



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Equality Screening Assessment

The Equality Screening Assessment form must be completed to evidence what impact the proposal may have on equality groups within our community or workforce. Any proposal that results in a negative impact must have a full Equality Impact Assessment completed before approval is sought.

1: Proposal

Requirement	Detail
Title of proposal	Domestic Abuse Strategy
Type of proposal: New policy / change to policy / new service / change to service / removal of service / project / event	Adoption of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy, replacing the previous Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2019-2022.
What is the objective of this proposal?	To fulfil our statutory duties under Part 4, Section 5,1, b of the Domestic Abuse Support Act 2021: 57. Support provided by local authorities to victims of domestic abuse (1) Each relevant local authority in England must— (b) prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such

Requirement	Detail
	<p>support in its area, and</p> <p>The strategy will clearly set out an agreed approach to addressing the barriers identified to ensure all victims are able to access the support they need when they need it.</p>
<p>Has there been any consultation on this proposal? (list all the groups/ communities, including dates)</p>	<p>Yes, as per part 4, Section 4</p> <p>4) Before publishing a strategy under this section, a relevant local authority must consult—</p> <p>(a) the domestic abuse local partnership board appointed by the relevant local authority under section 58,</p> <p>(b) any local authority for an area within the relevant local authority's area, and</p> <p>(c) such other persons as the relevant local authority considers appropriate</p> <p>Discussed at Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Board 23/11/21 (held workshop) & 21/12/21</p> <p>To be circulated to the Community Safety Partnership electronically.</p>
<p>Did the consultation on this proposal highlight any positive or negative impact on protected groups? (if yes, give details)</p>	<p>Comments from workshop on 23/11/21 have been incorporated and a decision made for a separate Sexual Violence Strategy to follow at a later date. This will ensure that greater regard is given to the differing types of abuse, victims/ survivors and specific groups affected by these crimes.</p>

Requirement	Detail
What processes are in place to monitor and review the impact of this proposal?	<p>The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board is responsible for developing and implementing the Domestic Abuse Strategy and the action plan. They will report to Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local Partnership Board has been established. • Evidence a needs assessment • Evidence that strategies are in place and working effectively • Evidence that commissioning is informed by the needs assessment and strategy • Provide a Breakdown of allocated funding <p>The board will also report to the West Northants Community Safety Board.</p>
Who will approve this proposal? Committee, CLT	Strategy is to be presented to Executive Committee on 13th January 2022.

2: Equality Consideration

Consider in turn each protected group to ensure we meet our legal obligations of the Equality Act (2010).

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations:	Changes	Impact
Age	The Needs Assessment for this strategy, identified a broad range of ages, from pre-birth to 84yrs who have needed to access domestic abuse services.	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies,	Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group. Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
	very limited provision of refuge accommodation for those with any form of mobility need. The strategy aims to remove barriers for those accessing services	providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	
Gender Reassignment Will there be an impact on trans males and/or trans females?	The Needs Assessment for the Strategy has identified that this is a knowledge gap and further work will follow. This activity supports improving services for this protected group	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive
Race Are people from one ethnic group affected more than people from another ethnic group?	Migrant victims who experience domestic abuse, will include those who have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF), which is a further barrier to accessing refuge and services. We are in the process of gathering data on the need for and take up of services from women and families with NRPF and access to move on accommodation, to ensure there is a through-flow of spaces for funded support. We are aware that we have no data on the prevalence of domestic abuse among Gypsy,	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive

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	Roma and Traveller communities, and other minoritised communities who are likely to be under-represented in statistics on access to legal remedies to stop or prevent abuse and to and support services.		
Sexual Orientation Are people of one sexual orientation affected differently to people of another sexual orientation?	Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of sexual orientation and there is limited data in obtaining the accurate prevalence. There are no official figures of domestic abuse in those identifying themselves as other than heterosexual. Research suggests rates of under-reporting are between 60-80% (Galop, 2020) which is consistent with the national underreporting rate of 79% according to the Office for National Statistics (2018)	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive
Marriage & Civil Partnership Are people in a Marriage or Civil Partnership treated less favourably?	For the year ending March 2019, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that adults aged 16 to 74 years who were separated or divorced were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than those who were married or civil partnered, cohabiting, single or widowed	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive

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Pregnancy & Maternity Are people who are pregnant, or have a baby of 6 months or less, affected by this proposal?	Evidence supports that pregnancy or recently having a child increases the risk of domestic abuse, and a significant proportion of women are first abused during pregnancy. More than 320,000 women are abused by their partners during pregnancy each year	The action plan will include promoting campaigns and signposting to support services to increase awareness to groups highlighted as being at risk.	Positive
Religion or Belief Does the proposal affect people differently depending on whether they have or do not have a religion or a belief?	The Needs Assessment highlighted the gap in this data set, we know that 'Honour Based Violence' & abuse affects certain religious groups. This would be part of work going forward to collate this.	The action plan to deliver the strategy will include activity to obtain data and increase awareness on the support available	Positive
Health & Wellbeing 1. Health behaviours: diet, exercise, alcohol, smoking. 2. Support: community cohesion, rural isolation. 3. Socio economic: income, education. 4. Environment: green spaces, fuel poverty, housing standards)	The Strategy will ensure there is alignment to other Strategies (Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety Partnership) and through the Board will co-ordinate activity and commissioning. Of the 1,274 presenting as homeless in the county for January-March 2020 there were 92 (7%) citing domestic abuse as the reason. There is a gap in data for people who may be involved in sex work or modern slavery.	The work delivered around the strategy will provide a greater understanding of the barriers experienced by marginalised groups and the action plan can begin to address these, making services more inclusive.	Positive

3: Equality Impact

Question	Response
What overall impact does the proposal have on the protected groups? If a negative impact is identified in section 2, the response will be a Negative Impact.	Positive Impact
Does a Equality Impact Assessment need to be completed? (Yes, if any negative impact is found)	No
Copy attached to Committee Report?	Not required
Copy attached to Options Appraisal?	Not required

4: Ownership

Question	Response
Department	Adults, Communities & Wellbeing
Section	Housing & Communities
Lead Officers Name	Joanne Barrett
Lead Officers Title	Assistant Director: Housing & Communities
Lead Officers Contact Details	Joanne.Barrett@westnorthants.gov.uk 01327 322369 07794 249203
Lead Officers Signature	<i>J. Barrett</i>
Date completed	20 December 2021

Completed forms must be sent to the Equality Office via email to equalities@westnorthants.gov.uk