



Are you Domestic Abuse Bill ready?

24 March 2021

#DABillReady

Agenda

- 1. Introduction** – Suzanne Jacob, CEO, SafeLives
- 2. Using a Public Health approach to be Domestic Abuse Bill ready**
– Janine Roderick, Head of Practice SafeLives
- 3. Survivor voice – is anybody listening?** – Ursula Lindenberg, SafeLives Pioneer and Rosie Bacon, Authentic Voice Coordinator, SafeLives
- 4. Safe Accommodation** – Guddy Burnet, Chief Executive, Standing Together
- 5. Domestic Abuse Commissioner** – Nicole Jacobs
- 6. Q&A Panel** – with Zainab Al-Shariff, Al Hasaniya alongside session speakers

Ending domestic abuse



Using a **Public Health Approach** to be **Domestic Abuse Bill Ready**

Janine Roderick RGN
Head of Practice

The Art of the Possible

**Start by doing what is necessary,
then what is possible, and
suddenly you are doing what seems
impossible**

St Francis of Assisi

What is Necessary?



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To provide advice to the Local Authorities about its functions under Section 55

Membership

- The local authority (LA) and

At least one person representing:

- The interests of LAs within the larger authority
- The interests of adult victims of DA
- The interests of child victims of DA
- Charities and voluntary organisations working with DA victims in the area
- The interests of people who provide or have health care functions in the area
- The interests of people with functions relating to police or criminal justice in the area

Will be consulted on:

- Assessing the need for domestic abuse safe accommodation support in the area
- The preparation and publication of a strategy
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy
- Revising that strategy in time



Needs assessment

Local Authorities must assess the need for support in their area for all victims of domestic abuse (including children) [who need to reside] in relevant accommodation.

This includes those that require highly specialist support as well as cross-border support.

- **When** - Every 3 years
- **How** - Using the template provided gather data from local sources
- **Who** - Tier 1 LA to carry out through DALPB others who must co-operate are Tier 2 LA, DALPB, DA services, refuge services.
- **What** - Mapping safe accommodation and support
 - Mapping who and how much need for safe accommodation and support

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Strategy

Develop and publish: a strategy for provision of support, using the needs assessment



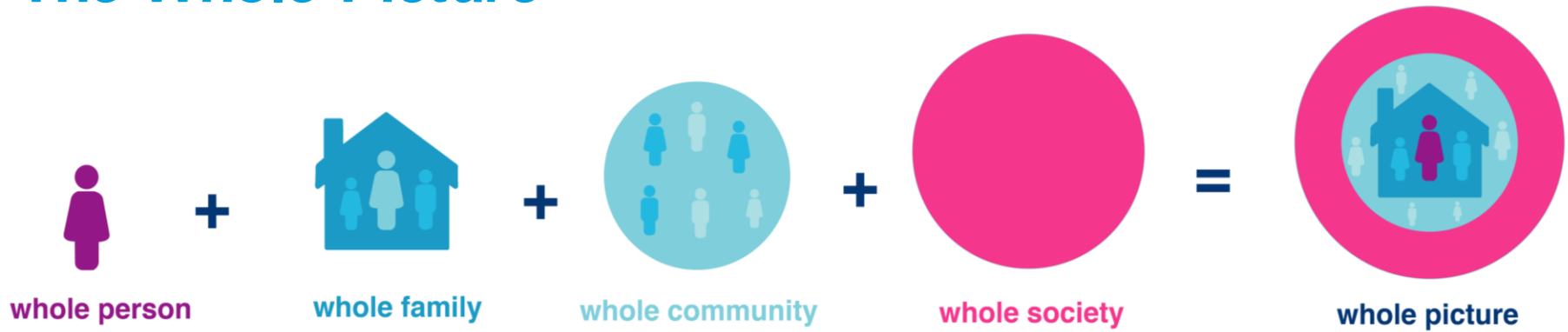
Measuring Impact

- Develop the strategy from the needs assessment
- Implement the strategy through commissioning
- Tier 1 LAs in England must send an annual report to the Sec of State on how it is realising the strategy
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.

What is Possible?

- Statutory Guidance – enhances the legislation. Permissive in providing guidance on how to implement the Domestic Abuse Act (Eng/Wales)
- Public Health Approach for the Whole Picture
- Engaging smaller specialist, and currently non-commissioned services, particularly those supporting Black, Asian and minoritised victims, LGBT+ and disabled victims, and those with complex needs, are not disadvantaged by the commissioning process. Social value not just unit cost
- The voice of survivors and doing this authentically

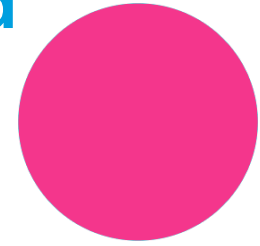
The Whole Picture



The whole person:
domestic abuse is never
all of someone's
experiences or situation.

Ending domestic abuse

Our strategy to end domestic abuse, for good



	Whole Person Seeing and responding to the whole person, not addressing a series of issue	Whole Family Adult victims, survivors, those who harm, individuals connected to the victim/perpetrator including extended family	Whole Community All communities of geography, identity and online spaces	Whole Society The general public and those who influence them: the media, politicians, employers, key opinion formers and commentators
Act before someone harms or is harmed	People are treated as just that – people, and not issues. The complexity of domestic abuse and links to other adverse experiences are understood.	Protective factors are put in place for those at risk of abusing or being abused – people and services sufficiently understand domestic abuse and what makes it more or less likely to happen	Communities of geography, identity and online spaces are equipped to identify and act on early risk factors and warning signs of abusive situations.	Gender stereotypes are challenged and deconstructed – particularly those of masculinity – supporting boys and men to break these norms. Societal shifts see a reduction in the motivation and opportunity for different types of power to be abused.
Identify and stop harmful behaviour	Harmful behaviour is addressed by proactively identifying all motivating factors and consequences, such as other violence, abuse and criminality.	Individuals who abuse any family member are appropriately assessed for the risk they pose to all family members – and themselves.	Community members know they are more than passive bystanders – there is low tolerance and high urgency about identifying and holding to account those who abuse.	
Increase safety for those at risk	The protection offered to people means proactively checking that all risks posed have been addressed, not just the initial presenting issue.	The safety and wellbeing of all non-abusive family members – physical, mental and emotional – is defended from those who pose a risk to them.	Communities of geography, identity, online spaces and employers/businesses understand the risks posed by those who abuse and their role in protecting the safety and wellbeing of those at risk.	
Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs	People are responded to as people, not an issue or series of issues. Both crisis and longer term responses to people who have experienced abuse are sensitive to their possible vulnerability to future adverse experiences.	When an immediate experience of abuse is over, all family members' safety and wellbeing – physical, mental and emotional – are (re)built. People are supported to live the lives they want, drawing strength from each other.	People who speak about their experience of abuse are believed. Communities and society validate their experience and support their process of creating safety, wellbeing and resilience so they can live the lives they want. The voices, strengths and needs of survivors are paramount, and survivors draw further strength from one another	

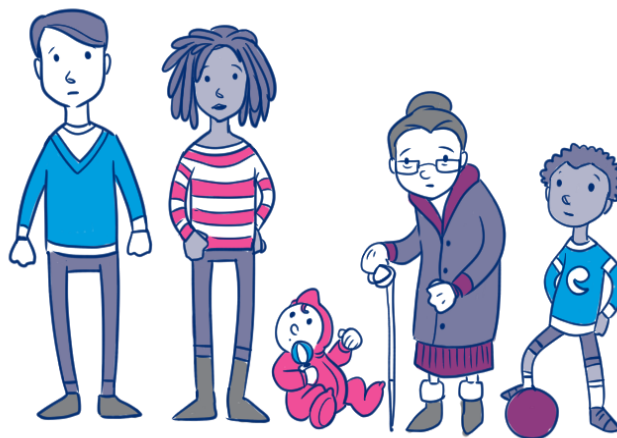
Our UK data shows the impact of domestic abuse across the life-course

Many individuals and families experiencing domestic abuse have **multiple needs** and many are 'hidden' from services.

On average, older victims experience abuse for **twice as long** before accessing help as those aged under 61.

Around 30% of children in households supported by an Idva **were not known to children's services.**

85% of victims of domestic abuse seek help **five times** on average before they get effective support.



Marginalised groups (in terms of race, disability, sexuality) **wait longer for help**, and less often find suitable support

23% of young people exposed to domestic abuse are also **demonstrating harmful behaviour**, 61% against their mum.

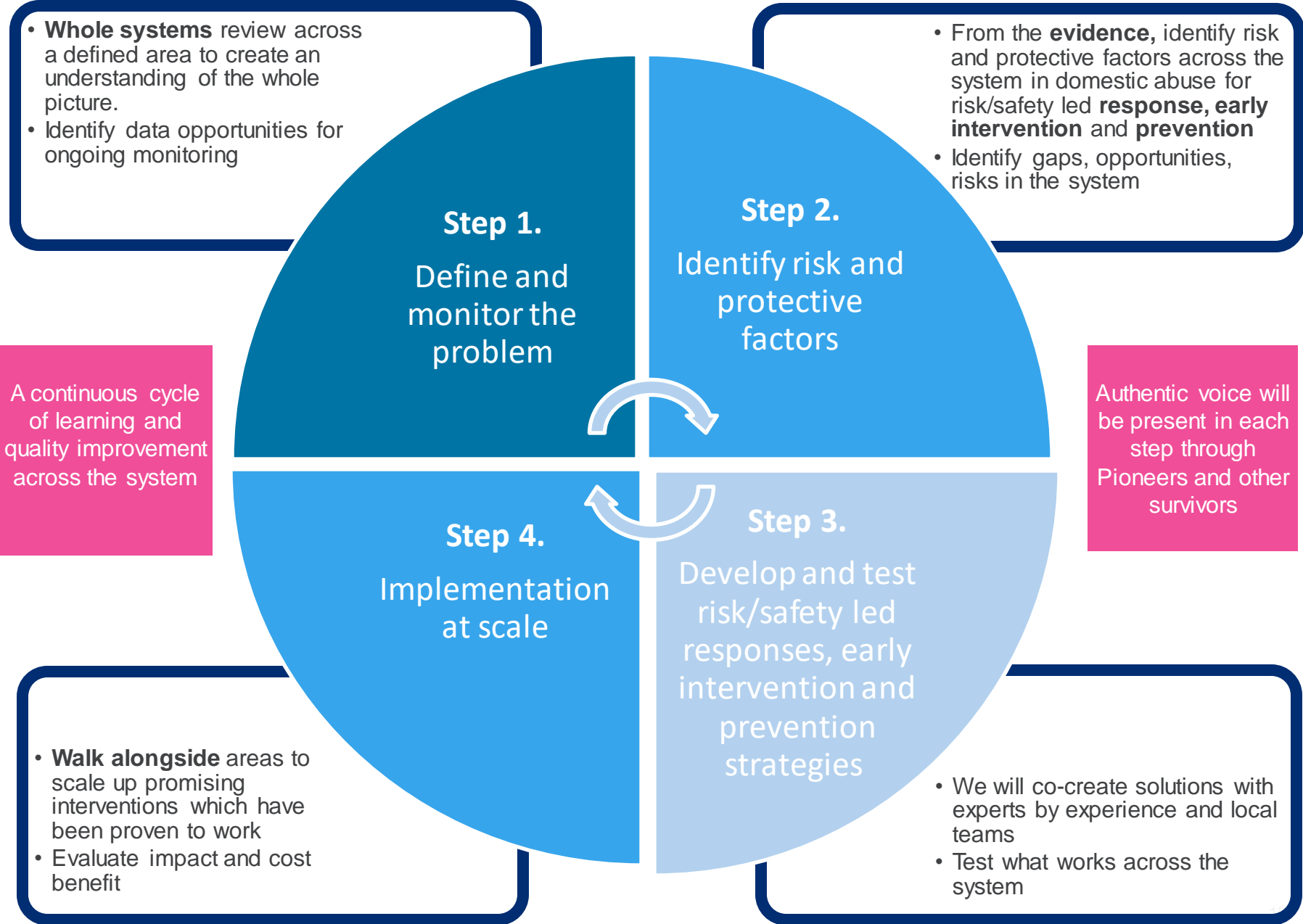
At the time they start school at least **one child in every classroom** will have been living with domestic abuse **since they were born.**

Young victims are exposed to other risks – **29% to child sexual exploitation** and **15% to gang violence**

Currently only **1% of perpetrators** receive any specialist intervention to be **challenged or change their behaviour.**

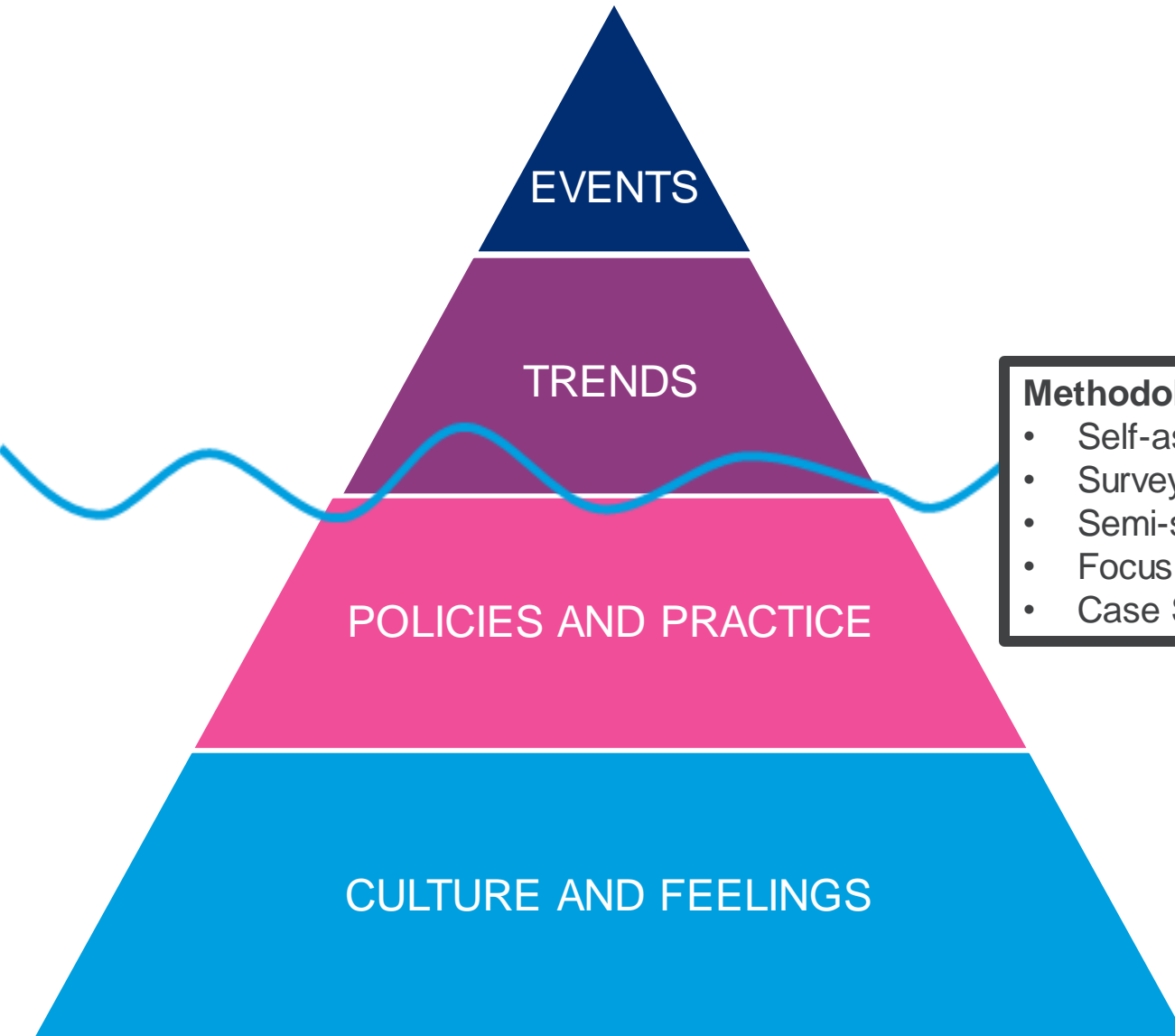
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SafeLives Public Health Approach to Ending Domestic Abuse



Systems Thinking Iceberg

Step 1.
Define and monitor the problem



Methodology:

- Self-assessments
- Surveys
- Semi-structured Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Case Studies

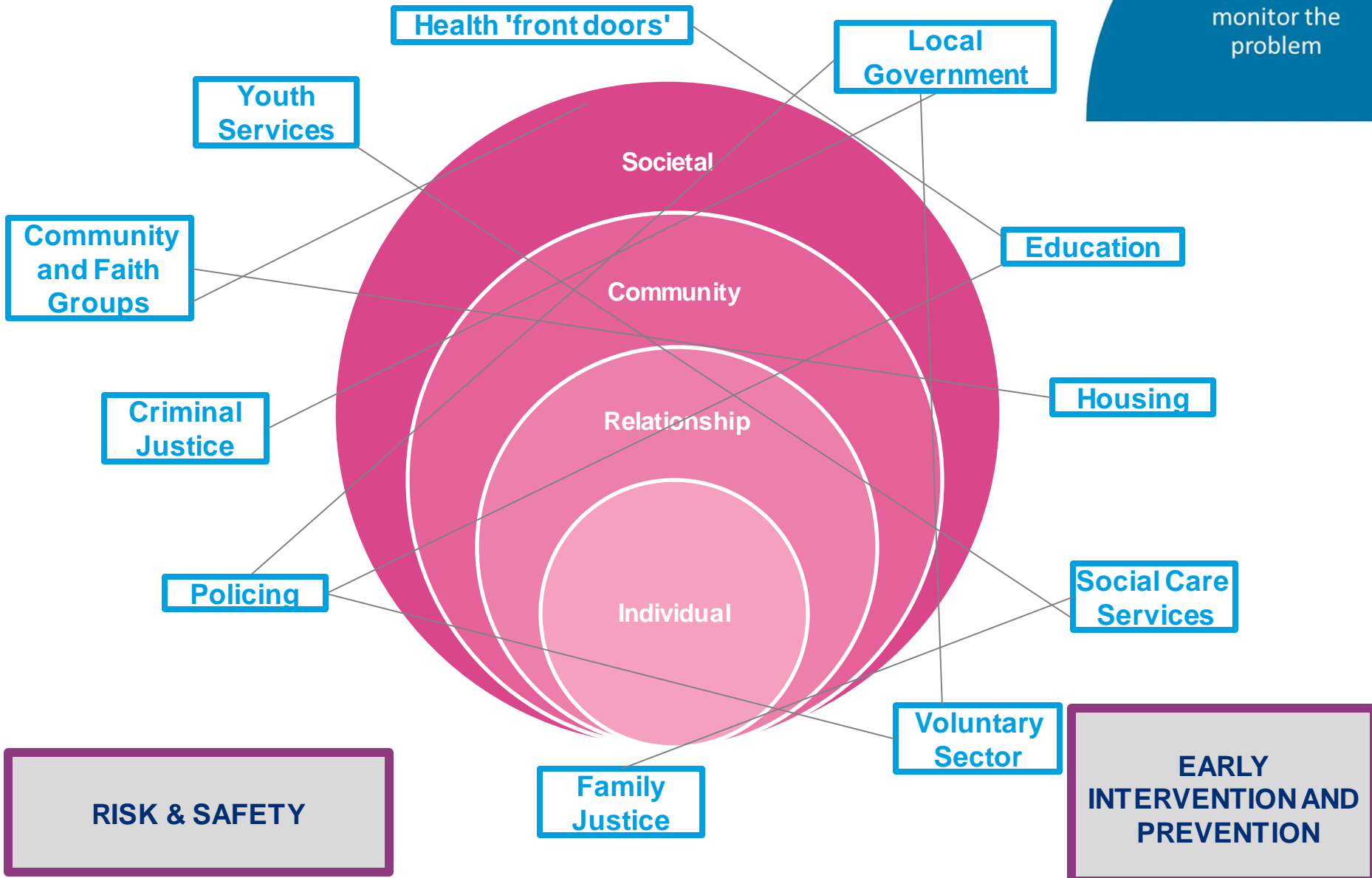
Review

- Data
- Voice of survivors (adult and child)
- Voice of professionals
- Voice of perpetrators
- Policies, procedures, practice

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For sustainable change: we need to understand the whole picture - and convince others

Step 1.
Define and monitor the problem



Risk and protective factors across the system

Step 2.

Identify risk and protective factors

Risk Factors – driving harm

Rapid social change
Gender inequality
Poverty
Cultural norms

Poverty
↑ crime levels
↑ unemployment
Drug trade
Misogyny
Poor education opps
Inequalities linked to race, sexuality, geography, age

Domestic abuse
↓ Socioeconomic status
-ve Peer group influence

Mental health
Alcohol/ substance abuse
Violent behaviour
Other forms of exploitation & abuse

Protective Factors – mitigate harm

Community connectedness

Spectrum of support and response for those who harm

Safe accommodation

Early identification of domestic abuse

Education, healthy relationships
+ve role models

Cultural change
training programmes across the system

Trusted adult

Coordinated multiagency response across risk levels



Risk Factors: Amplified by Covid-19

- Co-related societal drivers of violence increased
- Victim / survivor - escalating risk and deteriorating mental health
- DA practitioners – burnout, declining mental health and wellbeing
- Increase in referrals to all forms of support services, statutory and voluntary-led



Do the best you can until
you know better.

Then when you know better,
do better.

-Maya Angelou





Survivor Voice

Is anybody listening?

A Seat at the Table



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Benefits for Local Commissioners

If you involve survivor voice you will:

- Reach people who are hidden
- Spend money wisely
- Co-create sustainable change

Which of these do you do now?



Survivors who want to speak out have their views given to 'change makers' by professionals



Survivors and staff are treated as distinct groups



We give a voice to survivors who have accessed services



Survivors are asked to rate projects

Which of these do you do now?



Survivors lead on gathering wider views and are given a platform to present findings



We recognise there is no them and us



We reach out to all survivors not just those who have accessed services



We work alongside survivors to co-create projects

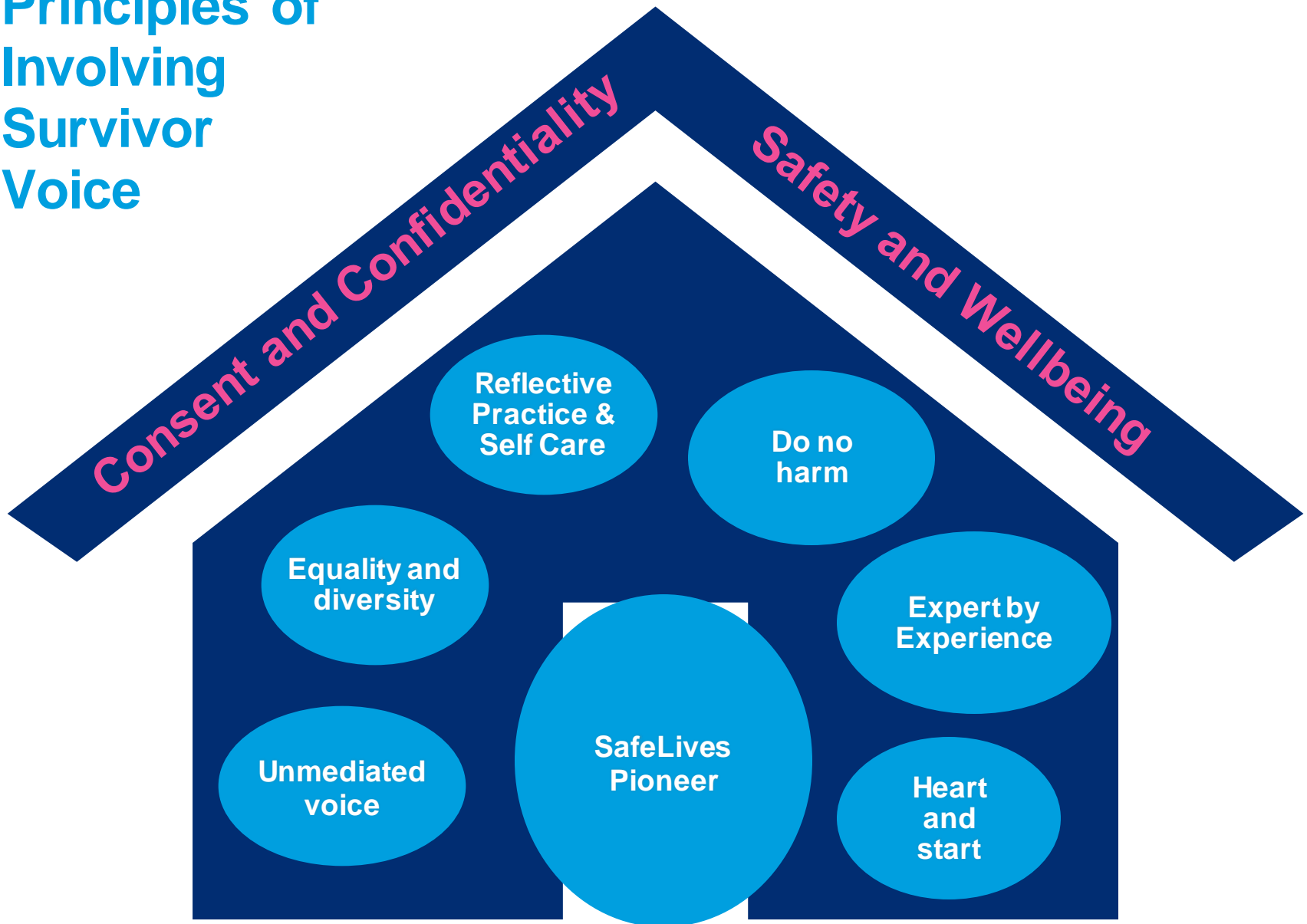
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Barriers and benefits to involving survivor voice

Please choose one word to describe:

- What is the main barrier to involving survivor voice?
- What is the main benefit to involving survivor voice?

Principles of Involving Survivor Voice



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We have to start somewhere

One of my favourite quotes is if you are doing the wrong thing then doing it better makes you wronger, not righter. If you start doing the right thing wrong, then every step in the right direction is a step to improve...What we need to start with is the **people** who need the services

Kathy Evans, Chief Executive of Children England

The Coordinated Community Response

Gudrun (Guddy) Burnet
CEO Standing Together

Co-founder of the Domestic Abuse Housing
Alliance (DAHA)

@GudrunBurnet

@STagainstDA_

@DAHAlliance

**STANDING
TOGETHER**
against domestic abuse

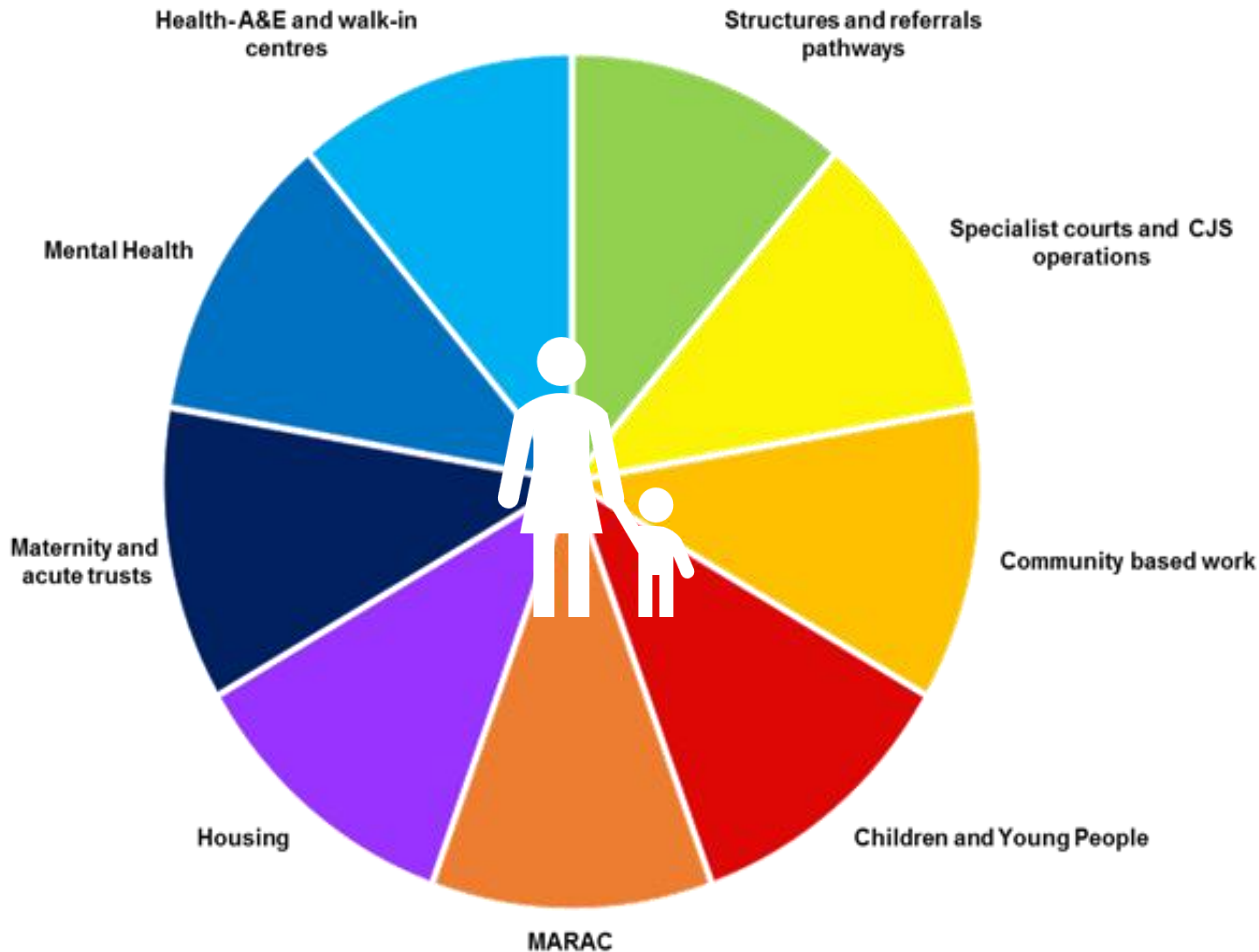


daha

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

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against domestic abuse



Responsibility for safety should not rest solely with individual victims but also with the community and services.

Perpetrators must be held to account for the harm they inflict and offered routes to change their abusive behaviours.

The CCR – national work

- The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)
- Whole Housing
- Health – Pathfinder toolkit
- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
- Faith & VAWG coalition
- Mentor Court Project – Specialist Domestic Abuse Courts (SDACs)
- CCR Network/ Ambassadors - In Search Of Excellence (ISOE)

What is Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation?

- Refuge Accommodation
- Specialist safe accommodation
- Dispersed accommodation
- Sanctuary Schemes
- Move on and/or second stage accommodation
- Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation

- Issues with exempt accommodation? Please talk to us

What is Safe Accommodation Support?

Domestic Abuse support can be directly provided within safe accommodation services and as outreach support to victims in other types of relevant accommodation, including their homes in the case of a sanctuary scheme

The government is clear that that the introduction of this duty should not result in any negative impact on non-accommodation based local domestic abuse services.

It is expected that support in safe accommodation should sit alongside and complement the support that is already available to victims.

What is Safe Accommodation Support?

Supporting ALL victims

- Ensure appropriate and adequate support meet the needs of all victims including those with protected characteristics and/or multiple complex needs
- Consider intersectionality and the needs and specific barriers of victims that may fall into more than one protected characteristic and/or unique and complex needs.
- Additional barriers must be considered when commissioning safe accommodation and services which are tailored for those whose support needs may not be able to be met within generic domestic abuse safe accommodation
- Survivor voice and discussions with by and for services extremely important to ensure that the right support is available.

The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

- **2014** - Standing Together co-founded in partnership with Peabody and Gentoo Housing Associations.
- Took our local expertise to a national level
- Aim is to **improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse**
- Accreditation process for social housing and private rented sectors
- Membership model launching April 2021 - [join us](#)

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) - Accreditation

8 Priority Areas

Policies &
Procedures

Case
Management

Risk
Management

Inclusivity &
Accessibility

Perpetrator
Management

Partnership
Working

Training

Publicity &
Awareness

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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

The National Housing Group



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Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

DAHA set up the National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy Group, bringing together 60 domestic abuse and housing NGOs together for the first time

Nov. 2017

Ministry of Housing funds the first WHA pilot project for 30 months to be delivered in 3 areas

Nov. 2018

May 2018

The group submits a consultation response including the need for a Whole Housing Approach (WHA)

Jan. 2019

The WHA is recognised in Domestic Abuse Bill, a landmark piece of legislation to create a more effective, consistent national approach to tackling domestic abuse in England and Wales.

A Whole Housing Approach



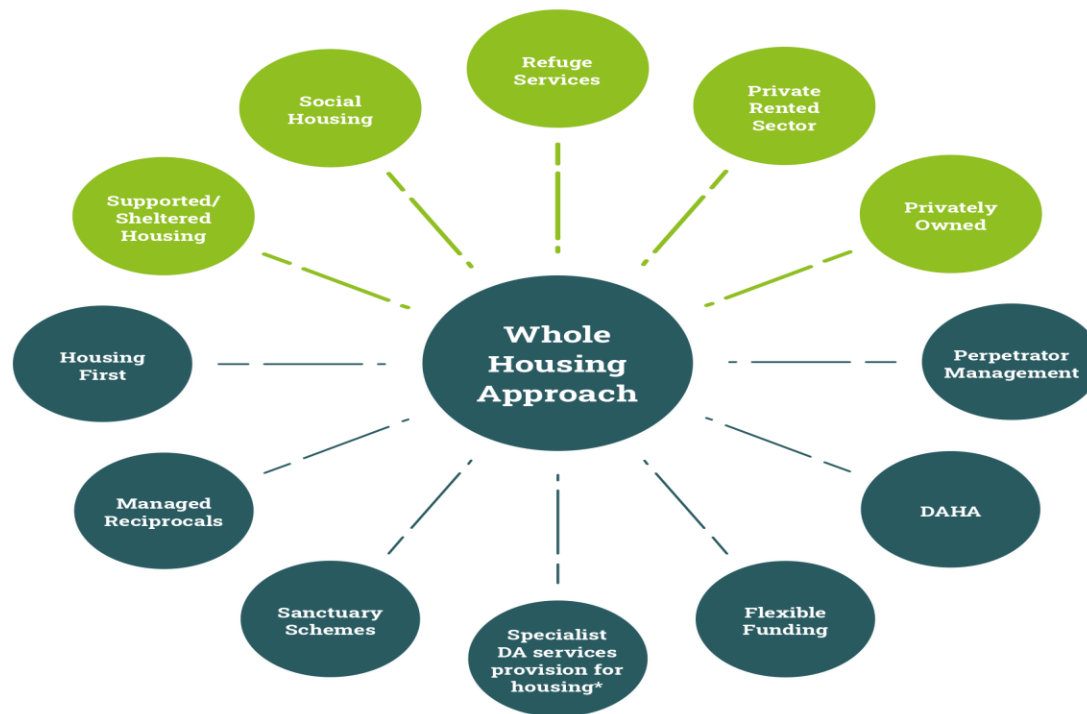
Improves survivors' access to housing across all tenure types (social, private rented sector, privately owned housing)



Ensures survivors access a range of housing options and initiatives tailored to their needs.

12 Components of a Whole Housing Approach

The WHA approach includes 12 components





Whole Housing
Domestic Abuse

1st WHA pilot:
April 2018 to
March 2021

A Whole Systems Approach addressing the needs of survivors across all tenure types, running across three pilot sites; Cambridgeshire, Stockton and London

Delivered in partnership with



Standing Together Against
Domestic Abuse



Domestic Abuse Housing
Alliance



Surviving Economic Abuse



Advance



Safer London



The Bobby Scheme



Stockton-on-Tees Borough
Council



The Royal Borough of
Kensington and Chelsea



Cambridgeshire &
Peterborough Domestic
Abuse & Sexual Violence
Partnership

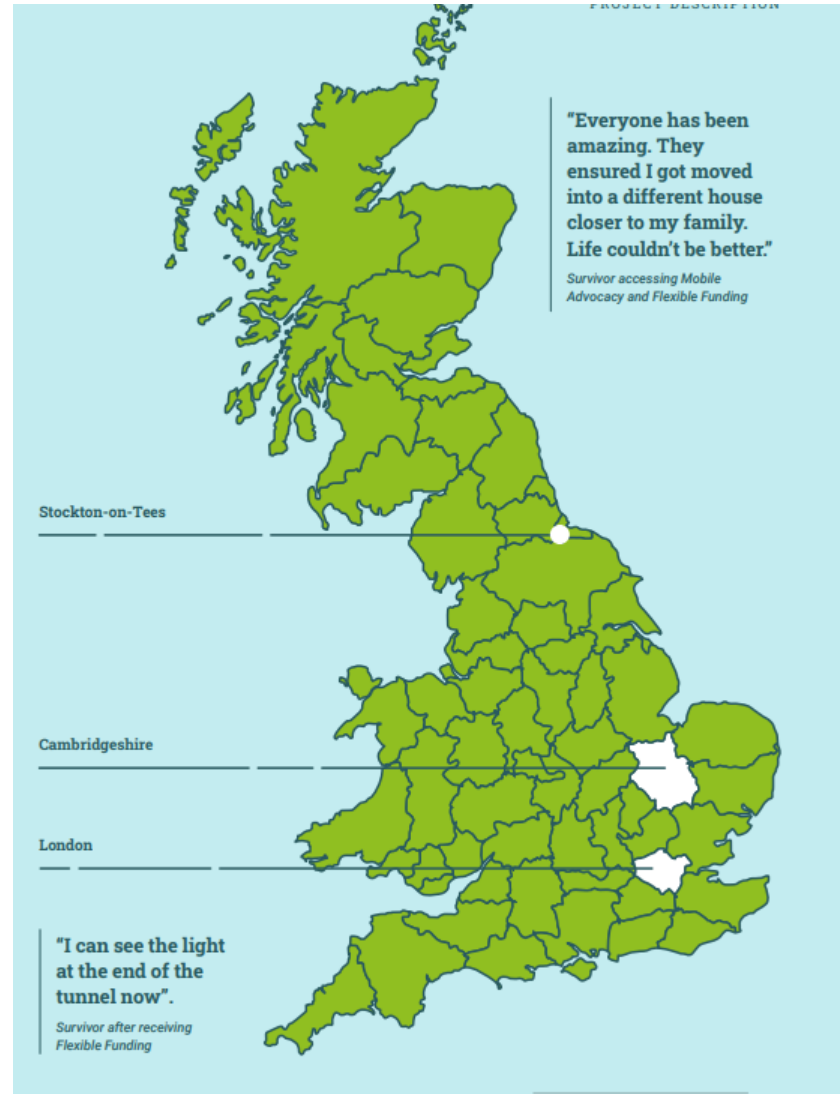


Hammersmith and Fulham



City of Westminster

With Thanks to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for funding the Whole Housing Pilot Project



Between April 2019
and March 2020:

Direct Services

to victim /survivors
across the three pilot
sites



**1,085 survivors and
1,056 dependent children**

were supported by **9 mobile advocates**
and **2 co-located housing advocates**.



**£66,935 was
awarded to
141 survivors and
185 dependent
children**

**Flexible Funding was
introduced for the first time to
help sustain and secure more
stable housing.**



**17 referrals
received
4 successful
moves**

**A Reciprocal Scheme
was introduced in
Cambridgeshire for the first
time in May 2019.**



349 Sanctuary Schemes

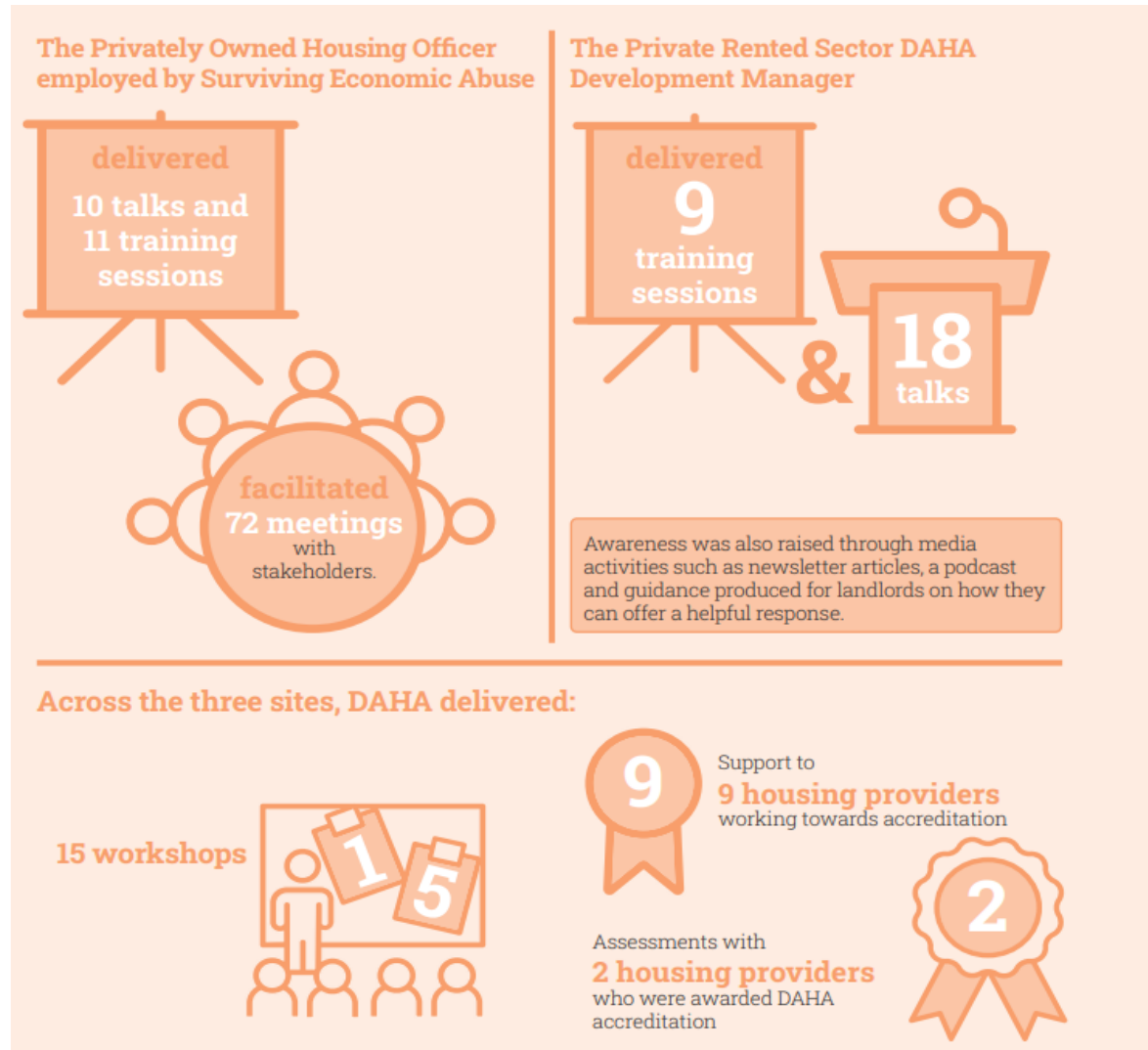
were installed in Cambridgeshire
and Stockton-on-Tees.

Between April 2019 and March 2020:

Capacity building with organisations and professionals across the three pilot sites

DA Bill - we are now working with Local Authorities areas on the needs assessment, local partnerships boards and strategies in terms of CCR and ISOE

Also need to think about other parts of CCR i.e. CJS – DAPOs and intersection with Housing



Resources to help with strategic partnerships & DA Bill implementation



Join the [CCR network](#)



Engage with our team



Use ISOE as a framework locally



Read our [London DHR report](#)



Use Whole Housing toolkit when working on what you need to do for the Bill

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Further information www.standingtogether.org.uk

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www.standingtogether.org.uk
www.dahalliance.org.uk
@STagainstDA_
@DAHAlliance
@WholeHousing



Domestic Abuse Commissioner

NICOLE JACOBS



“The focus of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner will be to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness and hold both agencies and government to account in tackling domestic abuse.”

- VICTORIA ATKINS, MINISTER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND VULNERABILITY. 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

Purpose

The Problem

- The prevalence of domestic abuse remains too high, and the national and local response (while in some areas improving) is inadequate to the scale and complexity of the problem.
- The response represents a “postcode lottery” with significant variation across England and Wales.
- Not only does the specialist domestic abuse support available vary in both quantity and quality, but the wider community response from health, housing, education or social care varies considerably.

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner

- Nicole Jacobs was appointed Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner in September 2019.
- The Commissioner will play a key role in holding local and national Government to account in order to improve the response to domestic abuse and shining a light on both good and poor practice and policy.
- All statutory agencies and Government Departments will have a legal duty through the Domestic Abuse Bill to cooperate with the Commissioner and respond publicly to any of her recommendations within 56 days.

DA Commissioner: Overarching & Timely Priorities

Priorities - Overarching

- To represent and magnify the voices of victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- To continue to develop a framework for mapping domestic abuse services nationally.
- To conduct mapping for domestic abuse services nationally and to subsequently lay reports before parliament and make recommendations.
- To end the 'postcode lottery' for survivors of domestic abuse.
- To improve the national response to domestic abuse and hold both local and national Government to account

Priorities - Timely

- To monitor the impact of Covid-19 on domestic abuse, and support relevant third sector organizations as they co-ordinate their response to the crisis.
- To ensure the Domestic Abuse Bill is as robust and inclusive as possible.
- To help ensure an integrated and joined up approach to government strategy on domestic abuse and VAWG

DA Commissioner: DA Bill Priorities

- Better support for migrant women, by extending eligibility for the DDVC and DR and creating a 'firewall' between the police and immigration enforcement, enabling more migrant victims of domestic abuse to report to the police.
- A new non-discrimination clause to ensure that all survivors have equal access to support
- A more straightforward mechanism for the transfer of joint tenancies to survivors of domestic abuse in the social rented sector
- Paid leave from work for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

DA Bill: Commissioner's Role

- **Part 4 Oversight:** DA Commissioner will sit on Ministerial-led National Steering Group, established to monitor outcomes from local reporting – which now includes assessing the impact of the accommodation-based services duty on community-based services. .
- **Mapping of CBS:** DAC Office's work to map the current provision of community-based services will be used to inform future decisions about expanding the new statutory duty to include these services.
- **Duty to Cooperate:** Specified public bodies will be under a duty to cooperate with DA Commissioner - they and government Ministers will be required to respond to recommendations/requests made to them within 56 days.
- **DHRs:** DHRs will be required to be shared with DAC Office as well as the Home Office. Ongoing discussion about national oversight mechanisms for DHRs and role for DA Commissioner.

DAC Office: Local & Regional Engagement

As of February, our Practice and Partnerships Team now has four (part-time) Geographic Leads, embedded across England and Wales. They will:

- Be the face, eyes and ears of our Office at the local and regional level, a central point of contact for local leads and partners.
- Look to learn about the key issues, challenges and best practice across their respective regions.
- Facilitate a two-way flow of information both from the local/regional level up to the national, and vice versa, helping us to build a strong picture of what is happening across England and Wales.
- Work closely with our Policy team to ensure that all policy recommendations and priorities are informed by the realities, expertise and insight of what is taking place on the ground.

DAC Office: Local & Regional Engagement

The Geographic Leads will be in touch with you as their work develops, but please do also reach out to them if you would like to discuss any issues or concerns, share practice or ask any questions. We would warmly welcome and views or feedback on what would be useful for them to prioritise or on how it would be most helpful for us to engage with you.

- Emily Hodge (Mon/Thurs) – South East England and London:
Emily.Hodge@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk
- Judith Vickress (Mon/Weds) – Midlands and East of England:
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- Camilla Kempster (Mon/Weds) – North of England and Yorkshire:
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- Anna MacGregor (Mon/Thurs) – Wales and the South West of England:
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- Georgie Hagan (full time) – Head of Practice and Partnerships:
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Questions?

Contact:

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Al-Hasaniya
Moroccan Women's
Centre

Zainab Al-Shariff

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Twitter: [@Al-Hasaniya](https://twitter.com/Al-Hasaniya)