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Item

Public



Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy

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1. Synopsis

This report presents the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 (Appendix 1) for approval. The Strategy has been developed collaboratively through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), in line with statutory duties, and has been informed by the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024 followed by public consultation and a completed Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) (Appendix 2).

This is a Partnership Strategy but is presented to Cabinet and Full Council for approval given the Council has a statutory leadership and co-ordination role for the Strategy under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 sets out the Partnership’s shared approach to reducing domestic abuse and improving outcomes for victims, children and families over the next three years. The Strategy supports the ambitions in the draft Corporate Plan 2026-30, including safe places to live, opportunities to thrive and improved wellbeing.
- 2.2. The strategy has been developed collaboratively through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), informed by lived experience, local needs assessment evidence, and a public consultation held between February and March 2026. Alongside this, a Stage One Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been completed to assess the likely impacts of the strategy on protected and vulnerable groups.

- 2.3. The Strategy is structured around four inter-connected priorities:
- Victims – ensuring timely, trauma informed support and access to safe accommodation
 - Perpetrators – preventing harm and strengthening accountability and behaviour change
 - Workforce – building confidence, consistency and trauma informed practice
 - Community – strengthening awareness, prevention and shared responsibility
- 2.4. Consultation feedback demonstrated strong support for the strategy’s vision and priorities, with no substantive concerns requiring changes to the overall approach proposed. The ESHIA identifies a low to medium positive impact across protected characteristic groups and inclusion health populations, with actions identified to strengthen engagement with under-represented groups during implementation.
- 2.5. This is a Partnership Strategy, developed and owned collectively through the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. While Shropshire Council has a statutory leadership and coordination role under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the delivery of this strategy is a shared commitment across statutory partners and the voluntary and community sector. Implementation will rely on joint ownership, shared accountability, and coordinated action across agencies, rather than delivery by the Council alone.
- 2.6. The previous Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy was published in 2018. Since then, new legislation, updated needs assessments, Domestic Homicide Review learning, and changes in local need have required a refreshed strategic approach.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 3.1. Agree the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029 (Appendix 1) and recommend its approval to Full Council
- 3.2. Note that delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board through an accompanying action plan, with regular monitoring and review by the Community Safety Partnership.

Council is recommended to:

- 3.3. Approve the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029 (Appendix 1)
- 3.4. Note that delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board through an accompanying action plan, with regular monitoring and review by the Community Safety Partnership.

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Failure to adopt the strategy would present a significant risk to the Council's ability to meet its statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It would also weaken strategic coordination, limit system learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, and reduce the Council's ability to demonstrate accountability and partnership leadership.
- 4.2. There is a risk that some groups were under-represented in the public consultation. This is mitigated through the ESHIA and a commitment to targeted engagement during delivery, particularly with minoritised and inclusion health groups.
- 4.3. Opportunities include strengthened partnership working, improved consistency of response, better use of evidence and lived experience, and more effective prevention and early intervention.
- 4.4. A key risk is the potential for fragmented delivery if partnership ownership is not maintained. This is mitigated through governance via the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, which provides shared oversight, collective accountability and coordination across all partners.
- 4.5. Risk table

RISK	MITIGATION
Failure to meet statutory DA Act duties	Strategy approved and overseen by DALPB
Under-representation of some groups	Targeted engagement within action plan
Inconsistent implementation	Clear Governance and monitoring

There is no direct link to current strategic Risks

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands, and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet in September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council reducing spend to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all reports to Members provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers and/or Portfolio Holders review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial sustainability. All non-essential spend will be stopped and all essential spend challenged. These actions may involve (this is not exhaustive):
 - scaling down initiatives,
 - changing the scope of activities,
 - delaying implementation of agreed plans, or
 - extending delivery timescales.
- 5.2. The Strategy itself does not commit the Council to new unfunded expenditure. Delivery will be supported through existing resources, external grant funding (including Domestic Abuse Act funding), and commissioning decisions brought

forward separately for approval as required. All activity will be subject to ongoing financial challenge in line with the Council's current financial position.

- 5.3. This Strategy does not represent a single organisation funding commitment. Delivery will be supported through a combination of resources, including Shropshire Council funding, external grant funding, and partner investment, both financial and in kind.
- 5.4. Statutory partners and voluntary and community sector organisations will continue to fund, commission and deliver activity within their own remits, aligned to the shared priorities set out in the strategy. Any future commissioning or funding decisions arising from the strategy will be brought forward separately for approval in line with established governance and financial processes.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The strategy has no direct negative impact on climate change. Where possible, delivery will promote digital engagement, reduce unnecessary travel, and align with the Council's wider climate commitments.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 provides a clear, shared framework for collective action across the partnership. It reflects a commitment by all partners, statutory and voluntary, to align effort, resources and expertise in order to reduce domestic abuse and improve outcomes for victims, children and communities.
- 7.2. Approval of the strategy enables coordinated delivery, shared accountability and system-wide learning, while recognising that implementation will be achieved through joint ownership and partnership delivery, rather than through Shropshire Council alone.

List of Background Papers

- Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029
- Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024
- Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029
- Appendix 2: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment