

Notice of a public meeting of

**Decision Session - Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and
Adult Social Care**

To: Councillors Coles

Date: Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00 pm on Wednesday 28 February 2024**.

*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent, which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00 pm on Monday 19 February 2024**.

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 1 - 2)

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 17 January 2024.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at **5.00pm on Monday 19 February 2024**.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting whose details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The public meeting can be viewed on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. North Yorkshire and City of York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028 (Pages 7 - 58)

This report presents the North Yorkshire and City of York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028, together with the accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment, for approval and adoption by the Executive Member.

5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

James Parker

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

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Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care
Date	17 January 2024
Present	Councillor J Coles
Officers Present	Angela Padfield, Head of York Learning Paul Cliff, Head of Service, Adult Learning and Skills (York and North Yorkshire)

11. Declarations of Interest (10:00)

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in respect of the business on the agenda.

None were declared.

12. Minutes (10:01)

The Executive Member considered the minutes of the Decision Session held on 15 November 2023, and drew attention to item 9 (Investment of 2023/24 Council Budget Growth Money – substance Misuse) noting the correction made in the meeting to the paragraphs 1 and 18 of the report.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 15 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

13. Public Participation (10:02)

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Denise Craghill presented a petition calling for the current 9am-6pm opening hours of Museum Gardens to be extended. She drew attention to the health and wellbeing benefits of free access to green spaces and noted that the Gardens were a major asset to city. Extending the hours would offer a safe and unpolluted walking route to work and school, a space for exercise and socialising on summer evenings, and help support the city

centre economy. She acknowledged practical challenges and argued for a problem-solving approach with city partners to improve access.

The Executive Member confirmed that she would raise the issue at her next meeting with the York Museums Trust.

14. York Learning Self Assessment Report 2022/23 (10:05)

The Executive Member considered a report outlining York Learning's performance in the academic year 2022-23 against the Education Inspection Framework.

The Head of York Learning provided an overview, noting that the report had been compiled from submissions from each curriculum area, and then challenged by the governance board and a regional group of adult education providers. The report had been brought to the Executive Member for approval before submission to Ofsted on 31 January. She noted that there had been some problems with achievement relating mainly to attendance and retention of learners, mostly for reasons of health and wellbeing or where learners had needed to take on additional paid work or caring responsibilities.

In response to questions from the Executive Member, officers confirmed that:

- Work was ongoing to improve wellbeing support for learners within the service. This included a manager undertaking a mental health advocacy qualification, more targeted discussion around wellbeing in classes to encourage learners to raise issues with tutors, additional support before and after sessions to help learners catch up.
- An in-house counselling service to be provided by counselling students was being considered. Breaks in learning and discussions with learners to identify the most appropriate time to begin their courses had been introduced.
- Attendance was currently good and retention was over 90%, and work was being done to anticipate a potential drop-off due to exam anxiety later in the year. A readiness for learning course had been successfully tested to better prepare learners, with a focus on building confidence and writing skills, and breaking down barriers to learning.
- Investment had been secured through the Learning Skills Improvement Fund to improve accessibility to programmes, including hybrid learning opportunities.
- There was a wide offer in free digital skills and digital bitesize courses open to all of 19 years and over, included community learning and

accredited learning options. Work was being done with Digital Friendly York to offer a menu of courses to be delivered in community settings, including using digital apps, online safety and social media. Online safety was embedded throughout the course offer.

The Head of York Learning also provided updated data received since the publication of the report as follows:

- On p. 17, in the paragraph on 'Adult Learning Programmes', the figure for Achievement rates was updated to 72.2%.
- On p. 18, the figures for 'Education and Training Headline Information (QAR at R13)' were updated to: Achievement: 72.2%, Pass Rate: 84.7%, and Retention: 83.5%.
- On p. 19, the figures for 'Headline – 16-19 Education (R13)' were updated to: Achievement: 70.8% and Retention: 83.5%.

Resolved: That the report be approved subject to the updated data as provided by the Head of York Learning.

Reason: To help monitor the service and provide sound governance arrangements.

Cllr J Coles, Chair

[The meeting started at 10:00 am and finished at 10:21 am].

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Meeting:	Decision Session - Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care
Meeting date:	21 January 2024
Report of:	Peter Roderick, Director of Public Health
Portfolio of:	Cllr Jo Coles, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care

Decision Report: North Yorkshire and City of York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028

Subject of Report

1. This report presents to the Executive Member the North Yorkshire and City of York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028, along with the accompanying Equality Impact Assessment, for adoption and consideration of implications for CYC.

Benefits and Challenges

2. The adoption of the strategy and of its key priorities and commitments by the City of York Council means that full support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse along with work to reduce risk from perpetrators takes place as a whole system approach in partnership with North Yorkshire, working across the geographical footprint in line with the Office of Fire, Police and Crime Commissioner and that of North Yorkshire Police.
3. Tackling domestic abuse is a key partnership commitment within York's Community Safety Strategy, and a national priority. Domestic abuse blights lives, causes huge distress and upheaval for individuals, and has a negative effect on communities, families and the health of children and adults. Whilst capacity and finances are constrained across public services, presenting a challenge to this

type of work, the strategy which is presented here offers a joint and coordinated approach to this issue, likely to be the most effective and – in the end – preventive model to reduce further demand on services and produce the best outcomes. It pulls on the strengths of cross-working with North Yorkshire, whilst retaining bespoke actions relevant to our local York context, and it builds on years of consultation and co-production.

Policy Basis for Decision

4. The strategy and Equality Impact Assessment highlights the disproportionate effect of domestic abuse on those who are adversely affected by health inequalities. The commitment of the strategy is to reduce those inequalities by targeted work and support.
5. It has been written to align with national legislation on Domestic Abuse, in particular the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which covers additional duties on local authorities and other bodies to work together to commission services and tackle the root causes of Domestic Abuse.
6. The Strategy is one of the key pillars of the new York Community Safety Strategy, and aligns with the Council Plan 2023-2027 which commits to ‘take a council-wide approach to tackle domestic abuse and support victims and survivors’.

Financial Strategy Implications

7. Commissioned services and partnership working around Domestic Abuse in York draws from a number of funding sources, including the council, Office for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and through the Local Authority Domestic Abuse Duty grant. The strategy itself has no new financial implications and acts as a framework against which current resources can be allocated.

Recommendation and Reasons

8. The Executive Member is asked to:

Approve and adopt the North Yorkshire and York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028.

Reason: to commit City of York Council to support the key priorities and commitments.

Background

9. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 established in law the office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC), to provide public leadership on domestic abuse issues, to play a key role in overseeing and monitoring the provision of domestic abuse services in England and Wales, and to promote best practice, including in multi-agency working.
10. Multi-agency working should be embedded into approaches to responding to domestic abuse and should offer a range of interventions and support, from early intervention to support for high-risk cases through formalised safeguarding arrangements.
11. Domestic abuse is everybody's business and as such the strategy sets out our vision of how we will work collaboratively to create lasting change across all our communities with the voice of the victim at the heart of our response; and where perpetrators of abuse are held accountable for their behaviour.
12. The Act conferred the responsibility of every local authority to establish a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. The York Board has provided the vehicle for consultation for the strategy and will oversee the actions from the strategy and provide governance along with the Safer York Partnership.
13. The adoption of the strategy enables the City of York Council to fulfil its commitment to multi-agency working using a collaborative framework across York and North Yorkshire for the best outcomes for those at risk of domestic abuse.
14. The Strategy is attached as an annexe to this report, and in summary covers the following key priority areas, making a series of commitments against them:
 - Prevention and Early Identification
 - Authentic & Inclusive Support for All
 - Drive Change Together
 - Accountability

Consultation Analysis

15. Consultation has taken place on the strategy through members of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board in both York and North Yorkshire.

Options Analysis and Evidential Basis

16. Option 1
For the City of York Council to adopt the strategy and support the priorities and commitments so that those at risk of domestic abuse are supported and harm from perpetrators is mitigated.
17. Option 2
The strategy is not adopted by City of York Council therefore risking working in isolation from our multi-agency partners and stakeholders across the wider system and geographical footprint, increasing the risk of duplication of work and reduced benefits to those at risk of harm.

Organisational Impact and Implications

18. **Financial** - Commissioned services and partnership working around Domestic Abuse in York draws from a number of funding sources, including the council, Office for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and through the Local Authority Domestic Abuse Duty grant. The strategy itself has no new financial implications and acts as a framework against which current resources can be allocated.
19. **Human Resources (HR)** - If the strategy is adopted, the Council will ensure that the workforce are also aware of the priorities and commitments, and these will be reflected in relevant guidance documents as appropriate.
20. **Health and Wellbeing** – CYC has adopted a public health approach to tackling domestic abuse, and the aims and objectives of this strategy if achieved will reduce health inequalities and contribute to creating more positive conditions for health in our city.
21. **Legal** - Section 57(1) of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires that the Council must assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in its area, prepare

and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area, and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy, and also (further to section 57(3) of the 2021 Act) must, in carrying out its functions, give effect to that strategy.

Section 57(5) of the 2021 Act also requires that must keep the strategy under review, must keep under review any effect of the strategy on the provision of other local authority support in its area, may alter or replace the strategy, and must publish any altered or replacement strategy.

In addition to the above, the Serious Violence Duty set out within Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 requires that the Council exercises its functions and work together with its local partners and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing, and reducing serious violence in the area.

Further legal advice relating to the terms and conditions of any joint working arrangements, governance, data sharing arrangements, delivery plans/commissioning arrangements between the Council and its partners who are working on the delivery of this Strategy should be sought from the Council's Legal Services team prior to implementation.

22. **Procurement** - Whilst there are no direct procurement implications relating to the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 -2028 report itself, should any priorities or appropriate services or works be required, Procurement must be involved. These must be procured via a compliant, open, transparent, and fair process in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and where applicable, the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Further advice regarding the procurement process and development of procurement strategies must be sought from the Commercial Procurement team.
23. **Environment and Climate action** - There are no environmental implications for this.
24. **Affordability** - The EIA at Annex B indicates that there is a lack of data locally on socio-economic characteristics, aside from employment status and household structure, as recorded by current

service providers. National studies indicate that socio-economic factors, such as income and expenditure, can influence eligibility for social housing, benefits, and secure accommodation. Individuals facing these challenges may encounter delays in claiming benefits, leading to a reluctance to escape domestic abuse.

It is worth noting that domestic abuse is underreported among affluent individuals, but this doesn't negate its occurrence behind closed doors. To ensure fair access to services, the strategy will implement diverse outreach strategies designed to reach individuals irrespective of their background and circumstances, therefore will have a positive impact overall.

25. **Equalities and Human Rights** - The Council recognises, and needs to take into account its Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct; 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 the exercise of a public authority's functions). A full Equalities Impact Assessment is included at Annex B. This indicates the positive impacts the strategy is expected to have. It also notes that a new key indicator will be created to measure outcomes in relation to all protected characteristics for those accessing safe accommodation services, and for this to be extended to wider domestic abuse services.
26. **Data Protection and Privacy** - Please see Annex C
27. **Communications** - While there are no immediate impacts of the report in terms of Communications activity, campaigns or resources, the service will - as part of its work around safeguarding - continue to work to raise awareness of the support available and the associated harms.
28. **Economy** - There are no economy implications relating to the recommendations of this report.

Risks and Mitigations

29. The absence of a Domestic Abuse strategy poses several risks. These include a potential increase in domestic abuse incidents due

to lack of targeted efforts to prevent and address domestic abuse, lack of support for victims, lack of coordination amongst partners and agencies, insufficient awareness and training amongst professionals and an increase in social and economic costs associated with domestic abuse.

Wards Impacted

30. All Wards in York.

Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Report.

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Date:	20/12/2023

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Report approved:	Yes
Date:	20/12/2023

Annexes

- Annex A: NY & CYC Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024
- Annex B: Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Annex C: Statement from Information Governance

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North Yorkshire and City of York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 -2028

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Acronyms

CYC	City of York Council
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance
DA- LPB	Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
IDAS	Independent Domestic Abuse Services
IMD	Index of multiple Deprivation
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MATAC	Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination
NYC	North Yorkshire Council
NYP	North Yorkshire Police
OFPC	Office of Police Fire and Crime Commissioner
ONS	Office of National Statistics
RSHE	Relationship, Sex, and Health Education
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

In partnership with and supported by

North Yorkshire Council	
North Yorkshire Children Safeguarding Partnership	
North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership	

<p>Safer York Partnership</p>	 <p>The logo for Safer York Partnership features a blue circle at the top, a blue swoosh below it, and the text 'SAFER YORK PARTNERSHIP' in bold black letters. Below this, the tagline 'MAKING YORK A SAFER CITY' is written in blue.</p>
<p>City of York Council</p>	 <p>The logo for the City of York Council includes the coat of arms of the city on the left, which depicts a shield with four lions and a crown above it. To the right, the text 'CITY OF YORK COUNCIL' is displayed in black, with 'YORK' in a larger font.</p>
<p>North Yorkshire Police</p>	 <p>The crest of North Yorkshire Police is a circular emblem with a crown at the top. The words 'NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE' are written around the inner circle, and a central shield is surrounded by a sunburst pattern.</p>
<p>Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner</p>	 <p>The logo for the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner features a stylized blue and white checkered pattern on the left, followed by the text 'North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner' in blue.</p>
<p>ICB Yorkshire & Humber</p>	 <p>The logo for the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) features the NHS logo at the top, followed by the text 'Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)' in black and blue.</p>
<p>Tees Esk Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust</p>	 <p>The logo for the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust features the NHS logo at the top, followed by the text 'Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust' in black and blue.</p>

<p>South Tees NHS Foundation Trust</p>	 <p>South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>
<p>Bradford and Craven District Healthcare Partnership</p>	 <p>BDCHCP_Logo.eps</p>  
<p>IDAS</p>	
<p>HALO</p>	 <p>HALO PROJECT Honour Based Violence & Forced Marriage</p>
<p>Foundation</p>	 <p>Foundation-Logo-Str apline-CMYK.eps</p>
<p>Department for Work and Pensions</p>	 <p>Department for Work & Pensions</p>
<p>National Probation Service</p>	 <p>Probation Service</p> <p>Yorkshire and the Humber</p>

Forewords

North Yorkshire Council – Cherryl Henry Leach

“As the independent Chair of the North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Board, I am both honoured and privileged to present the North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy, 2024 - 2028, on behalf of our partners across the County. This strategy builds on the strong foundations created by our previous Strategy. It reflects the strategic approach of our highly committed partnership and sets out our planned intent to strengthen our well-established multi-agency approaches to domestic abuse whilst linking into national developments. When developing this Strategy, our ambition was to ensure it is underpinned by a sound evidence base alongside the views and experiences of people who have been impacted by domestic abuse and accessed services that we deliver. These views have been invaluable in our formation of this Strategy. We thank all who have collaborated on and contributed to this Strategy.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 means that there is now a definition of domestic abuse in law, emphasising that domestic abuse can encompass patterns of emotional, coercive, or controlling, and economic abuse that may occur alongside physical and/or sexual violence. We have reflected on, and are embedding, our new duties created by the Act, which recognises that children can be direct victims of domestic abuse when it is a facet of their lived experience or background. These developments are woven into the fabric of this Strategy.

We know that domestic abuse can have devastating consequences. Nationally domestic abuse is reported in the media on a weekly basis. Locally, we have sadly seen the deaths of victims, including those who have ended their lives as a result of the impact of domestic abuse. We have learned lessons from statutory reviews following fatal domestic abuse.

We recognise that anyone can be impacted by domestic abuse, regardless of characteristics such as gender, age, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. Domestic abuse not only affects the person who is being directly harmed; it also has a detrimental effect on those who witness or live with it. This particularly relates to children and young people impacted by domestic abuse - who can experience severe negative impacts on their development, as well as life-long effects without early intervention and support. These are some of the many reasons why partners in North Yorkshire take a trauma informed, coordinated and holistic approach to working with children and their families. This includes our being committed to ensuring that those who cause harm or deploy abusive behaviours are safely challenged and held accountable - but also supported to change their behaviour.

In North Yorkshire, we believe our people can live their lives in communities free from domestic abuse. We strive, through our Strategy, to raise awareness of what domestic abuse is, whilst demonstrating what services and communities working together can achieve whilst preventing or supporting and protecting all who are impacted by it”.

City of York – Peter Roderick

“This Strategy is a major milestone in our work across North Yorkshire and York to drive system-level change around Domestic Abuse, for the sake of all our communities and residents.

Far too many lives within our area are impacted by the devastating effects of domestic abuse – an estimated 32,500 adult victims alone in our area, many of whom will not be known to support services and who suffer from a hidden crime which often goes unreported. As the Director of Public Health for York, I recognise the effect this has on our population and the burden of distress this places on people’s mental, emotional, social and physical health, never mind the wider costs to society. This needs to be an issue of urgency for all of us.

There is no one agency able to tackle this issue alone. So, we have to work together; that is why strategies like these are so important. Since Domestic Abuse is everyone’s business, tackling it requires a level of partnership, collaboration, and communication that I hope you will see reflected in this strategy, as well as a preventive approach that always seeks to direct our actions to the earliest possible point of intervention, in order to avert future harm.

I welcome this strategy and invite all who read it to partner with us in tackling this key issue”.

Our Strategic Vision

We will not tolerate domestic abuse within North Yorkshire and York, and we will strive to ensure everyone can live free from abuse and harm. We will create an environment where healthy relationships are the norm and where victims, survivors and their children have access to the right support at the right time.

Domestic abuse is everybody’s business. We will work collaboratively to create lasting change across all our communities with the voice of the victim at the heart of our response; and where perpetrators of abuse are held accountable for their behaviour.

Introduction

The North Yorkshire and City of York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028 shows our commitment to our continued prioritisation of tackling domestic abuse. It builds on the achievements of North Yorkshire and York’s multi-agency response and strategic approach, which has been in place since 2018.

We continue to recognise there is a high prevalence of domestic abuse within our county, despite its underreporting and the devastating impact it has on the individual, their family, our communities, and wider society. There is a continued commitment to

work together from statutory partners, the wider community and the voluntary sector which upholds the principles of a whole family and coordinated community response to tackling domestic abuse.

Our previous joint domestic abuse strategy 2018-2023 propelled our partnership response forward in many ways:

- *We collaborated on commissioning arrangements to provide sustainable, long term domestic abuse services across York and North Yorkshire. These services ensure equity of support throughout the entire county, eliminating the post code lottery seen in many other localities. This was achieved through quarterly commissioning group meetings to identify service gaps and funding opportunities, enabling us to improve, develop, and sustain new services.*
- *We developed services for children affected by domestic abuse and young people beginning to demonstrate troublesome behaviours reflecting a truly whole family and partnership approach.*
- *We created services that are inclusive for all victims, irrespective of gender identity - male, female, trans, non-binary, marginalised or seldom heard. These services support those fleeing domestic abuse and those wishing to remain in their own homes, providing the necessary assets and support for them to do so.*
- *We raised awareness of domestic abuse by commissioning and delivering training packages to professionals across various agencies.*
- *We delivered behaviour change programmes for adult perpetrators of abuse and interventions for children and adolescents demonstrating violence towards their parents.*

The development of our new joint strategy will build upon these achievements made in the last 5 years and contribute to the newly created Domestic Abuse Act 2021. We have also gathered substantial evidence through a Strategic Needs Assessment and whole system Public Health Review of our domestic abuse arrangements, undertaken by Safelives. This new strategy will further build on the findings of the Needs Assessment and Wider System Review, strengthening our whole family approach to supporting those impacted by domestic abuse and those who perpetrate it.

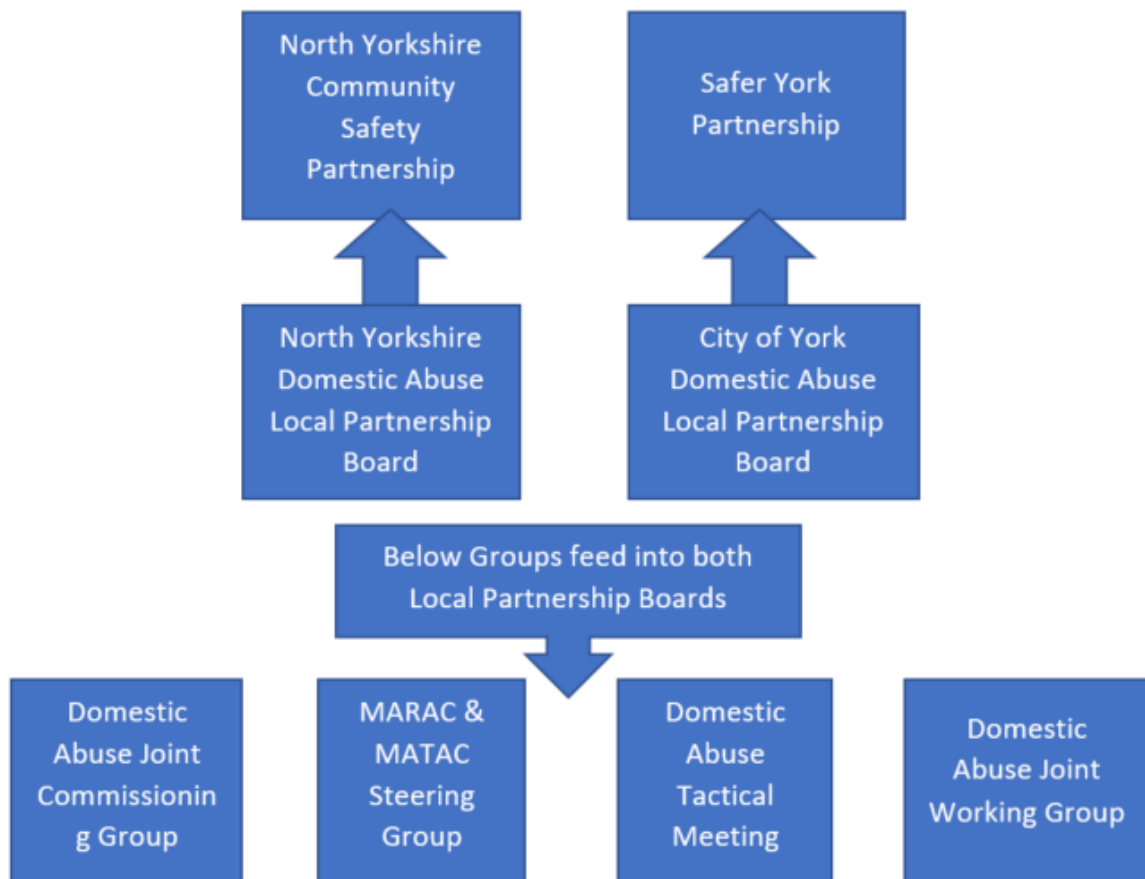
Following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council have been required to establish Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards as part of their statutory duties as tier 1 authorities. The North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (NY DA LPB) and the York Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (CY DA LPB) were formed in 2022. This arrangement marks a departure from the previous Domestic Abuse Joint Coordination & Operational Group, which served as a joint governance arrangement for both authorities. Our new arrangements will place a greater focus on local needs, both demographically and geographically, playing a key strategic role in the collaboration

and governance of agencies related to domestic abuse services within their respective areas. This ensures that they effectively meet the needs of local residents and partner organisations.

The development of this strategy has been co-produced and designed by the agencies represented by both North Yorkshire and City of York Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards and informed by engagement with our communities through the work undertaken as part of the Wider System Review activities with Safelives.

The roles of the DA LPB's are to oversee all activities related to the development, implementation, and review of the domestic abuse strategy for North Yorkshire and York. The North Yorkshire the DA LPB reports to the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and the York DA LPB reports into the Safer York Partnership.

See structure



Delivering this Strategy

To accompany this strategy, there will be a delivery plan that supports the implementation of our vision, priorities, and commitments. The Domestic Abuse Local

Partnership Boards will each be responsible for producing a dynamic and evolving delivery plan with agreed priorities and timescales. These plans will provide evidence of our activities and progress towards meeting our strategic priorities and the impact being made. The plan will be closely monitored through the partnership boards governance structures.

The National Context

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, for the first time, created a statutory definition of domestic abuse. In this act domestic abuse is described as:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.”

Section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides greater detail on behaviours which constitutes domestic abuse. The act specifies the following as types of abuse:

- a) physical or sexual abuse.
- b) violent or threatening behaviour.
- c) controlling or coercive behaviour.
- d) economic abuse.
- e) psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

Section 2 Definition of “personally connected”. (Abbreviated).

Two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies:

- (a) they are, or have been, married to each other.
- (b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other.
- (c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether the agreement has been terminated).

Section 3 Children as victims of domestic abuse.

This section applies where behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is domestic abuse. (2) Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who:

- (a) Sees or hears, or experiences the effect of, the abuse, and
 - (b) is related to A or B.
- (3) A child is related to a person for the purposes of subsection (2) if
- (a) The person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or

(b) The child and the person are relatives.

(4) In this section – “child” means person under the age of 18 years; “parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 3 of that Act); “relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.

Aligning with this definition is the UK government's response to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and girls, also known as the Istanbul Convention. This treaty brought about the launching of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2016, which aims to ensure justice and support for victims of crimes, particularly those committed by men against women. The VAWG Strategy also emphasises that domestic abuse and other forms of violence, including sexual offences, stalking offences, harassment, honour-based violence, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation are crimes in the UK.

The government also conducted consultative studies and research, resulting in the “Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan”. This report details the government's strategy for enacting pertinent legislation and provides recommendations for domestic abuse agencies. It emphasises four key areas: prevention, victim support, perpetrator accountability, and strengthening the system. Additionally, it underscores the need for enhanced Relationship, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) for young people to raise awareness about abusive behaviour. The plan also highlights the importance of community and workplace support services for victims and the necessity for effective systems within domestic abuse response agencies to manage perpetrators.

Another study contributing to the national efforts to address domestic abuse is “The Patchwork of Provision”, released by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office in 2022. This report evaluates the quality of domestic abuse service provision, analysing the effect of existing services on victims and survivors, and assesses the accessibility and availability of resources. The report identifies noteworthy gaps in service and proposes solutions to address them, with key findings including:

Overall impact of support services for victims and survivors

This report confirms that 73% of individuals who seek domestic abuse services in England and Wales report feeling a greater sense of control in their lives. In Yorkshire and the Humber region, 51% of those who learn about available services find it relatively easy to access help. The research also highlights those victims and survivors of domestic abuse are more inclined to confide in health care professionals about their situations when compared with other types of professionals.

The study also reveals that a significant proportion of victims and survivors are aware of practical community-based support services such as helpline advice, one-to-one advocacy, caseworker assistance, and longer-term therapeutic support, like counselling and mental health aid. However, it points out that some victims especially those from minoritised groups, face challenges in accessing therapeutic support services.

Additionally, it shows that disabled victims and survivors have a greater need for mental health support (88%) compared with those who do not disclose a disability (67%). The report also indicates that black victims and survivors are more likely than those from other ethnic backgrounds to express a desire for refuge, with 59% showing interest, especially when compared to white victims and survivors, of whom only 25% express such wishes.

Victim and survivors' access to support services

The report also reveals several key findings including:

A significant percentage of black and minoritised survivors (67%), LGBT+ survivors (68%), disabled survivors (55%), and deaf survivors (16 out of 62) expressed the desire for access to specialist 'by and for' organisations to receive the help they needed.

There was a notable lack of organisations providing services for men, with 75% of men reporting that the support services they attempted to access appeared to be exclusively available for women.

There was significant disparity in the availability of specialist support for children affected by domestic abuse in various regions. In Yorkshire and the Humber for example, the report found that 38% of victims and survivors reported being unable to access support for their children.

Another service gap unveiled by this report has to do with individuals experiencing multiple disadvantage or additional needs, such as victims with unsettled immigration status and victims with learning difficulties.

Organisations providing domestic abuse support across England and Wales

The Patchwork of Provision report tells us that in the landscape of domestic abuse service providers, there is a diverse array of organisations, with approximately half being community-based services. Furthermore, nearly two-thirds of accommodation-based services are delivered by specialised domestic abuse and/or violence against women and girls' organisations. Specifically, 51% of support services are community based, and 64% are accommodation based across England and Wales.

This same report points out that the cost of domestic abuse in the UK is estimated to be around £66 billion annually. This cost primarily stems from the physical and emotional harm experienced by victims. The report also highlights that about 62% of organisations providing domestic abuse services have an annual income of less than £500,000, with specialist 'by and for' services typically receiving less than £100,000. Additionally, there is a financial burden on the exchequer, totalling £19 billion, which is attributed to the loss of economic output and expenses related to addressing the consequences of domestic abuse within the healthcare system, the criminal justice system, and the services for victims and survivors.

Local Context

We recognise that domestic abuse is widespread and persistently under-reported, although data and statistics are helpful in giving an indication of how far-reaching domestic abuse is. Reported incidents will be much lower than actual abuse levels and estimates may mask under-reporting within groups across populations.

We know that individuals and families may live with domestic abuse for a significant period and suffer several incidents before asking for help. As a partnership we recognise the high level of unreported abuse taking place in North Yorkshire and York and that people in different circumstances are impacted by domestic abuse in different ways. It is important that we work together to strengthen our understanding of unreported domestic abuse and expand local research where needed to gain a clear picture of need.

Below are some of the key findings from the North Yorkshire and City of York Safelives Strategic Needs Assessment

Figures captured 2021-2022

SafeLives Prevalence Tool estimates 32,500 adult victims of domestic abuse	7212 domestic abuse crimes	4876 victims accessing IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services)	505 victims referred to refuge provision	129 victims accommodated in refuge
13,689 is the total number Adult and Child Victims	11,462 is the total number of victims Age 18-64	1512 is the total number of victims under 18	618 is the total number of victims Over 65	76.5% number female Victims
20.1% number of male victims	0.5% Trans & .005% non binary	1871 is the number of cases heard at MARAC. 28% increase from previous year	NY = 55 MARAC cases heard per 10,000 adult female population. Recommended no of cases 40	CY = 61 MARAC cases heard per 10,000 adult female population. Recommended no of cases 40

North Yorkshire

The County of North Yorkshire has a diverse and dispersed population of an estimated 615,400 people across a geographical area of over 8,000 square kilometres. Large parts of the county sit within two national parks and three Areas of outstanding natural beauty. Ninety eight percent of the county is either sparsely (13%) or super-sparsely (85%) populated with just over a third of the population living in these areas. This results in a population density of just 77 people per square kilometre, compared with an England average of 432.

Harrogate has the largest population of 162,000, and Richmondshire having the smallest of 49,700. There have been various changes in population across the areas. Richmondshire has seen a decrease in population of 4.4% and Scarborough remains the same at around 108,000. All other areas have seen an increase with Hambleton seeing 1.8% ranging to 10.2% in Selby, at 92,000.

There is a large and growing older population in North Yorkshire with all areas seeing a significant increase in the over 65's population. Selby had the greatest increase, of 34.9%. This is compared to an overall increase of 20.1% in England.

Office of National Statistics (ONS) data from the 2021 census shows that 3.3% of individuals in North Yorkshire are Black, Asian, or racially minoritised.

We also recognise that North Yorkshire has a significant military community across Richmondshire and Catterick, with a military garrison having more than 13,000 service personnel with many originating from across the Commonwealth. We have a veteran's contingent across North Yorkshire in the region of 40,000.

North Yorkshire as a local authority area is amongst the least deprived in England. It was ranked 125th least deprived out of 152 upper tier local authorities in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2015. Scarborough is the most deprived district and there are pockets of high deprivation across the county.

With regards to domestic abuse, in the 2022/2023 financial year there were 6290 domestic abuse related crimes recorded by North Yorkshire Police that had occurred in North Yorkshire. The greatest number of domestic abuse related crimes were reported in several wards within the locality of Scarborough, followed by Selby during this period. Of the reported crimes, 68.6% of victims were female, typically aged between 31-40 years, whilst 70.58% of suspects were male of the same age

North Yorkshire Police Domestic Abuse Related Crimes (North Yorkshire)			
	20/21	21/22	22/23
Q1 (Apr-Jun)	1420	1523	1573
Q2 (Jul-Sep)	1615	1660	1778
Q3 (Oct-Dec)	1424	1625	1501
Q4 (Jan-Mar)	1307	1538	1438
Total	5766	6346	6290

York

According to the latest census data (2021) York has a population of 202,821 residents, which represents a 2.4% rise between 2011 and 2021, with a further forecast increase of another 13,000 individuals in the following two years.

The City of York is classed as predominantly urban and has two universities, the University of York and York St John University, with 48,779 students in York. Our older

population is growing year on year and has risen 12.7% since 2011 and there are currently 9,854 people over the age of 80 living in York.

7.3% of residents in York are from Black or minority ethnic groups, 5.5% are from White but non-British background and 10.8% were born outside the UK. York has a higher-than-average LGBTQ+ population compared to the regional and national statistics (5.5% York, 3.0% region, 3.1% England & Wales). Over 17.1% of residents are disabled and 7.7% have carer responsibilities.

York was ranked 140 out of 151 in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranking of the least deprived local authorities in 2019, having risen 5 places since 2015.

With regards to domestic abuse, in the 2022/2023 financial year there were 2,069 domestic abuse related crimes recorded by North Yorkshire Police that had occurred in York. The greatest number of domestic abuse related crimes were reported in Guildhall (263), Westfield (249), Micklegate (200) and Heworth (190) during the same period. Of the 2,069 reported crimes, 72% of victims were female, typically aged between 20-39 years, whilst 73% of suspects were male of the same age range.

North Yorkshire Police Domestic Abuse Related Crimes (York)			
	20/21	21/22	22/23
Q1 (Apr-Jun)	541	581	504
Q2 (Jul-Sep)	561	611	599
Q3 (Oct-Dec)	502	575	604
Q4 (Jan-Mar)	460	551	362
Total	2,064	2,318	2,069

Existing Local Services & Demand

The local specialised domestic abuse services in North Yorkshire and the City of York are presently jointly commissioned by North Yorkshire City council and, City of York Council, and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC). Managed through a central hub referral point, IDAS currently offers local victim support services, including a community-based support service, a refuge and accommodation service, and a service for children & young people affected by domestic abuse. Additionally, IDAS provides a Respect Service, employing a Respect Accredited Programme to assist families where young people exhibit abusive behaviours toward their parents or within intimate relationships with other young people. As part of the joint commissioning arrangements, there is also the provision of an Adult Perpetrator Service, a voluntary behaviour change intervention for standard risk perpetrators of domestic abuse, currently delivered by Foundation.

The impact report for the 2022/2023 period from IDAS showed that they had received 9,739 referrals and 17,012 helpline calls. IDAS Hub which offers triage and short-term

assistance to victims of domestic abuse, supported 80% of these referrals, while 1,784 individuals were directed to community-based service for extended support. In this same period, IDAS provided secure housing, either in refuges or dispersed units, for 164 adults and 97 children. Across all services, 8,389 safety plans were implemented. The whole family approach service supported 210 adults and 132 children, and the Respect service assisted 2,64 parents and 76 children. Impact report from our provider for the Perpetrator Behaviour Change Programme, Foundation, also underscores the achievements of the program. As an integral part of a comprehensive system approach, the program employs victim liaison officers in collaboration with IDAS to ensure a victim-centred strategy that minimises risk to the victim. In the financial year 2022/2023, Foundation assisted 122 service users through the + Choices programme to address their behaviour, with 74% of them showing reduced risk upon completing the program, as indicated by feedback received from the victims.

Besides jointly commissioning specialised services, several collaborative measures were established to tackle domestic abuse, including Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). Weekly operational MARAC meetings occur for North Yorkshire and York, categorizing cases into specific localities such as York, Scarborough & Ryedale, Harrogate & Skipton, Northallerton, Richmond and Selby.

Monthly MATAC meetings convene to collectively discuss serial perpetrators in North Yorkshire and York within a single operational forum. The MARAC/MATAC Steering Group, meeting quarterly, oversees the performance of both process on behalf of North Yorkshire and York. All existing multi-agency arrangements report to their respective North Yorkshire and York DA Partnership Board.

Our new strategies and the approach we will take to achieve them.

Key Priorities and Commitments

Priority 1
<p>Prevention and Early Identification</p> <p>We will focus on prevention, by proactively increasing understanding of healthy relationships, regardless of age group, whilst raising awareness of domestic abuse to ensure early identification and promotion of specialist services to provide support and ultimately eradicate abuse altogether.</p>
<p>Commitments</p> <p>1.1 We will raise awareness of all forms of domestic abuse to create a culture of prevention through the delivery of public facing campaigns, promoting the message that domestic abuse is everyone’s business. This will Enable friends, colleagues, neighbours, and family members to spot the signs of domestic</p>

abuse and feel confident to help those experiencing it to access specialist support.

- 1.2 We will work with education settings, voluntary and private sector organisations to ensure that people of all age groups are effectively taught to understand what a healthy relationship is. The goal is to reduce domestic abuse in the future and increase awareness of what constitutes an abusive relationship, along with how to report it.
- 1.3 We will enable individuals & organisations to recognise all forms of domestic abuse to prevent future abuse or the escalation of abuse.
- 1.4 We will, as a partnership engage professionals across all agencies to improve the early identification of domestic abuse, ensuring local professionals can recognise signs and indicators of domestic abuse, as well as understanding the specific needs of seldom heard and marginalised groups. This will support developing a culture that recognises and challenges victim blaming language through all process and practices.
- 1.5 We will enable and empower our urban and rural communities to recognise domestic abuse and all its harms, by providing the tools and developing awareness of the signs, indicators and risks associated with this abuse. We will improve access to information and advice, with clearer pathways to reporting concerns.
- 1.6 We will tailor our response to the needs of our communities, recognising the specific requirements of urban and rural communities.
- 1.7 We will increase the number of people disclosing domestic abuse to services and being offered appropriate support/response as a result, including from our most underrepresented communities and groups.
- 1.8 We will empower individuals to become active bystanders, ensuring individuals know how to safely intervene and challenge abusive behaviours.

Priority 2

Authentic & Inclusive Support for All

We will ensure services across North Yorkshire and York actively participate, stay well-informed, and remain responsive, and are adequately prepared to address the specific needs of every victim survivor and their families.

Commitments

- 2.1 We will provide specialist support services that are inclusive and accessible to meet the needs of local victims and survivors, consulting with those from marginalised communities with lived experience of domestic abuse.
- 2.2 We will embed the voice of victims and survivors into local systems and service design processes.

- 2.3 We will ensure that victims, survivors, and their children have access to a range of safe accommodation options that meet their needs.
- 2.4 We will provide a comprehensive response for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children which will offer safe accommodation and strong support and meets our populations diverse needs, aligned to the existing priorities outlined within the North Yorkshire and City of York Safe Accommodation Strategy.
- 2.5 We will work towards achieving and maintaining the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation to ensure our housing provision across North Yorkshire and York is safe, secure and that our teams are empowered to recognise harm in all its forms, supporting victims, survivors and their families to live free from abuse.
- 2.6 We will work in partnership with internal and external stakeholders to gather the authentic voice of victims, engaging with victims of domestic abuse where appropriate, to represent the views and voice of victims and service users at the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards.
- 2.7 We will ensure that marginalised communities and those with multiple complex needs feel safe and secure, whilst feeling they are able to report abuse and access services to help them cope and recover.

Priority 3

Drive Change Together

We will build upon our existing partnership approach to tackling domestic abuse, working together to achieve our collective priorities and commitments. We will work to improve how agencies effectively share information, assess risk and collaborate in their response to victims, survivors, their families and those that cause harm, with clear pathways into specialist support.

Commitments

- 3.1 We will further strengthen our existing Local Partnership Board arrangements, by ensuring stakeholders work together to address the identified gaps within the findings of our local needs assessment and wider system review.
- 3.2 Partners will work collectively to bring together comparable, accurate and consistent data on areas such as commissioning, provision, and gap analysis, enabling the effective monitoring of need and demand. This information-sharing will work to strengthen the future development of our strategic assessment and support our understanding around under-reporting, ensuring we learn lessons and draw out the right narratives from the evidence. Where necessary we will commission research where gaps in knowledge exist to strengthen our response to domestic abuse.

- 3.3 We will ensure partners participate in the Domestic Homicide Review process, and that learning from this, Serious Case Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are proactively shared via the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards.
- 3.4 We will contribute to the wider strategic outcomes around serious violence and addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) via their existing partnership arrangements and delivery plans.
- 3.5 As a partnership we will ensure that frontline practitioners have the knowledge of local referral pathways and how to respond appropriately to instances of domestic abuse.
- 3.6 We will work to a shared language and terminology that begins to recognise the positive benefits of a trauma informed and non-victim blaming way.
- 3.7 We will continue to develop and deliver practices and interventions, based on the latest research and best practice, such as Claire's Law and Operation Encompass. This will ensure that victims are aware and informed of the risks posed by perpetrators and that children witnessing domestic abuse have access to the appropriate support within education settings.
- 3.8 We will ensure through our MARAC & MATAC Steering Group that we have effective governance and oversight of the operational delivery of MARAC to effectively reduce repeat victimisation.
- 3.9 We will ensure that partners work collaboratively when dealing with adult and child victims of domestic abuse, adopting a whole family approach, to improve the safety of families by identifying the most effective interventions of support that align risks and needs.
- 3.10 We will ensure that children who witness domestic abuse are recognised as victims set out in the Domestic Abuse Act. We will provide comprehensive and coordinated support across all agencies to minimise the impact of such abuse to help them cope and recover.
- 3.11 We will make certain that the partnership arrangements take into account other specialised services designed for individuals with multiple complex needs, such as mental health and substance misuse. This involves acknowledging and providing support for the additional needs that may be presented by these groups.

Priority 4

Accountability

We will focus on tackling and addressing abusive behaviour, holding individuals accountable, and providing support to facilitate the development of healthy relationship behaviours. We will deliver timely assistance to those concerned about their behaviour causing harm and to perpetrators of abuse, supporting them in understanding how to prevent abuse and change their behaviour.

Commitments

- 4.1 We will provide opportunities for perpetrators to change their behaviour through the commissioning of interventions that focus on all risk levels. We will look to inform and influence this through national decision making and future funding opportunities.
- 4.2 As partnerships we will ensure protection, support and information is available for all those who have experienced abuse during their engagement with the Criminal Justice System. All agencies should ensure that the voice of lived experience is heard throughout these processes and used to improve and enhance service provision.
- 4.3 As partnerships we recognise the importance of legal orders and notices (currently DVPN&O and soon to become DAPN&Os), therefore when a notice or order has been issued, we will promote multi-agency engagement with the victims during this window of opportunity to support lasting recovery and space from the perpetrator. Partners should also work collaboratively, exploring options to remove those perpetrating domestic abuse from the home to disrupt abusive behaviour and make victims and survivors safer.
- 4.4 We will ensure through our MARAC and MATAC Steering Group that we have effective governance and oversight of the operational delivery of MATAC, with a particular focus on ensuring victim safety, risk management and the effective disruption of those offenders who do not engage in this process.
- 4.5 We will ensure that the partnership arrangements between MARAC, MATAC and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are robust, jointly recognising high risk perpetrators of DA and Stalking, so they are, where appropriate, considered for MAPPA management, and those timely referrals are made. MAPPA will quality assure referrals so that our response to managing the most serious offenders of domestic abuse and stalking reflects the risk they pose, and our protection of their victims is coordinated and strengthened.
- 4.6 We will ensure that we maximise opportunities to address harmful behaviours associated with child to parent abuse, utilising best practice and research to inform potential commissioning opportunities.

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City of York Council
Equalities Impact Assessment

Who is submitting the proposal?

Directorate:	Public Health		
Service Area:	Domestic Abuse		
Name of the proposal :	Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2028		
Lead officer:	Anita Dobson		
Date assessment completed:	29/12/23		
Names of those who contributed to the assessment:			
Name	Job title	Organisation	Area of expertise
Anita Dobson	Nurse consultant	CYC	Public health
Aminata Sheriff	Public Health Improvement Officer	CYC	Public health

Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes

<p>1.1</p>	<p>What is the purpose of the proposal? Please explain your proposal in Plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon.</p>
	<p>This proposal aligns with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and associated guidelines, mandating local authorities in England and Wales to offer assistance to domestic abuse victims and hold perpetrators accountable.</p> <p>As part of creating a new Domestic Abuse strategy for the city of York, in compliance with the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), an Equality Impact Assessment is being conducted. This strategy establishes a fresh framework for planning, monitoring, and evaluating efforts to address domestic abuse in York. It is linked to ongoing collaborative work between City of York Council (CYC) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) to ensure effective and consistent support and intervention for domestic abuse victims in the region. The previous Domestic Abuse strategy, implemented from 2018 to 2023, has concluded, prompting the development of a new strategy in line with the recent legislation.</p> <p>Conducted through an externally produced needs assessment and a comprehensive system review by SafeLives, the recommendation from these processes is guiding the new strategy. The needs assessment and system review suggest seven broad areas for consideration to enhance the effectiveness of domestic abuse services in the region. These areas include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A review of the local partnership board, - An increase in the provision of support and community service capacity, - Improvement of services for children affected by domestic abuse, - Increased assistance for housing needs to prevent homelessness, and - The harmonization of data collection while addressing data gaps. <p>The current partnership is acutely aware of the necessity for increased support for domestic abuse victims in the region. Consequently, they have reached a consensus to formulate a collaborative four-year strategy centring on four major priorities derived from their collective experiences in the field of domestic abuse, as well as recommendations from the needs assessment and the broader system review that scrutinized the</p>

	<p>service landscape from 2019 to 2022. City of York Council (CYC) maintains its unwavering commitment to delivering domestic abuse services through a public health approach. Consequently, the four-year strategy will integrate with other council-wide strategies, particularly those falling under the health and well-being strategy.</p>
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1.2	Are there any external considerations? (Legislation/government directive/codes of practice etc.)
	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act, 2021 Serious Violence Duty, 2022 Home Office Violence against women and girls' strategy Nice guidelines: Domestic violence and abuse: multi-agency working</p>

1.3	Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?
	<p>The main beneficiary in this proposal are victims/ survivors of domestic abuse – Adult and children</p> <p>Other stakeholders who will contribute to delivering the actions on this proposal are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Social Care (Child Protection/Child in Need) • Housing Local authority • Community Safety partners • Healthy child services -Health Visitors • Adult Social Care (Social Work) • Integrated Care Board NY Humber & York Place ICB, NHS Trust York & Scarborough • Housing (Housing association or other) • North Yorkshire Police • Specialist Domestic Abuse Service (accommodation based) • Victims/survivors of the Domestic Abuse <p>And others as informed by the project local partnership board.</p>
1.4	What results/outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom? This section should explain what outcomes you want to achieve for service users, staff and/or the wider community. Demonstrate how the proposal links to the Council Plan (2019- 2023) and other corporate strategies and plans.
	<p>The outcome of this Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will guarantee that the emerging strategy and interventions actively foster equality and avoid unintentional discrimination against specific groups or communities. Here is an enumeration of the desired achievements and their intended beneficiaries:</p> <p>1. Service Users:</p>

a. Safety and well-being

Objective: *Ensure that all service users, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability, experience improved safety and well-being.*

Outcome: Reduction in the incidence and severity of domestic abuse cases, improved mental and physical health of survivors.

b. Access to support services

Objective: *Guarantee that support services are accessible to all, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability, experience improved safety and well-being.*

Outcome: Increased accessibility to safe accommodation, and other support services for marginalised groups, reduced barriers to seeking help

c. Culturally appropriate support

Objective: Ensure that support services are culturally sensitive and relevant

Outcome: culturally appropriate services that resonates with diverse communities, reducing cultural barriers to seeking help.

2. Staff

a. Training and awareness

Objective: Equip staff with knowledge and skills to address domestic abuse effectively and sensitively

Outcome: Improve staff awareness, increased competency in dealing with diverse cases.

3. Wider community

a. Prevention and early intervention and education

Objective: Raise awareness of domestic abuse to ensure early identification, promote specialist services, provide support, and ultimately eradicate abuse altogether.

Outcome: Increased community awareness, prevention programmes that address the roots caused of domestic abuse

	<p>b. <u>Social attitude change</u> Objective: Empower people in communities to challenge and change social attitudes towards domestic abuse Outcome: <u>Reduce tolerance for domestic abuse, increase community support for survivors</u></p> <p>c. <u>Community collaboration</u> Objective: Encourage collaboration between the community and service providers Outcome: Strengthen community partnerships, increase resources and support for survivors</p> <p>Furthermore, beyond the mentioned points, the proposal is linked to the targets outlined in the council's decade-long strategy. It particularly plays a vital role in advancing the 'Health and Wellbeing' priority, aiming to enable York residents to lead content, healthy, and independent lives within supportive communities. This aligns with the overarching goal of addressing the growing disparities in health, ensuring individuals can manage their health and wellbeing, and providing additional assistance for those requiring support.</p>
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2.1	What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback do we have to help us understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights? Please consider a range of sources, including consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.	
	Source of data/supporting evidence	Reason for using
	Domestic Abuse Needs assessment and system- wide review	The Needs Assessment commissioned and system- wide review commissioned in 2022 asked the requirements of all victims/ survivors protected characteristics under the 2020 Equality Act which include gender, sexual orientation (LGB), gender reassignment, disability, ethnicity, and age to be considered and analysed. The commission carried out extensive data collection, review of available data and statistics, capturing service users' feedback, and interviews with key policy makers/ stakeholder consultation with service providers. Online surveys for

	frontline professionals and victims /survivors were undertaken to reflect the diversity of experiences by protected groups.
Reports	Also considered for this assessment are commissioned partners report, case studies and other service provision reports delivered to the commissioner every quarter since 2021.
North Yorkshire police data	Local police data tells us there is rise in DA related calls to north Yorkshire police from 2021- 2022. This record shows twelve out of the 22 wards in York report on average 30 DA crimes each quarter. The largest number of police recorded crimes are from Guildhall, Micklegate, Westfield, Heworth and Clifton. Victim age demographics are most people between the age 20-59. These records also show a rise in older victims (between the ages 59-79) reporting domestic abuse to the police
Commissioned service Data	Demand for refuge accommodation increased in 2022-2023 even though calls to the help line decreased by almost 30 percent compare to the previous years. 32 new referrals were made to services for children and young people (C&YP) affected by domestic abuse. Seven C&YP referred needed physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing support. Our perpetrator behaviour change service also saw 26 percent decline in the numbers of perpetrators volunteering to change their behaviour. 8 out of the 32 new perpetrator referrals also need mental and emotional wellbeing support and 2 needed shelter.

Step 3 – Gaps in data and knowledge

3.1	What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal? Please indicate how any gaps will be dealt with.	
Gaps in data or knowledge	Action to deal with this	
<p>The Assessment has considered the following groups in adherence to the equality Act 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected characteristics including sex, age, disability marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief and sexual orientation, and gender re-assignment. • Improve data collection service data: non-protected demographic characteristics including mental health, immigration status and socio-economic status. • The survey found that 10% of the population in City of York identify as Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic (BAME). However, it is challenging to truly understand the needs of the BAME population in York as many agencies did not collect data regarding a person's ethnicity, highlighting that poor data collection has wider impact regarding accessibility of services to Black, Asian and Racially Minoritized victims, which is an area for improvement. This applies to other protected characteristics too, including disability, sexual identity, and gender identity 	<p>Therefore, it is recommended to introduce a new key indicator to measure outcomes in relation to all protected characteristics for those accessing safe accommodation services, and for this to be extended to wider domestic abuse services, in the new strategy. This should facilitate the monitoring of the Strategy recommendations and delivery of the plan to ensure the strategy will have a positive impact for these group</p>	

Step 4 – Analysing the impacts or effects.

4.1	<p>Please consider what the evidence tells you about the likely impact (positive or negative) on people sharing a protected characteristic, i.e., how significant could the impacts be if we did not make any adjustments? Remember the duty is also positive – so please identify where the proposal offers opportunities to promote equality and/or foster good relations.</p>		
Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
Age	<p>The needs assessment revealed a somewhat diverse age profile among domestic abuse victims, with approximately 1,000 individuals aged 60 experiencing domestic abuse in York between 2019-2022. Recent police incident reports from early this year also indicate an uptick in older people reporting domestic abuse to the police. The reason for this increase in reporting by older victims remains unclear; however, studies acknowledge that older individuals are vulnerable to specific forms of domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour, as well as financial abuse.</p> <p>Further evidence suggests that older people may be more prone to normalizing abusive behaviour and might not perceive themselves as victims, possibly due to a generational knowledge gap. The new strategy aims to enhance public awareness regarding domestic abuse and its various forms, particularly focusing on addressing the unique challenges faced by older victims.</p>	Positive	H

<p>Disability</p>	<p>A report done by <u>Public Health England (2015)</u> highlights that disabled people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse. • experience domestic abuse for longer periods of time, and more severe and frequent abuse than non-disabled people. • encounter differing dynamics of domestic abuse, which may include more severe coercion, control, or abuse from carers. <p>This unique situation was also highlighted in the local needs assessment, which identified gaps in capturing information about disabled victims. The report attributes this issue to deficient reporting systems and a failure to inquire about disability when victims access services. Evidence gathered revealed that even in attempts to collect disability data, there were numerous unknown details that put this group at risk. Insufficient information about a victim can subsequently result in situations where disabled domestic abuse victims and their families struggle to access the appropriate support. According to the prevalence tool used by Safelives, an estimated 3,500 disabled victims of domestic abuse were in York between 2020-2022. The report further examined people with visual impairment, estimating that approximately one in 12 visually impaired individuals in the UK have been victims or survivors of domestic abuse. This translates to 188,000 out of the 2.19 million blind and partially sighted people in the country having</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>H</p>
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	<p>experienced domestic abuse. Additional barriers and challenges faced by those with visual impairment are detailed in the <u>report</u>.</p> <p>The new strategy will take into consideration the risk disabled people face. Planned interventions will aim to address the current data capture gap. The partnership aims to work with service providers and other multiagency partners (i.e., Adult Social care services) to improve information governance and data sharing methods.</p>		
Gender	As per the needs assessment, the gender distribution of domestic abuse victims in York remained stable from 2019-20 to 2021-22, with approximately 67% to 68% identified as female and 18% to 19% recorded as male. Although domestic abuse can affect individuals of all genders, women face a higher risk. The proposal aims to provide support for all genders, with a specific emphasis on enhancing assistance for women facing multiple social and economic risk factors	Positive	M
Gender Reassignment	Data obtained from the needs assessment indicates that only 5-6% of victims who utilized services in the last three years reported their gender as unknown, and less than 1% identified as non-binary, transgender, or another gender identity. While there are no specifically commissioned services for LGBTQIA individuals at present, service providers are employing innovative methods to address the unique needs of this group, particularly those facing potential repercussions related to	Positive	H

	disclosure. The proposal aims to ensure that service providers deliver a comprehensive range of trauma-led support catering to the well-being of all genders, including LGBTQIA individuals		
Marriage and civil partnership	The act recognises that Domestic Abuse can occur through several intimate relationships and is not limited to persons within a marriage or civil partnership. In line with the act this proposal will support victims of different marital status as prescribed in the act.	Positive	L
Pregnancy and maternity	Acknowledging pregnancy as a factor contributing to domestic abuse and potentially causing an escalation in abuse, including risks to unborn children, this proposal seeks to offer training to all healthcare professionals, particularly midwives. The aim is to enable early intervention during pregnancy, drawing insights from best practices observed elsewhere	Positive	H
Race and ethnicity	Based on our research, 500 individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds in York experienced domestic abuse in 2019. This count excludes victims of domestic abuse from non-intimate partners like parents, siblings, and honour-based violence (HBV). Case studies indicated that victims from ethnic minorities face increased vulnerability due to their insecure immigration status, leaving them with no recourse to public funds. This proposal aims to establish services with an effective approach to support victims in confidently escaping abuse, mitigating the fear of deportation or reprisal	Positive	H
Religion and belief	Cultural backgrounds can influence the dynamics of relationships, with certain cultures having a higher likelihood of individuals experiencing domestic abuse. This may result in various impacts, such as victims being hesitant to report or opposing the arrest of their partners. York has seen a	Positive	H

	significant influx of refugees due to heightened instability in other regions globally. Additionally, the city's universities attract students from various parts of the world. Hence, it is essential to actively involve these communities in discussions about domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG), encompassing issues like honour-based violence, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. Commissioned service providers will be encouraged to link with By-For services to be able to properly engage these groups.		
Sexual orientation	According to national data, individuals in the LGBTQ+ community who are victims of abuse are more prone to experiencing abuse from multiple partners compared to their heterosexual counterparts. Additionally, they are nearly twice as likely to have attempted suicide, more than twice as likely to engage in self-harm, and more than twice as likely to have encountered historical abuse from a family member. As a result, the new intervention will endeavour to accurately record and comprehend the sexual identity of domestic abuse victim.	Positive	H
Other Socio-economic groups including:	Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g., carers, ex-offenders, low incomes?		
Carer	No evidence available		
Low income groups	The needs assessment reveals a lack of data on socio-economic characteristics, aside from employment status and household structure, as recorded by current service providers. While this is the local scenario, national studies indicate that socio-economic factors, such as income and expenditure, can	Positive	L

	<p>influence eligibility for social housing, benefits, and secure accommodation. Individuals facing these challenges may encounter delays in claiming benefits, leading to a reluctance to escape domestic abuse.</p> <p>It is worth noting that domestic abuse is underreported among affluent individuals, but this doesn't negate its occurrence behind closed doors. In 2019, York was ranked 140th out of 151 upper-tier local authorities in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Among the 120 LSOAs in York, six are among the 20% most deprived, and 62 are within the least deprived quintile.</p> <p>To ensure fair access to services, the strategy will implement diverse outreach strategies designed to reach individuals irrespective of their background and circumstances</p>		
Veterans, Armed Forces Community	In collaboration with the OFPCC, we have formed connections with the local Army Welfare Service to enhance our approach to intricate domestic abuse cases. This partnership aims to provide training for ISVA and IDVAs who will be integrated into local military communities to offer support to victims of domestic abuse within the army.	Positive	H
Other	Certain districts in western York are designated as highly rural. It is crucial to acknowledge the associated risk factors of this rural setting, encompassing issues such as geographical isolation, limited transportation, scarce community resources, and cultural factors like a lack of anonymity or privacy. The plan aims to enhance community-based services by establishing service centres in easily reachable locations, taking into account transportation choices, proximity to public transport, and safety considerations. Additionally, to improve	Positive	H

	access to services in rural areas, the strategy will explore options such as virtual counselling for individuals residing in remote areas		
Impact on human rights:			
List any human rights impacted.	<p>The strategy will impact positively on the following human right principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to life • The right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman and degrading way. • The right to respect for private and family life (including the right to physical and psychological integrity) • The right not to be discriminated against 		H

Use the following guidance to inform your responses:

Indicate:

- Where you think that the proposal could have a POSITIVE impact on any of the equality groups like promoting equality and equal opportunities or improving relations within equality groups
- Where you think that the proposal could have a NEGATIVE impact on any of the equality groups, i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that this proposal has a NEUTRAL effect on any of the equality groups listed below i.e. it has no effect currently on equality groups.

It is important to remember that a proposal may be highly relevant to one aspect of equality and not relevant to another.

<p>High impact (The proposal or process is very equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is significant potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or public facing The proposal has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people The proposal has the potential to make a significant contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights.</p>
<p>Medium impact (The proposal or process is somewhat equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is some evidence to suggest potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or across services, but mainly internal The proposal has consequences for or affects some people The proposal has the potential to make a contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>
<p>Low impact (The proposal or process might be equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is little evidence to suggest that the proposal could result in adverse impact The proposal operates in a limited way The proposal has consequences for or affects few people The proposal may have the potential to contribute to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>

Step 5 - Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising positive impacts

5.1	Based on your findings, explain ways you plan to mitigate any unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. Where positive impacts have been identified, what is been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality or foster good relations?
N/A	

Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment

6.1	Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision. There are four main options you can take:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No major change to the proposal – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.

- **Adjust the proposal** – the EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance quality or to foster good relations.
- **Continue with the proposal** (despite the potential for adverse impact) – you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations under the duty
- **Stop and remove the proposal** – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.

Important: If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column.

Option selected	Conclusions/justification
N/A	N/A

Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment

7.1 What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.			
Impact/issue	Action to be taken	Person responsible	Timescale

Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve

<p>8. 1</p>	<p>How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward? Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics and other marginalised groups going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?</p>
	<p>Within our local partnership board, we will systematically monitor the impact of activities on protected groups. A strategy delivery plan will be devised to monitor and assess identified Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) throughout the four-year period. The partnership will consistently report on key areas, including:</p> <p>Data collection and analysis: We will identify diversity and inclusion KPIs within our contract monitoring process to identify patterns and trends. Capture specific information about protected victims who access commissioned services.</p> <p>Diversity and inclusion assessment: We will create channels for marginalised groups to provide feedback on their experiences and the impact of services we commission. Ensure these mechanisms are safe, anonymous if necessary, and encourage open and honest communication.</p> <p>Training and Education: We will implement training and education programmes to raise awareness among employees about the importance of diversity, inclusion, and the potential impact of services on protected groups.</p>

Continuous improvement: We will continuously review and evaluate the impact of services on protected characteristics and marginalised groups by capturing victims/ survivors voice to make necessary enhancement and adjustments to policies, practices, and programmes.

Benchmarking and best practices: We will stay informed about industry best practices and benchmark local services against them. Learn from other local areas that have successfully embed diversity and inclusion into their DA programme.

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Annex C: Statement from Information Governance

As there is no personal data, special categories of personal data or criminal offence data being processed, there is no requirement to complete a DPIA.

This is evidenced by completion of DPIA screening questions AD-02496.

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