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|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Title</b>             | Middlesbrough Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 |                                                    |                |  |
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## Foreword

Welcome to Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategy. This strategy builds on the strong foundations established via the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy (2019) and Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation strategy (2021).

Domestic Abuse is pervasive and has far reaching effects which can shatter the lives of victims and their children and our local communities. We know that it can have devastating consequences. Locally the prevalence of domestic abuse is high, and we have seen some incidents within recent years that have led to the death of victims which have resulted in domestic homicide reviews, Sadly, we also know people are driven to take their own lives as a result of the impact of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse is a cross-cutting theme and effective protection, support and prevention is reliant on maintaining a strong system wide partnership across Middlesbrough. It is our duty as Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to ensure that victims and their children have access to the specialist support and safe accommodation, they need via a range of options to ensure a strong safety net for anyone experiencing or facing the threat of domestic abuse. It is also crucial to provide ongoing support as victims and their children rebuild their lives after the trauma of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse is a challenging issue for the Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board and remains a huge burden on public funds. This Strategy sets out a multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse and focuses on prevention which incorporates promoting awareness, protecting and supporting victims and their children and improving performance. It recognises we have a collective responsibility to ensure we stop domestic abuse before it starts and to do this, we must address the attitudes and behaviours that contribute to the cultural acceptance of Domestic Abuse in our communities. Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board acknowledges that, tackling known perpetrators and preventing perpetration is also a priority which is addressed within the Tees-wide Domestic Abuse Perpetration Strategy 2025-2035 for this reason priorities around tackling Domestic Abuse perpetration will not be included in the scope of this strategy. There are two initiatives which Cleveland Police and Cleveland Office of Police Crime Commissioner have been selected to pilot by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice which will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Perpetration Strategy 2025-2035 but also monitored via this strategy. The Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPO) Pilot which launched in March 2025 and provides protection for victims of domestic abuse and the Drive Project, which offers intensive case management for high risk perpetrators which will be implemented in January 2026.

As Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership, we have raised public awareness of the needs and experiences of victims and survivors of domestic abuse and that domestic abuse is unacceptable by continually promoting education, training and action to prevent it. A key element of this has to been to work in collaboration with Domestic Abuse specialist services to develop a survivor panel to increase understanding of experiences and barriers they have faced, funding a

specialist service to identify, and train ASK ME community ambassadors who can recognise and respond to Domestic Abuse.

We have also driven innovation in improving the response to Domestic Abuse and are proud to have supported and funded one of our specialist domestic abuse services to continue to deliver the gold standard IRIS Programme which has been successfully embedded across Primary care services. This has had a significant impact on how we identify hidden victims who may not ordinarily have disclosed or accessed specialist services.

Despite the partnership achievements we recognise we still have a lot of work to do to achieve our vision and ensure all our Middlesbrough residents can live free from domestic abuse and work toward the Government aims to halve violence against women and girls in next ten years. This Strategy is supported by a sound evidence base and has been refreshed in response to the strengths and areas for improvement identified in the Strategic Needs Assessment approved in July 2025. This Needs Assessment consulted with professionals, services and victims and survivors to understand local need. The views of the participants have been invaluable, and we want to thank them for their insight, openness and honesty. We understand how difficult it is to share experiences, but we are determined to use this to make a difference, so no one ever feels trapped and alone.

The purpose of this document is to outline the high-level strategic intentions and set out how we will bring together key partners to provide strategic leadership to drive improvements in how we tackle and prevent Domestic Abuse in Middlesbrough.

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## **1. Introduction**

In 2019 Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership launched a Domestic Abuse Strategy which detailed our commitment to prevent domestic abuse, and later in 2021 the Middlesbrough Safe Accommodation Strategy. This Strategy will now replace both previously published strategies. It adopts the Definition of Domestic Abuse as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. There is now a statutory duty on Local Authorities to bring together key local partners, including local specialist domestic abuse services, in a local domestic abuse local partnership board which also involve survivors.

Since 2019 we have made steady progress with key achievements including:

- Committed executive members take responsibility for Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda
- Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership has appropriate and balanced representation to champion the interests of victims and survivors
- The Domestic Abuse Strategic lead is experienced and takes a lead role in partnership coordination regarding Domestic Abuse policy, practice and commissioning
- A nominated and appropriately skilled officer will be responsible for domestic abuse data collection and management information, and this will be collected centrally and hosted on a dashboard.
- We commissioned an integrated Protect and Support service for adult victims and survivors which created a single point of access and ensured a more coordinated response for victims in needs of different types of support and intervention.
- We provided funding and supported a specialist service to launch and embed IRIS which is a gold standard initiative.
- We have commissioned a therapeutic child and Young Person service, which ensures children who have experienced domestic abuse have access to therapy and we have a dedicated Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) for children and young people experiencing abuse in their intimate partners relationships
- We commissioned high quality domestic abuse training which has been delivered across children and adults' services, so staff are better equipped, to improve both their understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse and coercive control, and how to respond effectively
- We provided funding for a Domestic Abuse Senior Practitioner in the Multi Agency Children's Hub (MACH) to improve screening and engagement for vulnerable victims and children
- We have increased IDVA provision to try and meet Safe Lives recommendations
- We commissioned a range of safe accommodation, including refuge, sanctuary, dispersed and semi-independent move on scheme.
- We created a Flexible Flee Fund which has helped ensure victims and children with no recourse to public funds can access safe accommodation options without being turned away from support.
- The commissioned Specialist services have created a supportive and nurturing environment for service users and staff and have strong emphasis on partnership work.
- We funded a Domestic Abuse Navigator role, so victims placed in emergency interim accommodation have swift access to food/ clothing / additional support and identify alternative safe or more suitable accommodation quickly
- We developed a survivor panel alongside domestic abuse and sexual violence services to help inform service development and review and increase victims' confidence and engagement.
- We updated our website and published leaflets, so people have a clearer understanding of what Domestic Abuse services are available in Middlesbrough and what support pathways are in place across all organisations.

- We participated in the co-production of a Tees-wide Tackling Perpetration Strategy to ensure victim-survivor voices inform responses to tackling perpetrators and prevention of perpetration

Building on our work, this Strategy sets out how we will continue to tackle domestic abuse over the next three years. It aims to strengthen our response further and deliver on key strategic objectives in relation to preventing domestic abuse, prioritising emergency and long-term support for victims-survivors and their children and developing a whole system response with an informed workforce across partnership. This strategy sits alongside other multiple strategies and related policies and encompasses local need assessment, audit and review learning and recommendations. It has been informed by victims-survivors, professionals and key stakeholders.

## **2. Legislative, regulatory and governance framework**

There has been a significant amount of policy and legislative activity to address domestic abuse. Most notably, the landmark Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan 2022 was published. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 creates the first statutory definition of domestic abuse which includes not only physical violence, but that of emotional, coercive and controlling behaviour and economic abuse. The Act introduces new criminal offences, including the threat to publish intimate images, non-fatal strangulation, and extends the offence of controlling and coercive behaviour to apply post-separation. Under the Act, children receive statutory recognition as ‘victims’ rather than ‘witnesses’ if they see, hear or experience abuse, and statutory duties are placed on local Authorities to provide accommodation support for victims-survivors and their children. The Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan identifies the key problem areas requiring action and details the approach to addressing these issues by prioritising prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and creating a stronger system.

The Strategy, vision and strategic aims underpin the Middlesbrough Council plan ambitions related to a healthy place and safe resilient communities. Preventing Domestic Abuse is paramount if Middlesbrough is going to make any progress on priorities, such as reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, promoting inclusivity for all, reducing poverty, preventing homelessness and improving peoples physical and mental health.

## **3. Vision**

Our vision is that through this Domestic Abuse Strategy we want to intervene and keep more people safe, reduce the occurrence of domestic abuse and repeat victimisation and end the harm caused by all forms of domestic abuse to people in Middlesbrough.

## **4. Strategic Aims**

### **Prevention**

- Increase awareness across all sections of communities in Middlesbrough that violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is unacceptable to enable us to prevent domestic abuse happening in first place.
- Ensure we have appropriately skilled and knowledgeable workforce across partnership who can respond effectively to domestic abuse and get it right first time.
- Increased awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.

### **Protect and Support**

- Victims-Survivors and their children experiencing any form of domestic abuse are offered appropriate support and assistance as early in their experience as possible.
- Victims-Survivors and their children are protected and supported and are met by effective collaborative victim led support which ensures a safe space for action.
- Victims-Survivors and their children are supported long term to recover from trauma and abuse and increase resilience over time.
- Victims-Survivors and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse are able to access safe accommodation that is appropriate to their individual needs, inside and outside of Middlesbrough
- Victims-Survivors experiencing domestic abuse who wish to remain in their home can do so safely to prevent them from becoming homeless and/or their risk escalating.
- Victims-Survivors with protected characteristics are given choice and able to access a range of specialist services for survivors led by and for the communities they serve.

### **Performance**

- For Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to create a shared agenda for preventing domestic abuse across whole partnership.
- Establish a coordinated partnership working at multiple levels, with a range of statutory and voluntary services.

## **5. Current Position**

### **Protect and Support**

Improved screening within various settings has increased the identification of domestic abuse and subsequently increase demand over last five years. Services have become

overwhelmed by the frequency and complexity of Domestic Abuse incidents, particularly with higher risk cases. The accumulative impact of repeat incidents, which are at a high level in Middlesbrough are not always appreciated or managed effectively within as a multi-agency partnership. It is essential we develop a system and well-coordinated process to cope with high demand.

The Domestic Abuse contracts commissioned in April 2021 immediately identified capacity issues, particularly in relation to referral and response and IDVA provision. The provider market did not feel they were effectively resourced to respond to the existing demand.

Domestic Abuse services are not available at a weekend, outside of work hours and at key times when victims are most likely to need them. Current delivery is now heavily weighted towards crisis intervention therefore limited availability of long-term support services for victims who have left abusive relationships.

At the point of accessing services, victims and their children are often at crisis point and require a risk management approach from services. There is evidence that some statutory services withdraw once a victim-survivor has engaged a specialist service, and / or they have left the abuser which is a critical time which requires a multi-agency response.

It is imperative we sustain and further develop the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) to contribute to a reduction in the victim withdrawal rate and help ensure positive outcomes for victims and their children. Delays with court cases, which in turn impacts on IDVAs ability to respond and manage caseloads.

A high volume of cases concerning Domestic Abuse relate to Cleveland Police Public Protection Notification (PPN) and High, Medium and Standard cases are directed to a single Protect and Support Service which creates a burden on that service to risk assess and triage all cases and this does not seem to improve outcomes for all victims-survivors as many do not go on to engage.

## **Statutory Services**

There is a need to increase confidence and professional practice to ensure the victim is not relied on as the solution and /or held accountable for safeguarding their children and instead increase understanding of coercive control and for professionals to recognise the potential they have to enable victims to expand their 'space for action'.

Children's services do not have evidence-based model specifically focused on domestic abuse despite this impacting on a significant proportion of their families.

We need to recognise the need to create opportunities for 'safe space for action' and understand some of the challenges/ barriers victims face when accessing domestic abuse services, such as travel costs, childcare and full-time employment which makes a traumatic situation even more difficult for victims- survivors and their children, particularly if this imposed as part of a protection plan.

The Freedom Programme is a voluntary programme for victims and survivors to help understand domestic abuse and break cycle, but it is being included as a conditional

requirement of child protection plans/ assessments which is impacting on engagement and motivation of participants.

There is a gap in relation to family work for which provides partial and emotional support to families experiencing domestic abuse to improve family wellbeing and safety and work with social services and agencies to offer early intervention work. Work with children who have experience domestic abuse needs to incorporate a range of interventions, which are age appropriate including therapeutic interventions.

We currently do not have a commissioned programme or service for those families experiencing Child/Adolescent Parent Violence & Abuse (CAPVA). Front line services support families who have disclosed but response and recording is inconsistent and often does not prevent an escalation in severity or police involvement.

### **Safe Accommodation**

There is a continued challenge of refuge accommodation not being suitable for some victims. Some victim's needs cannot be supported by a refuge model, with some struggling to cope in a refuge environment and the expectations of them.

There is still not sufficiently diverse safe accommodation options for victims and their children, and we lack suitable safe accommodation provision for victims with complex need and or protected characteristics such as adapted properties and/ or larger properties for black and migrant families who may be multi-generational and need to stay together.

Delays due to internal processes and screening in some safe accommodation can cause delays for victims being able to access emergency safe accommodation. Despite a shared system and working within ACT the safe accommodation pathways between providers is still disjointed and heavily reliant on routes to support.

### **Protected Characteristics**

Middlesbrough's population is increasing and becoming more diverse so there is a growing need to ensure we can provide specialist support as and when required for victims with protected characteristics.

We know from research that some groups are at greater risk of becoming a victim, including people with disabilities, some ethnic groups and where relationship inequalities exist and sometimes those victims are hidden from statutory and Domestic Abuse Specialist services.

Victims-survivors experiencing abuse who may have limited access to public funding due to their immigration status may be highly vulnerable, their status may be an additional way for a person using abusive behaviour to control them. Dependent on their situation there may be opportunities to support them under various legislation which might include the Care Act (2014) and the Children Act (Section 17, 1989) and the Human Rights Act (1998). The Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board will work where possible to support those impacted by abuse where limits to public funds may be in place using this legislation and via the flexible flee fund

set up in Middlesbrough and improve professional knowledge in relation to available routes of support.

We are facing challenges in Middlesbrough in relation to delays in accessing legal/immigration appointments for victims and survivors of domestic abuse but also professionals understanding of process which is resulting in victims and children's being funded in costly placements / and receiving payments longer than is necessary.

There is a need to build cultural competence and understanding across wider system statutory services are relying heavily on Domestic Abuse services to risk assess and action protective measures, particularly in relation to Honour Based Abuse and Forced marriage cases.

### **Domestic Abuse and Homelessness**

Interim emergency accommodation is used in a large proportion of domestic abuse cases. The housing crisis has impacted on the housing market and availability of long-term accommodation options has significantly reduced or no longer affordable, so victims-survivors are waiting longer on the social housing register even if they have been given priority banding.

Preventative options are not sufficiently explored to mitigate risks if someone is identified as at risk of homelessness.

We do not have a suitable central building to offer gender and trauma informed appointments for those at risk of homelessness and experiencing domestic abuse.

Middlesbrough is experiencing a housing crisis, for a long time there has been expectation that if someone experiences domestic abuse they should be moved. In Middlesbrough some of those victims-survivors refuse safe accommodation options and emergency interim accommodation and wish to remain in existing property until an alternative is identified. In the social housing systems, Band 1 typically represents the highest priority for rehousing. This band is reserved for those with the most urgent housing needs, such as those facing severe and immediate risks. Currently in Middlesbrough there are too many applicants in Band 1, which can lead to a situation where the overall movement on the register is slow, as those with the highest priority are considered first, and there may be limited availability of suitable properties. The Common Allocation Policy has recently been updated August 2025. Victims-survivors who have lost/or are at risk of losing their accommodation due to violence or the threat of violence will be considered Band 1 urgent housing need, but it introduces a change that when looking at safety, moves within the same or neighbouring postcode would not be considered as this may not sufficiently reduce the risk of Domestic Abuse. Some victims-survivors may receive a direct offer of housing. Victims-survivors will continue to not need to have a local connection in line with statutory guidance.

### **Domestic Abuse and Complex Needs**

Mental health is identified as one of primary issues adult victims are experiencing when accessing services. A victim's capacity to consent or their capacity to make decisions can fluctuate dependant on their mental health, and the scale of how coercive abuse might be limiting their freedom. Consultation has highlighted that

mental health services may not have some of the key components related to their response such as routine enquiry and / or women-only services.

If a victim-survivor has needs in relation to mental health, substance misuse or offending history they can face barriers to accessing safe accommodation.

There are complex need cases with significant domestic abuse who currently are being supported via statutory services and / or referred to High Risk Adults Panel who have either not consented / or have not engaged with domestic abuse services and / or are not able to access existing safe accommodation. There are missed opportunities to engage with some of those victims and create safe space for action as many require a time intensive assertive approach/ and more specialist complex need accommodation which is not currently commissioned.

Increasingly the term bidirectional abuse is being used by professionals to describe situations where there are counter allegations, and some victims are being labelled as perpetrators as a result of this. To prevent this problem and ensuring there is appropriate risk assessment requires system change to understand what the underlying causes and issues are and understand what support needs are of those experiencing this.

## **Prevention**

We need to strengthen the approach in relation to domestic abuse and suicide to ensure when victim suicide is suspected that perpetrators are still held to account and post-houmous charges and convictions considered.

It is essential that we address misogyny and teach young people about healthy relationships and consent.

Domestic Abuse Champions in workforce are vitally important to ensure that employees have a safe working environment and to ensure that employers, who can provide a safe haven are equipped to respond. Domestic Abuse Champion training is no longer routinely offered or available for employers.

## **6. Strategic Objectives**

### **Prevention**

- Balance awareness raising and targeting of services to ensure that we do not alienate victims. This particularly relates to male victims, victims from ethnically minoritized and migrant communities, disabled victims and/ or those from LGBT communities.
- Through the Tees-wide Perpetrator Strategy we will consider what support pathways are available / and or what is needed for 16 to 18-year-olds displaying perpetrator behaviour to educate them about healthy relationships and challenge behaviour before it becomes entrenched.
- Work with the Suicide Prevention Coordinator to set up a task and finish group aligned with the Suicide Prevention Strategy to increase understanding and raise

awareness and understanding of connection and risks in relation to domestic abuse and suicide.

- The Ask Me Ambassadors training would have greater reach if linked with TSAB Safe Place scheme and would create a network of locations and venues equipped to respond to ask and act if domestic abuse was disclosed.
- Domestic Abuse Champion Training needs to be commissioned so this is available across Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.

## **Protect & Support**

- The Senior Practitioner post in MACH should be full time to respond to volume of DA cases requiring screening.
- A Senior practitioner post should be created in the Adult Access Team to improve screening and ensure a domestic abuse lens when making enquiries for adults with identified care and support needs.
- A suitable space or building should be identified so Victims-Survivors in crisis can access emergency community based or homelessness prevention support in a safe confidential and accessible location
- Sustain the flexible flee fund for victims-survivors with no recourse to public funds and /or barriers to accessing safe accommodation.
- We will work with Cleveland Office Police Crime Commissioner though the Tees-wide Tackling Perpetration Strategy to understand need and demand in relation to children and adolescent parent violence and explore opportunities for collaboration and co-commissioning around pathways and specialist intervention for children.
- We will commission complex need accommodation with the specialist and therapeutic support needed to ensure it meets definition of 'safe accommodation and has a high-level staffing / supervision.
- We will negotiate a contract with approved immigration provider so victims with NRPF and /or insecure immigration status can access advice, case work and advocacy support in a timely way.
- Provide additional funding to IRIS programme so it can be responsive to increasing demand in relation to hidden victims with protected characteristics and train and provider refresher training to every GP surgery in Middlesbrough.
- Sustain arrangement with translation service.
- Sustain accessible refuge provision along with developing, retaining and increasing safe and affordable emergency and long-term accommodation and dispersal options.
- A By and For Framework Service specification will be developed which will establish a set of terms and conditions, including pricing, scope of services, and quality standards.

## **Partnerships**

- Continue a strategic level to review governance arrangements and evaluate roles and responsibilities within MARAC to improve effectiveness ensure they are delivering what is required to embed all recommendations from a review
- Victim / Survivor Panel Engagement will be incorporated into all Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence contracts and a financial enhancement applied to build capacity for domestic abuse and sexual violence services to continue supporting the work of Middlesbrough Survivor Panel.
- Survivors Panel will be involved in evaluation and review of services to ensure all services are meeting needs of domestic abuse victims-survivors.
- Develop internal escalation routes for raising issues of concern, particularly in relation to safeguarding victims or children living with domestic abuse. Clear single points of contact with appropriate expertise will be identified in both adults and children services.
- Adults and Children's services will work together to address risks and recommendations from Internal Audit which will in turn improve multi agency response. This needs to be regularly reviewed and ensure learning from the audit is embedded into practice across adult and children services
- A guidance document will be developed between adults and children directorates so they appropriately share data and increase understanding on thresholds for safeguarding or risk.
- An Information sharing protocol will be agreed between Cleveland Police and Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership and arrangements made for the Middlesbrough Council analyst to have access to police system.
- Standard PPN cases will not be referred to Domestic Abuse specialist services and will instead be issued with leaflets and encouraged to self-refer which will ensure those who seek support are ready and enable Specialist DA service to focus resource on high / medium cases.
- Children's services will evaluate what evidence base practice model is going to be most effective with high levels of domestic abuse and introduce the systematic changes needed to embed a that model.
- Participate in the work of the Tees-wide Perpetration Strategy delivery plan to prevent occurrence, escalation and harm caused by Domestic Abuse perpetration and feedback performance to Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.

## **Performance**

- Where possible collaborative commissioning opportunities will be introduced.
- Agree performance monitoring framework for providers with standardised reporting and outcome monitoring tool to ensure more meaningful trend data is routinely available to inform the Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board.
- A central dashboard will be developed to measure progress, so performance challenge is used as a driver for change

## 7. Implementation

| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Action Lead                           | Objective           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Work needs to be undertaken with police, so they understand commissioning arrangements for Domestic Abuse Services. PPNs are being referred to DA services that are not appropriate which is causing a significant pressure on services. A system change solution needs to be identified and implemented | Cleveland Police                      | Protect and Support |
| Work is undertaken with Police representatives to ensure PPNs directed to Domestic Abuse specialist service meet criteria for service based on commissioning arrangements                                                                                                                                | Cleveland Police<br>DA strategic lead | Protect and Support |
| Clear single points of contact with appropriate expertise will be identified in both adults and children services.                                                                                                                                                                                       | Adult and Children Services           | Partnerships        |
| Promotion of Sanctuary Scheme to partner agencies to ensure this and other preventive accommodation options are explored fully with victim and children rather than immediate referral to refuge.                                                                                                        | DA strategic lead                     | Protect and Support |
| DA Analyst will develop dashboard and collate data centrally so performance reports can be provided to DASP on a quarterly basis. Work will be undertaken on CDP to ensure reports can be collated for all safe accommodation which accurately informs annual delta return                               | ACT Middlesbrough Analyst             | Performance         |
| Information sharing agreement will be signed off with Cleveland Police                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Domestic Abuse Strategic lead         | Performance         |
| Approved Immigration advice will be arranged and contract awarded to approved provider so timely clinics and case work is available for NRPF cases within Local authority                                                                                                                                | Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead         | Protect and Support |
| Task and Finish group established to review local need in relation to child / adolescent parent violence and abuse and explore opportunities for collaborative commissioning                                                                                                                             | Office Police Crime Commissioner      | Prevention          |
| Strategic Leads on DASP need to agree and lead system wide improvements needed to improve DA response                                                                                                                                                                                                    | All                                   | Partnerships        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                   |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| All DA contracts need to include detailed requirements for reporting and monitoring which is jointly developed to ensure accurate and effective contract monitoring and compliance | Commissioning                                                     | Partnerships        |
| Children's Services will identify evidence based model and complete system changes needed                                                                                          | Children's Services                                               | Partnerships        |
| Protocol for joint working between adults and children's will be finalised and embedded across both departments                                                                    | Adult and Children's services                                     | Partnerships        |
| Audit action plan will be reviewed and all recommendations implemented                                                                                                             | Adult and Children's services                                     | Partnerships        |
| DA Leads will be identified in both adult and children services with clear escalation route for raising concerns                                                                   | Adult and Children's services                                     | Partnerships        |
| Survivor Panel will be further developed to ensure they are involved in review of services                                                                                         | Domestic Abuse Strategic lead                                     | Performance         |
| Mapping needs to be undertaken with high-risk victims/ perpetrators to understand pathways and provision available to them                                                         | Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead                                     | Protect and Support |
| Understand and evaluate role and impact of roles funded via OPCC so this is aligned with any future specifications to avoid gaps in provision                                      | Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead<br>Office Police Crime Commissioner | Protect and Support |
| Support implementation of DAPO pilot                                                                                                                                               | All                                                               | Prevention          |
| Implementation of Drive Partnership                                                                                                                                                | Office Police Crime Commissioner                                  | Partnerships        |
| DA Coordinator will be appointed, and performance plan will be developed to coordinate work on DASP and survivor panel                                                             | Domestic Abuse Strategic lead                                     | Performance         |
| DA Contracts will be revised with financial enhancement for DA survivor panel work                                                                                                 | Commissioning                                                     | Performance         |
| MARAC governance and resource reviewed                                                                                                                                             | Cleveland Police                                                  | Partnerships        |
| By and For Framework will be commissioned                                                                                                                                          | DA strategic lead<br>Commissioning                                | Protect and Support |
| Continue to use NEPO Translation and Interpretation Framework providers for the provision of interpretation Services                                                               | Commissioning                                                     | Protect and Support |
| Develop Specification for Safe Accommodation Contract and                                                                                                                          | DA Strategic Lead<br>Commissioning                                | Protect and Support |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |                     |
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| commission specialist provider/s to ensure we have diverse safe accommodation offer                                                                                                                                                                |                                        |                     |
| Work with Cleveland Police to address capacity issues re Crime Prevention which are impacting on delivery of sanctuary scheme.                                                                                                                     | Cleveland Police<br>DA Strategic lead  | Partnerships        |
| Provide additional funding to secure continuation, and increase capacity of, IRIS scheme so additional funding can be provided to increase capacity re supporting victims and training                                                             | Commissioning                          | Protect and Support |
| Agree contract terms with approved Immigration provider/s for appointments and casework                                                                                                                                                            | DA Strategic Lead                      | Protect and Support |
| Specification developed for Prevention Contract and commission specialist provider/s<br><br>ASK ME Ambassador<br>DA Champion Training<br>Work in schools and colleges                                                                              | DA Strategic Lead                      | Prevention          |
| Work with Tees-wide DA Perpetration Partnership to better understand the prevalence of children and adolescent parent violence and identify opportunities to improve pathways to improve pathways and commissioning of specialist CAPVA programme. | DA Strategic lead                      | Protect and Support |
| Identify location for gender informed safe space for victims- survivors at risk of homelessness due to Domestic Abuse and sexual violence                                                                                                          | DA Strategic Lead                      | Protect and Support |
| Increase DA Senior Practitioner post in MACH to full time funded between DA Budget and Children Services                                                                                                                                           | DA Strategic lead<br>Children Services | Protect and Support |
| Develop Job description and approval via requisition for DA Senior practitioner post in Adult Access Safeguarding Team                                                                                                                             | DA Strategic lead                      | Protect and Support |
| Connect ASK ME and TSAB Safe Place Scheme                                                                                                                                                                                                          | DA Strategic lead                      | Prevention          |
| Cleveland DA -Suicide Task and finish group to improve identification and raise awareness                                                                                                                                                          | DA Strategic Lead                      | Partnerships        |

|                                                                                                                                                                      |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Flexible Flee Fund will be retained within budget following a review of financial expenditure                                                                        | DA Strategic Lead                | Protect and Support |
| Survivor Panel engagement activities will take place on a monthly basis and opportunities to identify survivors' involvement in reviewing services will be developed | DA Strategic Lead                | Partnerships        |
| Reconfigure DAPP programme and extend to align with other LA areas so collaborative commissioning can be considered via Tees-wide Perpetrator Strategy               | DA Strategic Lead                | Prevention          |
| Work undertaken with mental health services to understand pathways for Domestic Abuse victims and how we can improve access to services                              | DA Strategic Lead<br>Health Reps | Prevention          |
| Tees-wide DA Perpetration Partnership to provide updates to Middlesbrough Partnership on progress across Tackling perpetration workstreams.                          | OPCC,                            | Partnerships.       |

## 8. Monitoring and review arrangements

The Strategy will be delivered through a detailed action plan which will be reviewed annually. The delivery plan which incorporates the strategic objectives and partnership actions will be overseen by the Middlesbrough Council Strategic lead management and governance provided by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership with oversight by the strategic governance boards. In addition to monitoring delivery of our plan we will use a small number of focussed activity indicators to monitor our progress and to identify where we may need to make changes.

## 9. Evaluation

The Needs Assessment and Strategy are published on the Middlesbrough Council website. An accessible version of the Needs Assessment has also been completed and is available via website.

### How will we know it has made a difference

- Victims- Survivors and their children feel safer, better protected and more satisfied with Domestic Abuse response in Middlesbrough.
- Gather feedback from victims-survivors and use this contribute to improved pathways, service design and delivery.

- Development of a dashboard will enable data to be captured and reported regularly to the Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to provide assurance and accountability for performance.
- Increase in numbers of arrests, charges, and convictions holds perpetrators to account and ensures victim-survivors receive justice.
- Reduction in repeat incidents.
- Improved quality and timeliness of referrals, placements, interventions and outcomes for those in community based and safe accommodation.
- People will access support earlier and this will be victim led.
- DA services can manage demand more efficiently and effectively.

The End