

Lincolnshire

# Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy

2025 – 2028

Revised December 2024

LINCOLNSHIRE  
**DOMESTIC  
ABUSE**  
PARTNERSHIP

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## Foreword

Welcome to the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. Domestic abuse is a serious and prevalent issue. It has a drastic, negative, and long-lasting impact upon the safety, health and wider life chances of individuals, children, and families, and creates wider crises such as homelessness, financial hardship and long-term physical and emotional trauma.

The strategy sets out a vision of hope and a framework of action for victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire. To deliver this strategy, we need a joined-up and coordinated response that involves all partners, the voluntary and community sector, people with lived experience and the wider community.

Our vision for Lincolnshire is that domestic abuse is not tolerated and that everyone can live safely and experience healthy relationships without the threat of domestic abuse. The implementation of this strategy will be underpinned by a robust action plan that will secure real change for our community.

As a partnership we will work collaboratively to take action against abusers, change attitudes and behaviours and we will support survivors, victims and children to ensure that our communities are able to live safe, happy and healthy lives, focusing on the prevention, early intervention, responding to risk and harm and long-term recovery and safety.

**Martyn Parker**

Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Chair

*“Unbelievably supportive; I am so glad my Mental Health Nurse referred me to the service. I think it would have been so easy to try and brush it all aside but my Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioner has helped me so much. I can't really describe adequately the effect she has had on helping me to help myself and move forward. I have actually looked forward to and enjoyed the sessions. To have someone who just understands and SEES me, I think the term is validation. Never judgemental, just completely supportive”*

**Quote from a survivor on their  
experience of Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse  
Specialist Service (LDASS) Outreach**

## Introduction

This Strategy sets out the vision and aim of the partnership, our approach and values that the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership is taking in tackling Domestic Abuse and outlines the framework for action over the next 3 years. This is an inclusive strategy relevant to all victims of Domestic Abuse.

In 2021 we published our first Domestic Abuse Strategy for Lincolnshire as a direct response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and as part of the launch of the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (LDAP). Over the last three years the partnership has been working hard to push forward the agenda locally and responding to the national policy changes. We have made good progress with key achievements and feel it is important to recognise what has been achieved to understand the distance we still want to travel and the areas that need our partnership focus. The achievements include:

- Remodelling and commissioning of the Domestic Abuse Community based support services for Lincolnshire, including a new outreach and engagement team, recovery support, universal offer, support hub, adult and children's intervention services.
- Launching the 'Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) voices' an independent advisory group that creates a safe space for women to speak openly, have challenging, constructive and reflective conversations about their individual lived experiences with the aim to help shape the delivery of services in Lincolnshire.
- Launching a Business Engagement framework.

- Establishing a Domestic Abuse Framework for Information Sharing and Governance.
- Investing in two Healthy Relationship Education Officers to work in Schools throughout the County.
- Realigning the partnership workforce development offer, resulting in a 62% rise in professionals completing Domestic Abuse Courses.
- Launching a new process with General Practitioners (GP's) to support victims of Domestic Abuse into specialist support services.
- Developing a partnership response to Domestic Abuse and Dementia.
- Remodelling the Safe Accommodation Service for Lincolnshire.

In Lincolnshire we take Domestic Abuse very seriously and agencies have worked extremely hard to support victims, survivors and children across the county, as well as striving to introduce effective programmes that tackle the behaviour of abusers. Each key stakeholder has their own organisational priorities and objectives in relation to Domestic Abuse which are governed separately, however it demonstrates each individual agencies commitment to preventing Domestic Abuse and means the partnership can focus on key areas that add value.

*“ I can't thank you enough for all our support I would be in a much worse place if it wasn't for you ”*

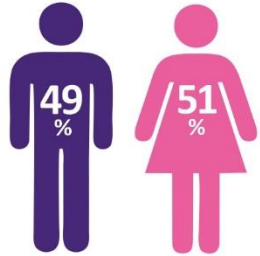
The partnership in Lincolnshire is very conscious of the national issues the country is facing, particularly in relation to violence against women and girls, as well as the local nuances that impact Lincolnshire communities. It is important to note that when writing this strategy, we had in mind relevant strategies such as the Tackling Violence against Women & Girls Strategy (including men and boys) 2021 (VAWAG), The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy for England and Wales, The Ministry of Defence and No Defence for Abuse 2024-2029 to name a few.

As a partnership we recognise that there are further developments happening nationally and locally that will impact the Domestic Abuse agenda. The strategy and delivery plans will be fluid to ensure we can respond to these important changes.

*“Me and my son want to thank you for helping us and making our time in refuge bearable, even though I wasn't happy to be here the first couple of months and hated being so isolated the staff here have been so understanding, patient and kind. Now we are leaving I feel like we had finally settled in and will miss both residents and staff. The trips and days out that have been planned for us all were so thoughtful and all the kids loved the experiences. I also feel that me and my son have had great support and I most definitely have a lot more awareness and understanding of domestic abuse. Everyone has been so amazing and supportive, we appreciate everything so much. Thank you just isn't enough”*

**Quote from a former Refuge resident**

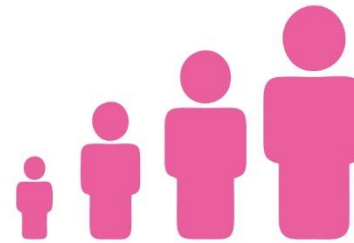
## Lincolnshire Profile



Lincolnshire's population of 768,364 (ONS Census 2021) is approximately 49% male and 51% female.



In England 17% of the population live in rural areas (Digest of Rural England: 1- Population, 2024), that is in towns of less than 10,000 people, in villages, hamlets or isolated dwellings. In 2022, approximately 48% of Lincolnshire's population is rural (ONS).



Lincolnshire has an ageing population with 23.4% of residents over the age of 64 and 21.1% under the age of 20.



6% of Lincolnshire households are lone parents with dependent children and just over 81,668 people are divorced or separated (including same-sex civil partnerships).



In Lincolnshire 18.3% of the population are deprived in two or more areas (Education, Employment, Health, Housing) this is slightly higher than in England and Wales (Census, 2021). More than 50,000 people in Lincolnshire live in an area recognised as being in the 10% most deprived in the country. Urban centres and coastal towns show higher levels of deprivation than other parts of the county (IMD 2019), which is in line with the general pattern of deprivation nationally.



Over 63,700 people speak a foreign language as their main language, more than double compared to the 2011 Census, with Polish being significantly higher than any other EU language. Just over 9,200 people cannot speak English well and just over 1,500 people cannot speak English at all. (ONS Census 2021).



20% of Lincolnshire's population are Disabled (under the equality Act). An additional 57,839 had a long term physical or mental health condition (Census 2021)



2.8% of the UK population aged 16 years identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGBTQ+)- this equates to around 17,700 people in Lincolnshire (2021 census)



The estimated prevalence of common mental disorders among people aged 16 years and older is 15.8%; 10.2% among adults aged 65 and older (OHID, 2022). Both rates are comparable to the East Midlands and England average. Mental illness in Lincolnshire shows an increasing trend, particularly for disorders such as depression.



Since 2011 there was a reduction in the number of people who commute to work, with over twice as many people now working from home (22.3%), though Lincolnshire still had a smaller proportion of people who work from home than the national average.



Compared to England & Wales, Lincolnshire has a greater proportion of 'Economically Inactive' residents, this was mostly due to over two thirds of these been retired.



6.2% of Lincolnshire's population have previously served in UK armed forces (both Armed forces and reserve armed forces). This is twice the national rate.



## Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Profile



The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates 5.1% of adults aged 16-59 will have experienced domestic abuse in the last year. This national figure would equate to roughly 20,780 adults aged 16-59 suffering domestic abuse in Lincolnshire.



The true number of victims of domestic abuse is likely to be higher when children are included. In 2022-23 CSEW figures suggest that 3.4% of people in England are the victim of partner abuse. Using the earlier findings by ONS (2020) 41% of partner abuse victims suffered abuse while their children were in the house, and that 21% of victims disclosed that the children did see or hear what happened. (ONS). If only one child was present at each of the 21% of domestic abuse victimisations in Lincolnshire each year, this would mean that just under 3,000 children experience domestic abuse in their home each year.



On average over the past five years there have been over 10,000 domestic abuse incidents reported to Lincolnshire Police each year, which increased to 12,500 in 2023/24. Of these, circa 7,000 are standard risk incidents, equivalent to around 3 in 5 reported domestic abuse incidents.



There were 1,201 victims who were at high risk of serious harm or death referred into Lincolnshire's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) by partner agencies in 2023-2024.



The refuges and dispersed accommodation in Lincolnshire supported 129 adult victims of domestic abuse during 2022/23. For the same period there were 231 children supported within the refuges. In Lincolnshire there are 4.9 DA safe accommodation bed spaces for every 100,000 residents. This is below the national average of 28.5 bed spaces, placing Lincolnshire below the middle 50% of authorities in the country.



Since the introduction of the Statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews in April 2011 there have been 35 cases involving 45 deaths that have met the criteria for a domestic homicide review in Lincolnshire. 20% of deaths were from 2023/24.



There were just fewer than 2,000 referrals for adult victims of domestic abuse to specialist outreach support services in Lincolnshire for 2023/24. The specialist service also has 211 referrals for children experiencing domestic abuse. In 23/24 9,699 people contacted EDAN Lincs for support advice regarding domestic abuse.



The average number of referrals to MARAC has increased to 274 per quarter (last three years ending March 2024) This equates to a 12% increase.

In 2022/23, 369 homelessness duties were owed because of domestic abuse across all Lincolnshire districts.



In 2022/23 there were just over 5,000 DA reports where a child was present. Operation Encompass, which enables school children who witness or endure incidents of domestic abuse to be safeguarded and supported, sent out 9,861 notifications in Lincolnshire, and of these 60% had welfare checks carried out. In 2022/23, 702 children were reported to be present during the incident.



Domestic abuse is the single most prevalent assessment factor identified in children's social care assessments, with 34% identifying DA as an issue in 2023-24. It was also specifically identified as a factor in 54% of all serious case reviews.

## Legislative Framework

### Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The prevention of abuse and the protection of all victims lies at the heart of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the wider programme of work. The measures in the 2021 Act seek to:

- promote awareness - to put abuse at the top of everyone's agenda, by introducing a statutory definition of domestic abuse and recognise children as victims in their own right.
- protect and support victims - including by establishing in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner, introducing a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order and placing a new duty on tier one local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
- tackle perpetrators - extending the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse, extending the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress to cover threats to disclose such material, creating a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person, clarifying by restating in statute the general position that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death;
- transform the justice response - including by helping victims to give their best evidence in the criminal courts through the use of video evidence, screens and other special measures,

and ensuring that victims of abuse do not suffer further trauma in family court proceedings by being cross-examined by their abuser; and

- improve performance - to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse.

*“ I am feeling more confident through your help. Thanks to you, I am taking my power back slowly ”*

The various aspects of the Act are due to be implemented at different stages as detailed in the [Commencement Schedule](#).

**Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021** places a four-part statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation and provides clarity over governance and accountability.

Section 54 specifically places a duty on each tier one local authority in England to appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it will consult as it performs certain specified functions under section 53. These are to:

- assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support
- develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the need's assessment
- give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions)
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
- report back to central government



**The Victim and Prisoners Act** received Royal Assent on 24 May 2024, but individual measures within the Act will not come into force until the Government specifically commences them. However, noting the duty could commence from Spring 2026.

The duty to collaborate under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 will require local policing bodies, local authorities and ICBs to collaborate in the commissioning of community support services in England for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence. Duty holders must also develop a joint needs assessment and local strategy which demonstrates how they will collaborate to deliver and improve relevant victim support services.

*“ I felt so liberated yesterday, it's like my whole being came back. went out with friends it was the best night I've had in a very long time. Was so confident and didn't care what people thought of me just having fun. Woke up relieved I can move on and feel emotional today in a good way! just want to say thank you for everything. You've been absolutely incredible. A genuine new start and I'm not trapped anymore. I'm so happy, didn't realise how bad it was ”*

**Quote from an IDVA client**

## Understanding Domestic Abuse

It is important to remember that each person's experience of domestic abuse will be different. Not all victims want or are able to leave their abuser at a particular time, and abuse can begin, continue or escalate post-separation. Many victims may not seek to pursue a criminal justice outcome, and so appropriate support must always be offered. It is important to remember the experiences of children and young people who are living with domestic abuse and their needs in any decisions made about the adult victim.

Domestic abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours. It does not necessarily have to involve physical acts of violence and can include emotional, psychological, controlling, or coercive, sexual and/or economic abuse under section 1(3) of the 2021 Act. Many victims will experience these abusive behaviours simultaneously. At the centre of all these abusive behaviours is the perpetrator's desire to exercise power and control over the victim.

Section 1 of the 2021 Act creates a [statutory definition of domestic abuse](#).

In addition, the Care Act states that freedom from abuse and neglect is a key aspect of a person's wellbeing. Domestic violence and abuse is included in the Care Act 2014 as a specific category of harm/abuse and therefore, where an adult with care and support needs is experiencing or at risk of domestic violence and abuse, the duties set out in Section 42 of the Care Act will apply.

Abuse in relationships between those under the age of 18 years will be treated as child abuse as a matter of law and child safeguarding

procedures should be followed. Abuse involving perpetrators and victims aged between 16 and 18 could be both child and domestic abuse. It is important to remember that abuse perpetrated by someone over the age of 18 against someone under the age of 18 also constitutes child abuse as a matter of law. The statutory guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' sets out what professionals and organisations need to do to safeguard children.

### Forms of domestic abuse

Professionals and agencies must be aware that the types of abuse can differ in nature, dynamics, and impact, therefore, to ensure they can deliver an effective response, there must be an explanation of the types and forms of abuse.

### Intimate Partner Abuse

It has long been accepted that domestic abuse most commonly takes place in intimate partner relationships, including same sex relationships. Such abuse in intimate relationships can vary in severity and frequency, ranging from a one-off occurrence to a continued pattern of behaviour. Abuse often continues or intensifies when a relationship has ended, which can be a very dangerous time for a

*“ I had a very good experience while I was here with my children. My emotional wellbeing and my children has improved and I believe this will continue to be the same. Very lovely and supportive workers ”*

victim. Post-separation abuse, including stalking, harassment and forms of physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse controlling and coercive behaviour often continues and causes ongoing harm

### Teenage Relationship Abuse

Relationship abuse happens at all ages, not just in adult relationships. Young people can experience domestic abuse in their relationships, regardless of whether they are living together. It should be noted that if a young person is under 16 years old, the definition of domestic abuse under the 2021 Act will not apply to them, instead this abuse would be considered as child abuse. Victims under 16 would be treated as victims of child abuse and age-appropriate consequences will be considered for perpetrators under 16.

Abuse may also arise out of casual relationships. Some perpetrators may deny abuse by stating that they were not in a relationship with the victim. Some victims may not self-identify as victims due to the casual nature of their relationship. Some perpetrators may have multiple romantic and sexual partners via dating apps and demonstrate abusive behaviour even though the perception is not one of being in an intimate personal relationship with the victim.

### Abuse by family members

Abuse by family members can involve abuse by any relative or multiple relatives. A wide range of family members will be considered to be “relatives” that can perpetrate and be victims of abuse, and there is no requirement for the victim and the perpetrator to live together within the 2021 Act. For instance, familial abuse may be perpetrated by children, grandchildren, parents, those with parental

responsibility, siblings, or extended families. In some cases, familial abuse may be perpetrated towards a victim by more than one person in the same family. Abuse by family members also encompasses forced marriage, “honour”-based abuse and female genital mutilation.

### Child to Parent/Carer Abuse (CPCA)

It is important to remember that this form of abuse, though commonly referred to as CPCA, can also include parents, those with parental responsibility, siblings, or extended families and the victim should be recognised regardless of the age of the child displaying these harmful behaviours. There is no specific legal definition of CPCA, but it is important to recognise that CPCA is likely to involve a pattern of behaviour. This can include physical violence from a child towards a parent or other family members such as siblings and several different types of harmful behaviours, including damage to property, emotional abuse, and economic/financial abuse. Violence and abuse can occur together or separately. Harmful behaviours can encompass, but are not limited to, humiliating language and threats, belittling, damage to property and stealing and heightened sexualised behaviours. Patterns of coercive control are often seen in cases of CPCA, but some families might experience episodes of explosive physical violence from their child with fewer controlling, abusive behaviours.

*“ I was overwhelmed at the start and spoke to staff and they listened and helped. I wouldn't have got where I am without their support ”*

## Our approach

The approach that the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership takes in relation to tackling domestic abuse is recognised nationally as the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) and has been upheld as a best practice whole system approach model. The CCR is a collaborative approach to domestic abuse that brings together a wide variety of organisations and agencies, including health, housing, social care, education, criminal justice and communities to ensure local systems keep survivors safe, hold abusers to account, and prevent domestic abuse. The approach addresses prevention, early intervention, crisis, and long-term recovery and safety, working with a wide range of services, pathways, and systems.

There are 12 components to the coordinated community response which are as detailed in the diagram opposite. The Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership is committed to ensure that these 12 components are at the forefront of partnership governance, activity and in the delivery of the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028.

The Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership have identified three areas within the CCR that needs further development to ensure that whole system response, they are Intersectionality, Survivor voice and Data. These will form part of our activity and development within the priorities of this strategy.



## Purpose and Vision

This is a three-year partnership Strategy that sets out Lincolnshire's intentions with regards to the prevention of Domestic Abuse from 2025-2028. The Strategy has been developed by and will be overseen by the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, through the relevant governance forums. It has been informed by extensive stakeholder engagement with advice from across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors as well as through public feedback but, most importantly, it has been informed by the voices and experiences of victims and survivors including children.

### Vision

Our vision for Lincolnshire is that domestic abuse is not tolerated and that everyone can live safely and experience healthy relationships without the threat of domestic abuse.

### Aim

The aim of the partnership is to work together in a fully committed and collaborative way to stop domestic abuse from happening through education, prevention and intervention. Ensuring that those effected by Domestic Abuse get the right support; and holding individuals who are abusive to account

### Values

Voice - put individuals affected by domestic abuse and their voices at the centre of our work	Adopt a whole system approach using the Coordinated Community Response (CCR) approach	Listen and communicate respectfully, effectively and maintain an open dialogue	Undertake continuous and regular review of need ensuring the partnership can respond to changing trends and challenges	Ensure our support is strengths-based, trauma informed and person-centred	Support an evidence base and needs led response
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## Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis

An extensive needs assessment has been undertaken to inform the Domestic Abuse strategy for Lincolnshire; including analysis of demand, prevalence and performance data, stakeholder engagement with partners in the County, community and survivor engagement through focus groups, questionnaires and surveys, as well as benchmarking activities. The findings of which underpin this strategy and form the basis for action over the next 3 years. What we found and know is that:

- The Domestic abuse agenda has a strong governance structure under the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and has been pivotal in developments over the last 3 years.
- There is a strong sense of shared purpose amongst partners with clarity on the importance of the partnership and their role within it.
- There is competent, driven and united leadership.
- There are high levels of trust and honesty amongst partners with partners challenging one another, sharing honest reflections and willing to be vulnerable.
- The partnership has a real sense of collaboration and commitment.
- The number of Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the police in the last year has increased to 12,500 which is an increase of 2,500 from the previous year, with circa 7,500 of those being classified a standard risk.

- We have seen an increase in the number of Domestic Abuse Related Deaths where people have taken their own lives.
- Through the Vulnerable Localities Index (VLI) work we have identified a link in certain pockets of the county between Domestic Abuse and unemployment.
- Safe Accommodation continues to be an area of focus as part of our statutory duties under the DA Act and forms a significant part of the ongoing activity of the partnership through the commissioning plans.
- Partners feel restricted when it comes to supporting people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and want to better understand their statutory duties and how they can support people.
- Through the statutory Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) work we have seen an increase in Bidirectional abuse and the need to develop a consistent partnership approach in response.
- The partnership is committed to finding the right perpetrator response for Lincolnshire but there is lack of clarity on how this will be funded once the operational model is finalised.
- Moving survivors and their families from safe accommodation onto independent living continues to be an issue for a variety of reasons and the partnership needs to unpick and mobilise the barriers surrounding this.

*“ Amazing, always here for me and will make time for me. Kids have been offered support too ”*



## Framework for Action – Priorities

Priority One Prevention	
<b>Objective/Outcome Statement</b> <p>Prevent Domestic Abuse from starting by raising awareness within the Community, engaging with Survivors to get invaluable feedback and have access to data that can help identify emerging issues</p>	<b>Impact</b> <p>We will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased uptake and provision of domestic abuse training for professionals across all organisations, which is reflective of learning from local reviews as well as national/legislative changes.</li> <li>2. An effective survivor engagement programme that creates an opportunity for survivors of Domestic Abuse and their children to engage with the partnership and directly influence change and service development.</li> <li>3. See continued growth and development in the Healthy Relationships Offer delivered in education setting by the Stay Safe Team (Including an increase in the number of children receiving that intervention as well as positive outcomes being reported by children and young people).</li> <li>4. A domestic abuse charter developed and implemented within the partnership, integrating the Coordinated Community Response model.</li> <li>5. An effective integrated domestic abuse process within early years settings and family hubs.</li> <li>6. A variety of businesses signed up to the Business Engagement framework.</li> <li>7. Raised profile and awareness of domestic abuse within the local community and with friends and family.</li> <li>8. Developed and implemented a comprehensive partnership communication and marketing strategy to raise the profile and awareness of domestic abuse through several different mediums: campaigns, toolkits, social media, digital media, ensuring consistent and appropriate communication messages around domestic abuse. This includes the diverse needs of all those impacted by domestic abuse: LGBTQ+, older adults, children and young people, male, BAMER etc.</li> <li>9. Improved data collection and data sharing in relation to domestic abuse amongst partners, which is brought together to develop a more comprehensive understanding of demand, diverse characteristics and unmet need and is used to inform service developments, future investment decisions and which aims to remove any identified barrier to accessing support.</li> <li>10. Sustainability in the number of survivor/thriver groups within the County.</li> <li>11. A refreshed and relaunched 'Ask for Angela' Campaign working closely with the District Councils and Serious Violence Core Priority Group.</li> </ol>
<b>Our key areas of focus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong and supported partnership arrangements</li> <li>• Community and Business Engagement</li> <li>• LDASS Outreach and Engagement Programme of delivery</li> <li>• Survivor Voice</li> <li>• Workforce Development</li> <li>• Stay Safe Healthy Relationships work</li> <li>• Data and Analysis</li> <li>• Working with neighbouring authorities and national organisations to ensure effective cross boundary partnership working</li> </ul>	

Priority Two Early Intervention	
Objective/Outcome Statement	Impact
Prevent Domestic Abuse from escalating through a provision of early help prevention and support intervention	<p><b>We will have:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Victims of Domestic Abuse that can access appropriate and timely support as early as possible through Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Service (LDASS) via the various intervention strands included in their offer.</li> <li>2. An enhanced Sanctuary Scheme to enable more victims and their children to be able to remain in their own homes - if it's safe to do so, reducing the number of houses moves, and changes in employment, school, college and university that negatively impact on families.</li> <li>3. Evidence of early identification of Domestic Abuse through non-high-risk Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) response, to ensure interventions are provided at the earliest possible opportunity.</li> <li>4. An increased number of agencies using the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk identification tool to identify and assess risk and inform safety planning.</li> <li>5. Implemented a Child to Parent Carer Abuse (CPCA) pathway, training and intervention package.</li> <li>6. Increased disruption of perpetrators at the earliest opportunity, demonstrating a no tolerance approach to Domestic Abuse.</li> <li>7. Development of processes that recognise the link between animal abuse and domestic abuse.</li> <li>8. Increased number of 'right to ask' and 'right to know' requests to the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DVDS).</li> <li>9. Children and young people receiving tailored Domestic Abuse support specific to their needs.</li> <li>10. Development of a multi-agency place based approach that can deescalate community risks before they become an issue.</li> <li>11. Development of a preventing suicide and domestic abuse toolkit.</li> <li>12. Developed an early intervention pathway that supports victims to get support regarding housing before crisis point.</li> </ol>
Our key areas of focus	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning of Community Based Domestic Abuse provision (Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Services)</li> <li>• Multi layered Perpetrator Response</li> <li>• Non-high-risk Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) Response</li> <li>• Suicide Prevention and Domestic Abuse toolkit</li> <li>• Links with Animal abuse</li> <li>• Provision focused on children and young people</li> <li>• Child to Parent/Carer Abuse (CPCA) programme and pathway</li> <li>• Target hardening through a consistent Sanctuary Scheme</li> <li>• Working with the Domestic Abuse Specialist Services, District Councils and housing providers to develop early intervention pathways in relation to housing support and provision</li> </ul>	

## Priority Three Responding to risk and Harm

### Objective/Outcome Statement

Respond to risk and harm by providing interventions that can support victims at high risk and act against perpetrators.

### Our key areas of focus

- Safe Accommodation Provision
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Intervention
- Multi Layered Perpetrator Response - specific focus on repeat and prolific perpetrators
- Domestic Abuse and Unemployment
- Working with the Criminal Justice System
- Honour Based Abuse (HBA) including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Unconsented Male Circumcision
- Understanding the Homelessness Code of guidance and homelessness duties in relation to domestic abuse

### Impact

We will have:

1. Reduced the risk to victims and their children becoming homeless because of domestic abuse and ensure, whenever necessary, they are supported to make the move into safe and suitable accommodation without facing additional emotional, economic or social disadvantage.
2. All relevant partners worked together to provide disruption opportunities targeted at perpetrators through the perpetrator response model. Monitor the implementation of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO). Increased number of victims being given a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) to make informed decisions. Increased use of Stalking Protection Orders.
3. Evidence of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) being used as the mechanism to protect and safeguard high risk victims of Domestic Abuse. Increase in the number of consented to Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) support.
4. Better understanding of the link between Domestic Abuse and unemployment and produce a project plan with key partners.
5. Assurance that special measures are accessible in both criminal/family courts. Ensured prohibition of cross examination in person in family/civil proceedings. Evidence-led prosecutions are considered where appropriate to support and safeguard victims.
6. Launched the Domestic Abuse Family Justice Board subgroup in Lincolnshire.
7. Increased interaction with criminal and family court magistrates.
8. Introduced the Honour Based Abuse Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (H-DASH) risk assessment.

Priority Four Long term Recovery and Safety	
Objective/Outcome Statement	Impact
Provide trauma informed interventions and practice that supports survivors to recover and heal as part of an ongoing process that enables victim survivors to be safe, healthy, and resilient, to have economic security, and thrive.	We will have:
<b>Our key areas of focus</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Specialist Services (including the extended recovery support offer)</li> <li>Learning from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR)</li> <li>Survivor Voice</li> <li>Pathways into specialist services</li> <li>Supporting survivors in Criminal and Family Court</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased the number of services that are informed by the voice of Survivors.</li> <li>Better understanding of what made a difference to victims of domestic abuse becoming a survivor to inform future developments</li> <li>Uptake of the new multi-agency trauma informed training for professionals across all organisations.</li> <li>Improved timely access to specialist services that support victims with long-term recovery and safety.</li> <li>An evaluation and analysis review of the Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR) findings/recommendations to inform systematic change in relation to policy and practice.</li> <li>Continued to increase the number of people that the Court Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is supporting. Improving victims experience and advocating their preferred wishes in terms of sentencing.</li> </ol>

*“ EDAN Lincs has been very helpful to myself and my girls with the services that have been provided to us. We got so much support from staff and treated amazingly that we really feel safe and happy. The girls get so much love from everyone that they can’t stop saying they love Eve House. Our experience was made easy by how much love we received and we are very grateful ”*

## Commissioning and Resourcing

Commissioning and Resourcing continues to be an important focus within the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse partnership and underpins the services and initiatives that are committed to preventing Domestic Abuse.

Our commissioning framework is a collaborative partnership approach of which every partner agency has a role to play. The key partners are the Integrated Care Board (ICB), the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

## Governance and Accountability

The Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse partnership (LDAP) forms part of the overarching Lincolnshire response to Safeguarding, Public Protection and Community Safety, and sits alongside the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP), Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) within the Lincolnshire County Councils Adult Care and Community Wellbeing Directorate. The Domestic Abuse partnership works closely with the Suicide Prevention steering group and Prevent workstream recognising the links between Domestic Abuse and these agendas. The Domestic Abuse partnership has the following groups of which separate terms of reference are available for each:

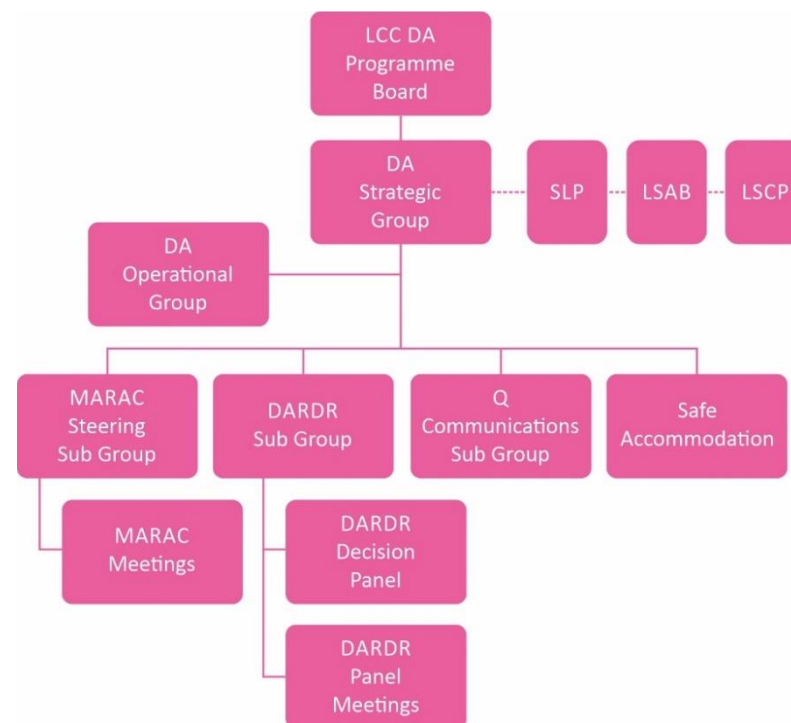
- The Domestic Abuse Programme Board – Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) senior leadership board
- Domestic Abuse Strategic partnership group (advisory role to the LCC Programme Board)
- Domestic Abuse Operational partnership group

Subgroups include but are not limited to:

- The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Steering subgroup
- Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) and learning subgroup
- Communications subgroup – this is aligned across the 4 boards and forms part of the collaboration work described
- Safe Accommodation subgroup

Operational delivery groups:

- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings
- Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) decision panel and meetings



The partnership is made up of multi-agency representatives from:

- Lincolnshire County Council, Community Safety, Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Children's Health, Education, Public Health
- Representatives from the District Councils
- Lincolnshire Police
- Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board
- Lincolnshire Community Health Services
- Victim Support
- Specialist Domestic Abuse Services
- United Lincolnshire Teaching Hospitals
- Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust
- Office for the Police Crime Commissioner
- Probation Service
- His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service
- SSAFA – the armed forces charity
- And other representatives where required

*“ Very helpful, explained court to me and options of what could happen after and what I could do if it happens. Very friendly and welcoming, made me feel safe and welcome ”*

## Collaboration opportunities between the partnerships

Domestic Abuse in particular, is a shared area of concern and cuts across the work of all four Boards/partnership structures as referred in the governance section above. It is important to acknowledge that they have a role in preventing domestic abuse and that is why this work is so vital. The boards and partnerships work very closely together to integrate key functions across the key partnerships creating efficiencies, reducing duplication for partners and improving collaborative working at both strategic and operational levels.

The key areas of collaboration are:

- Working with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (LSCP) focusing on the impact of Domestic Abuse on Children and ensuring Children are recognised as victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right.
- Ensuring that older adults with support and care needs who are experiencing Domestic Abuse are supported effectively through the Care Act duties by working with the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) to develop specific pathways and raise awareness of Domestic Abuse.
- Recognising the cross overs of Domestic Abuse with Sexual Violence and Serious Violence ensuring that these areas of work are delivered in collaboration, through specific interventions that effect all three areas, but also recognising the nuances required to effectively manage these agendas.



## Scrutiny

Lincolnshire County Council is required to:

- Report back to central government as part of the statutory duty in relation to safe accommodation services
- Report annually to Lincolnshire County Councils Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Provide regular reports to Lincolnshire County Council's Chief Executive and portfolio holders'
- Report to Lincolnshire County Councils Domestic Abuse Programme Board on a quarterly basis

## Conclusion

This strategy is Lincolnshire's partnership response to tackling Domestic Abuse in our county. It has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and is because of a full needs assessment undertaken looking at the wider Domestic Abuse agenda. It is acknowledged within the strategy that some further diagnostic and analytical activity is required in order to understand certain areas that were recognised in the needs assessment and gap analysis and in order to develop a detailed delivery plan that serves the partnership effectively, meets the statutory duties under Part 4 of the DA Act 2021, and provides the best outcomes for individuals experiencing and impacted by Domestic Abuse.

The delivery plan will be developed in collaboration with the partnership and strive to address the purpose and vision set out within the strategy and take forward the areas of focus within the framework for action. As a partnership we feel strongly that the strategy should set out our overall ambitions, principles and objectives in tackling domestic abuse, with the delivery plan setting out how we will achieve this, ensuring a level of fluidity is built into this process to respond to a changing landscape.

The strategy and subsequent delivery plan and commissioning arrangements will address the needs of all victim groups including those with protected characteristics.

*“ I just want to say thank you for everything. You've been absolutely incredible. A genuine new start and I'm not trapped anymore. I'm so happy, didn't realise how bad it was. ”*

## Appendix: Understanding the Picture - National Context



Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 2.1 million adults aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023. A higher percentage experienced domestic abuse by a partner or ex-partner (3.0%) than by a family member (1.8%).



The proportion of domestic abuse experienced in the last year was higher in households composed of a single person with one or more children (18.6%), compared with households with no children (4.2%), and households with multiple people and one or more children (3.7%).



16.2 % of all police recorded crime was identified as domestic abuse related in the last year. Violence against the person had the highest proportion of offences identified as domestic abuse-related (34%) in the year ending March 2023.



The police recorded 1,453,867 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes in England and Wales in the year ending March 2023, 7.9% higher than the year to March 2020. When looking at Domestic abuse-related crimes police recorded 889,918 in England and Wales (excluding Devon and Cornwall Police) in the year ending March 2023. This was a similar number to the previous year and was 14.4% higher than the year ending March 2020. Improvements in police recording practices and increased reporting by victims have contributed to increases in recent years.



According to the CSEW for the year ending March 2023 approximately 1 in 5 victims aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 years. Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of age, disability, gender identity, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. Domestic abuse can also manifest itself in specific ways within different communities.



The CSEW found that in year ending March 2023, for people aged 16 to 59 years the prevalence rate of domestic abuse was 5.1%, down from 6.1% in year ending March 2020. There was also a reduction in domestic homicides - 100, which was 37 fewer than the previous year, and the lowest since electronic records began.



The CSEW for the year ending March 2023 estimated that 1.4 million females (5.7%) and 751,000 (3.2%) males aged 16 and over experienced domestic abuse. As in previous years, women were disproportionately represented, with 73.5% of all victims being female in the last year (excluding Devon & Cornwall).



For domestic abuse-related sexual offences, the proportion of female victims was 93.0%, compared with 7.0% for males. According to the Office National Statistics (ONS) this follows trends seen over previous years. Women are more likely to experience repeat victimisation, be physically injured or killed as a result of domestic abuse and experience non-physical abuse- including emotional and financial abuse- than men.



The National Domestic Abuse Helpline was contacted 171,490 times in the year ending March 2023; a decrease of 10.7% compared with the year ending March 2022.



Research published by the Home Office has estimated the social and economic costs of domestic abuse in the region of £66 billion for the victims identified in England and Wales within the year 2016/17. The biggest component is the physical and emotional harms incurred by victims (£47 billion). The cost to the economy is estimated at £14 billion arising from lost output.

Almost twice as many women in the White ethnic group experienced domestic abuse in the last year (6.0%) compared with Black or Black British women (3.1%) and Asian or Asian British women (3.0%).

*“ I honestly don't know where I would be, or what kind of home that my children would be living in, if I hadn't met you ”*

LINCOLNSHIRE  
**DOMESTIC  
ABUSE**  
PARTNERSHIP