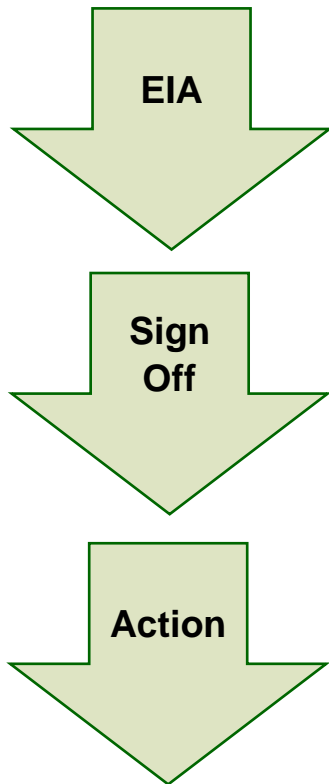


Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

The purpose of an EIA is to ensure WCC is as inclusive as possible, both as a service deliverer and as an employer. It also demonstrates our compliance with Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

This document is a planning tool, designed to help you improve programmes of work by considering the implications for different groups of people. A guidance document is available [here](#).

Please note that, once approved, this document will be made public, unless you have indicated that it contains sensitive information. Please ensure that the form is clear and easy to understand. If you would like any support or advice on completing this document, please contact the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team via equalities@warwickshire.gov.uk, or if it's relating to health inequalities, please contact Public Health via phadmin@warwickshire.gov.uk.



- Having identified an EIA is required, ensure that the EIA form is completed before any work is started. This includes gathering evidence and / or engaging the relevant stakeholders to inform your assessment.
- Brief the relevant Assistant Director for sign off and upload the completed form here: [Upload Completed Equality Impact Assessments](#). Please name it “EIA [project] [service area] [year]”
- Undertake further research / engagement to further understand impacts (if identified).
- Undertake engagement and / or consultation to understand if EIA has identified and considered impacts.
- Amend accordingly to engagement / consultation feedback and brief decision makers of any changes.
- Implement proposed activity.
- Monitor impacts and mitigations as evidence of duty of care.

Section One: Essential Information

Service / policy / strategy / practice / plan being assessed	The Warwickshire Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-28
Business Unit / Service Area	Inequalities and Public Health Commissioning
Is this a new or existing service / policy / strategy / practice / plan? If existing, please state date of last assessment.	A refreshed Safe Accommodation Strategy following the publication of the Warwickshire Safe Accommodation Strategy for 2021-24.
EIA Authors N.B. It is best practice to have more than one person complete the EIA to bring different perspectives to the table.	Rianne Houghton (Commissioning Support Officer) Amy Hilton (Domestic Abuse Commissioner – Safe Accommodation)
Do any other Business Units / Service Areas need to be included?	Will be agreed and monitored via the Warwickshire Safe Accommodation and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategic Delivery Group (formally the strategy was overseen by the Safe Accommodation Working Group (SAWG)). This includes other WCC service areas.
Does this EIA contain personal and / or sensitive information?	No

Are any of the outcomes from this assessment likely to result in complaints from existing services users, members of the public and / or employees?

No

1. Please explain the background to your proposed activity and the reasons for it.

As a Tier One local authority, Warwickshire County Council has a statutory duty to undertake a Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment and publish an accompanying Safe Accommodation Strategy. This refreshed Strategy outlines how Warwickshire will continue to implement its duties, highlighting what it has achieved in the past three years, and describes how safe accommodation and support for domestic abuse (DA) victim-survivors will be provided across Warwickshire over the next three years.

2. Please outline your proposed activity including a summary of the main actions.

Warwickshire's Safe Accommodation Strategy for 2025-28 will continue to focus on the following five key objectives:

1. Early intervention and prevention: victim-survivors (adults and children) are supported at an early stage and provided with options to remain safe at home to prevent homelessness. This includes holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour.
2. Accessible services: victim-survivors and professionals know how to access safe accommodation options, both within and outside of Warwickshire.
3. Appropriate safe accommodation: accommodation options and appropriate support is in place for all victim-survivors who need it.
4. Multiagency delivery: victim-survivors' needs will be met by effective, collaborative multi-agency support.
5. Support to return home or move on: victim-survivors are supported to return home safely and/or move into alternative permanent accommodation.

The Strategy will be accompanied by a Delivery Plan, which will outline the actions needed to ensure the successful delivery of its objectives.

Following feedback from Safe Accommodation Working Group (SAWG) partners, the Strategy will be shared for review, consultation, and approval with:

- The Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board (SWPB) (25/06/24)
- Corporate Board (16th October / 6th November 2024)
- WCC Cabinet (14th November 2024)

The final Strategy will be published by 31st December 2024.

3. Who is this going to impact and how?

Customers	Members of the Public	Employees	Job Applicants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim-survivors of DA, including children and young people - Perpetrators of DA - Family members, partners, and friends of both victim-survivors and perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victim-survivors of DA, including children and young people - Perpetrators of DA - Family members, partners, and friends of both victim-survivors and perpetrators - The wider community impacted by DA 	N/A	N/A
Other, please specify:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current providers (of DA, sexual health, criminal justice, and counselling and therapy) - Potential providers (as above) - Key partners, including Warwickshire Police, Housing Teams, Adult and Children’s Social Care, the NHS (primary and secondary care staff), the ICB, the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Probation 		

Section Two: Evidence

Please include any evidence or relevant information that has influenced the decisions contained in this EIA. This could include demographic profiles; audits; research; health needs assessments; national guidance or legislative requirements and how this relates to the protected characteristic groups and additional groups outlined in Section Four.

A – Quantitative Evidence

This is evidence which is numerical and should include the number people who use the service and the number of people from the protected characteristic groups who might be affected by changes to the service.

Sex and Gender

National prevalence

While both women and men experience domestic abuse (DA), DA is a disproportionately gendered crime.

- In the year ending March 2023, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 1.4 million women and 751,000 men aged 16 and over had experienced DA in the last year. That equates to approximately 5.7% of women and 3.2% of men.
- According to police data, in the same time period, the victim was female in 73.5% of DA-related crimes.
- In the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation National Expert Steering Group (NESG)'s latest annual report for 2022-23, 56% (n=28,200) of victim-survivors supported in safe accommodation in England were women; 4% (n=1,130) were men.
- It is estimated that almost half of all male victim-survivors do not tell anyone about their experiences of DA, compared to 19% of women.
- As recently as 2020, across 37 organisations providing refuge or safe house accommodation in the UK, only 40 bed spaces were available for men.

Local prevalence

- Using national data, we have estimated that, in the year ending March 2023, that there were 12,523 cases of DA against women across Warwickshire and 6,911 cases against men.

- In the time period April 2020 – March 2023, there were 2,330 female victims related to a Domestic-Related Violence with Injury offence, compared to 920 men.
- Between April 2023 – March 2024, 93.9% of all referrals to the Safe Accommodation Outreach Workers Service in Warwickshire were for female clients; 4.8% for males.
- Of the victim-survivors in safe accommodation provided by the commissioned the Warwickshire Domestic Violence and Abuse (WDVA) Service, 100% were women.

Age

National prevalence

Older adults are thought to be underrepresented in both crime statistics and DA support services.

- In the year ending March 2023, the CSEW estimates that 6.2% of female victim-survivors were aged 60 or over, yet recent estimates suggest that only 3.1% of those accessing DA services in the UK were in that age bracket.
- SafeLives estimates the prevalence of DA among older women to be between 20-30%.
- Additionally, it is thought that older adults are likely to experience DA for longer; for an average of 6.5 years, compared to 4 years for those aged under 60.
- Both men and women aged 70 and over are more likely to be a victim of domestic homicide than any other age group, with 24% of male victims and 16.9% of female victims falling in that age bracket (in the year ending March 2023).
- Per the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation NESG's annual report for 2022-23, just 1% (n=450) of individuals in safe accommodation were recorded as being aged 65 or over.

Local prevalence

- Looking at a three-year average across the time period April 2020 – March 2023, the majority of referrals for victim-survivors in need of safe accommodation in Warwickshire were for those aged 25-34. Those aged under 19 and over 65 are least likely to access the WDVA Service.
- In the year ending March 2024, no victim-survivors over the age of 65 were accommodated or given access to the Sanctuary Scheme.

CYP

National prevalence

- In 2023, Foundations estimated that, in the last year, 827,532 children across England and Wales lived in a household where there was partner abuse between adults.
- In 2022-23, 48,036 children were involved with DA services, an average of 1.3 children per adult service user. 61.5% of service users had children, with 60.6% of those aged between 0-10.
- Per the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation NESG's annual report for 2022-23, 42% (n=21,170) of instances of support were for children.

Local prevalence

- In the year ending March 2023, the number of children affected by DA that had been reported to Warwickshire Police was 2,947, an average of 246 per month.
- In the year 2022-23, 46 victim-survivors supported in safe accommodation provided by Refuge were aged 18 or under.

Ethnicity

National prevalence

- In the year ending March 2023, in England and Wales, 3.1% of Black or Black British women and 3% of Asian or Asian British women experienced DA. Comparably, almost twice as many women in the White ethnic group had experienced DA (6%).
- SafeLives estimates that victim-survivors from minoritised communities live with abuse 1.5 times longer before seeking help.
- Per the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation NESG's annual report for 2022-23, 23% of individuals supported in safe accommodation were Black and minoritised victim-survivors.

Local prevalence

- In Warwickshire, 10.9% of the population are from Black, Asian, mixed, or other ethnic groups. In the year ending March 2024, 23 victim-survivors supported in safe accommodation by the WDVA Service were from Asian, Black, mixed, or other marginalised community groups.

Sexual Orientation

National prevalence

- A 2018 report by Stonewall estimated that 28% of trans people in a relationship had experienced DA in the last year.
- It is also estimated that 49% of all gay and bisexual men have experienced at least one incident of DA since the age of 16.

- In 2018, the ONS found that bisexual women were almost twice as likely to have experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months (10.9%) than heterosexual women (6%).
- SafeLives has estimated that just 2.5% of people accessing support from national DA services identified as LGBT+
- In the year ending March 2023, only 1.5% of cases discussed at MARACs across England and Wales involved LGBT+ victim-survivors.
- Per the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation NESG's annual report for 2022-23, 4% (n=1,920) of victim-survivors supported in safe accommodation were LGBT+.

Local prevalence

- In the period April 2023-March 2024, an average of 93.4% of victim-survivors supported by Safe Accommodation Outreach Workers were heterosexual.
- In the year ending March 2024, the majority of victim-survivors supported in safe accommodation by the WDVA Service identified as heterosexual. These figures suggest that LGBT+ victim-survivors are currently under-represented in the commissioned WDVA Service.

Disability

National prevalence

- According to the CSEW for the year ending March 2023, more than three times the number of disabled people (10.2%) experienced DA compared to non-disabled people (3.8%).
- SafeLives has estimated that disabled victim-survivors experience DA for longer before accessing support: 3.3 years, compared to 2.3 years for non-disabled victim-survivors.
- In Women's Aid's Annual Audit for 2023, almost a quarter of victim-survivors (22.3%) reported having a physical health disability, yet only 1.1% of refuge vacancies listed on Routes to Support in 2021-22 were suitable for those with limited mobility.
- Per the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation NESG's annual report for 2022-23, 11% (n=5,730) of victim-survivors supported in safe accommodation were disabled; 240 households were unable to be supported for reasons related to a disability.

Local prevalence

- According to 2021 Census data, approximately 13.5% (n=44,731) of adults aged 16-59 in Warwickshire are disabled. Using estimates, we can infer there are ~6,307 disabled victim-survivors of DA in Warwickshire.
- In the year ending March 2024, 47 victim-survivors who were supported in safe accommodation by the WDVA Service had a disability or health-related support needs, such as a physical disability, neurodiverse condition, or mental health needs.

Pregnancy

National prevalence

- It is thought that around 30% of DA begins during pregnancy, with 40-60% of women experiencing DA abused during pregnancy.
- Nationally, Refuge estimates that approximately 20% of women in their services are either pregnant or have recently given birth.

Local prevalence

- In the year ending March 2024, 19 pregnant victim-survivors were supported to access safe accommodation by the WDVA Service.

B – Qualitative Evidence

This is data which describes the effect or impact of a change on a group of people, e.g. some information provided as part of performance reporting.

General

Under the DA Act 2021, local authorities have a duty to ensure sufficient appropriate support is available in safe accommodation to meet the needs of all victim-survivors, including those with protected characteristics, additional or complex needs, or those with needs that may not be properly met in non-specialist DA safe accommodation. The most common specialist characteristics reported by the NESG's Annual Report were Black and minoritised victim-survivors, mental health difficulties, disabled victim-survivors, younger victim-survivors, those with drug or alcohol needs, and LGBT+ victim-survivors. In Warwickshire, the countywide Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) highlighted that a number of groups face additional barriers to seeking support for DA and accessing safe accommodation; these victim-survivors are also likely to be at an increased risk of certain types of abuse. This includes victim-survivors who are older, identify as LGBT+, are from minoritised communities, have refugee status, have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), and have care and support needs.

Sex and Gender

As identified in the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, most DA services are directed towards cisgender women. Although more cisgender women experience and report DA, cisgender male and transgender victim-survivors experience DA at rates likely to be higher than currently recorded. While both transgender and cisgender male victim-survivors have fewer avenues of support – such as traditional refuge accommodation – they are also likely to experience additional barriers to reporting and seeking help. These barriers include misconceptions around gender roles and expectations, including masculinity, reduced confidence in statutory agencies and services, perceptions that DA services are not for them, and previous negative experiences of interventions or support that have been inappropriate or insufficient.

Age

As identified in the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, older victim-survivors are likely to be overlooked by professionals who assume that DA is unlikely to be an issue for older adults. For example, DA may not be queried by health professionals when older women present with injury, and similarly, older men are not assumed to be a threat. Older adults are also thought to be less likely to attempt to leave a perpetrator; in some cases, this is exacerbated by caring responsibilities. The additional needs of many older victim-survivors are often barriers to accessing and receiving support; victim-survivors may not be able to leave their homes or existing package of care, for example, or services may not be equipped to offer specialist support.

Ethnicity

As identified in the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, victim-survivors from minoritised communities are at a higher risk of certain types of DA, including Harmful Practices, and domestic homicide. This is partly due to the additional barriers they face in seeking and accessing support, such as racism, discriminatory stereotyping, fear of community 'dishonour' or rejection, language barriers, and the limited availability of services that provide specialist support. Victim-survivors with insecure immigration status are also at greater risk of harm and may find their status weaponised by perpetrators.

Sexual Orientation

Victim-survivors who identify as LGBT+ are also likely to face barriers to disclosing their experiences of DA and accessing support, our Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment found. These relate to the inclusivity of services, the dynamics of same-sex relationships, such as where a victim-survivor's sexual orientation may be weaponised by a perpetrator, and the under-representation of LGBT+ victim-survivors in voluntary and statutory services.

Disability

It is thought that disabled victim-survivors are more likely to experience a wide range of severe and frequent abuse from greater numbers of people than those without a disability, including from intimate partners, family members, paid carers, and health professionals, and their disability may be used to compound and perpetrate certain types of abuse. Some of the barriers faced by disabled victim-survivors include difficulty in recognising their experiences as abuse; being fearful of losing their independence or of being institutionalised, and distrust in agencies to respond effectively. As mentioned in the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, it is important to note that victim-survivors with invisible disabilities are also less likely to be asked about experiences of DA by professionals.

Section Three: Engagement

Engagement with individuals or organisations affected by the proposed activity must take place. For further advice and support with engagement and consultations, click [here](#).

Has the proposed activity been subject to engagement or consultation with those it's going to impact, taking into account their protected characteristics and socio-economic status?	Yes	
If YES, please state who with.	Victim-survivors of DA from across Warwickshire, service users of the Warwickshire Domestic Violence and Abuse (WDVA) Service, and professionals who work both with victim-survivors and in safe accommodation provision.	
If NO engagement has been conducted, please state why.	N/A	
How was the engagement carried out?	Yes / No	What were the results from the engagement? Please list...

Focus Groups	No	
Surveys	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55 responses from victim-survivors across Warwickshire, with an even distribution across all district and boroughs - 8 responses from current clients accessing safe accommodation provided by the WDVA Service - 21 responses from professionals who work with victim-survivors - 19 responses from professionals who work with victim-survivors and in safe accommodation provision, including those in local housing teams and the WDVA Service
Public Event	No	
Displays / Exhibitions	No	
Other (please specify)	N/A	
Has the proposed activity changed as a result of the engagement?	Yes	The Strategy and its Delivery Plan have been informed by the findings and recommendations drawn out of the Call for Evidence work.
Have the results of the engagement been fed back to the consultees?	Yes (Ongoing)	Early feedback has been shared with the Safe Accommodation Working Group (SAWG). Feedback on how contributions have been used will be provided via the Ask Warwickshire platform to victim-survivors who completed the county-wide survey and feedback will also be available on publication of the Strategy.

Is further engagement or consultation recommended or planned?	Yes	Engagement will continue to ensure that the Strategy is being delivered effectively through the Safe Accommodation and VAWG Strategic Delivery Group, where the Delivery Plan will be consulted. Findings from this Strategy will be considered as part of a separate community engagement project, which has been designed to serve as a foundation for sustained co-production work with victim-survivors.
What process have you got in place to review and evaluate?	Review and evaluation will take place at quarterly Safe Accommodation and VAWG Strategic Delivery Group meetings, a sub-group of Warwickshire's Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (VAWG Board).	

Section Four: Assessing the Impact

Protected Characteristics and other groups that experience greater inequalities

What will the impact of implementing this proposal be on people who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 or are likely to be affected by the proposed activity? This section also allows you to consider other impacts, e.g. health inequalities such as deprivation, socio-economic status, vulnerable groups such as individuals who suffer socio-economic disadvantage, armed forces, carers, homelessness, people leaving prison, young people leaving care etc.

On the basis of evidence, has the potential impact of the proposed activity been judged to be positive (+), neutral (=), negative (-), or positive and negative (+&-), for each of the protected characteristic groups below and in what way?

N.B In our Guidance to EIAs we have provided you with potential questions to ask yourself when considering the impact of your proposed activity. Think about what actions you might take to mitigate / remove the negative impacts and maximize on the positive ones. This will form part of your action plan at Section Six.

	Impact type (+) (=) (-) or (+&-)	Nature of impact including health inequalities Will your proposal have negative or positive implications for each group, including on health inequalities? <i>Think about whether outcomes vary across groups and who benefits the most and least, for example, the outcome for a woman on a low income may be different to the outcome for a woman a high income.</i>	Mitigating Actions for Negative Impacts What can you do to mitigate any identified negative impacts or health inequalities? <i>Think about offering, for example, benefits advice, access to bus routes, community support, flexible opening times, creche facilities etc.</i> Use this column to form the basis of Section 6.
Age	+	<p>The refreshed Safe Accommodation Strategy and its Delivery Plan provides an opportunity to regularly and review and address the availability and suitability of services for all victim-survivors. The work undertaken to support and implement the Strategy's delivery aims to address existing gaps in the current offer, as well as barriers particular groups of victim-survivors may face in accessing safe accommodation support.</p> <p>Actions and objectives relevant to younger and older victim-survivors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide training and awareness sessions for staff and students in education settings - Alongside social care and Children and Families Teams, provide support for families impacted by DA - Explore potential barriers to accessing safe accommodation provision through ongoing victim-survivor forums - Ensure all professionals are confident with the safe accommodation referral process 	<p>The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic. However, we must be mindful that victim-survivors from certain groups may need targeted comms to be informed of the options available to them, and we will also need to work alongside different agencies and partners to better support victim-survivors with intersecting or additional needs, including social care, health, and education.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with partners and the WDVA Service to identify further opportunities for co-location - Identify avenues of support for victim-survivors with complex or additional needs - Offer Safe and Well Checks to victim-survivors in their own homes 	
Disability Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical disabilities • Sensory impairments • Neurodiverse conditions (e.g. dyslexia) • Mental health conditions (e.g. depression) • Medical conditions (e.g. diabetes) 	+	As above. Actions and objectives relevant to disabled victim-survivors include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve outcome rates for DA-related prosecutions for high-risk cases - Explore potential barriers to accessing safe accommodation provision through ongoing victim-survivor forums - Identify additional partners able to provide specialist support to minoritised and under-represented communities - Continue with the expansion of dispersed accommodation, which includes accessible units - To support those who are neuro-divergent some of the dispersed refuge accommodation units have a sensory room. 	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic. However, as there is currently only one accessible safe accommodation unit, provision may not necessarily meet demand. Warwickshire are exploring the option of additional ground floor refuge provision to support those with mobility needs.
Gender Reassignment	+	As above. Actions and objectives relevant to transgender victim-survivors include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore potential barriers to accessing safe accommodation provision through ongoing victim-survivor forums - Identify additional partners able to provide specialist support to minoritised and under-represented communities 	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic. However, continuing with the expansion of the dispersed accommodation provision is integral to ensuring that safe accommodation is

		- Continue with the expansion of dispersed accommodation, which enables male and transgender victim-survivors access to safe accommodation where they may not be accepted into traditional refuge provision	available to transgender victim-survivors in Warwickshire.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	+ & =	The existing WDVA Service, including its safe accommodation provision, is open to anyone who is experiencing or has experienced DA with a partner or ex-partner. The refreshed Strategy and its Delivery Plan will ensure that all victim-survivors are supported to stay safe regardless of whether they are in a relationship.	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic.
Pregnancy and Maternity	+ & =	Victim-survivors who are pregnant or who have recently had a baby are currently supported by the WDVA Service through its support and safe accommodation provision. The refreshed Strategy and its Delivery Plan will ensure that this continues.	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic.
Race Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour • Nationality • Citizenship • Ethnic or national origins 	+	<p>The refreshed Safe Accommodation Strategy and its Delivery Plan provides an opportunity to regularly review and address the availability and suitability of services for all victim-survivors. The work undertaken to support and implement the Strategy's delivery aims to address existing gaps in the current offer, as well as barriers particular groups of victim-survivors may face in accessing safe accommodation support.</p> <p>Actions and objectives relevant to victim-survivors from Black and minoritised communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage victim-survivors to report all incidents of DA - Design and implement dedicated comms campaigns - Explore potential barriers to accessing safe accommodation provision through ongoing victim-survivor forums 	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic. However, as there is not currently a specialist 'by and for' service in Warwickshire, the WDVA Service and all partners will need to continue to ensure that a victim-survivor's race, nationality, cultural background, or immigration status do not present additional barriers to accessing or receiving support. The delivery plan has actions to identify and explore options to

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify additional partners able to provide specialist support to minoritised and under-represented communities - Where appropriate, consider jointly commission services with district and boroughs 	address barriers victim-survivors may face.
Religion or Belief	+ & =	As above.	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic.
Sex	+	The existing WDVA Service, including its safe accommodation provision, is open to anyone who is experiencing or has experienced DA with a partner or ex-partner, regardless of their sex or gender identity. The refreshed Strategy and its Delivery Plan will ensure that the inclusivity of the existing offer is promoted clearly to both victim-survivors and professionals who work with them.	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic. However, continuing with the expansion of the dispersed accommodation provision is integral to ensuring that safe accommodation is available to male victim-survivors in Warwickshire.
Sexual Orientation	+	The existing WDVA Service, including its safe accommodation provision, is open to anyone who is experiencing or has experienced DA with a partner or ex-partner, regardless of their sexual orientation. The refreshed Strategy and its Delivery Plan will ensure that the inclusivity of the existing offer is promoted clearly to both victim-survivors and professionals who work with them so that LGBT+ victim-survivors are able to access appropriate support.	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic. However, as there is not currently a specialist 'by and for' service in Warwickshire for LGBT+ victim-survivors, the WDVA Service and all partners will need to continue to ensure that a victim-survivor's sexual orientation does not present an additional barrier to accessing or receiving support.

			The delivery plan details actions relating to addressing any barriers victim-survivors face and a range of communication and engagement activities to promote the service to all victim-survivors.
<p>Groups who may require support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who suffer socio-economic disadvantage • Armed Forces (WCC signed the Armed Forces Covenant in June 2012) • Carers • Homelessness • People leaving Prison • People leaving Care 	+ & =	<p>The refreshed Safe Accommodation Strategy and its Delivery Plan provides an opportunity to regularly and review and address the availability and suitability of services for all victim-survivors. The work undertaken to support and implement the Strategy’s delivery aims to address existing gaps in the current offer, as well as barriers particular groups of victim-survivors may face in accessing safe accommodation support.</p> <p>Actions and objectives relevant to victim-survivors who may require further support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review social landlords’ tenancy agreements - Identify additional partners able to provide specialist support to minoritised and under-represented communities - Review whether safe accommodation provision is equitable across the county - Identify and promote relevant national funds and schemes to support victim-survivors with move-on - Explore common barriers faced by victim-survivors to move on from refuge provision, including rent arrears - Increase the number of Domestic Violence Protection (DVPNs) issued to remove perpetrators from addresses to allow victim-survivors to return or stay in their home, obtain civil orders, and work with support agencies 	The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to any particular demographic.

<p>Other Identified Health Inequalities (HI) Many issues can have an impact on health: is it an area of deprivation, does every population group have equal access, unemployment, work conditions, education, skills, our living situation, rural, urban, rates of crime etc.</p>	<p>+ & =</p>	<p>The Strategy's accompanying Needs Assessment identifies that those experiencing DA are at increased risk of direct and indirect negative impacts to their physical, mental, and sexual health. Victim-survivors are likely to experience physical injury, new or worsening mental health conditions, including substance misuse problems, unintended pregnancies, pregnancy or birth complications, and sexually transmitted infections or diseases. Victim-survivors are at greater risk of becoming homeless, which in turn, may make them vulnerable to further health inequality. We also know that victim-survivors are likely to disclose experiences of DA to a healthcare professional, so ensuring equitable access to health services is important; so, too, is recognising how perpetrators may deny victim-survivors access to healthcare as a way of compounding their abuse. The NHS often works directly with victim-survivors and, per the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, also has greater involvement with perpetrator interventions. The 2017-20 Pathfinder Project highlighted the collective responsibility agencies have to share information and work together to increase the safety of those affected by DA. The Strategy has therefore sought input from partners across Warwickshire, including those in health, to ensure that the Strategy and its delivery has multi-agency support and that victim-survivors' health needs are able to be met. The Strategy's commitments to early intervention and prevention and ensuring all victim-survivors have access to suitable safe accommodation and support to return home safely or with move-on will have positive effects regarding health inequality within Warwickshire.</p>	<p>The Strategy and its delivery should not introduce negative impacts to existing health inequalities.</p>
<p>Other Groups</p>			

If there are any other groups			
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Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

Public Authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. Please evidence how your proposed activity meets our obligations under the PSED.

	Evidence of Due Regard
<p>Eliminate unlawful discrimination (harrasment, victimisation and other prohibited conduct):</p>	<p>We know that many victim-survivors, particularly those with protected characteristics, face additional barriers to making disclosures and accessing support for DA, including safe accommodation. This includes older people, marginalised communities and minority ethnic communities, refugees or those with insecure immigration status, and those with additional care or support needs. WCC, partner statutory agencies, and safe accommodation providers are committed to ensuring that our services are and remain inclusive and accessible to all. This Strategy will commit partners in Warwickshire to work together and strengthen our joint efforts to ensure that all victim-survivors have access to safe accommodation and support.</p>
<p>Advance equality of opportunity:</p> <p>This involves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of 	<p>As above.</p> <p>Through the Call for Evidence work conducted for the Strategy's accompanying Needs Assessment, we have worked to understand victim-survivor's varying needs, possible gaps, and existing barriers to accessing safe accommodation to inform the Strategy.</p>

<p>other people, for example, taking steps to take account of people with disabilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encouraging people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low. 	
<p>Foster good relations:</p> <p>This means tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups and communities.</p>	<p>The Strategy's Delivery Plan will include actions relating to raising awareness of the existing safe accommodation offer and the impact access to appropriate accommodation and support has on different communities and groups.</p>

Section Five: Partners / Stakeholders

Which sectors are likely to have an interest in or be affected by the proposed activity?	Yes / No	Describe the interest / affect
Businesses	No	
Councils	Yes	The strategy and delivery plan have specific actions relating to the D&B housing teams regarding supporting DA victim-survivors.
Education Sector	Yes	Within the strategy and delivery plan there are specific actions related to raising awareness and training within the education sector.

Fire and Rescue	Yes	Within the strategy there is an action related to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue to provide support to refuge provisions to ensure these are safe and residents have safety advice.
Governance Structures	Yes	The relevant boards will be updated on the activities relating to the implementation of the strategy and delivery plan actions on a regular basis. This may include decisions/review on commissioning activities.
NHS	Yes	As a partnership strategy there will be a requirement for all partners including NHS to work collaboratively with WCC in supporting victim-survivors of DA.
Police	Yes	Within the strategy and delivery plan there are actions specifically relating to Warwickshire Police activities to support victim-survivors.
Voluntary and Community Sector	Yes	Warwickshire County Council will be working closely with voluntary and community sector to enable a multi-agency approach to supporting victim-survivors of DA.
Other(s): please list and describe the nature of the relationship / impact		It is worth noting that the strategy is a partnership strategy and has been developed with Warwickshire partners who work closely with Warwickshire County Council.

Section Six: Action Planning

If you have identified impacts on protected characteristic groups in Section Four, please summarise these in the table below detailing the actions you are taking to mitigate or support this impact. It is also important to consider how often this E.I.A. will be reviewed, and who is responsible for doing this. If you are not taking any action to support or mitigate the impact, you should complete the No Mitigating Actions section below instead.

Mitigating Actions

Consider:

- Who else do you need to talk to? Do you need to engage or consult?
- How you will ensure your activity is clearly communicated
- Whether you could mitigate any negative impacts or build on positive impacts for protected groups or health inequalities
- Whether you could do more to fulfil the aims of the PSED
- How you will monitor and evaluate the effect of this work
- Anything else you can think of!

Identified Impact	Action(s)	Timescale incl. evaluation and review date	Name of person responsible
	Review and monitor EIA in line with developments, including engagement and consultation.	Annually	Domestic Abuse Commissioner
Barriers to engagement with the Call for Evidence	To consider and identify potential barriers for some groups to participate in surveys when designing the engagement		Safe Accommodation Commissioner and SAWG partners

	approach, and to mitigate these where practicably possible. COMPLETE		
Actions emerging from the Strategy's Delivery Plan having an impact on certain groups with protected characteristics	To develop a Delivery Plan that pays particular attention to older, male, and transgender victim-survivors, those from minoritised communities, and those with disabilities or care needs; to use national evidence and best practice to address gaps observed locally. ONGOING		Domestic Abuse Commissioner and the Safe Accommodation and VAWG Strategic Delivery Group

No Mitigating Actions

Please explain why you do not need to take any action to mitigate or support the impact of your proposed activity.

Section Seven: Assessment Outcome


Only one of following statements best matches your assessment of this proposed activity. Please select one and provide your reasons.

No major change required	Yes	The Safe Accommodation Strategy has taken into consideration all victim-survivors of DA however it is worth noting that there are areas of focus to ensure that all victim-survivors regardless of their protected characteristics report DA and reach out to support services.
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The proposal has to be adjusted to reduce impact on protected characteristic groups and/or health inequalities		
Continue with the proposal but it is not possible to remove all the risk to protected characteristic groups and/or health inequalities		
Stop the proposal as it is potentially in breach of equality legislation		

Section Eight: Sign Off

N.B To be completed after the EIA is completed but before the area of work commences.

Name of person/s completing EIA	Rianne Houghton (CSO) Amy Hilton (Domestic Abuse Commissioner – Safe Accommodation)
Name and signature of Director	Dr Shade Agboola, Director of Public Health WCC 
Date	24.10.24
Date of next review and name of person/s responsible	

Once signed off, please ensure the EIA is uploaded using the following form. Please name it “EIA [project] [service area] [year]”: [Upload Completed Equality Impact Assessments](#)

These will be stored on a [Sharepoint library](#) which Warwickshire County Council colleagues can access.

It is the responsibility of the individuals and teams who completed the EIA to review it regularly and to carry out any required activities in line with the action plan made.

For advice or support, please contact equalities@warwickshire.gov.uk.