



**Meeting:** Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

**Date/Time:** Friday, 28 June 2024 at 9.00 am

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

**Contact:** Euan Walters (0116 3056016)

**Email:** Euan.Walters@leics.gov.uk

## AGENDA

### Item

1. Introductions.

2. Appointment of Chair.

*To note that the Terms of Reference state the Board will be chaired by the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Leicestershire County Council.*

3. Appointment of Vice Chair.

*To note that the Terms of Reference state the Vice Chair of the Board will be the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety, Rutland County Council.*

4. Minutes of the previous meeting. (Pages 3 - 6)

5. Leicestershire Projects and Commissioning update. (Pages 7 - 16)

*Gurjit Samra-Rai, Community Safety Manager, Leicestershire County Council, will present this report.*

6. Rutland County Council update. (Pages 17 - 22)

*Sarah Gill, Principle Social Worker and Service Manager, Rutland County Council, will present this report.*



7. Project Echo - Safe Lives.

8. Dates of future meetings.

Future meetings of the Board will take place on the following dates all at 9.00am:

Friday 27 September 2024

Friday 13 December 2024

Friday 28 March 2025;

Friday 20 June 2025;

Thursday 25 September 2025;

Friday 21 November 2025.



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board held via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 15 December 2023.

PRESENT

Mrs D. Taylor CC (in the Chair)

Cllr. L. Phillimore	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Blaby District Council
Cllr. L. Blackshaw	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Charnwood Borough Council
Cllr. P. Cumbers	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Melton Borough Council
Cllr. D. Woodiwiss	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Harborough District Council
Cllr. C. Wise	Rutland County Council
Mr. N. Bannister CC	Combined Fire Authority
Rani Mahal	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Joshna Mavji	Public Health, Leicestershire County Council
Bob Bearne	Probation Service
Wendy Hope	Integrated Care Board
Claire Weddle	Freeva
Sophie McGoff	Women's Aid Leicestershire
Debbie Hughes	Living Without Abuse
Paul Snape	Leicester LGBTQ+ Centre
Eleni Kazaglis	Compass Project

Officers

Gurjit Samra-Rai	Leicestershire County Council
Rik Basra	Leicestershire County Council
Lillie Green	Leicestershire County Council
Kaushar Girach	Leicestershire County Council
Euan Walters	Leicestershire County Council
Sarah Pickering	Harborough District Council
Giuseppe Vassallo	Charnwood Borough Council
Rachel Burgess	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Mark Smith	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Angie Bishop	Rutland County Council

Apologies

Cllr. K. Loydall	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Cllr. M. Mullaney	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Sharon Cooke	Leicestershire County Council

Suki Kaur  
Chief Supt Johnny Starbuck

Freeva  
Leicestershire Police

15. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Board, introductions were made and the list of apologies was noted.

16. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2023 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

17. Domestic Abuse Act 2021 updates.

The Board considered a report of Gurjit Samra-Rai, Community Safety Manager, Leicestershire County Council, which provided an update on how the Council's duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 were being fulfilled including the duty to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 3', is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussions the following points were noted:

- (i) The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was due to announce imminently the next round of funding to each local authority for the delivery of the Safe Accommodation duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. No details had been published yet but it was expected that County and District councils would receive a similar amount as the previous year. (For 2023/24 the County Council had received £1,152,936 and District Councils had received approximately £33,000.)
- (ii) DLUHC had just published a document regarding Domestic Abuse safer accommodation annual data monitoring. It was agreed that the document would be circulated after the meeting and the key points would be highlighted at the next Board meeting including how Leicestershire was performing compared to other local authorities.
- (iii) The procurement process for the Safe Accommodation was now live. The exercise had been split into 3 lots:
  - Support for Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) victims - £85,000;
  - Support for Male victims - £35,000;
  - Generic Support (including larger and accessible units) - £130,000.
 In response to a question from the Chair it was clarified that the money was not for the accommodation itself but for the support to victims provided within the accommodation. Victims would access Housing Benefit in order to pay for the accommodation itself.
- (vi) The Children and Family Strategic DA Group continued to meet bi-monthly and it reported into the Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The Group's funding came from the County Council.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (a) The contents of the report be noted;
- (b) SafeLives be authorised to undertake the review of the Needs Assessment as outlined in paragraph 7 of the report;
- (c) The recommendations to extend the commissioned services as outlined in Table 2 at paragraph 20 of the report be approved.

18. Presentation from provider - LGBT+ Centre.

The Board received a presentation from Paul Snape, Consultant Interim CEO, Leicester LGBT Centre, regarding the work of the Centre. Arising from the presentation the following points were noted:

- (i) A permanent replacement for Paul Snape was being recruited.
- (ii) People in the LGBT community suffered from mental health issues to a greater extent than the general population.
- (iii) The Centre provided a counselling service for people from the LGBT community, and also carried out awareness raising in schools of LGBT issues. Further work was needed to take place to publicise the services available.
- (iv) The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment had found that people in the LGBT community did not access support as much as they could do. The LGBT Centre would be involved in further Joint Strategic Needs Assessments going forward.
- (v) The Leicester LGBT Centre worked closely with Leicestershire GATE in relation to the Gypsy/Traveller community.
- (vi) Approximately 25% of people in the LGBT community experienced Domestic Abuse which was a similar percentage to heterosexual women. Further work needed to take place to raise awareness of the issue within the LGBT community and social media campaigns were planned to take place, though care needed to be taken regarding the tone of the messaging.
- (vii) Consideration was given to whether the LGBT Centre should link in with Family Hubs in order to engage with people from the LGBT community. It was noted that other local providers were based at Family Hubs and the LGBT Centre would be able to link in with those providers. Paul Snape agreed to look into this further after the meeting.
- (viii) The LGBT Centre was developing links with Healthwatch and the Trade Sexual Health clinic in Leicester. Further work was required to develop links with health partners.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

19. Any other business.

Gurjit Samra-Rai reported that work was taking place with SafeLives on a funding application for authentic voice work. This work was originally going to be funded from the DLUHC monies but if the funding application was successful the DLUHC monies would not be needed for this project. Further detail would be provided at the next Board meeting.

Eleni Kazaglis, Economic Abuse Specialist, Compass Project gave a presentation on the work of the Compass Project. A copy of the presentation slides is filed with these minutes. Arising from the presentation the following points were noted:

- (i) The Compass project was a partnership between Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA), Living Without Abuse (Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland), and RISE (Brighton and Hove) which aimed to develop responses to Economic Abuse. Economic Abuse involved actions designed to exert financial control over a person for example restricting a person's access to money such as taking over their bank account and passwords, taking their debit/credit card, building up debt in their name, and taking their work identification card.
- (ii) The project carried out research and provided education relating to Economic Abuse. In Leicestershire and Rutland training on recognising the signs of Economic Abuse and how to respond was provided in partnership with LWA. Specific training was provided for professionals working in the area of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- (iii) A survey was being carried out of professionals working in the area to help guide the work and to continue to raise awareness and transform responses to economic abuse. The survey could be found via the following link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HG6GSYJ>
- (iv) It was suggested that Revenues and Benefits departments should be made aware of the work on Economic Abuse and agreed that they would be contacted after the meeting.

20. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Board take place on Friday 22 March 2024 at 9.00am.

9.00 - 9.40 am  
15 December 2023

CHAIRMAN



**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**LEICESTERSHIRE PROJECTS AND COMMISSIONING UPDATE**

**Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the work underway to provide victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) safe accommodation and support as directed through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

**Background**

2. The Board will recall from previous reports the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a duty on Tier one local authorities (the County Council) to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation, requiring tier two councils (district councils), to co-operate with the lead local authority.

**Funding to Date**

3. The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has allocated funding to each local authority for the delivery of the Safe Accommodation duty under the DA Act.
4. Tier one local authorities have received the following funding, whilst each district has received approximately £33,000 for each year:
  - i. DA duty 2021-2022 allocation: £1,127,205
  - ii. DA duty 2022-2023 allocation: £1,130,326
  - iii. DA duty 2023-2024 allocation: £1,152,936
  - iv. DA duty 2024-2025 allocation: £1,174,689

**Needs Assessment**

5. The legislation requires the County Council to assess the need for accommodation-based Domestic Abuse support across Leicestershire for all victims. The Board will recall the national domestic abuse charity Safelives assisted with the initial Needs Assessment in 2021-2022

6. A lot of work has been commissioned since the Needs Assessment was undertaken, it will be beneficial to understand what impact this has had and what further the Partnership should consider. Furthermore, the legislation requires for regular reviews of the Needs Assessment to be carried out.
7. Safe Lives are currently undertaking a review of the Needs Assessment at a cost of £4,400. The review will also inform the DA Reduction Strategy and Action Plan going forward. The proposal from Safe Lives is attached at Appendix A.

### **DLUHC Funding**

8. Table 1 below will remind members what services have been commissioned in year 1:

<b><u>Support service</u></b>	<b><u>Service provider</u></b>	<b><u>Time period</u></b>	<b><u>Contract start dates/status</u></b>
Domestic Abuse Act Coordinator	Leicestershire County Council	2 years fixed term	In post
Commissioning officer	Leicestershire County Council	2 years fixed term	In post
Substance misuse specialist <a href="mailto:caroline.gadsby@turning-point.co.uk">caroline.gadsby@turning-point.co.uk</a>	Turning Point	2 years	Service start date: 13.06.2022
Gypsy Roma and Traveller specialist <a href="mailto:jduffy.leicestershiregate@gmail.com">jduffy.leicestershiregate@gmail.com</a>	Leicestershire Gate	2 years	Service start date: 01/08/2022
Specialist DA Support LGBT+ Victims <a href="mailto:zoe@leicesterlgbtcentre.org">zoe@leicesterlgbtcentre.org</a>	Leicester LGBT service	2 years	Service start date: 01/07/2022
Community based support for male victims (Adam Project) <a href="mailto:Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk">Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk</a>	Women's Aid Leicestershire	2 years	Service start date: 01/07/2022
Helpline support for male victims <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/09/2022



BAME advisor <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for adults <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	2 years	Service start date: 01/06/2022
Counselling service for young people <a href="mailto:claire@freeva.org.uk">claire@freeva.org.uk</a>	Freeva	1.5 years	Service start date: 01/10/22
Children's support service <a href="mailto:Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk">Sophie.McGoff@wallaction.org.uk</a>	JADA+ via Women's Aid	1 year	Service start date: 31/05/2022
x2 Outreach workers <a href="mailto:debbie@lwa.org.uk">debbie@lwa.org.uk</a>	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
County Family service: x2 family workers <a href="mailto:debbie@lwa.org.uk">debbie@lwa.org.uk</a>	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
part time young person's IDVA <a href="mailto:debbie@lwa.org.uk">debbie@lwa.org.uk</a>	Living without Abuse	2 years	Service start date: 31/05/2022
Contribution to MARAC manager and Administrator costs <a href="mailto:lucy.batchelor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk">lucy.batchelor@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk</a>	MARAC	2 years	Year 1 money sent: 09/03/2022

19. A significant sum of year 2 allocation was assigned to a Leicestershire County Council Domestic Abuse team to provide specialist support and assistance to victims of domestic abuse.
20. Table 2 below sets out the year 3 commissioned services following approval from the Board.

Contract & Provider	Contract Details
1. Specialist Domestic Abuse Substance Misuse Support for Victims  (Turning Point)	1 + 1 year extension option available (12/06/2025)  Total Contract Value (TCV): £124,864
2. Specialist Domestic Abuse Support for Victims from Gypsy / Roma / Traveller (GRT) Communities.	1 + 1 year extension option available (31/07/2025)  TCV: £90,000

(Leicestershire GATE)	
<b>3. Domestic Abuse Support For LGBTQ+ Victims Specialist Service</b>  (LGBT+ centre)	1 + 1 year extension option available (30/06/2025)  TCV: £84,000
<b>4. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Family Support Workers Within the County Family Service</b>  (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	TCV: £148,000
<b>5. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for A Part Time Young Person's IDVA Worker Within the County Family Support Service</b>  (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	1 + 1 year extension option available (30/05/2025)  TCV: £81,000
<b>6. Domestic Abuse Additional Resource for Outreach Workers Within the Outreach Service</b>  (LIVING WITHOUT ABUSE)	TCV: £148,000
<b>7. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims (ADAM Project) - Community Based Practitioner</b>  (Women's Aid Leicestershire WALL)	1 + 1 extension option available to 30/06/2025  TCV: £ 145,581
<b>8. Domestic Abuse Support for Male Victims - Helpline Worker</b>  (FREEVA)	1 + 1 extension option available to 31/08/2025  TCV: £ 114,816
<b>9. Domestic Abuse and BAME Specialist Advisor Support</b>  (FREEVA)	1 + 1 extension option available to 31/05/2025  TCV: £ 114,816

<b>10. Domestic Abuse- Specialist Therapeutic Support Young People's Counsellor Post</b>  (FREEVA)	TCV: £42,982
<b>11. Domestic Abuse - Additional Therapeutic Support For The Adult Counsellor Service</b>  (FREEVA)	TCV: £42,982

### **Safe Accommodation**

21. The procurement process for the Safe Accommodation is now closed. The exercise was split into 3 lots:
- Support for Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) victims - £85,000
  - Support for Male victims - £35,000
  - Generic Support (including larger and accessible units) - £130,000
22. Panahghar have been awarded lot one – support for BAME victims and Women's Aid (WALL) have been awarded lot 3 – generic support. No organisation put forward any interest for lot 2 – support for male victims, however the Finance Board at Leicestershire County Council have approved a direct award to WALL who already support male victims through the Adam Project.

### **Communication Campaigns for commissioned services**

23. All providers are responsible for promoting their services, they have been asked to inform Leicestershire County Council once plans have been finalised for them to be promoted through our platforms.

### **Partnership working**

24. Quarterly Domestic Abuse Network Events continue, with the next scheduled for February 2024 and the Children and Family Strategic DA Group continues to meet bi-monthly.

### **Recommendations**

25. It is recommended that:
- (a) The Board notes the contents of the report;

(b) The Board supports SafeLives to undertake the review of the Needs Assessment as outlined in paragraph 7.

**Officer to Contact:**

Gurjit Samra-Rai  
Head of Community Safety  
[Gurjit.samra-rai@leics.gov.uk](mailto:Gurjit.samra-rai@leics.gov.uk)



## Ending domestic abuse

# Developing and Enhancing the Response to Domestic Abuse in Leicestershire

## SafeLives Proposal of Support

Melonie Senior, Senior Practice Consultant  
October 2023

### 1. Introduction

#### Who we are?

We are SafeLives, the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good. Our experts find out what works to stop domestic abuse, and then we do everything we can to make sure families everywhere benefit.

#### How we work



We put the voice of survivors at the heart of everything we do.



We test innovative projects and replicate effective approaches that make more people safe and well.



We combine data, research and frontline expertise to help organisations improve how they respond to domestic abuse and to drive policy change.



We offer support, knowledge and tools to frontline workers and other professionals.

### 2. Context

SafeLives would be keen to provide project management leadership and coordination in carrying out a refresh of the Safe accommodation Needs Assessment previously completed in 2021.

SafeLives is a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for good. We combine data, research, and insight from services and survivors to find out what really works to make people safe. Our approach includes early intervention for victims and their children, supporting every family member, and challenging perpetrators to stop.

### 3. Proposal

We recognise the decision to commission expert support and to strengthen responses to domestic abuse as a significant indication of strategic prioritisation. Having previously carried out a substantial project in

Leicestershire alongside the needs assessment SafeLives are well placed in understanding the local context, strengths and challenges.

The refresh will encompass a review of current data, analysis and mapping against the previous assessment and analysis of data relating to current provision.

This proposal will be delivered by our Practice Team and an experienced SafeLives Associate.

**Our Practice Team** bring together a wealth of domestic abuse and multiagency experience including housing, health, social care, safeguarding and youth work. We use our knowledge, experience and research capabilities to support and advise areas in developing a whole family, system wide approach in preventing and responding to domestic abuse. We build what we do in areas by understanding in depth what is happening, through both qualitative and quantitative data; identifying opportunities and strengths; then cocreating solutions that are based on what works.

### Authentic Voice

Key to the success of our work is embedding the voice of survivors and taking an innovative and evidence-based approach, founded in this understanding. Survivors and those who have experience using the services will be best placed to provide feedback and input into how these can be shaped for the better. Although we have a group of Pioneers (those with lived experience) within SafeLives, we will work with you to meaningfully engage with your local survivor voice and create mechanisms for staff with lived experience to participate.

**Table 1. Proposed activities and costs**

Method	Leicestershire Responsibility	SafeLives main activities	Cost
Refresh of Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate engagement of strategic and operational leads to ensure successful implementation of the project</li> <li>Support access to partner data</li> <li>Provide access to key documents, policies and procedures</li> <li>Facilitate fortnightly project management calls/meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Police victim data</li> <li>Review of victim services data</li> <li>Analysis of data sets</li> <li>Comparison to previous data and analysis</li> <li>Analysis of data sets for safe accommodation</li> <li>Survivor engagement</li> <li>Review of DHR's and national Police data</li> <li>Analysis of case audits</li> <li>Written report of findings</li> </ul>	£4,400
<b>Total</b>			<b>£4,400</b>

Our costings above are before VAT and exclude expenses. Many of the above tasks will be completed 'off site'. As such we do not expect significant travel or accommodation expenses. **We recommend that certain activities, such as survivor interviews (if appropriate) are completed in person.** In any instance, we keep costs to a minimum and provide receipts for all expenses incurred. SafeLives standard terms and conditions will apply.

### Timescale and delivery plan

We are committed to delivering this support within three months of the award of the contract.

## Our track record

We have a track record in devising, replicating and scaling frontline practice change, trailblazing and building trust as we go.

For example we have trained more than 11,000 voluntary sector and public sector professionals in the last year alone, as well as supporting a network of Maracs across the country. We collect and analyse data from over 290 Maracs and provide national insights data to influence policy and practice.

We have delivered a culture change training programme to over 30 Police Forces, across England, Wales and Scotland. Our practice team have a strong history of working with areas across the UK, with a current focus on ensuring areas are working in line with the Domestic Abuse Act.

## Our team

The project team responsible for delivery in Leicestershire are detailed below:

- **Nikki Kelly**, Head of Practice [Nikki.kelly@safelives.org.uk](mailto:Nikki.kelly@safelives.org.uk)

Nikki will provide strategic oversight of the project. Nikki has been a director with a successful background in the delivery of multiple and complex projects. Working across sector to create opportunities for individuals, communities, business and the public sector. Extensive experience in advocacy, regeneration, place-based education, skills and employment programmes, social justice, public-facing events, exhibits and high-impact projects. A pioneer and problem solver focused on positive change delivered through effective collaboration – a can do approach.

- **Melonie Senior**, Senior Practice Consultant [Melonie.senior@safelives.org.uk](mailto:Melonie.senior@safelives.org.uk)

Melonie will provide operational oversight of the project. She joined SafeLives in 2020 having worked in the voluntary and statutory sector for over 30 years in a number of roles with children, young people and families. Melonie has significant experience of safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, and risk management in family contexts. Most recently she worked for Respect, piloting systems change approach in South Wales. This involved having operational oversight within a large PCC area, whilst developing an early intervention perpetrator programme and training package for non-statutory professionals.

Melonie has worked with Barnardo's and Action for Children as a Service Manager as well as within local authorities. Melonie has led on the development of an integrated domestic abuse service that supported survivors, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse. She has experience of quality assurance and all things relating to practice management. Melonie has also managed a CSE, Young Carers and Family Support service and has experience of multi-disciplinary teams working systemically with families.

- **Practice Consultant** TBC
- **SafeLives pioneer/expert by experience**

In addition to the primary project team, we will be supported by our Research and Communications team for discrete tasks.

## Next Steps

We look forward to the opportunity of supporting you on this important work and hope to continue our relationship with Leicestershire. We believe that your priorities and ambition align to our strategy for a whole family approach and earlier intervention and prevention of domestic abuse. We also hope this will enable us to collaborate more effectively and achieve greater things for your people, families and communities.

This page is intentionally left blank



**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND DOMESTIC ABUSE LOCAL  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**28 JUNE 2024**

**UPDATES FROM RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary and update to the board in relation to Domestic Abuse support as directed through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This report is the first report being provided to the board by Rutland County Council as this is a new arrangement for Rutland to be part of the Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic Abuse Partnership board meetings.

**Strategy and Needs Assessment 2021-2024**

2. All of our support services are led by the identified needs from within our strategy and our needs assessment.
3. Our last needs assessment was completed by SafeLives in 2021. We are now due to update our needs assessment and SafeLives have provided a quote for this to be completed. The quote will need to be queried due to this being twice the amount quoted to Leicestershire. The domestic abuse strategy for Rutland is also due for an update and will be updated by October 2024.
4. Below is the identified priorities for Rutland from the strategy and needs assessment.

- **Raising awareness of domestic abuse and the prevalence locally**, which includes ensuring we are professionally curious, exploring potential hidden harm and under reporting of abuse in Rutland to protect and support more victims, and raising local awareness of domestic abuse to enable our community to recognise domestic abuse to support a change in attitude.

- **Safeguarding people at risk and providing support for victims and survivors by working more effectively with agencies** to ensure we listen to the voice of victims and survivors that enables the shaping of services and support, to meet local need, and ensuring victims have the confidence to report incidents of domestic abuse, including young people who in their own relationships can become victims of domestic abuse.

- **Changing behaviours of perpetrators and preventing reoffending** by providing effective perpetrator management programmes, to enable victims and children to remain living in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma.

• **Ensuring all agencies/partners work together to provide a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse**

• **Providing support for victim and survivors in relevant safe accommodation** by providing specific targeted support for victims of domestic abuse that empowers victims and builds confidence, develops resilience and independence, and increases safety.

**Overview of roles within Rutland that support domestic abuse support services being implemented.**

Rutland domestic abuse services cover both adults and children's services, and this is led by a domestic abuse lead that is within children's services. This role is an add on function to other roles held in Rutland, apart from the domestic abuse project lead. The table below shows the roles and responsibilities that were undertaken over 2023/2024 funding period.

Role 2023/2024	Function
Head of Service for Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement.	To provide strategic leadership and overall budget holder.
Principal Social Worker and Service Manager for Quality Assurance and Standards	Chair of working groups and partnership boards over sees the implementation of the action plans.
Domestic Abuse Project lead 18.5hrs part time	Work alongside partner agencies to provide support and guidance around best practice when supporting domestic abuse survivors and ensure that actions are progressed.

5. In December 2023 the domestic abuse project lead left their post, and this post has been covered by an interim project lead since February 2024. This period has given us the time to reflect on the impact of the previous roles and consider further development opportunities. This means that we have are now progressing with a different role to be added to the domestic abuse support in Rutland.

Role 2024/2025	Function
Head of Service for Quality Assurance and Practice Improvement.	To provide strategic leadership and overall budget holder.
Principal Social Worker and Service Manager for Quality Assurance and Standards	Chair of working groups and partnership boards and over sees the implementation of the action plans.
Practice Development Lead	To provide management oversight and supervision to Advanced Social Work Practitioner
Domestic Abuse Advanced Social Work Practitioner 22hrs fixed term	To provide one to one support across adults and children services to workers where domestic abuse is a concern.

### **Funding for Domestic Abuse support**

6. Rutland's funding over the last three years has remained consistent with this current years funding. This has meant that there has been little growth within the support services.
7. Rutland County Council have secured funding for 2024/2025 from the Domestic Abuse Fund of £63.000 per year plus £40.935 in house funding.
8. £58.000 is spent on commissioning LWA services.
9. £2.500 is spent on MARAC
10. £31.410 was spent on part time domestic abuse project lead.
11. The forward plan is to appoint a Domestic Abuse Advanced Social Work Practitioner, this will be funded from the current budget. The LWA contract is being reviewed in line with LLR contract that is in place.

### **Working Group Meetings and Partnership Board Meetings**

12. Rutland County Council are part of a working group that takes place monthly. The working group is attended by Rutland County Council representatives to support implementation of the support services. Rutland also holds a partnership meeting that is held quarterly, where we have representation from health, police, army welfare, and domestic abuse support services to ensure we are quorate in the meetings. This board allows us to focus on Rutland's needs specifically. We also feedback to Safer Rutland Partnership board quarterly.
13. The meetings are aimed at looking at current data to afford and create solutions and ideas to meet the needs of the local community and surrounding areas.
14. The meetings have allowed us to reflect on our own learning to enable us to identify what our next steps are moving forward. We have identified training with a plan to revisit what our in-house services need with dates in place.
15. Raising awareness is key to supporting the local surrounding areas and allowing the local community and partners to reach out and support victims-survivors and those using harmful behaviours who want to change.

## **Rutland's Data Analysis for 2023/2024**

### *Adult safeguarding.*

16. Contacts where domestic abuse was a factor have increased throughout the year. There is an obvious spike towards the second half of the year from Q3 (Quarter 3), which starts in July moving forward.
17. Within the contacts we have data showing AGE, GENDER and ETHNICITY which helps pinpoint patterns within our data.

### *Children services*

18. Single assessments withing children's services throughout the year also highlight a spike in the second half of the year from July 2023/4. Quarter 1 and 2 (Q1 & Q2) show a similar amount of single assessments completed totaling 86 for the first half of the year, and a significant difference in Q3 and Q4 totaling 130 showing an overall number of assessments for Rutland totaling 216.
19. The number of assessments completed with one or more domestic abuse factors totals 70 with Q3 and Q4 showing the higher figures.
20. Further insight through drilling down shows the proportion of single assessments with Domestic abuse identified throughout the year starts with Q1 at 31% with an increase in Q2 at 34% and a slight decrease in Q3 & Q4 giving an overall percentage of 32%.

### *Risk Factors in children and family assessment.*

21. Our assessments have allowed us to further pinpoint the following areas:
  - Within the risk factors table, concerns about a child subject to Domestic abuse show 9 and 10 percent for the first half of the year Q1 and Q2 and a drop to zero in Q3 leading to an increase to figures shown in the first half of the year.
  - Concerns about a parent/Carer subject to domestic abuse show similar figures in the first half of the year (Q1 & Q2) with an increase in the second half of the year showing Q3 & Q4.
  - Concerns relating to other family member subject to domestic abuse show higher in Q2 and Q3 with little to non in Q1 and Q4.

## **Summary of the findings from our Data in respect of the data shown.**

22. The data shows:
  - The highest age categories across the period are 77-92 years.

- There was an increase in the number of victims in the second half of the year Q3 & Q4 over the age of 28 years old.
- Children 0-5 years account for around half of all child victims. (33.33%)
- There has been a decrease in reports to all agencies except for adult social care.

23. After reviewing some of the areas our numbers in Rutland remain below 10 in respect of referrals and the victims are all white British with the majority being females.

**Activities undertaken over 2023/2024 linked to Strategy priorities.**

Strategy Priority	Activity Undertaken
<b>Raising awareness of domestic abuse and the prevalence locally</b>	Monthly Comms via social media in relation to DA support services available. Local Safer Communities Team completed leaflet drop in Pubs and Hairdressers around Christmas to support DA raising awareness campaigns. Supported Health to provide training to Army Medics in raising awareness of DA.
<b>Safeguarding people at risk and providing support for victims and survivors by working more effectively with agencies</b>	Training provided: DASH risks assessments, Recognising Elder Abuse. Developed a Reducing Parental Conflict and Domestic Abuse Toolkit for practitioners. Healing Together Trained Practitioners in Family Help provide: Domestic Abuse: Supporting Children and Young People x3 Practitioners trained Domestic Abuse: Parent and Carers. X 2 Practitioners Trained LWA and Freeva provide support services in line with current contract.
<b>Changing behaviours of perpetrators and preventing reoffending</b>	Practitioners in Rutland are now trained in Modus and attend MARAC regularly.
<b>Ensuring all agencies/partners work together to provide a multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse</b>	Attend Safer Rutland Partnership Meetings and meet with Safer Communities Manager to review data monthly. Provided support to Girls Group to raise awareness of DA in relationships.

<b>Providing support for victim and survivors in relevant safe accommodation</b>	Housing attend working groups meetings and have links with refuges and support families to move if needed. Working with Women's Aid to ensure support is provided to families who are moved to dispersal units in Rutland.
--	--

### **Forward Plan for 2024/2025**

Action being completed	Action assigned to	Date for Completion
Needs Assessment and DA strategy to be updated	HOS/SM and PDL	31/10/2024
Advanced Social Work Practitioner Post to be advertised	S/M and PDL	28/06/2024
Review of Rutland specific partnership and working groups to prevent duplication.	S/M and PDL	04/07/2024
Training plan to be progressed	PDL	31/07/2024
LWA contract to be reviewed	HOS with LLR partnership	

### **Conclusion**

This is the first report provided to the Board and the aim of this report has been to provide a summary of the last year of domestic abuse support and the forward plan for this year. Future reports provided will focus on actions specifically and provide updates of how work is being progressed. The Board may want to provide feedback on how they would prefer Rutland to present to this group for future Board meetings as this is a new arrangement. Further work is required around the support provided to domestic abuse perpetrators and how to ensure that we are including survivor voice into our plans over the next year.

### **Officer to contact**

Sarah Gill - Principle Social Worker and Service Manager  
 Rutland County Council  
 Telephone Number – 01572 758204, Ext 8204  
 Email: [SGill@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:SGill@rutland.gov.uk)