

North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024



North Tyneside Council



Contents

3	Foreword
5	Introduction
6	National context
7	Local context
8	What do we know in North Tyneside?
13	Vision and strategic priorities
18	Commissioning domestic abuse services
19	Leadership and governance
20	Appendix 1: Statutory responsibilities
21	Appendix 2: Partners
22	Appendix 3: Governance chart

Foreword

The North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership has primary responsibility for tackling the issue of domestic abuse and for developing and implementing this strategy.

However, it is such a complex social issue that success in reducing incidents and effectively supporting victims and survivors will only be achieved with the collective ownership and joined-up efforts of all key stakeholders and services with a responsibility for crime prevention, health, social care and family support.

This strategy sets out how we can help people and communities in North Tyneside become free from the harm of domestic abuse and violence.

I welcome in particular the key measures introduced by the Domestic Abuse Act which include the duty on local authorities to provide safe accommodation support to victims of domestic abuse and their children. The introduction of the Act is timely and allows North Tyneside to review its current arrangements to ensure they are fit for purpose in delivering the council's new statutory duties (as set out in appendix 1).

This three year Domestic Abuse Strategy reflects the breadth of commitment from all local stakeholders to tackle domestic abuse, recognising that it is everyone's business. It will inform our commissioning approach, our allocation of resources and our workforce development activities in the coming years to increase the effectiveness of our work and improve the lives of residents.

Domestic abuse is a cruel and complex crime that can affect anyone. Our local strategy will help our partners drive forward progress on a range of strategic issues relating to domestic abuse and its impact on families and communities here in North Tyneside.

**Chair of Safer North Tyneside
Cllr Carol Burdis**





Introduction

Domestic abuse is a complex social problem and a significant public health issue. It can have lifelong impacts on the health and wellbeing of those affected, their children and families and the wider community. It is estimated that currently in England 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.

The words 'abuse' and 'prevention' were rarely used in the same sentence. Today, the idea that abuse can be prevented is more widely recognised, thanks to the traditions and concepts of public health:

- A commitment to prevention and highlighting the inequalities that exist
- The application of public health tools to achieve this goal e.g. needs assessment
- The firm belief that effective public health actions require collaboration and cooperation across a range of organisations e.g. system leadership and whole systems approach
- An evidence-based approach e.g. highlighting approaches or interventions that are evidence based and effective

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty on local authorities and the police to work together with key partners and organisations to develop and implement local crime reduction strategies as a community safety partnership. The Safer North Tyneside Partnership is committed to working together with local partners to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities are protected and supported while improving community life overall for our residents, businesses, and visitors. Domestic abuse and sexual violence is a key priority which this strategy will support.

Prevalent across all communities and with no preference for age, gender or income – domestic abuse can affect anyone. It isn't just physical abuse but can take other forms too, such as emotional, mental, and financial abuse. The physical and psychological implications of domestic abuse have a staggering financial impact on services including housing, civil, legal, employment, physical and mental health care, criminal justice, and social care.

Domestic abuse has no place in North Tyneside as it causes untold harm to victims and their families and leaves a legacy behind that often changes people's lives. Put simply, domestic abuse should not be tolerated as part of our local culture in any shape or form.

Key stakeholders in North Tyneside have worked tirelessly to support victims and survivors across the borough (the vast majority of which are women and girls), however there is a recognition that there is still much work to be done to:

- Safeguard victims and their families comprehensively
- Reduce the number of repeat occurrences
- Reinforce to perpetrators that domestic abuse is unacceptable and will be dealt with swiftly and effectively using the full weight of the criminal justice system; but support those who are willing to change their behaviour
- Address the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people

The strategy will address these challenges by working together and putting in place real and lasting change, strengthened through our partnership working in areas where we need to improve. Research indicates that domestic abuse is prevalent in all neighbourhoods and it is not confined to particular communities, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or social status. With this in mind, we will ensure that all domestic abuse provision is tailored to meet the needs of all residents of North Tyneside, including all groups with protected characteristics.

National context

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

“Domestic abuse is an abhorrent crime perpetrated on victims and their families by those who should love and care for them. This landmark Bill will help transform the response to domestic abuse, helping to prevent offending, protect victims and ensure they have the support they need.”

Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Safeguarding

A new Domestic Abuse Act was passed into law in April 2021. The Act aims to:

- Raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families
- Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice
- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies

Additionally, the new legislation:

- Creates a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse
- Establishes in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and sets out the Commissioner's functions and powers
- Provides for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order
- Creates a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts
- Places the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing
- Provides that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance
- Creates a new statutory guidance

Statutory definition of Domestic Abuse under Section 1 of DA Act 2021:

- Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if: (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive.
- This includes physical, emotional, economic, sexual abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour.
- ‘Personally connected’ means: intimate partners, ex-partners, family members or individuals who share parental responsibility for a child

Local context

North Tyneside's Community Safety Partnership, Children, Young People and Learning Partnership Board and Safeguarding Adult Board continue to recognise domestic abuse and sexual violence as key priorities. The Domestic Abuse Partnership is tasked by the three boards to drive the agenda forward. The Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) exists to develop a strategy for those who have experienced, who are currently experiencing, or those who are at risk of domestic abuse in North Tyneside. There are several key strategic drivers at a national and local level that have influenced the development of this strategy and the implementation plan which will support it. Key local drivers are set out below:

Local drivers

- North Tyneside Council Plan, this strategy supports key elements of the plan including a safer North Tyneside and a thriving North Tyneside
- Health and Wellbeing Board Health Inequalities strategy, this strategy supports the ambition to reduce health inequalities. While domestic abuse can affect anyone, there is a recognition that inequalities play a big part in domestic abuse in North Tyneside
- North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, the board provides both a strategic and advisory function in influencing the response to domestic abuse by overseeing the development of this strategy and associated action plan
- The Safer North Tyneside Strategy sets out the local authority's approach to tackling ASB and how the authority will manage cases and work with its residents and partners. This strategy supports and compliments the priorities within this plan
- The Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioners, Police and Crime Plan sets out priorities for Northumbria Police including domestic abuse and sexual violence, which aligns with this strategy
- North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment undertaken by Public Health will help us understand the scale of the issue locally and identify gaps and recommendations. Public Health have worked with partners to develop a Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment
- The Children and Young People Plan outlines the Children, Young People and Learning Partnership Board's priorities for enhancing children's services and improving outcomes for children, young people, and families, particularly those most vulnerable. This strategy aligns to this plan, in particular the priorities around I am Safe, and I have a Voice

Domestic abuse is a constantly evolving agenda, it is critical to continually assess our knowledge and understanding of national policy which is implemented at a local level to best meet the needs of our residents. In a real-world context of limited resources, North Tyneside needs to work as a system to consider how and where those resources are allocated and how priorities will be addressed.

What do we know in North Tyneside?

As part of the duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, the local authority is required to undertake a needs assessment. The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment purpose is to:

- Inform North Tyneside's response to the Domestic Abuse Act
- Identify gaps in data and areas for further work/research
- Underpin a review of safe accommodation provision and commissioned DA support services in North Tyneside
- Describe and understand the population of North Tyneside
- Examine and understand the prevalence of domestic abuse in North Tyneside

Please see the North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment on <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/605/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-jsna>

The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment highlights 11 recommendations for North Tyneside.

What does the data tell us?

- According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales year ending March 2020, an estimated 5.5% of adults aged 16 to 74 years (2.3 million) experienced domestic abuse in the last year
- For a population like North Tyneside, it could be expected that 4,825 women and 2,244 men aged 16-59 may report experiencing Domestic Abuse. The actual number of Domestic Abuse incidents reported to police was 3,348 (2019/20), which is significantly lower than the projected volume (7,069). In 2020/2021 North Tyneside recorded 5,698 incidents
- The Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) compares the rate of domestic abuse incidences recorded per 1,000 populations across the North East Region. Local authorities are allocated the crude rate of the police force area in which they sit. North Tyneside, for 2019/20, recorded a rate of 34.9 Domestic Abuse incidences per 1,000 population (figure 3 below), compared against the North East range of a high of 42.3. The England rate was recorded as 28.0 per 1,000 population. The North East region remains an outlier in comparison to other regions, North Tyneside is below the North East region value but remains above the England average
- The following wards had rates of offences above the borough average of 16.25 per 1,000:
 - Riverside
 - Chirton
 - Wallsend
 - Howdon
 - Collingwood
- In North Tyneside 71% of individuals were victimised once in 2020/21
- In North Tyneside 29% of individuals were victimised more than once in 2020/21
- Domestic abuse related to partner or ex-partners accounted for 77% of reports in North Tyneside
- 70% (1,561) of perpetrators were male and 30% (662) were female
- 62% of female perpetrators were aged 20-39 years of age
- 62% of male perpetrators were aged 20-39 years of age
- 1,474 (66%) committed one offence in 2020/21
- 729 offences (20%) were committed where the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol

Emerging themes

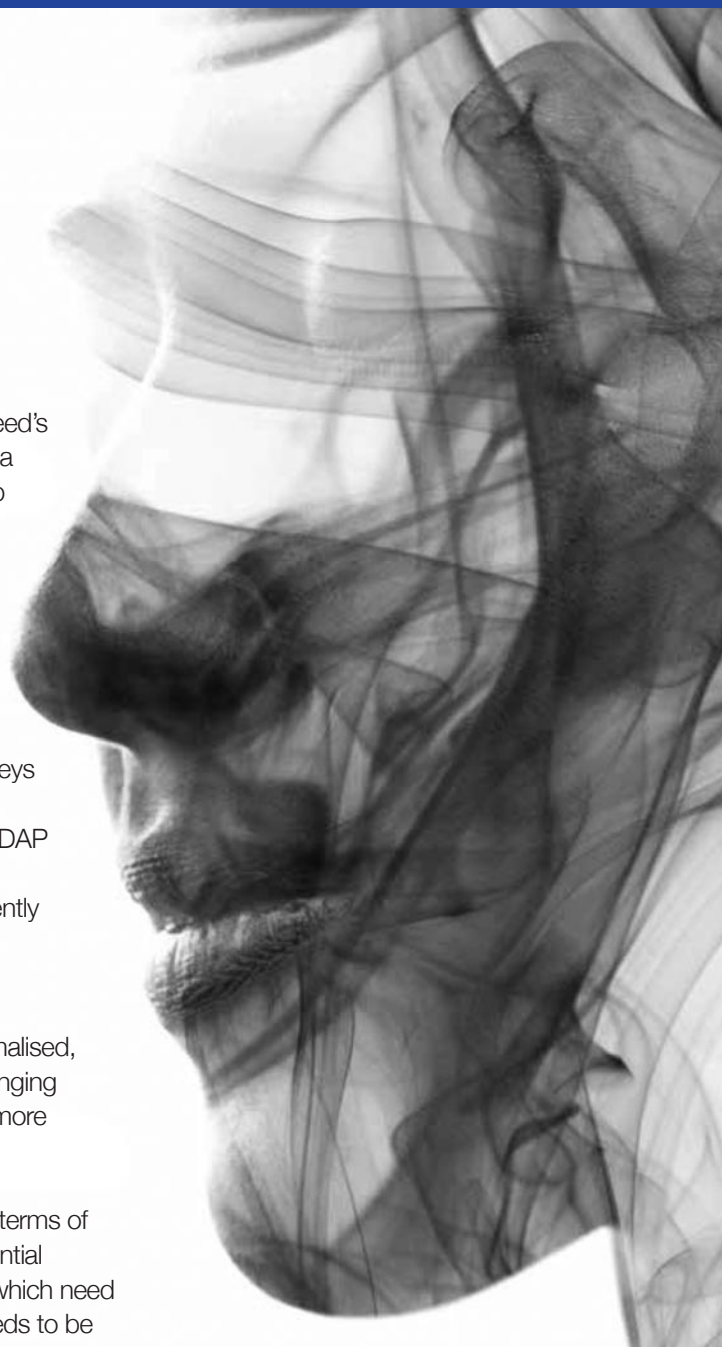
Data and the quality of data was a key theme throughout the need's assessment. There is an over reliance on police data, however a range of data exists from other key stakeholders which can help inform the DAP in terms of gaps and issues in relation to North Tyneside.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 puts a requirement on all local authorities to produce an annual needs assessment and report on specific data currently not recorded by all partners. For North Tyneside to meet these requirements and to gain a better understanding of victims and perpetrators journeys through the system, this data collection and quality needs to be improved. The development of a data dashboard will help the DAP identify emerging themes and issues, however support and commitment from partners is required to improve the data currently being collected in terms of the new requirements and improve data quality.

A significant amount of abusive behaviour remains hidden, normalised, and unreported to the police or other services. Therefore, by bringing together a range of local sources of data the aim is to create a more comprehensive picture of domestic abuse in North Tyneside.

Areas in North Tyneside were identified on a consistent basis in terms of high numbers of incidents / reporting and similarly areas of potential underreporting. This identifies the areas within North Tyneside which need targeting in terms of resources, but also where data sharing needs to be improved to allow data sets to be overlayed, and also understand who is accessing support / services across North Tyneside.

Access to several services including drug and alcohol services, housing, health services (GP's) needs to be understood both from a victim and perpetrator perspective. The Domestic Abuse Act will place requirements on the local authority to provide support to both adults and children. The needs assessment highlights the need to understand the demand on these services to ensure North Tyneside can understand both a victim and perpetrator journey as well as ensuring services are in a position to be able to provide support and meet demand.



Evidence base

The needs assessment also highlights a range of evidence which should be considered when looking to address domestic abuse in North Tyneside, these are highlighted below:

Challenging culture

Interventions that challenge cultural and social norms supportive of violence can help reduce and prevent violent behaviour. Although widely used, they have rarely been evaluated. Violent behaviour is strongly influenced by cultural and social norms, so efforts to prevent violence must consider how social pressures and expectations influence individual behaviour. Appropriate and sensitive awareness raising campaigns are a key strategy to challenging social norms and raising awareness of available services. The literature demonstrates the need for a change in attitudes, behaviours, and practices across all communities to effectively reduce domestic abuse. However, it should be noted that research also found that some campaigns do more harm than good, and some have unintended consequences such as desensitising perpetrators to the severity of the topic or inducing negative feelings in victims.

Improving data quality

Several reports describe the lack of response to requests for information and the frustration at not being able to access adequate data. However, best practice points to a changing culture in service provision and assessment which aims to embed more effective monitoring and evaluation of outcomes to get more comprehensive data.

Challenging culture in children and young people

A recent UK review of domestic abuse prevention programmes for children and young people provides clear messages for what works:

- Programmes that seek to challenge social norms, including gender norms and victim blaming, and harness pro-social peer pressure to change attitudes
- Both young people and experts argued for the value of drama/theatre and narrative
- Authenticity achieved through material that delivered emotional charge, which was meaningful to young people and made it 'real'
- Authenticity enhanced when interventions delivered by those with relevant expertise or experience, including young people themselves
- Whole population interventions harness peer group power but can also identify those at risk who require additional services
- Interventions need to take account of power differentials, particularly in relation to gender and sexuality
- Messages should be positively framed, avoiding the blaming that can provoke resistance from some boys
- Children's and young people's perceptions and experiences should be incorporated into interventions and evaluations

The background of the page features a close-up of a hand placing a light blue puzzle piece into a larger, partially assembled structure. The puzzle pieces are in various shades of blue, and the overall image conveys a sense of building, support, and integration. The hand is positioned in the lower right, reaching towards the center where the puzzle piece is being placed.

Supporting professionals

There is strong evidence to show that children and their families can be better supported by professionals who have undertaken training in responding to domestic abuse, underpinned by clear protocols between agencies setting out their respective roles and responsibilities. For example, training of police officers can both dispel myths about the nature and seriousness of domestic abuse as well as better equipping officers in how to respond effectively and helpfully. Schools also have a key role in identifying children who may be living with domestic abuse and in providing a safe place for children to receive support. Similarly, health professionals working in adult mental health teams are well placed to ask sensitively about domestic abuse and to identify children who may be currently exposed to domestic abuse or living with its legacy.

Perpetrators

The evidence base recommends that perpetrator programmes include:

- Funding to support co-ordination of system linkages and cooperation
- Use of ethical decision making (going beyond immediate effectiveness) in funding decisions; continued use of gender based cognitive-behavioural counselling
- Emphasis on intensity of programmes rather than length, especially with regard to repeat perpetrators
- Effective screening of participants, especially with regard to severe alcohol and psychological problems



Vision and strategic priorities

North Tyneside wants to clearly demonstrate that domestic abuse is unacceptable, that a zero-tolerance approach to domestic abuse is taken, and to reduce both the prevalence and impact of domestic abuse upon victims, children, families, and communities throughout the borough.

The vision for North Tyneside's DAP is:

"North Tyneside will reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse across North Tyneside and ensure that where it does occur local victims, children and their families are confident to report and seek support. We will provide the right support and services to minimise the short-term and long-term impact it has on local victims, children and their families".

North Tyneside will take a four-pronged strategic approach in the following areas:

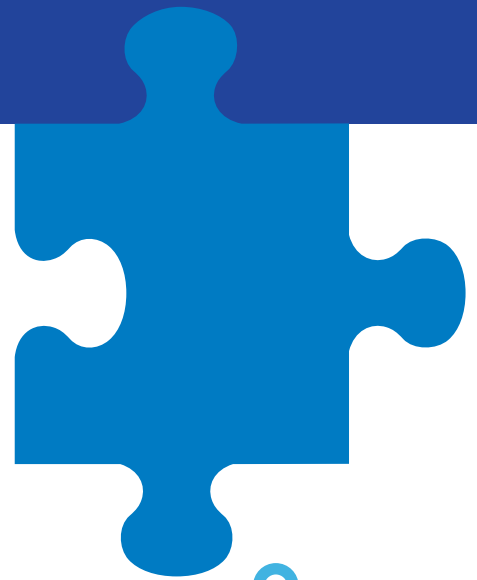
- Recognising
- Responding
- Rehabilitation
- Reviewing



What are the principles that will underpin the partnership approach in North Tyneside?

North Tyneside has a strong partnership approach, and the following principles will underpin our Domestic Abuse Strategy:

- **Engagement** - ensure engagement is core to our planning, prioritisation and commissioning activities. Involve survivors and victims, services and partners in equal partnership, engaging at the earliest stages of service design, e.g. policy development
- **Preventative approaches** – a commitment to prevention and highlighting the inequalities that exist
- **Evidence-based** - we will work from the evidence base to inform our approaches in North Tyneside e.g. trauma-informed and needs-led, highlighting approaches or interventions that are evidence-based and effective
- **Person centred** – ensure the voice of victims and survivors is heard in North Tyneside and co-production is at the heart of our approach



These principles on page 13 will be at the centre of the four-pronged strategic approach by:

RECOGNISING

Raising awareness and enabling challenge by cultivating an environment that prevents domestic abuse and brings about a continual reduction in incidents across North Tyneside, by recognising what constitutes an abusive relationship, encouraging victims to report earlier, and tackling the culture of acceptance.



What are we doing now in North Tyneside?

- Achieved White Ribbon accreditation
- Encouraging North Tyneside Council staff members to be White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions to call out abusive and sexist behaviour among their friends, colleagues, and communities to promote a culture of equality and respect.
- Safeguarding Practitioner Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence based in NHCT
- Ask Me pilot in the North of Tyne asking community members to become ambassadors
- Operation Encompass embedded in schools
- Established multi-agency training strategy to ensure the workforce can recognise signs and indicators of domestic abuse and signpost and refer appropriately

Where do we need further action in North Tyneside?

- Implement a three-year action plan supporting White Ribbon accreditation
- Explore work with young men and boys too promote healthy relationships
- Targeting campaigns more effectively in areas of high incidence and underreporting
- Recruit more White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions in North Tyneside across a range of partner organisations, VCS, and within the community
- Review the Ask Me scheme with the Violence Reduction Unit

What does success look like for North Tyneside?

- Children and adults understand about healthy relationships
- Better understanding of coercive, controlling behaviour and heightened risk when ending an abusive relationship
- Professionals, employers and communities are able to recognise what domestic abuse is and know how to get help for victims and perpetrators
- Local awareness raising campaigns to change attitudes and challenge domestic abuse
- Improved understanding of honour-based abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation
- All staff trained in domestic abuse and parental conflict and understand the difference

RESPONDING

Safeguarding vulnerable people and providing support for victims by nurturing an environment where high quality, wide-ranging support services are accessible, as well as operationally and financially sustainable, to protect and provide for victims and their families on their journey to recovery.



What are we doing now in North Tyneside?

- Integrated service as a single point of contact for males and females over the age of 16 and provide services to address all levels of risk, and severity of domestic abuse
- Therapeutic and outreach support for children and young people ensuring support is available for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse
- The Sanctuary Scheme is a multi- agency, victim centred initiative which aims to enable households at risk of violence to remain in their own homes and reduce the risk of repeat victimisation through the provision of enhanced security measures and support
- The Sanctum Project provides critical support to a cohort of people for which refuge is not suitable and often have multiple and enduring needs that more traditional refuge provision is unable to meet
- Changing Futures programme, Northumbria wide programme

Where do we need further action in North Tyneside?

- **Commission an integrated Domestic Abuse Support service** - to provide an assessment hub, refuge, dispersed properties, resettlement, IDVA, sanctuary scheme, outreach, assertive outreach, groupwork and to establish a Service User Forum
- **Commission a Children's Counselling and Therapeutic and Outreach Support service and establish a service user forum** - to support children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse
- **Commission an Adult Counselling Service** - to work with both males and females (aged 18 and over) to support those who have experienced domestic abuse
- **Conduct a demand analysis around accommodation** to understand demand from a victim and perpetrator perspective
- **Review alcohol and drugs services / pathways** to understand if they can meet future demands which may be placed on them from both a victim and perpetrator perspective, as a result of new duties under the new Domestic Abuse Act

Where do we need further action in North Tyneside?

- Victims having confidence to report domestic abuse and feeling they will receive a supportive and effective response from all agencies
- Families can effectively deal with and manage conflict
- Communities, agencies and employers report and refer incidences of domestic abuse
- People who are at risk of, or are suffering from, domestic abuse are protected
- Children and young people are protected from the effects of domestic abuse
- All victims and those impacted by domestic abuse can access services, support packages, safe accommodation, and support for health and wellbeing (e.g. drug and alcohol services, mental health services, counselling services)

REHABILITATION

Deploying the full weight of the criminal justice system to bring perpetrators swiftly to justice, while also offering opportunities to those who want to change their behaviour and make effective use of Out of Court Disposals for domestic abuse (pending national direction).



What are we doing now in North Tyneside?

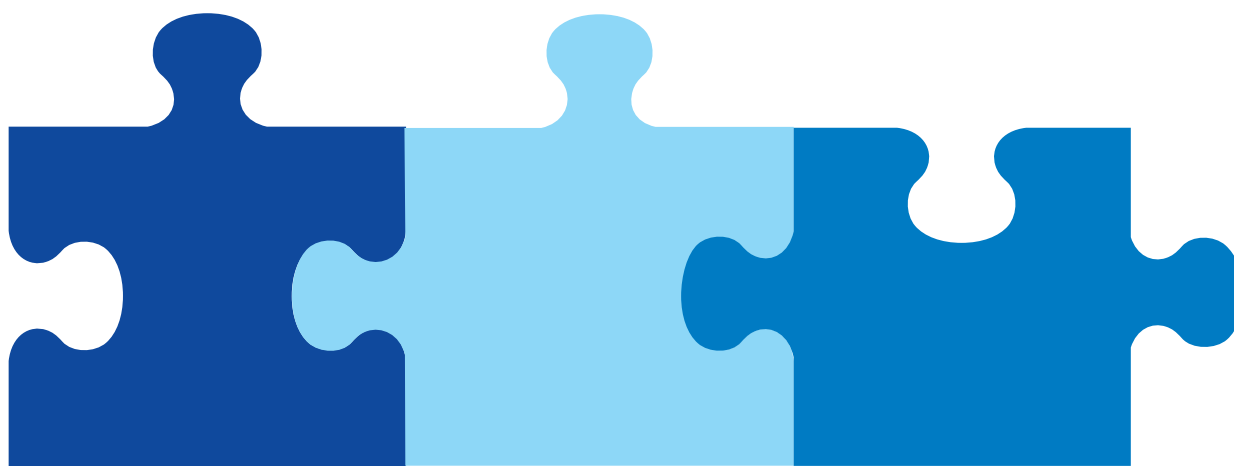
- Respect Accredited programmes across Northumbria for male perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse
- One of six local authority areas involved with the Northumbria Drive pilot, a national initiative to work with serial offenders on a 1:2:1 basis alongside MATAC, the multi-agency approach locally, targeting those serial perpetrators causing the most harm in our communities
- Piloting the Changing Behaviour service based within the North Tyneside

Where do we need further action in North Tyneside?

- Commission a Changing Behaviour Service - to work with both males and females (aged 18 and over) who want to take responsibility and wish to change their abusive behaviour
- Feed into a strategic review of perpetrator interventions being undertaken by Northumbria Police Force
- Develop a work stream around perpetrators to understand the current evidence base, gaps and barriers to support interventions for perpetrators

What does success look like for North Tyneside?

- People who engage in domestic abuse are deterred from their activities through successful criminal justice outcomes and engaging in Changing Behaviour programmes
- Evidence-based specialist interventions for perpetrators to change their behaviour, working in partnership with services for victims and children
- Offenders engage in behaviour and lifestyle programmes to enable rehabilitation and minimise reoffending





REVIEWING

Creating an improved multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse.

What are we doing now in North Tyneside?

- Survivor and victims forum, enabling their experiences to inform delivery
- Provider forums, enabling their experiences to inform delivery
- Domestic abuse homicide reviews, informing learning locally
- Commissioning and undertaking regular monitoring reviews to ensure quality assurance of services
- Partnership feedback through North Tyneside DAP

Where do we need further action in North Tyneside?

- Develop a domestic abuse data dashboard for North Tyneside
- Establish a domestic abuse data performance and quality assurance multi-agency sub-group
- Develop and agree multi-agency information sharing protocols
- Develop and agree arrangements for regional refuge and safer accommodation data sharing
- Explore arrangements for national refuge data sharing processes
- Conduct an annual needs assessment in line with new data requirements
- Explore the availability of data with GP practices and the probation service
- Multi-agency audits to inform future training priorities
- Establish a children's service user forum to ensure the voice of children and young people is heard

What does success look like for North Tyneside?

- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment undertaken to accurately assess the gaps that need bridging to improve lives
- Strategic Domestic Abuse Action Plan reviewed on a regular basis by all key partners and stakeholders, to ensure we make progress and change as the needs of our victims evolve
- Lessons learnt from domestic homicide reviews shared with partners and included in action plans, ensuring wherever possible we address the causes and prevent repetition
- Data from key partners and stakeholders is shared with partners, ensuring as a system we understand and can respond to trends and emerging issues
- Voice of the survivor and victims, partners and services influencing service development

Commissioning domestic abuse services

The refreshed Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021 and four consultation events have informed the commissioning intentions for 2022-2024. A series of consultation events were held to help inform the commissioning intentions and ensure the voices of victims and survivors, partners, and services helped inform the planned commissioning approach.

Consultation events:

- To help inform the development of the service provision in North Tyneside, four consultation events were held in June 2021; a stakeholder engagement event, provider engagement event, and two service user engagement events. At the events, participants were informed of the current identified need informed by a robust needs assessment, along with North Tyneside's commissioning proposal to ensure it meets the duties of the new Domestic Abuse Act.
- The feedback was very positive regarding current service provision in North Tyneside and the commissioning proposal, but it was raised that the proposal did not include support for perpetrators or counselling for victims of domestic abuse.
- This feedback has been implemented, with North Tyneside going to the market to seek a provider of a Changing Behaviour service and a second provider who will deliver a counselling service to both males and females who require counselling to help them overcome any issues as a result of their abuse.

Commissioning intentions 2022-24:

- **An integrated Domestic Abuse Support service** - to provide an assessment hub, refuge, dispersed properties, resettlement, IDVA, sanctuary scheme, outreach, assertive outreach, groupwork and to establish a Service User Form. This provision will be for both male and female victims of domestic abuse over the age of 16
- **Children's Counselling and Therapeutic and Outreach Support** - to support children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse. The key elements of this provision will be to provide an initial response, counselling and outreach support and to establish a children and young people's service user forum
- **Changing Behaviour Service** - to work with both males and females (aged 18 and over) and operate as a single point of entry for referrals and subsequent delivery for residents who agree to engage, take responsibility and wish to change their abusive behaviour. The service will focus on increasing the safety of partners, children and family members to reduce the incidents of domestic abuse within these relationships
- **Adult Counselling Service** - to work with both males and females (aged 18 and over) to support those who have experienced domestic abuse, which will allow victims to explore how they feel and discuss experiences in a safe, non-judgemental environment

Quality assurance and improvement

Commissioned services will be subject to robust quarterly monitoring to ensure that they are effective in meeting the needs of service users. Opportunities will be explored for strengthening our understanding of outcomes and impact through robust data monitoring, analysis and reporting. This will underpin our drive for continuous improvement and ensure that our services remain effective and sustainable.

Leadership and governance

The purpose of the North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will be to bring together a wide range of partners at a senior level to develop and implement a domestic abuse strategy aimed at reducing the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and abuse in North Tyneside.

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board recognises that domestic abuse can happen to anyone; women and men (including transgender) and children from any background, in intimate relationships and between family members and that it has a devastating impact on the lives of all those involved. It has a disproportionate impact on individuals and families experiencing poverty and inequality.

Ensuring the voice of the victim (especially those from marginalised groups) is heard and acted upon will be central to the provisions and activity of the Board, whilst seeking to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach to identifying and addressing gaps in support within safe accommodation services.

The Board will report the needs assessment to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner on an annual basis and will report directly to the Safer North Tyneside Partnership. The Board will also report into the Corporate Strategy Senior Management Team, the Adult Social Care Senior Management Team and the Health and Wellbeing Board on a quarterly basis (please see appendix 3, structure chart), providing an update on any key themes and/or lines of enquiry **(please see appendix 2 detailing partners involved with the DAP).**

Monitoring and measuring our impact

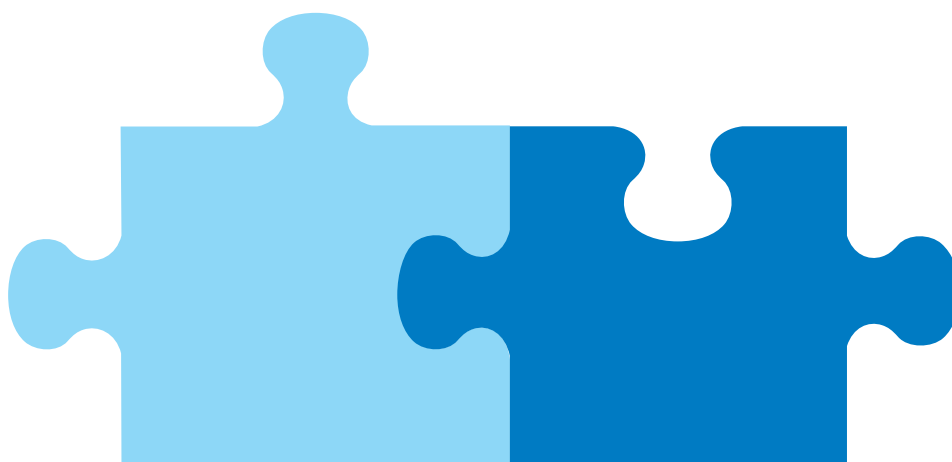
The North Tyneside DAP will have the overall responsibility for the delivery of North Tyneside's Domestic Abuse Strategy.

The DAP will oversee the development and delivery of the action plan and agree key performance indicators to monitor impact. This will be done in partnership with our third sector, domestic abuse providers, recognising their contributions and commitment to ending domestic abuse locally.

How we update the implementation plan

The DAP will review this strategy on an annual basis to ensure the following:

- The Domestic Abuse Action Plan is fully and effectively implemented
- Review key performance indicators to ensure continued understanding of survivors/victims and service needs



Statutory responsibilities Duties on Local Authorities

Under this new legislation there are new statutory duties placed on local authorities. These are:

Creation of a new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which must contain representation of the following as a minimum:

- A representative of the relevant local authority
- At least one person to represent the interests of local authority
- At least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of victims of domestic abuse
- At least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of children of domestic abuse victims
- At least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area
- At least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of persons who provide, or have functions relating to, health care services in its area
- At least one person appearing to the authority to represent the interests of persons with functions relating to policing or criminal justice in its area

To provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. The new duty covers the following kinds of safe accommodation:

- Refuge accommodation
- Specialist safe accommodation
- Dispersed accommodation
- Sanctuary schemes
- Move-on or second stage accommodation

To assess the need for domestic abuse support in the area, this includes:

- Advocacy support - development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers)
- Domestic abuse prevention advice and support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation
- Specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and/or complex needs for example interpreters, faith services, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, and immigration advice
- Children's support – including play therapy and child advocacy
- House-related support as discussed above;
- Counselling and therapy for both adults and children

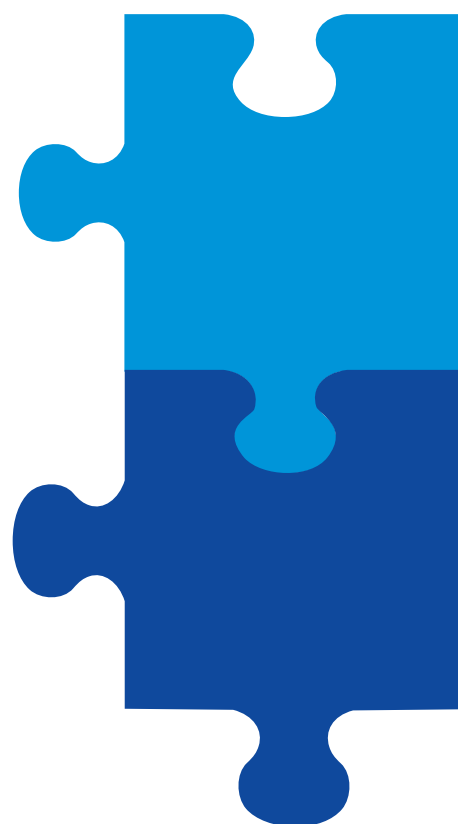
To work to ensure that all existing policies and new policies are written and carried out in such a way as to be inclusive of the new statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling and economic abuse.

Partners

The Domestic Abuse Strategy has been developed by the North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB).

The membership of the Board is as follows:

- North Tyneside Council Director of Public Health (Chair)
- North Tyneside Council Children's Social Care
- North Tyneside Council Adult Social Care
- North Tyneside Council Housing
- North Tyneside Council Commissioning Team
- North Tyneside Council Education Service
- Northumbria Police
- Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner
- National Probation Service
- Northumbria Healthcare Service
- North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group
- Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
- VODA
- Harbour Support Services (Provider and rep for adult survivors)
- Acorns (Provider and rep for children and young people)
- Domestic Abuse Coordinator



Governance chart

