



This strategy is the culmination of the efforts of all agencies across the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership.

It goes beyond the statutory duty for all Local Authorities across England and Wales to deliver a safe accommodation and support strategy under the Domestic Abuse Act (2021). It aims to ensure we have a robust response in place to meet the needs of all victims and children as well as working with those using harmful and abusive behaviour to change their behaviour and holding them accountable for the choices they make.

The strategy utilises the Public Health Prevention Approach by identifying risk and protective factors for domestic abuse and using these to inform prevention work. It has four priorities themed around the continuum of prevention, ensuring we develop a long-term approach to change.



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Vision

Priorities

Strategic Objectives

Delivery

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.

Act before someone is harmed

Priority vision: A county in which individuals and organisations work proactively to reduce the risk of domestic abuse before harm occurs and build resilience amongst the local population.

Outcome: Increased awareness and reduced public tolerance of domestic abuse

- Develop a communication and engagement plan aimed reducing public tolerance and changing problematic attitudes and beliefs around domestic abuse.
- Develop a consistent approach to healthy relationships education which includes content on harmful and abusive behaviours within intimate and family relationships where appropriate.
- Develop and pilot prevention interventions to reduce the prevalence of risk factors for domestic abuse that exist within Hertfordshire and/or promote protective factors and resiliency.

Identify & stop those that cause harm

Priority vision: A county in which perpetrators of domestic abuse are proactively identified, held accountable for their behaviour, and supported to change.

Outcome: Reduced use of harmful and abusive behaviours in intimate and family relationships

- Develop a unified offer of support for those identified as using abusive or harmful behaviour in intimate and family relationships with clear referral pathways.
- Create a consistent multi-agency approach to identifying, assessing, and managing risk of harm from perpetrators.
- Strengthen the criminal justice response to ensure those using harmful behaviour are brought to justice.

Increase safety for those at risk of harm

Priority vision: A county in which individuals and organisations work together to keep victims of domestic abuse safe from further harm, with effective systems and high-quality services that deliver on safety related outcomes.

Outcome: Increased safety for individuals experiencing or at risk due to domestic abuse

- Develop a clear identification, risk assessment and referral pathway into services so victims receive appropriate support as soon as possible.
- Support agencies to work together to address the risk and safety of victims through the provision of a high-quality Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) model.
- Commission high-quality, accessible support services for victims of domestic abuse that deliver on safety related outcomes, including support within safe accommodation and provision for standard, medium and high-risk victims.

Freedom after harm has occurred

Priority vision: A county in which individuals, families and communities can access the support they need, for as long as is needed, to help them overcome the impact of domestic abuse.

Outcome: Increased engagement with services offering support for domestic abuse and wider support needs

- Develop, commission, and monitor a double district one stop shop model across Hertfordshire to work with victims to meet their holistic needs (e.g. housing, legal, financial, therapeutic).
- Implement a Whole Housing Approach to ensure all victims can access a safe place to live from which to rebuild their lives following domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls Executive Board will have oversight and accountability for the delivery of this strategy. The Executive Board will be supported by the Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership Board, responsible for operational delivery through an annually updated action plan that will sit alongside this strategy.

An operational delivery plan will outline the key activities that we will deliver under each of our objectives, including which organisation or partnership will be responsible for delivery.