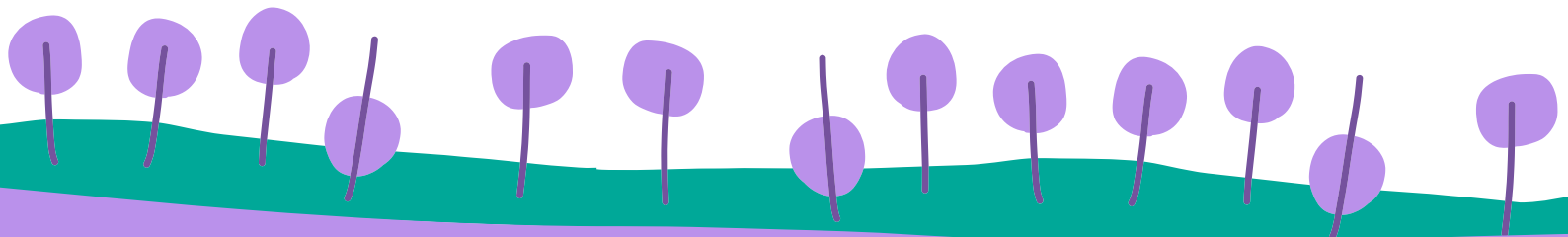


# DOMESTIC ABUSE

# STRATEGY 2022-2025



**WE ARE NEWHAM.**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who took part in our consultation and worked with us to develop this strategy. We recognise that their contribution to this strategy was, for some, done in the context of their continuing trauma as survivors and as the family and friends of survivors and as residents impacted by domestic abuse. Their time and expertise has been central to the development of this strategy and the accompanying action plan.

We would also like to thank the many individuals and partners who have taken part in our work on domestic abuse. This contribution of expertise and supportive critique has taken place through a number of working groups and forums, through exercises to consider domestic abuse and project specific work.

Our thanks go to:

- East London Foundation Trust
- Newham University Hospital / Barts Health NHS Trust
- Change, Grow, Live
- Hestia
- London Black Women's Project
- London Borough of Newham (Community Safety Team, Brighter Futures, Children and Young People's Service, Adults and Health, Housing)
- London Borough of Newham Co-production Team
- Metropolitan Police Service
- Newham Probation Service
- NIA (Anita Project, East London Rape Crisis)
- Rape Crisis England & Wales
- Roma Support Group
- SHPRESA (Supporting Albanian Women)
- Stay Safe East
- Survivors UK (Supporting Men/Non-Binary and Trans Men)
- The Traveller's Movement
- Women's Aid

**In line with the values of gender based violence we will use the word 'survivor' rather than victim. The word 'survivor' recognises the experience of abuse and the journey of an individual rather than defining someone in a subordinate position to someone who has harmed them.**

**The use of the term 'perpetrator' reflects that an individual has made a decision to carry out acts of harm against another. It clearly places accountability for committing abuse on the individual and challenges any myths that survivors are in way responsible or contribute to the abuse they experience.**

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# FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR

Domestic abuse in London has risen to epidemic proportions. As have new methods of abuse driven by technology and mobile phones. Moreover, the varied forms of domestic abuse - such as emotional, financial and coercive abuse - are also widening and we know that domestic abuse experienced by those who are non-binary, Trans or in same sex relationships requires an equity of response.



Family related domestic abuse, where family members perpetrate these crimes is also on the rise; though as elsewhere the majority of domestic abuse and violence is afflicted against women and girls.

In 2021-2022, there were 6,758 domestic abuse incidents in Newham which were reported to the police; of which only 4,292 were classified as offences. In all these incidents, 73 percent were men. The stark reality and scale of domestic abuse in Newham is simply too much. 6,758 incidents too much. That number has to be reversed and domestic violence has to end.

That's why the Council's new Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan 2022 - 2025 is so crucial. It sets out our approach and plans about what we are going to do to combat all forms of domestic abuse in Newham.

As a woman, I know first-hand the impact of misogyny and have borne witnessed to the nefarious impact of domestic abuse on female friends from different backgrounds - but also on friends in same-sex relationships and who are non-binary or Trans. At all times, I have intervened and tried my best stop the horror I was witnessing.

Our new Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan 2022 - 2025 has been developed through using a community-based approach: understanding each survivor's lived experience, as well as the testimonies of family, friends. Then understanding the impact of domestic abuse on the wider community in Newham and what it reveals about our borough as a place. Fundamental to the strategy are the preventative measures we will put in place to eradicate domestic violence eventually; and also measures that will ensure that support services are culturally appropriate for all of our communities.

Over the coming twelve months, we'll be monitoring and evaluating the strategy; launching a borough wide campaign and developing a corresponding Women's Safety Plan - all part of our intentions to make Newham a safe place to live.

My deepest thanks to all survivors who have given their time to help us develop our new strategy. It has been immeasurably valuable and profound.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rokhsana Fiaz'.

**Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz OBE**

@rokhsanafiaz

# FOREWORD FROM A MEMBER OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE CO-PRODUCTION GROUP

I chose to take part in the shaping of the Domestic Abuse Strategy for a number of reasons.

I am a survivor of domestic abuse, which started when I was a child. I grew up thinking that living in a domestic abusive household or later continuing that pattern by entering abusive relationships, that this was love. I knew no different!

Another reason is because of my mental health illness. I first started to hurt myself in my early teens, which continued until 2 years ago. It was my way of coping with all the trauma inside my head.

Over the last 15 years of being back in Newham, I have come on a journey that I never knew I could accomplish and that is finding out WHO I AM. Finding my authentic self and not the person that others have moulded me into; it has been a struggle; however, one of the best accomplishments I have achieved – healing inside and out. I still have those days when I am on edge, however each day I am getting stronger and stronger; that is what counts!

I have also felt that I am a fraud for not sharing my experiences, and I realised that for me to move forward and to break the chains of control & conditioning; that has only brought me constant fear, I needed to be able to talk about it.

I want people to feel that being authentic and showing your emotions isn't a sign of weakness; it's considerable strength. Talking about our experiences we can gain back the voice that we've lost through domestic abuse, and give providers a better understanding on how services need to be shaped to be able to get a survivor back to being who they were or as in my case, finding their real authentic self.

I wanted to share my views and co-produce this strategy because working together is the way forward to making the right changes. By being heard and valued as a survivor my journey has become more rewarding. Co-production is about equality, it's about getting services right to be able to allow the user to gain back control of their lives.

Please read this report and find out how to be part of the change to empower people who have experienced abuse.

# INTRODUCTION

This strategy is our commitment to the residents of Newham to continue to develop and improve our response to domestic abuse in the borough. It sets out our work towards inspiring confidence and trust in residents so they feel encouraged and safe to come forward, report domestic abuse and access the support they need.

It is therefore essential that the strategy is accessible to survivors, residents and local organisations so that they are clear about Newham's plans to respond to domestic abuse and are able to hold us and our partners to account on our progress in achieving the aims of the strategy and its accompanying action plan.

We have developed this strategy in the light of our local picture of domestic abuse and the steps we will take develop and improve our responses to addressing it.

In our work with partners and survivors we have developed our core values which are integral to understanding and responding to domestic abuse.

While the domestic abuse experienced by women survivors is rooted in gender bias and inequality, this strategy takes an intersectional approach to domestic abuse, where we recognise that all parts of an individual's identity interconnect to create their own specific experience. Racism, ableist attitudes, class and poverty, culture and religion, Trans identification, and age are also associated with domestic abuse.

Our approach is fully inclusive and offers support to any individual experiencing domestic abuse. Newham is proud of the diversity of the borough and we echo this through our understanding that violence and abuse is experienced by people of diverse identities, gender, ethnicity, disability and faith and our commitment to supporting all survivors.

On 30 March 2022 the Government announced its new domestic abuse Plan<sup>1</sup> which focuses on the need for prioritising prevention, supporting all survivors and pursuing perpetrators. It has also published its supporting Male Victims Position Statement.<sup>2</sup>

In Newham, our commitment to providing support for boys and men has been embedded for years and is particularly relevant in order to meet the following:

- Recognising all children and young people who experience domestic abuse as survivors in their own right
- Aligns with the 'Tackling Child Sexual Abuse strategy' 2021 which aims to provide protection to all children
- Is reflective of the needs of the communities of our borough where men from migrant communities may have experienced trafficking, domestic servitude, forced marriage and honour-based violence

We are aware that LGBTQI+ people experience additional discrimination and Hate Crime due to their identity and gender. Newham fully aligns with anti-oppressive and anti-racist practice and will ensure that the needs of non-binary and Trans survivors are met.

We also recognise the importance of working with perpetrators to take accountability for their behaviour. Our focus is on keeping all survivors safe and on breaking the cycles of domestic abuse as a learned behaviour across the generations.

This strategy is accompanied by a comprehensive and robust action plan which will form the basis of our work over the next three years. The implementation of this Action Plan will be overseen by our local multi-agency Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence group which will include the voices and oversight of survivors and residents.

1 [www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-domestic-abuse-plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-domestic-abuse-plan)

2 [www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-male-victims-of-crimes-considered-violence-against-women-and-girls](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-male-victims-of-crimes-considered-violence-against-women-and-girls)

# WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has created the first statutory legal definition<sup>3</sup> of domestic abuse to ensure that domestic abuse is fully understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across statutory agencies and in public attitudes. The Act has created a genderless, broad definition which states that:

- Behaviour must be “abusive” and the parties involved must be “personally connected” to each other
- Personally connected includes relationships where the parties have been or are married, engaged, civil partners, in a relationship, or are related
- The Act recognises children as survivors of domestic abuse. This recognises the detrimental effects of children experiencing domestic abuse within the home and how they are classed as the “invisible victims.” Section 3 defines “Children as victims of domestic abuse” as an individual under 18 years who “sees or hears, or experiences the effects of the abuse” and is related to both or one of the parties

- Abusive behaviour is defined as: physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse
- It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of domestic abuse



<sup>3</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted)



# FORMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE?

**EMOTIONAL  
ABUSE**

**ECONOMIC  
ABUSE**

**HARASSMENT**

**SEXUAL  
ABUSE**

**HISTORIC ABUSE  
AND ABUSE IN  
CHILDHOOD**

**FORCED  
MARRIAGE**

**SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION**

**REVENGE  
PORN**

**UP-SKIRTING**

**HONOUR-BASED  
VIOLENCE**

**COERCIVE  
CONTROL**

**STALKING**

**RAPE**

**SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE**

**PHYSICAL ABUSE**

**FEMALE GENITAL  
MUTILATION**

**CHILD SEXUAL  
ABUSE**

**SEXUAL  
HARASSMENT**

**DRUG-  
FACILITATED  
SEXUAL  
ASSAULT**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ABUSE**

In 2021

## WOMEN

were the survivors of domestic abuse in

**73%**

of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded in England and Wales.

During the pandemic, there was a

**22%**

increase in people supported by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline in England.

In England and Wales

## WOMEN

are the victims in

**76%**

of all domestic homicides. Nearly 1 in 5 were aged 70 or over.

In 2021

## MEN

were the survivors of domestic abuse in

**27%**

of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded in England and Wales.

We recognise that whilst women and girls are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse and male violence, we will equally offer support to men, those who are Trans and non-binary.

We include the values and beliefs of the 'Violence against women and girls (VAWG) agenda in our Domestic Abuse Strategy. This is in recognition of the higher prevalence of domestic abuse being against women and girls, with its causes rooted in gender inequality.

In line with the developments in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 this strategy is rooted in the addressing the impacts of domestic abuse within the entire family and wider community, acknowledging that children are survivors of domestic abuse in their own right who require protection and support.

Nationally, Police data shows that in 2021 women were the survivors of domestic abuse in 73% of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded in England and Wales. Domestic abuse is a hidden crime with survivors and their families often not reporting their experiences due to fear of reprisals, shame or just not knowing where to access help and support. These figures are therefore likely to not fully reflect the magnitude of domestic abuse in our society.

During the pandemic there was increased demand on domestic abuse helplines, with a 22% increase in people supported by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline in England. Domestic abuse services also saw an increase in numbers of survivors accessing support.

In England and Wales, women are the victims in 76% of all domestic homicides. Nearly one in five victims of domestic homicide (18%) were aged 70 years and over.<sup>4</sup>

Nationally two women a week are the victims of domestic homicide.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021)

<sup>5</sup> [www.femicidecensus.org](https://www.femicidecensus.org)

## Our Strategic drivers

### **Our strategy has been informed by both local internal drivers and external national policies and legislation which have informed:**

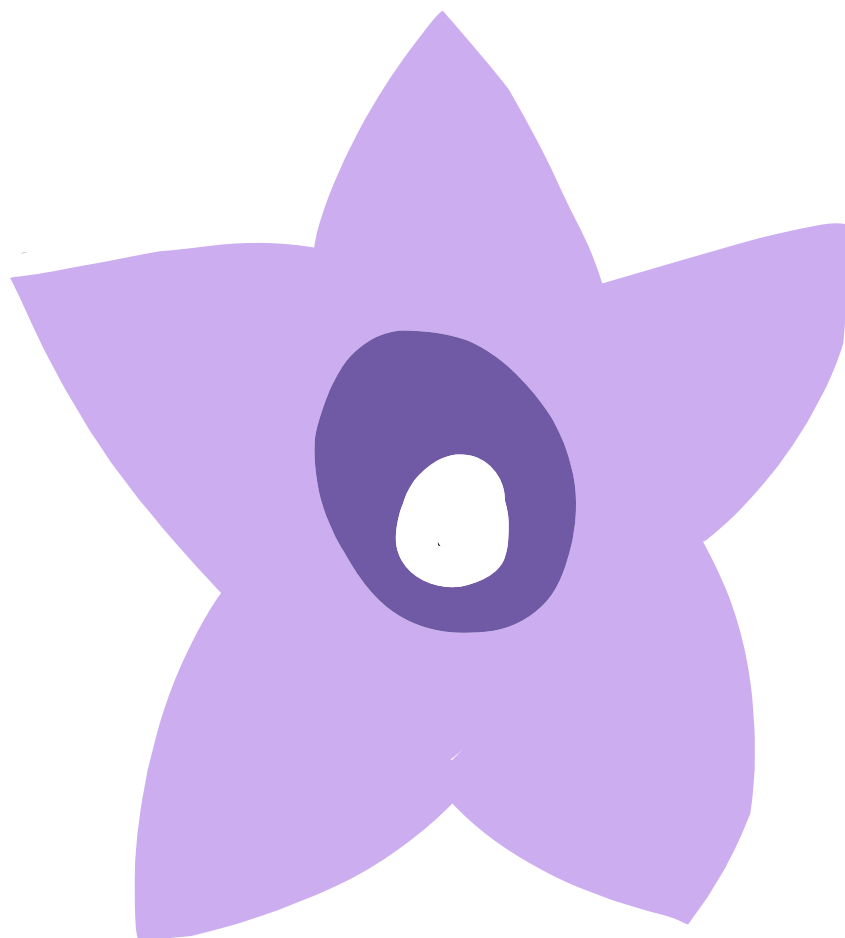
- Our knowledge of domestic abuse
- Our approach to address all forms of abuse
- Our understanding of intersectional factors which contribute to abuse and also may prevent survivors from accessing support
- Our intention to take action against perpetrators holding them accountable
- Our increasing use of civil and criminal remedies to support the safety of survivors
- Our development of domestic abuse services and responses
- Our recognition of the impact of abuse and violence across the borough
- Our improved safeguarding responses across all services

There are also strategic external influences our response to tackling domestic abuse recognises and aligns to, such as:

- The Mayor's Office for Police and Crime's (MOPAC's) Police and Crime Plan 2021-25
- MOPAC's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2018-2021
- The government's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy July 2021
- The Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner

This strategy also has links with a number of key local strategies:

- LBN Health and Wellbeing Strategy '50 steps'
- Newham Violence and Vulnerability Action Plan
- LBN Hate Crime Strategy
- LBN Adolescent Exploitation Strategy
- Newham Community Safety Partnership Strategy Plan 2019-2022



# DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NEWHAM

Newham is the 18th largest borough in the country and fourth largest in London with an estimated resident population of 360,000. It is the fifth youngest borough in the country with a median age of 30.8 years and is the second youngest in London.

Newham is a diverse community with 75% of the population from Black and Asian communities, which is the highest in the country. For the adult population minoritised communities form 70% of the population. The rest of the population is White British (15%) and White other (14%). The estimated projections based on natural change (births and deaths) and internal and international migration suggested an increase of 15% for the adult population from 2016 to 2020.

Communities in Newham face many challenges. There are many who face high levels of poverty, difficult working conditions, poor urban environment, challenges related to housing and many other factors that can damage wellbeing.

Survivors who live with inequalities in other areas of their life are more likely to experience domestic abuse. Women who live in poverty, those with a disability or long-term illness or who are pregnant are also vulnerable to an increased likelihood of experiencing domestic abuse<sup>6</sup>.

By its very nature domestic abuse is often hidden, so determining the scale of the problem can be difficult. Police data shows that Newham has a high incidence of both domestic abuse incidents and offences<sup>7</sup>. Sexual offences are also amongst the highest in London.

In 2021 -2022, **6,758** domestic abuse incidents were reported to the police. **4,292** of these reports were classified as offences. **12%** of all survivors who reported are repeat survivors and **73%** of perpetrators were male.

<sup>6</sup> [www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-nature-and-impact-of-domestic-abuse/](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/the-nature-and-impact-of-domestic-abuse/)

<sup>7</sup> [www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021#data-sources-and-quality](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2021#data-sources-and-quality)

# OUR LOCAL PICTURE IN 2021-2022

## METROPOLITAN POLICE

**6,758** domestic abuse incidents reported (13% increase since 2018-19)

**4,292** domestic abuse offences

**Suspect's gender:**  
**73%** male and **20%** female (7% not yet known)



## MULTI-AGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE (MARAC)

**497** cases heard

**92%** female survivors and **8%** male survivors

**14% repeat cases** (further domestic abuse reported within 12 months)



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH)

**50%** of all referrals received by MASH (totaling 1205 referrals) recorded domestic abuse as a risk factor

**25%** of all referrals have domestic abuse recorded as the primary referral reason



## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

**62%** of children subject to a children protection plan have domestic abuse as a risk factor

**30%** of cases open are due to domestic abuse

**20%** of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF) have experienced domestic abuse



## COMMISSIONED COMMUNITY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

**1,305** referrals were received for support

**826** individuals and families were supported and provided with a safety plan



## HOUSING SERVICES

**190** approaches to housing services to access safe accommodation due to domestic abuse (increase of **42%** from previous year)



## DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

**9** DHRS completed since 2011

In 2022 **8** reviews were ongoing



# CURRENT DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT PROVISION

London Borough of Newham remains committed to funding specialist domestic abuse services including advocacy and refuge accommodation.

## Community Domestic Abuse Services

The service is fully inclusive providing support for all survivors age 16+ of all genders and identities. The primary aim of the service is to offer a person-centred approach offering choice and enabling survivors to access support to increase their safety, address the abuse they are experiencing and support them to recover and rebuild their lives.

Services are accessible from a number of co-located sites including Children's Centres, Housing Services, The MASH children's social care team and Newham University Hospital. Domestic abuse practitioners within the service have the language skills and cultural expertise required to reflect the demographics of communities in Newham and understand the challenges they face in accessing support.

The integrated Service provides support in the following areas:

- Advocacy services
- Legal support
- Addressing risk
- Emotional support
- Financial advice
- Safety planning
- Accessing safe accommodation options
- Ensuring that the needs of children and young people are met
- Supporting families with advocacy in social services and court processes
- Offering specialist domestic abuse training

The service comprises of seven specific services, which deliver:

- Low to medium risk casework- this offers preventative support and intervention from the first disclosure of domestic abuse
- The IDSV (Independent Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Advocacy) Service- offering support to individuals and families identified as being at significant risk of harm
- Specialist Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Services which include advocacy services for adults and children, supporting maternal care in hospitals, offering casework support and FGM prevention advocacy, training to professionals and communities
- The Alessia Project- providing case work services for women who have experienced sexual exploitation, trafficking and who sell sex. Services include a women's night-time hub offering safe spaces to women and outreach services at local spaces
- The co-ordination of the Specialist Domestic Abuse Court offering improved criminal justice processes to survivors
- The co-ordination of MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) offering a partnership response to addressing the safety of all high risk survivors and taking action against those who abuse
- A 24 hour domestic abuse telephone helpline (open to survivors and professionals)- ensuring that survivors can access support at any time and offering professionals advice and information

## Refuge Services

We recognise the importance of funding refuge accommodation for women and our commissioned service provides specialist refuge accommodation for women and children of South Asian and Black cultural heritage. We provide 25 bed spaces for women and 10 children's bed spaces.

The support they provide includes:

- Offering safe accommodation spaces for domestic abuse survivors who have NRPF
- Providing culturally appropriate domestic abuse support and other support services for women from minoritised communities, including support in their chosen languages
- The provision of legal services including immigration support
- Access to therapeutic services to support recovery which is culturally responsive
- Access to local educational and employment pathways

## New Day Caring Dads programme

The New Day Caring Dads programme offers parenting support to fathers to help them address their behaviour and improve relationships with their children.

## Safe and Together

We have recently taken part in the Safe and Together pilot across East London which provides frontline practitioners and services with the knowledge and skills to work with domestic abuse perpetrators to support them to change their behaviour.



# HOW WE HAVE DEVELOPED OUR DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSES

## The Spotlight Process

- Developing a partnership approach to gender based violence through a partnership review of domestic abuse
- Developing a shared understanding of challenges based on data and the experiences of service users
- Designing solutions aimed at addressing challenges

## Women's Safety

- Engaging with women to identify their safety concerns and priorities
- Working with businesses to develop messaging about women's safety
- Engagement to identify area hotspots where women say they feel unsafe
- Developing targeted responses to improving safety for women

## CYPS domestic abuse working group

- Increasing focus on developing domestic abuse responses for children
- Developing the 'Safe and Together' model and implementing this
- Development of MARAC responses
- Consideration of risk assessment tools

## Safe and Together model

- Working in partnership with Waltham Forest, Hackney and Tower Hamlets to embed the Safe and Together model to train staff to work with perpetrators of abuse
- Includes training for social workers and all frontline staff/managers
- Identified practice lead from 'Respect' to support case work and learning
- Review of the Newham model and outcomes to be completed by London Metropolitan University

## The MEAM approach

- Offering support to women who sell sex and are sexually exploited
- Partnership response to supporting women with multiple needs
- Creation of a women's hub open twice a week at the CGL premises offering safe spaces to women and support services
- Developing responses to addressing buyers of sex
- Development of a 'sex work high risk monthly panel' to address risk and safety for women who are experiencing significant harm



## Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)

Between 2011- 2019 Newham has completed 9 Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) in response to the murders of 9 people. Between 2020- 2022 we have 8 further reviews open in response to the murder of 8 people.

- Our commitment is to improve our learning from each review
- Our aim is to prevent further homicides from occurring
- We have embedded the voices of the families and friends of the victims into our practice
- We have established a quarterly DHR recommendations group and action plan to ensure we embed learning and implement identified actions
- We have previously completed 9 DHRs since 2011
- In 2022 we have 8 open reviews

Our completed Domestic Homicide Reviews and integrated action plan can be accessed at Domestic homicides in [Newham – Domestic abuse and sexual violence support – Newham Council](#)

## DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation)

- We are working towards achieving this accreditation as part of our early intervention approach to responding to domestic abuse
- Improving housing responses to domestic abuse is a priority in Newham
- We are required to evidence that we have embedded a domestic abuse lens to offering safe accommodation responses
- This will include achieving 40 good practice domestic abuse standards
- This also includes training for housing staff, tenants caretakers and contractors on how to respond to domestic abuse
- Our aim is to ensure our housing responses are effective, consistent, and supportive

# OUR CO-PRODUCED STRATEGY

## Partner engagement

We established a domestic abuse partnership working group to map services and develop our knowledge. This group comprised partners from across the Local Authority and key local partners in health, criminal justice, education and domestic abuse services. Self-assessment tools were completed by organisations to audit their response to domestic abuse.

## Data Collection

We collated data from a broad range of partners and reviewed our learning from domestic homicide reviews.

## Survivor/resident engagement in the development of our strategy

We see survivors and residents as the drivers of cultural change in the borough as they offer a unique perspective, reflecting the real life experiences of domestic abuse, the challenges for minoritised communities and the significant impact of violence for children and young people.

In Newham we recognise that the meaningful involvement of people ('experts by experience') who use or have used services is central to planning, commissioning, designing and improving service delivery as well as directly influencing policy, local and national strategy.

Co-production and consultation events took place with survivors, residents, LBN employees, national and local domestic abuse organisations and community groups.

We developed our co-production model as an example of our domestic abuse values of believing survivors, working sensitively and compassionately, while recognising the impact of trauma and valuing people. As part of our co-production, we offered a choice of engagement sessions. Language translation, Makaton, British sign language and documents in Braille were provided to enable people to participate. We also asked residents and survivors if they would prefer being supported by facilitators of a particular gender to contribute to their safety.

Confidentiality and consent were clearly explained - all those who participated have given informed consent for their responses to be shared and for their identities to be kept anonymous.

Our key questions were sent out in advance to enable our experts by experience to decide if they felt able to participate and to reduce the impact of any questions that could create trauma. However, sessions were participant led and we were not prescriptive in terms of either format or discussion topics.

In recognition of the experiences of trauma residents may have revisited as part of the consultation we offered therapeutic sessions with counsellors after each engagement session to enable participants to debrief and to receive support. We also offered additional follow up support to ensure that survivors were referred to services.

## What survivors and residents told us

Everyone said they knew of someone- a friend or neighbour who had experienced domestic abuse.

Survivors consistently told us that there were significant barriers that stopped them from accessing help and support.

### Being heard

- Survivors, friends and family want to be believed and listened to with compassion
- They feel judged, ashamed and stigmatised by professionals
- They are not to blame for experiencing abuse and should not be held accountable for the behaviour of perpetrators
- They feel that services do not understand the impact of domestic abuse
- They identified multiple barriers to accessing support- mental health, homelessness, substance misuse, disability, being dependent on the perpetrator as their carer, immigration issues, having no money or access to a phone.
- Older people said that they felt ignored by services who did not recognise the abuse they had experienced- they felt that services stereotyped survivors as being under age 60
- They wish to make reports but are fearful of reprisal
- Some survivors reported making multiple calls to Police which resulted in the perpetrator being arrested, but then released to the home address and the cycle of abuse subsequently restarting or accelerating



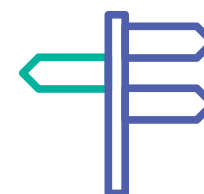
### Being recognised and understood

- They feel there is a lack of knowledge around sexual violence and financial abuse
- There is a minimisation by services of the impact of domestic abuse on children. This was fed back by parents who were concerned for the safety of their children and additionally by adults who had experienced domestic abuse during their childhood
- They found housing services challenging to access



### Being able to access help and support

- There is a lack of publicity about domestic abuse services across the borough
- They did not feel the council and Police 'do enough'
- Disabled women were clear they could not access services and refuge spaces
- Parents wanted support for their children to recover from trauma
- They spoke of digital exclusion and how the Covid-19 pandemic had increased isolation because so many people did not have access to the internet, mobile phones or could access virtual platforms
- There is a need for increased support for those with NRPF, language needs, and disabilities
- Parents are concerned about their children experiencing sexual harassment and sexual violence/ on-line abuse in schools and colleges
- Residents expressed their concerns for women's safety including their concerns for women who sell sex. They suggested that male buyers of sex are targeted' to stop the exploitation of women



## Our participants made recommendations based on the issues they raised and their experiences.

### Being heard

- Advice on how to report domestic abuse anonymously
- To develop responses that ensure that survivors are not required to ‘tell their story’ multiple times
- Information and resources for residents so they know how to report domestic abuse and support those experiencing it



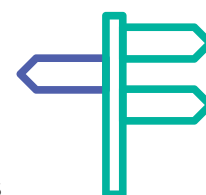
### Being recognised and understood

- Improved responses from all health professionals
- Professionals to be trained and empathetic to responding to domestic abuse
- Professionals would benefit from learning about intergenerational trauma



### Being able to access help and support

- Increased support for older people who experiencing domestic abuse
- Increased publicity related to improving women’s safety
- To be able to access support and services under one roof
- Creation of safe spaces and domestic abuse centres to access advice and support – there was support for both a single space model and for a number of safe spaces across the borough
- Increased publicity about services across the borough
- Increased responses to addressing sexual abuse and sexual violence
- Offering advocacy support to those experiencing multiple disadvantage
- The need for therapeutic support
- Accessible safe accommodation and refuge
- Increased mental health/therapeutic support to address trauma
- Increasing our offer to perpetrators
- Men wanted to access support before services became involved



# OUR VALUES AND VISION

## Values

The domestic abuse co-production team and Newham partnership has created 3 core principle values to inform the work of our strategy. These values place the experiences and voices of survivors and residents at the heart of this strategy.

### WE LISTEN

We will listen to the voices of those with lived experience recognising that each individual is the 'expert' of their experience.



### WE BELIEVE

We believe everyone who shares their experiences of domestic abuse and we will respond with compassion, respect and integrity.



### WE ACT

We act as a community, neighbours, colleagues, families, individuals and professionals. We are committed to taking action to address all forms of domestic abuse and affect change.



## Vision

Our values have created our vision for addressing domestic abuse. We will:

- develop trauma informed responses led by the voices of survivors
- amplify the voices of survivors and residents by continued co-production through the length of this strategy
- create safe spaces where survivors can access support and services
- embed the principles of gender-based violence in our domestic abuse training, practice and service delivery
- develop therapeutic pathways to support the recovery of children and young people who experience domestic abuse
- will be driven by our commitment to anti-oppressive practice by providing support to survivors of all genders, identities and experiences
- engage with those who penetrate abuse and offer support services to change their behaviour
- create a borough where everyone can live safely and be free from abuse

# OUR PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

Our Public Health approach has created a 'whole borough community' domestic abuse model. A 'whole borough community' approach creates an understanding of the whole picture for each survivor, their family, friends, neighbourhood and the wider Newham community and society. This model is reflective of the values and requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

## Our Public Health 'Whole Community' approach

- Brings together the different areas of work in Newham including gender-based violence, The Spotlight Model, Women's Safety the Safe and Together Model and Safe Lives domestic abuse practices
- Demonstrates strong cultural competence and addresses intersectionality
- Addresses multiple disadvantage including NRPF and supporting migrant communities
- Recognises the barriers faced by those who are experiencing domestic abuse and are homeless, are disabled, are misusing substances, have mental health needs, have care needs, are ex-offenders and where English is not a first language
- Develops a trauma-informed approach to addressing domestic abuse
- Supports each individual and family using a 'person-centred' approach drawing on their strengths and placing these at the heart of our responses
- Recognises that our domestic abuse responses need to include a focus on addressing recovery and developing positive well-being

# OUR PRIORITIES AND COMMITMENTS

Addressing domestic abuse requires a strengthened aligned partnership approach that shares values and responds proactively to domestic abuse.

We have aligned our strategic priorities with the Safe Lives' Public Health approach to ending domestic abuse.<sup>8</sup>

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
<p>Responding to the person as a whole by understanding their unique experiences, characteristics and situation. Domestic abuse is never all of someone's situation.</p>	<p>Embedding a whole family approach that addresses the new legislative duty that recognizes children and young people as survivors and offers support to those who perpetrate domestic abuse.</p>	<p>The impact of domestic abuse is far reaching and affects the whole community. We have placed the voices of survivors, residents, service providers and, domestic abuse organisations at the heart of our response.</p>	<p>We will affect change by developing strong messaging and developing a Newham domestic abuse campaign. Our message is that domestic abuse will not be tolerated and that we invite survivors to access support.</p>

We have set out each of the strategic priorities of our whole community domestic abuse model with our vision for change in line with our Public Health Model. Our commitments are set out below. Each of these is presented in greater detail in our action plan, which sets out the specific steps we will take to achieve these aims.



<sup>8</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/public-health-approach>

**PRIORITY 1:  
DEVELOP  
A WHOLE  
COMMUNITY  
RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC  
ABUSE**



**PRIORITY 2:  
ENHANCING  
OUR  
COORDINATED  
PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE**



**PRIORITY 3:  
OUR  
COMMITMENT  
TO SUPPORTING  
THE NEEDS OF ALL  
SURVIVORS**



**PRIORITY 4:  
EARLY  
INTERVENTION  
AND  
AWARENESS**



**PRIORITY 5:  
ADDRESSING  
INTER-  
SECTIONALITY,  
EQUALITY AND EQUITY**



**PRIORITY 6:  
SAFEGUARDING  
ADULTS AND  
ADDRESSING  
MULTIPLE  
DISADVANTAGE**



**PRIORITY 7:  
SUPPORTING  
CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE**



**PRIORITY 8:  
EMBEDDING  
THE VOICES  
OF DOMESTIC ABUSE  
SURVIVORS AND  
RESIDENTS**



**PRIORITY 9:  
HOLDING  
PERPETRATORS  
OF ABUSE TO  
ACCOUNT FOR THEIR  
ACTIONS AND OFFERING  
THEM SUPPORT  
TO CHANGE THEIR  
BEHAVIOUR**



**PRIORITY 10:  
MAKING  
NEWHAM SAFER  
FOR ALL RESIDENTS  
(INCLUDING WOMEN'S  
SAFETY)**



**PRIORITY 11:  
SUPPORTING  
EMPLOYEES AND  
EMPLOYERS**



**PRIORITY 12:  
CREATING A  
DOMESTIC  
ABUSE  
CAMPAIGN**





# PRIORITY 1: DEVELOP A WHOLE COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
<p>We will respond with sensitivity, respect and knowledge to anyone who discloses domestic abuse.</p> <p>Our approach is person centred and survivor led.</p>	<p>We recognise that the impact of domestic abuse is far reaching and will provide support to the whole family including perpetrators of abuse.</p>	<p>We recognise and value our different communities and will ensure that all groups are enabled to access services that meet their needs.</p> <p>We will also involve local community groups and residents in the development of the strategy.</p>	<p>Our Domestic Abuse Strategy sends out a clear message that we will not tolerate domestic abuse in Newham.</p>

# PRIORITY 2: ENHANCING OUR COORDINATED PARTNERSHIP RESPONSE

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
<p>We will develop a co-ordinated response to address domestic abuse.</p>	<p>All services will respond to domestic abuse holistically offering a 'whole-family' model of support.</p>	<p>We will be skilled at meeting the needs of communities, different genders and identities, those with multiple needs and disabilities.</p>	<p>We will promote our messaging that we are a strong partnership that fully understands the needs of residents and is committed to creating positive change in Newham.</p>

## PRIORITY 3: OUR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF ALL SURVIVORS

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
Our approach will be person centred and demonstrate trauma-informed practice.	We will understand the impact of domestic abuse on different family members and support networks.	We will support the community to understand the impact of domestic abuse and the part they play in making their areas safer.	We will develop our message that domestic abuse is a community issue and that we need all services to play their part in taking action to stop abuse.

## PRIORITY 4: EARLY INTERVENTION AND AWARENESS

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
<p>We will develop 3 clear preventative strands to align with our model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We will offer a whole schools approach to domestic abuse and 'healthy relationships' work</li> <li>● Each service in Newham will develop clear response pathways to DA disclosures</li> <li>● We will develop joint working across commissioning processes to identify gaps in our offer of direct work/ therapeutic groups work with children, young people and adults</li> </ul>	We will offer a whole family approach which is trauma-informed.	We will be clear and proactive to promote and publicise services to encourage the community to engage in developing our responses to domestic abuse.	Our messaging will reflect our commitment to addressing all forms of abuse and to challenge the stigma that survivors face.

## PRIORITY 5: ADDRESSING INTERSECTIONALITY, EQUALITY AND EQUITY

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
We will understand and respond to the needs of each person. Our values will align with anti-oppressive and anti-racist frameworks.	We will challenge oppressive and misogynistic narratives associated with women, minoritised communities, those with mental health needs and disability.	We will engage with all community voices including faith groups, community organisations and the voluntary sector to promote our messaging.	Our messaging will be reflective of the diversity of Newham and will reflect strong cultural competence.

## PRIORITY 6: SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AND ADDRESSING MULTIPLE DISADVANTAGE

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
We will take a proactive approach to addressing all risks that present taking into consideration an individual's vulnerabilities, support needs, identity and life experiences.	<p>The safety and well-being of all family members will be addressed holistically (where it is safe to do so) including support given to carers, those being cared for and any dependents.</p> <p>We will develop our responses to supporting those who are NRPF, disabled survivors, those who have experienced trafficking, domestic servitude and forced marriage.</p>	<p>Communities including faith groups, community organisations, businesses, and employers recognise the part they can play to protect the well-being of those at risk.</p> <p>Housing services will develop a domestic abuse pathway to create a seamless response for adults accessing safe accommodation options.</p>	<p>We will promote our messaging that places the individual at the heart of domestic abuse responses and ensuring we view them as person first and not as an 'issue' or be defined by their needs.</p> <p>We will maximise the choices of support available to survivors and will actively promote the importance of offering choices to survivors.</p>

## PRIORITY 7: SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
We will understand and meet the needs of all children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse.	We will offer a whole family approach to harm minimisation (if it safe to do so) addressing intergenerational trauma.	<p>We will develop our approach to supporting children and young people who face additional challenges including being a young carer and having a parent with multiple needs.</p> <p>We will develop domestic abuse responses in schools, pupil referral units, colleges, youth centres and local venues were children access services/ recreation.</p>	We will develop a domestic abuse schools champion's programme to lead on this work and reflect the voices of children and young people.

## PRIORITY 8: EMBEDDING THE VOICES OF DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS AND RESIDENTS

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
We will place the voice of survivors and residents at the heart of our strategy recognising them as 'pioneers' to shape our ambitions.	<p>All services will develop clear survivor feedback processes so this is captured across services.</p> <p>This will feed into a continuous loop of reviewing outcomes ensuring that survivors' experiences are validated.</p>	<p>Our strategy will clarify our clear plan of developing an 'authentic voices' model in Newham.</p> <p>Our ambition is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage survivors to participate</li> <li>● Provide them with therapeutic support for engagement processes</li> <li>● Increase the visibility of their voices.</li> <li>● Create an advisory panel to support the implementation of the strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Survivors have co-designed the Domestic Abuse Strategy and will be supported to educate and inform commissioners and politicians about domestic abuse.</p> <p>Additionally, they lead on developing the strategy into different formats to ensure it is fully accessible including creating an 'easy read' version, an audio version and a version in pictures.</p>

## PRIORITY 9: HOLDING PERPETRATORS OF ABUSE TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND OFFERING THEM SUPPORT TO CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOUR

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
Harmful behaviour is addressed proactively identifying all motivating factors and consequences such as violence, abuse and criminality.	Individuals who abuse any family member are appropriately assessed for the risk they pose to all family members and themselves and are included in all assessments for domestic abuse.  We will develop our support to perpetrators.	Community members are supported to recognise that they are not passive bystanders to domestic abuse and are empowered to report abuse. We will promote the increased use of criminal justice remedies to address abuse and violence and act.	We will promote our messaging about the need to develop and invest in preventative approaches.

## PRIORITY 10: MAKING NEWHAM SAFER FOR ALL RESIDENTS (INCLUDING WOMEN'S SAFETY)

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
Every resident, employee and visitor to Newham is entitled to feel safe and live free from abuse, violence, harassment and fear.	We extend this to the whole family approach and will maximise the use of civil and criminal remedies to interrupt and stop the behaviour of those who abuse.	Newham has joined the Women's Safety Charter working with local businesses to create a safer night –time economy in the borough and we will continue to develop our consultation on women's safety issues and developing safe spaces for all in Newham.	We will promote our values of prioritising physical and emotional safety for all who reside or visit Newham and will develop this work across partnerships.  We will continue to develop our consultation on a women's safety and developing safe spaces for all in Newham.

## PRIORITY 11: SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
<p>We recognise the impact of domestic abuse on an individual's health, well-being and work absenteeism and wish to offer specialist support to our employees to support their recovery and enable them to continue in employment safely.</p>	<p>We will additionally offer support and advice to family members and colleagues of employees (in line with confidentiality and consent).</p>	<p>The council wishes to emulate the values of our Domestic Abuse Strategy and become a beacon of domestic abuse best practice for all employers and employees in Newham.</p>	<p>We wish to develop LBN domestic abuse employee champions to promote our messaging and responses to LBN staff and promote our good practice to other organisations in Newham.</p>

## PRIORITY 12: CREATING A DOMESTIC ABUSE CAMPAIGN

SEE THE INDIVIDUAL	WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT	SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY	AFFECTING SOCIETAL CHANGE
<p>All residents and visitors to Newham should be aware of our approach to domestic abuse through publicity and clear messaging across the borough.</p> <p>Our new strategy and communications plan will be developed in participation with survivors and residents.</p>	<p>We will seek to publicise messaging and support pathways across all services.</p> <p>We will create a domestic abuse handbook for professionals and a domestic abuse services guide for residents/survivors.</p>	<p>The campaign will be developed through extensive consultation across the borough.</p> <p>We will develop messaging that is reflective of our communities and represents the values and strengths of Newham.</p> <p>We will consult with politicians and directorates around the development of a Domestic.</p>	<p>Our campaign will align with the publication of our strategy.</p> <p>The campaign will be aimed for everyone and will reflect our values of inclusivity and that every person has the right to live free from abuse.</p>

# GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

## Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence group

The Community safety Partnership will lead on the governance of the strategy through our multi-agency Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence sub-group. We will also regularly report on progress against the aims of this strategy and our Action Plan to our Health and Wellbeing Board. This group will report to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Adults Board and Children's Safeguarding Board.

For the first year of the strategy, the domestic abuse working group will meet monthly to ensure that the action plan is implemented. This group will meet monthly.

We will additionally develop a survivors/residents domestic abuse advisory forum to support the work of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence group. This forum will be supported by commissioned domestic abuse services to ensure its independence and offer support to encourage the participation of its members.



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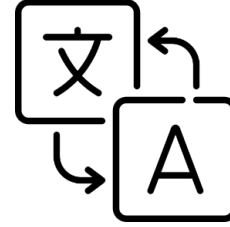
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