

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - CCC581487726

Which service and directorate are you submitting this for (this may not be your service and directorate):

Directorate	Service	Team
Place and Sustainability	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service	Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence

Your name: Danae Evans

Your job title: Safe Accommodation Strategy Programme Manager

Your directorate, service and team:

Directorate	Service	Team
Place and Sustainability	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service	Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence

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Proposal being assessed: Safe Accommodation Strategy 2024-27

Business plan proposal number: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough IDVA Service

Key service delivery objectives and outcomes: To refresh the existing Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024 as required by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and seek Committee approval (COSMIC) for the Safe Accommodation Strategy 2024-2027. This not a key decision and there are no immediate commissioning implications. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 set in statute that Tier One authorities must prepare and publish a local strategy based on a robust needs assessment that sets out ways in which provision for accommodation based domestic abuse support will be developed, commissioned and delivered. The first Safe Accommodation Strategy was published in 2021. Strategies must be reviewed every three years. Outcomes: To continue provision of domestic abuse mobile advocacy across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. To continue provision of dispersed safe accommodation across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. To continue the provision of domestic abuse support as laid out in the existing Safe Accommodation Strategy. To continue the provision of refuge spaces in Cambridgeshire. To increase support to those with learning difficulties experiencing domestic support across Cambridgeshire. To ensure survivors of domestic abuse across Cambridgeshire can receive domestic abuse support in their first language.

What is the proposal: The changes to the existing Safe Accommodation Strategy being proposed are: Removal of the role of Housing First IDVA from the Safe Accommodation Strategy going forward 2024-2027 due to financial viability. Supporting survivors experiencing domestic abuse who are sleeping rough or hidden homeless will be a continuing part of the Safe Accommodation Strategy 2024-27 as a role for the existing. Housing IDVAs. Removal of the support for DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation as this work is well underway with all districts and

City Councils either accredited or working towards accreditation. Being introduced into the Safe Accommodation Strategy 2024-2027. Shared Lives project survivors with learning disabilities: This is a pilot scheme and the DASV partnership are working with Cambridgeshire County Councils Shared Lives team to offer support to survivors of domestic with learning disabilities. The pilot led by the Shared Lives co-ordinator utilises the Shared Lives approach of welcoming people with support needs into their own homes. Eastern European IDVA: Eastern Europeans are the largest migrant group in Cambridgeshire and it is vital to have staff with cultural awareness of working with specific nationalities helping domestic abuse survivors overcome cultural and language barriers to accessing services. The interest of the survivors of domestic abuse and their children: the DASV partnership board to have at least one person appearing to the County Council to represent the interest of survivors of domestic abuse, also a person representing the interests of children of domestic abuse survivors. Feedback mechanisms will be developed to ensure there is independent representation which operates from views gathered independently of commissioned services.

What information did you use to assess who would be affected by this proposal?: The refreshed Safe Accommodation Strategy for 2024-2027 has been taken to the Housing Board for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough for consultation. The Safe Accommodation Strategy has been informed by the VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls) needs assessment. The County Councils Safe Accommodation Strategy 2024-2027 has the 'Whole Housing Approach' at its core. This approach is endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner Nicole Jacobs as well as being highlighted as good practice within the governments Domestic Abuse Act 2021 guidance to local authorities.

Are there any gaps in the information you used to assess who would be affected by this proposal?: No

Does the proposal cover: Specific teams, All service users/customers/service provision in specific areas/for specific categories of user

Which particular employee groups/service user groups will be affected by this proposal?: Staff working with the existing IDVA service as Housing IDVAs and the also the wider IDVA team. Those people in Cambridgeshire who have subjected to domestic abuse and are working with specialist domestic abuse services.

Does the proposal relate to the equality objectives set by the Council's EDI Strategy?: Yes

Will people with particular protected characteristics or people experiencing socio-economic inequalities be over/under represented in affected groups: Over represented

Does the proposal relate to services that have been identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics/who are experiencing socio-economic inequalities?: Yes

Does the proposal relate to an area with known inequalities?: Yes

What is the significance of the impact on affected persons?: The accommodation strategy will ensure that those subjected to domestic abuse in Cambridgeshire will have access to a range of tailored housing options and initiatives to allow survivors greater choice in whether to relocate or remain safely in their existing accommodation. The range of housing options enables agencies and organisations to work more collaboratively in the best interests of survivors of domestic abuse. The options and initiatives look to benefit the long term safety of survivors and their children as well

as managing crisis situations. The strategy will ensure the needs of all survivors with relevant protected characteristics are considered and met, including sex, race, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation, age, health and disabilities

Category of the work being planned: Cambridgeshire Safe Accommodation Strategy 2024-2027

Is it foreseeable that people from any protected characteristic group(s) or people experiencing socio-economic inequalities will be impacted by the implementation of this proposal (including during the change management process)?: No

Age: The Safe Accommodation Strategy aims are to ensure that the needs of all survivors of domestic abuse in Cambridgeshire with protected characteristics are considered and met, including: age, sex, disability, race, gender, gender reassignment, religion, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, socio-economic inequalities, health and disabilities.

Disability: As above

Gender reassignment:

As above

Marriage and civil partnership: As above

Pregnancy and maternity: As above

Race: As above

Religion or belief (including no belief): As above

Sex: As above

Sexual orientation: As above

Socio-economic inequalities: As above

Head of service: Lisa Riddle

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Confirmation: I confirm that this HoS is correct