

Domestic Abuse Action Plan 2025 – 2028

Introduction

This action plan sits alongside the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025 -2028 and will be reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis at Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board meetings.

Progress will be reported to the Community Safety Partnership via a quarterly report.

This is a working document that will change over the lifetime of the Strategy as tasks are completed and new ones are added.

Abbreviations

- DAC – Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- DALPB – Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
- HC - Herefordshire Council
- ICB – Integrated Care Board
- MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- PCC – Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia
- WMWA – West Mercia Women’s Aid

Priority 1 – Improve awareness and prevention

No.	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
1	Seek funding for the continuation of the IRIS programme; domestic abuse training for GP practices with a clear referral and support pathway.	ICB, WMWA and HC public health	February 2025		Applications made, but funding not yet secured.

No.	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
2	Review impact of healthy relationships education in schools and invest in what works.	HC DA coordinator	Review impact of all existing provision by end December 2025		Mapping of current provision completed by HC public health during 2024. Serious violence funding used to commission West Mercia wide provision for role out in early 2025.
3	Work with partners to develop a social media campaign for Herefordshire that supports wider understanding of domestic abuse and promotes services.	HC communications	June 2025		HC promotion of local services and key information around domestic abuse completed in 2024. Request for comms support to aid the development of a Herefordshire wide media campaign.
4	Continue to invest in specialist domestic abuse roles in preventive services, subject to Public Health Grant and MHCLG funding. Review services annually. Consider costs, utilisation, feedback on impact and best practice.	HC commissioning	Ongoing		Four DA services currently commissioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA Support Services – WMWA • Safe Accommodation and Floating Support – Stonewater Ltd • Support for men and boys – Cranstoun • Lived experience advisory network co-ordination – WMWA
5	Further integrate prevention in any recommissioning activity.	HC commissioning	Existing contracts to be extended until 31.03.26. Review during 2025.		There is an element of prevention in the existing contracts, but this will be reviewed if services are re-commissioned.
6	Continue to promote Claire Law and Sarah's Law to communities, volunteers and professionals	Promote through HC website and via social media campaign	Ongoing		Complete Protect someone – Herefordshire Council

Priority 2 - Improving understanding of domestic abuse and support services

	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
7	Work with partners and council teams to improve / increase data collection for future domestic abuse needs assessment to support the ongoing growth of our understanding of need.	HC DA coordinator	Conversations with individual teams and organisations re data collection to be completed by end of 2025.		Data collection templates to be agreed by DALPB. Next full needs assessment to be undertaken in 2027 to inform new strategy in 2028.
8	Continue to invest in and review a domestic abuse training programme for community, volunteers and professionals. Focus needs to be on coercive control and its impact and the importance of language e.g. non victim blaming	HC commissioner and resilience team	May 2025		Training offer updated in 2024. Promoted and bookable through Safeguarding Board. Review numbers attending and feedback and amend training content as needed. Data to be shared with the DALPB annually. Funding not secured for 2025/26
9	Work to ensure that domestic abuse training is mandatory for all social care teams.	HC social care teams	April 2025		Already mandatory of Adult Social Care. Follow up with Children's Social Care.
10	Actively challenge victim blaming and placing all the responsibility on the victim across all services	DALPB partners	Ongoing		Addressed through training programme. Onus on all partner services to address victim blaming language and beliefs – Action taken by organisations to address this will be reviewed annually by DA LPB as an agenda item. This

	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
					could include value based recruitment to test out attitudes and beliefs around domestic abuse.
11	Continue to work with victims of domestic abuse to place them at the heart of the process and empower them to be part of the solution. Ensure feedback from DA LPB.	HC commissioner WMWA DALPB members	Ongoing		Continue to work with lived experience advisory network. Integrate co-production into commissioning cycle. Ensure feedback loop is completed through DA LPB.
12	Work to influence domestic abuse training for wider professionals e.g. police, magistrates etc	All	Ongoing		Action taken by organisations to address this will be reviewed annually by DA LPB as an agenda item.
13	Work with Adult Social Care colleagues to gain greater insight into the prevalence of elder abuse in Herefordshire.	HC adult social care HC DA co-ordinator	December 2024		Some work already completed. Work together to understand what data is currently available and what data is needed. Linked to action number 7. Share data with DA LPB and use it to inform needs assessment in 2027.
14	Ensure that all recommendations from domestic abuse homicide reports are routinely shared with the DA LPB so that learning can be incorporated into future working.	Safeguarding Board DA co-ordinator	Ongoing		Recommendations from latest DHR's brought to DA LPB. Action plan to be updated as required.
15	Work to secure ongoing investment and improve access to Sanctuary Scheme (target hardening) measures in Herefordshire, enabling victims to stay in their own homes, where it is deemed safe to do so.	HC commissioning	March 2025		Funding requested through DA element of the Homelessness Prevention Grant.

	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
16	Work to further understand the relationship between domestic abuse and the increased risk of suicide for victims. Research on intimate partner violence, suicidality and self-harm showed that past-year suicide attempts were 2 to 3 times more common in victims of intimate partner violence than non-victims. Tackling domestic abuse and identifying victims, including children who witness abuse, is key to preventing related suicides.	HC public health DALPB partners	September 2025		Work with Public Health Suicide Prevention Lead. Add to agenda for DA LPB and review annually.

Priority 3 - Improve joint working and coordination across services

	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
17	Implement recommendations of the Safe Lives Review.	All	Review progress annually.		DA LPB to consider recommendations and review progress annually. Action plan to be updated with any outstanding or further actions as required.
18	Continue to actively participate in the Family Courts working group established by colleagues in Worcestershire.	WMWA HC DA co-ordinator	Ongoing		Standing item on DA LPB so updated quarterly. Action plan to be updated with any specific actions for DA LPB that arise over the lifetime of the Strategy.
19	Work with partners to address the perceived lack of support for low-medium risk clients and the waiting lists for commissioned services.	Commissioned Service Providers HC communications	Ongoing		Commissioned Service Providers to promote services across social care teams and participate in DA professionals network meetings.

	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
		HC commissioner and DA co-ordinator			HC to promote services through schools, health services, commissioned and other local services, , talk community as well as websites and social media.
20	Continue to work with partners to ensure consistent attendance at and a clearer focus on addressing the behaviours of those who harm within Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC).	DALPB partners	Ongoing		MARAC Governance is a standing issue on the DA LPB agenda so this is reviewed quarterly. This is one of the recommendations of the SafeLives Review, so will also be monitored through action 17.
21	Continue to run and develop domestic abuse professionals' network to foster professional relationships and understanding of who does what across the domestic abuse system.	HC DA co-ordinator Safeguarding Board	Bi- monthly meetings		Meetings planned with clear agendas and priorities up until Summer 2025. DA co-ordinator to seek feedback and consider if and how these sessions should continue.
22	Work with domestic abuse commissioner to explore the use of 'tell me once' models for domestic abuse.	HC DA co-ordinator	September 2025		Initial enquiries made. Meeting to be arranged with DAC and colleagues from Worcestershire County Council.
23	Explore systems that involve victims from the start, empowering victims to be part of the solution.	DALPB partners	Ongoing		DA LPB representatives to bring new ideas and recommendations to meetings.
24	Continue to improve access to safe accommodation with support and move on.	HC commissioner HC housing solutions team	Ongoing		New Home Point system has been launched. System and allocations policy for Herefordshire updated to provide clarity around banding for victims of domestic abuse.

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25	Work with commissioned partners and registered providers to increase the number of accessible units of safe accommodation. services.	HC commissioner Commissioned Service Providers	Ongoing		Number of accessible units is very limited. Commissioner to monitor and report back to DA LPB.
26	Increase the number of housing staff who have a specialist knowledge of domestic abuse and can build a strong rapport with relevant	HC Housing Solutions	December 2025 and annually thereafter.		Training content and attendance to be monitored as part of action 8. Information to be shared with the DA LPB annually.
27	Promote the use of the 'special circumstances' clause in section 106 agreements to enable more flexibility around affordable and social housing that requires a local connection	HC Strategic Housing	Ongoing		Special circumstances clause to be promoted in housing newsletter in January 2025. Allocations Policy updated to clarify difference between local connection required for registration with Home Point and section 106 local connection.
28	Work with the domestic abuse commissioner to influence greater flexibility around section 106 agreements and domestic abuse.	HC Commissioning HC Strategic Housing	Ongoing		Initial enquiry made with DAC. Referred to Standing Together who are gathering information about this issue to report back to the DAC and MHCLG. DA LPB to be updated as required.
29	Work with domestic abuse specialist services to promote their services to social care teams to increase referrals, particularly for children and young people.	Commissioned Service Providers Social Care Teams HC commissioner	Ongoing		Links to actions 19 and 21.

Priority 4 - Hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour

	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
30	<p>Work to influence the use and enforcement of protective orders e.g. domestic violence prevention notice, domestic violence prevention orders, restraining orders etc.</p> <p>Feedback from victims has indicated that inconsistent enforcement leads to a lack of trust in these measures.</p>	<p>Police</p> <p>DALPB partners</p>	Ongoing		<p>Powers and processes promoted through DA professionals network.</p> <p>To be monitored by DA LPB via annual update on numbers and impact.</p> <p>Continue to ask for feedback from people with lived experience on this issue.</p>
31	<p>Continue to develop training opportunities for professionals to empower them to work with perpetrators so that they can be held accountable for their behaviours</p>	<p>HC commissioner</p> <p>Commissioned Service Providers</p>	Ongoing		<p>Working with Perpetrators training delivered by Cranstoun in November 2024. A further date has been confirmed for January 2025.</p> <p>Courageous Conversations Training scheduled for 2025 as part of commissioned training offer.</p>
32	<p>Continue to work closely with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) around the effectiveness of, and investment in perpetrator programmes in Herefordshire.</p>	<p>HC commissioner</p> <p>PCC</p> <p>HC resilience team</p>	Annually		<p>Review of progress, impact, barriers and opportunities to be reported back to DA LPB annually.</p>
33	<p>Work with Police colleagues to further explore ways to increase the number of incidents where victims support police action.</p>	<p>Police</p> <p>DA LPB partners</p>	Annually		<p>Review of numbers, progress, barriers and opportunities to be reported back to DA LPB annually.</p>
34	<p>More consideration is needed around the provision of housing for perpetrators (where the</p>	<p>HC commissioning</p>	Annually		<p>Review of numbers, progress, barriers and opportunities to be reported back to DA LPB annually</p>

	Action	Lead Organisation	Timescales	RAG	Progress
	victim/survivor wishes to remain in their own home).	HC strategic housing team HC housing solutions team			