



Information about the panel and its purpose

As part of Hertfordshire’s commitment to survivors of domestic abuse, their Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Executive and Partnership Boards have committed to setting up and supporting a panel of survivors of domestic abuse who want to improve how it is for other survivors of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Coproduction Panel is part of Hertfordshire’s Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Governance Structure:



Who we are

A small and influential group of experts by experience who have been impacted by domestic abuse, used Hertfordshire’s domestic abuse services and are committed to improve the lives of victims and survivors of domestic abuse across Hertfordshire in partnership with Herts County Council. SafeLives has been commissioned by Herts CC to facilitate and support the panel.

The panel was established in 2022 and is keen to grow and welcome in new members (women, men and non-binary people) to form together an inclusive and diverse panel of survivors. Panel members commit to using the insight and what they have learned through their experience of domestic abuse to benefit other survivors.

*"This is not a club I chose to be part of but now I'm here, I will do what I can to stop it being as bad for other survivors in the future as it was for me and my family."
Survivor*

Why?

In alignment with the Government’s [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan 2022](#) and the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) (which has given Local Authorities increased impetus to tackle the issue of domestic abuse at a local level) and [Hertfordshire's Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy - 2022-25](#) which ‘takes a joined up, local approach to tackling one of the most harmful crimes in society that has far-reaching and long-lasting consequences’, Hertfordshire CC recognises that victims and survivors of domestic abuse are the experts in what they need and has embedded the DA Coproduction Panel as part of their DA and VAWG governance structure.

Our Guiding Values and Principles

We are committed to working within the framework of Hertfordshire's five coproduction values and the SafeLives six authentic voice principles:



New Panel Members

We're keen to recruit a group of people with lived experience of domestic abuse from diverse backgrounds from across Hertfordshire and welcome people with experience of intersectionality, learning through lived experience, people who can respect value and understand each other's viewpoints and perspective and strike a balance where this is needed. We understand and respect the emotional toll and labour involved when people choose to share their voice.

In the panel we want to hear from survivors of domestic abuse who are often not heard or not seen including survivors who:

- are from the LGBT+ community – including trans and non-binary people
- are from a Black, Asian or another minoritised and/or migratised communities (including people with insecure immigration status and people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF))
- are vulnerably housed or homeless - especially street homeless women who are at very high risk of domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG
- are care experienced (care leaver)
- have a disability
- are a younger (aged 18-30) or older person (over 60)
- have experience of family courts
- have experience of services post-abuse which has been positive or harmful or beneficial or triggering

If you're interested, please submit this [Domestic Abuse Coproduction Panel - Expression of Interest Form](#)

We look forward to hearing from you !

