

# Rutland County Council – Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Duty

### **About SafeLives**

We are SafeLives, the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good.

We work with organisations across the UK to transform the response to domestic abuse. We want what you would want for your best friend. We listen to survivors, putting their voices at the heart of our thinking. We look at the whole picture for each individual and family to get the right help at the right time to make families everywhere safe and well. And we challenge perpetrators to change, asking 'why doesn't he stop?' rather than 'why doesn't she leave?' This applies whatever the gender of the victim or perpetrator and whatever the nature of their relationship.

Last year alone, nearly 11,000 professionals working on the frontline received our training. Over 65,000 adults at risk of serious harm or murder and more than 85,000 children received support through dedicated multi-agency support designed by us and delivered with partners. In the last three years, over 1,000 perpetrators have been challenged and supported to change by interventions we created with partners, and that's just the start. Together we can end domestic abuse. Forever. For everyone.

### **Ending domestic abuse**

# **Glossary**

Abrev	Definition	Abrev	Definition	
DA	Domestic Abuse	NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds	
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance	RCC	Rutland County Council	
Dash	Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Honour-Based	UAVA	United Against Violence and Abuse	
	Violence	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls	
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review			
HBV	Honour Based Violence			
Idva	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor			
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence			
LA	Local Authorities			
LPB	Local Partnership Board			
Marac	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference			
MSF	Most Similar Force (Police			

### **Ending domestic abuse**

### Content

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- 4. Safe Accommodation Provision
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### **Ending domestic abuse**



# 1. About this project

### **Context**

SafeLives have been commissioned to provide support and coordination to Rutland County Council to ensure the area is ready to implement the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and their statutory duties under the Act.

This report outlines our findings, following review and analysis of data provided by agencies and organisations across Rutland

We are very grateful to everyone who participated in this needs assessment. Their willingness to share information and expertise helped us immensely in drawing together a myriad of detail.

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# **Project aims and objectives**

The project aims were to support RCC in gaining an understanding of the current landscape for safe accommodation to enable effective planning and commissioning.

### Key objectives were:

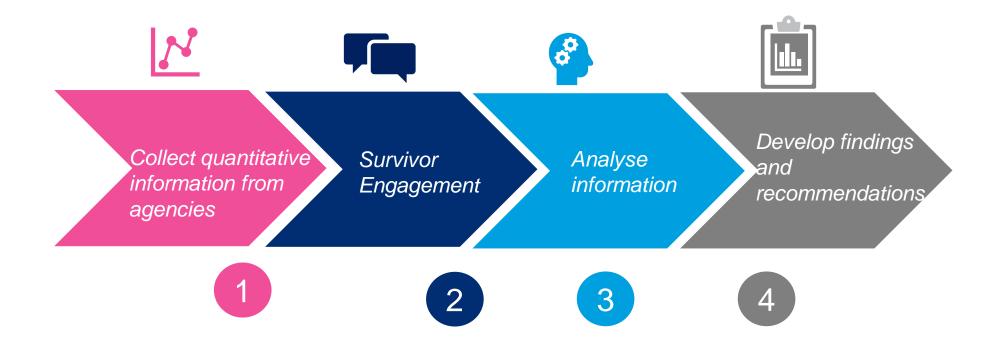
- Carry out a needs assessment of safe accommodation across Rutland
- Identify a baseline of safe accommodation provision
- Identify gaps and needs in safe accommodation provision

Data was collated using the MHCLG needs assessment tool, comparative data from SafeLives national data sets was used and analysed using a number of SafeLives tools including the prevalence tool.

This work will enable Rutland County Council to gain a clearer understanding of local need in relation to safe accommodation and will help to inform their domestic abuse strategy and any subsequent commissioning.

### **Ending domestic abuse**

# **Our Approach**



A full list of agencies providing data is in appendix A

### What is Required for The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Statutory Duty





# **Statutory Duty**

The Bill completed its parliamentary passage and achieved Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

For Local Authorities it places a statutory duty on Tier one local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation. It has created a four-part statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation and provides clarity over governance and accountability.

Local Authorities will be required to appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which will carry out a governance and consultative role as it performs certain specified functions.

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# Provide advice to Rutland about its functions under Section 55 of the DA Act

- Core membership as set out in the DA Act and statutory guidance
- Authentic voice for both adult and child victims essential
- Responsibilities are
  - Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support
  - Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment
  - Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions)
  - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.



Assess the need for accommodationbased domestic abuse support for all victims Rutland, including those who require cross-border support

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



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

Measuring impact

- Develop a domestic abuse strategy encompassing the provision of support informed by the needs assessment
- Implement the strategy through commissioning
- Tier 1 LAs in England must send an annual report to the Secretary of State on how it is realising the strategy
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.



# 2. Local Partnership Board

# **Local Partnership Board**

Rutland CC have commissioned SafeLives to support them with creating the LPB to ensure that is right for Rutland and meets the requirements as set out in the Statutory duty. This will form part of our next steps in the area along with continuing our Public Health Approach to Domestic Abuse work.

Currently the Safer Rutland Partnership holds strategic oversight for Domestic Abuse.

The **multi-agency** LPB will play a crucial role going forward.

Under the new duty in the 2021 Act, Tier One authorities in England will be required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to support them in undertaking:

- Local needs assessments.
- Developing and monitoring local strategies,
- Mapping activities,
- Ensuring representation of marginalised groups and those who are underrepresented in local services.

Alongside the Statutory Duty to appoint and convene the DALPB the Act and accompanying Statutory guidance sets out that there must be specific representation.

This also provides an opportunity to consider how this links to your areas integrated care system development and links to new systems boards and feedback mechanism

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# **DA Partnership Board Membership**

We recommended involving your commissioned child advocacy service in this process to provide a representative.

We recommend that there is a representative from a by and for victims service such as LGBTQ+, Black, Asian and Racially minoritised groups where possible.

Membership Membership					
Chair	Representative of the Tier One authority				
Representative of Tier Two authorities within the Tier One authority area	Representative of the interests of adult victims of domestic abuse				
Representative of the interests of children victims of domestic abuse	Representative of the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area				
Representative of the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in its area (by & for Services)	Representative of the interests of persons who provide, or have functions relating to, health care services in its area				
Representative of the interests of persons with functions relating to policing or criminal justice in its area	Representative for Housing Services				

We recommend involving your survivor network in this process to provide a representative.

New roles have been created in local communities through the NHS 10 year plan – social prescribers, Health Coaches, PCN Care Coordinators, all have great insight and can also support survivor voice

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# 3. Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

### Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

The Safe Accommodation Needs assessment is a comprehensive tool that enables you to capture data covering a range of themes relating to safe accommodation.

This needs assessment will inform your strategy, not only for safe accommodation but for the domestic abuse system as a whole. It is important to view this in the context of a whole picture approach, not only doing what is necessary but thinking of the art of the possible.

Survivor voice is an essential component of this needs assessment and throughout the whole Statutory Duty. By listening to the authentic, unmediated voice of victims and survivors, we truly understand the barriers, challenges and good practice they experience.

What can we learn, what are our gaps and how we can build on our success.

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### Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

Within this first section we will be looking at the demographic for all victims accessing services. This is not inclusive of those accessing safe accommodation as this will be address further in the document.

Data was not provided by Health partners or Housing Providers.

Children's social care capture data regarding the whole family through their Initial Assessment process, therefore, some data provided may include perpetrators.

Leicestershire Police have provided victim demographic data for all DA offences. However, the demographic data does not include those victims whose contact with Leicestershire Police was classed as a DA incident, rather than a DA crime. As a result, there are several victims whose details have not be captured and, therefore, we cannot include those in our analysis.

This means that the number of victims may be higher than what has been identified in this report.

The data may also include duplicate counting as victims may have approached or been in contact with multiple services/agencies.

A full list of agencies who supplied data can be found in Appendix A.

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### **Overview 2018 - 2019**



### Of the 529 records providing age demographics





Under 18

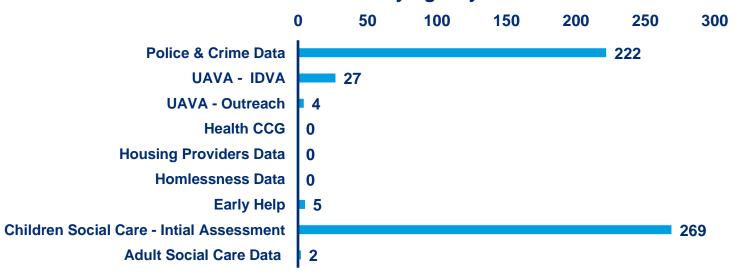


Age 16 - 74



Over 75

### **Identification by Agency**



### **Ending domestic abuse**

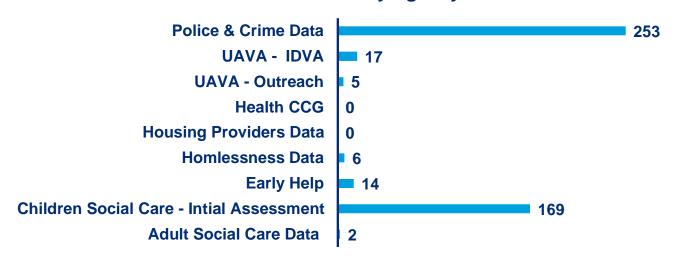
### Overview 2019 - 2020



# Of the 466 records providing age demographics

Total number of victims

### **Identification by Agency**





Under 18



Age 16 - 74



Over 75

\*those age 16/17 may be child victims whose parents are in DA Relationships and/or victims of IPV

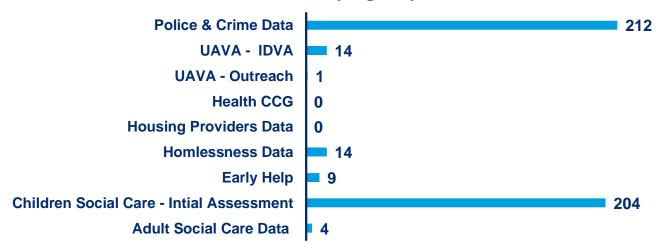
### Overview 2020 - 2021



# Of the 453 records providing age demographics

Total number of victims

### **Referrals by Agency**





Under 18



Age 16 - 74



Over 75

### **Ending domestic abuse**

### **Overview**

### **Number of Victims**

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, developed in line with our research, it shows that **5470** adults victims in RCC have experienced Domestic Abuse at some point in their lives since the age of 16 with around 15% experiencing both partner and family abuse

It also shows that **1690** adult victims have experienced Domestic Abuse in the last year with around 8% experiencing both partner and family abuse. This is significantly higher than the number identified in the needs assessment across all 3 years.

The overall number of victims decreased by 11.9% from 2018/19 – 2019/20. It should be noted that due to system and recording functionality, it was not possible to provide homelessness data for 2018/19. There is a further decrease of 2.78% from 2019/20 - 2020/21.

The number of victims aged over 75 remains stable from 2018/19 – 2019/20 yet there is an increase of **133.3%** in 2020/21 from 6 to 14 year old victims. Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool we would estimate that **410** older victims have experienced DA in Rutland in the last year.

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### Children

The number of child victims has decreased over the 3 year period from 104 in 2018/19, 103 in 2019/20 to 52 in 2020/21.



Children's Social care have provided data regarding those who have been identified as requiring an initial assessment due to Domestic Abuse. They have also provided data regarding those children whose assessment has been progressed to a full referral.

Year	No of Children Identified for Initial Assessment	No of Children Progressed to a Referral	No of Whole Family Members Identified
2018/19	94	82	269
2019/20	84	57	169
2020/21	44	33	204

From this we can again see that the number of children identified has decreased by **10.63%** from 2018/19 – 2019/20 and by a further **47.61%** in 2020/21.

In terms of those progressing to the referral process, in 2018/19, **87.23**% of Initial Assessments progressed, this reduced to **67.85**% in 2019/20 before increasing again in 2020/21 to **75**%. It should be noted that while the number of initial assessments progressing to referral increased in 2020/21, the actual number of children is lower than the previous two years.

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#### Referrals

In terms of agency identification, this varies across the agencies, however, it has already been identified that there was an overall decrease of **14.36%** in the identification of all victims from 2018/19 – 2020/21.

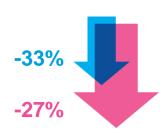


With regard to Homelessness identification, data for 2018/19 was not available due to system and recording functionality, however, it is noted that there was an increase of **133**% from 2019/20 to 2020/21 - **6** to **14** victims. As of July 2021, there have been **14** victims identified since March 2021. This is showing a significant increase in the number of domestic abuse victims requesting homelessness assistance.

### Marac

At Marac, the most high risk cases are discussed. The recommended number of cased for Rutland is 60 per year, based on the SafeLives recommendation of 40 cases per 10,000 adult female population. The table below shows the number of cases heard, inclusive of repeat cases, per year and the number of children within those households.

Year	Number of Cases	Number of Children
2018/19	33	54
2019/20	22	35
2020/21	16	18



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### **Police Data**

2018/19



	Rutland	Leicestershire Police	East Midlands	MSF1	MSF2	England and Wales
DA Crimes & Incidents	335	21,113	92,718	20,412	37,602	1,316,800
Crimes & Incidents Per 1000 population		19	19	17	19	22
DA Crimes	222	14,606	54,615	11,130	22,504	746,219
Crimes per 1000		13	11	9	11	13
% of all crimes recorded		16%	15%	13%	14%	14%

2019/20



DA Crimes & Incidents	335	20,433	99,456	21,073	36,706	1,288,018
Crimes & Incidents Per 1000 population		19	21	18	18	23
DA Crimes	248	14,896	66,611	12,505	24,203	758,941
Crimes per 1000		14	14	11	12	13
% of all crimes recorded		16%	15%	15%	17%	15%

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<u>Domestic abuse in England and Wales - Data Tool - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</u>

### **Police Data**

The tables above show the incidents and crimes reported in Rutland, across Leicestershire Police force and compared to the East Midlands, two Most Similar Forces and across England and Wales.

The comparison data is not currently available for the 2020/21 period however we know in Rutland there were **330** DA Crimes & Incidents and **212** DA Crimes during that time.

In 2018/19 Rutland accounted for **0.015**% of all DA crimes and incidents across Leicestershire Police. This increased slightly to **0.016**% in 2019/20 however the overall number of DA crimes and incidents recorded across Leicestershire Police reduced by **3.22**%.

The number of all DA crimes and incidents reported in Rutland remains stable across the 3 years. There is an increase of **11.7%** in the number of crimes recorded from 2018/19 to 2019/20 however this decreases in 2020/21 by **14.5%**.

In 2018/19 66.2% of all DA crimes and incidents recorded in Rutland were classed as crimes, increasing to 74% in 2019/20.

Leicestershire Police DA crimes and incidents recorded is in keeping with the East Midlands and MSFs at **19** per 1000 population in 2018/19 however this is lower than England and Wales which is **22** per 1000. For 2019/20, the figure for Leicestershire Police remains stable at **19** per 1000 but the figure for the East Midlands has increased to **21** per 1000 and England and Wales to **23**.

The number of DA crimes recorded is higher than the MSFs and East Midlands yet in line with England and Wales in 2018/19. In 2019/20, it remains higher than the MSFs and slightly higher than England and Wales.

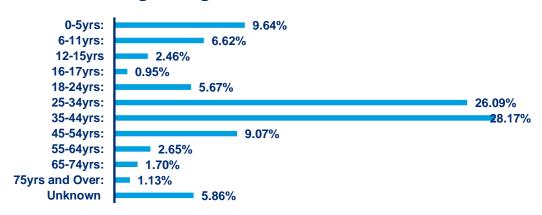
There were no domestic homicides in Rutland, during the time period this needs assessment relates to.

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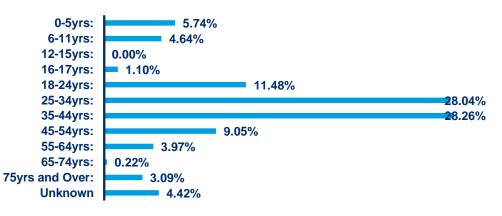
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# Age

### Age Range of Victims 2018 -2019

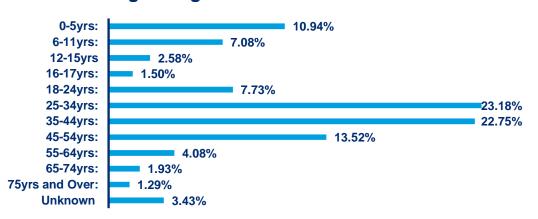


### Age Range of Victims 2020 - 2021



### **Ending domestic abuse**

### Age Range of Victims 2019 - 2020

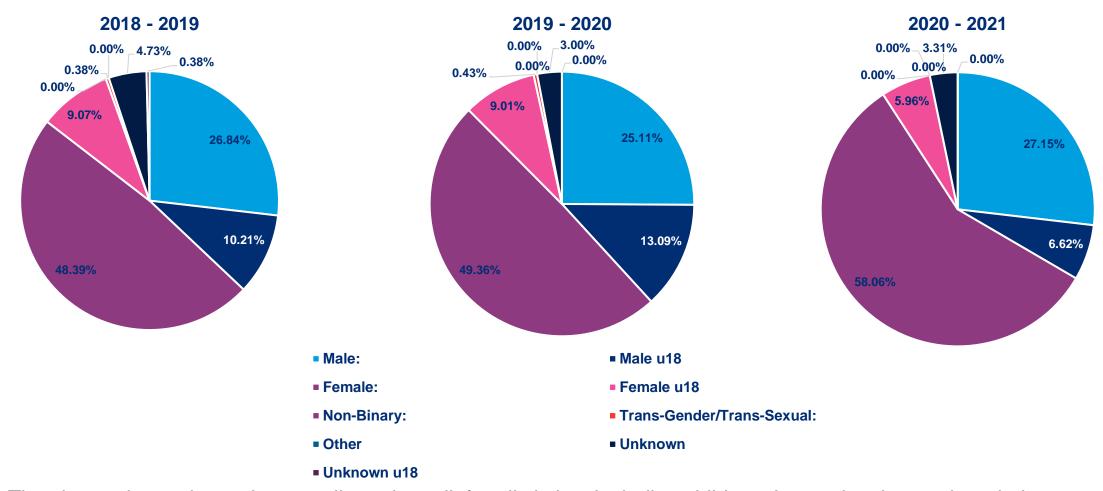


The number of child victims identified has varies over the 3 years. In 2018/19, 19.67% of victims were under 18, increasing to 22.10% in 2019/20 and decreasing to 11.48% in 2020/21. The highest age category across all 3 years is 0-5 accounting for 49% of all child victims in 2018/19, 49% in 2019/20 and 50% in 2020/21.

For adult victims, the two highest categories across the 3 years are 25-34 years and 35-44 years. In addition, the number of 18-24 year olds has increased year on year from **5.67%** of all victims in 2018/19, **7.73%** in 2019/20 and **11.48%** in 2020/21.

The number of older victims has also increased having more than doubled from 2019/20 to 2020/21.

### **Gender**



The charts above shows the overall gender split for all victims including children. As previously mentioned, due to Children's Social Care Initial Assessment data capturing Whole Family information, this may also include perpetrator data.

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### **Gender**

This charts on the previous slide shows the overall gender split for all victims.

If we break this down for victims over 18 the data shows –

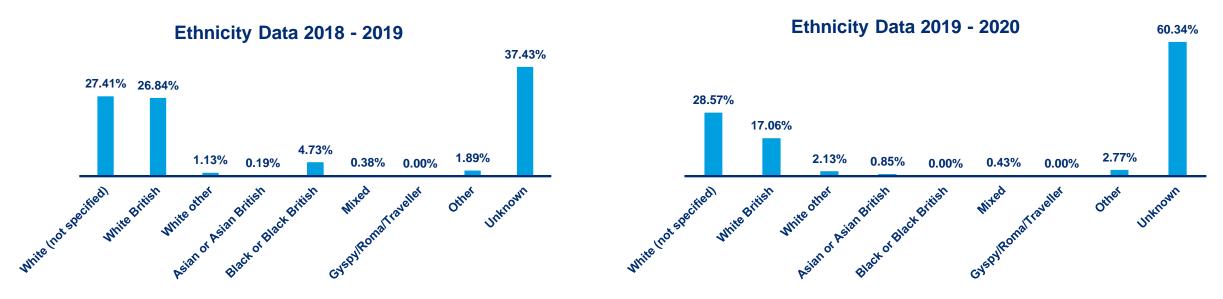
	o <sup>*</sup>	Q,	Q,
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Female	60.24%	63.36%	65.59%
Male	33.41%	32.23%	30.67%
Transgender/Transexual	0.47%	0.55%	0%
Unknown	5.88%	3.86%	3.74%

Marac data tells us that **0** cases where the victim is male were heard across all 3 years. The SafeLives recommendations is 5-10% of cases heard are male victim. Across the LLR, **3.7**% of cases heard at Marac were male victims in 2018/19, **3.3**% in 2019/20 and **3.1**% in 2020/21. This is still be below the SafeLives recommendation and has decreased year on year.

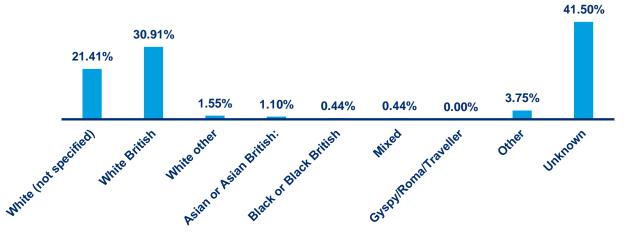
Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, we would estimate a total of **570** male victims have experienced domestic abuse in the last year in Rutland. Data collected shows **123** males were identified by services in 2020-2021.

ONS figures do not include those identifying as trans\* and non-binary, estimates suggest that somewhere between 0.35% and 1% of the adult population of the UK identifies as trans\*. Research by Galop highlights the high prevalence of domestic abuse experienced by trans\* people.

# **Ethnicity**







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# **Ethnicity**

The data capture around ethnicity varies across the agencies and years.

Across all 3 years we can see that White or White British is the most prevalent ethnic group. The level of unknown ranges from **37.43%** in 2018/19 to **62.90%** in 2019/20 reducing in 2020/21 to **41.50%**. The significant change in 2019/20 appears to be from Police data where **90.5%** of victim's ethnicity was categorised as unknown.

The total figure, inclusive of children from Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised groups is –







The majority of victims ethnicity was categorised as other. It is important to note that in 2019/20 there were **0** victims whose ethnicity was categorised as Black or Black British, **4** were categorised as Asian or Asian British and **4** were categorised as Mixed heritage

Marac data shows that in 2018/19, **15%** of all cases heard are from a Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised background however there were **0** cases heard in 2019/20 or 2020/21 where the victim was from a Black, Asian and Racially Minoritised background. This is not reflective of the information shown above.

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total of **70** Black, Asian and Racially minoritised victims per year for Rutland.

This does not include domestic abuse victims who experience abuse from non intimate partners such as parents, siblings, HBV etc.

Different ethnic groups have different experiences of services and experience different barriers. It is important to ensure that ethnicity is captured appropriately and accurately, to fully understand the demographic and needs of the area

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# **Disability**



There is a high level of unknown for this demographic. This has increased year on year.

Public Health England (2015) \*report that disabled people:

- experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse.
- experience domestic abuse for longer periods of time, and more severe and frequent abuse than non-disabled people.
- encounter differing dynamics of domestic abuse, which may include more severe coercion, control or abuse from carers.



\*Disability & Domestic Abuse

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/480942/Disability\_and\_domestic\_abuse topic\_overview\_FINAL.pdf

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# **Disability**

The data regarding disabilities varies across the 3 years and this appears to reflect the agency the victim approached as a number of agencies were unable provide this data.

The total figure, inclusive of children, identified to have a disability is



Across all 3 years, **0** victims were identified as having a learning disability however we know that women with learning disabilities and/or autism are three times more likely to experience domestic abuse than their non-disabled peers.\*

Marac data tell us that in 2018/19 and 2019/20 there were **0** cases where the victim had a disability identified. However in 2020/21, **12.5%** of cases had a disability identified. Whilst this is a huge increase, it is still lower than the SafeLives recommended figure is **19%** and is not reflected in the data shown.

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total of **920** victims per year where a disability is identified for Rutland.

# **Sexual Identity**

The data regarding sexual identity is limited with a minimum of 94.33% victims' sexual identity unknown. Only UAVA were able to provide this data. According to research more than one in four gay men and lesbian women and more than one in three bisexual people report at least one form of domestic abuse since the age of 16\*.

The total number of victims where their sexual identify was recorded is -

2018/2019 2019/2020 2020/2021

Using the SafeLives Prevalence Tool, for Intimate Partner Violence only, we would estimate a total **210** victims per year who identify as LGB+ in Rutland.

Marac data tell us that that in 2018/19 and 2019/20 there were **0** cases where the victim identified as LGBT+. This increased to **4.5%** of cases in 2019/20 which is within the SafeLives recommended figure of 2.5% - 5.8% and increased further to **6.3%** in 2020/21. This shows that whilst victims are under identified overall, they are represented at Marac.

The significant discrepancy in the expected and actual numbers of victims is most likely due to the lack of statistics being accurately recorded by agencies and organisations.

### **Socio-economic Characteristics**

Data regarding socio-economic characteristics are very limited with the majority unknown.

Leicestershire Police collects data regarding occupation however this is limited for 2018/19 with **91.4%** unknown. For the following years it shows **48.2%** of victims were in employed work in 2019/20 and **33.4%** in 2020/21

Although limited data is currently captured by local agencies about socio economic characteristics, these can have a significant impact on victims' ability to access appropriate services when they need them, for example:



Marital status: divorce and matrimonial rights to a home



Family make up: needs of a single person and those with children



Income: a single person earning more than £35k is not eligible for social housing



Benefits: a victim seeking safe accommodation may experience delays in claiming benefit, resulting in arrears. In addition, the impact in the change of circumstance affecting benefits

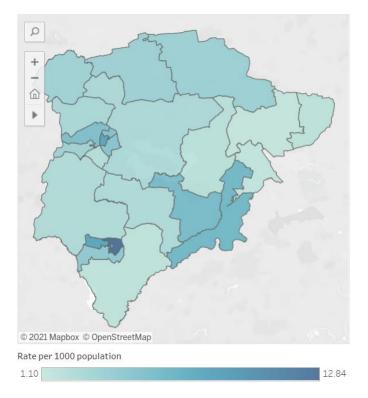
All these characteristics represent the whole person and a whole family, it is, therefore important to capture this information to ensure victims get the right support at the right time.

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# Consideration of the relationship between DA and Poverty:

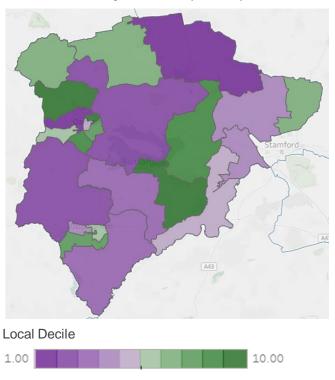
Research in the UK has consistently found vulnerability to DA to be associated with low income, economic strain, and benefit receipt. It is, therefore, useful to consider information available that provides insights in this area: The map on the left illustrates DV prevalence and the map on the right illustrates Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IDM) by local area in RCC

### Domestic Offences & Incidents 20/21



- The police victim by ward data provides useful insights into the location and spread of victims
- The 3 wards with highest prevalence of DA victims being in Uppingham East, Oakham Centre and Uppingham West. Uppingham East the darkest shaded on the left is over twice the national average rate of prevalence.
- By local Decile the Map on the right highlights, in dark purple, the local areas on the highest Index of multiple deprivation.







Research pieces such as *Evidence and policy review: Domestic violence and poverty* undertaken by Bristol University will provide RCC with further useful insights. (Organisation (bris.ac.uk)

## **Ending domestic abuse**

# **Summary of Current Data**

The number of victims has decreased across the 3 years with a decrease of **11.9%** from 2018/19 to 2019/20 with a further decrease of **2.78%**. This is not unexpected with the impact of Covid-19 and subsequent restrictions, which have reduced the opportunity for victims to reach out for support in ways that they might have done prior to the pandemic.

We have seen a decrease in reports to all agencies except for adult social care and children's social care in 2020/21, there was also an increased in Police numbers from 2018/19 – 2019/20 before decreasing again.

There has also been an increasing trend with victims requesting homelessness assistance with the same number of victims seeking support in the first 4 months of this year (14) as there were in 2019/20. This increase suggests that more victims may present in need of safe accommodation, which consequently may increase the need for additional support. Rates of domestic homicide across England and Wales have increased dramatically and highlight the potential risk to victims who are unable to escape an abusive home environment, have recently separated or are attempting to separate.

With regard to Marac data, it is important to note that due to the low numbers of referrals, any demographic information may cause a significant variance in trends, however, the actual number of victims may be minimal and, therefore, only a small increase or decrease.

Data provided around protected characteristics has been inconsistent, and in some cases difficult to analyse effectively. However, it is evident that the number of victims with protected characteristics are under identified in data collection by most agencies. This would suggest that there are a significant number of hidden victims within Rutland that are not accessing appropriate support services. Implementing a more robust and consistent approach to data collection will ensure a clearer understanding of local need and enable more effective planning and commissioning of services.

## **Ending domestic abuse**



# 4. Safe Accommodation Provision

## What is Safe Accommodation?

### **Refuge Accommodation**

**Specialist safe accommodation** - dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs such as specialist refuges for Black, Asian and racially minoritised, LGBT+, and disabled victims and their children

**Dispersed accommodation** – Safe self-contained accommodation with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge.

**Sanctuary Schemes** – may also be called Target Hardening scheme. A survivor centred initiative which aims to enable a victim to remain in their own home by installing additional security to the property and perimeter

**Move on and/or second stage accommodation** – Accommodation temporarily housing victims, who no longer require the intensive support provided in a refuge, but still require a lower level of domestic abuse specific support before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation. May include support accommodation schemes

Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation – A safe place with support given victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period of time to consider and make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe

Safe accommodation is not generic temporary accommodation which is not solely dedicated to providing a safe place to stay for victims of domestic abuse. It is important to note that those experiencing Domestic Abuse may well be in standard temporary accommodation but may not have been identified as such or may have been placed in this accommodation due to the Homelessness Duty.



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## **Safe Accommodation Provision**

Service	Provider	Commissioner	Description	Referral Pathway
Dispersed Accommodation	Wall Action & Longhurst Group	Grant Funded	9 dispersed units provided by Longhurst Group (Housing Provider)	Referral to be made by agency or self referral to UAVA
Sanctuary Scheme	24/7 Locks	OPCC, accessible via UAVA	Installation of security items by RSL maintenance teams, some of materials are provided by the Safer Rutland Partnership.  The police complete visits and install budget to mid-range security items (window alarms, etc.) normally purchased by the Safer Rutland Partnership.	Referral to be made by agency or self referral to UAVA

There are currently **9** safe accommodation spaces in Rutland. However these spaces are available to all those who access UAVA services and therefore available LLR wide. The Council of Europe\* recommendation is 1 family place per 10,000 population. The population of Rutland is 39,927 therefore the recommended number is **4** spaces.

Whilst the current provision available in Rutland is at the recommended level, these are available as part of the UAVA contract and should be viewed in the context of the overall numbers across the LLR. The total population of the whole LLR

is **1,100,306.** Therefore the recommended number of safe accommodation spaces across the LLR is **110**.

We have not been provided with data regarding the number of sanctuary scheme referrals, therefore, we are unable to provide any analysis regarding this.

## **Ending domestic abuse**

## Referrals to Safe Accommodation\*







UAVA is the 'Front Door' for all Domestic Abuse referrals across the LLR, therefore, all referrals for Safe Accommodation go via this route.

Referrals for Safe Accommodation decreased by 60% 2018/19 – 2019/20. However there was a significant increase of 550% from 2019/20 – 2020/21.

In 2018/19 40% of referrals were successful. 0 referrals were successful in 2019/20 while 61% were successful in 2020/21.

The average length of stay in Safe Accommodation across LLR ranges from 102 days in 2018/19 to 110 in 2019/20 and finally to 113 in 2020/21. Consideration to be given for recovery support that will enable survivors to move on to suitable accommodation and free up space for higher risk victims to access.

The source of referrals has consistently been the Local Helpline and DA Services. The exception to this is in 2020/21 when there was 1 referral from Housing Services, 1 from the local authority and 3 other.

The data provided did not specify the number of referrals from Out of Area therefore we have not been able provide a figure for this.

### Ending domestic abuse \*As per Wall Action Data

## **Denied Access to Service**

Not all victims who are referred to Safe Accommodation services will be able to access them for a number of reasons.

Overall in 2018/19 60% of referrals were unsuccessful, increasing to 100% in 2019/20 before reducing to 39% in 2020/21.

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Ineligible for support – 1	Client does not want support – 1	Client disengaged – 2
Only wants Leicester/shire – 1	Client declined – 1	Client does not want support – 1
		Needs better met elsewhere (DA service) – 1
		Unable to contact client - 1

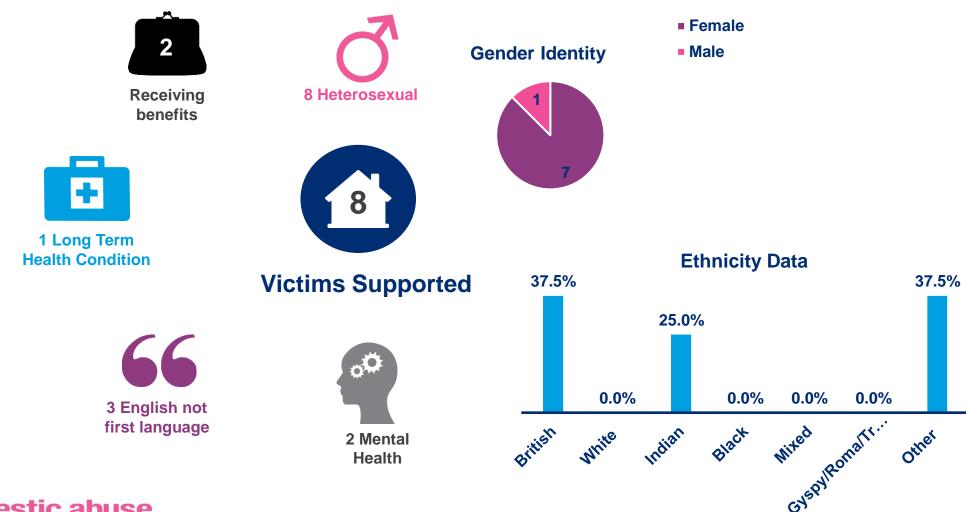
Regarding the client not wanting support, client declined and client disengaged there may be some relevance in the location of safe accommodation and how appropriate this might be for victims, particularly if they have children at school or need to travel to work. Further exploration and understanding of these refusal reasons should be considered.

Consideration should be given to perpetrator management as set out in the <u>Domestic Abuse Draft Statutory Guidance Framework</u>, which could enable victims and children to remain in their homes and communities, reducing disruption and trauma already experienced

## **Ending domestic abuse**

## **Dispersed Accommodation 2020 - 2021**

We do not have any data for 2018/19 – 2019/20 so we can only provide analysis for 2020/21 figures.



## **Ending domestic abuse**

## **Dispersed Accommodation Overview 2020 - 2021**

The data provided regarding ethnicity is not in a standard format and is not truly reflective of a person's ethnicity or their needs. Therefore, it does not allow for analysis.

Of the 3 victims who identified that English was not their first language, their primary language was Gujarati (2) and Arabic (1). With regard to Religion/Belief, 4 identified to be of the Muslim faith, 2 as Hindu and 1 Christian. Only 1 victim's immigration status was recorded which stated, 'Indefinite Leave to Remain'.

Support for victims where English is not their first language and where there may be additional barriers due to immigration status must be provided including interpreters and specialist immigration support.

With regard to Mental Health, 2 victims identified as having a mental health need and one as having a long-term health need. This is over a quarter of victims accessing dispersed accommodation.

We do not have any data regarding the ages of victims and we do not have data regarding the number of children within the dispersed accommodation or within households which have accessed the sanctuary scheme.

However, when we consider that children account for at least a quarter of all victims and children aged 0-5 account for almost half of all child victims, it is likely that a high number will also access safe accommodation.

Support for children, such as play therapy and other therapeutic support, must be available in all forms of safe accommodation including Sanctuary Schemes/Target Hardening. Support for victims as Parents must also be available.

It is also fundamental that support is received from statutory services such as midwifery, health visitors and school nurse whilst victims are within safe accommodation.

## **Ending domestic abuse**

# **Supported Housing: National Statement of Expectations**

The National Statement of Expectations (NSE) was developed in collaboration between the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) with input from local councils and the supported housing sector. Together, they are committed to seeing delivery of good quality supported housing which meets residents' needs and represents good value for money.

The NSE provides a mechanism for establishing the vision for accommodation standards, quality, and value for money. The NSE is not a statutory requirement, and to date there has been no definitive set of guidelines on what should reasonably be expected from the accommodation element of supported housing. However, it is hoped that organisations involved in the provision of supported housing will use, adopt, and find the principles and examples of best practice helpful.

In supported housing, accommodation is provided alongside support, supervision, or care to help people live as independently as possible in the community, including for people fleeing domestic abuse with their children.

In order to deliver the ambitions of the NSE local authorities should work alongside providers and local delivery partners to:

- Assess local demand and plan effectively
- Ensure safe and good quality supported housing
- Ensure supported housing provides good value for money

## **Ending domestic abuse**

## Women's Aid Annual Audit 2021

The annual audit presents information on the provision and usage of domestic abuse services (both accommodation and community support services) in England, mainly focusing on the financial year 2019/20. This year the report also includes a section on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Key findings from the audit included:

- •It is estimated (based on the On Track data collection) that 10,592 women and 12,710 children were supported by a refuge in 2019/20.
- •3,935 refuge spaces in England, falling short of the number of spaces recommended by the Council of Europe by 1,694, which represents a 30% shortfall<sup>[1]</sup>.
- •It is estimated that a total of 24,748 referrals were received by refuges. This means that 57% of all referrals received for refuge were rejected. The main reason for rejection was a lack of space or capacity with 18% of all referrals received rejected for this reason, this also equates to 32% of all rejected referrals being rejected due to lack of space or capacity.
- •Only 26% of refuges commissioned by local authorities indicated that the funding covered all aspects of the support staff costs.
- •63% of women in refuge services had children and 6% were pregnant
- •88% of service users had experienced emotional abuse, 67% had experienced jealous or controlling behaviour.
- •49% of service users in a refuge had support needs around mental health
- •48% of service users in a refuge reported feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts because of the abuse.
- •26% of women at refuge services have a disability; most common were mental health disabilities, 7% had a physical disability.
- •Of service users who were not British nationals, just over half (54.5%) were able to access public funds.
- •Only 4% of vacancies posted on Routes to Support<sup>[2]</sup> could consider women who had no recourse to public funds.
- •Under half of refuge vacancies can accommodate a woman with two children and less than one in five for a woman with three children. These statistics highlight that nationally there are barriers for some women to enter refuge.

This includes women who are NRPF and who are a parent and who are likely to have mental health needs requiring sufficient therapeutic support. We also know that people with a disability are more likely to experience domestic abuse. The small percentage of women in refuge with a physical disability, is likely not reflective of demand from this group and impacted by the availability of accessible accommodation.

## **Ending domestic abuse**

# **Whole Housing Approach**

SafeLives supports the DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) Whole Housing Approach which aims to improve the housing options and outcomes for all experiencing domestic abuse. It suggests a range of housing options and specialist initiatives to give victims and survivors the choice to relocate or remain in their existing property and for agencies to work together collaboratively.

This diagram shows the model and it's 12 parts. The lighter circles represent the temporary accommodation settings and tenure types with the darker circles representing the housing options and specialist initiatives to support victims to either relocate or remain in their home.

Further information available here <a href="https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/what-we-do/whole-housing-approach/whole-hc">https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/what-we-do/whole-housing-approach/whole-hc</a>



## **Ending domestic abuse**



# **5. Survivor Voice**

## **Survivor Voice**

"We've walked through fire to get our voices back; we're not going to give them up now." Ursula, Pioneer

SafeLives are committed to placing people with lived experience at the heart of all we do, valuing internal and external survivors' experience as an asset.

Working together, we can aggregate and amplify survivors' voices and interweave authenticity and independence throughout all our work. By listening and responding to views that are different to our own, professionals and survivors can critically assess and address challenges together. To do this authentically we support survivors to tell their truth and speak with an unmediated voice.

## **Ending domestic abuse**

## **Case Studies**

The needs assessment requires a review of case studies to understand a victims' journey, support required, received and the outcome. Three case studies have been provided by services within Rutland CC and below we provide a summary of key insights shared:

# Entry Point:

- •Refuge waiting list to Dispersed 2
- ·School safeguarding to Social services, referral into (Leicestershire) Womens Aid

# Victim/Survivor Needs

- •All had 3 children, and 1 was pregnant
- Physical disability, Support around pregnancy, Housing support, DA support.
- •English not first language interpreter needed
- Support around DA and the impact.

# Support Given:

- Support around accessing refuge
- •Support into dispersed accommodation
- Arabic Interpreter provided
- Emotional and Wellbeing support
- Practical support (i.e. managing finances)

## Outcome:

- •'Client has been placed in refuge accommodation closer to her chosen area / family & friends, away from harm and DA.'
- 'Client is now in a safe place away from harm and DA'.
- •'Clients confidence has grown, more independent, has started to make friends and applying for jobs and volunteer work. Clients' housing application has been successful.

## **Ending domestic abuse**



#### **Data Collection**

Rutland CC recognised that submission of relevant data was critical for the completion of a comprehensive needs assessment and have been supportive throughout this process. However, there have been areas where data capture is lacking including Health and Housing Providers being unable to submit any data. Rutland CC and the LPB need to ensure that an appropriate and consistent approach to collecting data is adopted across all partner agencies to confirm that all demographics are captured. This will provide a clear understanding of victim's characteristics, areas of multiple disadvantage and complex needs, which will in turn, inform a comprehensive strategy for domestic abuse and ensure that services delivered can meet identified needs. We have, throughout this report, using Safelives recognised best practice guidelines, in conjunction with tools such as the DV prevalence tool, made recommendations regarding the expected levels of services reach and provision. We recommend that these are considered as part of Rutland CC's DA commissioning strategy.

Areas of key identification are -

### Ethnicity

Different ethnic groups have different experiences of services and experience different barriers. It is important to ensure that ethnicity is captured appropriately in order to fully understand the demographic and needs of your area

### Sexual Identity

 Those in LGBT+ relationships face additional barriers to reporting and accessing services. It is important to ensure that this information is asked and captured in order to fully understand the demographic and needs of your area

### Disability

Data is inconsistently captured regarding disability and may be stored in different systems. In order to fully support victims and survivors we
must ask and record this information in a format that is easily accessible to professionals to ensure victims and survivors are able to access and
receive appropriate support

#### Those who are harmed and those who harm

To ensure that those who are harmed and those who harm are captured appropriately to ensure the correct support is provided

### Socio Economic status

Rutland need to develop and agree a consistent approach for capturing socio economic data across the local area for commissioned and non-commissioned services.

## **Ending domestic abuse**

### **Provision of Support and capacity of commissioned services**

Currently Rutland has the recommended number of safe accommodation provision and in fact exceeds this recommendation. However these are available as part of the UAVA contract and should be viewed in the context of the overall numbers across the LLR. We are unable to comment on the Sanctuary Scheme due to lack of data. We recommend that this be an area that is explored further to understand who is accessing the service and their needs. It is important to remember that Sanctuary Schemes and dispersed properties are only Safe Accommodation when specialist DA support is an integral part of this. Therefore, appropriate support must be provided to victims and survivors using a holistic approach to ensure their needs are not treated in isolation but seen in the context of a whole person.

### Children

- There are a high proportion of child victims aged from 0-5 in Rutland CC which suggests that children are experiencing trauma at a very early, crucial stage of their development. Prevention and early identification need to remain a priority as well as continuing therapeutic support for child victims
- Children are now recognised in law as victims in their own right. It is therefore imperative that all data around children is captured. This is to ensure that the needs of the child are assessed, understood, met and appropriate support and services are in place for the whole family and linked in with other relevant strategies
- Appropriate support for children should be available and accessible in all safe accommodation and provided by dedicated children's workers.
   It is noted from the case studies that while 3 families had children, there is no reference to support or outcomes for these children and young people.
- The number of children identified has declined significantly over the 3 years. Possible reasons for this should be explored to assist with correct identification in the future. This data should be monitored going forward, and training provided to those working with children and young people to identify child victims and offer appropriate support

## **Ending domestic abuse**

### **Housing and Homelessness**

Where victims are unable to access Safe Accommodation, they may be offered alternative temporary accommodation.

- Consideration must be given to the importance of specialist women's provision, not only for Safe Accommodation but for all forms of temporary accommodation. Mixed sex provision for those experiencing DA and VAWG can lead to victims feeling unsafe and have a negative impact on recovery.
- Consideration must also be given to those who are street homeless and hidden homeless. We know from our **SafeLives Safe at Home report** that domestic abuse, even when present, is not always the cause of homelessness; it is often experienced alongside other forms of disadvantage that may contribute to homelessness. Domestic abuse can also be experienced by those who are already homeless.
- Further monitoring of the increasing requests for support from Homelessness Teams. Consideration should be given to providing a dedicated domestic abuse specialist within the Housing Options and Homelessness service to offer both domestic abuse and housing advice and support to victims and colleagues

### **Performance Monitoring**

LPB to complete dip sampling and case audits on those accessing safe accommodation on a quarterly basis

### No Recourse to Public Funds

• Ensure staff are aware of the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) Concession scheme for those who have been granted leave to enter as a spouse or partner of a British person

## **Ending domestic abuse**

### **Understanding the Needs of Those from Minoritised communities:**

- The statutory guidance accompanying the DA Act 21 states that Local Areas should
  - "have embedded, or have readily available, input from specialist agencies and 'by-and-for' services that have a proven track record of supporting victims of domestic abuse and who are aware and experienced in working with male and female victims with protected characteristics, including being from an ethnic minority, being disabled, LGBTQ+ or from a particular religion or faith.
- Rutland CC and their LPB could consult with specialist by and for services agencies IMKAAN; Southall Black Sisters; The Angelou Centre, Galop, The Refugee Council and Stay Safe East regarding additional support for victims who face multiple disadvantage and challenges to access services. Agencies include -
  - IMKAAN
  - Southall Black Sisters
  - The Angelou Centre
  - Galop
  - The Refugee Council
  - Stay Safe East
  - Rights of Women

## **Ending domestic abuse**



# 7. Appendix A

## **Data Submissions**

Data was supplied by the following agencies

- Leicestershire Police
- Rutland Children Social Care & Early Help
- Rutland Adult Social Care
- Rutland Housing Options Team
- UAVA Insights Data
- Wall Action

## **Ending domestic abuse**