

Southampton Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board

Terms of Reference	
Date created:	August 2021
Review date:	August 2022
Abbreviations	<p>SCC – Southampton City Council DSA – Domestic and Sexual Abuse ICU – Integrated Commissioning Unit SCP – Stronger Communities Partnership SSORG – Serious Sexual Offences Reduction Group OPCC – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner CPS – Crown Prosecution Service IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisors HRDA – High Risk Domestic Abuse (referral pathway) PIPPA – Prevention, Intervention and Public Protection Alliance MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference SSCP – Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership SSAB – Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board</p>
Frequency of meetings:	Quarterly
Duration of meetings:	120 minutes
Administration arrangements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board papers (including agenda) circulated seven working days prior to meeting. • Members must submit Board papers no later than ten working days prior to meeting. • Minutes circulated no later than 10 working days after meeting.
Chair:	To be appointed by SCC.
Vice Chair:	To be appointed by SCC.
Membership:	<p><u>Core / Mandatory Members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Service, Children’s Social Care, SCC. • Head of Service, Adult Social Care, SCC. • Head of Service, Housing, SCC. • Chief Superintendent, Hampshire Constabulary.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned services (community, refuge & perpetrator) representative(s) / Chair of the DSA Operational Group (if not already a member). • Senior Manager and/or DSA lead, Southern Health NHS Trust. • Senior Manager and/or DSA lead, Solent NHS Trust. • Senior Manager and/or DSA Lead, University Hospital Southampton Foundation Trust. • Senior Manager and/or DSA Lead, NHS Hampshire, Southampton and the Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group. • Partnership Coordinator / ICU Commissioning lead for DSA. • Southampton Local Safeguarding Board Manager (Adults and Children). • Domestic Abuse Lead, National Probation Service. <p><u>Advisory Members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire Constabulary Force representative for DSA/Safeguard (Inspector). • Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Heritage – representative for domestic abuse. • Stronger Communities Manager (manager of SCP). • IDVA Service manager. • Data Lead for domestic abuse, SCC. • Chair for SSORG. • Chair of OPHEM. • OPCC representative for DSA. • Representative from the Crown Prosecution Service • Senior Manager, Substance Misuse service. <p><u>Membership Expressions of Interest (EOI):</u></p> <p>Professionals interested in becoming a member should submit an EOI in writing by email to the Chair. The EOI will be considered by the Chair and a response provided within 28 days.</p>
<p>Purpose:</p>	<p>To provide expert advice and support to SCC in relation to its local response to domestic abuse, violence against women and girls and violence in all forms that impacts on victims regardless of gender.</p> <p>The aims of the local response by SCC are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce domestic abuse and violence against women and girls in Southampton; • increase safety for survivors and children; and, • hold perpetrators to account for their violence and abuse against victims. <p>These aims will be achieved through effective, coordinated partnership working.</p> <p>(See Appendix A for definition of domestic abuse)</p>
<p>Principles:</p>	<p>The Board is underpinned by the following principles:</p> <p><u>Shared Vision:</u></p>

- There is a shared vision that goes beyond deliverables and data and is based on a shared ethos and outcomes, with all partners committed to delivery.
- The vision unites the differing priorities and remits of partners by: improving the safety of survivors and their children; holding perpetrators to account; improving pathways through services; and, challenging the culture that allows domestic abuse to take place.

Individual and shared responsibility:

- Each partner works effectively within their own agency and with all other agencies, to secure the safety of the survivor and their children and hold perpetrators to account.
- Each partner understands and delivers its part in the response to domestic abuse.
- There is shared responsibility across the partnership, which considers differing dynamics between partners and clear contributions from each.
- There is shared understanding of each partner's priorities and challenges.
- Risks, impacts, resources and challenges are shared.
- There is shared investment of time, energy and engagement by all partners.

Coordination:

- There is shared understanding that coordination is vital in the response to domestic abuse.
- Partners recognise that coordination is defined by systematic and collective activity designed to make survivors and their children safe and hold perpetrators to account.
- There is an open and multi-directional flow of information and influence between strategic and operational groups which supports the mutual dependence on one another to fulfil their areas of delivery.

Gender and trauma informed approaches:

- The role of gender inequality as both a cause and consequence of domestic abuse is recognised by all partners.
- All partners recognise that while men and boys are survivors of domestic abuse, the vast majority are women and girls.
- While it is recognised that domestic abuse is largely a gendered crime, each partner understands and delivers its part in the response to tackling violence against men and boys.
- A trauma-informed approach, grounded in a solid understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, is reflected throughout.

Prioritisation of prevention / early intervention over crisis responses:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective prevention and early intervention responses is prioritised over crisis / high risk / high harm responses, in recognition that this achieves better outcomes for survivors and children and represents more efficient use of resources. <p><u>Survivors and children at the heart:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to domestic abuse are led by lived experiences, needs and views of survivors and children. • Diverse and marginalised voices are considered and represented throughout. • Multiple barriers and discrimination some survivors face when accessing services is recognised and understood, with a shared commitment to breaking barriers, addressing gaps in accessibility, and ensuring services are inclusive. <p><u>Perpetrators held accountable:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is shared understanding that holding perpetrators to account, both at the individual level and within systems, practices, policies, processes etc is fundamental to an effective response to domestic abuse. • There is a commitment from all partners to adopt and embed this approach.
<p>Functions and Remit:</p>	<p><u>Compliance with Domestic Abuse Act 2021:</u> The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise upon and support the undertaking of the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment and Strategy; • advise and support SCC in meeting its requirement to report annually to MHCLG on Strategy implementation; and, • advise SCC on decisions regarding New Burdens Fund spend on safe accommodation services. <p><u>Multiagency partnership working and coordination:</u> The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drive forward an effective strategic, multiagency, coordinated response to domestic in Southampton, underpinned by a shared vision; • ensure all partners are aware of individual and collective responsibilities in the response to domestic abuse; • effectively challenge and hold partners to account and address issues with engagement and representation; • review on an annual basis as a minimum the membership of the Board, identifying gaps and advising the Chair on appointments; and,

- ensure the DSA Operational Group provides an effective operational, multiagency, coordinated response that is aligned with strategic priorities.

Workplan: The Board will:

- develop an annual workplan setting out key deliverables with recommended actions for relevant partners. The workplan will take account of critical issues, such as COVID-19 recovery;
- monitor progress at each Board meeting, holding partners to account for performance issues.

Strategy and Vision: The Board will:

- be responsible for advising SCC and Board members on the overall strategic direction of the response to domestic abuse in Southampton;
- develop a shared partnership vision that underpins Southampton's domestic abuse strategy;
- provide strategic advice on strategy reviews / refreshes;
- monitor the delivery of Southampton's domestic abuse strategy through a multi-agency action plan and advise SCC and Board members on actions required to ensure effective implementation; and,
- ensure that the work of the DSA Operational Group aligns with the strategic priorities for the partnership.

Data / Intelligence and Key Performance Indicators: The Board will:

- establish a minimum partnership dataset, with key performance indicators (KPI's) for our collective system;
- receive reports on performance of HRDA/MARAC and PIPPA;
- ensure all partners are clear on KPI's and their responsibility for addressing performance issues;
- monitor data and discuss performance pressures with Board members;
- use data / intelligence to identify trends, themes and patterns and give intelligence-led strategic advice based on findings; and,
- lead a clear and evidence-based analysis of domestic abuse issues and partnership performance.

Identification of and strategic oversight of response to critical issues:

The Board will:

- identify critical issues / priority areas of focus;
- provide strategic advice, oversight and support in relation to the response by SCC and Board members to critical issues;
- advise and support the DSA Operational Group regarding critical issues and actions required;
- advise on critical issues arising from the operations of HRDA/MARAC and PIPPA.
- advise SCC on the establishment of working groups / task and finish groups to address critical issues.

Commissioning decisions: The Board will:

- provide intelligence-led advice about the commissioning / de-commissioning of services;
- identify and advise on funding opportunities;
- advise on proposed relevant service specifications and decisions to award contracts; and,
- advise on the effective management of participation of providers at the Board to ensure procurement processes are not compromised.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) / Serious Case Reviews (SCR): The Board will:

- advise SCC and its partners on commissioning decisions regarding DHRs;
- monitor in-progress DHRs and relevant SCRs (i.e. those involving domestic abuse), with Chairs providing an update for each Board meeting;
- be responsible for overseeing the implementation of action plans from each Review by monitoring progress and advising on actions required;
- advise on changes required across the partnership in response to learning from DHRs / SCRs.

Relationship to other Boards / meetings: (See Appendix B for Structure Chart).
The Board will:

- report bi-annually to the Safe City Partnership;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise and support SCC in meeting its requirement to report annually to MHCLG on Strategy implementation; • advise and support the SSCP on undertaking functions relevant to the purpose of the Board; • to advise and support the SSAB on undertaking functions relevant to the purpose of the Board; • advise Health and Wellbeing Board on undertaking functions relevant to the purpose of the Board; • ensure close links are developed and maintained with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Adult and Children’s Safeguarding Boards; • receive quarterly reports from the DSA Operational Group. • provide advice and support to the DSA Operational Group on required functions and activities.
<p>Role / responsibilities of agencies and members:</p>	<p>Members will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to make strategic decisions on behalf of their agency without upward referral (including funding / resourcing decisions); • attend every meeting. Where the named representative cannot attend, attendance must be delegated to an appropriate colleague with delegated authority to perform agreed function; • submit relevant reports / information etc. to the named administrator no later than 10 working days before each Board meeting; • sign a confidentiality statement; • maintain up-to-date awareness and understanding of domestic abuse, including the national / regional / local policy landscape, relevant research, key national developments, local policies and best practice; • report on agreed data / intelligence from their agency and contribute proactively to identification of themes and trends; • undertake key deliverables as per the Board’s workplan and complete actions in agreed time frames; • act as the strategic lead and single point of contact for their agency on domestic abuse; • circulate information / resources / guidance / tools etc. regarding domestic abuse within their agency;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embed agreed practice / policy / processes regarding domestic abuse within their agency and monitor compliance; and, • ensure actions and learning from DHRs and relevant SCR's are implemented within their agency.
Accountability and reporting:	<p>The Board will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report bi-annually to the Safe City Partnership; and, • advise and support SCC in meeting its requirement to report annually to MHCLG on Strategy implementation.

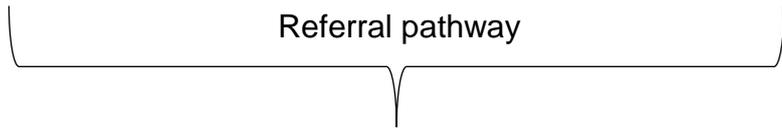
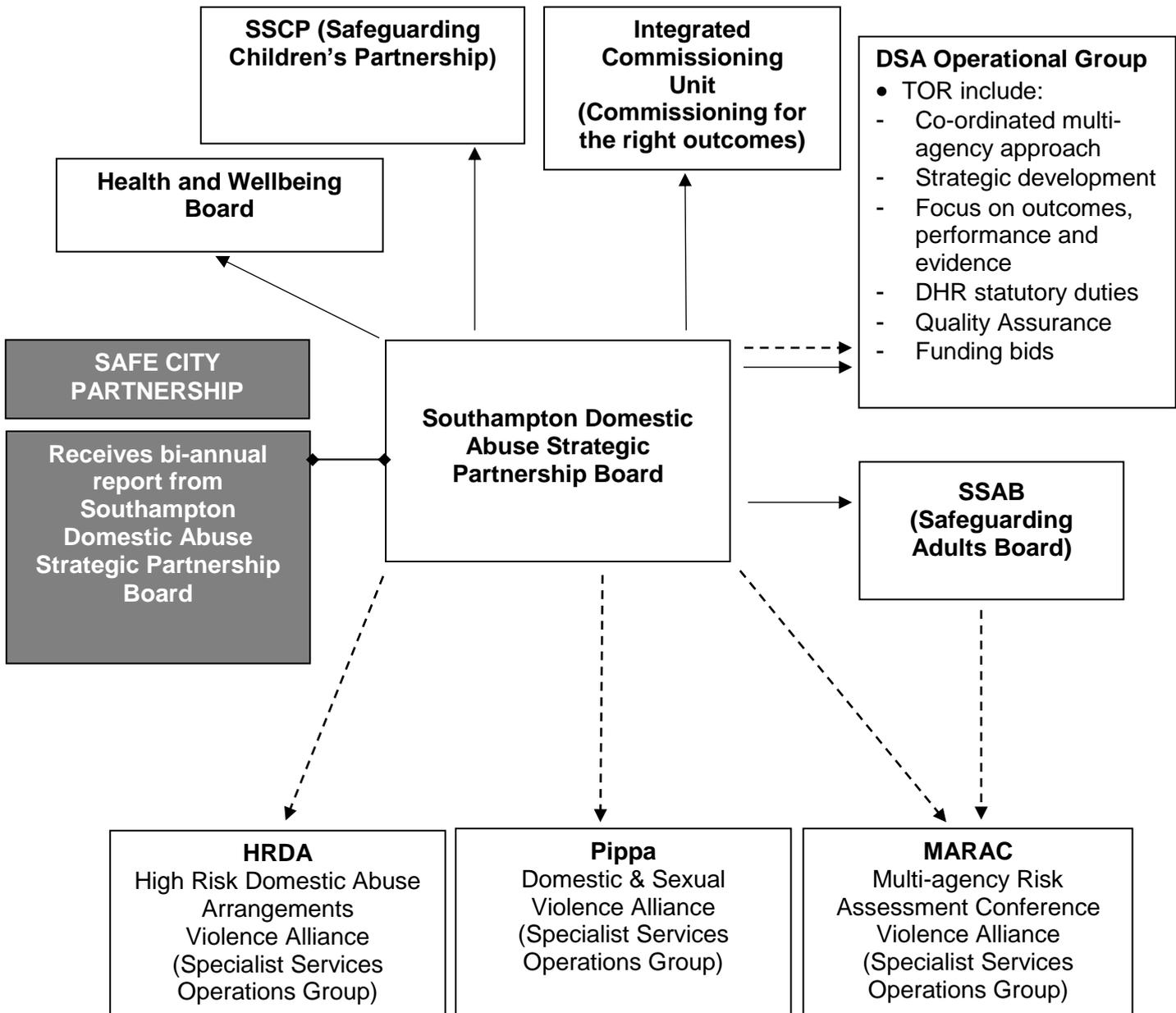
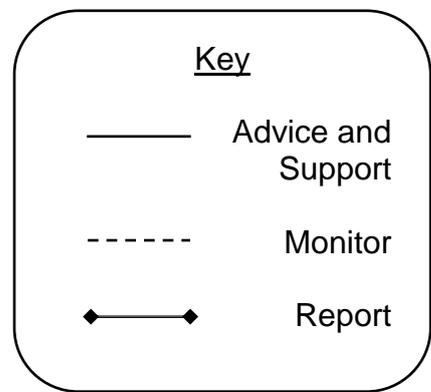
Appendix A: Definitions

1.1. Definition: The Government defines domestic and sexual abuse as:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional”.

1.2. This definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Appendix B: Structure Chart



SV/DVA Specialist Services

Representative:

- Operational delivery
- Training

Service Improvement

- Service Quality Checking
- Maximising joint working