger dates where it’s anticipated he will attempt contact. And after his ex-wife had the same order previously (for 12 months due to physical abuse)”

Survivor, 35-44

IMPACT

- There is an escalation in risk, fear, and uncertainty through engagement with the C & CJS which requires specialist advice, support and risk reduction interventions, including coordinated multiagency working.
- Interventions and advice will vary depending on context, needs and risk factors. There is a possibility that perpetrators will use C & CJS and credible professionals to perpetuate abuse^[1].

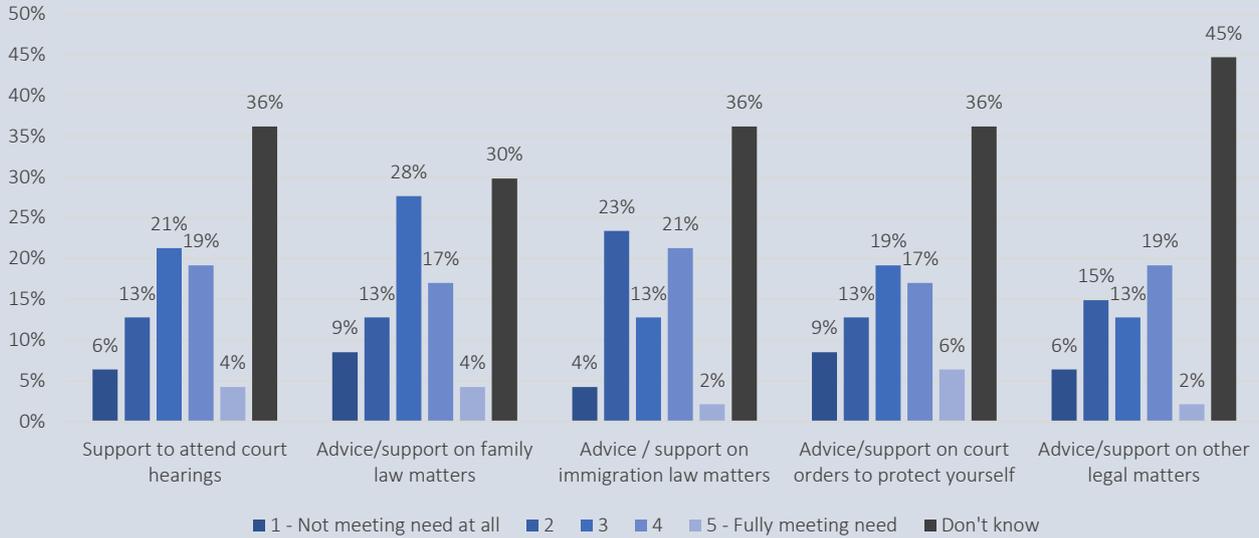
RECOMMENDATION

- Explore the possibility of specialist Court IDVAs and identify the logistical or systemic barriers that heighten risk and safety consequences for engagement with C & CJS.
- Map out the access points for specialist support & legal advice for help-seeking survivors and their children.

KEY FINDING 2 – KNOWLEDGE GAP

- The Coventry practitioners survey highlighted that there was a knowledge gap amongst practitioners relating to the Criminal Justice Service response and available specialist support.

Support in Relation to Criminal Justice - Staff



“I don't have a good enough understanding of what is happening in these areas to fully comment.”

Childrens’ Service Practitioner

“We need more awareness of this service for all professionals”

Substance Misuse Practitioner

IMPACT

- Staff are less likely to proactively enable disclosures, make timely or appropriate referrals, recognise the need for coordinated working or early intervention due to their knowledge gap.
- Individuals and families in crisis are more likely to be identified but risks and safety planning in relation to C & CJS may be limited.

RECOMMENDATION

- Ongoing Multi Agency Training to teams and lead professionals on the nature and impact of domestic abuse, and appropriate safe interventions.
- Explore ways of embedding domestic abuse awareness into strategic leadership, organisational development and core business across Multi Agency practice.

KEY FINDING 3 – CHILDREN AND FAMILY COURTS

- Feedback from practitioners show that there are on occasions, gaps in the monitoring of Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) decisions. This relates to CAFCASS decisions stating that there should be no child contact with a perpetrator.

“Where is the monitoring and guidance given by the courts and social care? In this case, dad is getting access to his children even though CAFCASS recommended there should be no contact. Dad obtained contact via solicitor and the civil courts.”

Specialist Accommodation Practitioner



IMPACT

- Gaps in monitoring will enhance and escalate risks to children and the non-abusing parent. These risks are amplified when there are multiple abusers and the survivor, and their children are being coercively controlled.



RECOMMENDATION

- Risk management training to professionals supporting families engaging with C & CJS with clear referral routes to specialist services and the need for coordinated case management to support safe interventions.

POLICE

KEY FINDINGS

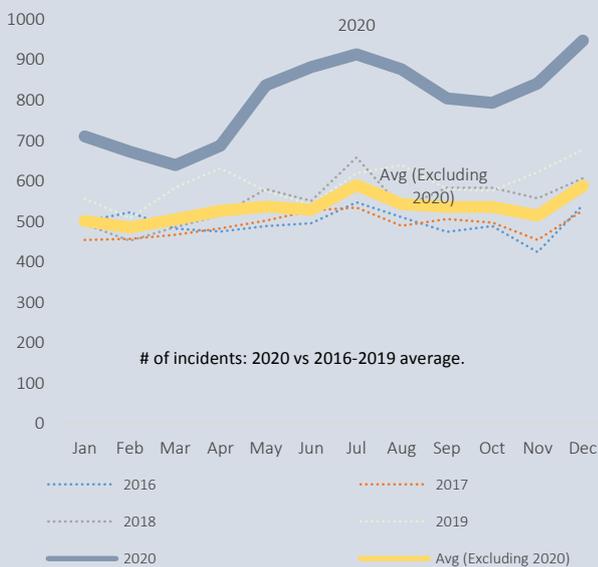


-- TECHNICAL NOTES --

- The analysis is based on raw data provided by the Partnership Intelligence Liaison Team.
- The chapter is based on the initial analysis, and further refinement is recommended. For example, offence types are filtered out to include selected incident types.
- The analysis below uses all incident types which includes non-crimes such as “MARAC DA REFERRAL- NON-CRIME” and “DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DISCLOSURE REQUEST (CLARE'S LAW) - NON CRIME”.
- Further analysis has been undertaken removing CUC Expansion “Non-Crime”. This is in the full document.

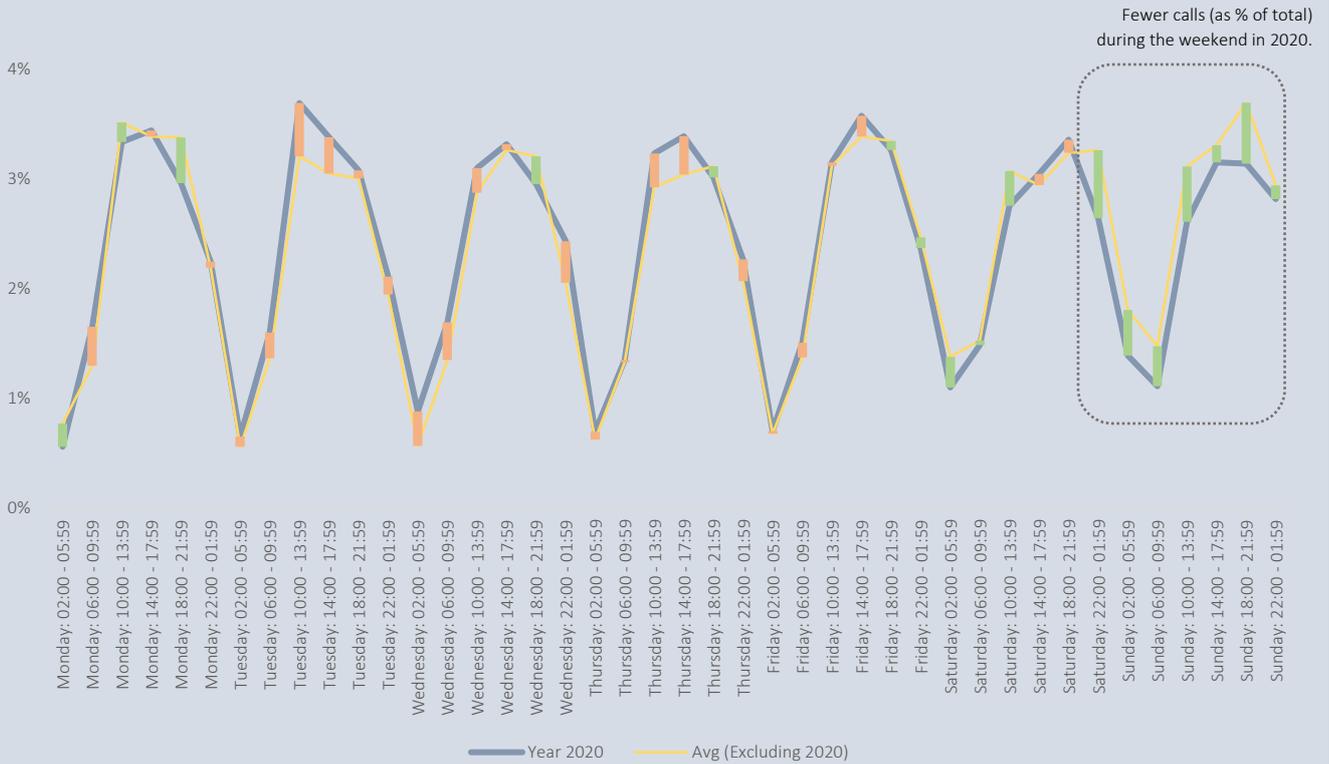
NUMBER OF REPORTS

- There was a total of 9,280 domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police during 2020. This is a 33% increase on the previous highest number over the analysed period which was 7,000 during 2019.
- The average number between 2016 to 2019 was 6,326. The numbers in 2020 represents a 47% increase.
- The analysis by month shows that it was from May onwards which saw the highest increase on the average.



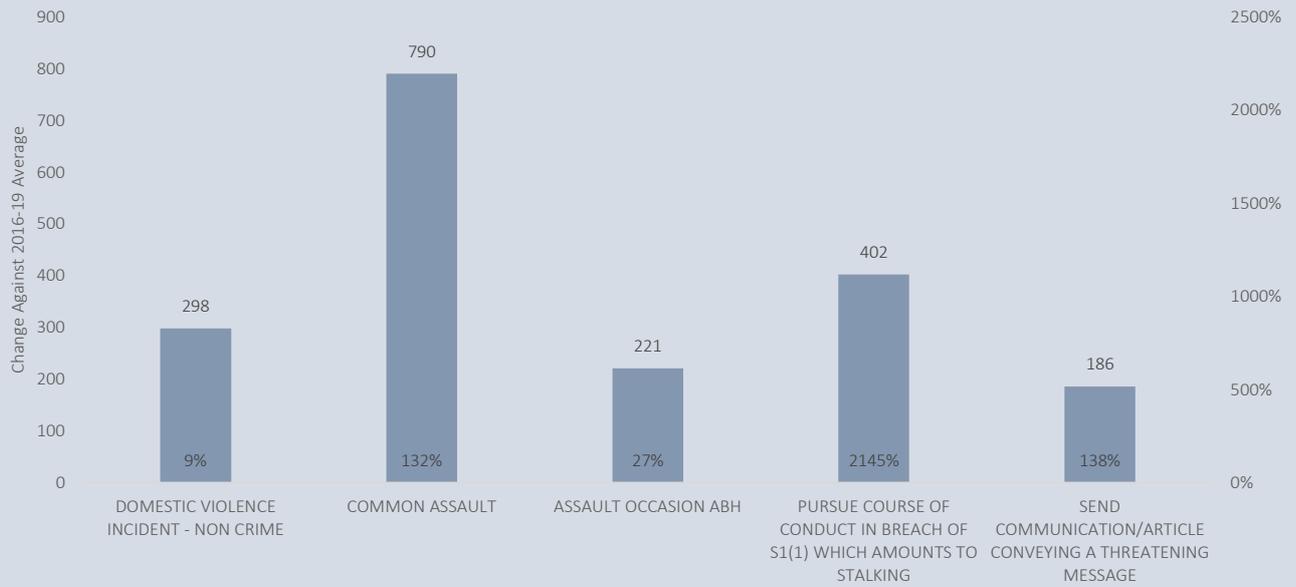
TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

- The following chart shows the distribution of calls to the Police (not necessarily incident time) by day and time. The chart shows 2020 compared against the 2016-19 average.
- The red and green line shows the variance of the 2020 distribution away from the 2016-19 average.
- The 2016-19 average shows more calls during the evenings of the weekend; however, the 2020 data shows more of an even distribution. This is linked to the impact of lockdown.



CERTAIN OFFENCE TYPES REPORT HIGHER INCREASES THAN OTHERS [INCLUDING NON CRIME]

- “Domestic Violence Incident - Non-Crime” accounted for 37% of the calls in 2020, and has seen increases on 2019 (18%) and the 2016-19 average (9%).
- In terms of actual increases in incident type, common assault saw an increase of 790 to 1,390 in 2020 in comparison to the 2016-19 average. This represents an increase of 132%.
- “Pursue Course of Conduct In Breach Of S1(1) Which Amounts To Stalking” saw an annual average of 19 incidents a month during 2016-19. There were 421 in 2020 equating to a 2145% increase. The % change in recorded stalking is due to changes in the recording guidelines in 2020.



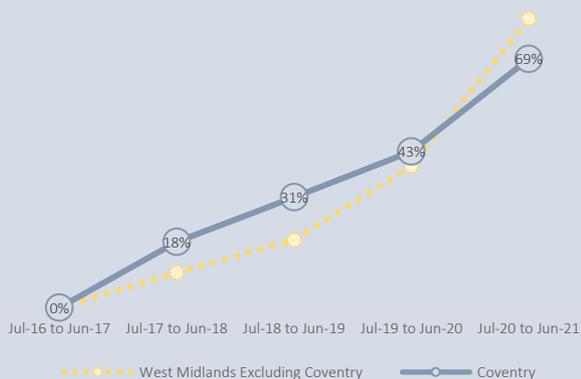
Offence	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Avg (2016-19)	Change Against 2019: #	Change Against 2019: %	Change Against Avg (2016-19): #	Change Against Avg (2016-19): %	2020 % of Total
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENT - NON-CRIME	3486	3374	3265	3032	3587	3289	555	18%	298	9%	37%
COMMON ASSAULT	444	451	625	881	1390	600	509	58%	790	132%	14%
ASSAULT OCCASION ABH	748	724	854	943	1038	817	95	10%	221	27%	11%
PURSUE COURSE OF CONDUCT IN BREACH OF S1(1) WHICH AMOUNTS TO STALKING	4	17	23	31	421	19	390	1258%	402	2145%	4%
SEND COMMUNICATION/ARTICLE CONVEYING A THREATENING MESSAGE	93	100	151	194	320	135	126	65%	186	138%	3%

MARAC

KEY FINDINGS

REFERRAL NUMBERS

- The 613 referrals in the 12 months to June 2021 is the highest in any 12-month period.
- There has been a 69% increase over the past 5 years. This is similar to the West Midlands.



SAFELIVES ESTIMATE

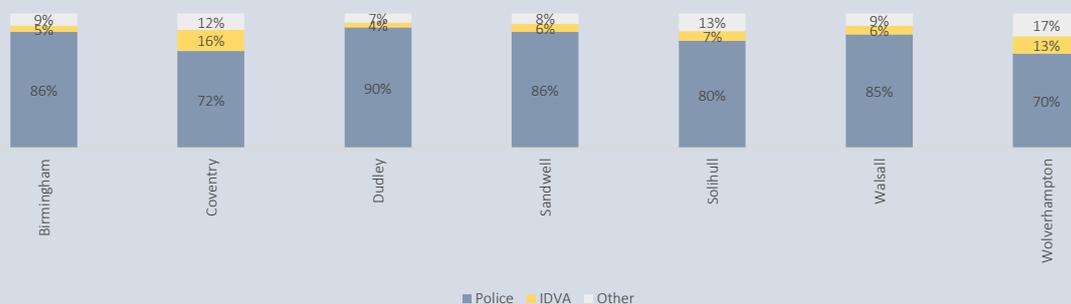
- The Safelives estimates 576 cases in Coventry. The actual number was slightly higher at 613.
- The 613 rate is lower than 4 out of the 6 other local authorities in West Midlands.

REPEAT CASES

- 45% of the referrals in the 12 months to June 2021 is slightly higher than the previous 2 years.
- The 45% rate is similar to the majority of the other local authorities in West Midlands.

REFERRAL SOURCES

- Referrals from the police has historically accounted for a high percentage of the total.
- The last few years has seen a decrease in the percentage of police referrals and increase in IDVA and partnership referrals.
- Partnership referrals include mental health, health services, and other.
- In comparison to the other local authorities in West Midlands, as a rate of the total, Coventry shows high rates of referrals from IDVA and from other sources who are not the Police.



BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC

- The percentage of MARAC referrals including a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic victim / perpetrator has been between 22-28% of the total over the last 3 years.
- Using the 2011 census as a comparator, the chart shows a proportionate figure of MARAC referrals against this. For example, 26% of the population in the 2011 census were Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, with 22% of MARAC referrals recorded with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic victim perpetrator resulting a calculation of 0.9. With other factors being equal, this rate suggests that roughly a representative number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic referrals are being received.



- It is possible that the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic population of Coventry has increased since the 2011 census. This information will have to be revisited once the latest census data is released.

CHILDREN

- For the 12 months to June 2021, there were 661 children were associated with the cases discussed.
- This equates to an average of 1.1 children per case discussed. This is similar to the previous year and to the other local authorities in Coventry.

LGBT

- The number of cases for LGBT relationships has never exceeded more than 5 in any 12-month period. This is less than 1% of the total cases. This rate is similar to West Midlands.

DISABILITY

- The percentage of MARAC referrals with a disability identified has increased from 0% for the 12 months to June 2017 to 4% for the 12 months to June 2021. This equates to 23 referrals for the 12 months to June 2021.
- Across the West Midlands, the rate ranges from 2% in Birmingham and in Sandwell to 6% in Solihull.

MALE VICTIMS

- There has been a decrease in the number and rate of male victims, from 3% (14) for the 12 months to June 2019 to 1% (6) for the 12 months to June 2021.
- The 1% rate is one of the lowest across the West Midlands area.

VICTIMS AGED 16-17

- Excluding the 12 months to June 2017, the number of victims aged 16-17 is on average below 10 a year. This equates to less than 1% of the total referrals. This is comparable to the West Midlands average.

THE NUMBER OF MARAC IDVAS (3), IS LOWER THAN THE SAFELIVES ESTIMATE

- Safe Lives recommends that IDVAs cover no more than 100 cases per year which means around 5.77 full time equivalent (FTE) IDVAs are needed to cope with the number of cases heard at MARAC in Coventry.
- In Coventry there are 7 FTEs with a proposed 3 extra currently in process. Of these IDVAs, only 3 are MARAC IDVAs, the other IDVAs have different responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

- No recommendations relating to MARAC.

PERPETRATORS

KEY FINDINGS

PROGRAMME	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME	BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS	DRIVE PROGRAMME	CHOOSE 2 CHANGE PROGRAMME
PERPETRATOR RISK LEVEL	MODERATE AND STANDARD RISK	MEDIUM TO HIGH RISK	HIGH RISK	LOW TO MEDIUM RISK
TYPE	NON-COURT MANDATED	COURT MANDATED	NON-COURT MANDATED	NON-COURT MANDATED
AVAILABLE IN COVENTRY	✗	✓	✗	✓

AVAILABLE COURSES

- The following perpetrator programmes are available in Coventry:
 - Choose2Change Programme (Relate)
 - Local authority commissioned.
 - Primary reason for the programme is victim and child safety.
 - Building Better Relationships Programme (Probation)
 - Court mandated programme
 - CAFCASS (My Time Richmond Fellowship)
 - A service commissioned by CAFCASS, for court ordered and directed Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes. Referrals are accepted exclusively from CAFCASS Family Court Advisors.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME

- Previously, the domestic violence perpetrator programme was offered to residents of Coventry.
- The programme was not delivered within Coventry, which was a barrier to perpetrators attending.
- The course was aimed at medium to high-risk perpetrators (non-court mandated); there is now a gap in this area.
- The programme was commissioned by the PCC but has now ceased.

CARA AND ALCOHOL & DA INTERVENTION SCHEME

- The CARA (Cautions and Relationship Abuse) programme is run in Coventry. The programme consists of 2 workshops and is referred into via the police.
- Cranstoun run an alcohol related violence scheme that is not specifically aimed at perpetrators of domestic abuse.

REFERRALS

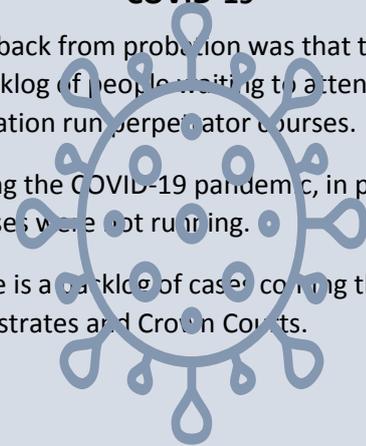
- There were high attrition rates in the Choose2Change Domestic Abuse Programme. The programme is in-depth but difficult for people to complete.
- In 2020, there were 69 referrals, of which 28 had a full assessment.
- The reasons for this include inappropriate referrals being made and perpetrators dropping out of the process before an assessment is completed.
- Feedback from practitioners was that it was hard to get people they were working with to engage in the non-court ordered perpetrator course.
- Most of the referrals to the Choose2Change programme came from Children Social Care.
- The Choose to Change programme is for perpetrators of intimate partner violence and does not relate to familial abuse.

EXPERIENCE OF SURVIVORS

- Practitioners working in the areas of early identification and prevention highlighted that the system seems to be more severe on the survivor compared to the perpetrator.
- There is a lot of pressure put on the survivor in terms of attending services and domestic abuse courses. Particularly in relation to child protection plans.

COVID-19

- Feedback from probation was that there was a backlog of people waiting to attend the probation run perpetrator courses.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, in person courses were not running.
- There is a backlog of cases coming through Magistrates and Crown Courts.



RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDING 4 – AVAILABILITY OF PERPETRATOR PROGRAMMES

- In Coventry, there is a local authority commissioned perpetrator programme; the Choose 2Change Programme has a preventative focus and is predominantly for perpetrators at a low to medium risk.
- The PCC commissioned Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme is not run in Coventry.
- There are no non-court mandated perpetrator programmes for high-risk perpetrators in Coventry.



IMPACT

- There are a cohort of perpetrators who are not eligible for the Choose 2 Change programme who are not able to receive any interventions aimed at addressing their perpetrating behaviour.



RECOMMENDATION

- Gaps in the offering for high-risk perpetrators should be addressed.

KEY FINDING 5 – REFERRALS

- There were high attrition rates in the Choose2Change Domestic Abuse Programme. The programme is in-depth and challenging.
- In 2020, there were 69 referrals, of which 28 had a full assessment.
- Feedback from practitioners was that it was hard to get people they were working with to engage in non-court ordered perpetrator courses.

“Tackling the perpetrator and focussing on changing their behaviour should be given as much weight as supporting the victims or we will still be in the same position in 20 years’ time.”

Coventry City Council, Programme Manager



IMPACT

- A high proportion of perpetrators did not complete the programme and therefore have not appropriately addressed their behaviour.
- Those who could potentially benefit from interventions were not accessing services.
- Appropriate interventions are dependent on context, severity, and willingness to engage. Professionals working with perpetrators or referring perpetrators to services may need awareness training.



RECOMMENDATION

- Training regarding ‘what works’ when addressing perpetrator behaviour, including motivational interviews for practitioners who work directly with families^[2].
- Consider expanding the definition of intervention ‘success’ and for the use of women/partner reports in evaluation.

KEY FINDING 6 – GP AND IRIS PERPETRATOR PATHWAY

- Data from the IRIS programme indicated that on occasion, perpetrators did disclose abuse to their GP.



IMPACT

- More perpetrators could be offered help through the GP route.



RECOMMENDATION

- Perpetrator work already included in the IRIS training package are reinforced and promoted with GPs.

IRIS

KEY FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

- ‘The IRIS programme started in Coventry in June 2018. Coventry and Warwickshire CCG directly commission Coventry Haven to deliver the programme.
- There are still 4 practices who have not signed up to the IRIS training.
- GPs refer both survivors and perpetrators to the IRIS programme.
- There are plans to further develop the IRIS programme to include dentistry, pharmacies, and sexual health services.

TRAINING AND REFERRALS

- There were relatively low number of training sessions and referrals in 2019-20.
- 2020-21 saw an increase in training sessions, and subsequently high number of referrals.



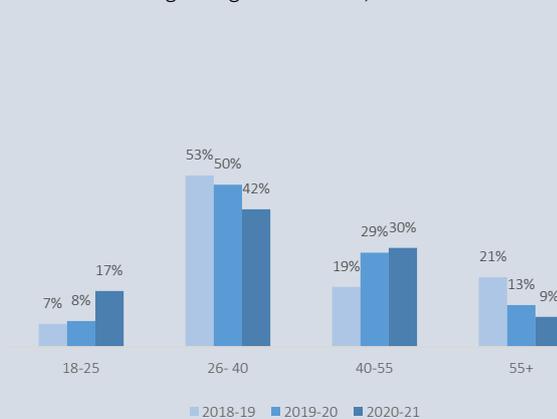
CORRELATION BETWEEN “SOCIAL CLASS” AND NUMBER OF REFERRALS

- The geographical analysis by “social class” and number of referrals shows a level of correlation.
- This however could be linked to the more deprived areas being targeted with more training sessions.

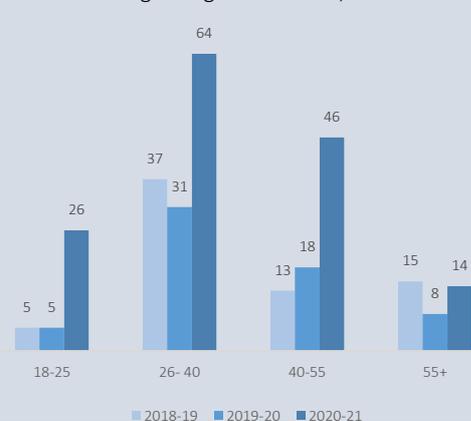
AGE

- There has been a change in age structure of those referred.
- The 55+ age group has seen a decrease as a percentage of the total.
- A high percentage are from the 26-40 age group; however, this rate has been decreasing.
- The 18-25 and 40-55 age groups both report increases.

Change in ages of referral; % of total.



Change in ages of referral; actual count.



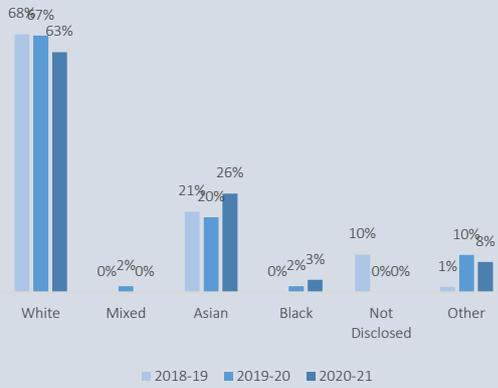
GENDER

- Females accounted for 93% of the referrals, with all except 1 recorded as victims.
- Males accounted for 7% of the referrals, with 5% recorded as victims, and 2% as perpetrators.
- 3 of the 6 males who disclosed as perpetrators did so in the analysed time period during Covid-19.

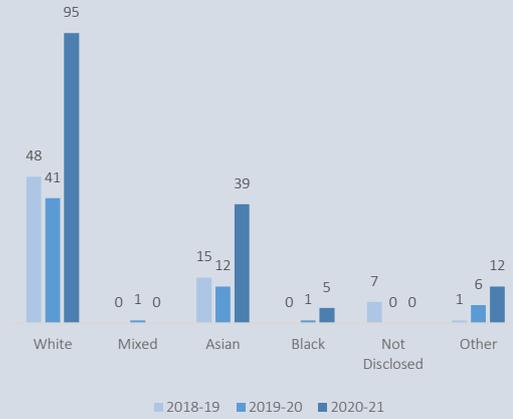
ETHNICITY

- The increase in the number of referrals has meant all ethnic groups show an increase, however certain groups report a higher increase.

Change in ethnicity of referrals; % of total.



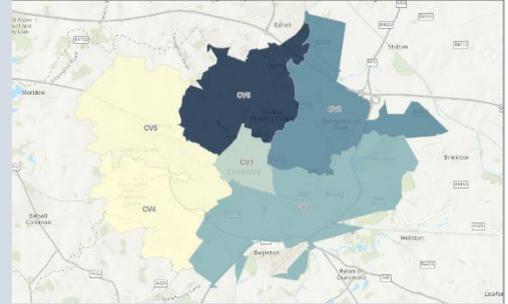
Change in ethnicity of referrals; actual count.



RECOMMENDATION

KEY FINDING 7 – IRIS TRAINING CORRELATION WITH REFERRALS

- In 2018-19 and 2019-20, the postcode areas of CV4 and CV5 both had little or no training, and low number of referrals. In 2020-21, CV4 still had no training and referrals remained low. CV5 saw an increase in training and an increase in referrals.
- The participation of GPs in training has a strong correlation with referrals.
- There are still 4 practices who have not signed up to the IRIS training. All postcodes (first part of postcode) in Coventry are covered by an IRIS trained GP and educator trainer.
- The data shows a high rate for the older population. Disclosure of domestic abuse at GP surgeries is a



IMPACT

- There may be unmet need in the areas with low referrals and Primary Care staff may require ongoing training and liaison with IRIS practitioners to maintain engagement.
- There may be unmet need in areas where practices have not signed up to IRIS.
- Health care settings provide key opportunities to enable disclosures and offer support to families affected by domestic abuse. The existence of health-based policies guiding professionals in the provision of appropriate support following disclosure of domestic violence is only effective if health professionals understand the dynamics of violent relationships.

RECOMMENDATION

- Training on the dynamics of domestic abuse to all health care professionals, including information about specialist services, outreach and community support as well as ongoing work with Primary Care through IRIS.
- Explore ways of better enabling access to information and disclosures within Primary Care settings, including for under-represented populations.
- Specific targeting of training to practices in the CV4 postcode area.
- Refresher training should be offered to ensure the IRIS programme is fully delivered and the issue is reinforced to primary care practitioners and mitigate the knowledge gap that occurs with staff

MATERNITY SERVICES

KEY FINDINGS

MATERNITY

- 'Routine enquiry' is embedded in the patient's maternity pathway.
- Women who disclose domestic abuse are directed to a perinatal mental health clinic.
- There are safeguarding midwives within the maternity service.

HEALTH

RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDING 8 – BARRIERS TO REGISTERING FOR HEALTH SERVICES

- Practitioners in refuges fed back that registering domestic abuse survivors who have moved into the area with health services can present challenges.



IMPACT

- Survivors can be dissuaded from accessing some health interventions by repeat, non-confidential, administrative processes. (e.g. registering with a GP). There are significant implications for risk when vulnerable individuals and families are not enabled to engage with health care systems.



RECOMMENDATION

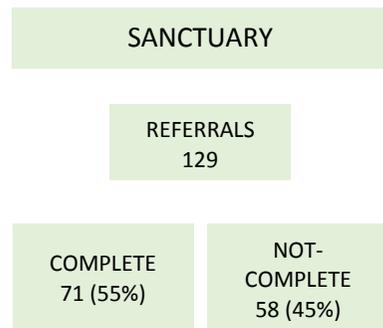
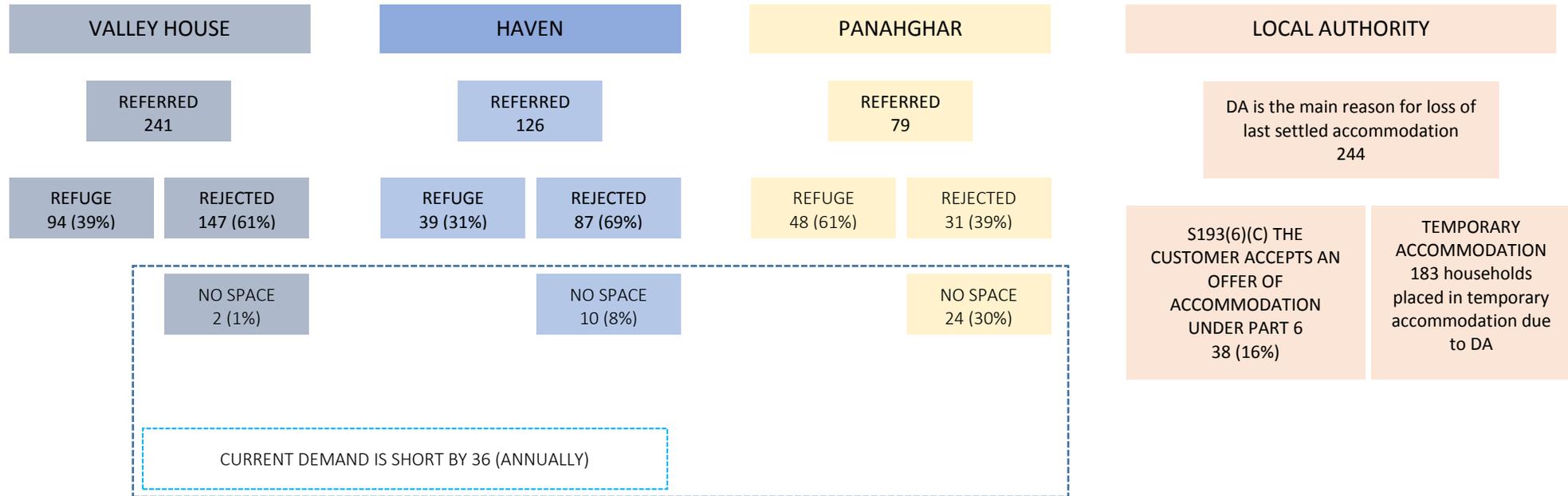
- Healthcare settings to assess how 'domestic abuse friendly' their registration systems are and make adjustments based on specialist advice such as IRIS practitioners.
- Explore ways of embedding domestic abuse awareness into strategic leadership, practice development, and core business within public facing health centres and practices.

SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION

KEY FINDINGS

OVERVIEW OF GUIDANCE – SAFE ACCOMMODATION

- The Domestic Abuse Act places a duty on local authorities to assess the need for support and prepare strategies to provide support for victims who reside in relevant accommodation ('safe accommodation').
- The guidance describes a variety of different types of safe accommodation:
 - Refuge accommodation
 - Specialist safe accommodation
 - Dispersed accommodation
 - Safe self-contained accommodation
 - Safe self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation
 - Sanctuary schemes
 - Move-on/ second stage accommodation.
 - Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation
- Accommodation such as bed and breakfast accommodation are not considered relevant safe accommodation.



- In Haven 8% of referrals in 2020-21 were rejected due to capacity. COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted this figure as Haven did not advertise spaces and instead kept them available for Coventry homeless. This rate was not reflective of the pre-pandemic rate.
- In Panahghar, the rate is higher at 30%.
- For Valley House, only 2 referrals were rejected due to no capacity. **The vast majority of not being placed was Service User declining, accounting for 75 (31%) of all the referrals.**
- This figure would have been impacted by Covid-19.
- The changes to demand as a result of the changes to the Domestic Abuse act is not fully understood.
- In 2020 21, 183 households were placed into temporary accommodation who presented as homeless due to domestic abuse.
- The guidance in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act indicates that bed and breakfast accommodation is not considered relevant safe accommodation.

- There are currently 54 commissioned refuge/ supported accommodation spaces and 35 non-commissioned spaces. An additional 20 units have also been brought on-line temporarily.
- The recommended number of refuge spaces for Coventry (using the Council of Europe formula) is 35 with the actual number commissioned exceeding this by 19 spaces.



OUT OF AREA

- Local authorities have a duty to house residents from outside of the local authority area.
- Of the 52 residents accessing the Valley House specialist accommodation in 2020-21, 33 (63%) were from outside of Coventry.
- 16 out of 29 Coventry Haven residents (55%) in April to June 2021 resided in Coventry. 5 out of 29 were from the West Midlands (3 from Birmingham).
- Information on where Coventry residents were placed when they moved out of borough was not collected.

REFUGES

- Because of their communal areas, refuges are not suitable for all.
- The communal nature of refuges offers a good opportunity for peer support and informal support to both adults and children.

KEY WORKERS

- Feedback from the engagement work in specialist accommodation highlighted the importance of the key worker role within the specialist accommodation.
- Key workers were key to getting residents engaged with local services, particularly health services.

SOCIAL HOUSING OFFER

- Local authorities make one offer of housing. Feedback was that this could impact those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds who will reject offers in areas where there is a lack of cultural diversity.
- The role of keyworkers is crucial particularly for assisting minoritised and racialised women to 'relocate'.
- Large families are difficult to move on because there is limited 3–4-bedroom stock.
- Feedback from those in specialist accommodation was that the residents from outside of Coventry had to reside in the specialist accommodation for 6 months before they can bid for properties on the Coventry Housing Register.

PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION

- Service users being directed towards private housing require a guarantor, which refugee residents tend not to be able to provide.

COVID-19

- Feedback from practitioners and residents in specialist accommodation was that COVID-19 caused a bottleneck in housing.
- This delayed residents moving on from the specialist accommodation.

HOUSING MANAGERS

- Housing practitioners, including those in Housing Associations hold a lot of information that is useful in relation to identifying domestic abuse. They are not always consulted regarding this information.
- Housing officers are not always consulted early in a survivor's journey (once domestic abuse has been identified by specialist services).

FURNISHING PROPERTIES

- Housing allowance does not cover the furnishing of properties. Currently, specialist domestic abuse providers use local contacts and privately sourced monies to support those who require furnishing/ white goods.



HOMEOWNERS

- Survivors who own their homes have different barriers to accessing specialist services.
- Research indicates that social status, eligibility criteria, and practitioner's assumptions were three barriers to 'affluent' women accessing services.

RECOMMENDATION

KEY FINDING 9 – SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION UNITS

- There are currently 54 commissioned refuge/ supported accommodation spaces and 35 non-commissioned spaces. An additional 20 units have also been brought on-line temporarily.
- The recommended number of refuge spaces for Coventry (using the Council of Europe formula) is 35 with the actual number commissioned exceeding this by 19 spaces.
- There are an additional 35 refuge places in Coventry provided by Coventry Haven and Panahghar. These spaces are independently funded.
- Analysis of demand and supply indicates a shortfall in refuge spaces. In Haven 8% of referrals in 2020-21 were rejected due to capacity. In Panahghar, the rate is higher at 30%. For Valley House, only 2 referrals were rejected due to no capacity. The vast majority of not being placed was Service User declining, accounting for 75 (31%) of all the referrals.



IMPACT

- Technically, existing refuge/supported accommodation provision will meet the future demand as estimated by the CoE formula.
- Local services indicate they are unlikely to ever meet the demand for places. Delays in housing survivors fleeing and attempting to leave has a great impact on the escalation of risk. There are additional risks and challenges for minoritised, racialised and vulnerable populations.



RECOMMENDATION

- While there is enough refuge accommodation in place in Coventry to meet the requirements of the Council of Europe formula, commissioners should ensure that the wider service offering in terms of 'safe accommodation' (as described in the Domestic Abuse Act) for survivors of domestic abuse and their families is developed enough to meet need. (See Recommendation 7 and 8).

KEY FINDING 10 – TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Data on the number of households in temporary accommodation was not available until April 2021.
- Between April 2021 and 11th August 2021, there were a total of 82 households placed in temporary accommodation due to domestic abuse.
- There were 156 children housed as part of these households.

82

Households were placed in TA due to domestic abuse between April 2021 and August 2021.

156

Children were part of these households.

- 48 of these households were still in temporary accommodation on the 11th August 2021.
- 32 households were placed in a hotel, of households who had been placed and who had left a hotel in the period from April 2021, the average length of stay was 9.3 days (min stay = 0 days, max stay = 55 days).
- In regard to the use of temporary accommodation, DA Act guidance in relation to the DA Act states that:
 - Accommodation such as Bed and Breakfast accommodation are not considered relevant safe accommodation, and are specifically excluded in the Regulations, so local authorities should not commission support within these types under this duty.
 - Commissioning authorities will need to ensure that duties covered under other Acts, such as temporary accommodation provided under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, continue to be met alongside this duty. It is possible for support under this (Part 4) duty to be provided in accommodation associated with another duty such as a Housing Act 1996 Part 7 duty, provided, such accommodation adheres to the description of relevant accommodation.
- The guidance describes the types of safe accommodation that should be used in housing those with a domestic abuse need. Temporary accommodation comes under the description of ‘Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation’. That is:
 - A safe place with appropriate support. To give victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period of time to [consider and] make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe. This would include access to wrap around support and specialist support for victims with complex needs (including mental health needs and substance misuse). An example of ‘other’ forms of safe accommodation would be the ‘Whole Housing Approach’.

IMPACT

- Local authorities will have to change their use of temporary accommodation to ensure that they are in line with the Act.

RECOMMENDATION

- Commissioners ensure that there is enough community or ‘floating’ domestic abuse support to meet the needs of those with a domestic abuse need placed in temporary accommodation.
- The community or ‘floating support’ response should meet the requirements for specialist support for victims with complex needs as described in the guidance in relation to the DA Act.

KEY FINDING 11 – TARGET HARDENING

- There is a Target Hardening (Sanctuary) scheme run in Coventry. In January to March 2021, 27 properties were made safer under the scheme.



IMPACT

- Domestic abuse survivors were helped to stay in their own home.



RECOMMENDATION

- Consider expanding the scheme and ensure measurements of success include reduce risk and increased safety & support to those remaining in their own home.

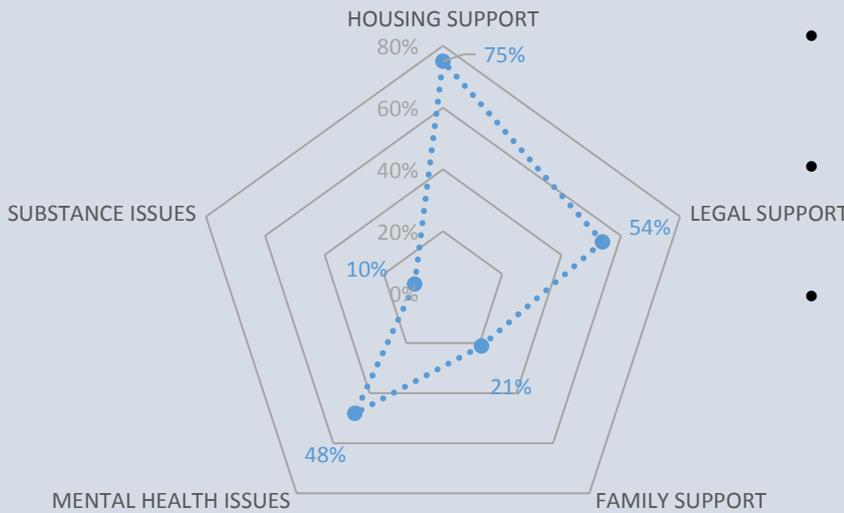
SUPPORT NEEDS IN SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION

KEY FINDINGS

OVERVIEW OF DA ACT GUIDANCE – SAFE ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT

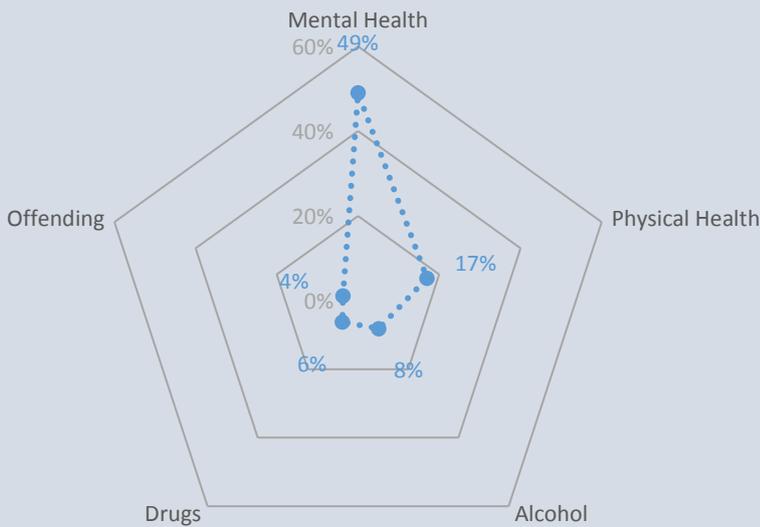
- [We recognize that] some support is directly provided within refuges and safe accommodation services, and that outreach support will be provided to victims in other types of relevant accommodation, including their homes in the case of a sanctuary scheme.
- The support should be delivered by knowledgeable and/or experienced specialist providers, charities, and other voluntary organisations whose purpose is to provide support to victims of domestic abuse.
- The guidance describes domestic abuse support as:
 - Accommodation support
 - Overall management of services within relevant accommodation
 - Support with the day-to-day running of the service
 - Advocacy support
 - Domestic abuse prevention advice
 - Specialist support for victims
 - Designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics
 - Designed specifically for victims with additional and / or complex needs
 - Childrens' support
 - Housing-related support
 - Advice service.

VALLEY HOUSE RESIDENTS SUPPORT NEEDS



- The chart on the left shows the support needs of the residents in Valley House in 2020-21 (refuge only).
- The data is based on the practitioner’s assessment and self-disclosure from the survivor.
- It shows that 75% had housing support needs, 54% required legal support, 48% had mental health needs, 21% had family support needs, and 10% had substance misuse needs.

COVENTRY HAVEN RESIDENTS SUPPORT NEEDS



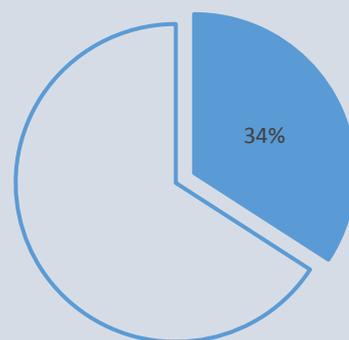
- The chart on the left shows the support needs of the residents in the Coventry Haven refuge in 2020-21.
- The information collected is different to that in Valley House so is not directly comparable.
- The data is based on the practitioner’s assessment and self-disclosure from the survivor.
- It shows that 49% of residents had mental health needs, 17% had physical health needs, 8% had alcohol needs, 4% had needs relating to offending, and 6% had needs relating to drugs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDING 12 – ANXIETY AND TRAUMA

- There is high prevalence of trauma and anxiety in survivors of domestic abuse, particularly at points of crisis such as in refuges. This need adds to the complexities of navigating through complex systems and processes such as the criminal justice system. Analysis of local refuge data aligns with national research regarding the support needs required within refuges.
- Feedback from practitioners and from residents was that it was hard to get trauma informed support while people were still in the refuge.

Data from Coventry Haven for 2019/20 shows that 34% of those passing through the refuge were identified as having a potential mental health need.



“I have been on medication for 3 1/2 years and been crying out for support for my mental health as I became suicidal. I have another initial assessment in July despite many efforts to access services.”

Survivor, 35-44

IMPACT

- The high prevalence of trauma and difficulties in getting appropriate support increases a range of risks including risk of harm to self, risk of returning to abusive partners, increased use of substances, and risks to children.

RECOMMENDATION

- Strengthen key worker confidence and skills in delivering trauma-informed practical and emotional support.
- Explore models of practice that enable refuges to become psychologically informed environments. (See Solace P.I.E. evaluation and PATH model). [\[2\]](#)

KEY FINDING 13 – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- There are currently limited resources relating to Children and Young Person workers in specialist domestic abuse accommodation.
- High numbers of children and young people are placed in refuge accommodation.



IMPACT

- The needs of children and young people cannot be addressed adequately within refuges unless service providers have resources to employ children's workers.



RECOMMENDATION

- Review current best practice and research on meeting the needs of children in refuges and other safe accommodation and consider the allocation of additional resources to for specialist service providers
- Training for multi-agency professionals linked to families in refuge on best practice and the impacts of domestic abuse.

KEY FINDING 14 – HOUSING SUPPORT

- Analysis of local specialist accommodation data shows that families can be in refuge accommodation for up to 3 years, having a significant impact on their ability to ‘move-on’, heal, and recover from the abuse.
- Keyworkers expressed difficulties in getting consistent information and responses from housing staff and logistical challenges activating benefits and income for families, particularly where economic abuse and coercive control are present.

“The system in place for victims and survivors of domestic abuse to find new housing is disgraceful. I was originally expected to move out of refuge into a private shared house where I would have no control over who I lived with, if they had violent issues or knew my abuser! It took a letter to my MP to secure my current home.”

Survivor, 25-34



IMPACT

- Major impact on survivors’ psychological health, which can force some to return to abusers and create ‘bottle necks’ in the refuge system.



RECOMMENDATION

- Training for housing staff and linked professionals on the impact, risks and interventions for families affected by domestic violence
- Improve the consistency of information provided to families and support a problem-solving approach to housing families.
- Consider a systems review of the processes linked to safely housing families and supporting their needs

HOUSING

KEY FINDINGS



HEALTH

- Practitioners in specialist accommodation feedback that registering patients with health services can present challenges.

GENERAL NEEDS

- Feedback from practitioners was that survivors face a lot of pressure while in a refuge and there are many competing factors that impact on a survivor's emotional wellbeing, e.g. money, housing, immigration status, language, and children.

HOUSING SUPPORT

- Analysis of local refuge/ supported accommodation data shows that there is a support need in relation to housing. The housing process can be complicated for survivors of domestic abuse.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Analysis of local refuge/ supported accommodation data shows needs in relation to mental health within specialist accommodation.
- Feedback from practitioners and from residents was that it was hard to get trauma informed support while people were still in the refuge.
- Feedback from practitioners was that there was a gap in trauma-informed work within the refuge.
- There was an opportunity for a refuge to become a psychologically safe environment.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- There are currently limited resources relating to Children and Young Person workers in specialist domestic abuse accommodation.
- High numbers of children and young people are placed in refuge/ supported accommodation.
- Domestic abuse has a detrimental impact on the lives of children and young people. Children require specialist support to ensure their needs are met.

RECOMMENDATION

KEY FINDING 15 – ROLE OF KEYWORKER

- The role of keyworkers in specialist services offering practical support, advice and guidance assisting families navigate through complex or unfamiliar systems such as housing, mental health, children’s services, benefits, and civil or criminal justice systems is crucial. Key workers are managing multiple competing demands in highly pressurized situations with limited resources and, during COVID-19, overwhelming need.



IMPACT

- Intense, consistent pressure on key workers leads to burnout and increases the risk to families of serious harm due to services being stretched beyond their capacity.



RECOMMENDATION

- Using our research on the self-identified needs of those in safe and emergency accommodation, increase awareness across the strategic partnership of the resource needs and stress points for frontline services.
- Training for housing professionals on the impact of domestic abuse and appropriate, safe interventions for families fleeing domestic violence.

KEY FINDING 16 – HOUSING MANAGERS

- Housing practitioners, including those in Housing Associations hold a lot of information that is useful in relation to identifying domestic abuse. They are not always consulted regarding this information.
- Housing officers are not always consulted early in a survivor’s journey (once domestic abuse has been identified by specialist services).



IMPACT

- Potential indicators/ signs of domestic abuse such as multiple lock changes, multiple repairs to properties are not investigated.
- Opportunities to identify practical issues that may delay housing bids may be missed.



RECOMMENDATION

- Consider adopting a Whole Housing Approach to raise awareness across the partnership of quality assurance standards and safe minimum practice^[3].
- Training for housing officers and linked professionals on quality assurance standards, particularly in relation to vulnerability and intersectionality

KEY FINDING 17 – HOUSING OFFICER

- Fear of isolation, violence and harassment due to racism, stigmatisation and disability mean some survivors refuse housing offers and in doing so 'start again' in the bidding process. Survivors feel forced to accept offers which at times leaves them 'between a rock and a hard place'.



IMPACT

- Local Authorities make one offer and survivors feel forced to accept the offer otherwise they delay their moving on. For vulnerable, minoritised and racialised families risks and impact are more severe.



RECOMMENDATION

- Using our research explore ways of increasing confidence and reducing risk for those families fearful of moving into accommodation or local areas due to the impact of vulnerability, racism, stigma and disability.

KEY FINDING 18 – LIMITED HOUSING STOCK

- Feedback from practitioner interviews were that large families are difficult to move on from refuges because there is limited 3–4-bedroom stock.



IMPACT

- Large families tend to go on housing waiting lists for a considerable amount of time. This impacts the availability of refuge places.
- Limited housing stock creates a bottle neck in emergency accommodation.



RECOMMENDATION

- This is potentially a national issue regarding availability of larger social housing stock and challenges for vulnerable individuals and families approaching private landlords. This requires strategic exploration.

KEY FINDING 19 – PRIVATE HOUSING

- Service users being directed towards private housing require a guarantor, which refuge residents tend not to be able to provide.

“Housing is a massive issue in the city, and it is difficult to keep supporting families who could be waiting years for social housing. Also, if they look at private rentals, they need guarantors which we cannot provide.”

Family Hub Worker



IMPACT

- This is a factor that could impact someone moving into new accommodation and as such could mean that a refuge space is being taken up for longer.



RECOMMENDATION

- Appropriate information and guidance should be made available for those moving into private rented properties.

KEY FINDING 20 – FURNISHING PROPERTIES

- Housing allowance does not cover the furnishing of properties. Currently, specialist domestic abuse providers use local contacts and privately sourced monies to support those who require furnishing/white goods.



IMPACT

- This is a factor that could delay someone moving on from a refuge.



RECOMMENDATION

- Setting up of a fund to help with moving/furnishing costs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

KEY FINDINGS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Panahghar and Coventry Haven are commissioned to provide services to those impacted by domestic abuse living in the community.
- Panahghar work with survivors from black and other ethnically minoritised communities.
- The community outreach service works with those who are assessed as being at a standard and medium risk.
- The service offers practical and emotional support to survivors.
- Support is offered on a one-to-one basis.
- The service offers support in a number of different languages.

Referrals accepted by the community outreach service



GROUP WORK

- Group work sessions are offered for domestic abuse survivors.
- The group work covers:
 - Emotional support
 - Building relationships
 - An exploration of what constitutes domestic abuse.

From the Q1 2021-22 Performance Report:

“We have successfully completed 9 generic Groupwork groups including evening, 2 were delivered in Polish speaking clients and one in French, with 44 SU’s attending. And held a further 3 groups a week, tailored for the BME community, one in the evening and two in the day, with a further 33 women attending.”

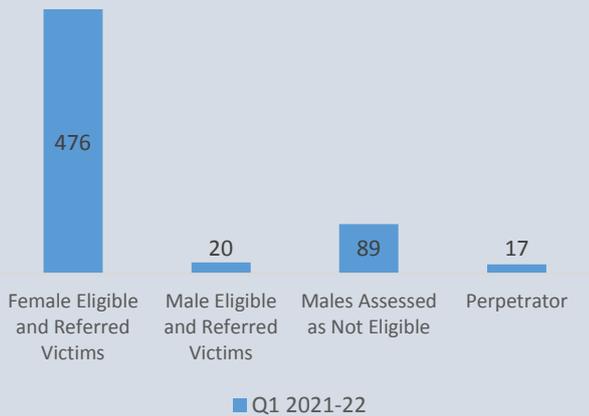
HELPLINE

- Panahghar and Coventry Haven run the Safe to Talk helpline in Coventry for those wanting information, advice and help in relation to domestic abuse.
- The helpline is a gateway to all domestic abuse services and is run by trained support workers.



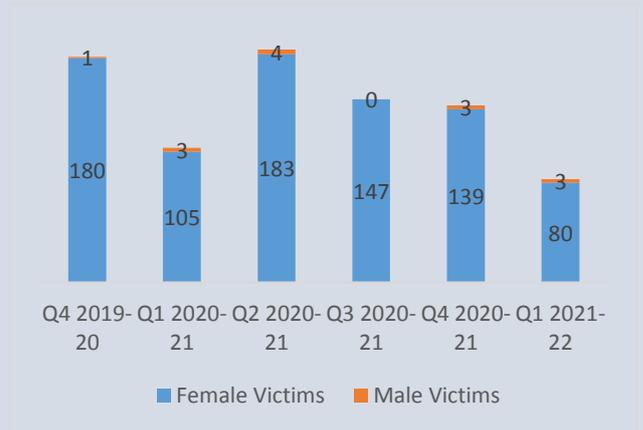
EARLY INTERVENTION PROJECT

- The Early Intervention Project started running in April 2021. It is run jointly between Panahghar and Haven.
- The project places domestic abuse practitioners in Coventry Central Police Station to work with those who report crimes that are not immediately associated with domestic abuse.
- 3 workers (2 Haven, 1 Panahghar) are based in the police station to work with domestic abuse cases where there is a low and medium risk.
- BME women with a domestic abuse flag are directed to Panahghar.
- The information below shows the referrals to the Early Intervention Project for the first quarter that the project was running.



IDVA

- Panahghar and Coventry Haven run an IDVA service working with women at high risk of domestic abuse.
- The information below shows the number of referrals to the IDVA service broken down by males and females.



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



KEY FINDINGS

SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

- The WISH Service works with children aged 5-18 who have been victims or who have witnessed domestic abuse and who are known to Children's Services. Children who are referred into the WISH Service have to be managed on a Children in Need Plan, or be known to Children's Social Care as a Looked After Child.
- The most common age group that the WISH service works with are aged 5 – 11. Teenagers are less likely to engage in the service.
- Relate are flexible as to where their interventions can take place. Interventions can take place at:
 - Family Hubs
 - Schools
 - Social care offices
 - Online via Teams
- A pre and post evaluation is given to those children who engage in the service. This includes a discussion of safety. The evaluation checks on the child's relationships with their parents. The evaluation asks questions about anything else the child wants or needs.
- WISH practitioners provide reporting to Child Protection Case Conferences and Reviews. Legal reports are provided where necessary. Practitioners also share disclosures with relevant agencies.

RECOMMENDATION

KEY FINDING 21 – SPECIALIST SUPPORT

- Practitioners fed back that there is a lot of expectations on schools to complete counselling and one-to-one work with children and young people. Schools may not have the time or resources to meet all these needs.
- The WISH Service works with children aged 5-18 who have been victims or who have witnessed domestic abuse and who are known to Children's Services.

“Support needs to be available for all children to access, children within early help are not able to access the WISH support.”

Family Hub Worker

“Schools are often left to try and provide support for children and are not supported with is by DV specific services.”

Coventry City Council, Early Help

IMPACT

- School environments provide key opportunities to display useful information about domestic abuse (to parents, children and young people) thus enabling access to specialist services and advice, particularly for those families with no Children Services involvement.
- Schools can be a key referral point to safeguarding services, community support and specialist support, particularly for vulnerable, racialised and minoritized families.

RECOMMENDATION

- There is a need for a service that offers access to those young people who have been impacted by domestic abuse but who do not have Children's Services involvement.
- Explore the concept of a Whole School Approach as a strategy to implement primary prevention work with children and young people.
- Training on the dynamics of domestic violence and risk identification for teachers, volunteers and linked practitioners working directly with children and young people in school environments.
- Work with practitioners working with children under 5 to ensure that they are confident in identifying those affected by domestic abuse and are aware of the appropriate pathways to services.

ETHNIC MINORITIES

KEY FINDINGS



NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS (NRPF)

- In 2020-21 the refuge providers in Coventry supported the following numbers of residents who were recorded as having No Recourse to Public Funds:
 - Valley House – (2020-21) - 18 out of 271 (7%)
 - Coventry Haven (April to June 2021) – 6 out of 14 (43%)
 - Panahghar – (2020-21) 33 out of 48 (69%)

TRANSLATORS

- Survivors who have NRPF can often have needs relating to translators.
- Translation services can be costly.

ISSUES LINKED WITH MIGRATION AND GENDER INEQUALITIES

- Cultural and community pressures may make it more difficult for women for escape the abuser/s. Others are trafficked or forced into marriage.
- Difficulty for women accessing services in which staff do not speak their language.
- Insecure immigration status can lead to immigration abuse by perpetrators
- Fear of children being abducted
- Fear of statutory agencies

RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY FINDING 22 – NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

- In 2020-21 the refuge providers in Coventry supported the following numbers of residents who were recorded as having No Recourse to Public Funds:
 - Valley House – (2020-21) - 18 out of 271 (7%)
 - Coventry Haven (April to June 2021) – 6 out of 14 (43%)
 - Panahghar – (2020-21) 33 out of 48 (69%)
- Practitioners working with those who have NRPF need to have a specialist knowledge of immigration law.
- Practitioners from Panahghar stated that working with those who have NRPF can require twice as much time as those who can access benefits.



IMPACT

- There are many barriers to accessing services for this population which also greatly heightens risk, such as language barriers and a lack of funded translation or screened interpreter services. Staff who are not multilingual are forced to use Google Translate to onboard residents and communicate complex processes and systems.



RECOMMENDATION

- Further explore the particular needs and challenges for this population in partnership with specialist services to identify practical solutions.

KEY FINDING 23 – TRANSLATORS

- Survivors who have NRPF can often have needs relating to translators.
- Specialist services have staff who can speak a range of languages.
- Translations can also be obtained via translation services and online software however these are not always accurate.



IMPACT

- Translator services have to be available in a range of different languages.
- Translation services can be costly.
- Survivors are not able to articulate their needs appropriately or be understood.



RECOMMENDATION

- Additional resources to be provided in this area.

MEN

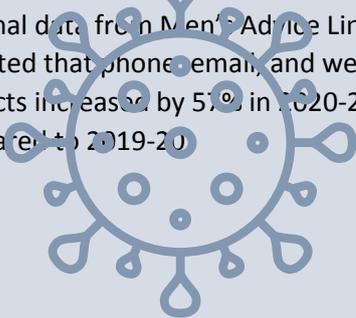
KEY FINDINGS

SERVICE PROVISION

- Valley House, the local authority commissioned refuge/ safe accommodation provider can provide support to male survivors of domestic abuse.
- Males are housed in the stand-alone properties run by Valley House as the refuges and clusters of supported housing are single gender properties.
- The referral process for males works the same as females. Feedback from practitioners was that the referrals for males tend to be urgent in nature.
- Males are given a different risk assessment but have the same access to advocacy and support as female residents.

COVID-19

- National data from Men's Advice Line, indicated that phone, email, and web contacts increased by 51% in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20.



SURVIVOR SURVEY RESPONSES

- In the survivor survey run as part of this needs assessment, there were 7 (10%) responses from male survivors.
- The number was too low to draw any real conclusions from, however the free text did allow some comments to be made.
- Of the male respondents, 3 were White British and 3 were of Asian backgrounds, 1 preferred not to say.
- One respondent said that there was a lack of accommodation for BME groups.
- One respondent cited the lack of male only accommodation as a reason for not moving to specialist accommodation.
- One respondent stated that court proceedings helped them remain in their own home.

PRACTITIONER SURVEY RESPONSES

- In the practitioner survey, respondents could leave some free text comments. One respondent commented on the issue of communal refuges not able to accept male survivors.

“Refuges often will not take single men or they are female only spaces.”

Coventry City Council, Programme Manager

Coventry's Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment Action Plan 2021

Key Area	What we will do	Proposed Action	Action Owner	Progress				
1 - Court IDVA 	Explore the possibility of specialist Court IDVAs Identify the barriers that heighten risk and safer consequences for engagement with C & CJS	Work with DA organisations to review the current IDVA provision in services including resources commissioned by Police and Crime Commissioner / Others	Coventry Haven	Work underway				
	Map out the access points for specialist support & legal advice for help-seeking survivors and their children				2 - Knowledge Gap  	On-going multi-agency training to teams and lead professionals on nature, impact of DA and appropriate, safe interventions	Include this need within the training needs analysis and develop training resources to aid frontline practitioners	Coventry Haven
2 - Knowledge Gap  	On-going multi-agency training to teams and lead professionals on nature, impact of DA and appropriate, safe interventions	Include this need within the training needs analysis and develop training resources to aid frontline practitioners	Coventry Haven	Training needs analysis underway				
	Explore ways of embedding domestic abuse awareness into strategic leadership, organisational development and core business across multi agency practice	Work with commissioned services to include within training programmes	PH DA Programme Team, Coventry Haven, Relate, Panahghar					

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	Training on the dynamics of DA to all health care professionals, including information about specialist services, outreach and community support as well as ongoing work with Primary Care through IRIS	Include this need within the training needs analysis and develop training resources to aid frontline practitioners. Priority need midwifery, FNP, A and E and Health Visitors.	Coventry Haven	Training needs analysis underway
3 - Children and Family Courts PROTECT	Risk management training to professionals supporting families engaging with C & CJS with clear referral routes to specialist services and the need for coordinated case management to support safe interventions	Review the CAFCASS process and involvement of statutory services and work with relevant partners to identify routes and support	Childrens Services	Work to commence
4 - IRIS training correlation with referrals PREVENT	Explore ways of better enabling access to information and disclosures within Primary Care settings, including for under-represented populations	IRIS workers to work with practices/victims to identify how this action can be undertaken	CCG and Coventry Haven	Work underway
	Specific targeting of training to Practices in the CV4 postcode area	IRIS workers to support practices in the CV4 area	CCG and Coventry Haven	Work underway
	Refresher training should be offered to ensure the IRIS programme is fully delivered and reinforced to Primary Care Practitioners and mitigate the knowledge gaps that occurs with staff turnover	IRIS workers to deliver refresher training to practices	CCG and Coventry Haven	Work underway

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<p>5 - Barriers to registering for health services</p> <p><i>PREPARE</i></p> <p><i>PREVENT</i></p>	<p>Healthcare settings to assess how 'Domestic Abuse friendly' their registration systems are and adjust based on specialist advice such as IRIS practitioners</p>	<p>Work with CCG to support training to practitioners around GP registration and management of individuals/families affected by domestic abuse</p>	<p>CCG</p>	<p>Work to commence</p>
<p>6 - Supported Accommodation / Refuge Space</p> <p><i>PREPARE</i></p>	<p><i>Whilst Coventry meets the requirements on refuge accommodation set by the Council of Europe formula, commissioners should ensure that the wider service offering in terms of 'safe accommodation' (as described in the Domestic Abuse Act) for survivors of DA and their families is developed enough to meet need (See recommendations 7 and 8)</i></p>	<p><i>Monitor the impact of the additional accommodation in surrounding regional areas to understand whether the demand on accommodation in Coventry reduces</i></p>	<p>PH Commissioners / Accommodation Providers</p>	<p><i>Working with neighbouring and regional Local Authorities to understand their accommodation resource following the Safe Accommodation Duties</i></p> <p><i>Work with providers to monitor the number of referrals rejected due to capacity</i></p>

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<p>7 - Temporary accommodation for victims of DA</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Commissioners to ensure that there is enough community or 'floating' DA support to meet the needs of those with a DA need placed in temporary accommodation</i></p>	<p><i>Clarify the recent changes in the draft guidance with Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities - (DLUHC) on the use of temporary accommodation</i></p> <p><i>PH Commissioners</i></p>	<p><i>Clarification questions submitted to DLUHC - awaiting a response to determine next steps</i></p>	
	<p><i>The community or 'floating support' response should meet the requirements for specialist support for victims with complex needs as described in the draft guidance in relation to the DA Act</i></p>			
<p>8 - Target Hardening</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Consider expanding the scheme and ensure measurements of success include reduced risk/ increased safety/support in their own home</i></p>	<p><i>Further resource commissioned via Coventry Haven to support additional target hardening support</i></p>	<p><i>PH Commissioners</i></p>	<p><i>Action completed - additional resource funded from August 2021</i></p>

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		<i>Review the options available for target hardening/sanctuary schemes to understand additional support available</i>	<i>PH Commissioners / PH DA Programme Team</i>	<i>Work to commence</i>
9 - Anxiety and Trauma	<i>Strengthen key worker confidence and skills in delivering trauma-informed practical and emotional support</i>	<i>Commission Mental Health trauma informed practice support to deliver interventions to those in safe accommodation and provide professional advice and support to staff to support the care of individuals with complex needs</i>	<i>PH Commissioners</i>	<i>Action completed - new contract with Coventry and Warwickshire MIND for adults from August 2021</i>
	<i>Explore models of practice that enable refuges to become psychologically informed environments. (See Solace P.I.E. evaluation and PATH model)</i>			
PREPARE				

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<p>10 - Children and Young People</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Review current best practice and research on meeting the needs of children in refuge and consider the allocation of additional resources to for specialist service providers</i></p>	<p><i>Commission services to support children and young people in safe accommodation</i></p>	<p>PH Commissioners</p>	<p>Action completed - additional resource funded for CYP provision from Relate and for Children and Family workers in all 3 accommodation providers from August 2021</p>
<p>PROTECT</p> <p>PREVENT</p>	<p><i>Training for multi-agency professionals linked to families in refuge on best practice and good case management.</i></p>	<p><i>Include this need within the training needs analysis and develop training resources to aid frontline practitioners</i></p>	<p>Coventry Haven</p>	<p>Training needs analysis underway</p>
<p>11 - Housing Support</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Training for housing staff and linked professionals on the impact, risks and interventions for families affected by domestic violence</i></p>	<p><i>Include this need within the training needs analysis and develop training resources to aid frontline practitioners</i></p> <p><i>Use of Champions Network to provide support to professionals</i></p>	<p>Coventry Haven</p>	<p>Training needs analysis underway</p> <p>Champions Network training and development underway</p>

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	<p><i>Improve the consistency of information provided to families and support a problem-solving approach to housing families.</i></p>	<p><i>Training for housing teams around the challenges faced by those affected by domestic abuse and review of the information shared with those who are bidding for accommodation</i></p>	<p><i>Coventry Haven and Housing</i></p>	<p><i>Training needs analysis underway</i></p>
	<p><i>Consider a system review of the processes linked to safely housing families and supporting their needs</i></p>	<p><i>Review of pathways and processes in place across housing, providers (Citizen) and domestic abuse providers.</i></p>	<p><i>Housing, Citizen and DA Providers</i></p>	<p><i>Work to commence</i></p>
<p>12 – Referrals</p>	<p><i>Training regarding ‘what works’ when addressing perpetrator behaviour, including motivational interviews for practitioners who work directly with families. [ref – Drive evaluation]</i></p>	<p><i>Deliver training to Children's Services staff on work with perpetrators and assess its impact.</i></p>	<p><i>Relate</i></p>	<p><i>Training delivered in April and June 2020 to over 400 staff</i></p>

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		<i>Include within the training needs analysis and develop training resources for frontline practitioners</i>	<i>Coventry Haven</i>	<i>Training needs analysis underway</i>
	<i>Consider expanding the definition of intervention 'success' and for the use of women/partner reports in evaluation.</i>	<i>Review the commissioned perpetrator programme</i>	<i>PH Commissioners/P H Programme Team/Relate</i>	<i>Review of the programme underway</i>
		<i>Work with the PCC to understand their proposals for commissioning perpetrator programmes</i>	<i>PH Commissioners/P H Programme Team</i>	<i>Responded to PCC on interest in co-commissioning perpetrator programmes</i>

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		<i>Understand the impact of the Perpetrator Strategy when released</i>	<i>PH Commissioners/P H Programme Team/Relate</i>	<i>Awaiting the release of the strategy</i>
<i>13 - GP and IRIS perpetrator pathway</i>	<i>Perpetrator work already included in the IRIS training package are reinforced and promoted with GPs</i>	<i>IRIS workers to reinforce and re-promote perpetrator pathways with GPs</i>		<i>Work underway - Coventry Haven to review and increase focus on perpetrator programme</i>
<i>14 - Role of Keyworker</i>	<i>Increase awareness across the strategic partnership of the resource needs and stress points for frontline services</i>	<i>Voice of service users to influence the planning, commissioning and delivery of services</i>	<i>PH Commissioners/P H Programme Team/DA Providers/DALPB</i>	<i>Link with the SU voice groups who are feeding in to the DALPB to support pieces of work identified in the action plan</i>

PREPARE

PREVENT

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	<p><i>Training for housing professionals on the impact of domestic abuse and appropriate, safe interventions for families fleeing domestic violence</i></p>	<p><i>Include within the training needs analysis and develop training resources for housing professionals</i></p> <p><i>Use of Champions Network to provide support to housing professionals</i></p>	<p><i>Coventry Haven</i></p>	<p><i>Training needs analysis underway</i></p> <p><i>Champions Network training and development underway</i></p>
<p>15 - Housing Managers</p>	<p><i>Consider adopting a Whole Housing Approach to raise awareness across the partnership of quality assurance standards and safe minimum practice. [ref – DAHA]</i></p>	<p><i>Set up working group with Housing, Enforcement Team and Housing Providers to explore using DAHA associate membership as a framework for assessment against recognised standards. Consider learning from the wider WM Combined authority approaches.</i></p>	<p><i>DA Programme Team/Housing/Enforcement Team/Citizen/Other housing providers?</i></p>	<p><i>Work to commence</i></p>
<p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Training for housing officers and linked professionals on quality assurance standards, particularly in relation to vulnerability and intersectionality</i></p>	<p><i>Use information from the focus groups and develop training raising awareness of challenges faced by those using DA for frontline staff.</i></p>	<p><i>DA Programme Team/ Coventry Haven/ Panahghar / Valley House /</i></p>	<p><i>Work to commence</i></p>

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<p>16 - Housing Officer</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Using our research explore ways of increasing confidence and reducing risk for those families fearful of moving into accommodation or local areas due to the impact of vulnerability, racism, stigma and disability</i></p>	<p><i>Work with service users to understand what support could be available to increase confidence (linking this and action 16 together)</i></p>	<p><i>Housing / Housing Partners</i></p>	<p><i>Work to commence</i></p>
<p>17 - Limited Housing Stock</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Potentially a national issue regarding availability of larger social housing stock and challenges for individuals and families approaching private landlords</i></p>	<p><i>Link with the recommendation on explore alternative options for sanctuary support to keep families in their own homes (esp. larger families where housing is more challenging)</i></p>	<p><i>DA Programme Team/ Coventry Haven/ Panahghar / Valley House / Housing / Housing Partners</i></p>	<p><i>Work to commence</i></p>
<p>18 - Private Housing</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p><i>Appropriate information/guidance should be made available for those moving into private rented properties</i></p>	<p><i>Support those who wish to move into private housing with bonds</i></p>	<p><i>PH Commissioners</i></p>	<p><i>Action completed - Creation of a discretionary fund to support with bonds</i></p>

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<p>19 - Furnishing Properties</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p>Setting up of a fund to help with moving/furnishing costs</p>	<p>Support those who require funds to help with moving/furnishing costs</p>	<p>PH Commissioners</p>	<p>Action completed - Creation of a discretionary fund to support with moving/furnishing costs</p>
<p>20 - Specialist Support</p> <p>PREPARE</p>	<p>There is a need for a service that offers access to those CYP who have been impacted by DA but who do not have Childrens' Services involvement</p>	<p>Commission services to support CYP in safe accommodation</p>	<p>PH Commissioners</p>	<p>Action completed - additional resource funded for CYP provision from Relate and for Children and Family workers in all 3 accommodation providers from August 2021</p>
	<p>Explore the concept of a Whole School Approach as a strategy to implement primary prevention work with CYP</p>	<p>Review current PSHE offer in Coventry</p>	<p>PH Commissioners / PH Programme Team</p>	<p>Work to commence</p>

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	<p><i>Training on the dynamics of DA and risk identification for teachers/volunteers/practitioners working directly with CYP in school environments</i></p>	<p><i>Include within the training needs analysis and develop training resources to aid frontline practitioners</i></p> <p><i>Use of Champions Network to provide support to professionals</i></p>	<p>Coventry Haven</p>	<p>Training needs analysis underway</p> <p>Champions Network training and development underway</p>
<p>21 - No recourse to public funds</p> <p>PREVENT</p> <p>PROTECT</p>	<p><i>Further explore the particular needs and challenges for this population in partnership with specialist services to identify practical solutions</i></p>	<p><i>Commission a service to provide coordination of legal support for victims with insecure migration status or NRPF</i></p>	<p>PH Commissioners</p>	<p>Action completed - additional resource funded for Immigration Specialist Practitioner from Panahghar</p>
<p>22 – Translators</p> <p>PREVENT</p> <p>PROTECT</p>	<p><i>Additional resources to be provided in this area</i></p>	<p><i>Support with funding for translation costs</i></p>	<p>PH Commissioners</p>	<p>Action completed - creation of a discretionary fund to support with translation costs</p>

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<p>Priority Area 1 PREPARE: The development of a strong governance and service commissioning structure to provide high quality, equitable services that are shaped around the needs of victims at all levels of risk and ensure that their voices are heard and responded to.</p>	<p>Priority Area 2 PREVENT: A long-term approach to improve awareness, understanding and early identification of abuse at all levels of society. Victims will be empowered to report and staff will be given the skills and confidence to support them. Interventions tailored to victims with a range of needs will help to break the intergenerational cycle of abuse and minimise repeat victimisation.</p>	<p>Priority Area 3 PROTECT: There will be effective information sharing and referral pathways between key agencies, breaking down organisational and cultural barriers to ensure victims of abuse are identified and protected. The safety of victims, and that of their children (where applicable), will be paramount. Victims will be supported to access safe and appropriate accommodation; and safeguarding procedures will be robustly implemented to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected, and that the voice of the child is always heard.</p>	<p>Priority Area 4 PURSUE: An approach centred on achieving justice and positive outcomes for victims, including reductions in offending. There will be better understanding of perpetrator risk to support the use of court and out of court disposals so that they are held accountable for their actions and appropriately supported to understand and change their offending behaviour.</p>
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APPENDIX 3

Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-2023: Addendum and Extension to 2025 (DRAFT)

Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy

The Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy was published in 2018 using the 4P framework of Prepare, Prevent, Protect and Pursue to support a systematic multi-agency approach to tackling Domestic Abuse:

<p>Priority Area 1 PREPARE: The development of a strong governance and service commissioning structure to provide high quality, equitable services that are shaped around the needs of victims at all levels of risk and ensure that their voices are heard and responded to.</p>	<p>Priority Area 2 PREVENT: A long term approach to improve awareness, understanding and early identification of abuse at all levels of society. Victims will be empowered to report and staff will be given the skills and confidence to support them. Interventions tailored to victims with a range of needs will help to break the intergenerational cycle of abuse and minimise repeat victimisation.</p>
<p>Priority Area 3 PROTECT: There will be effective information sharing and referral pathways between key agencies, breaking down organisational and cultural barriers to ensure victims of abuse are identified and protected. The safety of victims, and that of their children (where applicable), will be paramount. Victims will be supported to access safe and appropriate accommodation; and safeguarding procedures will be robustly implemented to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected, and that the voice of the child is always heard.</p>	<p>Priority Area 4 PURSUE: An approach centred on achieving justice and positive outcomes for victims, including reductions in offending. There will be better understanding of perpetrator risk to support the use of court and out of court disposals so that they are held accountable for their actions and appropriately supported to understand and change their offending behaviour.</p>

The strategy initially ran to 2023 and was accompanied by a multiagency action plan which was overseen by the Harm and Abuse Reduction Partnership reporting to the Police and Crime Board.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

In April 2021 the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent. The Act provides, for the first time, a statutory definition of domestic abuse. It delivers a number of significant changes to strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies and improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

The measures detailed in the Act fit within the framework of the current Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy:

<p>Priority Area 1 PREPARE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse • establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner’s functions and powers • place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing. • provide for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes • extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences 	<p>Priority Area 2 PREVENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation (also PROTECT) • Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance (also PROTECT) • ensure that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy (also PROTECT) • prohibit GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid (also PROTECT)
<p>Priority Area 3 PROTECT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales • create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts • clarify the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims 	<p>Priority Area 4 PURSUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order • provide for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy • enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody • extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse. • extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the “revenge porn” offence) to cover threats to disclose such material • create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person. • clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death

Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

The Act places a number of duties on Local Authorities including:

- The appointment of a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DA LPD)
- Assessment of the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area.
- Developing and publishing a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.

The Coventry DA LPD has been established and is chaired by Cllr P Akhtar, Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities. The Act sets out statutory membership which includes people representing local authorities, victims and their children, domestic abuse charities or voluntary organisations, health care providers and the police or other criminal justice agencies.

The Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan are now overseen by the DA LPD.

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021

Coventry City Council commissioned a comprehensive needs assessment to meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and to refresh the current Domestic Abuse Strategy. This included extensive consultation with stakeholder, service providers and survivors of domestic abuse. The full needs assessment can be found at:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/5118/domestic_abuse_strategy_2018-2023

Domestic Abuse Strategy extension to 2025

Appendix 1 contains the key findings and recommendations document. This has been reviewed in the context of the current strategy and the 4Ps framework. Appendix 2 contains initial plans to deliver against the recommendations from the needs assessment. These have been mapped to the 4Ps framework to refresh and extend the Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy to 2025.

Commissioning plans under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Local Authorities are required to develop and publish a strategy for the provision of accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, having regard to the needs assessment. This support will include:

- Advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers);
- Domestic abuse-prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation;
- Specialist support for victims with relevant protected characteristics and / or complex needs, for example, interpreters, faith services, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, and immigration advice;
- Children’s support – including play therapy and child advocacy;

- Housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home and advice on how to live safely and independently; and
- Counselling and therapy for both adults and children.

Plans for 2021/22 are outlined in the Cabinet paper (*insert link*). These services will be reviewed against identified need, access, service user experience and outcomes. A longer-term investment plan will be developed to ensure the duties of the Act are met once future funding is clarified from the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review,

Delivery of the Coventry Domestic Abuse Strategy

Delivery of this strategy will be overseen by the DA LPD. In addition there will be reporting to the Police and crime Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure wide awareness of and engagement with the strategy and delivery of actions..