

# **Health & Wellbeing Board – Domestic Abuse Updates**

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# Overview of Health and Wellbeing Board Priorities and Achievements



## **Strategic Planning and Governance**

HWBB focused on strengthening planning and governance to align domestic abuse responses with statutory duties effectively.

## **Needs Assessment and Partnership Strategy**

Completion of Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment enabled development of a multi-agency partnership strategy addressing service gaps.

## **Governance and Decision-Making**

DALPB restructured membership to ensure decision-making authority for approving strategies and driving implementation.

## **Data-Driven Improvement and Lived Experience**

Use of data dashboards improved monitoring while integrating survivors' voices ensured meaningful co-production.

# Creation and Consultation of New DA Strategy

## Multi-agency Workshop Approach

Partner agencies collaborated through workshops to review evidence and shape strategic priorities based on local and statutory needs.

## Rurality Insight and Challenges

Specialist insights highlighted rural isolation, transport barriers, and community dynamics increasing risks and limiting help-seeking.

## Survivor Voice Influence

Individuals with lived experience shaped priorities, improved inclusive language, and strengthened outcome framing in the strategy.

## Public Consultation & Future Action

The draft was publicly consulted on to gather feedback, guiding a three-year action plan with governance and accountability.



# Reforms to DALPB Membership and Decision-Making

## Enhanced Leadership Accountability

All representatives must have authority to approve documents and make strategic decisions, speeding up implementation and sharing responsibility.

## Operational Forum Communication

The Domestic Abuse Operational Forum improves communication between strategic leaders and frontline practitioners, aligning priorities and raising concerns.

## Evidence-Based Decision Making

A new performance dashboard enables systematic tracking of progress, outcomes, and cross-agency activities to inform decisions.

## Improved Partnership Governance

Governance reforms promote a responsive, accountable, and transparent structure for coordinated domestic abuse responses.



# Embedding Survivor Voice in Strategy and Commissioning

## From Feedback to Co-Production

Lived experience integration shifted from simple feedback to true co-production in strategy and commissioning.

## Survivor Insights Inform Strategy

Survivor participation in surveys and workshops revealed key system challenges and shaped language around abuse and inclusion.

## Equitable Commissioning Practices

Commissioning exercises reflect survivor-identified needs, promoting trauma-informed, accessible, and community-based support.

## Cultural Shift Toward Accountability

Embedding survivor voice strengthens partnership accountability and aligns with national best practices in policymaking.



# Key Insights from DA Needs Assessment and Health System Data

## Mental Health Impact

Mental health is the most common disability among domestic abuse victims, highlighting the need for integrated mental health support.

## Health Services Encounters

Health services regularly encounter domestic abuse cases, showing its widespread impact across health and social care sectors.

## Rising Referral Complexity

MARAC data shows increasing referrals and repeat domestic abuse cases, indicating growing complexity and demand.

## Multi-Agency Collaboration

Combined data emphasizes the need for multi-agency approaches and early intervention in domestic abuse cases.



## Next Steps.....

- Finalise strategy post-consultation
- Implement 3-year action plan
- Launch performance dashboard
- Embed lived-experience governance

## Risk

- Data gaps impacting decision-making
- Unequal rural access
- Workforce capacity constraints
- Risk of insufficient survivor engagement

## Mitigation

- Strengthen multi-agency reporting
- Develop digital/remote outreach for rural areas
- Expand training and support packages
- Formalise Lived Experience remuneration for their time – shows the value

# Recommendations for HWBB

- Strengthen data quality and dashboard integration
- Expand rural outreach pathways
- Formalise survivor voice in all commissioning
- Enhance cross-sector workforce training