



# Safe accommodation strategy

Our plan to support people who  
have experienced violence and  
harm at home

**2025 - 2028**



# About this easy read



This is an easy read version of the bigger plan called **Warwickshire Safe Accommodation Strategy**.



This easy read plan tells you about the main things in the bigger plan.



If you want more information, you can find the bigger plan on our website:

**[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/6858/warwickshire-safe-accommodation-strategy](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/directory-record/6858/warwickshire-safe-accommodation-strategy)**



This easy read is still quite long. You do not have to read it all at once if you don't want to.



You might want to take a break or just read the bits you are most interested in.

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# About domestic abuse



We are Warwickshire County Council.  
We want people in our area to be safe  
from violence and harm.



**Domestic abuse** is when you are 16  
years old or older and being harmed  
by your partner or someone close to  
you.



This could be someone you are in a  
relationship with like a husband or  
girlfriend.

It could also be someone you used to  
be in a relationship with or someone  
in your family.



When people have experienced  
domestic abuse we say they are  
a victim-survivor.

# Types of domestic abuse



Domestic abuse includes:

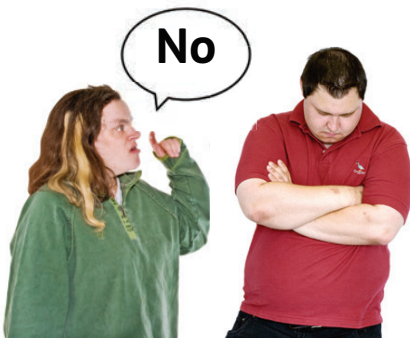
- **Physical abuse:** This is when someone hurts you.



- **Rape or sexual abuse:** This means being forced to have sex or do sexual things.

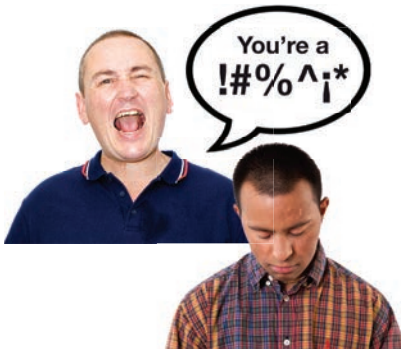


- **Harmful or threatening behaviour:** This is things like hitting you or someone saying they will harm you if you don't do what they ask.



- **Coercive control.** We say coercive like this: **co-er-sive**.

This is when someone tells you what to do. Things like how you should dress or what friends you can see.



- **Economic abuse.** This is when someone:

- Steals your money

or

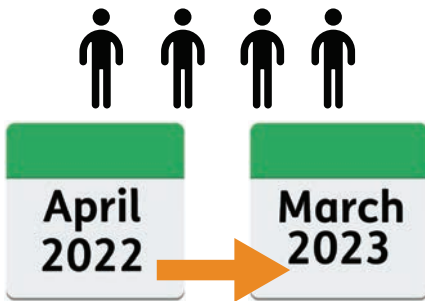
- Will not let you have a say how your money is spent.

- **Emotional abuse.** This is when someone says horrible things about you and puts you down. This can make you feel sad or bad about yourself.

- **Harassment or stalking.** This is when you are threatened, pestered or followed by someone.

- **Online or digital abuse.** This is crime that is done online on the internet. Things like being threatened, bullied, pestered, or sharing pictures online.

# How domestic abuse affects people in England and Wales



4 in every 100 people aged 16 or older have experienced domestic abuse in the last year.



About 8 women a month are killed by a person they are in a relationship with or used to be in a relationship with.



Just over half of people who are survivors of domestic abuse say they need support.

This might be so they can stay in their home or find somewhere else.



1 in 5 children live with someone that is experiencing domestic abuse.



# More about domestic abuse



We will not put up with domestic abuse.



Domestic abuse is a crime. People who do the abuse must be dealt with by the law.



Anyone can experience domestic abuse. This includes any children who see the abuse.



Most survivors in our area are women.



Survivors often have to leave their homes. This is because it is not safe for them to live there anymore.



People are really brave to do this.



When people leave their homes because of domestic abuse, they need a safe place to go to.



This will stop them from being homeless.



People need support to leave their home, if it is not safe.



They also need a lot of support to help them deal with what has happened.

# Speaking to survivors of domestic abuse



We have written a new plan. It tells you how we will support people who are living with domestic abuse.



It is really important to listen to people who have experienced domestic abuse.



We spoke to lots of people before writing our plan.



They told us about their experiences of domestic abuse and what things we need to do better.

## Some things that survivors and people who work with survivors told us



A lot of people didn't know that there were safe places they could go to.



People were worried that there are not enough places to go to in England.



To make sure safe places can support disabled people. And people with lots of different needs.



Services need to work together more to support people.



# What we need to do



The law says we must support people who have had domestic abuse happen to them.



We must make sure people have a safe place to live and support services that meet their needs.



We have already been doing a lot of great work to support survivors.



But we know there is more we need to do to make things better.



Our plan says what we want to do over the next 3 years.

## Some things we are already doing:



- We are working together with services like the police, health services, housing teams and **social workers**.



A **social worker** is someone who is trained to help people who need extra help and support.



We share information to help keep survivors safe.



- We are working with businesses and other organisations to help people:



- Know what domestic abuse is and how to spot the signs.



- Know who to contact for help.



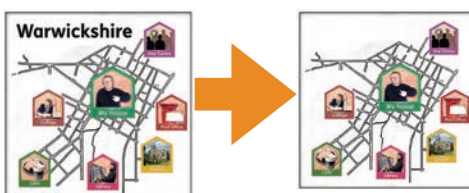
- Know where people can go if they leave their homes.



- We are working with people who have done the abuse to get help and change their behaviour.



- We are working together with other organisations around the country.



This means people can get support and a safe place to live outside Warwickshire, if they need to.

# Our vision

A **vision** is what we want to see happen. Our vision is that survivors:



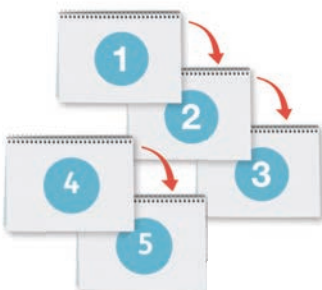
- Have a safe place to live and can live safely free from harm. This could mean living safely back in their own homes.



- Can get support that meets their needs.



- Do not face any **barriers** when they leave home.  
A **barrier** is something that stops you or makes it harder for you to do something.



There are 5 big things we want to do to make our vision happen.



# Big thing 1. Give early help and try to stop abuse from happening



## Keep working closely with schools and colleges

We will make sure teachers and students:



- Understand what domestic abuse is and how it can affect people

and



- Know what support people who experience domestic abuse can get.



## Keep working together with the local police

The local police has a team that looks at domestic abuse.



We will work with the team to support survivors and people who are **at risk** of being abused.



**At risk** means there is a chance that something might happen.

### Think about what we need to do to give early help

We will work together with:



- Schools and colleges to spot children and young people who might be affected by domestic abuse.



- Social workers to give early help and support to families who might have domestic abuse happen.



- Children and family services to look at better ways to stop domestic abuse from happening.

## Make sure people can live safely in their own homes

We will follow the law to make sure survivors:



- Have more choice about safe places to live. This means living in their own homes, if they want to

and

- Can report abuse more easily.



## Work together with housing services

We will look at people who have done the abuse.



We will see if this means they have broken the rules of their **tenancy agreement**.

A **tenancy agreement** tells you the rules you have to follow if you want to live in your home.



## Big thing 2. Make sure people know what support they can get

**Tell people about the different types of safe places to live**



**Safe accommodation** is a place where people can live when they leave their homes.



There are places in homes that are just for men and places in homes that are just for women.



Some homes are shared. This means other survivors live there too.



You get support in the home and advice on how to deal with the abuse that is happening to you





People living in the home help and support you too.



Nobody knows your address when you live in safe housing. This helps to keep you safe.



When we look at housing, we put survivors first.



We find people somewhere to stay in an emergency until they can move to a safe place.



**Dispersed accommodation** is housing for people who cannot live in a shared house.



This might be because they:

- Have a large family and need more space.



- Cannot live in a place that is only for women. This might be if they are men or have sons who are teenagers.



- Have a disability or extra support needs.



- Have a pet.



We also support survivors to live safely in their own homes if they want to.



## Look at getting a certificate for offering safe places to live

To get the certificate, we must work together with housing organisations.



We will need to follow rules about giving people good support and safe places to live.



## Work together with survivors

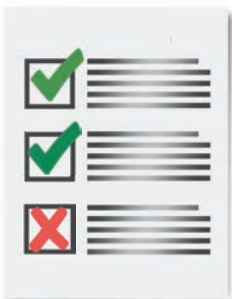
We will find out what stops people from leaving their home and moving to a safe place.



## Look at our pathways

A **pathway** says what should happen when someone uses domestic abuse services.

It tells staff what support and housing the person needs and could get.



We will look at if our pathways work well and what needs to be better.

## Big thing 3. Find a safe place to live that is right for the person



**Make sure people from different groups and backgrounds know about safe accommodation**

This might be people from **ethnic minority** communities or people with disabilities.



**Ethnic minorities** are people from different groups or backgrounds. This might be Asian, Chinese, Black, Roma or Irish traveller.

**Make sure everyone can get the housing and support they need**

We will make sure everyone is treated fairly and no groups of people are left out.





## Look at what safe accommodation we have across our area

We will think about:

- If we have safe housing that meets everyone's needs

and

- If everyone in our area has the same chances for safe housing.



We will keep working to make sure there is enough safe housing places for people who need it.



## Work together with other local councils

We will look at buying joint safe accommodation support services.

## Big thing 4. Work closely together with other services



**Make sure our Children and Family services help families, children and young people to get support quickly**

This will try to keep people safe and stop more abuse from happening or getting worse.



**Learn from other councils and organisations across the country**

This will help us to make sure we are working in the best way.



We have worked with groups who know a lot about some types of abuse.



Things like **modern slavery** and **forced marriage**.



**Modern slavery** is when people:

- Force you to work.



- Do not pay you for work or only give you a little bit of the money.



- Force you to have sex or commit a crime.



**Forced marriage:** This is when a person is forced to marry someone.



We will keep working together with these groups to properly support people experiencing these types of abuse.



## **Work together with mental health services and drug and alcohol services**

We will find out what stops people with mental health problems or drug and alcohol problems from getting the support they need.



## **Work together with the fire service**

We will support survivors in safe housing to stay safe and well at home.

## Big thing 5: Support people to live back at home or move on with their lives



### Give training to housing officers

This will help them know how to support survivors properly.

### Make sure survivors know about other support services across the country

This will help people to get the support they need to move on with their lives.



### Look at what things make it hard for people to move on with their lives

This might be things like not enough housing or not being able to pay **rent**.

**Rent** is money you pay to live in your home.







Warwickshire Police will keep working to stop people who do abuse from living in their homes.



This will help survivors to move back to live safely at home.

## Checking our plan is working



We will work together with survivors every year to do an **assessment**.



An **assessment** means looking at something to find out more about it.



The assessment will help us to check if we are meeting people's needs.



We have set up a group called the Safe Accommodation and VAWG Strategic Delivery Group.



They will check our plan every year to make sure we are doing the things we say we will.



We would like to say thank you to everyone who shared their experiences and helped us to write our plan.



## How to get help

If you need support, here is a list of services who can help.

**Refuge**



### Refuge –Warwickshire Domestic Violence and Abuse Service

Phone 0808 2000 247

**LISTENING EAR**  
someone to talk to



### Listening Ear -DiAmond Counselling and Therapy Service

They have support for adults and young people who experience domestic abuse.

Telephone 0151 488 6648

**DOMESTIC ABUSE COUNSELLING SERVICE**

A service provided by  
**'INSIGHT'** Counselling Coaching & Support Services  
Charity Registration 1125103



### Domestic Abuse Counselling Service

Phone 024 7635 1137

**Family Intervention Counselling Service CIC**  
Building and Enabling Safer Families



### Family Intervention Counselling Service

Telephone 01926 497492



## **Galop**

Support for LGBTQ+ people who experience domestic abuse.

Phone 0800 999 5428



## **ManKind Initiative**

For men who experience domestic abuse.

Phone 0808 800 1170



## **Respect Phonenumber**

Help for people who do domestic abuse and want to stop.

Phone 0808 8024040



## **Rights of Women**

They give advice to women about what the law says about violence and harm to women and girls.

Phone 020 7251 8887



## Safeline

Support for anyone affected by rape or sexual abuse.

Phone 01926 402 498



## The Blue Sky Centre

This is a Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

Phone 0330 223 0099



## Warwickshire Child Sexual Exploitation Team

Phone 01926 414144



If you need help straight away because someone is hurting you, phone 999.