

## Considerations of the consultation feedback – DA / VAWG Draft Strategy Consultation 2022

Below is a brief summary of key amendments/changes to the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2028, following on from the 12-week public consultation, extensive engagement and focus group sessions, and Scrutiny Committee feedback:

- We have made amendments to, and expanded parts of, the narrative of the strategy in response to some of the consultation feedback, however there are **no substantive changes to priorities and actions** (as feedback was generally supportive of these, and changing these key strategy components would also risk the validity of the consultation).
- The priorities and ‘what we will do’ remain as they were, albeit with **some wording amended** (such as to provide clarity in light of the feedback we have had, to emphasise what is or isn’t in the scope of this strategy, and to ensure that we have used appropriate terminology).
- **Forewords have been added** from Cllr Renyard and Mary D’Arcy
- **A paragraph on ‘how to get help’ added** at both the beginning and end with PIPPA and Yellow Door helplines, to ensure that anybody affected by reading the strategy knows services available for victims/survivors
- A paragraph has been included to specifically **outline why strategic focus is to address DA alongside VAWG**, and previous narrative has been expanded to **make explicit that the support/actions in the strategy are for all victims**.
  - This addresses concerns about possible gender barriers/exclusion from explicitly referencing violence against women and girls, and also emphasises the inclusion of sexual abuse – as the terminology makes clear that VAWG includes sexual violence and abuse.
- A more specific definition of **types of abuse** has also been added to the ‘What is Domestic Abuse’ section, for added clarity
- An additional **paragraph on ‘Community Coordinated Response’** (CCR) has been included, as this is a core focus of the strategy itself and comments indicated that more explanation of CCR would be helpful
- A **narrative around the challenges of DA data/under-reporting** has been added (leading into a new line as to why DA reporting figures could temporarily go up short term due to an increase in awareness and reporting), and more information added on **where we drew our data from** to address feedback that the data used was predominantly police-focused
- Data originally in the appendix has now been moved to early in the strategy to **‘set the scene’ on DA/VAWG in Southampton** and give more operational context
- A short section at the end of the document has been added giving **further information on the consultation and engagement process, the funding for the strategy, and how progress/success** will be monitored.

The next pages outline in more detail some of the specific feedback raised during the consultation period, and what individual actions (if any) have been taken to address them within the strategy.

## Priority 1 feedback

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
Quantitative feedback	The majority of respondents said that <i>“Staff and volunteers working for partner agencies will be trained to identify domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG, and respond sensitively and intervene appropriately with all family members”</i> would have a positive impact (89%).	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	The majority of respondents said that <i>“Professionals will be supported to educate children and young people about equality, respect, gender roles, and the harmful effect of gendered expectations. We will explore the development of a city-wide ‘whole school approach’ to VAWG, with genuine engagement across the entire community - staff, pupils, governors, parents, and external services”</i> would have a positive impact (90%). This statement had one of the highest levels of positivity in priority 1.	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	The majority of respondents said that <i>“The relationships and sex education (RSE) and personal, social, health and economic education (PHSE) curriculums in Southampton’s schools will be changed to raise awareness and understanding of the continuum of VAWG – including domestic abuse – and the support available to victims/survivors in Southampton”</i> would have a positive impact (90%). This statement had one of the highest levels of positivity in priority 1.	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None

	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“City-wide awareness raising campaigns – under the ‘Safe City’ brand - will challenge harmful attitudes towards domestic abuse and VAWG and support and encourage active bystander intervention whether in public places (including on-line spaces), at home, in the workplace, education or social settings”</i> would have a positive impact (85%).</p>	<p>No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“We will work with primary healthcare providers to intervene to prevent VAWG by identifying and supporting high risk groups (adults and children) before violence and abuse occurs”</i> would have a positive impact (88%).</p>	<p>No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“More organisations and businesses in the city will be encouraged to join the ‘Safe Place Network’, where they will receive training about how to respond appropriately to VAWG”</i> would have a positive impact (82%). This statement had the lowest levels of positivity across Priority 1. A negative impact was not much higher than other statements, but ‘no impact at all’ was increased (13%).</p>	<p>No change required (still a high percentage of positive agreement from majority of respondents, some of the comments on the Safe Place Network are addressed further on in this document).</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Data gathered by partners will be used to improve safety, and feelings of safety, for women and girls in Southampton by informing changes to the local environment (for example street lighting and CCTV) and improving safety on public transport”</i> would have a positive impact (86%).</p>	<p>No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)</p>	<p>None</p>

<b>Qualitative feedback</b>	Other comments (2 comments)	Comments revolved around the distinction between intervention and prevention, similar comments received from PH.	<p>We have reviewed a number of actions and the priorities they sit under.</p> <p>It was raised that Priority 1, Action 1 would sit better under Priority 2. This is because the action is more suited to discussing early intervention as opposed to prevention. Therefore, Priority 1 Action 1 has been moved to Priority 2, Action 8.</p>
	Other suggestions (16 comments)	<p>Most comments were around greater education and training. There is already a section on education in the strategy.</p> <p>However, some comments focused around the fact that education is not something that can be solely undertaken by schools and teachers – this is something we agree with and is why we are advocating in the strategy already for a whole-system education approach to changing attitudes and behaviours.</p>	A number of comments highlighted greater training in frontline and emergency services. As this is a partnership strategy, with a new partnership board now created to monitor and improve strategy delivery (with representatives from those services attending), this is something that can be addressed at partnership meetings and ops groups meetings.
	Other concerns (5 comments)	<p>One of the comments here was around culture change being very difficult and time consuming to embed – we recognise that these things can take significant time and effort to implement but we still believe it is important to put resource into doing this even if it takes time to embed.</p> <p>A further comment identified the risks around intervention. It is important to emphasise that intervention does not always mean direct intervention with the perpetrator, interventions can be wider support given by services trained in recognising abusive behaviours. This has now been clarified.</p>	We have added an extra line into the strategy to emphasise that intervention is wider than direct intervention, and to emphasise that services are trained not just in how to intervene, but also when to safely intervene.
	Other comments about 'data to inform changes in local environment' (3 comments)	<p>We have a number of current questionnaires and surveys that our stronger communities team undertake regularly as part of the Safe City Strategy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Safety Survey</li> </ul>	We have added more information about the data used specifically to inform this strategy, and more

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Friendly City Survey</li> <li>- Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation</li> </ul> <p>These ensure that data collection is done sensitively via a variety of groups, rather than focusing on victims at the time of an offence where they may risk being retraumatised.</p>	narrative around the challenges faced in collecting data on this topic.
Ensure 'data to inform changes in local environment' is used effectively (3 comments)	<p>Comments were focused on data being used well and used sensitively by the council and partners.</p> <p>There is already a specific section in the strategy on data sharing. There are current limitations on what data we can access and how we can analyse the data due to the fact that partner organisations collect data differently and have different restrictions in place. We are working with partners to improve this but this is a longer-term project.</p> <p>We need to ensure that we are doing what we can with the data we are given both nationally and locally, to ensure services are improved as much as the possible with the data we are given.</p>	<p>We have added a new section on the complexities of collecting data and understanding the picture of DA/VAWG in Southampton, to expand on concerns raised relating to data referenced within the strategy.</p> <p>We have also added data into the terms of reference for the new partnership board to ensure that this is highlighted as a specific action for the board:</p> <p>"The SPB will focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Data and intelligence.</b> Review performance data from prevention and support services provided by its members. The Data, Intelligence and Insight team at SCC will analyse data on behalf of SPB. Facilitate the sharing of data and intelligence between its members for strategic and operational purposes."</li> </ul>
Physical / local environment suggested changes (15 comments)	A number of these comments focused on street safety, initiatives to design out crime (better street lighting and CCTV, drinking culture, safety of subway crossings etc.)	A new line has been added into the strategy to cover this.
Begin educating in early years (8 comments)	Work is already underway in this area. The Star Project is now going into year 6 (10-11 year olds) to do work	This has now been clarified/expanded on within the relevant actions on this

		around healthy relationships. We are also looking at the impact of DA on children, so are helping practitioners in nurse partnerships, early years settings etc., to spot and support families around this issue. We currently don't do education work on DA at nursery age (some comments were around educating under 5's) due to the complexity of the issue for such a young age group, however we will work with frontline services working with that age group to improve early identification and identify age-appropriate education opportunities.	in the early intervention and prevention strands (Priority 1, action 4) of the strategy, and about broader early years practitioner support. We will take direction on age-appropriate education from those working with younger age groups.
	Education in school and university settings (21 comments)	<p>Comments emphasised the importance of education and early intervention/prevention.</p> <p>A Whole School Approach is already in the strategy. This education also includes all education settings e.g. specialist schools, those excluded from schools etc.</p> <p>More general comments about education and curriculums for young people are outside the scope of this strategy, and are covered in documents such as the council's Children and Young People's Strategy 2022-2027, and the supporting action plans for that strategy around Education and Prevention/Early Intervention.</p> <p>Some comments raised that relationship education is heteronormative – we have addressed this with an extra line in the strategy.</p>	<p>We have clarified added information around education projects such as the STAR project to address feedback on this issue.</p> <p>We will also take away an action to look at discussing further with educational intuitions about what is already in their curriculum for students, to identify opportunities for further work in this area.</p> <p>We have added a line into strategy emphasising that education should acknowledge that relationships are not just male/female and that abuse can happen outside of heterosexual relationships too. (p.3)</p>
	Education in workplace settings (e.g. recognition, intervention, support) (18 comments)	We've addressed training needs in the strategy – workplaces may have their own training identified on this already. This is in the prevention strand of the strategy, with clear outcomes for improving education and awareness around this issue and challenging harmful attitudes.	None
	Education / training for the police (e.g. recognition, intervention, support) (9 comments)	We've addressed training needs in the strategy already – it's a partnership strategy so professional training is included in references to improving training.	None

	Education in healthcare settings (e.g. recognition, intervention, support) (5 comments)	<p>We have already identified a specific action in the perpetrator section to identify harmful behaviours (action 15, under priority 3), as well as other outcomes in relation to adult social care referrals. We have got specific actions in both priority 2 (action 8) and priority 3 (action 16) around early identification with mental health, health and community services, both for victims and perpetrators. A reference to primary healthcare providers is specifically mentioned in the prevention strand of the strategy.</p> <p>As per the above comment, training needs identified within the strategy are to be rolled out across the partnership agencies.</p>	None
	Education for everyone (e.g. recognition, intervention, support) (8 comments)	This is in the prevention strand of the strategy, with clear outcomes for improving education and awareness around this issue and to challenge harmful attitudes.	None
	Better education / training within the justice system (5 comments)	Issues around family courts are being taken up at a national level by the national Domestic Abuse Commissioner. We do have a specific point around building local relationships with courts locally (priority 3, action 17), and we can include them in offers of training, but this is a national issue.	We have added in an action to raise awareness with family courts to explain that Southampton City Council is practising the Safe and Together Model in the City, and to offer to share access to the training documents on this where agencies would be interested in receiving these.
	Positive comments / agree with proposals (10 comments)	<p>Education was raised in these comments as something respondents felt was key, and is central to the strategy document already. No action required on this as this is already key within the strategy.</p> <p>Some comments mentioned 'bystander intervention' – national campaigns are already underway on this issue, and it is also referenced in action 3 (priority 1) in the strategy.</p>	We have updated action 3 under priority 1, to reinforce that we will encourage <i>appropriate</i> active bystander intervention to mitigate concerns around risk.
	Education for DA / VAWG should be of high standard / taught by professionals (8 comments)	Some services are staffed by volunteers and are trained fully to deliver services. However, in relation to comments around the importance of paid and specialist	We have made these roles (currently being created and recruited for), clearer in the strategy itself.

		staff delivering training services, some of the New Burdens Funding (which will partly be delivering strategy outcomes), has been allocated to hiring a full time paid DA Training Coordinator role, as well as a number of other roles (Whole Housing Approach, and Survivor Voice roles).	
	Victims often do not recognise they are victims (3 comments)	This is covered in awareness raising and education sections of the strategy already. National campaigns will also assist on this and are beyond the scope of our strategy.	None
	Dangerous for bystanders to intervene (3 comments)	This is why there needs to be appropriate evidence-based intervention training on this, which is currently an action within the strategy (Priority 2, action 8).	We have expanded P1, action 3 to emphasise the need for appropriate active bystander intervention.
	Educate males specifically (4 comments)	We need to educate everybody, but to take a gender-informed approach that recognises the data around gendered crimes/harmful gendered expectations and the early behaviours that can arise from these. This is addressed in terms of actions around wider education. (Priority 1, actions 1 and 2)	None
	More education / promotion will lead to more reports (3 comments)	We are aware that a measure of the success of the strategy could be that we temporarily see reports of domestic and sexual abuse, and other violent gendered crimes, increase in the city. This will enable us to target resources more fully to those who need it the most. Increased reporting is not always an increase in the volume of the crime/incidences as we know there is a huge volume of underreporting.	We have added extra information within the strategy to clarify this.
	Recognise / support mental abuse as well as physical abuse (11 comments)	The strategy outlines the definition of different types of abuse, which includes psychological abuse such as coercive control, gaslighting etc. Specialist providers are trained to offer support around this abuse as well as physical forms of abuse.	None
	Better education / training for social workers (e.g. recognition, intervention, support) (3 comments)	Safe and Together Model. Priority 3, action 14 has been expanded to explain the Safe and Together model. This also highlights that safe and together training is being provided to practitioners within Children's Social Care and practitioners across the Partnership.	We have added extra information to clarify what the Safe and Together model is and to highlight training on the model.



			<p>Priority 3 Action 14 – “Services provided by partner agencies in response to domestic abuse will enable children and young people to remain ‘Safe and Together’ with their non-abusive parent/guardian wherever this will help to achieve the best outcomes for them. Safe and Together is an evidence-based, child-centred model of working which promotes partnership with the non-abusive parent and holding the abusive parent accountable for their abuse, which is recognised as a parenting choice. Training is already being provided to practitioners within Children’s Social Care and for practitioners across the partnership.”</p>
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**Priority 2 feedback**

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
Quantitative feedback	<p>The majority of respondents said that “A ‘Whole Housing Approach’ (WHA) to domestic abuse will be implemented across Southampton. The WHA is a framework for addressing the housing and safety needs of victim/survivors across all housing tenure types (social, private rented and private ownership)” would have a positive impact (93%).</p> <p>This statement had one of the highest levels of positivity in priority 2.</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None

	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Access to our services by people with protected characteristics will be reviewed and services changed to improve equality of access”</i> would have a positive impact (85%).</p> <p>This statement had the lowest levels of positivity across Priority 2. A negative impact was not much higher than other statements, but ‘no impact at all’ was increased (7%).</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Children who see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse will be treated by agencies and service providers in Southampton as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, and data will be recorded to inform the development of appropriate support and intervention”</i> would have a positive impact (93%).</p> <p>This statement had one of the highest levels of positivity in priority 2.</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“New collaborative approaches to assessing and supporting families where children are victims of domestic abuse will be developed”</i> would have a positive impact (92%).</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“The identification of and response to standard and medium risk cases of domestic abuse will be improved by consistent high-quality training for service providers in identification of DA and VAWG and the pathways to support. This will mean that support can be offered to families as early</i></p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None

	<i>as possible</i> ” would have a positive impact (90%).		
<b>Qualitative feedback</b>	Other concerns (4 comments)	Concerns raised in this section were around support services for vulnerable women. This is covered by the Safe and Together Model – we have added more information on this within the strategy document to explain what it is and the impact it will have within some frontline services.	More information on this added within the strategy document.
	Concerns around support from Council / Children's Services (4 comments)	As above.	As above
	Other suggestions (13 comments)	Comments in this section (revolving around education and social services training) are already covered in previous sections of this document.	None
	Positive comments / agree with proposals (1 comment)	None required (positive comment).	None
	More support for those abused by police officers (2 comments)	Hampshire Constabulary policies on dealing with domestic abuse perpetrated by officers or staff internally were rewritten in June 2021 to include a ‘Domestic Abuse Workforce Pledge’. There is a police Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) to provide an independent and confidential service for victims who are employed by Hampshire Constabulary, or those who are victims of a perpetrator who is an employee/volunteer within Hampshire Constabulary.	We have highlighted this within Priority 4.
	Appropriate housing / safe spaces for victims and families (17 comments)	We know that mixed-sex housing is not safe and that there needs to be a wider variety of housing available for those seeking access to safe accommodation. This is something that is being worked on as part of the Whole Housing Approach (as part of the Part 4 Safe Accommodation Strategy). The new Whole Housing Approach role once recruited will be sat within the	We have added more about new roles being created and recruited for, into the strategy.

		Housing Team and will be tasked with addressing issues like this.	
	Support for victims to stay in their homes and perpetrators moved on (5 comments)	We are looking at sanctuary schemes, Whole Housing Approach, and perpetrator schemes to in order to identify and implement options for improvements in this area. Housing supply is an issue within the city but steps are being taken to improve the options that victims do have, especially if they choose to stay in their own home.	This is something the Whole Housing Approach role would look at, once recruited for.
	Support for mental health / access to therapy (6 comments)	We do have some specialist therapeutic offers provided by the commissioned services, but we also need to offer training and work in partnership with mental health colleagues to recognise, and assist with the impact of, domestic and sexual abuse. This is included in the strategy document.	None
	Support / preparation to leave (3 comments)	Leaving an abusive relationship is always difficult and emotional for the victim and their family. There is a support system available to victims regardless of what point in the process they have reached, from information-seeking to being ready to leave.	We have added an additional line recognising the difficulties of leaving an abusive relationship, and what services are available throughout the process. We have also clarified in the strategy that support is available at all stages of the process, including before a victim/survivor has made a decision to leave.
	Financial support (7 comments)	<p>Some issues raised are national issues and not within the remit of this strategy (such as changing financial/benefit laws). However, we recognise that support services in relation to financial abuse are important, and there are national changes happening that may enable more change locally in future.</p> <p>As part of the Whole Housing Approach, a flexible fund will be established to support victims into safe accommodation or to enable them to stay safe within their own home. We have clarified this within the strategy document.</p>	Additional information in the strategy on the Whole Housing Approach role.

	Legal support (4 comments)	Some issues raised are national issues and not within the remit of this strategy (such as changing financial/benefit laws).	None
	Services need to be made readily available / easier (13 comments)	<p>The Pippa helpline should provide a response to calls on the same day (or next day when the call/email is received outside of working hours (9:30-4:30 Monday-Friday).</p> <p>We know there can be waiting times for therapeutic and group work for domestic and sexual abuse. We will be reviewing provision and how we can most effectively target our resources as part of our annual refresh of the 'needs assessment' which will include a review of support for adults and children.</p> <p>The new Domestic Abuse Training Coordinator will provide training on referral pathways to ensure that all organisations are aware of how to make appropriate referrals so that victims access support as quickly.</p>	We have included information about the Domestic Abuse Training Coordinator post within the strategy.
	More support / resources for organisations who need to signpost (2 comments)	<p>We have resources to provide information about the Pippa helpline which will be shared with partners.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Training Coordinator will also be addressing the need for training on referral pathways and processes and raising awareness of the online information on the SCC website which sets out referral processes, pathways and local service provision.</p>	None
	More / appropriate support for children (12 comments)	<p>Services for children have been highlighted in the early intervention and prevention section (P1 and 2) of the strategy, especially around education for service providers and educational institutions. The following is already in the strategy:</p> <p>"In 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act introduced a new definition of domestic abuse. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse towards their parent, guardian or relative are now treated as victims/survivors of domestic abuse in their own right.</p>	None

	<p>This means they can get support from domestic abuse services. This strategy sets out how our partnership will act to ensure children receive the extra services and support this new definition requires.”</p> <p>Now that Children are victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and with the council aiming for UNICEF Child Friendly City accreditation, discussions will continue on how services can be improved for children who are victims of abuse. The MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) is also involved in responding effectively to high-risk cases of DA. Local Safeguarding Boards are also involved with the DA Board to help monitor progress in this area.</p>	
Agree that there should be a focus on support (3 comments)	There is a whole section/priority on this in the strategy. (Priority 2)	None
Victims do not feel listened to / safe enough to speak out (19 comments)	We have recognised this within the strategy and are intending to create a dedicated resource/post to focus on this work.	The strategy makes a commitment in Priority 4 that “The voices of victims/ survivors will be heard and will inform the design, development and implementation of local services.”
Trauma-informed support approach from services (4 comments)	Services in the city aim to be trauma informed in their approach, but we recognise that we need to ensure that knowledge and practice is continually reviewed and renewed in terms of best practice. This will form part of the work of the DA Training Coordinator.	None
Promote services and support available (9 comments)	There is an action around priority 1 (action 3) within prevention, relating to city-wide awareness raising of what domestic abuse is (and challenging it). There is also work underway to raise awareness of services in Southampton for victims such as the PIPPA helpline (action 2 and 3 discuss raising awareness of support services).	We have added a ‘How to get help’ section both at the beginning and at the end of the strategy, to emphasise support services available. More promotion of the PIPPA helpline and other available services is already underway as an action.
Support services must be available to everyone / no thresholds (11 comments)	This is already covered in detail under action 13 “The identification of and response to standard and medium risk cases of domestic abuse will be improved by consistent high-quality training for service providers in identification of DA and VAWG and the pathways to	None

		<p>support. This will mean that support can be offered to families as early as possible.”</p> <p>Priority 2, action 10 makes a commitment that: “Access to our services by people with protected characteristics will be reviewed and services changed to improve equality of access.”</p> <p>We also have highlighted the provision of “dedicated ‘floating support’ service for women who experience multiple disadvantage”.</p>	
	<p>Make sure it is clear that children are not taken away from victims (3 comments)</p>	<p>Southampton’s commitment to implementing the Safe and Together model across the city shows that the aim of Social Services and other organisations is to partner with and support the non-abuse parent in order that children can remain with them wherever this is possible.</p> <p>It is not possible to provide a commitment that children will never be removed from families as, in some circumstances this may be the only option to ensure their safety.</p>	<p>Priority 3, action 14 has been expanded to explain the Safe and Together model and highlight that training in the model is being rolled out social services and key partners.</p> <p>“Services provided by partner agencies in response to domestic abuse will enable children and young people to remain ‘Safe and Together’ with their non-abusive parent/guardian wherever this will help to achieve the best outcomes for them. Safe and Together is an evidence-based, child-centred model of working which promotes partnership with the non-abusive parent and holding the abusive parent accountable for their abuse, which is recognised as a parenting choice. Training is already being provided to practitioners within Children’s Social Care and for practitioners across the partnership.”</p>
	<p>Dedicated word / number to ask for help (2 comments)</p>	<p>The Ask Angela scheme is a safe word that people can use in pubs/clubs/restaurants at the bar when they feel in an unsafe situation. We also have Priority 1action 5</p>	<p>We have added a ‘How to get help’ section both at the beginning and at the end of the strategy, to emphasise</p>

		<p>which explains that ‘Safe Places’, designated safe places in Southampton, are available for anybody to go into if they feel unsafe or are struggling and that we are encouraging more organisations to join the scheme. These organisations are trained to assist in these situations. We have 69 organisations signed up to this scheme in Southampton.</p> <p>The PIPPA helpline is a dedicated contact number to ask for help on domestic abuse and is given out at the beginning of the strategy.</p>	<p>support services available. More promotion of the PIPPA helpline and other available services is already underway as an action.</p>
	Avoid victim blaming (4 comments)	The partnership training outlined in the prevention and early intervention sections would address this by better training organisations to deal with reports and suspicions of domestic and sexual abuse.	None
	Same-sex support services (7 comments)	Comments have emphasised the importance of ensuring that victims/survivors have access to female support workers. Discussions around operational matters would be within the remit of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Operational Group to explore and suggest improvements.	None

### **Priority 3 feedback**

<b>Consultation feedback</b>		<b>Officer response</b>	<b>Actions proposed</b>
<b>Broad themes</b>	<b>Further detail</b>		
<b>Quantitative feedback</b>	The majority of respondents said that <i>“Services provided by partner agencies in response to domestic abuse will enable children and young people to remain ‘Safe and Together’ with their non-abusive parent/guardian wherever this will help to achieve the best outcomes for them”</i> would have a positive impact (90%).	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None



	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Male perpetrators of violence towards women and girls and domestic abuse will be supported to understand the impact of their actions and to take responsibility for and change their behaviours”</i> would have a positive impact (78%).</p> <p>This statement had the lowest levels of positivity across Priority 3. A negative impact was not much higher than other statements, but ‘no impact at all’ was increased (12%).</p>	<p>No change required (still positive agreement from majority of respondents)</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Wider services in Southampton, for example Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, mental health and drug and alcohol services will reliably identify risk arising from domestic abuse and VAWG and take appropriate steps to enable access to the right support”</i> would have a positive impact (90%).</p>	<p>No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Agencies and service providers in Southampton will identify and respond to perpetrators consistently and effectively, including making early interventions which prevent the escalation of abusive behaviours”</i> would have a positive impact (90%).</p>	<p>No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)</p>	<p>None</p>
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Practice in the family courts will be improved by sharing best practice and information about local domestic abuse and VAWG services and pathways with judges, advocates, solicitors, CAFCASS and other stakeholders in the justice system”</i> would have a positive impact (88%).</p>	<p>No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)</p>	<p>None</p>

	The majority of respondents said that <i>“Systems and services in Southampton will be safeguarded against manipulation by perpetrators”</i> would have a positive impact (88%).	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
<b>Qualitative feedback</b>	Other suggestions (9 comments)	Comments raised the importance of perpetrators having to meaningfully engage with treatment, as well as the importance of perpetrators understanding they need help/wanting help. The strategy details key behavioural change programmes for perpetrators. For example, Southampton has commissioned a community perpetrator programme provided by The Hampton Trust. Priority 3 provides 5 key actions which aim to improve encourage people to change harmful behaviours.	None
	Concerns around services not safeguarded against manipulation / perpetrators not changing (17 comments)	We have clarified/added to an action point on this in the strategy.	We have added additional information on this in the strategy, and clarified an Priority 3, action point 18 on this which now reads: “We will work together to develop safeguards for systems and services in Southampton against manipulation by perpetrators.”
	Dissatisfaction with family court process / decisions previously (4 comments)	Issues around family courts are being taken up at a national level by the national Domestic Abuse Commissioner. We do have a specific point around building local relationships with courts locally (priority 3, action 17), and we can include them in offers of training, but this is a national issue.	We have added in an action to raise awareness with family courts to explain that Southampton City Council is practising the Safe and Together Model in the City, and to offer to share access to the training documents on this where agencies would be interested in receiving these.
	Positive comments / agreement with proposal (12 comments)	No response required	None

	Other concerns (1 comment)	This comment concerned the strategy being difficult to achieve. We understand this is an ambitious strategy but want to be ambitious in what we hope we can do to make positive change in the city.	We have added an extra line on this approach into our 'Final Thanks' section at the end of this strategy.
	Need more information on the how / evaluation for Priority 3 (7 comments)	This will be outlined in the Action Plan for the strategy, measured by various KPIs using the Dashboard we have created (of measures of success against each outcome), implemented by partners and various ops/frontline services, and will be monitored by the DA and VAWG Partnership Board.	We have added a new section into the strategy at the end called 'Measuring Success' which elaborates on how we will monitor and implement the strategy, as well as work so far on developing KPIs. We have also included additional information on how the strategy will be funded.
	More awareness around people's previous convictions (2 comments)	The government has introduced the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – also known as Clare's Law – in which people can find out from police if their partner has a history of domestic violence has been brought in England and Wales.	None.

### Priority 4 feedback

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
<b>Quantitative feedback</b>	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>"Data will be shared appropriately between agencies/services in our system to protect victims/survivors"</i> would have a positive impact (93%).</p> <p>This statement had one of the highest levels of positivity in priority 4.</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None

	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Multi-agency arrangements for assessing and responding effectively to high-risk cases of domestic abuse will be evaluated and improved (MASH - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub; HRDA - High-Risk Domestic Abuse arrangements; MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)”</i> would have a positive impact (88%).</p> <p>This statement had the lowest levels of positivity across Priority 4. A negative impact was not much higher than other statements, but ‘no impact at all’ was increased (7%).</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Decisions about service provision will be evidence-informed by knowledge from research, practice and people accessing services”</i> would have a positive impact (90%).</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>““The voices of victims/survivors will be heard and will inform the design, development and implementation of local services”</i> would have a positive impact (93%).</p> <p>This statement had one of the highest levels of positivity in priority 4.</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
	<p>The majority of respondents said that <i>“Key data about the performance of individual services and the system as a whole will be gathered reliably and used to inform improvements to practice”</i> would have a positive impact (90%).</p>	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None

<b>Qualitative feedback</b>	Other suggestions (9 comments)	A few comments referenced the importance of listening to Survivor Voice as well as frontline worker voice. Survivor voice is specifically referenced at the beginning of the strategy as a key partnership member, and this has been added into the Partnership Board's new Terms of Reference.	We have added more information on the intention to recruit for a Survivor Voice post into the strategy document.
	Other concerns (8 comments)	These covered a range of topics and have been addressed in other comments in this table.	None
	A joint up approach between services is needed (17 comments)	This is a partnership strategy advocating a joined-up approach on these issues – comments generally aligned with this approach so no amends were needed. Some comments mentioned that agencies work differently so joined up working can be challenging – this is an operational discussion that can be highlighted to Ops Group meetings and at the wider partnership DA Board meetings.	None
	Suggestions for specific partnerships (12 comments)	Specific partnerships may be suggested and explored by teams on an individual basis if required and if there was a specific need for them (that the existing structures were unable to deliver themselves), and can be raised at operational and Partnership Board meetings.	None
	Implement more multi-agency workers (3 comments)	Using New Burdens Funding, SCC will be recruiting two new multi-agency posts. The Domestic Abuse Training Coordinator will ensure crucial domestic abuse training is provided to key organisations and agencies across Southampton. The Whole Housing Approach coordinator will lead on work to ensure that this approach is delivered in a safe, consistent and coordinated way.  Under priority 4, the strategy highlights the partnership's dedication to improve Community Coordinated Response.	None
	Challenges / concerns around admin / data collection (4 comments)	This has been covered in earlier comments around data collection and associated challenges.	None

	Common platform / technology for sharing data (8 comments)	The new Data Dashboard will assist with this – we have added more information on this in the final section under ‘measuring success’. This will require ongoing data protection and data sharing discussions and arrangements before being finalised and implemented.	We have added more information on data sharing and KPIs in the final section under ‘measuring success’.
	Learning / best practise from other organisations (4 comments)	When developing and writing this strategy, we looked closely at what other Local Authorities were doing to ensure we looked carefully at what was working as well as new ideas, alongside government strategies.	We have now added more information on what other practice and guidance we have looked at, as well as the definitions around abuse that we have used, in the earlier sections of the strategy.
	Ensure no data breaches / data sharing agreements are in place (4 comments)	Discussions are underway between us and partners to ensure that data sharing agreements are in place and ensure that data is protected and shared appropriately.	There is a mention of this in the new ‘measuring success’ section at the end of the strategy (and in earlier existing actions covering data).
	More information needed on 'data being appropriately shared' (4 comments)	See above response.	See above response.
	Involve victims / those at risk when designing strategies and interventions (15 comments)	<p>During the initial stages of the strategy, a range of engagement took place including a VAWG Conference in February 2022 to discuss VAWG which included voices of survivors, and discussions with frontline and commissioned service staff.</p> <p>During the consultation period, we held a number of focus groups to hear survivors' views of the strategy. These included Yellow Door (therapeutic session - 20/07/2022), No Limits (1. SHINE focus group with 16-25 year olds, 2. feedback from people in No Limits Advice centre, and 3. feedback from No Limits wellbeing sessions in schools, in September 2022).</p> <p>We also held a focus group with survivors at Stage Door in Southampton on 11/10/2022.</p> <p>In addition, many people who responded to the consultation questionnaire noted that they were answering as a victim/survivor of abuse/violence (22% of respondents replied identifying themselves as a</p>	The forewords now mention early engagement work, including that we were one of the first local authorities to host a VAWG conference. The strategy also has a new section outlining engagement done as part of the strategy development and strategy consultation processes, and references to the intention for a new Survivor Voice post with a specific remit to represent victims/those at risk.

		victim or survivor of domestic abuse, with a further 13% identifying themselves as a victim or survivor of violence against women or girls).	
	Concerned that a stronger coordinated response should have already been happening (5 comments)	Whilst we understand frustrations and opinions from some about previous perceived gaps in the system, the only solution is to make our strategy now forward-focused, aiming on what we hope to achieve for the future and learning from all our experiences to date. Much of the data and research on this area is still emerging, and we have tried to include new and developing areas of good practice (such as Safe and Together, Whole Housing Approach, and Coordinated Community Response) in our strategy as much as possible where the evidence indicates that this is a successful approach.	New section on Coordinated Community Response (CCR) added in.
	Concerns that multi-agency arrangements may not be followed by everyone (2 comments)	This is something that can be addressed by the Partnership Board, which is tasked with monitoring strategy implementation and holding ourselves and our partners to account for strategy delivery, as well as in operational groups.	None
	Coordination between strategies / initiatives across organisations (5 comments)	A number of comments mentioned coordination between other strategies and initiatives. We have now added in additional references to the strategies and partner initiatives that link into this strategy, particularly where a certain area is not within the direct scope of this strategy.	Additional information on other internal and external linked strategies/initiatives has now been added in.
	How reports are dealt with / responded to / more consequences (28 comments)	<p>These comments raised concerns with reports to police, probation services, and the courts/justice system. Operational policing and probation concerns are not directly within the scope of this strategy, but can be raised at Partnership Board and Operational Group level which both require police and probation representation as part of their membership. Training issues have already been raised in the strategy as part of the prevention and early intervention strands.</p> <p>Issues around family courts are being taken up at a national level by the national Domestic Abuse</p>	None

		Commissioner. We do have a specific point around building local relationships with courts locally (priority 3, action 17), and we can include them in offers of training, but this is a national issue.	
	Support for businesses impacted by sex work (2 comments)	This is not within the scope of this strategy. This issue falls under the Safe City Strategy and Partnership which works more on enforcement and public space-related issues.	None

## Overall feedback

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
<b>Quantitative feedback – Agreement of priorities</b>	The majority of respondents said that they agreed with the focus on the four suggested priorities (87%). 9% of respondents either strongly disagreed or disagreed.	No change required (positive agreement from majority of respondents)	None
<b>Quantitative feedback – Proposed draft strategy</b>	<p>Out of respondents that had read all or some of the draft strategy, the majority said that it was easy to understand (86%) and that it provides sufficient information (78%).</p> <p>77% of respondents said it would either have a fairly or very positive impact on them, their business or the wider community, if the draft strategy were implemented.</p> <p>A total of 4% selected that there would be a fairly or very negative impact if the strategy were implemented, and 10% selected they didn't know.</p>	Where specific comments related to a lack of information on certain issues (such as data collection and figures used, Coordinated Community Response, financing the strategy, why we have taken this approach with DA and VAWG in the same strategy, implementing the strategy), this information has been added into existing or new sections of the strategy.	Changes made throughout the strategy and outlined in detail in this document.
<b>Qualitative feedback – More information / understanding</b>	Other suggestions (6 comments)	Some suggestions were made in relation to the case studies we included, in terms of adding in what the consequences were for the perpetrator of abuse. This	None



		would not be appropriate, and too much personally identifiable information would risk compromising the anonymity of the individuals referenced in the case studies.	
	Other concerns (3 comments)	No actions required	None
	More information on how those at risk / victims will be supported (6 comments)	<p>A number of comments focused on there being not enough information on how ethnic groups, displaced people, faith groups, and protected characteristics victims will be supported.</p> <p>The strategy commits to a review (priority 2 action 10) of support for ethnic groups and those with protected characteristics. Support would be reviewed once the review had been completed. In addition, we engaged with these groups throughout the strategy process (for example, with the Council of Faiths in Southampton) to discuss these issues.</p>	None
	Timeline needed (2 comments)	Comments raised concerns about a lack of timeline, action plans, and indicators of success.	We have now added a new section in at the end of the strategy outlining next steps (finalising KPIs and discussing data dashboards and data sharing), as well as resource for the strategy, and how the strategy will be monitored.
	More information on how outcomes will be achieved / evaluated (7 comments)	See above response.	See above response.
	More information on how it will be funded (5 comments)	This has now been addressed.	We have now added a new section in at the end of the strategy outlining funding allocated for actions and projects outlined in this strategy.
	Suggested amendments to terminology (5 comments)	Page 45 included references under genital mutilation to 'private parts' – this terminology was changed/updated in some places for the consultation version but a few references were missed. This has now been updated throughout. Other terminology has also been updated where appropriate.	Terminology has been updated where appropriate.
	Suggestions for specific research / topics to be included (5 comments)	We are regularly reviewing other approaches and up-to-date research that emerges on this topic, to ensure that	We have now added in new mentioned of Whole Housing

		we are utilising the research available on it. Much of the data and research on this area is still emerging, but we have tried to include new and developing areas of good practice (such as Safe and Together, Whole Housing Approach, and Coordinated Community Response) in our strategy as much as possible where the evidence indicates that this is a successful approach.	Approach, Coordinated Community Response, and the Safe and Together Model.
	Include other data sources (3 comments)	A number of comments indicated that the strategy was heavily focused on policing data. We have reviewed the strategy in line with these comments and feel that the breadth of data is from multiple and varying sources and is not only related to crime. We are aware that some statistics are difficult to ascertain due to recognised under-reporting by victims.	We have added in a new section early in the strategy explaining data sources, and outlining the complexities of data on this issue.
	Better accessibility needed (e.g. easy read / translated) (3 comments)	We are not currently exploring easy-read versions of this document. Versions of the strategy for visually-impaired people could be requested during the consultation process to widen access.	None
	Summary should be available (2 comments)	This is something that could be considered at a later stage once the strategy is adopted, if deemed necessary.	None
	Positive comments about information / understanding (3 comments)	No change required (positive comments)	None
	Needs to be more simple / less jargon (5 comments)	We have reviewed the strategy to simplify it as much as possible, and suitable amends have been made to sections of the document.	Amends have been made to address these concerns.
<b>Qualitative feedback – any other comments</b>	Gendered approach is discriminatory / shouldn't exclude (18 comments)	We have added in a paragraph to reinforce that the partnership aims to improve support for all victims/survivors, regardless of gender.	We have now added a new section into the strategy explaining our approach and emphasising that services are offered to ALL victims, regardless of sex, gender, or type of relationship (pages 3 and 4).
	Other comments (7 comments)	Some comments asked for a clearer definition of abuse, and an understanding/recognition that there are many different types of abuse. We have therefore added an	New definition added to 'What is Domestic Abuse' section as follows:

		abuse definition section early on in the strategy to clarify this.	“Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following: (a) physical or sexual abuse; (b) violent or threatening behaviour; (c) controlling or coercive behaviour; (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4)); (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse”.
Other suggestions (11 comments)		Covered in earlier points.	None
Other concerns (11 comments)		Covered in earlier points.	None
Positive comments (13 comments)		No action required (positive comments).	None
Sufficient capacity / funding to support and carry out strategy (15 comments)		This has now been addressed in a new finance section in the strategy.	We have now added a new section in at the end of the strategy outlining funding allocated for actions and projects outlined in this strategy.
Doubtful of success due to negative previous experiences (6 comments)		Whilst we understand frustrations and opinions from some about previous perceived gaps in the system, the only solution is to make our strategy now forward-focused, aiming on what we hope to achieve for the future and learning from all our experiences to date.	None
More emphasis on same-sex relations (2 comments)		This has now been added into the strategy.	A line has been added into the strategy to reflect that domestic abuse and violence does not only present in heterosexual relationships, and to emphasise that education reflects this and that services are available for ALL victims regardless of gender.
Focus on those who are hard to reach / at increased risk (10 comments)		The Standing Together Needs Assessment highlighted that people with protected characteristics face barriers to accessing support. Priority 2, action 10 states that the access to services by people with protected characteristics will be reviewed and changed to improve equality of access.	None.