Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Working together to tackle domestic abuse

Nottinghamshire County Council

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

2026-2029

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Welcome and Forewords



Angela Kandola – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire (Violence Against Women and Girls lead) / Chair of Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Welcome to the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy. Domestic abuse is one of the most prevalent issues in our society. It has a drastic, negative, and long-lasting impact upon the safety, health and wider life chances of individuals, children, and families, and often aligns with 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 Nottinghamshire. To deliver this strategy, we need a community coordinated response that involves all partners, the voluntary and community sector, people with lived experience and the wider community.

Our vision for Nottinghamshire 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 evidence led underpinned by a robust action plan that will secure real change for our community. Each key stakeholder has their own organisational priorities and objectives in relation to Domestic Abuse which are governed separately, however by working together it demonstrates each individual agencies commitment to preventing Domestic Abuse and means the partnership can focus on key areas that add value.

I believe that we are stronger together and as a partnership we will work collaboratively to take action against perpetrators of abuse, change attitudes and behaviours and support survivors, victims and children to ensure that our communities are able to recover and live safe, happy and healthy lives, focusing on the prevention and early to shape a positive future.



Cllr Dawn Justice

Nottinghamshire County Council
(Cabinet member for Communities and Public Health)

In Nottinghamshire we take Domestic Abuse very seriously and agencies have worked extremely hard to support victims, survivors and their children across the county, as well introducing effective programmes that tackle perpetration of abuse.

As an authority we have developed a plan to ensure survivors can access safe accommodation and gain the support they need to rebuild their lives.

We also welcome the focus on Prevention as an essential pillar of strategy. This highlights the need to provide support to the next generation, exploring with them what healthy relationships look like so that they can hopefully live a life without the fear of abuse.

The voices of survivors of previous violence and abuse are central to the strategy's development, because they understand better than anyone else the environment and factors which led to them become vulnerable, and the kind of support they most needed, but perhaps were not aware of or could not access, when they were in that situation. It is fantastic to see the developments in prevention and coproduction and the intention within the strategy to further embed and develop this work.

I therefore fully support the development of the strategy and the continued prioritisation and partnership approach to addressing domestic abuse. We as a whole partnership need to focus our efforts on how to improve the lives of those affected by domestic abuse.



Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement and thanks go to:

This Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-2029 has been developed in partnership with all of the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) partners/organisations and with survivors / people with lived experience of domestic abuse.

The DAPB's governance arrangements sees it reporting into both the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, with addressing/reducing domestic abuse being a strategic priority in both the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2022-2026) and Community Safety Agreement (2025-27) respectively. The Strategy will also support both adults and children safeguarding Boards priorities on domestic abuse.

The Strategy sets out our local vision, ambitions and guiding principles for addressing domestic abuse in Nottinghamshire. We believe that safeguarding vulnerable people with lived experience of domestic abuse is everyone's business. Organisations can pledge their commitment to the Strategy and the framework for action and set out how they can contribute to preventing and reducing the harm from domestic abuse.

Points to note:

- The Strategy is inclusive and covers all people as victims, survivors and perpetrators. However, it is recognised that domestic and sexual violence predominantly impacts women and girls and in line with the Equality Act 2010 some services will therefore be targeted specifically towards addressing this inequality.
- Through the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children and young people are now recognised as survivors of domestic abuse in their own right.
- Throughout the Strategy we will use the positive language of 'survivors' rather than 'victims' recognising that surviving abuse is possible and with support survivors can thrive and rebuild their lives. Survivors is the term used to include all those with lived experience of domestic abuse.



Advice and support when reading this document

There are a range of specialist services that have been commissioned by the Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottingham City Council, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board and NHS England. Those listed below are first points of contact. All services are independent, confidential and free. There is no need to report the crime to the police to get help.

- **Women's 24-hour free domestic abuse helpline and access to services**
  0808 800 0340
  www.junowomensaid.org.uk

- **Men's domestic abuse helpline and access to services**
  0800 995 6999 - Monday to Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm (7:30pm on Wednesdays) excluding bank holidays. 24/7 confidential voicemail at other times. www.equation.org.uk

- **LGBTQ+ domestic abuse helpline and access to service**
  0330 088 0787 - Monday to Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm (7:30pm on Wednesdays) excluding bank holidays. 24/7 confidential voicemail at other times. www.equation.org.uk

- **Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) support for families of domestic abuse related deaths.**
  07887 488 464
  Help@aafda.org.uk

If you or someone else are in immediate danger, please call **999** and ask for the police. Otherwise, you can contact Nottinghamshire Police on **101** if you think a crime has been committed but there is no immediate danger. If you can't speak out loud, you can press **55** so the operator knows you require help. If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use the textphone service on **18001 101**.



Lived experience voices – "The life of a domestic abuse survivor"

Across the system, there is a commitment to listening to survivors and ensuring their voices drive meaningful system change. The coproduction service led by Nottinghamshire Women's Aid Limited in partnership with Nottingham Trent University provides a safe and supportive space for survivors to share their experiences. This will help the development of the Strategy's action plan understand and meet the needs of all survivors of domestic abuse.

Collated insights from survivors about their experiences of seeking support for safe accommodation, clearly illustrates the life and challenges for survivors of domestic abuse, with key themes that emerged from the focus group discussions as described below:

Starting again with nothing: "So, I managed to get somewhere 45 minutes away, but it was just really tough. And then obviously, you have to furnish the house...you've got none of your belongings. You basically leave with what is in the car. So, you leave with nothing."

Private rental: "Yeah, I got told I wasn't allowed council because I were working...But because I earned over a certain amount, I wasn't allowed to be on Council register for a Council House. I had to go for private and ... you are bidding against everybody on a private rental. There's no support there to help you find accommodation once you've left a relationship. That's my personal opinion."

Rebuilding lives: "You know, I'm rebuilding my life.....And it's it's hard because it's you feel responsible, and you feel guilty and you feel like it's your fault. And that's how you're made to feel before all the time. Everything was your fault... It is the accommodation is the crucial first step of leaving. It really is, and it's the biggest, hardest step, or it was for me, it's taken a long time for us to get somewhere that is a home now."

Problems of financial control: "I left him with everything...furniture to leave all that. And then I have to go that low where I was left with nothing...We owned two houses and we were homeless while the single man is in the family home."

Positive experiences – helpful staff: "I was pregnant with second kid, and my midwife she told me refuge exist..... I told her everything about my ex-husband, and she told me, do you want to come, this place is safe, and they will give you everything that you need... first time I go to xx shared house... And I stayed there for two months...and was typical shared house with different people..... Now I'm waiting for housing...And here I have, we have everything, we have a lot helping, and people around here are very lovely.... but it's just whoever was available and who had the space. So, I was really in a lot of refuges, in xxx in xxx, in xxx, everywhere. And I fell lucky and got this.....with 24-hour workers in there. It was good."

Introduction – National and local context / strategic alignment

Nationally:

The Victims and Prisoners Act received Royal Assent on 24th May 2024, but individual measures within the Act will not come into force until the Government specifically commences them. The "Duty to collaborate" under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 will require local policing bodies, local authorities and Integrated Care Boards to collaborate in the commissioning of community support services in England for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence. It has been noted that this Duty could commence from Spring 2026, however this has yet to be confirmed.

Under the Duty, duty holders within a local area are required to collaborate when commissioning relevant victim support services. All duty holders will have an equal role in decision making and complying with the Duty. Whilst the Duty does not specify a 'lead organisation', each area should nominate a "convenor" to coordinate activity.

It is expected that collaboration facilitated through the Duty should lead to changes in commissioning practices, resulting in;

- Improved join-up between services. Identifying where collaboration can increase impact which will lead to efficiencies in working practices and better value for money from funding and resources;
- Services that better respond to local need. By sharing data, evidence and insight, areas will build a common understanding of common need and be able to identify and fill gaps in services;
- Increased local transparency on decision-making, processes. This includes increasing local understanding of why commissioning decisions have been made, and how these will meet the needs of the community

The national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, Freedom from Violence and Abuse: A cross-government strategy to build a safer society for women and girls was published in December 2025. This strategy underlined the whole society effort required to address violence against women and girls. It prioritised prevention, focusing on addressing root causes, the relentless pursuit of perpetrators and ensuring there is comprehensive support for survivors.

It clearly referenced the need to tackle cultural norms, misogynistic attitudes in every part of the country and across communities, within homes, schools, workplaces, streets, and sports clubs and to ensure that support is available to address the trauma and mental harm experienced by victims.

The strategy puts victims, survivors and families first; ensure they are listened to and worked with at every step. It acknowledges that this requires a decade-long, government-wide, whole-of-society effort to make the UK one of the safest places in the world for women and girls.

It recognised the importance of focusing on men and boys to address the root causes of this violence and abuse, the misogyny, dangerous attitudes and escalating behaviours, on and offline, that lead men and boys to become perpetrators. There is a requirement to build a positive agenda that promotes opportunities for men and boys that is in no way at the expense of opportunities for women and girls.

Focus areas included in the strategy:

Prevention and early intervention; We must stop violence before it starts. That means breaking the intergenerational cycle of abuse through early intervention and prevention – protecting young people, disrupting dangerous attitudes and stopping harmful behaviours escalating.

Relentless pursuit of perpetrators; we must ensure that no perpetrator acts with impunity. To do this, we will use every tool available to make understanding, identifying, and responding to this violence a mainstream responsibility of every agency and institution – ultimately putting an end to the shameful fact that only a handful of those women and girls who report abuse to the police see justice served.

Support: we will never lose sight of our focus on victims and survivors, or the fact that no one victim or survivor is the same. We will address the current fragmentation in our system and be clear that all and every aspect in government and the criminal justice system, holds responsibility for ensuring victims and survivors can recover and live free from abuse.

The approach aims to build a system that enables victims and survivors to cope, recover and move forwards.

Nottinghamshire:

In 2021 we published our first Domestic Abuse Strategy for Nottinghamshire as a direct response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (see Appendix 1) and as part of the launch of the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB). Since then, 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 but recognise there is still more to do. Our key achievements include:

- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy launched in 2024.
- Enhanced support for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service, utilising additional funding from Ministry of Justice
- Development of a Coproduction Service to bring the voices of survivors into service transformation
- Pet fostering available across the County and links to social care emergency pet support schemes
- Additional support to make homes safer for survivors
- Additional support to ensure male survivors can access safe accommodation across the County
- Domestic abuse support embedded in all Children's Multidisciplinary safeguarding teams across Nottinghamshire
- Healthy Relationship Education offered to all schools across the County throughout 2022-2025 and externally evaluated in 2024/25.

- Improvements to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) systems, restarting the Assurance, Information and Learning Group (ALIG) resulting in improved partnership working and high-quality recommendations and actions which will improve the response to survivor needs
- Developed new targeted training on the needs of those with protected characteristics
- Rolled out a voluntary perpetrator programme and the Cautioning and Relationship Abuse (CARA) program for those receiving a caution from the police for relationship abuse.
- An increasing number of J9 safe spaces created - GP practices, dentists, shops, restaurants, with significant progress across Rushcliffe.
- Two local authorities - Mansfield and Bassetlaw- are now Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accredited, with Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood nearing completion, thus demonstrating a commitment and understanding of the needs of domestic abuse survivors.

By working collaboratively there has been an improvement in the response to domestic abuse and the support available to survivors. More survivors are receiving support in their homes, increased numbers of survivors are receiving therapy sessions or attending groups to rebuild their lives and recover from abuse.
The impact of the Healthy Relationship Education in schools has improved children and young people's understanding on what healthy relationships looks like and identifies children living in domestic abusive households earlier.

Nottinghamshire (including Nottingham):

Nottinghamshire's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy (2023-2028) was launched at the She Is Summit in March 2024 followed by an in person VAWG Reference Meeting held on 5th September 2024 bringing together key partners across the county to collaborate on delivering the ambitious goals of the Nottinghamshire VAWG Strategy.

The Nottinghamshire VAWG Strategy focuses on five key pillars: prevention, protection, support for survivors, pursuing perpetrators, and partnership working.

1) Preventing: Embed a zero-tolerance approach to VAWG across all activity to instil social change in perceptions of women and girls. This will deliver a change in social views from victim-blaming to perpetrator-blaming.
2) Responding: Work towards reducing the levels of harm experienced by women and girls. Increase the number of women and girls referred into support and recovery services.
3) Supporting: Ensure that survivors are safe and feel safe and supported so that they can lead a fulfilling life.
4) Including: Ensure our services are culturally competent and meet the needs of women and girls from all protected characteristics. Enhance the awareness of the needs and barriers women and girls from marginalised groups face.
5) Strengthening: Ensure we have a comprehensive joined up system of strong and suitable services casting a wide net of support.



Where are we now?

Nottinghamshire Victims Needs Assessment 2025:

The Victims Needs Assessment has been compiled by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Research & Insight Team to understand the needs of victims of crime across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County. Part one of this needs assessment seeks to identify gaps in the systems response to victims using partnership data, and part two seeks to capture victim voice, engaging with service users, providers, victims, and children and young people.

The following key insight was found in relation to domestic abuse:

- There were over 16,000 victim-based crimes recorded by Nottinghamshire Police with a domestic abuse flag between April 2024 – March 2025, with just over 12,000 unique victims recorded and 1 in every 5 victims recorded against more than one domestic crime.
- Of these crimes, 63% occurred in the County and 37% in the City, with concentrations seen in Ashfield (12%), Mansfield (11%) and Bassetlaw (10%), but lower volumes in Rushcliffe (5%), Broxtowe (7%) and Gedling (8%).
- Domestic crimes accounted for 24% of all victim-based crime across Nottinghamshire, rising to 26% in the County and falling to 22% in the City. Proportionally, domestic crime was highest in City South, Gedling, Ashfield, and City North, where around 30% of victim-based offences carried a domestic flag.
- Findings from the Police and Crime Survey in Nottinghamshire County highlighted that feelings of safety were lower among victims of crime (54%) compared to non-victims (65%), and significantly lower for victims of domestic crime (40%).
- Nearly 10% of all domestic crimes were stalking offences, but current services route these cases through general domestic abuse pathways. New statutory guidance will likely require specialist stalking advocates with specific training and tools.
- Police data trends reveal demographic specific needs, including a need for tailored support for young people, older adults and male survivors, strengthening existing service provision.
- The current statutory definition of domestic abuse excludes under 16s, which may lead to gaps in support, inconsistent flagging of domestic abuse incidents, and misrouting of victims to support services. There are teen advocates but not enough to meet this need.
- Culturally specific services were found to be effective for Asian women but underused by other BAMER groups and men.
- Healthcare referrals for male victims into domestic abuse services are rising, which may indicate more severe abuse, or better identification in these settings.

- The transition of risk assessing in the Police from DASH to DARA forms may cause inconsistency, and strain multi agency coordination, with a likely increase in the identification of medium-risk survivors.
- There is a likely resource strain in deaf-specific services due to rising demand for this by-and-for service.
- Low engagement from schools in certain areas, specifically rural areas, in domestic abuse referral pathways and uptake of intervention programmes presents a key gap.
- There is currently no male Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDVA) support for Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDAC).

In light of the gaps highlighted above, the following opportunities and considerations were highlighted.

- Review and revise protocols to ensure young victims receive age-appropriate and trauma informed support.
- Review current services pathways for domestic-related stalking in light of upcoming statutory guidance.
- Promote co-location and joint outreach to improve accessibility and reduce service fragmentation.
- Design inclusive services for standard risk survivors using equitable access principles.
- Continue to invest in culturally competent by and for models, co-produced with communities to improve trust and reach. It is important for commissioned services to continue to deliver services to all protected characteristics alongside these by and for organisations.
- Explore hybrid delivery models for deaf services, including mobile IDVAs and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs).
- Enhance the visibility and inclusivity of male specific services especially in healthcare settings.
- Extend targeted outreach and training for schools and children's services to more schools to overall improve early intervention.
- Continue to monitor referral trends to inform commissioning, be data-led and ensure responsiveness to emerging risks.

Nottinghamshire Safe Accommodation Needs Asessment 2024/25:

Since the first Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment was completed in 2021 there has been significant progress which has resulted in improved provision for safe accommodation and improved data collection. The deep dive reports in 2022 highlighted over 100 recommendations which the local system are continuing to work on. The recent needs assessment identified the following key findings:

Refuge:

- High level of need for refuge and the increasing length of stay.
- Difficulties in accessing refuge space and the impact it has on survivors and their children (particularly when they have older children which can reduce what is available, moving children away from schools, family and friends, etc).

- Access to refuge was particularly difficult for women who are in employment as they are required to pay for this themselves and the costs can be unaffordable.
- Increasing levels of women experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage with high levels of mental health and substance misuse issues. Refuge providers may struggle to meet the needs of survivors experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage attempting to balance their needs within communal refuges.
- There is a clear need to develop further provision for men and survivors with disabilities.

Housing:

- Accessing permanent housing or a managed move has become increasingly difficult due to the lack of affordable housing, resulting in families staying longer in refuge. Survivor's experiences of trying to access permanent accommodation highlight how difficult this can be with judgement and challenge at every step, often having little choice over where they can live.
- The process of accessing safe accommodation, however that is done, can increase the experience of trauma for women and their children. Only once permanent accommodation is found women and their children can truly begin to rebuild their lives and recover from abuse.
- Survivors' experiences highlight economic abuse as a factor which continues to impact upon them after leaving the perpetrator, causing problems in accessing permanent accommodation and private rented where guarantors can then be needed - adding further additional barriers for women.

Sanctuary:

Sanctuary schemes enable survivors and their children to stay in their own home, with additional security measures put into place, which is often viewed as the preferrable option as it prevents the upheaval away from schools, family and friends.

- Referrals continue to increase for Sanctuary schemes, which may be due to the difficulties in availability of alternative housing.
- Survivors have commented negatively on 'living in a fortress' and not always feeling safe even when court orders may be in place to keep the perpetrator away. There are concerns over being monitored by perpetrators and them still retaining some control when they stay in the property.
- Financial challenges due to meeting the increasing demand in Sanctuary referrals along with increasing costs for security installation.
- Positively there has been some small increases in men accessing Sanctuary schemes



Children and Young People mapping of services (2023):

The key findings are summarised below:

- Organisations provide tailored service for children and young people (CYP) by assessing their specific needs. The age-range of children and young people supported varied from organisation to organisation, but majority of services provided the service for CYP up to the age of 18 years of age with flexibility if there are additional needs.
- There is a wide geographical coverage of statutory and third sector voluntary organisations providing range of support for CYP who have witnessed domestic abuse or who have experienced domestic abuse in their intimate relationships across Nottinghamshire.
- Organisations support children with protected characteristics but acknowledge there is a gap in knowledge, resources, and trained staff to meet all needs of children and young people with protected characteristics.
- Majority of organisations have clear referral pathways for accessing CYP services, which are embedded within the community, however, wider publicity and engaging through online and social media resources could improve accessibility.
- Organisation highlighted childcare/ creche as a potential barrier which could impact the accessibility of the service. Other barriers included differences in language used by different professionals to survivors and potential travel costs.
- Majority of organisations have a waiting list, but the length of waiting time differed widely for each organisation. Waiting lists are actively managed, with the services regularly linking back in with CYP and their parent/carers.
- Organisations identified the importance of work related to trauma to be understood as needing long-term support and for more guidance for services to be more trauma informed.



Where do we want to get to?

This Strategy sets out the overall vision, the main aim, our approach and associated strategic ambitions that Nottinghamshire is taking in tackling domestic abuse over the next three years.

Our vision statement:

Domestic Abuse is a complex social problem that impacts people, families, communities and services across our society. ***In Nottinghamshire, we will take a zero-tolerance stance on domestic abuse*** *so that everyone can live safely and experience healthy relationships without the threat of domestic abuse.*

We will focus on prevention and early intervention, provide support to survivors and families, and bring perpetrators to justice by taking a coordinated community response approach.

Collectively we will improve outcomes and reduce the impact of domestic abuse in, and on, our communities, so that our communities as a whole can flourish and thrive.

Nottinghamshire
Domestic Abuse
Partnership Board
Working together to tackle domestic abuse

Main aim of the strategy:

Across Nottinghamshire we will work together to minimise the risk of and the harm from domestic abuse, ensuring that those affected by domestic abuse get the right support as early as possible; and holding individuals who are abusive to account. We will prioritise prevention to ensure our future is different to our present and past.

Our approach:

Nottinghamshire's approach will follow evidence-based principles and move towards using a "Coordinated Community Response" as described below:

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board are working to embed a Coordinated Community Response across the system, working in collaboration with partners, providers and survivors.

The Coordinated Community Response is a recognised best practice approach to tackling domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. It brings partners together to deliver a whole system response to a whole person. Putting survivors and their children at the centre of the work we deliver. All partners with responsibility for dealing with victims of violence, their children and/or perpetrators must work effectively within their own agency and with other agencies to secure the safety of survivors and hold perpetrators to account.

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 key components of an effective Coordinated Community Response which support a whole system response:

1) Survivor voice
2) Intersectionality
3) Shared Objective
4) Structure and governance
5) Strategy and Leadership
6) Specialist services
7) Representation
8) Resources
9) Co-ordination
10) Training
11) Data
12) Policies and Processes

Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is committed to ensuring that these 12 components are at the forefront of partnership governance and in the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026 -2029.

Strategic Ambition 1: Prevention

1

Ensure effective primary and secondary prevention work, educating children and young people and intervening early with perpetrators, to reduce future domestic abuse.

Key areas of focus:

- Support children and young people's access to a specialist school based healthy relationships programme in order to develop positive future relationships.
- Develop training to develop a skilled workforce that feel confident and comfortable identifying, discussing and signposting for domestic abuse support (linking into the system's approach to Making Every Contact Count).
- Ensure the provision of perpetrator behaviour change programmes and ensure the wider workforce are skilled in talking to perpetrators and signposting them to programmes.

Strategic Ambition 2: Supporting

2

Provide help and support to survivors of domestic abuse and their families so that they can rebuild their lives.

Key areas of focus:

- Ensure survivors and their children have access to safe accommodation, including therapy and specialist support, to start to rebuild their lives.
- Improve pathways in and out of safe accommodation to ensure survivors and their children are in a permanent home and can rebuild their lives
- Develop specialist support services: a new Severe and Multiple Disadvantage (SMD) approach, aligned to Making Every Adult Matter, and specialist services for LGBTQ+ to tailor domestic abuse support to meet their needs.
- Learn from and seek financial sustainability for the domestic abuse support within Family Support and Safeguarding Teams across Nottinghamshire.
- Review and recommission specialist domestic abuse support services across Nottinghamshire from 2028 onwards acknowledging Local Government Reorganisation.

Strategic Ambition 3: Responding

3

Safeguard and protect survivors of domestic abuse to reduce the levels of harm experienced and hold perpetrators to account, helping to rebuild trust and confidence in our criminal justice system, especially the Police.

Key areas of focus:

- Develop and implement new Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) operating procedures across Nottinghamshire.
- Ensure learning from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR) is utilised to enact system changes to prevent future deaths, ensuring links are made to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Suicide and Self Harm Strategy.
- Implement the new national Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment process in Nottinghamshire Police.
- Consider and implement any requirements from the Victim and Prisoners Act 2024, as they are enacted.

Strategic Ambition 4: Strengthening the system

4

Work together to strengthen the system to prevent and reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse, collaborating to develop a whole system response to a whole person and their family.

Key areas of focus:

- Embed a Coordinated Community Response across Nottinghamshire, working in collaboration with partners, providers and survivors, to deliver a whole system response to a whole person/their family.
- Ensure survivors and their families are put at the centre, shifting responsibility for safety away from the individuals and ensuring the offer of community support services that will wrap around survivors according to their needs.
- Improve our strategic leadership and systemwide approach to listening and addressing the needs of domestic abuse survivors and their families.
- Ensure services are trauma informed and recovery focused.

How will we make this happen?

Across the Nottinghamshire system, a range of strategic partnerships hold domestic abuse as a priority within their own respective strategies. However, the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will formally own the Strategy and collectively develop and implement an associated action plan, taking responsibility for regularly monitoring progress in terms of delivery and outcomes and subsequently onward reporting into the wider system as per governance arrangements.

As part of a process of wider engagement, partners were engaged in the initial development, draft versions and final sign off for their input and feedback. Local partner organisations therefore have committed to the vision, aim, approach and strategic ambitions of this Strategy and our intention to align with the local, and national, VAWG strategy to reduce potential duplication.

How will we know when we get there?

The Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will collectively develop and implement an associated action plan, taking responsibility for developing monitoring criteria in order to be able to review future progress in terms of delivery and outcomes.

Some early proposed indicators are described below:

Outcomes

- The voice of survivors is embedded into the strategic developments across Nottinghamshire
- Survivors are in a safe space and ready to begin to rebuild their lives.
- Survivors report improved wellbeing and recognise they have control over their lives including their finances
- Children and young people have access to evidence based, high quality, age-appropriate healthy relationship education in schools
- There is a systematic approach to addressing perpetration which improves survivor confidence in the criminal justice system
- Reduced number of perpetrators reoffend.



There are four main outcomes are used to track survivor's improvement through commissioned service's contractual monitoring:

1. % of survivors with improved health and wellbeing (mental, physical or sexual)
2. % of survivors who feel confident to make decisions for themselves
3. % of survivors who feel safer
4. % of survivors who are better able to cope with everyday life.

Outputs

- Number of calls to the helpline
- Number of new survivors supported
- Number of children and young people supported
- Number of pupils provided with healthy relationship education in schools
- Number of DARDRs (stratified by numbers of suicides)
- Number of, and types of, cases going through to MARAC.
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

Conclusion

This strategy is Nottinghamshire's collective response to tackling domestic abuse.

It is acknowledged that there is the need to remain agile and flexible when considering future work required to transform the domestic abuse agenda at a time where there are significant geographical/organisational changes ahead due to local government reorganisation. The initial intention is that when the new unitary council geographies have been announced there will be a comprehensive Joint Strategy Needs Assessment completed in 2026. This will ensure that the strategy's delivery plan will flex to meet the priorities for the new geographies. However, we will also need to be guided by Duty to Collaborate requirements, if this is enacted in 2026.

Nottinghamshire partners feel strongly that the Strategy should set out our overall vision, aim, and strategic ambitions, guided by a coordinated community response approach to tackling domestic abuse. With the associated delivery plan this will ensure a level of flexibility is built into this process to respond to a changing policy context.

The Strategy and subsequent delivery plan, alongside the approved Domestic Abuse duty commissioning arrangements for accommodation support, will address the needs of all survivors including those with protected characteristics and collectively will detail how the Nottinghamshire will work together to take a zero-tolerance stance on domestic abuse so that everyone can live safely and experience healthy relationships without the threat of domestic abuse.

Appendix 1

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The prevention of abuse and the protection of all victims and survivors 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:

Domestic abuse is defined as behaviour where:

Both individuals involved are aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive

Behaviour is 'abusive' if it consists of any of the following

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

Irrespective of whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct. The 2021 Act identifies that children of domestic abuse survivors who have seen, heard, or experienced the effect of that abuse are themselves survivors

- **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.

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



DOMESTIC ABUSE



This Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2026-2029 *has been developed in partnership with all of the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) partners / organisations and with survivors / people with lived experience of domestic abuse.*

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Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Working together to tackle domestic abuse