



SETDAB

Southend, Essex & Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 / 2021

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Foreword from the SETDAB Chair

Welcome to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) Annual Report for 2020/2021. SETDAB is made up of representatives from agencies and organisations working to join up and better facilitate Southend, Essex and Thurrock's vision of a County where everyone lives a life free from domestic abuse.

This year we launched a new Domestic Abuse Strategy covering 2020/2025. In developing the new Strategy, we reflected on SETDAB's priorities, reviewed our performance framework, and focussed our collective efforts of delivering on what really matters to people and partners.

Underpinning the SETDAB Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020/2025 is the government's landmark Domestic Abuse Act which was introduced in draft form in January 2019 and was signed into law on the 29th April 2021. This is the most comprehensive package ever presented to Parliament to tackle domestic abuse, through both supporting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice. For the first time in history there is a wide ranging legal definition of domestic abuse, which incorporates a range of abuses beyond physical violence, including emotional, coercive, or controlling behaviour, and economic abuse. This law signals a major step forward in transforming the response to domestic abuse.

The Covid 19 Pandemic has been a particularly worrying time for victims of domestic abuse. It has been acknowledged that the social distancing measures required, have had a serious effect on domestic abuse victims by increasing exposure to those perpetrating the crime. Across Southend, Essex and Thurrock we worked closely with providers of domestic abuse services to understand the impact of the pandemic on them and within the last 18 months we have secured an additional £2,072,503 to support domestic abuse services and interventions. This is made up of emergency Covid funding for victim support services, additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs), as well as funding for perpetrator interventions.

As a partnership, it is important that we independently evaluate our work to ensure we continue to deliver appropriate joined up responses to those

affected by domestic abuse and to inform future partnership approaches. In 2020, the Policing Institute for the Eastern Region (PIER) at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) were commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015 – 2020 in relation to joint Commissioning. Pleasingly, this evaluation indicated that the Partnership performed in compliance with relevant best practice and national guidance, with regards to partnership work on the joint commissioning of services, shared processes (such as Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and Domestic Homicide Reviews), safeguarding, activities to address the behaviour of perpetrators, and the development of a joint communications strategy.

We are not complacent and going forward there will be challenges to overcome in delivering this complex agenda. The ambition for the work of SETDAB remains firm and clear, we want to continue to ensure our collective efforts remain focused on delivering what really matters. We want to support victims and their families affected by domestic abuse to feel safe and recover through targeted help and jointly commissioned support services. We will also continue to work with those that perpetrate the crime to break the cycle of domestic abuse for future generations.

To the SETDAB Team, partners and organisations who work with me on this complex agenda, I want to thank you all for your continued unwavering commitment because what we have achieved would not have been possible without your ambition and support.

Jane Gardner

SETDAB Chair and Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex



Who is SETDAB?

Our Vision:

“Working together to enable everyone to live a life free from all forms of domestic abuse.”

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) is made up of representatives from agencies and organisations working to join up and better facilitate Southend, Essex and Thurrock’s vision to work together to enable everyone to live a life free from all forms of domestic abuse (DA). The Board is responsible for designing and implementing the Domestic Abuse Strategy across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET).

SETDAB provides strategic leadership to address domestic abuse by providing a multi-agency framework, common ethos and co-ordinated approach to innovate, drive change and address domestic abuse.



2020-2025 Strategy and our 5 outcomes:

The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Strategy was launched in May 2020 and the five outcomes identified within the Strategy are the focus of our work. All our outcomes have delivery plans in place which are monitored by SETDAB.

Outcome 1:

Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships.

Outcome 2:

People experiencing and at risk of experiencing domestic abuse are supported to be and feel safe.

Outcome 3:

Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse.

Outcome 4:

Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

Outcome 5:

Communities, professionals and employers are able to recognise domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity and have the confidence to take action.









Our Achievements of 2020-2021

Jointly commissioned Domestic Abuse (DA) Services

In the second year of our jointly commissioned Domestic Abuse (DA) Services they have reached the following people:






SET Integrated Domestic Abuse Services
April 2020 – March 2021

Single point of access:

 4716 referrals	 2104 online referrals
 5308 calls answered	 1694 onward referrals
 2342 (91%) female	 137 (5%) male
 95 (4%) not given	 3 (0.16%) non-binary

www.SETDAB.org

Service delivery:

 4123 community cases	 93 cases to refuge
 2129 cases with children	 1104 with IDVA
 93 cases open to Children's Social Care / Family Solutions	

SETDAB 2020 DA Week of Webinars

Due to the ongoing pandemic we took the decision to turn our annual conference into a series of webinars.

In support of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the 16 days of action that follow, SETDAB held a week of webinars that prioritised and focused on promoting our work within the new SET DA Strategy 2020-2025. SETDAB hosted five webinars that addressed the current work being delivered across the five key outcomes, promoted our DA services, resources and pathways and raised awareness of the SET DA website and news bulletin.

Each webinar included key speakers representing a range of agencies across the partnership who discussed key topics and services that fall within each outcome. In total over 300 people participated in the webinars across the week.

100% of attendees completing the evaluation confirmed they would share and apply the knowledge from the events within their organisations and 91% scored the overall events as very good or good.

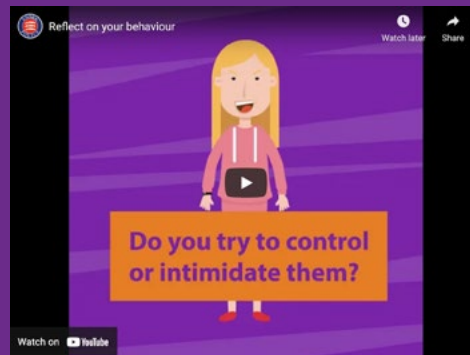


SETDAB DA Awareness Campaign 2020

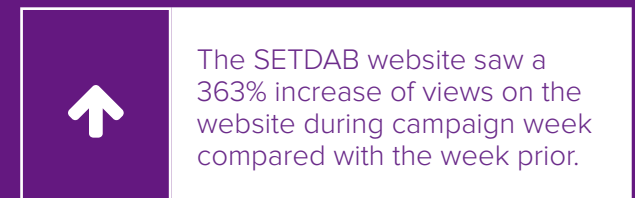
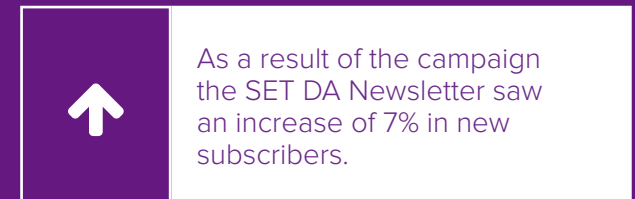
Awareness Campaign:

Between 23rd – 27th November 2020 to coincide with the SETDAB DA Webinars the Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign was released with the support of Essex Police. The five areas of focus were:

- Help and support for victims
- Reflect on your behaviour (challenging people using abusive behaviours)
- Stalking
- Spotting the signs (for friends, families and colleagues)
- Children and young people



The campaign was cascaded across the partnership and shared across Essex Police social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram). The table below highlights the total number of reaches across these platforms:



Following the campaign 250,000 leaflets, produced by Essex Police, were distributed into 360 Supermarkets across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. The leaflets contained information on where people could get information, advice and support.

Training Resources

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the different ways of working which have been in place, SETDAB partners developed a range of online learning opportunities:

- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Bitesize Sessions
- Challenges in working with DA perpetrators during the pandemic webinar
- SETDAB Domestic Abuse Guidance Video explaining service pathways
- J9 training (for community groups)
- Alpha Vesta training (for employers and workplaces)

SETDAB DA Basic Awareness E-learning Package & SETDAB Drug and Alcohol E-learning Package

We developed and published two e-Learning packages so that partners could still access training during the national lockdowns. This training can be accessed at any time allowing for flexibility and a wider reach to partners. We are continuing to develop our menu of e-Learning packages relating to the LGBTQ+ Community, MARAC and domestic abuse and older people.



Outcome 1: Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships.



Responding to COVID-19 – Our school and community-based services for children and young people continued online where possible. Our most vulnerable children continued to be supported directly by schools and other social care partners.

What have we done:

- Received Home Office funding to address Adolescent to Parent Violence (APV) by delivering Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) training to 115 members of staff working directly with parents of children and young people across SET.
- Continued to promote Risk Avert which has educated children and young people in healthy behaviours across 39 Secondary Schools and 64 Primary Schools.
- Continued to develop services for young people regarding conflict in relationships. The Goodman Project has worked directly with 325 young males and Sisters in Strength has worked with 206 young females.
- We have evaluated what interventions work best for children and young people who have experienced the psychological trauma of domestic abuse. The report highlights the need to develop a project that encourages children's participation in shaping services tailored for them.

Outcome 1: Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships.



What we will do:

- In line with the new definition within the DA Act, recognise children as victims of DA rather than witnesses and work with partners to address children's needs.
- Continue to promote a consistent approach to delivering a healthy relationships curriculum in schools to support children and young people understand healthy relationships.
- Continue to promote existing resources and programmes for parents to manage inter-parental conflict and prevent the negative impacts on children and young people.
- Support our partners in their implementation of any new duties within the DA Act.
- Develop approaches to trauma perceptive practice.

Why is this important?

We need to educate and support our children and young people to make informed choices.

Outcome 2: People experiencing and at risk of experiencing domestic abuse are supported to be and feel safe.



Responding to COVID-19 – Our Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) continued to operate throughout 2020-2021 using remote platforms, which led to an increase in engagement from partners. Our DA service partners adapted how they worked to offer a combination of online and in person services during lockdown periods ensuring vulnerable victims could still access support whenever needed.

What have we done:

- During the past year our MARACs have heard 2,139 cases across SET and have continued working together to increase the safety of victims and families. Due to the use of virtual meeting platforms even more services have engaged with MARAC including housing providers, a gambling support service and a LGBTQ+ specialist service.
- Our commissioned DA services have been exploring victim journey mapping through the system.
- Our partners have continued to fund a specialist Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) to meet the needs of local communities.

Outcome 2: People experiencing and at risk of experiencing domestic abuse are supported to be and feel safe.



What we will do:

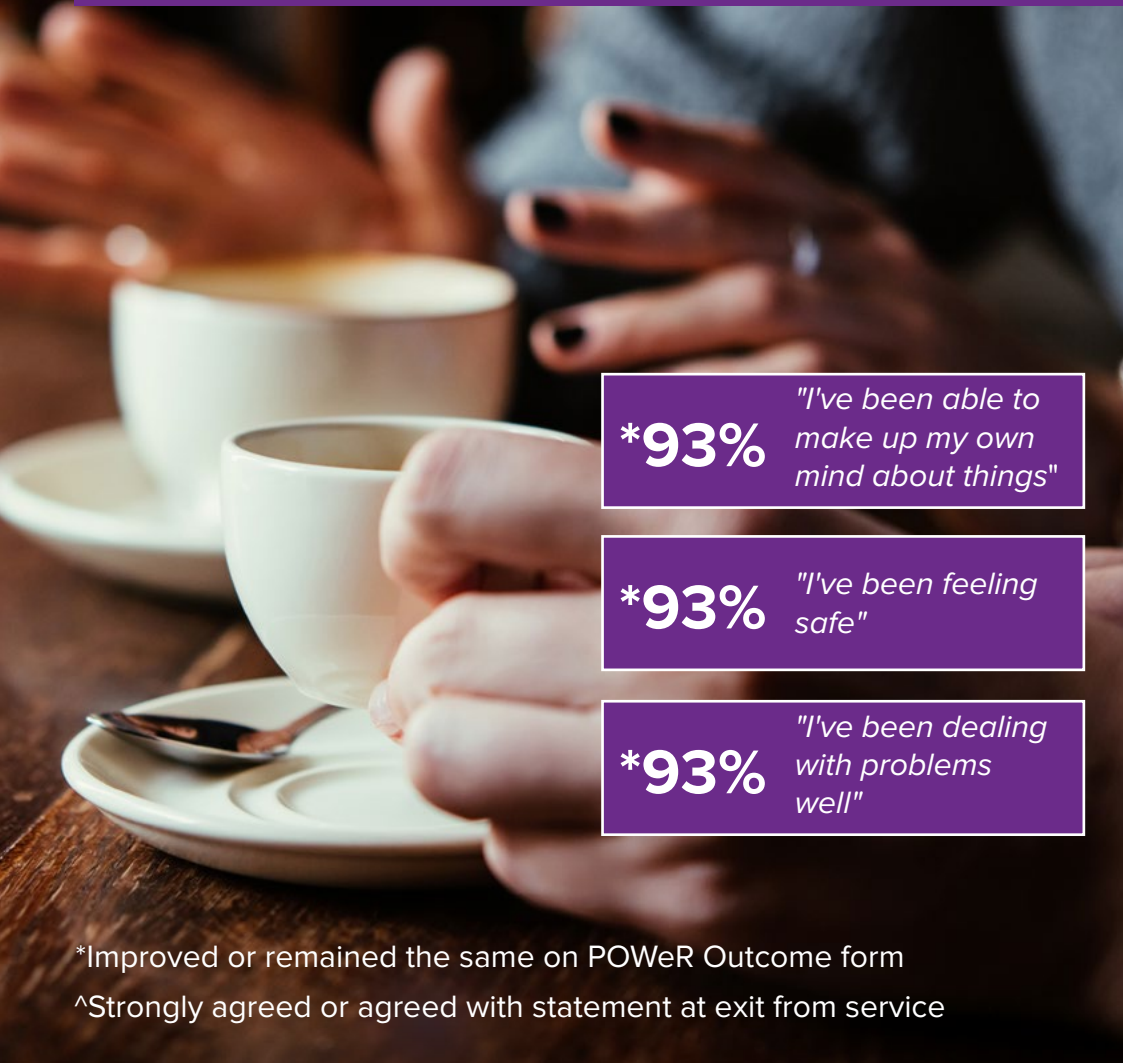
- Work with all our partners regarding the implementation of new duties within the DA Act.
- Continue to develop community networks and tailor services to meet local needs and cultural diversity.
- We will continue to identify and work with DA victims and survivors from marginalised communities as well as capturing the voices of victims from faith groups.
- Continue to promote safe spaces where people can access information and support from services.
- Continue to engage primary care services within the MARAC process.
- Continue to improve communications between safeguarding processes such as MARAC, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) & Missing and Child Exploitation meetings (MACE).

Why is this important?

It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard victims and children living with domestic abuse.

Outcome 3: Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse.

Responding to COVID-19 – Agencies worked together to ensure that emergency accommodation including refuge continued to be offered during 2020-2021 to victims of domestic abuse. Community domestic abuse services and other specialist community providers such as drug and alcohol services continued to offer their services during the pandemic.



What have we done:

- The Recovery Refuge run by Next Chapter and Open Road has received 155 referrals and supported 44 high risk domestic abuse victims with multiple disadvantages such as drug and alcohol issues and mental ill health.
- After engagement with our DA Commissioned Services, victims reported the following outcomes:

***93%** "I've been able to make up my own mind about things"

***93%** "I've been feeling safe"

***93%** "I've been dealing with problems well"

***89%** "I've been feeling close to other people"

^94% "I feel better able to recognise abusive behaviour"

***93%** "I've been feeling good about myself"

***94%** "I've been feeling confident"

^89% "My support networks have improved"

^96% "I am clear that the abuse was not my fault"

^92% "I feel more confident in my parenting skills"

^96% "I am more confident about asking for help when I need it"

*Improved or remained the same on POWeR Outcome form
^Strongly agreed or agreed with statement at exit from service

Outcome 3: Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse.



What have we done:

- Established a SETDAB Housing Steering Group to develop and implement the whole housing approach to domestic abuse across SET and to support housing partners with the implementation of the DA Act.
- Developed a standardised Sanctuary Scheme protocol in line with best practice and shared with our housing partners.
- Commenced work with partners to develop a trauma informed programme for domestic abuse victims and their children.

What we will do:

- Continue to develop the whole housing approach projects with an initial focus in the coming year on developing a shared reciprocal process.
- Develop a response to address the housing needs and issues faced by domestic abuse perpetrators to support work to keep families safe.
- Engage with private landlords to improve their response to domestic abuse.
- Implement a pilot trauma informed programme for domestic abuse victims and their children.
- Support our partners in their implementation of any new duties within the DA Act.

Why is this important?

Enables people affected by domestic abuse to recover and live free from abuse.

Outcome 4: Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse.



Responding to COVID-19 – Whilst there were some delays within the court services during 2020-2021 other elements of the CJS maintained their service delivery throughout. Community based perpetrator interventions adapted for online delivery and face to face where necessary.

What have we done:

- The Change Hub has received 333 referrals and has completed 67 interventions with perpetrators in 2020-2021 which is an increase of 26% compared to the previous year.
- 74 offenders successfully completed Probation's Building Better Relationships programme and the Healthy Relationships programme, with all interventions delivered virtually and on a 1:1 basis rather than in groups.
- The Essex Police Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams (DAPSTs) are now operating across SET and are supporting victims as well as offender management of repeat perpetrators.
- Essex Police have successfully utilised tasking opportunities within MARAC to disrupt DA offenders and promoted the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) to protect victims. 246 DVPOs were successfully granted which is a 20% increase from the previous year.
- We have developed a Conditional Cautioning Pilot to focus on standard risk first-time offenders to prevent them from becoming high risk serial domestic abuse perpetrators.

Outcome 4: Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse.



What we will do:

- Develop a commissioning approach for perpetrator interventions.
- Continue to work with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to monitor the use and effectiveness of the legislation and processes in managing domestic abuse offenders including the use of our conditional cautioning pilot when the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) gives permission.
- Support the continued development of the Essex Police Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams.
- Consider additional options available to tackle stalking.
- Support partners with the implementation of DA perpetrator specific activities set out within the DA Act.

Why is this important?

Perpetrators need to be held to account for their behaviour and offered opportunities to change to prevent future harm.

Outcome 5: Communities, professionals and employers are able to recognise domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity and have the confidence to take action.

Responding to COVID-19 – We adapted our training and communication activities for online platforms. During our campaign activities we were also able to take advantage of opportunities to display physical service promotion material within supermarkets, pharmacies and COVID-19 testing centres and other spaces which remained open during lockdowns. All our partners continued to promote a positive message about service availability throughout 2020-2021.



What have we done:

- We supported the launch of the Stay Safe Campaign in April 2020 which focused on five key risk areas to keep people safe during this first national lockdown. The domestic abuse content attracted the most views and interactions with 35,998 video views and 104,688 people viewing the post on Facebook.
- Delivered 5 webinars in place of our annual conference to highlight the new SETDAB Strategy and the work of our services.
- Launched 2 new e-Learning packages, Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness and Drug and Alcohol Basic Awareness.
- The SET DA Newsletter moved from monthly to biweekly to ensure that up to date service information could be cascaded to partners.
- J9 and Alpha Vesta training moved to online platforms.
- Alpha Vesta had trained over 2500 employees in 394 businesses and organisations across the country, including 189 SET based businesses.
- Shared the learning from completed Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) across the partnership.

Outcome 5: Communities, professionals and employers are able to recognise domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity and have the confidence to take action.



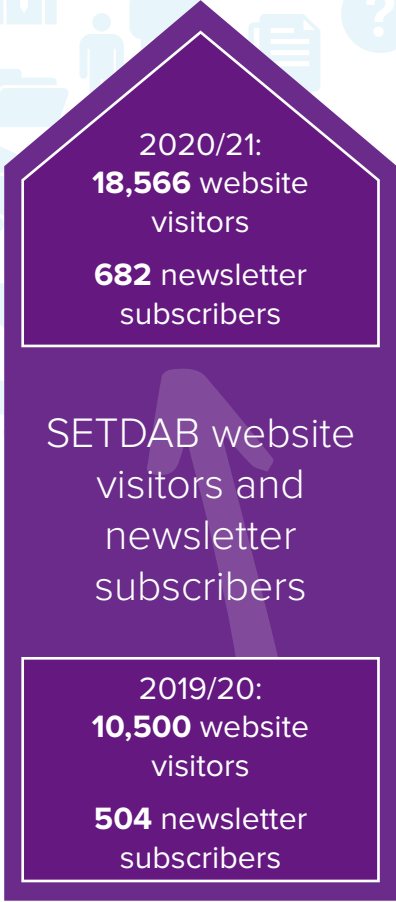
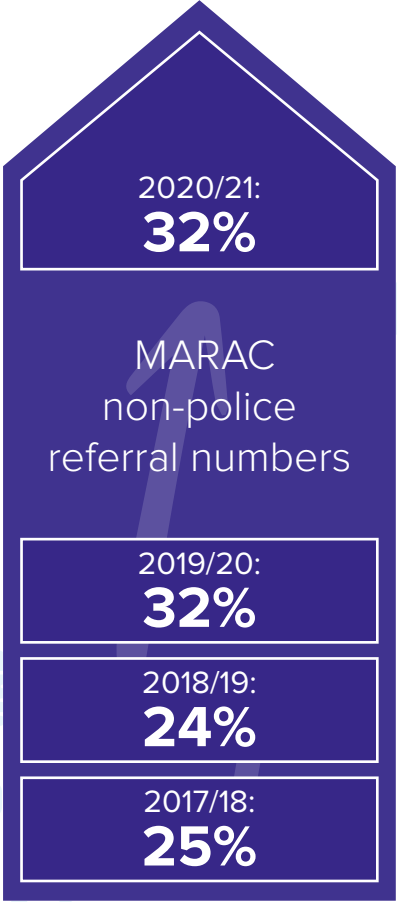
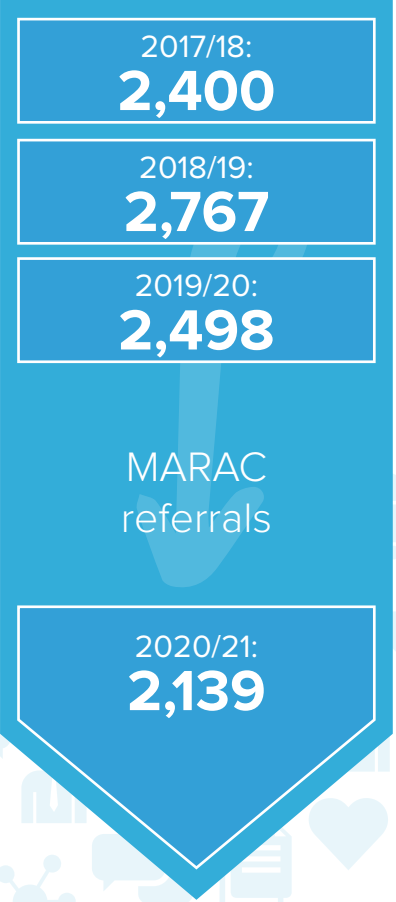
What we will do:

- Reissue our service availability campaign at key points during the year and develop future campaign activity.
- Continue to build our virtual learning and development offer and add specific resources for older people who are victims of domestic abuse.
- Establish a new partnership communications group.
- Complete our third Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) thematic review to share learning with partners.
- Deliver our annual conference as a virtual event.
- Continue to work with the Home Office on the development of the national DHR repository.
- Continue to deliver bespoke seminars and learning events to address emerging needs and the impact of trauma on people affected by domestic abuse.
- Continue to promote domestic abuse awareness within the business sector, encouraging healthy working environments.
- Support our partners in their implementation of any new duties within the DA Act 2021.

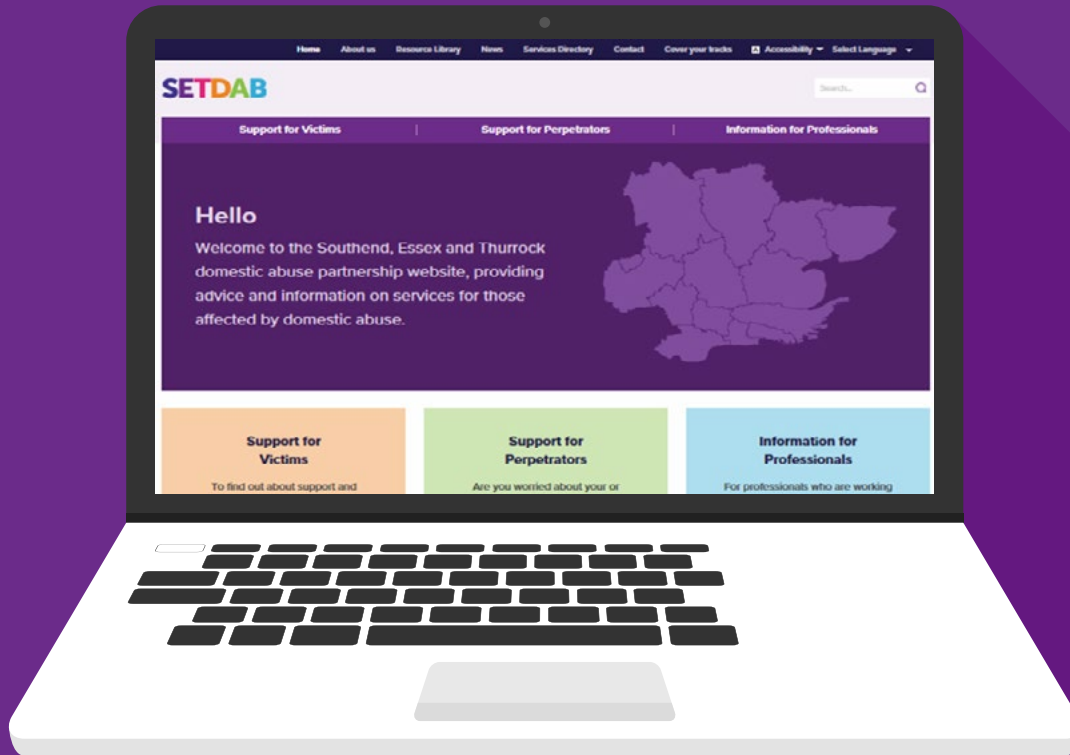
Why is this important?

People affected by domestic abuse need to be able to access appropriate services to increase safety and reduce harm.

2020-2021 SETDAB Performance Data



MARAC: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference **DA:** Domestic Abuse



APV	Adolescent to Parent Violence
BAME	Black Asian and Minority Ethnic
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CSC	Children's Social Care
DA	Domestic Abuse
DASH	Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Assessment Tool
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DPP	Director for Public Prosecutions
DVPO	Domestic Violence Prevention Order
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
LGBTQ+	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning
MACE	Missing and Child Exploitation meetings
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NVR	Non-Violent Resistance
PIER	Policing Institute for the Eastern Region
SET	Southend, Essex and Thurrock
SETDAB	Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board

Our partner agencies:

*As of June 2021 these organisations combined to form the Probation Service.

Logos correct according to agency websites as of 2020-2021



The wider SETDAB partnership encompasses all statutory and voluntary sector agencies who are committed to tackling domestic abuse across Southend Essex and Thurrock.

COMPASS

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline

Contact us via the online forms at

www.essexcompass.org.uk

0330 333 7 444





Southend, Essex
& Thurrock Domestic
Abuse Board

 www.setdab.org

