

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029

Collectively endorsed and supported by all the following partners on the **Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board**:

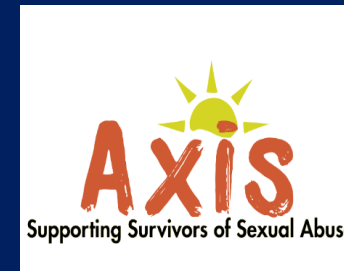


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If you need support, you are not alone

If you are being subjected to domestic abuse, or if you are worried about someone else, please remember there are support services who are ready to help. Taking the step to reach out—whether for yourself or on behalf of someone else—can feel daunting, but it is a sign of strength and courage. You do not have to manage this alone.

To find out more about the support available, please visit our [Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board webpage](#)

In an emergency:

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, **call 999 straight away**. If you are unable to speak, you can use the Silent Solution system by dialling 999 and pressing 55 when prompted—this will let the operator know you need urgent help without having to say anything.

“For survivors, a strategy is not an abstract document. It becomes real in the moment we reach out for help, often at the point of crisis, fear, exhaustion, or trauma. The priorities of this strategy should therefore be grounded in what survivors actually experience when engaging with systems that are meant to protect and support us.”

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Foreword



"We welcome you to the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029. Domestic abuse remains a significant concern in Shropshire and nationally, causing lasting harm to individuals, children, families, and communities. It deeply affects physical and mental health, can threaten housing and financial security, strain social connections, and at its worst, results in loss of life. Ending domestic abuse requires collective action. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) is dedicated to addressing domestic abuse. Success depends on coordinated efforts involving all sectors, people with lived experience, and the wider community. We thank everyone who contributed, especially victims and survivors whose experiences have shaped this strategic response."

Laura Fisher, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Chair



"Domestic abuse is a significant public health issue and a key area of focus highlighted in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, that impacts the wellbeing, safety and long term outcomes of individuals and families across Shropshire. As a partnership, we have a responsibility to respond with clarity, compassion and evidence based action. This strategy brings together partners from across our system to ensure victims and survivors receive timely, trauma informed support, and that prevention, early intervention and accountability are embedded in all that we do. It reflects the voices of those with lived experience and recognises the unique challenges of our rural county. By working collectively, we can reduce harm, strengthen community resilience, and create the conditions for every person in Shropshire to live free from abuse."

Rachel Robinson, Deputy Chair of Shropshire Community Safety Partnership and Shropshire's Director of Public Health



"I want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and to the ambitions set out in this new strategy. Domestic abuse has profound and lasting impacts on health, wellbeing and safety, and we recognise our responsibility as health leaders to respond with compassion, clarity and action. This strategy places victims and survivors at its heart, strengthens accountability for those who cause harm, and empowers our communities and workforce to act confidently and early. Our nursing and wider clinical teams will continue to champion trauma informed practice, accessible routes to support and strong collaboration across agencies. We are committed to ensuring every person affected by domestic abuse is heard, protected and supported to rebuild their lives. Together, we will help shape a safer Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, one where domestic abuse is prevented, support is timely and effective, and every individual can live free from fear, harm and coercion."

Vanessa Whately, Interim Chief Nursing Officer for the Cluster of NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and NHS Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent



"Domestic abuse affects individuals, families and communities across Shropshire, and tackling it requires strong partnership working. This strategy brings together the insight of survivors, local partners and our workforce to set a clear, shared direction for preventing harm, supporting victims, and holding perpetrators to account. By working together across our rural county, we can build a safer Shropshire where people feel heard, protected and able to access the support they need".

Cllr Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care



"Domestic abuse destroys lives, and the rising number of cases in West Mercia underlines just how vital it is that we continue to invest in services and work collaboratively to protect victims and drive meaningful behaviour change. From our rural villages to our urban towns and cities, domestic abuse impacts all parts of West Mercia. That is why I am committed, as set out in my Safer Communities Plan, to doing all I can to ensure we deliver the support victims need, wherever they live, and to keep pushing for a society free from abuse."

John Campion, Police Crime Commissioner

Executive summary

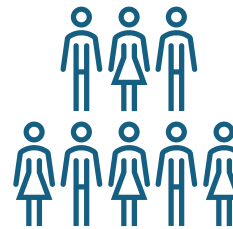
This strategy sets out a collaborative, multi-agency plan to reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire over the next three years. Developed by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) in partnership with Shropshire's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) and input from the community.

This strategy focuses on the four priorities:

- Victims
- Perpetrators
- Workforce
- Community

The strategy recognises that ending domestic abuse in Shropshire requires collective action across all sectors and communities. It aligns with national legislation as outlined in The DA Act 2021 and will be delivered through a joint action plan overseen by the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.

Progress will be monitored and regularly reviewed to ensure effective support and continuous improvement.



Co-production with those who have lived experience has been key to the development of this strategy.

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will oversee the progress of these strategic priorities through its accompanying delivery plan.

Priority 1: Victims

Priority 2: Perpetrators

Priority 3: Community

Priority 4: Workforce



The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is responsible for the implementation of this strategy.

The strategy is underpinned by an action plan that will be championed by each partner within the Shropshire DALPB



Understanding domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, or violent behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are personally connected. Domestic abuse can take many forms, including but not limited to emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, economic, digital abuse and so-called honour-based abuse. It is rarely limited to a single event; instead, it is most often characterised by a sustained pattern of behaviour that may escalate in frequency or severity over time.

For the full statutory definition of domestic abuse, [please see the Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#).

Domestic abuse is driven by a desire for power and control and increasingly, some perpetrators use technology such as smartphones, social media, GPS tracking, and digital monitoring to intimidate and control victims, extending abuse beyond physical spaces and into every aspect of daily life. Abuse may continue or intensify after separation, with long-term impacts on victims' emotional wellbeing, sense of safety, and ability to live independently.

Domestic abuse is perpetrated by people of all genders and occurs across all relationship types, including heterosexual and same-sex relationships, former partners, and within non-traditional family structures. Attempts to leave or end a relationship can increase risk, with abuse escalating through harassment, stalking, intimidation, threats, manipulation, and control via children, finances, housing, or ongoing communication.

Who Can Be Affected?

- Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, disability, or background. However, people's experiences of abuse—and their ability to access support—are shaped by wider social, cultural, and structural factors that influence risk, disclosure, and recovery.
- Children, including unborn children, who see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse are recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, even where they are not directly subjected to abusive behaviour. Exposure to domestic abuse can have significant and long-lasting impacts on children's emotional wellbeing, development, behaviour, and life chances.
- Domestic abuse may occur within any personal relationship, including between intimate partners, ex-partners, family members, parents and children, siblings, carers, or individuals who share parental responsibility.
- Abuse may also extend to pets or animals, with threats, neglect, or harm used as a means of control, intimidation, and emotional manipulation. Fear for the safety of animals can present a significant barrier to leaving an abusive situation or seeking help.

Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA)

In Shropshire, Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA) is recognised as an integral aspect of the broader definition of domestic abuse. In Shropshire, Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA) is defined as harmful acts—physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, digital, stalking, harassment, coercive, controlling, or financial—by a child (any age) toward a parent, guardian, carer, or primary care provider. Siblings are also recognized as victims according to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Professionals prefer the term "child or young person causing harm/using harmful behaviour," when the child is under 16, and acknowledge these children may also be victims of abuse or trauma. CPA is treated as part of the broader definition of domestic abuse in Shropshire

Why women are at a higher risk of domestic abuse

While domestic abuse can affect anyone, national evidence consistently shows that women are disproportionately affected, both in terms of prevalence and severity. [The Office for National Statistics](#) estimates that in the year ending March 2025, 2.2 million women experienced domestic abuse, compared with 1.5 million men, meaning women were significantly more likely to be victims in the past year (ONS, 2025). Women also experience domestic abuse more frequently, over longer periods of time, and are more likely to be subjected to coercive control, sexual violence, and post separation abuse.

Evidence from the [Women's Aid Federation of England](#) further highlights the gendered nature of domestic abuse. Its Annual Audit 2025 shows that the vast majority of survivors accessing specialist domestic abuse services are women, most of whom have experienced sustained abuse over an average of several years, often alongside caring responsibilities for children. Women's Aid also reports that abuse is overwhelmingly perpetrated by male partners or ex partners, reinforcing the link between domestic abuse and wider patterns of violence against women and girls.

The risks faced by women increase at key points, particularly during pregnancy, separation, and attempts to leave an abusive relationship. Women are significantly more likely to experience escalating harm, stalking and harassment following separation, and remain at highest

risk of serious injury or death during these periods. National data consistently shows that women account for the majority of victims in domestic homicide cases, underscoring the need for early, coordinated and trauma informed intervention.

At the same time, women's experiences of domestic abuse are shaped by intersecting inequalities. Disabled women, women from minoritised ethnic communities, women with insecure immigration status, and women living in poverty or rural isolation face heightened risk and additional barriers to safety and support. Women's Aid highlights ongoing gaps in access to refuge and community-based services, particularly for those with complex needs, further compounding vulnerability.

Recognising that domestic abuse is a gendered crime does not diminish the experiences of male victims or those of other genders. Instead, it enables responses that are proportionate, evidence based and rooted in an understanding of risk. This strategy therefore adopts a gender informed, trauma aware approach that recognises women's heightened risk while remaining inclusive of all victims and responsive to diverse experiences.

This reflects the national Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, which identifies domestic abuse as a core form of gender-based violence requiring whole system, trauma informed responses to reduce harm and prevent escalation.

Barriers to Accessing Support

Despite the prevalence of domestic abuse, many victims encounter significant personal, practical, cultural, and systemic barriers when seeking help. These barriers often intersect, compounding risk and isolation. Common barriers include social isolation from friends and family, financial dependence on the perpetrator, fear of escalation or retaliation, stigma, lack of awareness of rights or available support, and difficulties accessing services. Barriers may also include dependence on the perpetrator for care or accommodation, language or communication needs, fear of discrimination or statutory involvement, and limited availability of specialist services. Some individuals face heightened risk or additional barriers to safety and support. This includes disabled and neurodivergent people, those from minoritised ethnic or faith communities, people with insecure immigration status, and those experiencing rural isolation.

Recognising and addressing these barriers is essential to ensuring that services, professionals, and communities respond proactively, equitably, and effectively to all those experiencing domestic abuse. Responses must be inclusive, trauma-informed, and adaptable to meet diverse and intersecting needs, particularly for those who may be less visible or face additional disadvantage.

Risks, impacts and our response

Domestic abuse places individuals at significant risk of serious harm and death and is closely associated with suicide, self-harm, and homicide—particularly where abuse is escalating or where victims attempt to resist, disclose, or leave. Domestic homicide reviews consistently identify coercive control, psychological abuse, separation, and isolation as key risk factors. Professor Jane Monckton Smith’s research shows similar escalation patterns in both domestic homicide and suicide cases linked to abuse, with her Suicide Timeline. This evidence reinforces that suicide in the context of domestic abuse is often a preventable outcome of prolonged harm, rather than an isolated incident. For further information around Shropshire’s strategy around suicide see the [Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy](#). For further information on domestic homicides and suspected victim suicides in England and Wales, see [the Domestic Abuse Homicide Project](#).

Recent research from the [Vulnerability Knowledge Practice Programme](#), national policing’s research and development unit, has reviewed all Domestic Homicide Reviews nationwide over four years. It found that “suspected victim suicides” following domestic abuse now outnumber homicides, emphasising the need to support those at risk of suicide as well as homicide. This research provides new insights into suicide risk factors, and locally, a 7-minute brief was created to summarise these details [here](#).

Domestic abuse can have lasting effects, causing emotional and psychological harm, substance misuse, homelessness, and social exclusion. It also impacts physical health, economic stability, and safe relationships. Children exposed to abuse face higher risks of emotional harm, behavioural issues, and poor educational outcomes.

Domestic Abuse in Rural Shropshire

Shropshire is a predominantly rural county, characterised by a dispersed population, considerable geographic distances, with numerous small towns and villages. This rural setting shapes daily life and presents distinct challenges, particularly in terms of access to services, public transport, and community resources.

Rurality shapes how domestic abuse is experienced and responded to, with evidence showing that abuse in rural areas can last longer and remain hidden for extended periods. The [Rural Crime Network's](#) 2019 Captive and Controlled report found that domestic abuse lasts on average up to 25% longer in rural areas. While subsequent research continues to highlight increased risk in rural communities, no updated national study has produced a revised comparative statistic to the one produced in 2019; therefore, the domestic abuse local partnership board has used this evidence to inform the strategy and will ensure rurality is embedded across all future action plans

Geographic isolation limited public transport, reduced access to specialist services and concerns about anonymity in close-knit communities can all create additional barriers to disclosure and support. These factors can increase risk and allow abuse to escalate, particularly where coercive control is present.

This strategy recognises rurality as a defining local factor and commits the Partnership to embedding a rural-aware approach across prevention, identification and support, ensuring responses are accessible, effective and responsive to the needs of people living in Shropshire's rural and dispersed communities.

The impact of living in rural areas often means that those experiencing domestic abuse face unique obstacles, such as longer distances to travel to access help and fewer available services tailored to their circumstances. In many small communities, survivors may worry about being recognised or judged, which can deter them from seeking assistance or reporting incidents.

Furthermore, perpetrators may exploit these conditions by restricting movement, monitoring communications, or isolating victims from potential sources of support. The heightened risk associated with these dynamics means abuse can persist for longer periods without intervention. Recognising these challenges, the strategy aims to strengthen outreach, increase training for professionals in rural settings, and develop innovative solutions—such as mobile and digital support—to ensure that no one is left behind.

We consulted with a specialist from Rural Initiatives Tackling Abuse (RITA), when shaping this strategy to ensure our collective action plans reflect the specific challenges and context of rural Shropshire. Further information on their work can be found at the [Churchill Fellowship](#).

“Rurality adds another layer of complexity. Survivors in rural areas may be isolated, have limited access to services, or fear lack of anonymity. Awareness campaigns and workforce training must account for these challenges, ensuring that prevention and support are accessible to all, regardless of geography”

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Introduction

Developed by the [Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board \(DALPB\)](#) this strategy helps Shropshire Council meet statutory requirements by setting the strategic direction of support in safe accommodation for all victims. It also sets out how we will meet the wider needs of adults and children impacted by domestic abuse either as a victim or someone who uses harmful and abusive behaviours, and how we will support our communities and workforce in responding effectively and proportionately.

Co-production and the voice of lived experience

Victims and survivors from Shropshire's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG), led by Shropshire Council's Domestic Abuse Prevention Team (DAPT), have played a key role in shaping the Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy, which has been vital in developing this strategy, making sure it is co-produced, inclusive, and truly reflects the voices of those affected by domestic abuse in Shropshire.

Members involvement involved:

- Co-designing the strategy through active participation in partnership board workshops
- Shaping the strategy by providing lived experience quotes which are embedded throughout
- Informing, drafting and decision making at key stages of development and refinement
- Contributing to consultation by taking part in the public consultation process
- Sense checking all strategy drafts, providing feedback prior to sign off

We acknowledge these views may not represent everyone's perspective and remain committed to learning from a range of experiences in our ongoing work. We thank our LEAG members for their dedication, which has ensured our approach stays focused on the needs of victims and survivors and continually informed by the realities faced in our communities.

Previous strategy

In 2018, we published a [Domestic Abuse Strategy](#) spanning the period 2018-2020. The pandemic meant this strategy was not reviewed or updated. Since the Domestic Abuse Act introduced new statutory duties, we have made key progress that has allowed us to identify future priorities for our partnership.

- Formed the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory multi-agency body under the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)
- Shropshire Council formed a Domestic Abuse Prevention Team (DAPT) which in turn recruited a Lived Experience Advisory Group to inform decision making and strategic direction.
- Delivered comprehensive Domestic Abuse Needs Assessments ([2022](#) and [2024](#)) which were, and will continue to be used to inform commissioning decisions and shape strategic priorities.
- An Operational Domestic Abuse Forum was re-formed to enable operational and tactical frontline services/professionals to feed directly into Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board decision-making.
- Delivered the [Safe Accommodation Strategy](#) in line with statutory duties.

Needs Assessment

The most recent [Shropshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment](#) was released in 2024 and aimed to create a comprehensive picture of domestic abuse across the county. Developed in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the assessment looks at the demand for support in safe accommodation and identifies gaps in provision. Our needs assessment also looks at the wider support needs of victims and those using harmful and abusive behaviours. It includes national and local prevalence data and insights from those with lived experience and services across the county.

Key findings of the needs assessment fall into the following themes:



- Data
- Lived experience
- Housing
- Strategic Leadership
- Education/Training

The needs assessment concludes with recommendations aimed at improving accommodation-based and community-based services and creating a multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse in Shropshire.

“Reliance on a single agency to hold risk ignores the reality that survivors interact with multiple services, often simultaneously”

- A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Gap Analysis

Following on from the needs assessment, a detailed gap analysis was completed, to highlight areas where services, support, or resources could be improved. The analysis was later shared with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and the Lived Experience Advisory Group, who were invited to examine the findings and work together to pinpoint urgent priorities and long-term actions for their organisations or groups. This collaboration contributed to shaping the strategy and its key priorities.

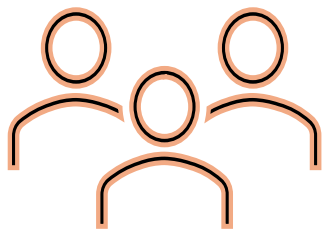
Definitions used in this strategy:

Throughout this strategy, we have adopted the term ‘victim’, to maintain consistency with the language used in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, as well as in statutory guidance and reporting. We acknowledge, however, that the experiences of those affected by domestic abuse are varied and deeply personal, and not everyone who has experienced, or is currently experiencing, domestic abuse chooses to identify as a ‘victim’. For many, alternative terms such as ‘survivor’ may be preferred, reflecting their individual journey and resilience.

In addition, this strategy uses the term ‘perpetrators’, in accordance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to describe the person causing harm. This terminology is used irrespective of whether the abuse has led to criminal proceedings, as it is intended to focus on behaviours that cause harm rather than legal convictions. We recognise the importance of language and strive to ensure our approach remains sensitive and inclusive, whilst being consistent for strategic and operational purposes.

Shropshire profile

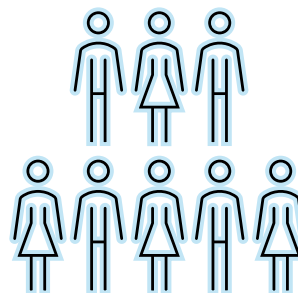
Please note, in line with our domestic abuse needs assessment 2024, this profile uses data from the [Office of National Statistics 2021 census](#).



Shropshire has a population of 323,619, including 163,927 females, 159,692 males, and 48,000 children under age 15.



Approximately 57% of Shropshire's population is living in rural settlements (ONS).



In Shropshire 40.3% of the population are aged over 54 years. 20.0% (64,838) of Shropshire's population were aged under 19



139,583 Households in Shropshire. there 18,585 households with 2 or more children living in the property, equating to 14% of all households on Shropshire.



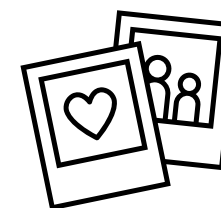
96.7% of Shropshire residents identified as White, compared to 81.0% in England. The Asian population was 1.3% in Shropshire versus 9.6% nationally.



In total approximately 800 people (0.3%) in Shropshire selected a gender identity different from birth compared to England and the West Midlands (0.5%).



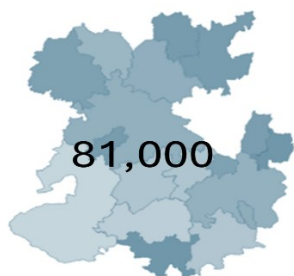
36,594(26.2%) households had one person disabled under the Equality Act Similar to England



A total of 6,318 people (2.3%) in Shropshire described themselves as gay or lesbian, bisexual or all other sexual orientation.

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Profile

Please note: This profile uses data from the [2024 Shropshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment](#), reflecting information provided by local services between 2022 and 2024. The DALPB is dedicated to reviewing domestic abuse data for an accurate understanding of need.

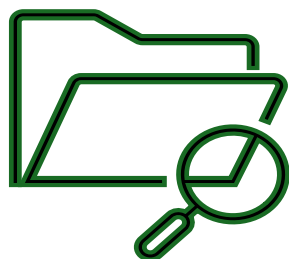


Taking the nationally recognised statistic that 1 in 3 females are subjected to domestic

abuse in their lifetime and 1 in 6 men, it could be assumed that:

If 323,619 people lived in Shropshire, 54,000 women and 27,000 men in Shropshire are subjected to domestic abuse in their lifetime.

We can also assume based on national research, that if 1 in 10 families are affected by CPA then at least 13,958 families in Shropshire are affected by CPA.



At time of needs assessment, Shropshire had completed 2 [Domestic Homicide Reviews](#). The Shropshire safeguarding community partnership have also released learning briefings around these reviews.



According to West Mercia Police between 2022 and 2024 a total of 6,379 domestic abuse offences and 8,277 incidents took place in Shropshire



Between 2022 and 2024, 577 referrals were received and accepted for MARAC. 232 of these, were repeat referrals



Between 2022 and 2024 a total of 3,299 Operation Encompass notifications were sent to schools regarding domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in which children are in the household

Vision, Goal and Approach

This Strategy has been informed by stakeholder engagement from across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors as well as by public feedback but, most importantly, it has been informed by the voices and experiences of victim/survivors of domestic abuse.

We united around a shared inspirational vision. Together, we then determined the goal of our strategy over the next three years, along with outlining the approach we will use to achieve it. Vision: To end domestic abuse, Goal: Reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire,

VISION

- To end domestic abuse

GOAL

- Reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire

APPROACH

- One single agency can not achieve this alone; partnership working is key

Chosen Strategic Priorities



Victims



Perpetrators



Community



Workforce

What we mean by our strategic priorities

Our approach is built around four connected priorities. Together, they reflect a whole-system response that protects victims, prevents further harm, strengthens professional practice and builds safer communities.

- **By victims, we mean** anyone affected by domestic abuse, including adults and children, regardless of gender, age, background or circumstance. This includes those directly abused and children (including unborn children) who see, hear or are otherwise impacted by abuse.

- This priority focuses on ensuring victims are safe, believed and supported, through timely, trauma informed responses, access to advocacy and safe accommodation, and inclusive services that reduce harm, remove barriers to support and enable recovery.

- **By perpetrators, we mean** individuals who use abusive, controlling or harmful behaviours within domestic or family relationships, whether or not they are known to the criminal justice system.

- This priority focuses on preventing further harm by holding those who abuse to account, reducing repeat offending, and supporting effective interventions that challenge and change abusive behaviour to improve safety for victims and communities.



- **By workforce, we mean** all paid and voluntary staff who may come into contact with domestic abuse through their roles, including those working across statutory services, health, housing, education, social care, criminal justice, and the voluntary and community sector.

- This priority focuses on equipping the workforce with the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise domestic abuse early, respond safely and proportionately, manage risk effectively, and deliver consistent, trauma informed practice across services.

- **By community, we mean** the people and places across Shropshire where individuals live, work and connect, including families, friends, neighbours, employers, faith groups, schools and local organisations.

- This priority focuses on building a coordinated community response that raises awareness, reduces stigma, encourages early help seeking and promotes shared responsibility for preventing domestic abuse and supporting those affected.

Framework for action – our priorities

Victims

Objective/Outcome:

Ensure victims and survivors—including children—quickly access trauma-informed support and strong advocacy. Provide clear, simple routes to information and services so people know exactly where to turn for safety, recovery, and ongoing support.

Our key areas of focus:

- Safe accommodation
- Lived experience
- Partner-wide promotion of support
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Delivery of Family First Partnership including Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams

Desired Impact:

Fast, trauma-informed support and clear service pathways boost safety, wellbeing, and trust in local systems. These actions reduce long-term harm and strengthen confidence in how local partners respond to domestic abuse

Perpetrators

Prevent harm through targeted, evidence-based interventions while holding those who use harmful behaviours fully accountable. This includes legal action, behaviour-change programmes, monitoring, and requiring clear acknowledgment of the harm caused to victims and communities—reinforcing zero tolerance and driving meaningful

Our key areas of focus:

- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Promoting safety
- Accommodation
- Change

Desired Impact:

Stronger accountability and coordinated interventions that disrupt or prevent harm. A consistent, long-term approach that promotes genuine behaviour change and reduces ongoing risk to victims, families, and communities

Workforce

Objective/Outcome:

Equip the workforce—including professionals, volunteers, charities, and key partners—with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to spot domestic abuse early and respond effectively. Build a capable, trauma-aware workforce that knows how to act, support, and safeguard.

Our key areas of focus:

- Accountability
- Training
- Awareness raising
- Trauma-informed practice
- Intersectionality
- Accessible support

Desired Impact:

Stronger skills and better awareness mean earlier identification of all forms of domestic abuse and fewer gaps or duplicated services. Consistent training and preventative education reduce incidents and help build safer, healthier relationships across our communities

Community

Objective/Outcome:

Create a coordinated community response to domestic abuse by equipping communities with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to act. Clear and visible support pathways make it easier for people to seek help, reduce stigma, increase awareness, and drive earlier referrals for those at risk.

Our key areas of focus:

- Awareness raising
- Providing early support
- Community awareness
- Shared accountability
- Utilising by-and-for services
- Partnership working
- Training

Desired Impact:

A community-centred approach helps people spot abuse earlier, reducing isolation and improving access to support. By breaking down cultural barriers and increasing understanding of domestic abuse, communities become safer, more informed, and better able to support those affected

Commissioning and resourcing

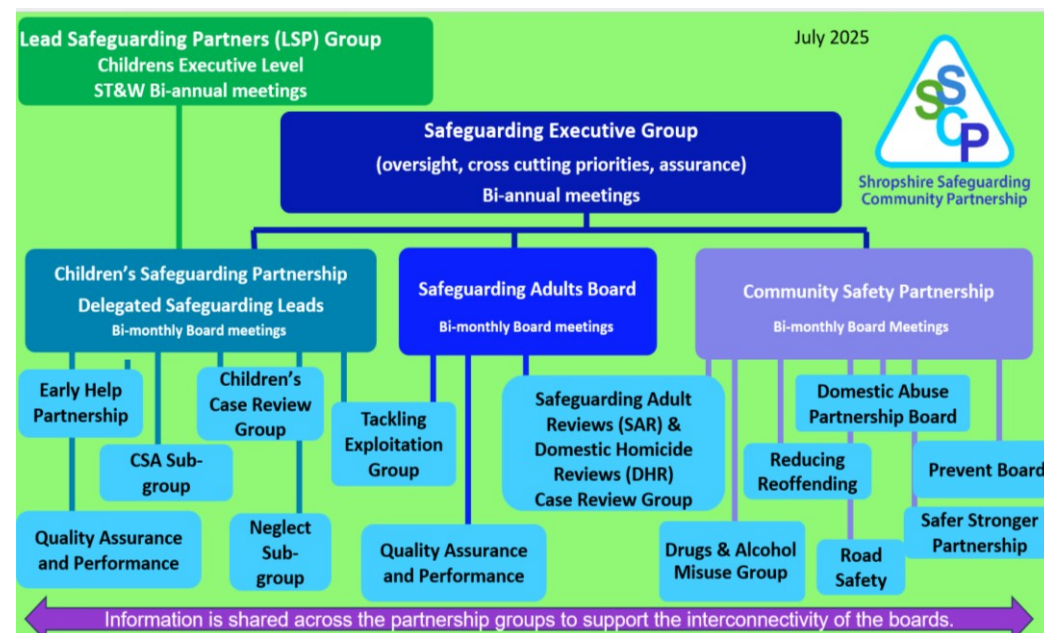
This strategy intentionally focuses on setting out our shared priorities and the impact we want to achieve them, rather than detailing specific actions at this stage. This approach is designed to ensure partners, professionals and communities clearly understand the direction of travel and the outcomes we are collectively working towards. A detailed action plan will sit alongside this strategy and will be developed, published and refreshed as we move through the three-year life of the strategy, allowing us to remain responsive to emerging evidence, learning and local need.

We have also taken this approach in recognition of the current financial climate, where commissioning and resourcing are increasingly challenging and funding is limited. Rather than setting out a fixed and ambitious action plan at the outset, this strategy allows us to be realistic and responsive about what can be delivered over time. This ensures we remain focused on our shared vision and priorities, while developing and sequencing actions in a way that is achievable, sustainable, and informed by available resources.

Governance and Accountability

The [Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#) brings together a wide range of statutory and voluntary partners to prevent and address child and adult safeguarding concerns and promote community safety, with independent scrutiny provided by the Independent Chair. Domestic abuse is a recognised priority within the Shropshire Community Safety Partnership, and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (operates within this governance framework and is overseen by the Community Safety Partnership.

The structure chart of the safeguarding community partnership:



Next steps

This Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy will be in place for a three-year period. The Partnership will keep the strategy under continuous review to ensure it remains aligned with emerging evidence, statutory guidance, and local and national policy developments. Delivery of the strategy will be supported through a Joint Action Plan, developed collaboratively by all partners, including the Lived Experience Advisory Group.

For each of the four strategic priorities, the Joint Action Plan will set out clear actions, identifies the responsible partner(s), defines delivery timescales, and specifies the intended outcomes. The Joint Action Plan is a live, working document.

It will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, with progress monitored regularly. Arrangements are in place to support transparent monitoring, shared accountability and public reporting of progress, ensuring that partners are collectively responsible for delivering meaningful and measurable change Collaboration Opportunities between the partnerships

Domestic abuse is everyone's business and is a shared concern across the partnership structure. There are a series of ways in which the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board have agreed to collaborate with the aim to improve collaboration at both a strategic and operational level:

1. Joint ongoing communications/advertising campaign
2. Operational/tactical leads task and finish groups
3. Agency/person led workshops

Scrutiny

Scrutiny will be delivered through a robust governance framework led by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and reporting into the community safety partnership. Progress will be monitored quarterly, with annual reports published for transparency. Survivor voices will be embedded in evaluation processes, and findings will inform continuous improvement and commissioning decisions.

Conclusion

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 sets out a collaborative, evidence-based approach to tackle domestic abuse. By working with partners and centring survivors' experiences, the strategy focuses on accountability, ongoing improvement, and trauma-informed, inclusive support. Our Lived Experience Advisory Group will inform us at every step whether we are making a difference and heading towards our goal of reducing domestic abuse in Shropshire.

“Systems must adapt to reality, not expect survivors to adapt to them. If the priorities outlined in this strategy are implemented meaningfully, they can ensure that survivors and children are not only protected but empowered to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope”

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Lived experience Advisory Group statement

As Lead of the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG), I submit this response on behalf of myself and Lived Experience Advisory Group members.

“We welcome the direction of the strategy and would like to express our appreciation to Shropshire Council for recognising the value of lived experience by supporting my role and the development of the Lived Experience Advisory Group. Employing a dedicated role to work alongside survivors and draw directly on lived experience expertise is a strong and positive step towards embedding best practice in responses to domestic abuse.

Through the Domestic Abuse Prevention Team, and through my role, we are actively working to ensure that lived experience voice is embedded across all aspects of our work – shaping decision making, influencing practice, and strengthening system responses rather than being limited to consultation alone.

Lived Experience Advisory Group members consistently highlight the importance of trauma informed, consistent responses that recognise non-physical abuse, long term harm and the cumulative impact of systems. We would welcome clearer detail on how survivor feedback will continue to influence implementation and how lived experience will be meaningfully and safely involved going forward. The Lived Experience Advisory Group looks forward to continued collaboration and supports an ongoing commitment to treating lived experience as expertise central to improving outcomes for those subjected to abuse”



Kate Connor, Shropshire Councils Domestic Abuse Lived Experience Project Officer

[Please visit Kate Connor’s blog and access information on how you can join the Lived Experience Advisory Group](#)

“In LEAG we share, we care,
Our voices rise, our thoughts laid bare,
Together we plan, together we try,
To make things better, reaching for the sky”

Appendix

Legislative framework

Protecting victims and preventing domestic abuse are key aims of the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#). Part 4 of the Act is set out to ensure victims of domestic abuse and their children can access support in safe accommodation.

Section 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act requires local authorities in England to establish a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The board must be consulted whenever the authority carries out certain defined activities.

- Evaluating the need for accommodation-based support for all domestic abuse victims in their area, including those who may need help across local borders.
- Developing and publishing a strategy for delivering such support locally, with reference to the findings of the needs assessment.
- Implementing the strategy through decisions to commission or withdraw services.
- Reviewing and measuring how effective the strategy is.
- Reporting progress to central government.

The [Victims and Prisoners Act 2024](#) includes that local policing bodies, authorities, and Integrated Care Boards in England must work together to support victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and violent crime. They are required to jointly assess needs and create a unified plan to improve services.

Relevant National Strategies/Plans

- [Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2025-2030.](#)
- [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#)
- [NHS 10-year plan](#)
- [A National Plan to End Homelessness](#)
- [Wellbeing and Schools Bill](#)
- [Multi-agency child protection teams: regulation-making powers - GOV.UK](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)
- [Rural domestic abuse: The Paradox of community](#)

Relevant Local documents/Strategies/Plans

- [Shropshire Safe Accommodation Strategy](#)
- [Shropshire Child To Parent Abuse Policy](#)
- [Shropshire Community Safety Strategy](#)
- [Safeguarding process in Shropshire](#)
- [Shropshire Health and Wellbeing strategy](#)
- [Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy](#)
- [Shropshire Serious Violence Strategy](#)