

Report Title:	RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Carroll, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health, Mental Health & Transformation
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet – 29 September 2022
Responsible Officer(s):	Lin Ferguson, AfC Director of Children's Services (Windsor & Maidenhead)
Wards affected:	All

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REPORT SUMMARY

The RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 builds on the work of our previous Strategy 2017-20. It renews the boroughs commitment to build on our achievements, maintain good practice and continue working together to develop services for anyone affected by domestic abuse in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy has been developed alongside the [RBWM Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24](#), a statutory requirement under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 has been developed around 4 priorities, closely aligned with those in the Government's [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#) (March 2022):

1. Prevention and early intervention
2. Provision of services
3. Pursuing perpetrators
4. Working in partnership

The Domestic Abuse Strategy has links to the Corporate Plan in relation to 'Thriving Communities' and 'Our Approach and Values'.

The refreshed Domestic Abuse Strategy was approved by the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group at its meeting on 26 May 2022.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) **the contents of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24**

Lead Cabinet Member, Cllr Carroll has requested that the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 be brought to Cabinet for noting. No key decision is required.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
<p>Note the content of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24.</p> <p>This is the recommended option</p>	<p>Noting the contents of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 will update Members on the strategic response to domestic abuse in the borough.</p>
<p>Do nothing.</p> <p>This is not the recommended option</p>	<p>Failure to note the content of the Strategy will leave Members unaware of the strategic response to domestic abuse in the borough.</p>

- 2.1 The main aim of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 is to prevent and reduce the impact of domestic abuse across our communities and ensure that when people do experience domestic abuse, they can access the help and services they need.
- 2.2 The RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 will help maintain good practice as well as develop services for anyone affected by domestic abuse in the borough.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 was approved by the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group at its meeting on 26 May 2022. There is an accompanying action plan which will be updated quarterly by the Domestic Abuse Coordinator. Overall delivery and monitoring of the action plan will be overseen by the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group. The action plan sets out outcomes, actions, ownership and updates for each of the priorities.
- 3.2 The RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 links to a number of other key local and regional strategies and action plans including:
- Thames Valley Police & Criminal Justice Plan 2021-2025 (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - OPCC)
 - Thames Valley Police Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-2023
 - RBWM Community Safety Plan 2021-24
 - RBWM Safeguarding Partnership Strategy 2022-25
 - RBWM Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24
 - Thames Valley Police Strategic Plan 2021-2022
 - Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2021-2026

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this Strategy. Commissioned services to meet the priority outcomes will follow the Constitutions rules.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this Strategy.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 No potential risks identified.

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

7.1 The RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy will have a positive impact on the lives of those impacted by domestic abuse and will ensure services are maintained and developed to enhance service provision.

7.2 Equalities. The Equality Impact Assessment has been added at Appendix A. The EqIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

7.3 Climate change/sustainability. None identified.

7.4 Data Protection/GDPR. Personal data is not being processed as part of this report therefore a Data Protection Impact Assessment has not been completed for the purpose of noting the strategy.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 was not published for public consultation. It was developed in partnership with other agencies working in the borough, namely through the RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum and the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group.

8.2 Following approval at the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group on 26 May 2022, the Domestic Abuse Strategy was due to be shared with the RBWM Community Safety Partnership (CSP) at its meeting on 15 September 2022. However this has had to be rescheduled due to the State funeral, with an alternative date TBC. All members of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group have been requested to share the Strategy with their own agencies and relevant partnership boards.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 Implementation date if not called in: Immediately. The full implementation stages are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Implementation timetable

Date	Details
29 September 2022	Cabinet notes content of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24.

31 March 2024	Actions outlined in the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan are completed with quarterly updates having been received by the RBWM Domestic Abuse Executive Group.
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10. APPENDICES

10.1 This report is supported by 3 appendices:

- Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix B – RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24
- Appendix C – RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy Action Plan 2022-24

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 This report is supported by no background documents:

12. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory: Statutory Officers (or deputies)</i>			
Adele Taylor	Executive Director of Resources/S151 Officer	14.9.22	
Emma Duncan	Director of Law, Strategy & Public Health/ Monitoring Officer	14.9.22	21.09.22
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)	14.9.22	21.09.22
Elaine Browne	Head of Law (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	14.9.22	
Karen Shepherd	Head of Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	14.9.22	
<i>Mandatory: Procurement Manager (or deputy) - if report requests approval to go to tender or award a contract</i>			
Lyn Hitchinson	Procurement Manager		
<i>Mandatory: Data Protection Officer (or deputy) - if decision will result in processing of personal data; to advise on DPIA</i>			
Emma Young	Data Protection Officer		
<i>Mandatory: Equalities Officer – to advise on EQiA, or agree an EQiA is not required</i>			
Ellen McManus	Equalities & Engagement Officer		
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Duncan Sharkey	Chief Executive/DASS	14.9.22	
Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place		

Kevin McDaniel	Executive Director of People Services	14.9.22	
<i>Heads of Service (where relevant)</i>			
<i>N/A</i>			
<i>External (where relevant)</i>			
<i>N/A</i>			

Confirmation relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted	Cllr Carroll, Deputy Chairman of Cabinet, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health and Mental Health.	Yes
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REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
For information First entered into the Cabinet Forward Plan July 2022.	No	No

Report Author: Sophie Wing-King, Domestic Abuse Coordinator RBWM
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APPENDIX A - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24

Essential information

Items to be assessed: (please mark 'x')

Strategy	X	Policy		Plan		Project		Service/Procedure	
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Responsible officer	Sophie Wing-King	Service area	Community Safety	Directorate	Place
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Stage 1: EqIA Screening (mandatory)	Date created: 13/09/2022	Stage 2 : Full assessment (if applicable)	N/A
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Approved by Head of Service / Overseeing group/body / Project Sponsor:

"I am satisfied that an equality impact has been undertaken adequately."

Signed by (print): *Lin Ferguson*

Dated: 16/09/2022

Guidance notes

What is an EqlA and why do we need to do it?

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advancing equality of opportunity between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.
- Fostering good relations between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.

EqlAs are a systematic way of taking equal opportunities into consideration when making a decision, and should be conducted when there is a new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure in order to determine whether there will likely be a detrimental and/or disproportionate impact on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public groups. All completed EqlA Screenings are required to be publicly available on the council's website once they have been signed off by the relevant Head of Service or Strategic/Policy/Operational Group or Project Sponsor.

What are the "protected characteristics" under the law?

The following are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: age; disability (including physical, learning and mental health conditions); gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

What's the process for conducting an EqlA?

The process for conducting an EqlA is set out at the end of this document. In brief, a Screening Assessment should be conducted for every new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure and the outcome of the Screening Assessment will indicate whether a Full Assessment should be undertaken.

Openness and transparency

RBWM has a 'Specific Duty' to publish information about people affected by our policies and practices. Your completed assessment should be sent to the Strategy & Performance Team for publication to the RBWM website once it has been signed off by the relevant manager, and/or Strategic, Policy, or Operational Group. If your proposals are being made to Cabinet or any other Committee, please append a copy of your completed Screening or Full Assessment to your report.

Enforcement

Judicial review of an authority can be taken by any person, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) or a group of people, with an interest, in respect of alleged failure to comply with the general equality duty. Only the EHRC can enforce the specific duties. A failure to comply with the specific duties may however be used as evidence of a failure to comply with the general duty.

Stage 1: Screening (Mandatory)

1.1 What is the overall aim of your proposed strategy/policy/project etc and what are its key objectives?

The RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 sets out the Royal Borough's strategic response to ensure that the boroughs response to domestic abuse maintained and developed to support anyone in RBWM affected by domestic abuse.

The main aim of the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24 is to prevent and reduce the impact of domestic abuse across our communities and ensure that when people do experience abuse, they can access the help and services they need.

There are 4 main priorities within the RBWM Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-24:

1. Prevention and early intervention
2. Provision of services
3. Pursuing perpetrators
4. Working in partnership

1.2 What evidence is available to suggest that your proposal could have an impact on people (including staff and customers) with protected characteristics? Consider each of the protected characteristics in turn and identify whether your proposal is Relevant or Not Relevant to that characteristic. If Relevant, please assess the level of impact as either High / Medium / Low and whether the impact is Positive (i.e. contributes to promoting equality or improving relations within an equality group) or Negative (i.e. could disadvantage them). Please document your evidence for each assessment you make, including a justification of why you may have identified the proposal as "Not Relevant".

Protected characteristics	Relevance	Level	Positive/negative	Evidence
Age	Relevant	Low	Positive	<p><i>Key data: The estimated median age of the local population is 42.6yrs [Source: ONS mid-year estimates 2020].</i></p> <p><i>An estimated 20.2% of the local population are aged 0-15, and estimated 61% of the local population are aged 16-64yrs and an estimated 18.9% of the local population are aged 65+yrs. [Source: ONS mid-year estimates 2020, taken from Berkshire Observatory]</i></p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Strategy is intended to cover all ages, although some age ranges are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse. The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed that women aged 16-19 years old were significantly more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year than older women. There were few significant differences by age for men.</p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage a person because of their age.</p>

Disability	Relevant	Low	Positive	<p>Evidence from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead 2011 census: In 2011, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead had a resident population of 144,560. Of these residents, 34,850 (15%) reported a long-term health problem or disability which limited their day-to-day activities.</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed adults aged 16-74 years with a disability were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year than those without.</p> <p>Women who were disabled were more likely to experience any domestic abuse in the last year (15%) compared to women who were not (6%).</p> <p>In 2015/16, SafeLives estimated that disabled people are underrepresented in domestic abuse services, despite being twice as likely to experience domestic abuse.</p> <p>Vulnerability resulting from a disability may make a disabled person less able to recognise, seek help or escape domestic abuse.</p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage anyone with a disability.</p>
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Gender re-assignment	Relevant	Low	Positive	<p>The 2021 Census topic consultation identified a need for gender identity data. There is limited data available at a local level about this protected characteristic for the population and little research on how many transgender people experience domestic abuse in the UK.</p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage anyone regardless of their gender reassignment status.</p>
Marriage/civil partnership	Relevant	Low	Positive	<p>Evidence from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead 2011 census In 2011, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead had a resident population of 144,560. Of these 60,863 (42%) residents were in a marriage. 264 residents were in a same-sex civil partnership (<1%).</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed that adults aged 16-74 years who were separated or divorced were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than those who were married or in a civil partnership, cohabiting, single or widowed. Both men and women who were married or in a civil partnership were less likely to be victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>We do not anticipate the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage a person with respect to their marital status.</p>

<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>Relevant</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>In 2011, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead had a resident population of 144,560. Limited data is available in relation to this particular protected characteristic however ONS provides that in 2016 (latest available data) there were 1757 live births where the child's mother stated she was usually resident in the Borough.</p> <p>A 2002 study on abuse during pregnancy and femicide (McFarlane et al, 2002) found evidence of a proven link between abuse during pregnancy and the mother's chance of being killed by the perpetrator. Another study (Why Mothers Die 2000-2002) found around 30% of domestic abuse starts during pregnancy.</p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage a person due to pregnancy or maternity.</p>
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<p>Race</p>	<p>Relevant</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><i>Key data: The 2011 Census indicates that 86.1% of the local population is White and 13.9% of the local population is BAME. The borough has a higher Asian/Asian British population (9.6%) than the South East (5.2%) and England (7.8%). The forthcoming 2021 Census data is expected to show a rise in the BAME population. [Source: 2011 Census, taken from Berkshire Observatory]</i></p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the year ending March 2020 showed that those in the mixed ethnic group were significantly more likely than those in the Black or Asian ethnic groups to experience domestic abuse within the last year. In the White, Mixed and Black ethnic groups, women were more likely than men to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year.</p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage a person because of race or migrant status.</p>
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<p>Religion and belief</p>	<p>Relevant</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><i>Key data: The 2011 Census indicates that 62.3% of the local population is Christian, 21.7% no religion, 3.9% Muslim, 2% Sikh, 1.8% Hindu, 0.5% Buddhist, 0.4% other religion, and 0.3% Jewish. [Source: 2011 Census, taken from Berkshire Observatory]</i></p> <p>There is limited research on the relationship between religious beliefs and domestic abuse victimisation in the UK.</p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage a person because of their religion or beliefs.</p>
<p>Sex</p>	<p>Relevant</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p><i>Key data: In 2020 an estimated 49.6% of the local population is male and 50.4% female. [Source: ONS mid-year estimates 2020, taken from Berkshire Observatory]</i></p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage a person due to the gender identity.</p>

<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Relevant</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>The ONS advises that in 2011, 2% of the UK population identified themselves as lesbian, gay or (LGB). There is limited data available at a local level about this protected characteristic for the population.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that LGBT+ communities face complex barriers to seeking support for domestic abuse with 60-80% of LGBT+ victims having never reported to the police or attempted to find support from services (Galop).</p> <p>We do not anticipate that the Domestic Abuse Strategy will disadvantage a person because of their sexual orientation.</p>
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Outcome, action and public reporting

Screening Assessment Outcome	Yes / No / Not at this stage	Further Action Required / Action to be taken	Responsible Officer and / or Lead Strategic Group	Timescale for Resolution of negative impact / Delivery of positive impact
Was a significant level of negative impact identified?	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Does the strategy, policy, plan etc require amendment to have a positive impact?	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

If you answered **yes** to either / both of the questions above a Full Assessment is advisable and so please proceed to Stage 2. If you answered “No” or “Not at this Stage” to either / both of the questions above please consider any next steps that may be taken (e.g. monitor future impacts as part of implementation, re-screen the project at its next delivery milestone etc).