

Domestic Abuse & Complex Needs Partnership Summit

29th November 2021

9.30 – 4.00pm



www.sli.do

Code:

[#PartnershipSummit](https://twitter.com/PartnershipSummit)



Opening Address

Councillor Stella Nash

Executive Member for Adult Care,

Health & Wellbeing

Hertfordshire County Council

Celebrating Achievements

Joint Chairs of the Hertfordshire Accommodation Cell

Sian Chambers – Head of Community and Housing Strategy,
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Hannah Morris – Operations Manager, Stevenage Borough
Council

Natasha Beresford – Strategic Housing Group Manager, Dacorum
Borough Council

Natasha Welsh – Hertfordshire Public Health Lead for Adults with
Complex Needs

Herts Accommodation Cell (Covid-19)



Hannah Morris, Stevenage Borough Council
Sian Chambers, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Natasha Beresford, Dacorum Borough Council



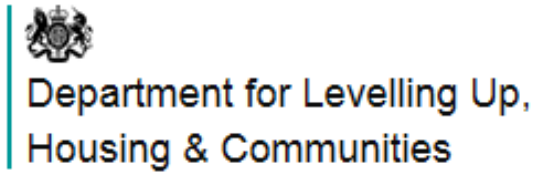


The Everyone in Directive

- COVID-19 restrictions March-July 2020
- Effective joint working across the county to ensure the successful provision of accommodation and appropriate support to anyone who is rough sleeping, at risk of rough sleeping or homeless during the Covid 19 outbreak.
- Accommodation, support, goods and services

Creating the Cell

- **Introduced following VPAC cell creation**
- **Fed into TCG to highlight blockages**
- **Membership from various organisations:**
 - Hertfordshire County Council
 - Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust
 - NHS England
 - Probation
 - BENCH
 - Hertfordshire's ten District/Borough Councils (housing leads)
 - Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



The Purpose

- To provide the individuals brought in during the Covid-19 crisis with long term housing and support (where relevant), which is suitable and sustainable **and to establish effective partnership models to meet future housing and support needs.**

To provide a forum for dissemination and exchange of information

- To identify any gaps in availability of accommodation, support, goods and services across the county
- To establish costs and funding streams to support this work across the county
- To identify opportunities for collaboration

Outcomes

- Redefined referral pathways
- Increase funding opportunities
- Joint funding bids and collaborative working
- Long term strategy for move on from Temporary Accommodation
- Vaccination provision
- Development of the TAWSS Framework
- MDT approach across Herts
- Data sub-group



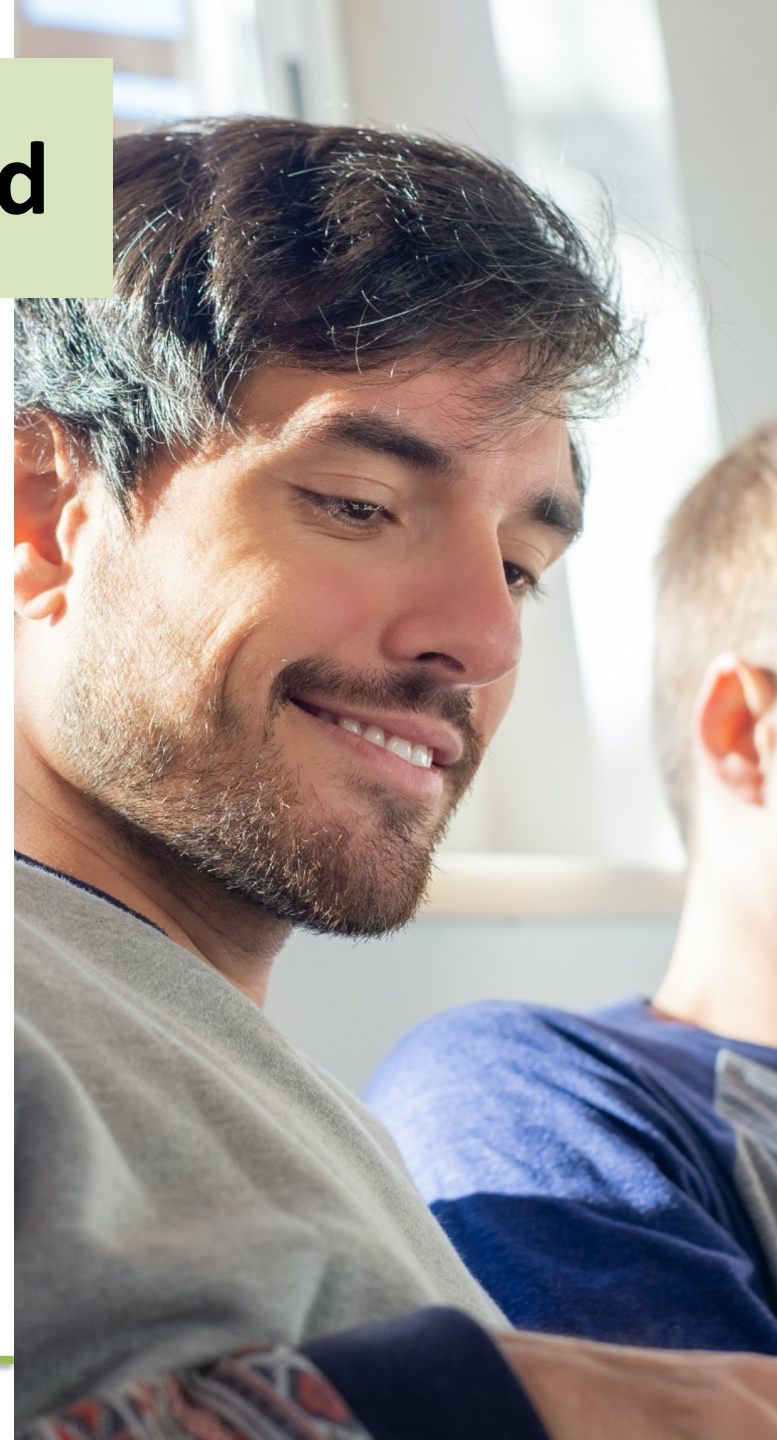


Case study for Stevenage

- An applicant was placed into a house in multiple occupation after immediate risk of rough sleeping.
- They were supported by our Rough Sleeper Co-Ordinators
- The Rough Sleeper Co-ordinators are funded through fixed term grant funding (RSI- Rough Sleeper Initiative) which is on a yearly basis and must be bid for
- The applicant worked in the local vaccination centre and is working with the Housing Supply team to move on into Private Rented Sector accommodation.

Case for Welwyn Hatfield

- James had been evicted by his parents and was in his car, contemplating suicide as he could not see how he would survive being homeless.
- James suffers with mental health issues and was very distraught.
- The team arranged an emergency room for him at the YMCA and arranged an urgent Crisis team visit via the local mental health team.
- James was moved to alternative temporary accommodation and arranged support via community navigators who were able to assist him with food shopping and accompany him to his medical appointment and to arrange a safe visit to his parents.
- It was clear that James had extensive support needs and he was offered a flat at a local supported accommodation scheme, where he could receive ongoing support from staff located on site.
- He has settled well and is now back on his feet.

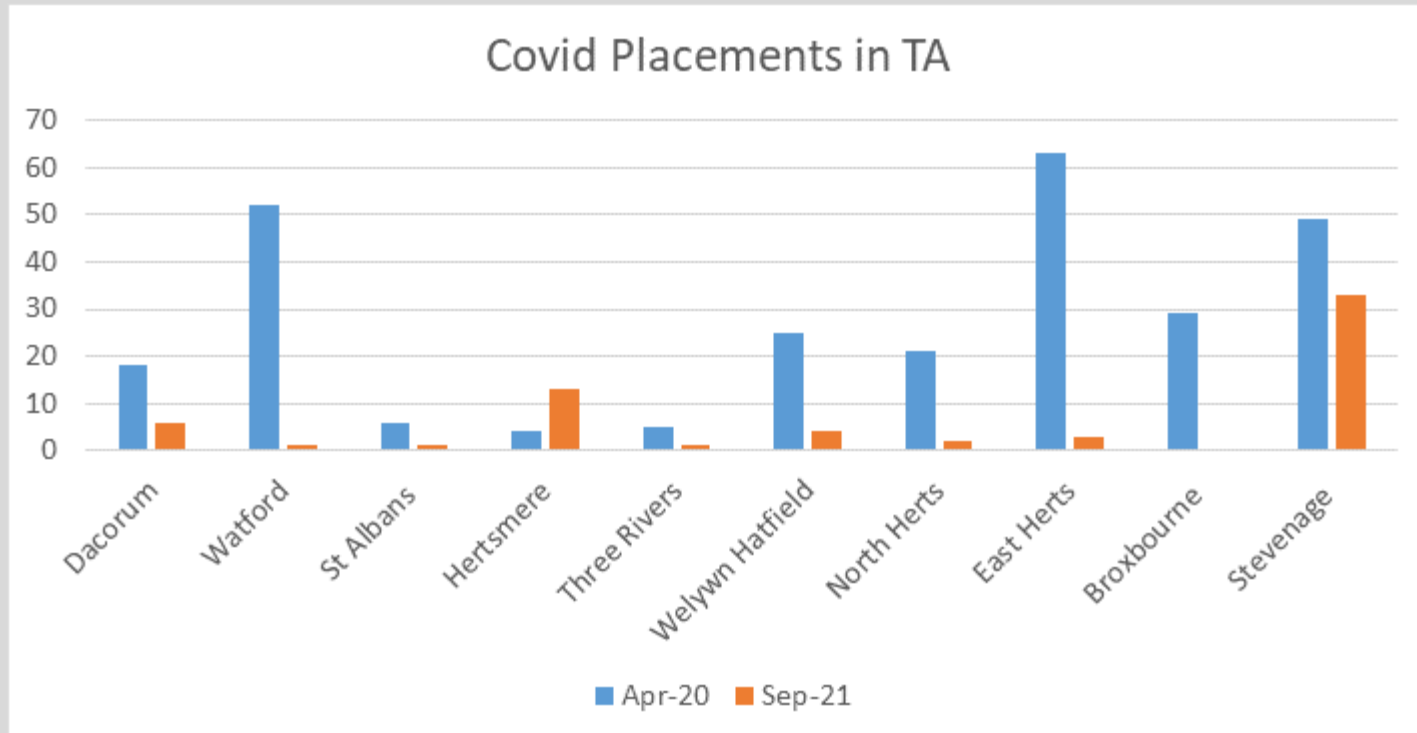




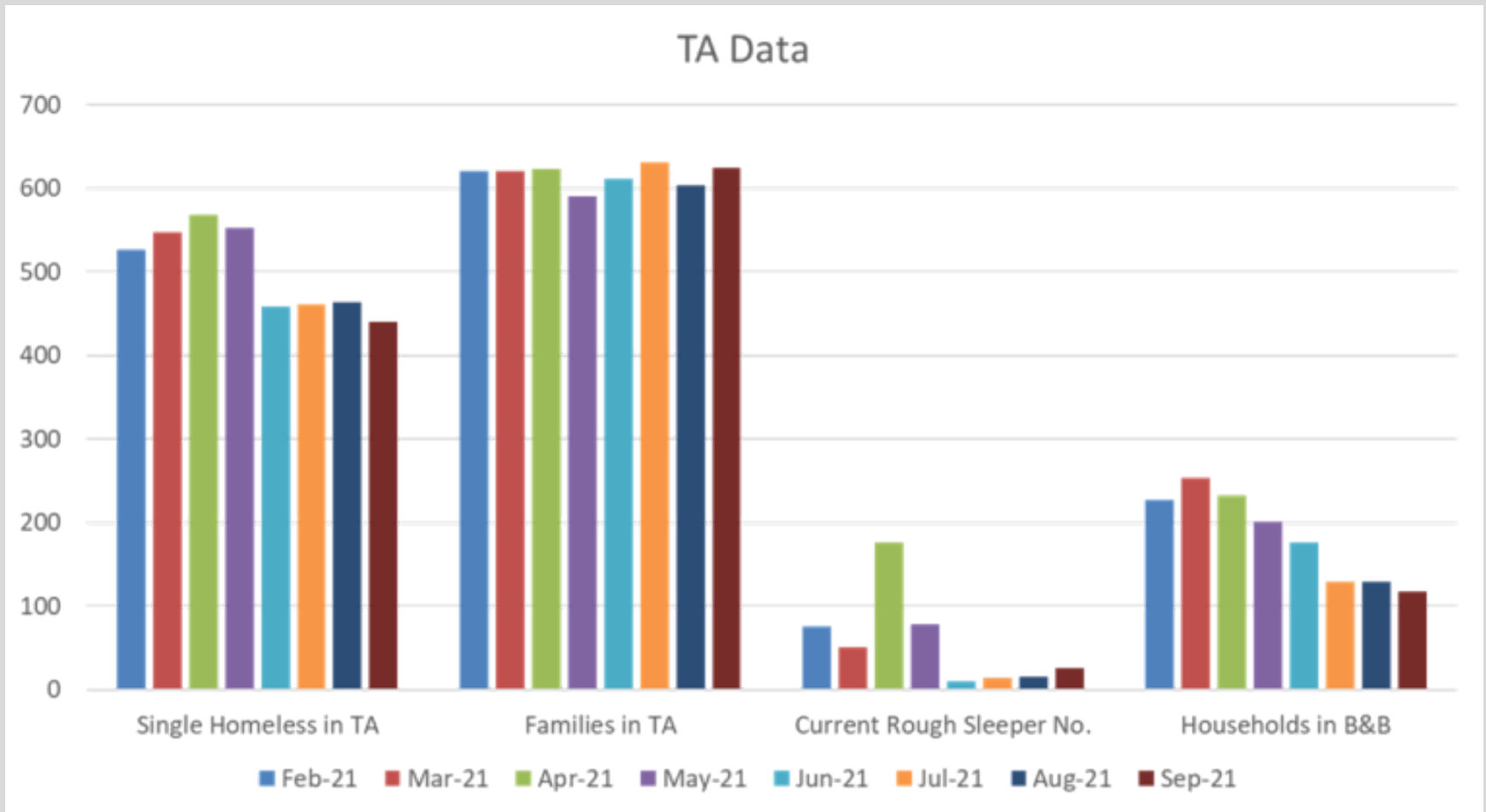
Case Study for Dacorum

- Petr moved to the UK in 2015 for employment
- Loss of employment in 2019
- Prolonged rough sleeping and lack of engagement
- Agreed to work with Outreach and placed into accommodation
- Lapse during pandemic
- Focussed intervention from Outreach using the Multi-Disciplinary Team approach
- Confirmation of settlement status
- Cleared rent arrears to prevent repeat homelessness
- Tenancy sustainment training – gaining confidence
- Ongoing support
- Volunteering
- Moving on with continued support

Data Capture and Analysis



Data Capture and Analysis 2



Continued work

- Continue the vision - Data sub group
- Contribution to Herts Growth Board
- MDT shaped Complex Needs strategy
- Common Complex Needs vision
- Contribution to Countywide COVID
- Identification of key issues & gaps
- Links with other groups e.g. Mental Health Concordat
- Using data from Cell to support additional funding needs



Thank
you

Celebrating- Collaboration!



The Accommodation Cell



Collaborative approaches to
'Everyone In'- development
of MDT's



Joined up commissioning
initiatives

National Perspective

Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Eleanor Nickless – Homeless Adviser
Hazel Nicholson – Programme Adviser
Changing Futures Programme



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Hertfordshire Complex Needs and Domestic Abuse Partnership Summit

29 November 2021

Eleanor Nickless

Homelessness Adviser



Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

- During the pandemic, Government implemented measures to help keep renters in their homes including banning bailiff evictions, extending notice periods and providing financial support.
- These measures have worked as fewer households have been assessed as homeless and fewer possession claims are now being made to court.
- However, some private renters have built up rent arrears as a result of the pandemic and may need additional support to prevent homelessness.
- Therefore, an **additional £65m top up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG)** for local authorities has been announced to help vulnerable households with rent arrears and reduce the risk of them being evicted and becoming homeless.



Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping ...

- The increased HPG funding is intended to boost activity to prevent homelessness, **including for single people**.
- HPG is ringfenced to homelessness services, but can be used flexibly to work with private landlords to prevent evictions or offer financial support to find a new home.
- HAST has written to local authorities to encourage earlier intervention to prevent evictions by - identifying tenants with arrears as early as possible by promoting contact with homelessness services and encouraging partners to refer people at risk of homelessness due to pandemic related rent arrears.



Preventing homelessness – people with an offending history

- People leaving prison with strong foundations in place are less likely to reoffend and more likely to make a positive contribution to society – a stable home, employment and good health are important factors in achieving this.
- Prison leavers without stable accommodation are almost 50% more likely to reoffend –
 - HCLIC 2020/21 data shows 50% of the 165,00 people with a history of rough sleeping had an offending history.
 - The rough sleeper questionnaire shows that 53% of those who have slept rough in the last year have spent time in prison.



Preventing homelessness – people with an offending history 2

- Accommodation For Ex-Offenders (AFeO) £13m funding enables 87 local authority lead schemes to increase the offer to people leaving prison by providing private rented sector accommodation with support.
- AFeO compliments the MoJ funding Community Accommodation Service (CAS), which is providing up to 12 weeks accommodation for people leaving prison, during which time that can be referred into AFeO and other services.
- We are working with local areas, HMPPS and MoJ to improve pathways from prison with funding for accommodation, and to the strengthen relationships between local partners working to reduce homelessness and reoffending alongside the Duty to Refer.



- HCLIC data is no longer classed as 'experimental and will be used to inform planning and funding going forward.
- A performance dashboard has been developed to make the data more accessible.
- The dashboard pulls out some key indicators from the homelessness case level data sets with a prevention focus.
- The dashboard also gives ratings for the quality of the data.



H-CLIC Performance Dashboard

This dashboard is intended to provide a high level summary of homelessness figures for each local authority in England. It shows performance across a handful of key measures, allowing for comparison between authorities. The dashboard includes a RAG rating to give an indication of the quality of data provided by the local authority.

1) Please select a local authority

Herefordshire, County of ▼

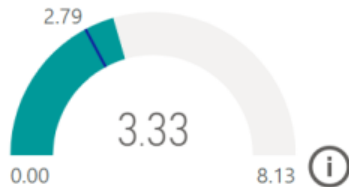
LA Region

West Midlands

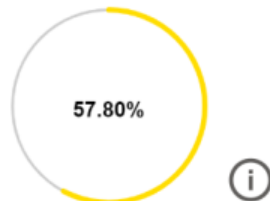
Quality of data submission
RAG rating i

This data relates to:
April to June 2021

Households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty (per 000s)



Percentage of those owed a duty being accepted at the prevention stage



Households with children in TA per (000)



This LA doesn't have any households with children in B&B over 6 weeks

This LA doesn't have any 16-17 year olds in B&B

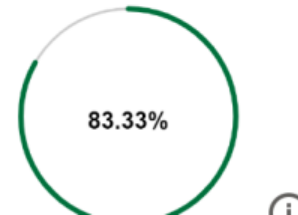
Percentage of prevention and relief duties owed that ended in accommodation secured



Percentage of duties owed that were prevented



Percentage of main duties that ended in accommodation secured





RSI 2022-2025; 1

- DLUC are pleased to be entering the next stage of the Rough Sleeping Initiative.
- RSI 2022/2025 funding is a multi-year funding stream, which aims with give local authorities the funding certainty they need to think longer-term about responses to ending rough sleeping and the interventions needed for this to happen.
- It will build on past successes, providing ongoing support to those who need it and continue the work to end rough sleeping in England through building sustainable pathways and preventing rough sleeping.



- We are looking for local authorities to think about their current rough sleeping response across four objectives –
 1. Prevention – activities to stop people sleeping rough for the first time
 2. Intervention – support for those currently sleeping rough to move off of the streets
 3. Recovery – support for those who have slept rough to ensure they do not return to the streets
 4. Systems support – systems and structures to embed change and monitor progress



RSI 2022-2025; 3

- Local authorities will be asked to continue working with their RSI Advisers to identify which services and interventions will run for three year as core services.
- We do not expect all services proposed to be part of your core offer and to require 3-year funding certainty.
- You should consider how services will be phased in and out as the service matures, for example moving from an intervention led approach to a preventative approach



Date	Activity
November/ December/ January 2021	Coproduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of Area Self-Assessment Tool• Meetings with RSI Advisers• Completion of application form and project plan
4th February 2022	Deadline for self-assessment tool and application form
February 2022	Scoring and moderation of proposals
March/April 2022	Expected Allocations & Announcements



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Changing Futures Programme Summary

October 2021



Ministry
of Justice



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Home Office



Department
of Health &
Social Care



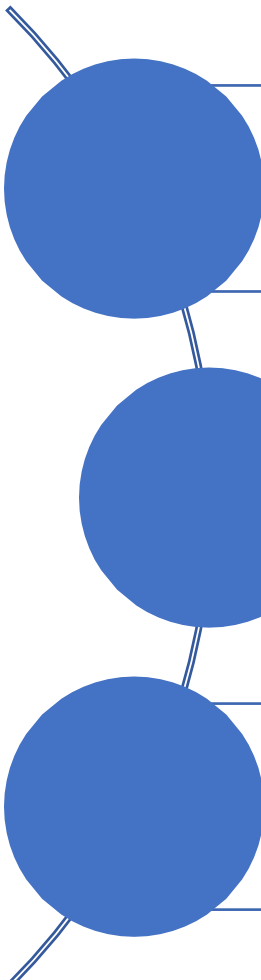
Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



COMMUNITY
FUND



Background



Changing Futures is a £64 million, 3-year long joint funded initiative between HMT's Shared Outcomes Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund. The programme funds partnerships of local organisations to better support those who experience multiple disadvantage.

It builds on focused work outside Government including the [MEAM approach](#) and the National Lottery Community Fund's "[Fulfilling Lives](#)" programme – a £112 million investment over 8 years that focuses on improving support for vulnerable people.

We know there are costly systemic failures but also key gaps in data and evidence; this project and its evaluation are intended to build the evidence base to inform future policy and programmes across Government.



What is the problem?

363k

Adults estimated in England and Wales experiencing multiple disadvantage, defined as experiencing 3 or more of the following: homelessness; offending; substance misuse; mental health problems; victim of domestic violence.



People facing multiple disadvantage are highly vulnerable and their life expectancy is significantly lower than the average.



External estimates indicate that costs to the taxpayer are typically five times more than for the 'average citizen'.



Aims and objectives

Changing Futures aims to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage, testing a more joined-up, person-centred approach in local areas and across government.

Individual level

Stabilise and improve outcomes for local cohorts of adults experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Service level

Greater integration and collaboration across local services to provide a person-centred approach, and reduced demand on 'reactive' services.

System level

Strong multi-agency partnerships, governance and effective use of data for learning leads to lasting system change and informs commissioning. Learning from partnership between government and local areas improves cross-government policy.



Delivery principles

“We need to look at the individual and help them deal with all of the challenges that they face, rather than sending them to five different places to get each element addressed”

Eddie Hughes MP, Minister for Housing and Rough Sleeping

Work in partnership
across local services
and the voluntary
and community sector

Coordinate support
and better integrate
the provision of
services

Create flexibility in
how services respond

Involve people with
lived experience of
multiple disadvantage

Take a trauma-
informed approach

Commit to drive lasting
system-change



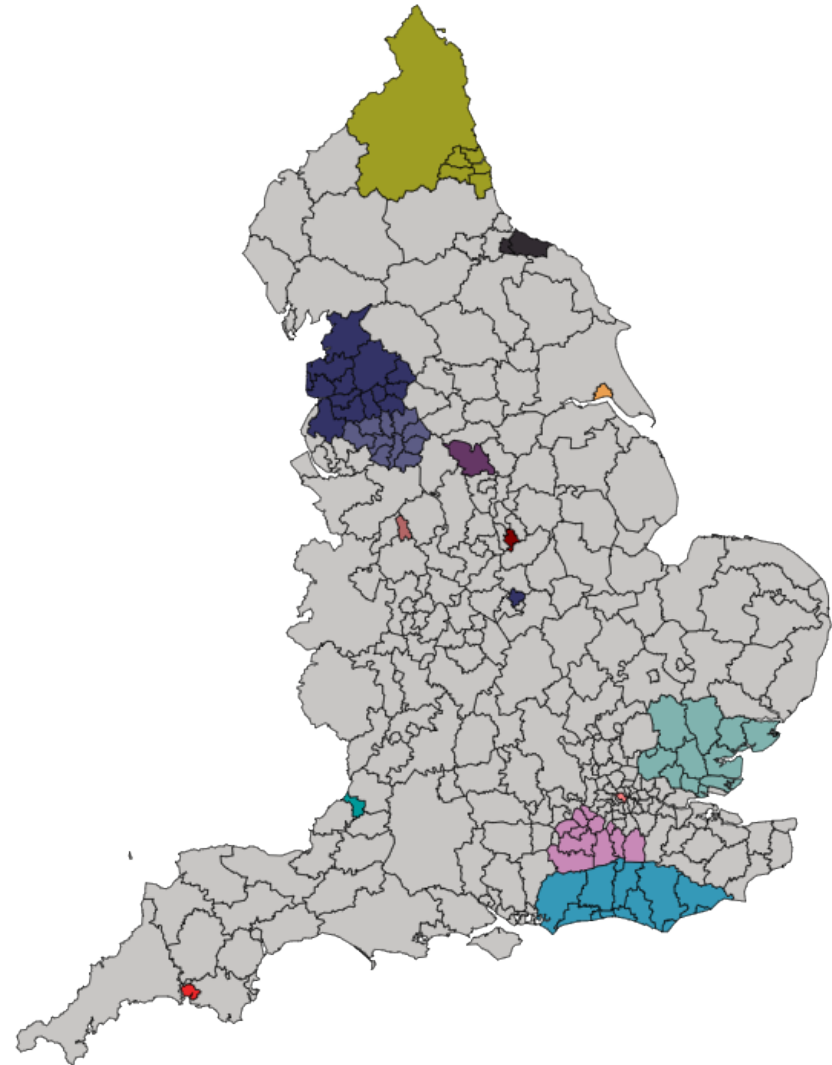
Funded areas

The programme is working with 15 areas spread across England, together covering 36 top tier local authorities, up to March 2024. The areas vary in size, approach and level of funding.

£54.8M
Total partnership funding

Partnership area	Partnership funding
Bristol	£3,349,921
Essex	£2,846,500
Greater Manchester	£4,775,291
Hull	£2,404,814
Lancashire	£6,499,065
Leicester	£2,619,664
Northumbria	£5,089,000
Nottingham	£3,878,673
Plymouth	£2,478,750
Sheffield	£3,267,000
South Tees	£3,110,000
Stoke-on-Trent	£3,939,662
Surrey	£2,808,000
Sussex	£4,425,000
Westminster	£3,280,000
Total	£54,771,340

- Bristol
- Essex
- Greater Manchester
- Hull
- Lancashire
- Leicester
- Northumbria
- Nottingham
- Plymouth
- Sheffield
- South Tees
- Stoke-on-Trent
- Surrey
- Sussex
- Westminster





Funding breakdown

Approaches are locally tailored in line with areas' theories of change for improving outcomes for people facing multiple disadvantage. The main spending categories are:

Front line delivery

- £34m (62%): investing in intensive, long-term and coordinated support, including multi-agency 'team around the person', keyworker, and navigator approaches and targeted investment to address specific gaps in specialist services.

System change & programme management

- £11.5m (21%): investing in strategic posts and activity to drive system change, including via partnership infrastructure and joint commissioning.

Lived experience involvement

- £5.5m (10%) including peer mentors contributing directly to service delivery, peer researchers and auditors, and structures for involving people in governance.

Workforce development and training

- £2.1m (4%): to embed improvements, learning and trauma-informed practice in mainstream services.

Case management and data systems

- £1.4m (2.6%): to improve joint working across local agencies and improve use of data to drive better outcomes.

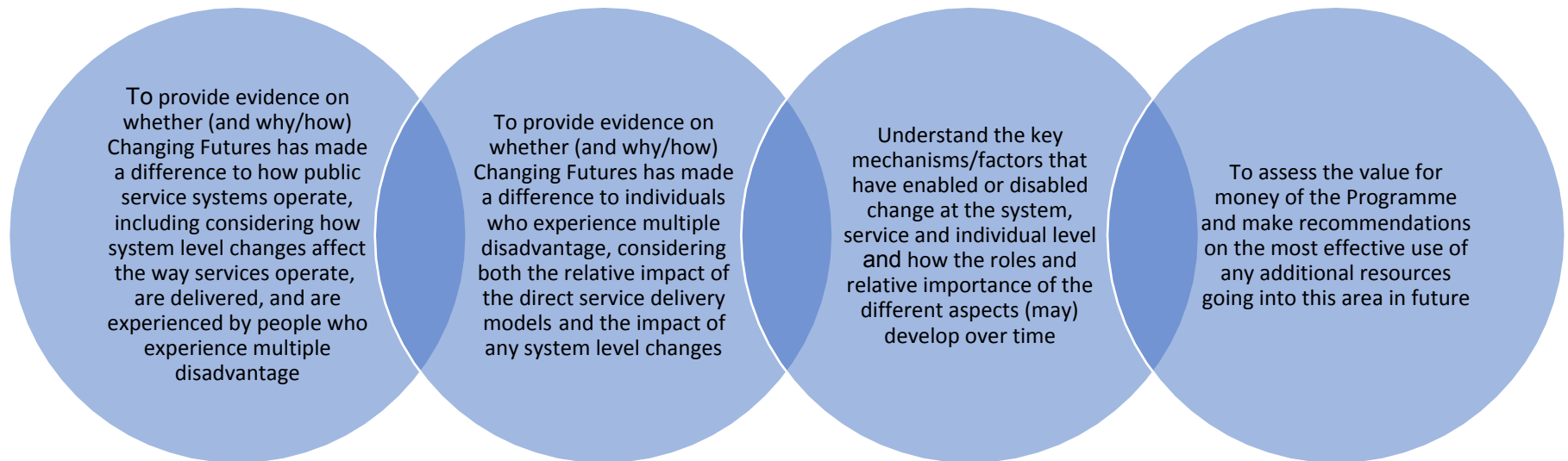
Local evaluation

- £212k (0.4%): to support local evidence building alongside the national evaluation.



Evaluation

There are significant evidence gaps because data and evaluation are typically siloed by issue. The CF evaluation aims:

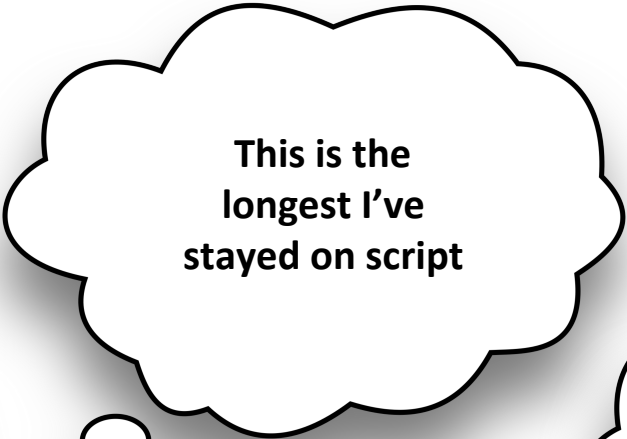


- Intended to help fill evidence gaps at individual, service and systems levels
- Will deliver products during the programme as well as final reports
- Designed to inform future policy and funding decisions across Government in relation to people facing multiple disadvantage

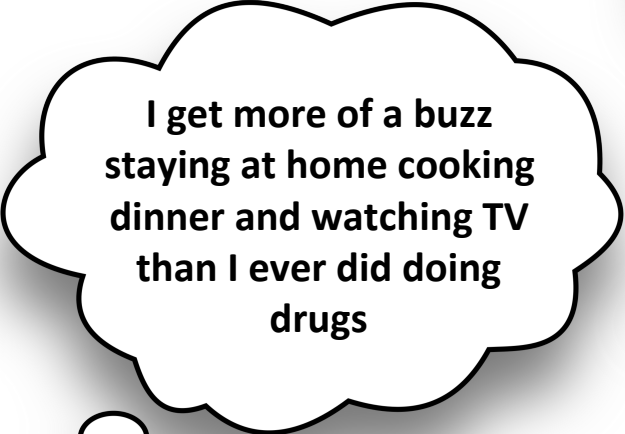


Service User Perspectives


Testimonies



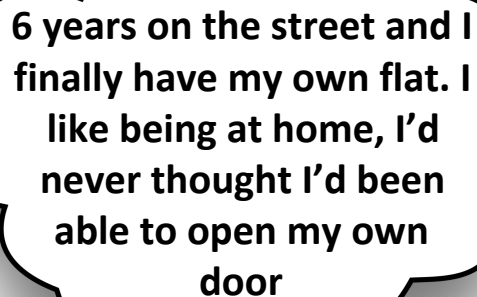
This is the longest I've stayed on script




I get more of a buzz staying at home cooking dinner and watching TV than I ever did doing drugs



This is the first chance I've ever been given



6 years on the street and I finally have my own flat. I like being at home, I'd never thought I'd been able to open my own door



It's been so nice being able to have my grandson to visit, I love it here. And I've made friends with one of my neighbors



Comfort Break

Return at 10.55 am

Best Practice & Innovation

*Commissioning for the Holistic Needs of
People Affected by Homelessness*

Robert White

Director of Change, Mayday Trust

Recovery & Beyond


Co-located Multi Disciplinary Team Pilot – Project Implementation Group

Lee Anne Hill

Head of Housing, Broxbourne Borough Council

Alistair Flowers

Development Manager, Strategic Partnerships Team, HCC



'We are making huge progress with some people that we've really struggled with over a long period of time so definitely it is working and the MDT is having a positive impact even on those cases. Two cases in particular had been long-time chaotic, difficult to engage not sustaining accommodation and they are both doing really well.'

Housing Options Manager

The rates of statutory homelessness in Hertfordshire and England are increasing.

5% Alcohol Dependency Needs

8% Drug Dependency Needs

36% Mental Health Needs

Principles into Practice

- Needs led
- Flexible support
- Outreach
- Increasing independence
- Skills building
- Strengths based
- Breaking down barriers





WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



BOROUGH OF
BROXBOURNE

Stevenage
BOROUGH COUNCIL



St Albans
City & District Council



WELWYN
HATFIELD



North
Herts
Council



THREE RIVERS
DISTRICT COUNCIL



NHS
Hertfordshire
Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust



Vision Statement

The development of a team comprised of multiple agencies attached to homelessness services, will provide a collaborative and cohesive environment that views the person's homeless situation holistically.

Each of the partners will have direct access to dedicated specialists for the first time and adults experiencing homelessness will be able to access the right support at the right time.

Recovery & Beyond

Commissioning Services to Deliver Shared Outcomes

Sukhvinder Rai

Senior Development Manager, Strategic Partnerships Team,
Hertfordshire County Council

Ayaz Maqsood

Head of Housing, Watford Borough Council

Overview

Hertfordshire County currently spends approx. £4.6m per annum on non-statutory Housing Related Support services. This funding;



supports over 2,300 vulnerable adults at any given time, including those at risk of homelessness, rough sleeping, substance abuse, mental health problems and domestic abuse.



pays for dedicated support staff, in the community and at fixed accommodation locations.



does not pay for accommodation costs, including rent & service charges.



does not provide statutory services, and the majority of those using the services would not ordinarily be eligible for care or support from Adult Care Services under the Care Act.

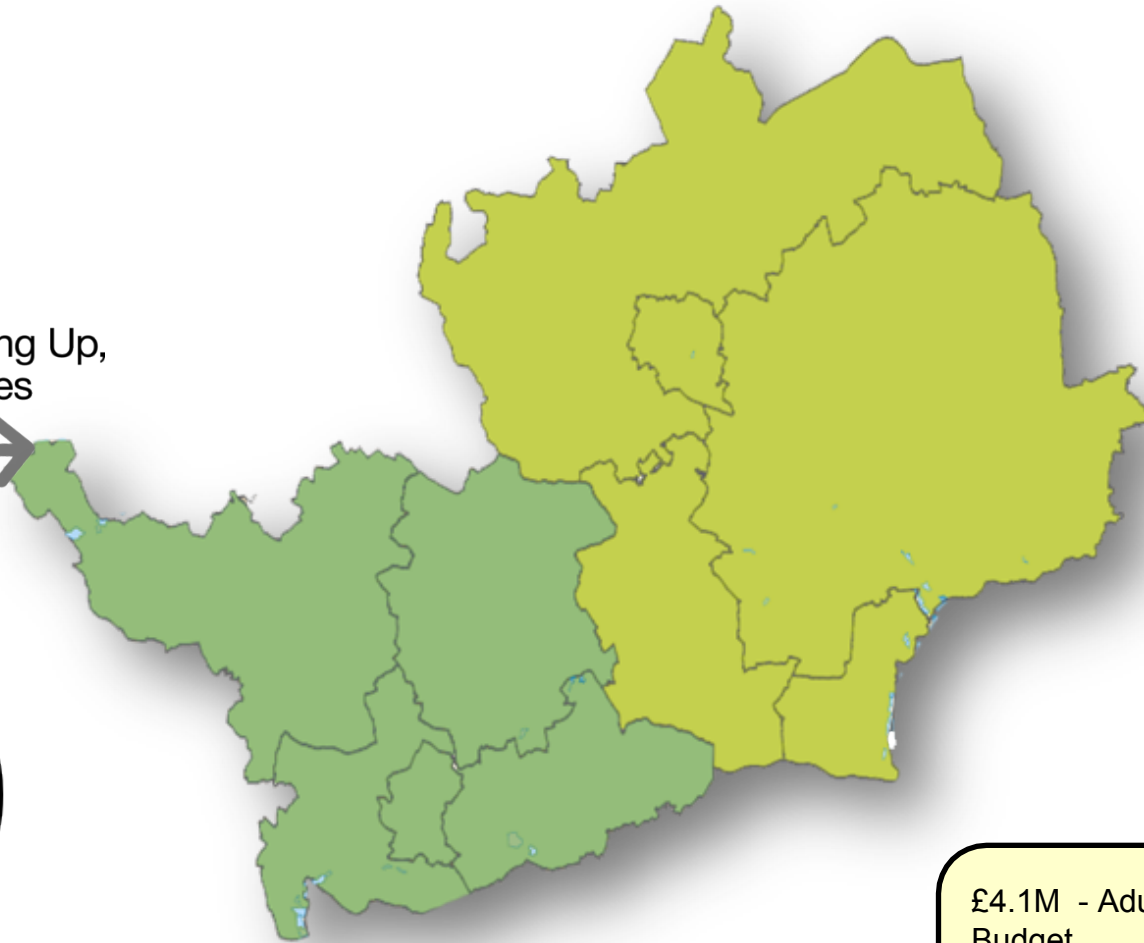
Housing Related Support and Rough Sleeper funding



Ministry
of Justice



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



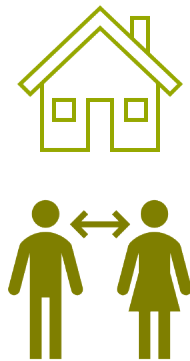
£4.1M - Adult Care
Budget

£497k - NHS and Adult
Care pooled budget

Commissioning Priorities 2022 to 2024



Co-production



Integrated



Needs led



Specialist



Co-ordinated
Budgets

Phased Commissioning

1

Complex Needs Floating Support

- Service go live October 2022
- Engagement/service design to commence early 2022

2

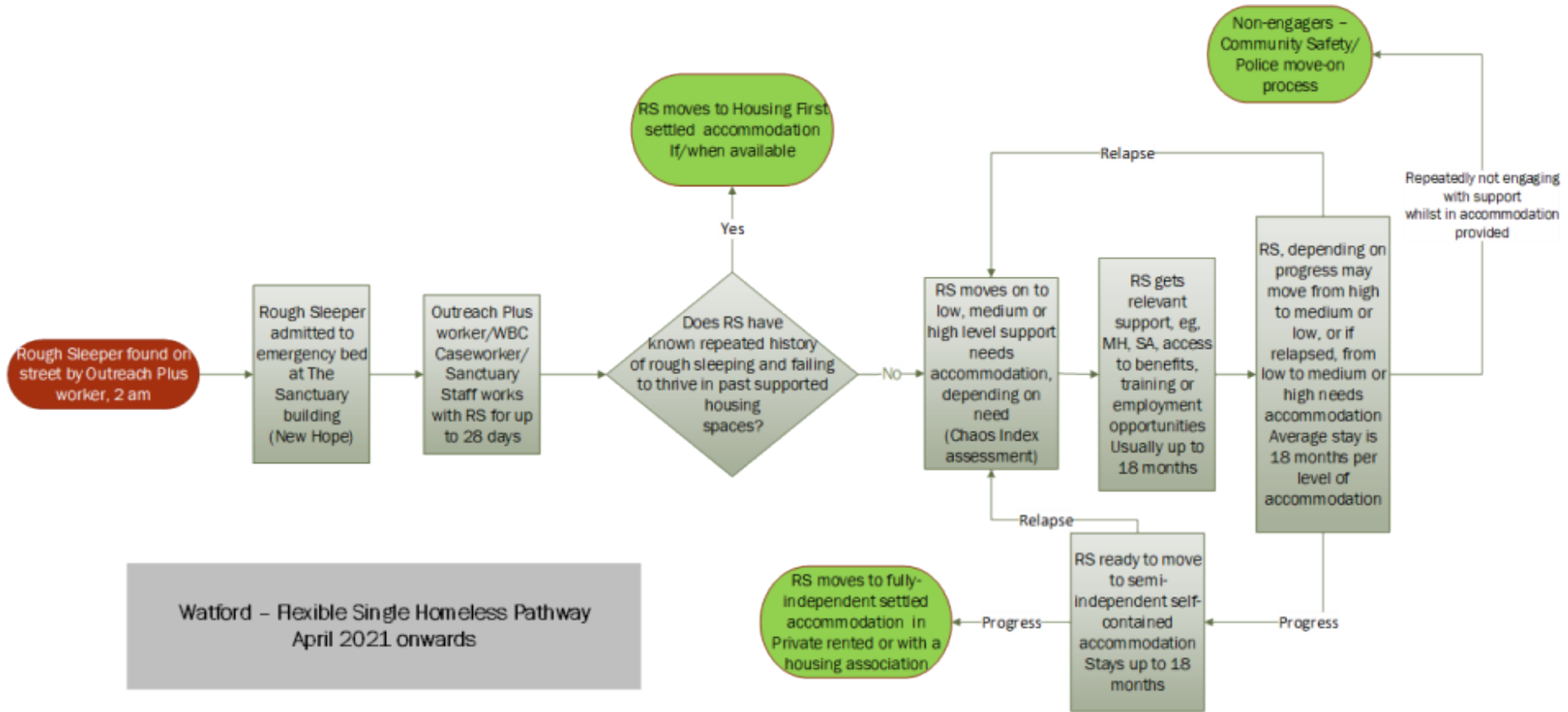
Complex Needs Supported Accommodation

3

Complex Needs Temporary Accommodation Support

- Mid 2022 onwards
- Market engagement workshops
- Development of service & funding models at local level
- Learning from co-located MDT pilot.

Watford Single Homeless Pathway



Funding Watford SHP – Co-ordinated Budgets

Provision	Provider	No. of bed spaces	Funded by
Medium Complex Intensive Support Service	One YMCA	44	MHCLG / HCC
Low to medium support	One YMCA	123	HCC
Low to medium support	New Hope	26	HCC
Medium to high needs	GROW	17	HCC
High complex needs	One YMCA	40	Watford BC
High complex needs	Emerging Futures	4	HCC
Emergency	New Hope	25	MHCLG / HCC
Intermediate Studio Move-on	One YMCA	24	Homes England / MHCLG
Housing First	Watford Community Housing (homes) / One YMCA (support)	20	Homes England / MHCLG
	Total	323	



Q & A



Summary

Helen Gledhill

Strategic Lead Domestic Abuse & Complex
Needs

Strategic Partnerships Team, Hertfordshire
County Council



Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership: Creating the Vision for 2022 and Beyond

Welcome

www.sli.do: #PartnershipSummit



domestic
abuse
commissioner

The Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner

NICOLE JACOBS



JUDITH VICKRESS

GEOGRAPHIC LEAD FOR THE MIDLANDS &
EASTERN ENGLAND

PRACTICE & PARTNERSHIP TEAM

“The focus of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner will be to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness and hold both agencies and government to account in tackling domestic abuse.”

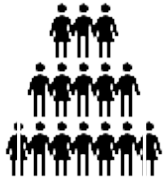
- VICTORIA ATKINS, MINISTER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND VULNERABILITY. 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

DAC Office: Local & Regional Engagement

Our Practice and Partnerships Team has four (part-time) Geographic Leads, embedded across England and Wales. They are:

- The face, eyes and ears of our Office at the local and regional level, a central point of contact for local leads and partners.
- Looking to learn about the key issues, challenges and best practice across their respective regions.
- Facilitating a two-way flow of information both from the local/regional level up to the national, and vice versa, helping us to build a strong picture of what is happening across England and Wales.
- Working closely with our Policy team to ensure that all policy recommendations and priorities are informed by the realities, expertise and insight of what is taking place on the ground.

In numbers



2.3 million
adults affected by domestic
abuse in year ending March
2020 (5.5% of adult
population)

8.8 million
adults have experienced
domestic abuse since the age of
16 (20.8% of adult population)

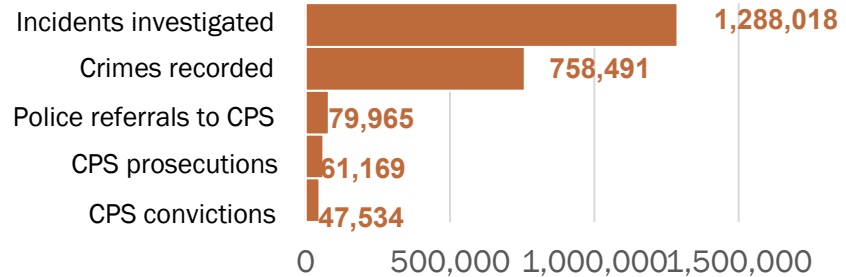


1 in 10
adults lived with
domestic abuse as
children



£66 billion
The estimated annual cost of
domestic abuse to society
(year ending March 2017)

DA flagged police recorded incidents, crimes and prosecutions - year ending March 2020



Purpose

The Problem

- The prevalence of domestic abuse remains too high, and the national and local response (while in some areas improving) is inadequate to the scale and complexity of the problem.
- The response represents a “postcode lottery” with significant variation across England and Wales.
- Not only does the specialist domestic abuse support available vary in both quantity and quality, but the wider community response from health, housing, education or social care varies considerably.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner

- Nicole Jacobs was appointed Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner in September 2019. The passage of the Domestic Abuse Act saw her official appointment as the Commissioner.
- The Commissioner will play a key role in holding local and national Government to account in order to improve the response to domestic abuse and shining a light on both good and poor practice and policy.
- All statutory agencies and Government Departments will have a legal duty through the Domestic Abuse Bill to cooperate with the Commissioner and respond publicly to any of her recommendations within 56 days.

Priorities of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner

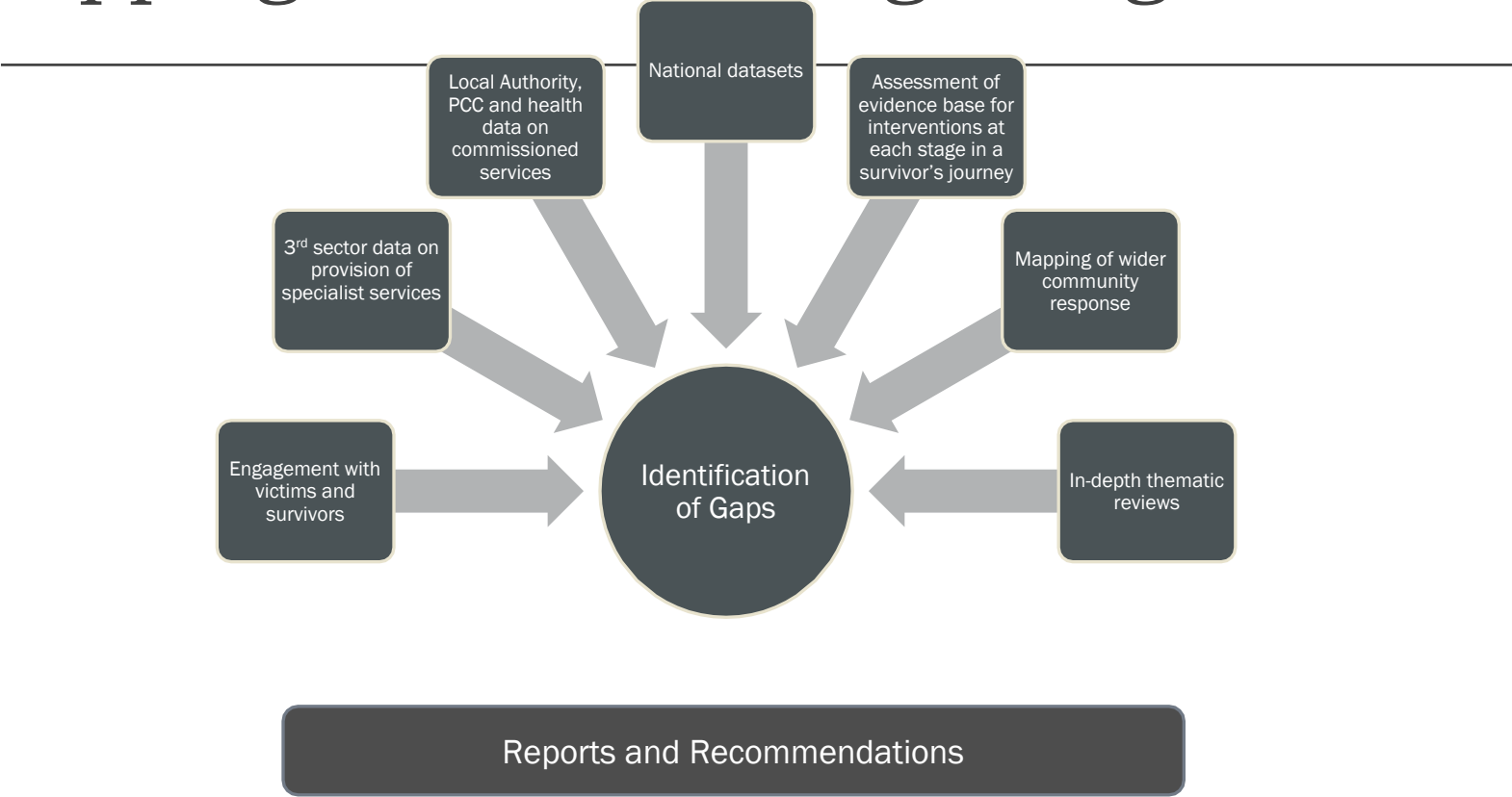
Priorities - Overarching

- To represent and magnify the voices of victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- To conduct mapping for domestic abuse services nationally and to subsequently lay reports before parliament and make recommendations.
- To end the 'postcode lottery' for survivors of domestic abuse.
- To improve the national response to domestic abuse and hold both local and national Government to account

Priorities - Timely

- To monitor the impact of Covid-19 on domestic abuse, and support relevant third sector organizations as they coordinate their response to the crisis.
- To ensure that the Domestic Abuse Act is successfully implemented
- To help ensure an integrated and joined up approach to government strategy on domestic abuse and VAWG

Mapping and Monitoring: Long-term



The Domestic Abuse Act; 1

This landmark piece of legislation, first introduced July 2019 and re-introduced in March 2020, received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021.

Key elements of the Act are to:

- Establish the Domestic Abuse Commissioner as a statutory office holder
- Create a statutory definition of Domestic Abuse to ensure its properly understood, considered unacceptable and challenged across agencies and in public attitudes
- Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order
- Place a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation

The Domestic Abuse Act; 2

- Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts in England and Wales
- Ensure that anyone made homeless as a result of domestic abuse is automatic in priority need for housing
- Create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link)
- Place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing

The Domestic Abuse Act; 3

- The Government have extended the remit of Part 4 to ensure LAs assess the impact on community-based services. The government have also committed to consulting on the provision of community-based services ahead of the upcoming Victim's Bill
- A new standalone offence of non-fatal strangulation – 29% of domestic homicides include strangulation
- The coercive control offence will be extended to include post-separation abuse
- Threats to share intimate images will be a criminal offence
- All DHRs will be shared with the Commissioner to help us build a stronger oversight mechanism on domestic homicide

DA Act: Commissioner's Role

- **Part 4 Oversight:** DA Commissioner will sit on Ministerial-led National Steering Group, established to monitor outcomes from local reporting – which now includes assessing the impact of the accommodation-based services duty on community-based services. .
- **Mapping of CBS:** DAC Office's work to map the current provision of community-based services will be used to inform future decisions about expanding the new statutory duty to include these services.
- **Duty to Cooperate:** Specified public bodies will be under a duty to cooperate with DA Commissioner - they and government Ministers will be required to respond to recommendations/requests made to them within 56 days.
- **DHRs:** DHRs will be required to be shared with DAC Office as well as the Home Office. Ongoing discussion about national oversight mechanisms for DHRs and role for DA Commissioner.

Key policy priorities for the year ahead

- Support for migrant victims and survivors of domestic abuse – working to inform the outcomes of the Supporting Migrant Victims Pilot
- Improving the experiences of survivors and their children in the family courts
- Creating an oversight mechanism on domestic homicide and suicides to better learn lessons needed to prevent future deaths
- Secure longer-term sustainable funding for both accommodation-based and community-based services
- Secure implementation of the recommendation that a firewall be created between the Border Force and the police in the HMICFRS Report on super-complaint

Coordinated Community Response

The CCR model of a coordinated local partnership to tackle and ultimately prevent domestic abuse is now widely accepted as best practice.

It shifts responsibility for safety away from individual survivors to the **community and services** existing to support them



Research & Resources

[CAPVA-Rapid-Literature-Review-Full-November-2021-Baker-and-Bonnick.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)

[Safety-Before-Status-Report-2021.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)



[Whole Housing Approach Strategy Template](#)

DAC Office: Local & Regional Engagement.

The Geographic Leads will be in touch with you as their work develops, but please do also reach out to them if you would like to discuss any issues or concerns, share practice or ask any questions. We would warmly welcome and views or feedback on what would be useful for them to prioritise or on how it would be most helpful for us to engage with you.

- Emily Hodge (Mon/Thurs)– South East England and London:
Emily.Hodge@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk
- Judith Vickress (Mon/Thurs)– Midlands and East of England:
Judith.Vickress@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk
- Michelle O'Rourke (Mon/Weds)– North of England and Yorkshire:
Michelle.ORourke@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk
- Anna MacGregor (Mon/Thurs)– Wales and the South West of England:
Anna.Macgregor@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

Questions?

Contact: commissioner@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

VictimFocus & Herts Domestic Abuse Co-production Panel

Addressing the importance of adopting a trauma informed approach

Bramley Clarence

Panel Members (Rani Das, Marion Visagie, Kulwant Patel, John Collins,
Roxana Siebert)

Agenda



Agenda Item	Duration
An introduction to co-production – Danielle	10 Minutes
An Introduction to the Hertfordshire co-production panel	5 Minutes
Marion Viasgie - Panel Member aims	1 Minute 30s
Rani Das – Panel Member aims	1 Minute 30s
Kulwant Patel - Panel Member aims	1 Minute 30s
John Collins – Panel Member aims	1 Minute 30s
Roxana Siebert – Panel Member aims	1 Minute 30s

An Introduction to Co-Production



The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Co-Production Panel

Hertfordshire County Council have commissioned VictimFocus to establish a Domestic Abuse Co-Production panel

- What will the domestic abuse co-production panel do?
- Who are the panel members?
- Why is a domestic abuse co-production panel Important?
- What are the aims of the domestic abuse Co-Production panel?
- What has the panels involvement looked like up to now?



Marion Visagie

Panel member aims



Rani Das

Panel member aims



Kulwant Patel

Panel member aims



John Collins

Panel member aims



Roxana Siebert

Panel member aims



Q&A



DA Act 2021: National Perspective

The safe accommodation duty; an overview

Miranda Abery – Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

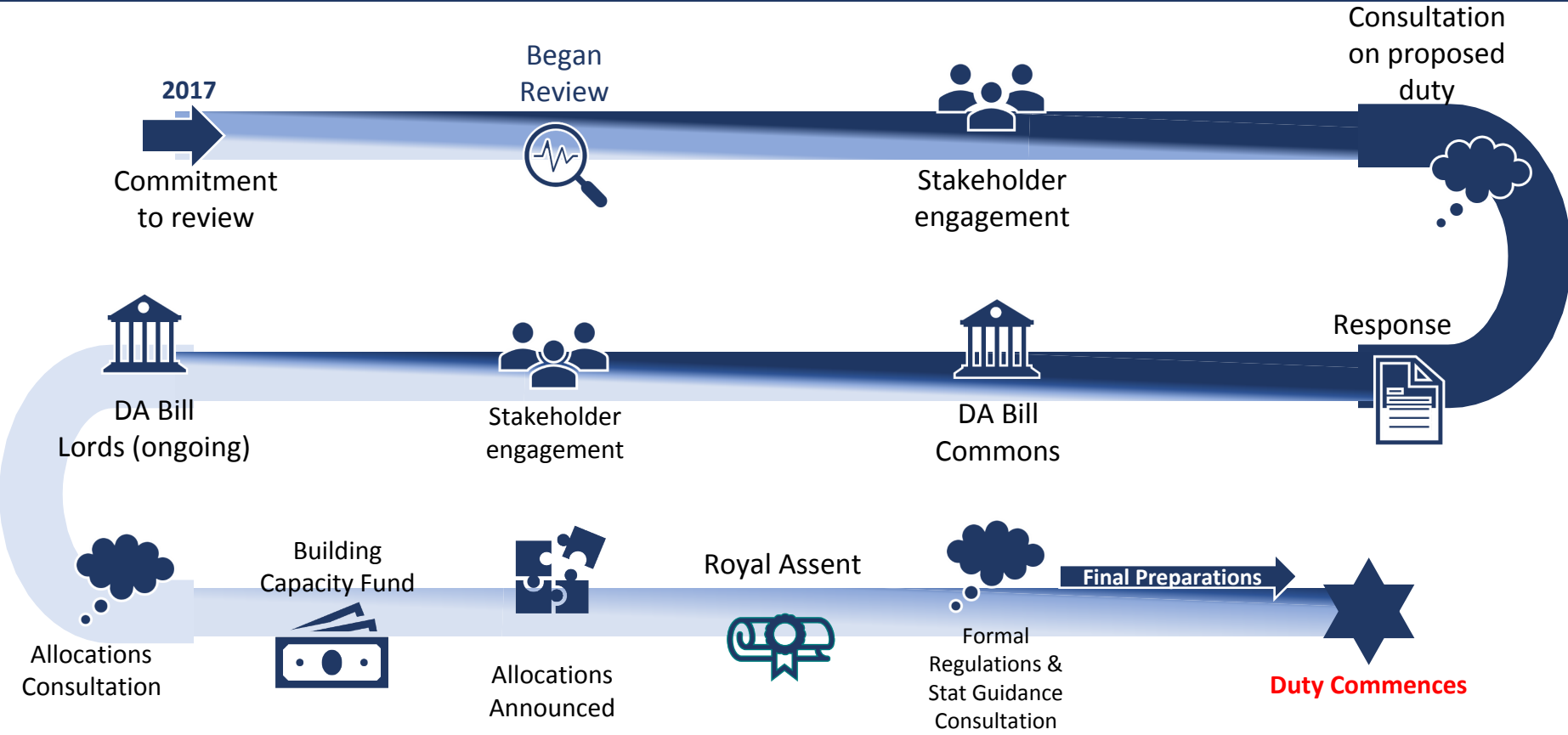
DLUHC Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation-based Support Duty

29 November

What we will cover

- The Journey
- Overview and focus on the new duties
- Role of DLUHC
- What the new duties means for Local Authorities, Partners and Victims/Survivors

The Journey



Overview of the new duties

Statutory Duty

1. Tier 1 local authorities will be required to convene a multi-agency Local Partnership Board (LPB) to support them in performing certain specified functions. These will be to:
 - **Assess the need and demand** for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support.
 - **Prepare and publish strategies** for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
 - **Give effect to strategies by making commissioning / de-commissioning decisions**
 - **Meet the support needs of victims and their children**
 - **Monitor and evaluate local delivery**
 - **Report back to central overnment**
2. A duty on MHCLG SoS to produce the Statutory Guidance;
3. A duty for LAs to have regard to Statutory Guidance in exercising the above functions; and,
4. A duty on Tier 2 district, borough and city councils and London Boroughs to co-operate with Tier 1 authorities.

Accountability and Reporting

Needs Assessment

- A standardised needs assessments developed to support LAs in assessing local need and demand on services

Local strategies

- LAs will be required to develop and publish a robust local strategy based on the needs assessment.

National Oversight

Reporting

- LAs will be required to report back to government via a standardised reporting format

National Steering Group

- A Ministerial-led National Expert Steering Group established to monitor delivery and outcomes

Providing support to all victims and their children

We recognise the importance of ensuring **all** victims of domestic abuse have access to the right support when they need it.

The clauses in the Domestic Abuse Bill aims to ensure local authorities, with support from their LPBs, have the right knowledge and steps in place to accommodate the needs of all victims.

Local Partnership Boards

Tier 1 local authorities will be required to convene a Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

- The Board will support Tier 1 authorities in exercising their functions under the duty, including advising on undertaking a local needs assessment, developing and publishing strategies and reporting back to the department.
- Authorities will be able to utilise existing Boards where appropriate.
- Authorities should work closely with DA local services, drawing on their expertise and experience of supporting victims to further understand the varying needs and appropriate approaches needed to address them.
- Tier two authorities must, so far as reasonably practicable, cooperate with lead authorities in exercising the requirements under this duty.

LPB Members

Representatives from:

- Tier 1 Authority
- Tier 2 Authority (where applicable)
- Victims of domestic abuse
- Children of DA victims
- DA Charities and other VCS orgs
- Health Care services
- Policing or criminal justice



Needs Assessment

Tier one authorities must, with support from their LPB, conduct a local needs assessment.

DLUHC (previously MHCLG) has produced a standardised Needs Assessment Form and accompanied by guidance

- Needs assessments will be vital in ensuring the needs of victims are properly met – by understanding their needs, authorities will be in a better position to commission appropriate provision.
- Needs Assessments should explore the level of need for support services within safe accommodation for victims of DA, including those presenting from out of area.
- It is important that needs assessment considers the requirements of all victims, including those with protected characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act (see chapter 4 on 'ensuring protection for all victims and their children').



Local Needs Assessments will take place every three years. Annual refreshes will allow LAs to capture any changes in between full assessments.

Strategies

Tier 1 local authorities, with support from the LPB, will need to develop and publish strategies based on their needs assessments

Using the needs assessment, Tier 1 authorities will develop strategies clearly setting out the local approach in support victims of DA within safe accommodation.

Developing

Tier 1 Authorities do not need to follow a specific format, however they should clearly set out:

The support needs identified as part of the needs assessments, inc. victims with protected characteristics and complex needs.

Provision of support currently available & identified gaps.

Steps needed to ensure the identified needs are met.

How particular barriers will be met

Clear approaches for victims crossing LA Boundaries

Level of funding being committed

Giving Effect

- The services and support commissioned must reflect the needs of all victims in the area
- When giving effect to strategies, authorities should consider appropriate tendering processes to ensure smaller more specialist services are not excluded or put at a disadvantage.
- Where commissioning has been delegated to tier 2 authorities, appropriate funding must be passed down by lead authorities.
- It is not suggested that DA charities and services are involved in commissioning decisions



Tier One Authorities should consult on their strategies with relevant bodies before publishing

Strategies can work alongside and join-up with other relevant areas, such as VAWG, homelessness and Community Safety,

Reporting & Evaluation

Tier 1 local authorities, with support from the LPB, will need to submit a report to the department setting out how they have met their duty.

It is important that there is clear accountability and transparency in the commissioning and delivery of domestic abuse services at both a local and national level. To complement the standardised needs assessment, we will introduce a standardised reporting form.

Reporting

We envisage Tier 1 authorities will provide:

- Evidence that a Local Partnership has been established and operating in line with relevant guidance
- Evidence that local strategies are in place and working effectively
- Evidence that adequate needs assessments have been undertaken
- Evidence that commissioning decisions have been informed by needs assessments
- Evidence that there is adequate provision for all victims, including BAME, LGBT and disabled victims, as well as those from outside the local area
- A breakdown of how allocated funding has been spent

Where appropriate, tier two authorities should cooperate with tier one authorities in the completion of the reporting template.



All strategies and governance structures should allow for a two-way flow of information sharing between Tier 1 authorities and their Board



Reports will need to be completed on an annual basis.

Evaluations

- Tier 1 authorities should look to put in place a clear approach to monitoring and evaluating local delivery against approaches set out within their local strategies.
- They will also review how local decisions and actions have impacted the needs assessments and victims journeys within their area.

Role of DLUHC

- DLUHC plays a critical role in cross-Government work to tackle domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Policy responsibility for safe accommodation services, including refuges.
- Responsible for the funding, policy framework, monitoring, evaluation and oversight of the local delivery of the new duties placed on local authorities within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation.
- To produce and publish Statutory Guidance to clearly set out expectations on local authorities in meeting their new duties.
- To support local authorities in implementing their new duties.
- To set up a Ministerial-Led Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation National Expert Steering Group to oversee the delivery of the new duties across England.

What does this mean for LAs, Partners and Victims and Survivors

- For the first time a statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation providing clarity over governance and accountability.
- Greater sustainability and clarity on expectations.
- A consistent approach to the commissioning and delivery of support within safe accommodation to ensure that all victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children can access the right support within safe accommodation when they need it.



Domestic Abuse Strategy

*Soft launch of the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy
and next steps*

Danielle Davis– *Senior Development Manager, HCC*

**Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse
Partnership**

Domestic Abuse Strategy Soft Launch

www.hertssunflower.org



A case for change

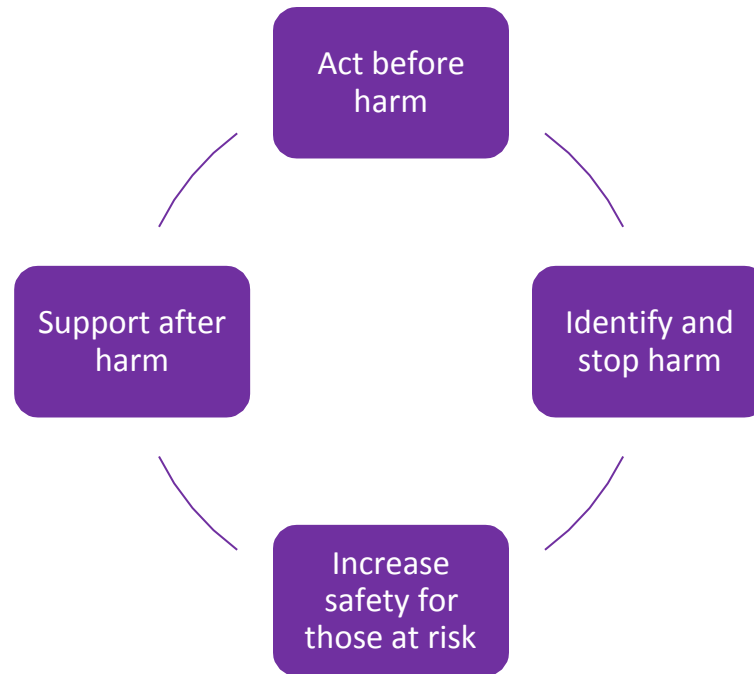


Our values and principles

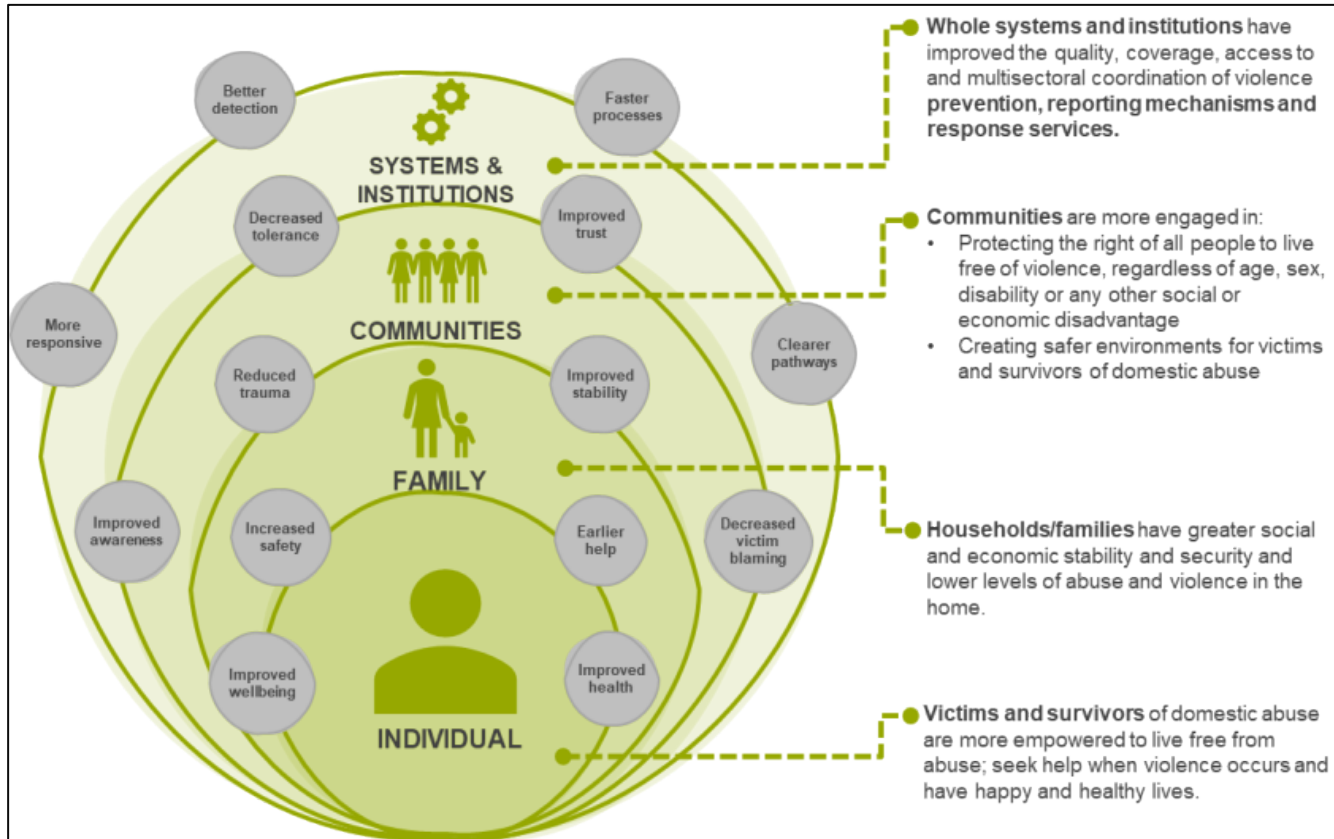
- Evidence based
- Needs led
- Trauma informed
- Strengths and asset focussed
- Intersectional
- Whole family, intergenerational
- Collaborative

Our vision and priorities

For Hertfordshire to be a safe place for individuals and families, where domestic abuse is not tolerated and, where it does happen, those experiencing or causing harm have access to the support they need to be free from, or stop using, abusive behaviour and recover from its traumatic impact.



Measuring our success



We want to hear from you.

[Draft Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership
Strategy 2022-2025 consultation launches
\(\[hertssunflower.org\]\(http://hertssunflower.org\)\)](#)

Consultation until 13th December.



Breakout Session

Feedback and Discussion on the Strategy



Comfort Break



Reflections of the Day

Helen Gledhill – Strategic Lead Domestic Abuse & Complex Needs, Strategic Partnerships Team, HCC

Q & A Panel

Herts Domestic Abuse Partnership

Chris Badger – Director of Adult Care Services, HCC

Jo Fisher – Director of Childrens Services, HCC

***Kay Lancaster – Detective Chief Superintendent – Herts
Police***

Strategic Partnership Team



Thank you

Strategic Partnerships Team

Strategic.Partnership@Hertfordshire.gov.uk