

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form

Date of Screening:	Directorate: People	Section: Early Help and Communities	
1. Activity to be assessed	New Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24.		
2. What is the activity?	X Policy/strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function/procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> Review <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change		
3. Is it a new or existing activity?	X New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing		
4. Officer responsible for the screening	Sophie Wing-King		
5. Who are the members of the screening team?	Alison O'Meara, Sophie Wing-King, Nick Young?		
6. What is the purpose of the activity?	The Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Strategy outlines our wider partnership response to domestic abuse in Bracknell Forest.		
7. Who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	Victims of domestic abuse and their children		
Protected Characteristics	Please tick yes or no	Is there an impact? What kind of equality impact may there be? Is the impact positive or adverse or is there a potential for both? If the impact is neutral please give a reason.	What evidence do you have to support this? E.g equality monitoring data, consultation results, customer satisfaction information etc Please add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform members decision making, include consultation results/satisfaction information/equality monitoring data
8. Disability Equality – this can include physical, mental health, learning or sensory disabilities and includes conditions such as dementia as well as hearing or sight impairment.	Y ✓	N	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone.</p> <p>Vulnerability resulting from a disability may make a disabled person less able to recognise, seek help or escape domestic abuse.</p> <p>Data from the BF safe accommodation domestic abuse needs assessment carried out in 2021 showed that 5-10% of victims had a disability or long-term sickness, similar to estimates of disability in the population as a whole.</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed adults aged 16-74 years with a disability were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year than those without.</p> <p>Women who were disabled were more likely to experience any domestic abuse in the last year (15%) compared to women who were not (6%).</p>

				In 2015/16, SafeLives estimated that disabled people are underrepresented in domestic abuse services, despite being twice as likely to experience domestic abuse.
9. Racial equality	Y ✓	N	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage a person because of race or migrant status.</p>	<p>Data from the BF safe accommodation domestic abuse needs assessment carried out in 2021 showed that 90% of victims were from white groups, with under 5% from Asian groups and under 5% from black and black British groups, reflecting the make-up of the population locally. Whilst the number of BAME victims are relatively small, nationwide and local evidence shows that victims from these groups face particular issues reporting domestic abuse/seeking help, relating to culture, language, etc.</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed that those in the mixed ethnic group were significantly more likely than those in the Black or Asian ethnic groups to experience domestic abuse within the last year. In the White, Mixed and Black ethnic groups, women were more likely than men to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year.</p>
10. Gender equality	Y ✓	N	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone regardless of gender.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage a person because of their gender.</p>	<p>Data from the safe accommodation domestic abuse needs assessment carried out in 2021 showed that the majority of victims are women. 95% of Berkshire Women's Aid outreach services were used by women and about 90% of housing cases were female; the police recorded a higher proportion of male victims (25%). Whilst the number of male victims is lower, nationwide and local evidence shows that male victims from these groups face particular issues and a lack of locally available services.</p> <p>In the year ending March 2020, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 1.6 million women and 757,000 men aged 16-74 years experienced domestic abuse.</p> <p>Men experiencing domestic abuse may experience barriers to reporting and seeking help due to stereotypes.</p>

<p>11. Sexual orientation equality</p>	<p>Y ✓</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone regardless of sexual orientation.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage a person because of their sexual orientation.</p>	<p>Data from the safe accommodation domestic abuse needs assessment carried out in 2021 showed that a large majority of referrals were heterosexual/straight. Only a small number of organisations collected data on sexual identity and these recorded 2% of victims as gay/lesbian and/or bisexual; however, all of these organisations recorded large numbers of unknowns.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that LGBT+ communities face complex barriers to seeking support for domestic abuse with 60-80% of LGBT+ victims having never reported to the police or attempted to find support from services (Galop).</p>
<p>12. Gender re-assignment</p>	<p>Y ✓</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage a person in the act of transitioning or transgender people.</p>	<p>Data from the safe accommodation domestic abuse needs assessment carried out in 2021 showed there was little data available on gender re-assignment. There was some anecdotal evidence in the local area relating to trans-gender victims highlighting the lack of specific provision and support.</p> <p>There is little research on how many transgender people experience domestic abuse in the UK.</p> <p>Support U, an LGBT+ support service based in Reading were commissioned in 2022 by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to provide a domestic and sexual abuse service across the Thames Valley.</p>
<p>13. Age equality</p>	<p>Y ✓</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended to cover all ages, although some age ranges are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage a person because of their age.</p>	<p>Data from the safe accommodation domestic abuse needs assessment carried out in 2021 showed the most common age group recorded is between 25 and 44 years old. Smaller numbers of victims between 18 and 24 were recorded and over 45. Whilst the number of older victims is lower, nationwide and local evidence shows that older victims may face particular issues.</p> <p>Witnessing and living with domestic abuse can have a detrimental effect on children and young people.</p>

				The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed that women aged 16-19 years old were significantly more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year than older women. There were few significant differences by age for men.
14. Religion and belief equality	Y ✓	N	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage a person because of their religion or beliefs.</p>	<p>Data from the safe accommodation domestic abuse needs assessment carried out in 2021 showed no available evidence on the religion of victims.</p> <p>There is limited research on the relationship between religious beliefs and domestic abuse victimisation in the UK.</p>
15. Pregnancy and maternity equality	Y ✓	N	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage someone due to pregnancy or maternity.</p>	<p>The limited evidence available from data collected by Berkshire Women's Aid showed that between 5 and 10% of victims were pregnant.</p> <p>A 2002 study on abuse during pregnancy and femicide (McFarlane et al, 2002) found evidence of a proven link between abuse during pregnancy and the mother's chance of being killed by the perpetrator. Another study (Why Mothers Die 2000-2002) found around 30% of domestic abuse starts during pregnancy.</p>
16. Marriage and civil partnership equality	Y ✓	N	<p>Positive.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended for everyone.</p> <p>Overall, we do not anticipate that the Strategy will disadvantage a person with respect to their marriage or civil partnership.</p>	<p>The evidence available from data collected by Berkshire Women's Aid and MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) showed that victims who were married or in a civil partnership outnumbered those cohabiting, separated or divorced. But that a significant number of victims stated that they were single.</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed that adults aged 16-74 years who were separated or divorced were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than those who were married or in a civil partnership, cohabiting, single</p>

			or widowed. Both men and women who were married or in a civil partnership were less likely to be victims of domestic abuse.
17. Please give details of any other potential impacts on any other group (e.g. those on lower incomes/carers/ex-offenders, armed forces communities) and on promoting good community relations.	<p>The domestic abuse safe accommodation needs assessment was undertaken in 2021 under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This was supplemented by evidence from providers and qualitative research based on interviews with victims including from a range of groups with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The data available on incomes and employment was insufficient to draw any conclusions.</p>		
18. If an adverse/negative impact has been identified can it be justified on grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or for any other reason?	No negative impacts of the strategy have been identified.		
19. If there is any difference in the impact of the activity when considered for each of the equality groups listed in 8 – 14 above; how significant is the difference in terms of its nature and the number of people likely to be affected?	As above, the impact of the strategy is considered to be beneficial for all of the equality groups above.		
20. Could the impact constitute unlawful discrimination in relation to any of the Equality Duties?	Y	N ✓	
21. What further information or data is required to better understand the impact? Where and how can that information be obtained?	No further information is needed to determine whether the strategy will have a negative impact on particular groups of victims. Consultation on Strategy has been undertaken with a range of organisations represented at the DA Executive Group and DA Forum, to enable any concerns, issues, or negative impacts to be identified.		
22. On the basis of sections 7 – 17 above is a full impact assessment required?	Y	N ✓	<p>No. A full impact assessment is not required.</p> <p>The strategy has a specific action within the work plan to deliver recommendations outlined in the Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24 which includes the promotion and improvement of support services for people from groups with protected characteristics and includes actions and recommendations to this end within the strategy.</p> <p>If you think you may need to produce a full equality impact assessment, please contact Abby Thomas.</p>
23. If a full impact assessment is not required; what actions will you take to reduce or remove any potential differential/adverse impact, to further promote equality of opportunity through this activity or to obtain further information or data? Please complete the action plan in full, adding more rows as needed.			

