

Appendix 4

Subject of assessment:	Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028			
Coverage:	Overarching across Middlesbrough wards.			
This is a decision relating to:	☒ Strategy	☐ Policy	☐ Service	☐ Function
	☐ Process/procedure	☐ Programme	☐ Project	☐ Review
	☐ Organisational change	☐ Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	☐	Revision of an existing approach:	☒
It is driven by:	Legislation:	☒	Local or corporate requirements:	☐
Description:	Key aims, objectives and activities Middlesbrough The purpose of this EIA is to assess the impact of Domestic Abuse Strategy which will be published December 2025 and review the effectiveness of proposed changes to mitigate impact. The Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategy sets out how Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership will tackle domestic abuse over the next three years. It aims to strengthen response 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 the partnership. This strategy sits alongside other multiple strategies and related policies and encompasses a DA Needs assessment and audit and review learning and recommendations. Statutory drivers The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 created statutory duties on Local Authorities, to assess the need for, prepare and publish strategies for providing accommodation-based support to victims and their children in safe accommodation. Differences from any previous approach The Needs Assessment has identified a need to recommission and reconfigure all Domestic Abuse provision to ensure priority areas are appropriately resourced to align with needs and there are clear pathways for victims and survivors to access either community-based support and / or safe accommodation. Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) Victims-survivors and their children, professionals who work with them, DA Specialist services, Police, Health, Substance Misuse Services, Housing. Intended outcomes. 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 to contribute to improved pathways, service design and delivery. Service users and their children being able to access help from specialist staff in domestic abuse support services.			
Live date:	December 2025			
Lifespan:	2025- 2028			
Date of next review:	September 2028			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	☒	☐	☐	The Strategy is relevant to The right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence (Article 8) Qualified right. Neither this nor any of the other absolute or qualified rights will be infringed by these proposals. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The needs assessment has been consulted on extensively with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, commissioning bodies, staff and victims and survivors via surveys, and group consultation via Middlesbrough survivor panel.

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance for details on the issues covered by each of theses broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?	☒	☐	☐	The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires that when exercising its functions the Council must have due regard to the need to: - - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act. - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. In having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity, the Council must consider, as part of a single equality duty: - removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic. - taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it; and - encouraging people who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation is low. Domestic abuse can affect anyone. The strategy and associated objectives and activities are designed to meet the legitimate and particular considerations of Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil partnership Race, Religion or belief, Sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity. The strategy is also designed to ensure needs are met where they may differ because someone holds one or more protected characteristics. It identifies that certain protected characteristics are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse. The strategy and supporting commissioning plan reflects this and includes: - Investment in support and improving pathways for male victims. Independent Domestic Violence Advisors support and safe accommodation provision is included - Funding for the IRIS programme which works with victims who are often hidden from DA specialist services due to protected characteristics such as Disability, Older victims, pregnancy and race - Dedicated Children and Young people IDVA and Therapeutic service - By and For Framework for protected characteristics which will develop an approved provider framework so specialist by and for services can receive funding for their work and victim have increased choice regarding service they access - Funding for immigration advice for victims and their children with insecure immigration status or no recourse to public funds to reduce impact of homelessness/ financial destitution - Funding for translator service across all commissioned services to increase accessibility Given the above there are no concerns that implementation of the strategy could impact adversely on a group or individuals because they hold one or more protected characteristics. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The needs assessment has been consulted on extensively with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, commissioning bodies, staff and victims and survivors via surveys, and group consultation via Middlesbrough survivor panel.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	☒	☐	☐	The strategy has set out strategic objectives in relation to funding prevention work by training community ambassadors and champions in local communities and workplaces to be able to recognise and respond to domestic abuse. Successfully implementing the Strategy will have a positive impact on communities of interest and communities of place by raising awareness of domestic abuse, the support available and includes engagement with community leaders and identification of community work to raise awareness of the unacceptable nature of domestic abuse. Given the above there are no concerns that implementation of the strategy could impact adversely on a group or individuals because they hold one or more protected characteristics. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The needs assessment has been consulted on extensively with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, commissioning bodies, staff and victims and survivors via surveys, and group consultation via Middlesbrough survivor panel.
Armed Forces Could the decision impact negatively on those who are currently members of the armed forces of former members in the areas of Council delivered healthcare, compulsory education and housing policies?*	☒	☐	☐	There are no concerns that this strategy could adversely impact on current or former members of the Armed Forces. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The needs assessment has been consulted on extensively with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, commissioning bodies, staff and victims and survivors via surveys, and group consultation via Middlesbrough survivor panel.
Care leavers Could the decision impact negatively on those who are care experienced?*	☒	☐	☐	There are no concerns that implementation of the strategy could adversely impact on care leavers. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The needs assessment has been consulted on extensively with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, commissioning bodies, staff and victims and survivors via surveys, and group consultation via Middlesbrough survivor panel.
Reducing Poverty Could the decision impact negatively on the Council's ambitions to reduce poverty in the town?	☒	☐	☐	Successful delivery of the strategy will positively impact on the Council's ambitions to reduce poverty. Domestic abuse is one of the main causes of homelessness in Middlesbrough, with a high incidence of repeat homelessness on the same grounds. The needs assessment on which the strategy is based, identifies this and the strategy includes actions to reduce the likelihood of victims becoming homeless and being impoverished and therefore positively impacts this area. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment. The needs assessment has been consulted on extensively with the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, commissioning bodies, staff and victims and survivors via surveys, and group consultation via Middlesbrough survivor panel.

Assessment completed by:	Claire Moore	Head of Service:	Ruth Musicka
Date:	6/11/2025	Date:	7/11/2025

