

Sandwell Domestic Abuse Strategy

2025 - 2028

Foreword

Domestic abuse steals safety, hope, and dignity from too many lives in Sandwell.

We cannot and will not stand by.

This Strategy is more than a plan — it is a promise.

A promise that we will listen to survivors.

A promise that we will act together.

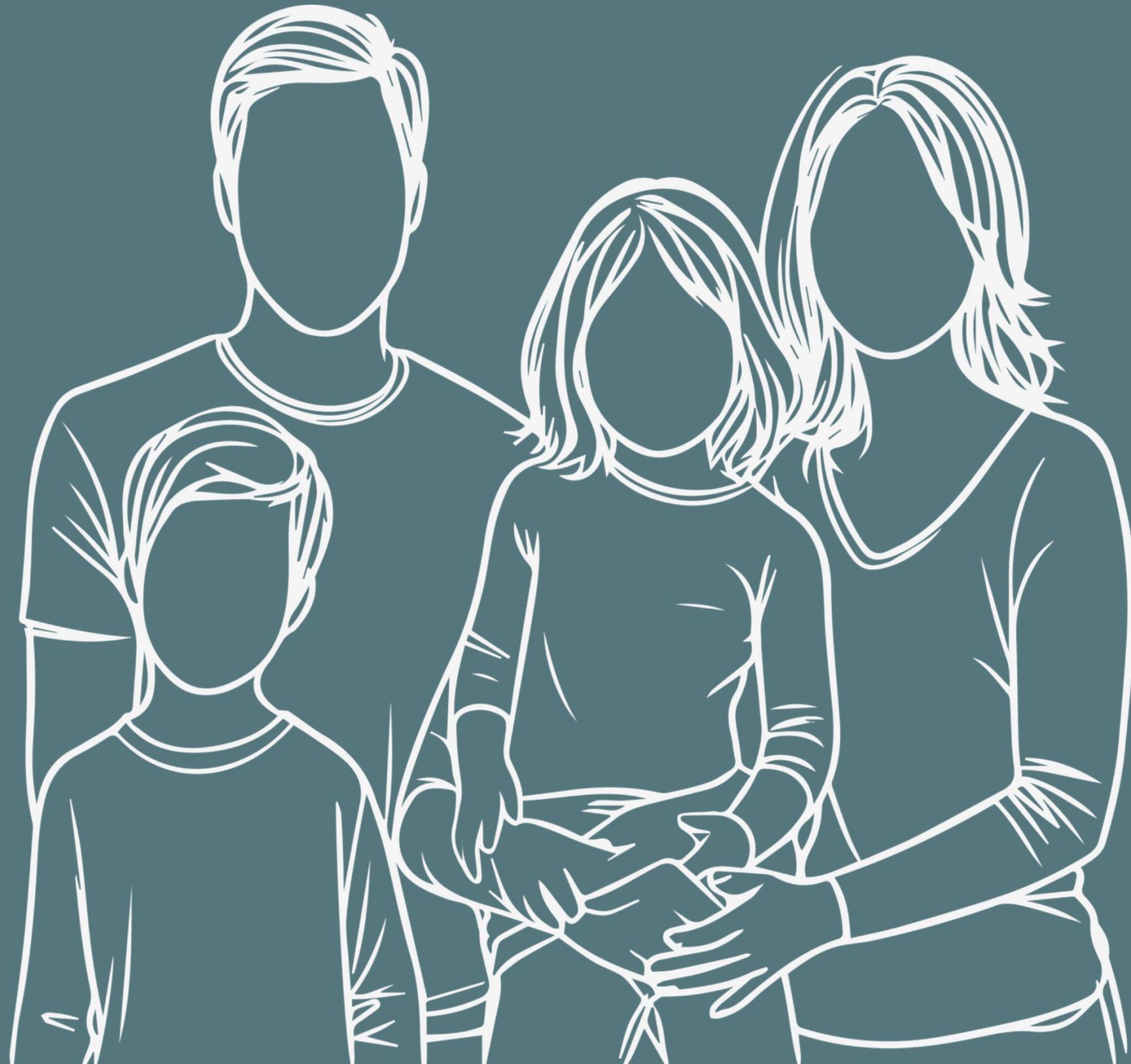
A promise that we will build services, systems, and communities where abuse is never ignored, survivors are never alone, and perpetrators are held to account.

Informed by lived experience, local evidence, and the expertise of our partnerships, this Strategy lays out a clear, coordinated approach to strengthen prevention, enhance protection, and promote lasting recovery.

Together, we will work for a Sandwell where freedom from abuse is not the exception — it is the norm.

Councillor Suzanne Hartwell

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community





Vision

Sandwell stands against domestic abuse.

Every resident, regardless of background or identity, can live safely, freely, and without fear.

We will build a community where survivors are supported, perpetrators are held accountable, and prevention is embedded into everyday life.

We pledge

As partners in Sandwell, we are united in our commitment to tackle domestic abuse and build a safer, stronger borough.

We pledge

- To work together effectively to ensure that all forms of abuse, including domestic abuse and sexual assault and abuse, will not be tolerated in Sandwell.
- That everyone, regardless of their race, religion or beliefs, gender, disability or sexual orientation, can expect equality and respect in their relationships and interactions with agencies.
- To work in partnership with victims and survivors to ensure their voices are heard, and that they and their families are supported by a coordinated community response.
- That domestic abuse perpetrators subject to statutory disposals complete interventions to address their behaviour and that protective controls are in place for victims.
- That communities are actively engaged, building on their strengths to prevent abuse and create long-term solutions.



Domestic abuse is a significant and complex issue in Sandwell, with deep and lasting impacts on individuals, families, and communities.

Tackling domestic abuse is a strategic and moral priority for Sandwell Council and its partners. Our commitment is rooted in a shared vision that every resident should be able to live safely, freely, and without fear.

This strategy is shaped by a strong evidence base, national and local learning, and the voices of those with lived experience. It provides the framework for a coordinated, survivor-centred response — strengthening protection, enhancing prevention, improving provision, and pursuing perpetrators.

Together, we will work towards lasting change for individuals, families, and communities across Sandwell

Domestic Abuse Strategy

This Domestic Abuse Strategy for Sandwell 2025–2028 sets out a shared, system-wide commitment to tackling domestic abuse across our borough. It represents the collective response of all partner agencies to the findings of the recent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.

Grounded in robust evidence, the voices of victims and survivors, and the priorities agreed through extensive consultation, this Strategy is co-owned by the organisations, services and communities that form Sandwell’s multi-agency response.

Structured around five key pillars, it sets out a coordinated, survivor-centred approach to prevention, protection, provision, partnership working, and system accountability. Each partner plays a vital role in delivering this ambition.

Our vision is clear: to build a Sandwell where abuse is never ignored, survivors are protected and supported, perpetrators are held to account, and communities are equipped to prevent harm and promote recovery.

This strategy contributes directly to Sandwell’s statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This act is part of a wider legislative framework with a purpose to safeguard and protect victims, including children as victims in their own right, from all forms of inter-personal violence and coercive control.

Purpose

This strategy sets out Sandwell's borough-wide approach to preventing, responding to, and reducing domestic abuse. It aims to provide a clear, coordinated direction for all partners, ensuring that survivors are supported, perpetrators are challenged, and communities are empowered.



Scope

This Strategy covers all forms of domestic abuse — physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, economic, and coercive control — across all age groups, genders, and communities.

It applies across Sandwell's whole system: statutory agencies, commissioned services, the voluntary sector, and community organisations.

It has been shaped through a detailed Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, survivor consultation, service mapping, and multi-agency input. Survivor voices are at the heart of its development.

The Strategy focuses on five key pillars:

1. Strengthening Safeguarding and Partnership Working;
2. Enhancing Safe Accommodation and Housing Pathways;
3. Strengthening Early Intervention and Support for Children and Young People;
4. Improving Cultural Competency and Step-Down Community Support;
5. Embedding Stronger Monitoring, System Learning, and Accountability.

It aims to:

- Prevent abuse through early intervention and community engagement.
- Support victims and survivors towards lasting recovery.
- Hold perpetrators to account.
- Strengthen system-wide collaboration and resilience.

Introduction

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 remains the cornerstone of national policy and practice around domestic abuse, setting the legal framework that underpins this Strategy.

The Act introduced a statutory definition of domestic abuse, recognising not only physical violence but also coercive control, emotional and financial abuse, and the profound impact on children living in abusive environments. It established clear responsibilities for local authorities, including Sandwell Council, to provide specialist support within safe accommodation and to strengthen the system-wide response to domestic abuse.

This new Strategy builds on that foundation — integrating national duties, local evidence, and survivor voices — to create a coordinated, survivor-centred, and future-ready response to domestic abuse in Sandwell.

Key developments influencing this Strategy include:

The statutory definition of domestic abuse, encompassing physical, emotional, economic, and coercive behaviours between personally connected individuals.

The statutory duty on local authorities to commission support services for victims in safe accommodation settings, supported by Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation funding.

National commitments to strengthen policing, with the inclusion of violence against women and girls within the Strategic Policing Requirement, and the development of new tools such as Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs).

The publication of the national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, with ambitions to prioritise prevention, pursue perpetrators, support victims, and strengthen the system.

Locally, Sandwell has responded to these developments by:

Establishing and strengthening the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) to oversee strategic leadership.

Creating a Domestic Abuse Forum to bring together community voices, specialist services, education settings, and wider stakeholders.

Embedding a victim voice approach through engaging with survivors, learning from lived experiences

Delivering against the 2021 Domestic Abuse Strategy through collaboration with partners and communities

Current Position

Sandwell has made significant progress in strengthening the local response to domestic abuse, ensuring a more coordinated, survivor-centred system.

Our commissioned services provide a wide range of specialist support that is accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of our community.



Specialist Domestic Abuse Support

Commissioned provider: Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA).
Emergency safe accommodation available to victims with or without children, regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, or sexuality.
Specialist male victim support through Ask Marc.

Therapeutic and Emotional Support

1:1 counselling and mindfulness sessions for victims and survivors.
Art therapy and joint parent-child therapeutic sessions.
Therapeutic support extended into resettlement periods.

Housing and Resettlement Support

Dedicated part-time Resettlement Worker assisting with post-move support.
Strengthened pathways between DA services and Sandwell Housing.
Sanctuary support to enable victims to remain safely in their own homes, where perpetrators are not present

Support for Children and Families

Refuge based family support workers offering advice, guidance, signposting, and direct support to children.
Specialist support and recovery provision for children and young people who are victims of domestic abuse in their own right

Community-Based Services

Individual needs-led advocacy, support, advice and guidance for all victims.
Signposting and support to access wider specialist services.

Domestic Abuse in Sandwell: Key Trends 2021/22-2023/24

Prevalence and Risk

22,940 police logged domestic abuse incidents
Annual figures **fell from 10,013 (2020) to 7,118 (2023/24)**
Assault without injury fell (25%), followed by assault with injury (20%).
Non-physical abuse is rising sharply:
- **Stalking sharp increase** 2,386 incidents between 2021–24
- **Harassment and malicious communications** together account for 24% of police incidents.

Victim Demographic and Service Demand

- **21% increase** in referrals to Community IDVA in 2023/24
- Victims with disabilities (4%) and LGBT+ victims (1.7%) remain significantly under-represented.

Source: West Midlands Police, MARAC, BCWA, Sandwell Adult Services

High Risk Cases (MARAC)

1,172 MARAC referrals in 2023/24 (up from 912 in 2021/22).
Referrals up 54% since 2019/20, nearly double SafeLives' expected level (1,049 vs 526)
Complexity Increasing:

- **Mental health** flagged in 54% cases (2023/24).
- Substance misuse rising to 42% (2023/24).
- Sandwell has the highest adult **child-to-parent abuse** rate in the region (4.5% of MARAC cases)
- **Male victims** form 8% of MARAC cases – second highest in West Midlands

Geographic Patterns

Hotspot wards (police data):
Princes End, West Bromwich Central, Soho & Victoria (police data).
Safeguarding hotspots differ:
(Greets Green & Lyng, Oldbury), suggesting under-identification in some areas.

Emerging Themes

- Rise in **stalking/harassment** as part of Domestic Abuse.
- Older victims, disabled victims, and LGBT+ people remain less visible in services.
- Adult child-to-parent abuse increasingly recognised.
- Positive cultural reach of commissioned services.

Key Findings from the Needs Assessment

The following key findings, grouped under our five strategic pillars, shape the priorities for action over the next three years



1. Strengthening Safeguarding and Partnership Working

Inconsistent frontline responses to domestic abuse — some victims experienced victim-blaming and poor cultural sensitivity.
MARAC referrals exceed SafeLives benchmarks, yet IDVA capacity is below recommended levels.
Adult safeguarding cases involving domestic abuse are under-identified, particularly when abuse is from family members.
The need for a stronger triage model to improve safety planning and learning.

2. Enhancing Safe Accommodation and Housing Pathways

Secure commissioning of safe accommodation until 2028 through BCWA, with expanded capacity for diverse needs.
High-quality therapeutic and resettlement support highly valued by victims.
Challenges in move-on housing due to lack of local stock, causing longer stays.
No specialist domestic abuse support available for lower-risk victims in temporary accommodation.

3. Strengthening Early Intervention and Support for Children and Young People

Increasing cases of direct abuse of children as well as witnessing domestic abuse.
Family Hubs emerging as key settings for early identification and support.
Gaps in specialist support for children not already linked to BCWA services.
Stronger IDVA presence in MASH supporting safeguarding interventions.

4. Improving Cultural Competency and Step-Down Community Support

Sandwell has strong representation across ethnic groups within services, showing broad accessibility across communities.
Survivors voiced a clear interest in staying connected, with many wanting to offer support to others once their formal help ends.
Community and culturally specific groups could play a greater role, if trained and supported to safely identify abuse and refer into specialist services.

5. Embedding Stronger Monitoring, System Learning, and Accountability

Stalking, coercive control, and financial abuse cases are rising.
Gaps in consistent data collection across health and housing services.
Variation in service access and outcomes suggests the need for stronger, shared learning frameworks.
Need for improved system-wide monitoring of temporary accommodation support for domestic abuse victims

Our Strategic Focus

This Strategy sets out Sandwell's collective commitment to ending domestic abuse by building a stronger, survivor-centred system. Our future work is anchored in five strategic pillars, each designed to strengthen prevention, protection, provision, partnership working, and system accountability.

The pillars reflect the priorities identified through consultation with survivors, professionals, partners, and communities, alongside evidence from national and local data.

By working together across these areas, we will drive forward lasting change:

- Survivors are safer and better supported.
- Communities are empowered to break the cycle of abuse.
- Perpetrators are challenged and held to account.
- Our system is more coordinated, inclusive, and resilient.

Each pillar plays a vital role in creating a safer Sandwell.

Our response prioritises equity, with targeted approaches for communities at higher risk of hidden or compounding harm — including those with insecure immigration status, disabilities, and marginalised identities.

Strategic Pillars

1	Strengthening Safeguarding and Partnership Working Strengthen multi-agency safeguarding responses by improving identification, triage, and timely frontline support.
2	Enhancing Safe Accommodation and Housing Pathways Ensure recovery and stability through safe accommodation, effective resettlement support, and sustainable move-on pathways.
3	Strengthening Early Intervention and Support for Children and Young People Protect and empower children and young people through early intervention, Family Hubs, schools, and specialist provision.
4	Improving Cultural Competency and Step-Down Community Support Build inclusive, culturally competent services and strengthen survivor recovery through peer networks and community-led support.
5	Embedding Stronger Monitoring, System Learning, and Accountability Embed system-wide accountability by using evidence, data, and survivor voice to drive improvement and measure progress.



Priority 1

**Strengthening
Safeguarding and
Partnership
Working.**

Priority 1: Strengthening Safeguarding and Partnership Working

Safeguarding lies at the heart of Sandwell’s response to domestic abuse. Strengthening our safeguarding and partnership working means ensuring that every agency, service, and frontline practitioner has the tools, pathways, and confidence to identify abuse early, act decisively, and provide the right support. Survivors and families should never fall through the gaps because of inconsistent responses or fragmented systems.

By embedding robust safeguarding practices and strengthening collaboration across statutory, voluntary, and community partners, we can create a whole-system approach where survivors are recognised, protected, and supported at every stage. This requires clear pathways, timely triage, and an emphasis on partnership-led solutions that prioritise safety and recovery.

Priorities

1	Enhance early identification and triage
2	Strengthen multi-agency safeguarding pathways
3	Improve coordination and information sharing
4	Address perpetrators harmful behaviours and hold them to account
5	Promote survivor and family voice in safeguarding systems

Strengthening Safeguarding and Partnership Working

What the evidence tells us

- Domestic abuse victims and perpetrators are within all communities regardless of gender, sexuality, race, religion, age, ability.
- MARAC demand is rising, with referral volumes far exceeding expected levels based on population benchmarks.
- Current IDVA capacity is below SafeLives guidance, creating pressure on case management and limiting timely support.
- Adult child-to-parent violence and stalking are increasing, with Sandwell reporting the highest levels of both in the region.
- There are inconsistencies in front-line responses, including missed opportunities for disclosure, cultural insensitivity, and victim-blaming.
- Individuals with additional care and support needs are more vulnerable to the risk and hidden harm of domestic abuse.
- Sandwell has seen an increase of domestic abuse related deaths by suicide, which coincides with an improved awareness and response from partners.

The outcomes we want to deliver

- Survivors are identified early, protected quickly, and supported throughout their journey.
- Safeguarding responses are timely, consistent, and culturally sensitive.
- Perpetrators are identified, managed, and disrupted through coordinated action, with ongoing specialist guidance for prevention and reduction of further offending.
- Agencies understand and fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities with confidence.
- System gaps are closed through shared learning and partnership accountability.

What we will do

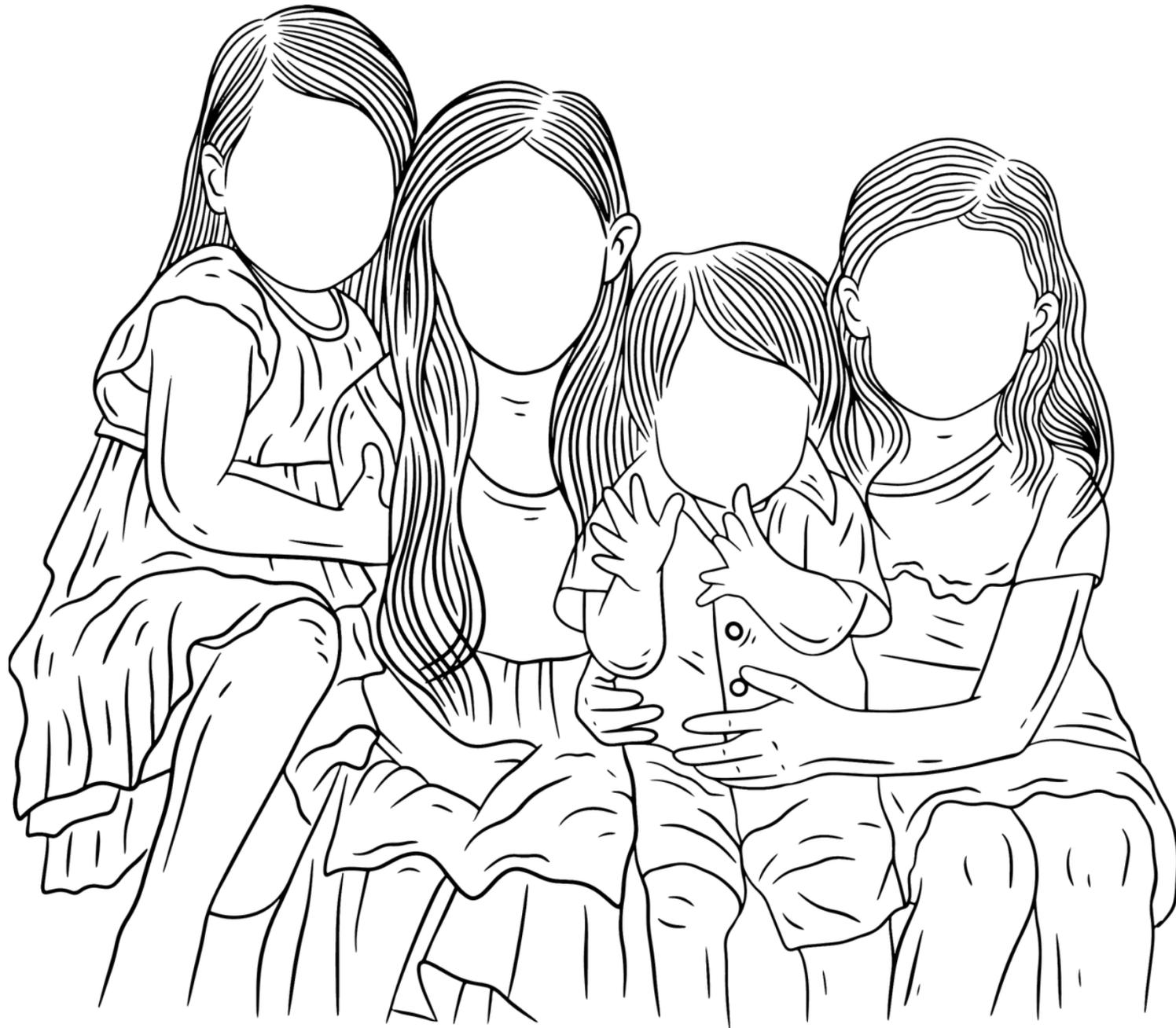
- Develop and embed a MARAC triage model across partners to improve risk assessment, prioritisation, and safeguarding outcomes.
- Work together to increase IDVA capacity, ensuring provision aligns with SafeLives guidance and reflects local demand.
- Improve identification and referral pathways from all frontline services — including Adult Social Care, Housing, and Health.
- Develop a coordinated partnership response to holding perpetrators to account, through a range of interventions
- Provide joint training for all first responders, focused on trauma-informed practice, cultural competency, intersectionality and early intervention.

How will we know we're on track

- Reduction in repeat MARAC cases.
- Increase in safeguarding referrals where domestic abuse is appropriately flagged.
- Improved victim satisfaction ratings from service feedback.
- Increased referrals from statutory partners into specialist services

Priority 2

Enhancing Safe Accommodation and Housing Pathways



Priority 2: Enhancing Safe Accommodation and Housing Pathways

Access to safe, secure, and stable housing is a cornerstone of recovery for survivors of domestic abuse. Without safe accommodation, individuals and families remain at heightened risk of ongoing harm, exploitation, and instability. Sandwell is committed to ensuring that no survivor is left without a safe place to go, and that accommodation provision extends beyond emergency refuge to include sustainable housing pathways, effective resettlement support, and long-term solutions that foster independence and resilience.

Strengthening housing pathways also means working in partnership with housing providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, and statutory services to remove barriers, improve coordination, and embed survivor-centred approaches. Our ambition is to create an inclusive housing response that recognises the diverse needs of survivors, including children, those with disabilities, older people, and marginalised groups.

Priorities

1	Strengthen housing pathways
2	Embed resettlement and recovery support
3	Improve multi-agency coordination
4	Address inequalities in housing responses

Enhancing Safe Accommodation and Housing Pathways

What the evidence tells us

- Safe accommodation through refuge provision commissioned to 2028
- Victims highly value the therapeutic, resettlement and wraparound support provided in safe accommodation.
- Challenges exist in moving on from safe accommodation due to severe lack of local housing stock.
- Low referral rates from health and mental health services into safe accommodation pathways.
- Lack of specialist housing support currently available for lower-risk victims in temporary accommodation settings.
- Survivors identify access to safe housing as one of the greatest barriers to leaving abusive relationships; lack of accommodation often forces people to remain with perpetrators.
- National research (e.g., Women's Aid, SafeLives) highlights shortages in refuge spaces, with particular gaps for survivors with larger families, male survivors, LGBTQ+ survivors, and those with disabilities.
- In Sandwell, demand for emergency accommodation regularly exceeds available provision, and survivors often face delays in accessing safe housing pathways.
- Insecure housing and homelessness are strongly linked to repeat victimisation, exploitation, and wider safeguarding risks, especially for children and young people.

The outcomes we want to deliver

- Victims are supported to access safe accommodation without delay or barriers.
- Housing pathways are trauma-informed and responsive to individual needs.
- Victims in temporary accommodation are linked into specialist support.
- Resettlement services help reduce isolation and support long-term recovery.

What we will do

- Maintain and monitor delivery of the commissioned safe accommodation services, ensuring high standards are met.
- Expand therapeutic and resettlement support to help victims prepare for independence.
- Work together to prioritise move-on solutions for victims leaving safe accommodation.
- Progress re-accreditation under the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) framework to improve housing sector response.

How will we know we're on track

- Reduction in average length of stay in safe accommodation due to improved move-on and increased occupancy rates.
- Consistent high standard of support and opportunities for recovery
- Victim feedback evidences satisfaction with resettlement support.
- DAHA re-accreditation successfully achieved.

Priority 3

Strengthening Early Intervention and Support for Children and Young People



Priority 3: Strengthening Early Intervention and Support for Children and Young People

Priorities

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children and young people impacted by domestic abuse as victims in their own right.

Living in a household where there is domestic abuse puts children at risk of physical injury as well as emotional and psychological harm and is associated with a long-term negative impact on children's development, health and wellbeing that can continue into adulthood.

Early intervention is critical to break this cycle. By recognising the signs of domestic abuse sooner, and providing timely, tailored support through statutory services and specialist provision, we can protect children and young people from further harm, strengthen resilience, and promote long-term recovery.

This means working across the whole system — education, health, social care, youth services, and the voluntary sector — to embed early help pathways, ensure trauma-informed responses, and provide consistent opportunities for children and young people to be heard and supported.

1	Embed early identification and referral
2	Strengthen early intervention pathways
3	Provide specialist interventions
4	Amplify young voices
5	Support resilience and recovery

Strengthening Early Intervention and Support for Children and Young People

What the evidence tells us

- Domestic abuse remains one of the most reported safeguarding issues in Sandwell, with thousands of children at risk of harm each year.
- Children are directly experiencing abuse, not just witnessing it.
- Delayed reporting and repeat exposure mean many children experience prolonged trauma before help arrives.
- Family Hubs are a recent development which are adding value to the community-based response to domestic abuse
- Gaps exist in specialist support for children who are not already linked into support services.
- Stakeholders and schools have highlighted the need for access to therapeutic and emotional support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- The IDVA presence in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) supports stronger safeguarding interventions, where numbers remain very high — indicating domestic abuse remains one of the most prevalent safeguarding concerns.
- Offence categories such as assault, stalking, harassment, and threats to kill are among the most reported — forms of abuse that children often witness or experience second-hand.
- Repeated missing episodes and exclusions (shown in the safeguarding context) are strong indicators that children and young people living in abusive households are at increased risk of harm.

What we will do

Strengthen early help pathways so that concerns about domestic abuse are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity.

Continue the Flourishing Futures programme whilst enhancing school-based domestic abuse provision Expand healthy relationships work in schools and colleges covering appropriate behaviors and relationships

Identify and embed a holistic partnership practice model across services to identify domestic abuse in family contexts.

Deliver workforce development across the partnership to improve confidence in recognising and responding to children's experiences of abuse.

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Deliver workforce development across the partnership to improve confidence in recognising and responding to children's experiences of abuse.

How will we know we're on track

Increase in early identification and referrals for children affected by domestic abuse.

All schools delivering consistent, quality-assured Healthy Relationships education.

Higher take-up of early help support by families experiencing domestic abuse

Increased access to specialist support for child victims of domestic abuse.

Positive feedback from children, young people, and families engaging with support services.

Priority 4

Improving Cultural Competency and Step-Down Community Support



Priority 4: Improving Cultural Competency and Step-Down Community Support

Building a system that truly meets the needs of all survivors means recognising and valuing cultural diversity. Domestic abuse impacts individuals and families differently depending on their background, identity, and community context. Strengthening cultural competency is about ensuring services are inclusive, trauma-informed, and free from bias or judgement.

Step-down community support is equally critical, enabling survivors to rebuild their lives with the backing of strong networks, peer support, and accessible local provision. By embedding cultural confidence into practice and investing in community-based recovery, we can break down barriers, improve trust, and create long-term safety and resilience for survivors.

Priorities

1	Embed trauma-informed and culturally competent practice
2	Strengthen Survivor Voice and Peer Support
3	Step-Down Pathways into the Community
4	Faith and Community Partnership
5	Tackle Inequalities in Access and Outcomes

Improving Cultural Competency and Step-Down Community Support

What the evidence tells us

- Referrals into specialist services reflect strong ethnic diversity, broadly aligned with Sandwell's population.
- Victims from a wide range of cultural and community backgrounds have shared positive experiences of support.
- There is clear appetite across the community and voluntary sector to play a stronger role in identifying and responding to domestic abuse.
- Survivors expressed interest in staying connected post-intervention, through peer support and survivor-led activities.
- Developing a networked approach with trained community organisations would strengthen inclusion, awareness, and safe pathways into specialist help.

The outcomes we want to deliver

- Increased trust, access, and engagement from underrepresented communities.
- Community-based organisations are confident and equipped to identify domestic abuse and connect people to help.
- Step-down and peer-led support options are available across Sandwell, helping survivors stay safe and recover long term.

What we will do

- Develop and deliver cultural competency training for all services working with domestic abuse victims and survivors.
- Strengthen links with grassroots and faith-based organisations to build community capacity around early identification and support.
- Pilot peer mentoring and survivor-led initiatives to support recovery and resilience.
- Promote partnership-led messaging to challenge stigma, encourage disclosure, and increase awareness across diverse communities.

How will we know we're on track

- More grassroots organisations actively participating in the Domestic Abuse Forum.
- Launch and evaluation of peer mentoring and survivor-led initiatives.
- Positive feedback from diverse communities on the cultural relevance and accessibility of services.
- Uptake of peer and step-down services grows, with clear evidence of survivor involvement in shaping delivery.

Priority 5

Embedding Stronger Monitoring, System Learning, and Accountability



Priority 5: Embedding Stronger Monitoring, System Learning, and Accountability

Embedding stronger monitoring, system learning, and accountability is vital to ensure that Sandwell's response to domestic abuse remains effective, evidence-driven, and survivor-focused.

By harnessing data, insight, and lived experience, we can identify emerging trends, measure the impact of our work, and drive continuous improvement across all agencies. Transparent monitoring and accountability frameworks ensure that partners remain focused on achieving outcomes for survivors and communities, and that resources are targeted where they are most needed.

This priority is about creating a learning system: one that listens to survivors, values frontline feedback, and uses intelligence to adapt quickly. By strengthening governance and embedding accountability at every level, Sandwell can continue to deliver high-quality, consistent responses that challenge inequality and reduce harm.

Priorities

1	Strengthen Data and Insight
2	Survivor Voice in Governance
3	Continuous System Learning
4	Training and development Plan

Embedding Stronger Monitoring, System Learning, and Accountability

What the evidence tells us

- Domestic abuse data is often fragmented, inconsistent, or not fully utilised across agencies.
- Hearing and responding to survivors lived experience is a critical part of recovery
- Survivor voices support learning for partners and strengthen development of services
- Key performance indicators are rarely aligned across housing, health, safeguarding, and criminal justice.
- Learning from reviews, audits, and case feedback is not always systematically embedded.
- Domestic abuse-related deaths are rising, with suicides now being recognised as part of the wider harm caused by prolonged abuse, often without adequate intervention or safeguarding.

The outcomes we want to deliver

- All agencies use high-quality, consistent data to understand need and measure progress
- Survivor feedback and lived experience shape services and drive improvements
- Learning from reviews and audits is translated into real system change
- There is clear accountability for outcomes at local and strategic levels
- Sandwell becomes a leader in evidence-led, survivor-centred practice

What we will do

- Create a multi-agency data dashboard that includes safeguarding, housing, justice, and health
- Embed lived experience in evaluation, commissioning, and governance structures, reflective of all people at risk to further understand complexity of need
- Produce an annual public report tracking progress, system learning, and areas for development
- Ensure learning from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews are embedded throughout the partnership

How will we know we're on track

- Increased use of joined-up data and reporting across agencies
- Improved survivor satisfaction and evidence of service redesign based on feedback
- Clear, published responses to learning from audits and reviews
- Annual performance report shows improved outcomes and reduced disparities
- Partners demonstrate shared ownership of learning and accountability

Conclusion



Delivering Together – A Shared Commitment for Sandwell

This Domestic Abuse Strategy reflects the collective commitment of all partners in Sandwell to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms. It is a partnership strategy — one that recognises every agency, service, and organisation has a role to play in building a coordinated, survivor-centred, and accountable system.

Through the voices of victims and survivors, the analysis of local data, and the insights of professionals, this strategy identifies the key changes needed to strengthen prevention, protection, provision, partnership working, and system accountability.

Together, we will deliver a stronger, more resilient response: one that holds perpetrators to account, supports survivor recovery, enables whole-family safety, and builds community capacity to break the cycle of abuse.

Sandwell is ready to lead with courage and collaboration. By acting on what we've learned — and staying committed to learning more — real and lasting change is not just possible, but within our grasp.