



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Template

Before completing the EQIA please have a look at the [Dorset Council style guide](#) and also use the [accessibility checker](#) to make sure your document is easy for people of all abilities to read.

Some key tips

- avoid tables and charts, if possible please provide raw data
- avoid pictures and maps if possible.
- avoid using bold, italics or colour to highlight or stress a point
- when using numbering or bullet points avoid using capitals at the beginning unless the name of something
- date format is dd month yyyy (1 June 2021)
- use clear and simple language
- where you need to use technical terms, abbreviations or acronyms, explain what they mean the first time you use them
- if using hyperlinks, make sure the link text describes where the link goes rather than 'click here' Please note equality impact assessments are published on the Dorset Council [website](#)

Before completing this form, please refer to the [supporting guidance](#). The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to consider the equality implications of your policy, strategy, project or service on different groups of people including employees of Dorset Council, residents and users of our services and to consider if there are ways to proactively advance equality.

Where further guidance is needed, please contact the Inclusion Champion or the [Diversity & Inclusion Officer](#).

1. Initial information

Name of the policy, project, strategy, project or service being assessed:

Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028

2. Is this a (please delete those not required):

Review of strategy

3. Is this (please delete those not required):

Both internal and external

4. Please provide a brief overview of its aims and objectives:

The Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028 sets out how Dorset Council, in conjunction with the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will tackle domestic abuse over the next 3 years.

Our Vision

For many years the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has been working to tackle issues related to domestic abuse. The CSP believes domestic abuse, in all forms, is completely unacceptable and not to be tolerated. It is committed to tackling it by preventing abuse from happening, supporting victims and survivors, and prosecuting offenders.

Our Priorities

prevention: we want to stop domestic abuse from happening altogether. To do that we will focus on actions and initiatives that are preventative so that fewer people become victims.

victims/survivors: victims and survivors of domestic abuse, whoever they are, will have access to services that keep them safe and prevent further harm.

offenders: offenders will be held to account for their action.

Cutting across all the priorities is 'accessibility' ensuring that the system and the services that operate within it, are accessible to everyone who needs them.

5. Please provide the background to this proposal?

In April 2021, the government passed the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The measures in the Act aim to:

- promote awareness: to put abuse at the top of everyone's agenda, including by introducing a statutory definition of domestic abuse
- protect and support victims, including by introducing new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders
- transform the justice response, including through helping victims to give their best evidence in the criminal courts via 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
- improve performance: the new Domestic Abuse Commissioner will help drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse across all local areas and agencies

Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on Tier One local authorities, such as Dorset Council, to assess the need for support and prepare strategies for its provision to victims and their children [who need to reside] in relevant accommodation. The Act places a duty on each Tier One local authority in England to:

- appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (LPB) which it must consult as it performs functions (below). In Dorset, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has adopted the role and functions of the LPB.
- assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for domestic abuse support in their area for all victims (and their children) who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area.
- prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area 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 annually to central government.

In January 2022, Dorset Council, in conjunction with the Dorset Community Safety Partnership (CSP) released its first Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy. This revised strategy for 2025-2028 aims to continue the work of the Council and the CSP, setting out the areas it will focus on for the next three years.

It is a legal requirement for the plan to be formally adopted by Dorset Council.

Evidence gathering and engagement

6. What sources of data, evidence or research has been used for this assessment? (e.g national statistics, employee data):

The Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy must be informed by a local needs assessment. The information and evidence gained through the needs assessment has been used to inform this plan along with additional findings from national research.

Sources of evidence:

- Dorset CSP Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) 2024/25 (restricted document)
- Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy Needs Assessment (restricted document)
- Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

In addition, information and insights have been pulled from national sites, with links and references added throughout the impact table.

7. What did this tell you?

The evidence gathered demonstrates that although anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, it affects certain groups more than others, as explained in more detail below.

Updated April 2023

Research has also revealed differences amongst particular groups in accessing services and reporting issues.

These findings have been used to shape and inform partners' domestic abuse strategy.

The strategy has been supported by an updated Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. This latest edition of the assessment provides a current overview of the domestic abuse in Dorset. It utilises data provided by several local agencies that are involved in tackling domestic abuse to compile a base of evidence. This includes an analysis of the changing volume in reported abuse, demographic profiles of both victims and perpetrators, and the identification of relative underreporting by certain groups. In addition, it includes a section in which the lived experience of local victims is detailed through a series of quotations.

The Needs Assessment aims to guide the focus of this accompanying Domestic Abuse Strategy, also produced by the Dorset Community Safety Partnership, which will steer the local delivery of domestic abuse services for the three-year period 2025-28.

The principal findings from this needs assessment are listed here:

- reports to the Police regarding domestic abuse in Dorset have increased by 24% in the past four years.
- reports of domestic abuse to both the Police and Paragon show a slight seasonal variation, with more being received during the summer months than in the winter.
- the volume of domestic abuse related adult safeguarding referrals has increased over recent months
- the proportion of all instances where local housing Prevention and Relief Duties were served in response to cases of domestic abuse have increased over the past four years.
- 75% of all domestic abuse related crimes recorded by Dorset Police were classified as violence against the person offence
- two thirds of all violence against the person domestic abuse related offences were classed as assaults...
- ...and a further 15% were classed as stalking offences.
- data from Adult Safeguarding suggests that psychological domestic abuse is more prevalent than inferred from the records held by the Police.
- in Dorset the volume of domestic abuse cases classed as 'high risk' is increasing.
- not all incidences of domestic abuse reported to the local Police involved victims who were Dorset residents. Between 2020 and 2023, 15% of reported domestic abuse had victims who were out of county residents.
- in Dorset there is a significant underreporting of domestic abuse to the Police among younger males (aged 16 to 25), younger females (aged 16 to 20), and older women (aged over 54).

- there is also significant underreporting of domestic abuse to Paragon, especially from younger and older females, and from male victims (all ages).
- in comparison to those living in urban areas, underreporting is more prevalent among female victims living in rural parts of Dorset.
- victims, of all genders, who live in Dorset's most deprived areas are more likely to contact the Police to report their domestic abuse rather than Paragon. Victims from wealthier areas are more likely to contact Paragon than they are to contact the Police.
- over half (54%) of the domestic abuse cases dealt with by Paragon between 2020 and 2023 came from victims who lived in households with at least one cohabiting dependant.
- a significant minority (27%) of all domestic abuse related reports to Dorset Police involved perpetrators who lived outside of Dorset.
- only two-thirds (67%) of cases reported to Dorset Police involved a Dorset County resident victim and a Dorset County resident suspect.
- a clear majority (73%) of domestic abuse related incidents reported to Dorset Police involved a male perpetrator.
- the majority (53%) of domestic abuse cases recorded by the Police featured suspects – of all genders – that were aged between twenty-five and forty-four.
- just under half (47%) of all known domestic abuse suspects were 'repeat' perpetrators.
- approximately half of all domestic abuse events reported to the Police – and almost two-thirds of those reported to Paragon - involved abuse between former partners. 20% of Police cases, and 10% of Paragon cases, involved intra-familial, often intergenerational, abuse.
- a sizeable proportion of domestic abuse events recorded by the Police involved victims and perpetrators of a similar age, often between twenty and forty years old.

8. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of this assessment?

The Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy has been written with the help of a range of partners including the Police, Probation, Dorset Domestic Abuse Forum and health services, who have provided information, insight and context.

This impact assessment has been written by members of Dorset Council's Community Safety Team.

9. Is further information needed to help inform decision making?

No

Is an EQIA required?

Not every proposal will need an EqIA. The data and research should inform your decision whether to continue with this EqIA. If you decide that your proposal does not need an EqIA, please answer the following question:

This policy, strategy, project or service does not require an EqIA because (provide details):

Not applicable

Assessing the impact on different groups of people

For each of the protected characteristics groups below, please explain whether your proposal could have a positive, negative, unclear or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is and if unclear or negative please explain what mitigating actions will be taken.

- use the evidence you have gathered to inform your decision making.
- consider impacts on residents, service users and employees separately.
- if your strategy, policy, project or service contains options you may wish to consider providing an assessment for each option.
- see guidance for more information about the different [protected characteristics](#).

Key to impacts

Positive Impact	• the proposal eliminates discrimination, advances equality of opportunity and/or fosters good relations with protected groups.
Negative Impact	• protected characteristic group(s) could be disadvantaged or discriminated against
Neutral Impact	• no change/ no assessed significant impact of protected characteristic groups
Unclear	• not enough data/evidence has been collected to make an informed decision.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
Age	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> Partners' latest strategic needs assessment identified that of all the domestic abuse victims reported to Dorset Police, 70% were women of any age, and 55% were women aged under 35. The assessment also showed that domestic abuse is significantly under reported by young adults and the elderly. The gap between the experience of domestic abuse and its reporting to the police was especially notable among the sixteen- to nineteen-year-old cohort. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)¹ indicated that nationally 9.0% of women in that age group, and 7.0% of men, have experienced abuse within the past year. In contrast, Dorset's corresponding figures are 2.1% and 0.8% respectively. Rates of under reporting of domestic abuse among older age groups are also of concern, especially local women aged between fifty-five and fifty-nine. For this cohort, the CSEW suggests that, nationally, rates of domestic abuse are as high as 6.6%. The corresponding rate recorded in Dorset was 0.6%. <u>EqlA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups, in particular younger people and older people. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Ensure services are accessible to all groups.

¹ The Crime Survey of England and Wales is conducted quarterly. It is based on public interviews, rather than reported crime, and is regarded as a more accurate assessment of the public's experience of crime.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Disability	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> Information and research from SafeLives* states: <i>Disabled people experience higher rates of domestic abuse than non-disabled people.</i> <i>Disabled women are twice as likely to experience abuse than non-disabled women, and disabled people are more likely to experience abuse from an adult family member compared to non-disabled people (14% vs 6%). Studies have shown that disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse and also twice as likely to suffer assault and rape. Yet our Marac data shows that nationally only 3.9% of referrals were for disabled victims, significantly lower than our recommendation of 16% or higher Our research also shows low referral rates for disabled people into domestic abuse services.</i> Link to the report - Disabled people and domestic abuse spotlight - SafeLives <u>EQIA Response</u>

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups, particularly those who have a disability. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Ensure services are accessible to all groups. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Gender reassignment and Gender Identity	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> Whilst there is limited research and evidence to indicate whether there is a greater or lower risk of being a victim of domestic abuse because of gender reassignment / gender identity, experiences for this community may differ and there may be greater challenges and barriers in accessing support.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		Key findings from a 2019 Briefing by SafeLives stated: • <i>Transgender victims/survivors experience specific types of abuse that can be linked to their trans identities.</i> • <i>Trans victims/survivors experience large numbers of additional needs, particularly in relation to mental health.</i> • <i>Trans people who access domestic abuse services report that this experience has positive outcomes on their lives.</i> • <i>However, only a small proportion of trans victims/survivors with additional mental health needs are supported with these by domestic abuse services. Given the large numbers of trans victims/survivors who have mental health needs, it is vital that this issue be addressed.</i> Link to report - Transgender-victim-survivors-experiences-of-domestic-abuse-briefing.pdf <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups. For example, gender reassignment and gender identity. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		• Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral	There is little evidence to indicate whether being married or in a civil partnership results in being more or less likely to be a victim of domestic abuse.
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> The Women's Aid 2019 Toolkit '<i>Supporting women and babies after domestic abuse</i>' highlights: • 20-30% of pregnant women report incidents of physical violence • Around 36% of women experience verbal abuse during pregnancy • 14% report very severe or life threatening violence • 20% of pregnant women are subjected to sexual violence Link to report - Supporting-women-and-babies-after-domestic-abuse.pdf It is also recognised that risks can escalate and heighten during pregnancy and is a key indicator when assessing high risk domestic abuse. <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups. For example, providing information in maternity wards, hospitals, other health settings.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Race and Ethnicity	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> A recent study by the Home Office (2024) identified varying rates of domestic abuse experienced by different ethnic groups. It was estimated that 4.8% of the White British population were victims of abuse during the 12 months to March 2023. By contrast, the figure among mixed race adults was 65% higher (7.9%), while that for Asian victims was 42% lower (2.0%). Local reports of domestic abuse experienced by minority ethnic groups have historically been limited, and calculating accurate comparable figures for Dorset is not possible. <u>EqlA Response</u>

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups. For example, those from different ethnic communities. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Religion and belief	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> A 2017 spotlight by Safelives states: <i>People at risk of 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and forced marriage experience domestic abuse for longer, on average, than those not at risk. They are also more likely to experience harm from multiple perpetrators.</i>

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		• <i>Before accessing support, victims at risk of 'honour'-based violence experienced abuse for 2 years longer (5 years vs 3 years) than those not identified at risk</i> • <i>23% of victims at risk were not eligible for most benefits, tax credits or housing association</i> • <i>Victims were more than 7 times more likely to be experiencing abuse from multiple perpetrators</i> • <i>57% of victims at risk had visited their GP in the past 12 months and 19% had attended A&E as a direct result of the abuse</i> • <i>Only 6% of people were referred to domestic abuse services by health professionals</i> Link to report - ‘Honour’-based violence and forced marriage spotlight - SafeLives <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups. For example, working with different faith groups. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		• Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Sex (consider men and women)	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse and Stalking</u> The CSEW estimates that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023. Of these 1.4 million (approx. 67%) were women and 751,000 (approx. 36%) were men. Partners' latest PSA showed that of all individual victims of stalking, 80% were female. A third of the recorded stalking crimes set out in partners' latest needs assessment had no associated perpetrator identified. Where perpetrators were identified, 80% were male. <u>EqlA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups. For example, older women. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		• Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Sexual orientation	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> Whilst there is little data to suggest those who identify as LGBT+ are more or less likely to be victims of domestic abuse, we do know there can be additional barriers when trying to access services. A report by SafeLives states: <i>The most common portrayal of domestic abuse is that of a male perpetrator and female victim within a heterosexual relationship. But domestic abuse can happen to anyone and be perpetrated by anyone. This includes people of all gender identities and sexual orientations and in many types of relationships.</i> Key findings • <i>Statutory and non-statutory services are missing opportunities to identify LGBT+ victims, survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse</i> • <i>LGBT+ victims and survivors are experiencing high levels of risk and complex needs before they access support</i> • <i>LGBT+ victims and survivors need support tailored to their needs and circumstances</i> • <i>A victim's sexual orientation or gender identity can sometimes be targeted as part of the abuse</i> • <i>Societal attitudes and lack of inclusion are preventing LGBT+ victims and survivors</i>

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		<i>from accessing the support they need to get safe and recover, and mean we aren't identifying and stopping perpetrators at the earliest opportunity</i> Link to report - LGBT+ people and domestic abuse spotlight - SafeLives <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups, particularly the LGBT+ Community. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Ensure services are accessible to all groups. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
People with caring responsibilities	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> Information on the caring responsibilities of local victims of domestic abuse is extremely limited.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		Such information is not routinely collected by the Police. An indication of the prevalence of abuse among carers is provided by records kept by Paragon, Dorset's Integrated Domestic Abuse Service partner. For the period 2020-23, 41% of all Paragon's clients reported that they lived in a household with at least one 'dependent' (which might include children, elderly relatives and others in need of support). Nationally, the Home Office reported (2022) that in 8% of the Domestic Homicide Reviews analysed, the victims were carers and in just over half of these, the perpetrator was the person being cared for. <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups, particularly carers, both as victims and perpetrators. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Ensure services are accessible to all groups. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. • Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Rural isolation	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> Data from the CSEW indicates that the reporting of domestic abuse in Dorset is notably lower than expected within the County's rural population. The data illustrates that, while nationally domestic abuse is slightly more prevalent in rural areas, the reporting of incidents in Dorset is highest in its urban areas. Locally, domestic abuse is under reported in both urban and rural areas, but the extent to which it is under reported is greater in the county's rural settings. <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to those living in rural communities, utilising local assets and community groups. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Ensure services are accessible to all groups. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: - Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. - Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. - Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		• Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Socio-economic deprivation	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> There is compelling evidence that, in Dorset, domestic abuse is linked to higher levels of deprivation (PSA 2024/25). This local connection between increased deprivation and abuse is reflected in the data collected through the CSEW. National figures also confirm the link between poverty and domestic abuse. According to a study undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), women living in households with an income of less than £10,000 were more than four times as likely (14.3%) to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months than women living in households with an income of £50,000 or more (3.3%). <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups, particularly across different socio economic demographics. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Ensure services are accessible to all groups. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: • Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time.

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		• Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. • Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. • Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. • Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including children and young people, help shape the local response.
Single parents	Neutral	There is little evidence to indicate whether being a single parent results in being more or less likely to be a victim of domestic abuse.
Armed forces communities	Positive	<u>Domestic Abuse</u> The Government's 'Armed forces domestic abuse: a handbook for civilian support services' states <i>There is no evidence to suggest that domestic abuse is any more prevalent within the UK Armed Forces, however the following points could place additional pressure on families:</i> • <i>research has indicated that people between the ages of 20 and 40 are at highest risk of experiencing domestic abuse – this age range is strongly represented in the armed forces</i> • <i>regular assignments and geographic separation can isolate victims by cutting them off from their family and support systems</i> • <i>regular assignments can make it difficult for a spouse to maintain a career, resulting in them being more economically dependent on the serving partner</i> • <i>regular deployments and reunions create unique stresses on armed forces families.</i>

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		In addition there may be additional barriers facing those in the armed forces accessing advice and support. <i>fear of career consequence, either for them if they are serving, or their serving partner</i> <i>the potential impact on housing, economic security and pensions</i> <i>a perceived stigma attached to male victims</i> Link to report Armed forces domestic abuse: a handbook for civilian support services - GOV.UK <u>EQIA Response</u> Information and awareness raising campaigns to be targeted to specific groups, particularly the armed forces, linking in with the councils Armed forces programme coordinator. Content and delivery of campaigns to be fit for purpose according to target groups. Information on the impacts for different groups to be included in relevant training packages. Ensure services are accessible to all groups. Delivery of specific actions / initiatives set out in the strategy, for example: - Develop solutions that enable people who find it harder to access services to find the right support at the right time. - Use local learning, national innovation and best practice, to continue to develop the local safe accommodation offer. - Review the Dorset (Pan Dorset) Domestic Abuse Commissioning Charter 'enabling a whole systems approach to domestic abuse'. - Use learning from the needs assessment to inform the local offer. - Further develop our approach to enabling those with lived experience, including

Impacts on who or what?	Choose impact	How
		children and young people, help shape the local response.

Please provide a summary of the impacts:

Through the completion of a local needs assessment and work to complete this EqlA,(including an examination of national information) it has been identified that domestic abuse can affect certain groups more than others. It has also identified under-reporting and less engagement by certain groups as described in the impact table.

Partners must be aware of these issues and ensure they are considered when delivering the Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy, for example, by ensuring awareness raising and communication campaigns are targeted to those groups who are known to under-report, support services actively work to ensure they are accessible to all groups and through targeted initiatives. These are captured in the action plan below.

It is also necessary to undertake further work to better understand the needs of Dorset's diverse communities in relation to domestic abuse issues and an action to do this has been included in the plan below.

Updated April 2023

Action Plan

Summarise any actions required as a result of this EqIA.

Issue	Action to be taken	Person(s) responsible	Date to be completed by
Some groups are affected more than others Under-reporting by some groups	Ensure that specific groups (as described in the impact table) are targeted when delivering awareness raising campaigns.	CSP Partners (Communications)	Ongoing with specific attention paid to regular / cyclical campaigns
	Ensure the information and advice being provided to specific groups (as described in the impact table) is fit for purpose and meets their needs.	CSP Partners	Ongoing – to be specifically addressed in relevant actions for 2025/26
	Ensure training includes information on all people effected by domestic abuse.	CSP Partners (those providing training)	Through delivery of 2025/26 training plans
	Ensure services, including commissioned services, are accessible to everyone.	CSP Service Providers and Commissioners	Through ongoing assessment of service delivery and commissioning.
Gaps in knowledge	Undertake research to better understand the needs of our diverse communities, including LGBTQ+ people and those with protective characteristics, and how we can ensure those needs are best met.	Ian Denness (Community Safety Team, Dorset Council)	Through ongoing research and analysis to support updated

Updated April 2023

	Reports of domestic abuse from some of our communities are relatively low. Knowledge of the extent of abuse among experienced (and committed) by non-white and non-heterosexual victims (and perpetrators) is especially limited. Research, drawn from a combination of locally sourced data, nationally commissioned reports and studies undertaken in other locations, will be used to gain a greater understanding of the prevalence and nature of abuse experienced by these diverse communities, with the results and associated actions incorporated within future editions of the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and the Domestic Abuse Strategy.		versions of the strategy.
	Undertake work to better understand under reporting of domestic abuse in rural areas.	Ian Denness (Community Safety Team, Dorset Council)	Through ongoing research and analysis to support updated versions of the strategy.

Sign Off

Officer completing this EqlA: Ian Grant, Programme Coordinator for Community Safety

Officers involved in completing the EqlA: Ian Denness, Andy Frost, Diane Evans,

Date of completion: 02 June 2025

Version Number: 4

EqlA review date:

Equality Lead Sign Off: James Palfreman-Kay (19/08/25)

Next Steps:

- the EqlA will be reviewed by Communications and Engagement and if in agreement, your EqlA will be signed off.
- if not, we will get in touch to chat further about the EqlA, to get a better understanding.
- EqlA authors are responsible to ensuring any actions in the action plan are implemented.

Please send to [Diversity and Inclusion Officer](#)