

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Approval of a Domestic Abuse Strategy		
Directorate	Economy, Environment and Communities		
Service	Resilient Communities		
Responsible Officer	Paul Gordon		
Proposal planning start	30/9/2021	Proposal start date (due or actual date)	The strategy came into force following it's approval by the safer Walsall Partnership at its meeting on the 30/9/2021.

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Show which category the proposal is and whether it is new or a revision.		
	Policy	Yes	New
	Procedure	No	
	Guidance	No	
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	Yes	Revision
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	Partnership Work	Revision
	Other - give details		
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?		
	<p>2.1 Domestic Abuse (DA) affects a significant number of people in Walsall every day. Walsall Council has committed to ensure "<i>The most vulnerable are protected from avoidable harm, including caring for people in a safe environment and building Safer Communities</i>". This document outlines how a co-ordinated agency and community response, underpinned by national legislation, will challenge the causes and effects of domestic abuse across Walsall.</p> <p>2.2 The strategy recognizes that a significant number of men and boys also experience violent and abusive crimes that are the subject of this Domestic Abuse Strategy. We do know that these crimes disproportionately affect women however this strategy sets out our approach for supporting all victims and survivors of domestic abuse including men and boys. Our work going forward will take into account the specific challenges male victims face and will recognize that individual victims will have individual experiences. This strategy includes male</p>		



victims and does not presume the sex of the perpetrator.

2.3 The Walsall Domestic Abuse Strategy sets out the collective priorities of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group, a task group of the multi-agency Walsall Community Safety Partnership Board and is one the key priority areas of action for the next three years. This strategy also aligns with the wider priorities identified within the national and regional Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategies.

2.4 The strategy builds upon the findings of the Walsall Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021 and incorporates the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It recognises there is a need to develop a broader response to domestic abuse and areas for improvement and development.

2.5 Our vision is for Walsall to become one of the safest places in the West Midlands where domestic abuse is not tolerated whether at home or on the streets of Walsall. Our ambition is to develop a co-ordinated, multi-agency and community response to end domestic abuse in Walsall. Over the next three years we will work towards this vision by:

- Working in Partnership to develop a coordinated community response to domestic abuse
- Developing robust Prevention and early intervention approaches which reach everyone including those with protected characteristics
- Ensuring our support Provision are tailored and survivor led to meet the individual needs of every victims/survivor
- Ensure that our approach provides Protection to all those affected by domestic abuse and holds perpetrators to account

2.6 Partnership working and prevention is at the forefront of our approach to tackling domestic abuse, early identification and intervention to prevent people becoming victims and / or perpetrators in first instance is at the very heart of our partnership.

3	Who is the proposal likely to affect?		
	People in Walsall	Yes / No	Detail
	All	Yes	Domestic Abuse is something that has serious consequences to anybody who falls victim to it. It is clear that domestic abuse can be more impactful on individuals who have existing vulnerabilities.
	Specific group/s		
	Council employees		
	Other (identify)		
4	Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.		

Domestic Abuse is for all people within Walsall

5 Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy has been a direct response to the Safer Walsall Needs assessment. Consultation was undertaken with all key stakeholders internally and externally, all responsible authorities including Police, Fire Authority, Probation Services and Clinical Commissioning Groups and the local voluntary sector to work in partnership to formulate and implement this strategy.

This DA Strategy is a requirement of the DA Act 2021. It is based on the robust Needs Assessment that was undertaken in 2020/21.

Consultation Activity

Complete a copy of this table for each consultation activity you have undertaken.

Type of engagement/consultation	Public Consultation	Date	October 2020
Who attended/participated?	General Public		
Protected characteristics of participants	All		
Feedback			
<p>The public recognised that Domestic Abuse is a major issue in society. It had a major impact across the whole family and not just the victim and the perpetrator.</p> <p>There was a desire to see more done to protect survivors and do more preventative work</p>			

6 Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation

Engagement was generally through partners

The list of stakeholders and data is included in the Needs Assessment and strategy (data from Children’s Services, Walsall Strategic Assessment, housing, National Crime Survey, MHCLG data sets, Police, SARC, Walsall Homelessness (Money, Home, Job), WHG, Alcohol Needs Assessment, Black Country Women’s Aid, Refuge provider).

An online consultation form consisting of 9 questions was developed and circulated to all local statutory agencies, Children’s Services, Adult Services, Public Health, Housing, communities and the voluntary sector and included the following questions:

The results of the consultation drove the strategy document

**7 How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group?
The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.**

Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No
Age	The impact of the strategy should have a positive impact across all people with a protected characteristic. It is intended that the action plan that will be prepared from this strategy considers the impact on all protected characteristics.	Consideration will also be given to groups not included in the Equality Act, e.g. lone parents, refugees, unemployed people, carers.	
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Marriage and civil partnership			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			
Religion or belief			

	Sex	men and boys also experience violent and abusive crimes that are the subject of this Domestic Abuse Strategy. We do know that these crimes disproportionately affect women. However, this Strategy sets out our approach for supporting all victims and survivors of domestic abuse including men and boys. Our work going forward will take into account the specific challenges male victims face and will recognize that individual victims will have individual experiences. This Strategy includes male victims and does not presume the sex of the perpetrator.
	Sexual orientation	
	Other (give detail)	
	Further information	
8	Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.	(Delete one) Yes
	There are strong links to the work of the Safeguarding Board, the Violence Reduction Unit and the reducing violence priority of the Safer Walsall Partnership. The priorities and outcomes relating to exploitation are aligned.	
9	Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?	
	A	No major change required

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
31/12/2021	Review of Action Plan and update of EQIA.	Director of Resilient Communities		

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Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail

Contact us

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Inside Walsall: [http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service information/Equality and diversity](http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service_information/Equality_and_diversity)