

An illustration showing a variety of hands of different skin tones reaching up to hold several interlocking puzzle pieces in various colors (blue, red, purple, green, yellow). The hands are wearing different sleeves, suggesting a diverse group of people. The background is a light purple gradient.

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

Our Vision

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

SETDAB

Southend, Essex
& Thurrock Domestic
Abuse Board

Foreword from the SETDAB Chair



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

Domestic abuse (DA) destroys lives. It can happen to anyone, regardless of age, social background, gender, religion, sexuality, or ethnicity.

Together we are working incredibly hard to tackle domestic abuse in Southend, Essex and Thurrock. In the past year we invested in projects to help all parties and continued to develop collaborative initiatives that are doing more to identify, support and protect victims. This has included funding for additional Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Abuse Advisors (ISVAs). As well as this, we have been able to provide more funding for other services such as the Synergy rape crisis partnership.

We also hear directly from businesses that they increasingly want to support their staff and recognise they have an important part to play in helping them stay safe. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) supported

SETDAB by funding the Domestic Abuse Awareness in the Workplace Now (DAAWN) project which aims to engage with the business community to help them raise awareness about domestic abuse among their employees.

During 2023 we ran an updated version of the hugely successful ‘#REFLECT’ campaign. The campaign’s objective is to drive perpetrators to self-refer to The Change Hub. Using insights from previous campaigns, it focused on groups identified by our services, including intimate partner violence, older people, and abuse in LGBTQ+ relationships.

While we are delivering impactful interventions and support, we know there is more we can do to improve the services we provide. Over the years domestic abuse services in Southend, Essex and Thurrock have evolved. SETDAB is a powerful partnership driven by the commitment

and passion of the many organisations that make up the group. Together we have made a significant difference for our communities and have set clear and ambitious goals for further improvement. As the Chair, I am grateful for the continued support and guidance of our dedicated team and the commitment from our wider members to join together and make a difference.



Domestic abuse destroys lives. It can happen to anyone, regardless of age, social background, gender, religion, sexuality, or ethnicity.

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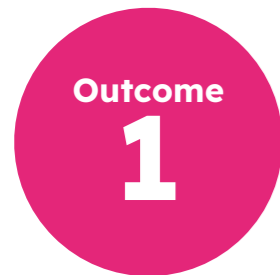
Who are we?



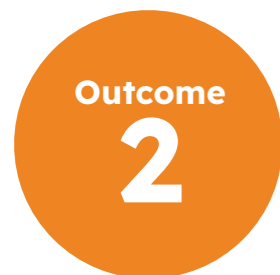
- The Southend, Essex, and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) is made up of representatives from agencies and organisations working in partnership to facilitate the SETDAB vision which is “Working together to enable everyone to live a life free from all forms of domestic abuse.”
- The Board is responsible for designing and implementing the Domestic Abuse Strategy for Greater Essex.
- [Our strategy 2020-2025](#) has been developed in partnership and provides strategic leadership to address domestic abuse, delivering on what really matters to people and partners.
- We deliver a co-ordinated approach to innovate, drive change, and address domestic abuse across Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

Key outcomes

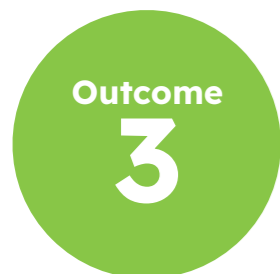
Our strategy focuses on five key outcomes:



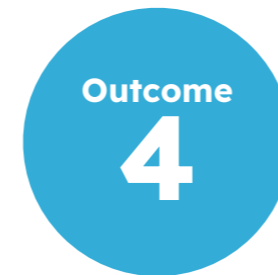
Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships



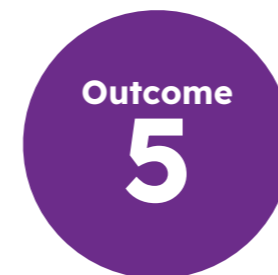
People experiencing and at risk of experiencing domestic abuse are supported to be and feel safe



Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse

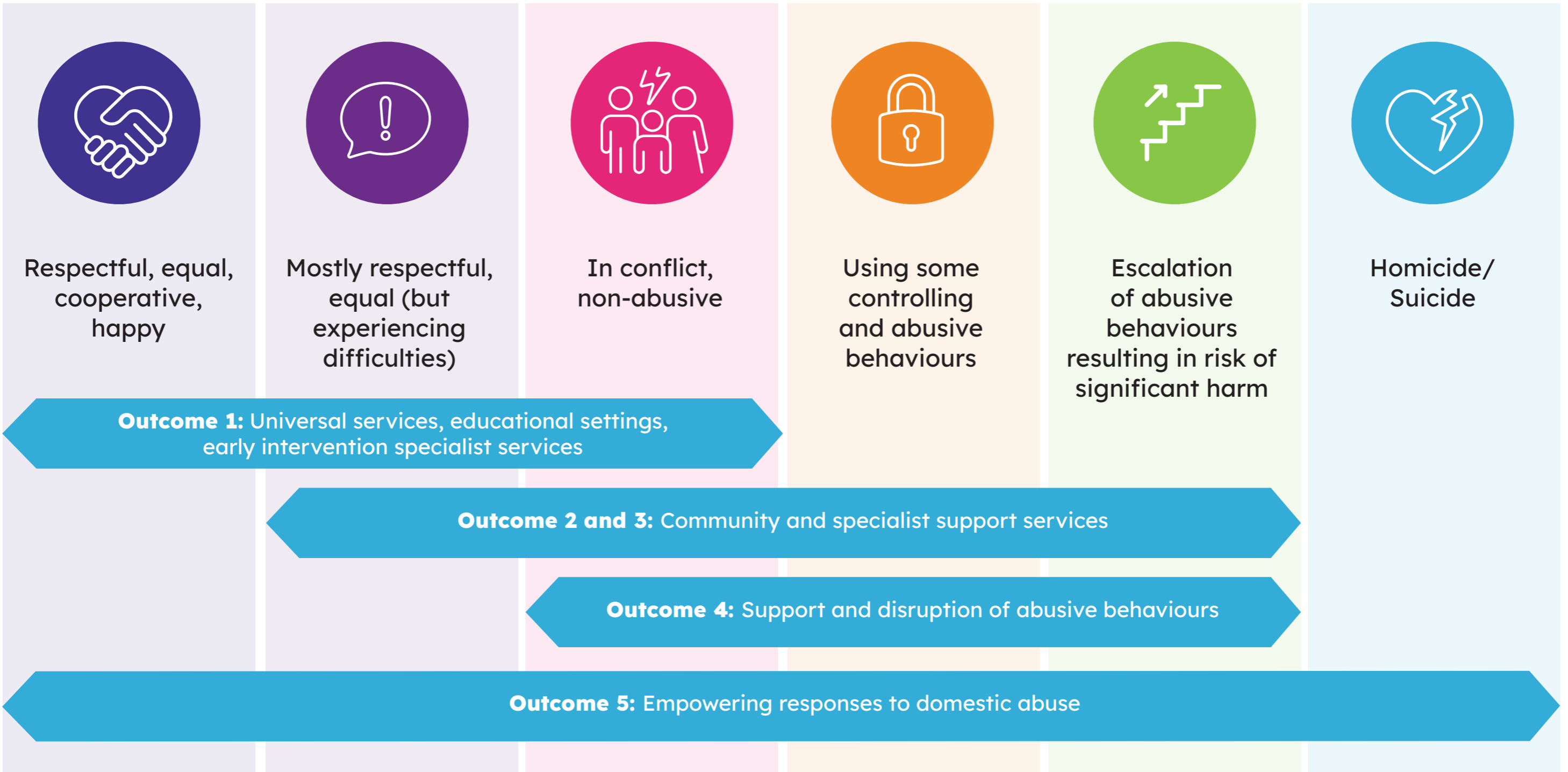


Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse



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

Our outcomes aim to address the needs of our local communities and those in need of support





OUTCOME 1

Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships

Our Key Achievements – Outcome 1



Young People Ambassadors are embedded within our services



Healthy relationships

Young people designed and developed a [healthy relationship video and tool kit](#).



Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships

Healthy relationships curriculum in schools.

We continue to promote a consistent approach to delivering support to children and young people to support understanding healthy relationships.



Reducing parental conflict

Support parents to manage stresses/ disagreements.

Understand patterns of behaviour.

Have tools and techniques that improve their parenting skills.

Model positive conflict resolution to their children.



Specialist targeted DA support

We commissioned services to support children and young people.

Children and young people can recognise and form healthy relationships



Goodman & Sisters in Strength Mark Hall Academy:

The content of the project far exceeded the expectations for the students, and I think that it has been interesting to see the debate that the students have been involved in and how they are happy to disagree and agree with each other.

Young people's feedback:

I enjoyed speaking about life problems, it was nice to speak.

The part I liked best was talking about my emotions, because it helped me deal with stuff in my personal life.

It helped me out with day-to-day life.



Risk-Avert programme

The Risk-Avert programme successfully identified students that we expected to be 'risk taker's'.

Risk Avert is an outstanding resource. It's easy to use and I think it should form part of every school's PSHE curriculum.

Co-ordinator of PSHE at The Stanway School

It's completely changed my mind set, helped me through situations when dealing with friends and family and given me different options.

Year 8 student



Outcome 1 Lead



Clare Burrell - Head of Strategic Commissioning and Policy, (Children & Families) Essex County Council

Our early intervention and prevention work is critical to ensuring we raise awareness about healthy relationships so that young people and adults are empowered to build connections rooted in respect and understanding, fostering positive emotional well-being and reducing the prevalence of abuse.



OUTCOME 2

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

Our Key Achievements – Outcome 2



We engaged with a range of stakeholders, including people with lived experience of domestic abuse, to help us design a new commissioning model for domestic abuse services.



MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) Partners have worked together to safeguard **2,159** high-risk victims of domestic abuse this year, with every case heard within the 14-day protocol.



Our partners have increased awareness and promoted the availability of local domestic abuse services, particularly amongst communities that may be less likely to engage by traditional means, by attending events such as Essex Pride and the Essex Rural Crime Forum.



SETDAB partners have secured almost **£1m** of additional annual government grants to increase the services available to support victims of domestic abuse.



Compass, answered **10,626** calls during the year, 44% more than last year.

They also received **5,181** on-line referrals, 242% more than last year.

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



I think there is value in having a third-party lead lived experience work - as it gives objectivity and helps feedback not be clouded by conflicts of interest.

Lived Experience Workshop Participant



I really just wanted to say before you go that you have blown me out of the water on this call. When I rung you I really wasn't sure I was even going to give you my name but I feel like you've been the first person to really listen, I honestly feel so much better having done this and that's because you made me feel comfortable and heard.

Compass Feedback



MARAC continues to play a pivotal role in the safeguarding of vulnerable victims. MARAC on several cases over the last few months has held various partners accountable for their safeguarding actions and because of this victims have been able to move to a place of safety.

MARAC Partner Feedback

Outcome 2 Lead



Greg Myddelton - Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

SETDAB is committed to protecting victims and survivors of abuse, helping them feel safe, and be empowered to live a life free from domestic abuse. Working with our specialist providers, commissioners are focused on delivering positive outcomes that recognise the needs, and strengths of victims and survivors, and provide support that is timely, accessible, and appropriate. We remain committed to reaching out to all victims and survivors, especially those from marginalised groups.



OUTCOME 3

Everyone can
rebuild their lives
and live free from
domestic abuse

Our Key Achievements – Outcome 3



Flexible funding in place to support the needs of people requiring safe accommodation.



An **increase** in Southend, Essex and Thurrock Housing partners working towards and gaining Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation.



Engagement of voluntary and statutory housing partners towards the **‘Whole Housing Approach’** to domestic abuse through the SETDAB Housing Steering Group.



Specialist DA housing roles increased to best support victims of domestic abuse and create a best practice network.



SETDAB Lecture **increased awareness** of housing approaches to domestic abuse and of the importance of homelessness prevention.

Everyone can rebuild their lives and live free from domestic abuse



Thank you for the amazing support your team gave me during an incredibly difficult time when I became homeless because of domestic abuse. I was in a terrible state, probably quite incoherent due to the stress of finally leaving my abuser after many years. I was terrified and lost. They listened to me, very patiently because I do remember that I was in floods of tears and was made to believe by my abuser that all organisations were “against me”, that they’d think I was mad! They seemed very experienced and were totally calm, incredibly kind and started the ball rolling to ensure my safety. I worked with many members of their team, ... all knew what had happened to me so I didn’t need to repeat everything which was brilliant because it would have been too traumatic to keep repeating it. Not only are they a strong team, but they worked really well with outside agencies, they wrote a letter for my application for legal aid, they liaised with the social work team and worked with my IDVA. I genuinely cannot praise them enough. I know it sounds over the top but I can honestly say that the team are life savers.

Service User, Epping Local Authority Housing Team Feedback



This morning’s presentations have been a real eye-opener on the current situation with housing in general not only for our clients who are dealing with domestic abuse. Very interesting and informative and our team will be able to respond to queries around housing in domestic abuse situations in a more realistic way going forward. Thank you to all the presenters and to SETDAB for organising.

SETDAB Housing Lecture Feedback

Outcome 3 Lead



Paul Gayler - Strategic Housing Services Manager, Chelmsford City Council

Working towards a Whole Housing Approach to domestic abuse is crucial to ensure there are a range of housing options to help people experiencing domestic abuse to either maintain or access safe and stable housing. This approach must cover all housing tenures including private renters and homeowners, closely linked to other aspects such as support and guidance that is relevant to each individual case. This is critical to a victims/survivor's safety but is extremely challenging within the current housing crisis. SETDAB brings housing partners together to help with these challenges in pooling expertise, support and to drive innovation.

OUTCOME 4

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



Our Key Achievements – Outcome 4



Secured **additional Home Office funding** for existing and new perpetrator projects.



Commissioned a **formal evaluation** of all our existing and new perpetrator projects.



Essex Police rolled out a new **domestic abuse risk assessment tool** (DARA), helping officers identify coercive and controlling behaviour.



The Change Project **delivered bespoke training** to 33 practitioners within the Essex Drug & Alcohol Treatment Partnership to support staff working with domestic abuse perpetrators subject to drug testing on arrest.



The Essex Stalking Intervention Panel has developed links with the SET MARACs and The Change Project's Specialist Intervention Service to **effectively manage stalking perpetrators**.

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



The service is brilliant, it betters people's lives by showing them the right way to behave in relationships.

Service User, The Change Hub



I would like to thank (DVAP) for the work they have done with me, I'm not sure where my relationship would be now if it wasn't for The Change Hub intervention and taking part in the programme has given me the opportunity to continue my relationship with (partner) and the children and I'm very thankful for that.

Service User, The Change Hub



I realise I have to think before taking action or speaking, take a step back and use what I've learned here. I will communicate more and be honest about my feelings and get help if needed.

Service User, The Change Hub

Outcome 4 Leads



Ben Hughes - Head of Wellbeing & Public Health (Marginalised Communities), Essex County Council

Tackling the issues relating to possible future and current perpetrators of domestic abuse is key to an overall approach designed to reduce incidents and protect victims by changing and challenging ill-informed and dangerous attitudes and behaviours, preventing first time incidents and reducing the risk of harm to victims. Without a focus on perpetrators, we will only ever be dealing with the sad consequences of these behaviours.



Matt Cornish - Detective Superintendent & Domestic Abuse Thematic Lead, Essex Police

At Essex Police, we are committed to securing justice for victims, but we know that 64% of them do not support a prosecution. That means we must find other ways to help them, like directing their abusers to behaviour change programmes, or by enforcing rules on abusers, like Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Notices. Of course, domestic abuse doesn't exist in a vacuum. We know that issues with finances, housing, and substance abuse can contribute to abusive behaviours. By working closely with our partners in victim-focused services, and other partner agencies as part of this SETDAB workstream, we can look at the bigger picture and prevent present, and future, family members or partners from becoming victims of 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 Key Achievements – Outcome 5



We have an average of 4500 visitors to our website per month, (95% being new visitors).

We continue to add information and resources to our SET DA Website, so we can support and raise awareness of all forms of domestic abuse along with improving learning.



With 964 subscribers the SET DA newsletter provides subscribers with timely updates on domestic abuse insights, news and events, latest research, legal updates, and intervention strategies.



Alpha Vesta CIC provide a suite of online public awareness and training sessions which support attendees to build their confidence and skills in recognising the signs of domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity. They have supported 31 private and public sector employers with a range of awareness sessions, policy development, guidance and resources.



The business community provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness of domestic abuse. DAAWN is leveraging IT technology to engage businesses through their HR/wellbeing portal, employees receive training at their induction, updates, and reminders. 75 Essex businesses have implemented the portal, supporting over 6000 employees.



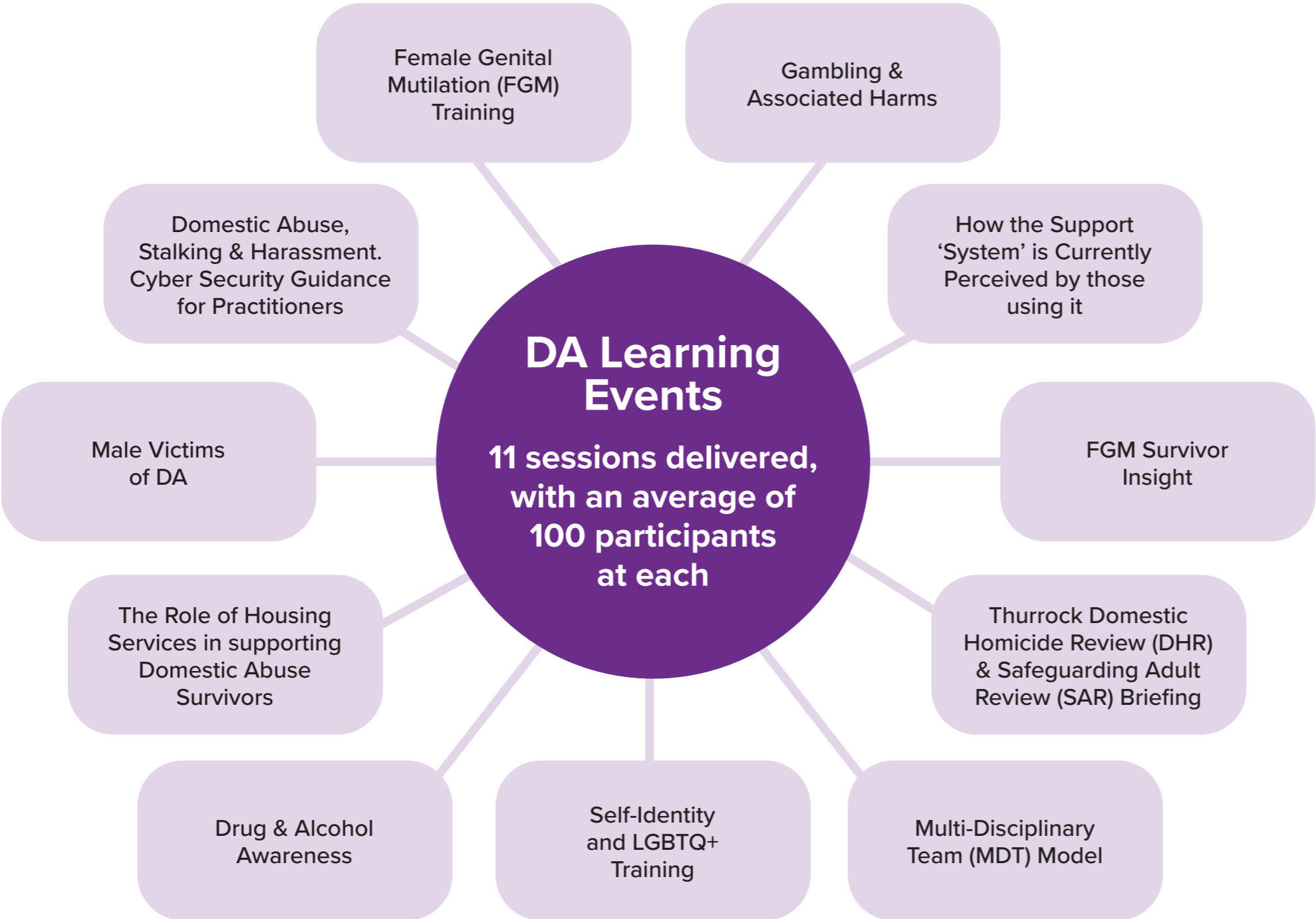
We are supporting practitioners to improve their response to Domestic Abuse by providing five e-learning packages focused on key areas for attention including, LGBTQ+, substance misuse and older people. Over 5000 people have completed our e-learning courses.



The Hidden Harms Animation was launched which focuses on recognising domestic abuse affecting older people. The aim of this short animation is to support practitioners and families to start a conversation with an older adult.

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

Helping to enhance professionals response to domestic abuse with focused learning on key topics.



“

Thank you so much, I have attended training on FGM before but not to this informative extent.

Attendee, FGM Training

A very interesting and insightful presentation. I have really increased my knowledge around male domestic abuse.

Attendee, Male Victims of Domestic Abuse (DA)

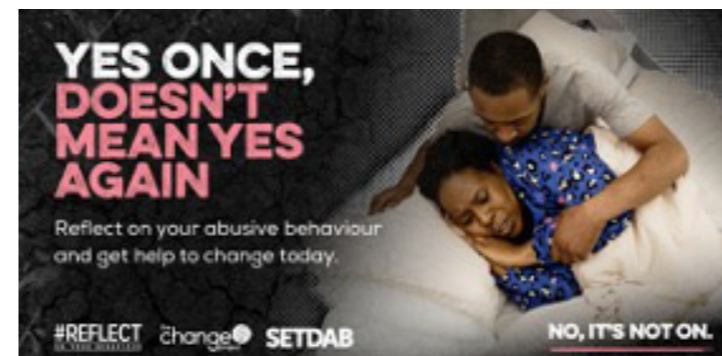
All attendees at all sessions said this learning would have a positive impact on their working practice.

We know that raising awareness about domestic abuse is crucial. It's not limited to physical violence but encompasses various forms, including cyber abuse, economic abuse, and coercive control. Our media channels play a crucial role in raising awareness and signposting people to help.

Our #REFLECT Campaign, launched August 2022, urges perpetrators to recognise harmful behaviours and seek help from The Change Project.

November 2023 saw a new phase of the campaign focused on consent. Consent underpins all forms of sexual violence and sexual abuse, more often sexual violence is perpetrated by someone the victim knows.

This new phase educates and informs about the importance of consent through various scenarios, animations and visuals which include the key message 'NO, IT'S NOT ON'. Visuals were shared across social media, displayed on beer mats, posters in the toilets of pubs and on digital screens throughout shopping areas. During the 2023 Christmas period digital vans displaying the key messages travelled across the county, stopping at many high street locations and travel hubs.



'NO, IT'S NOT ON'

23 social media posts reaching 62,000 feeds.



3,500 campaign clicks to further information



159,906 full video views (animations on YouTube)



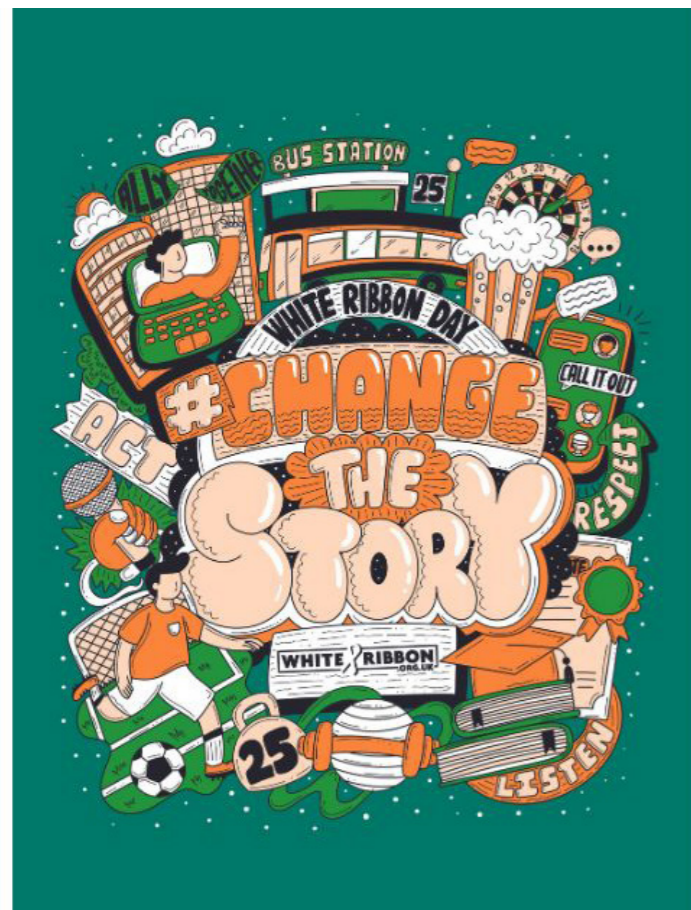
16 Days of Activism and White Ribbon Day, 2023

During November the United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence takes place.

This annual campaign is used as an integral platform by individuals and organisations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

White Ribbon Day also falls at this time and is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls.

During this period, we collaborate with partners to synchronise our communication efforts across Essex, Southend, and Thurrock for greater impact.



#NoExcuse: Act to End Violence against Women and Girls
#16Days

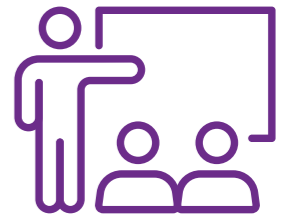
Partnership and multi-agency total impact across Essex during the 16 Days of Activism and White Ribbon Day 2023

771,364
social media impressions



42,039
social media engagement

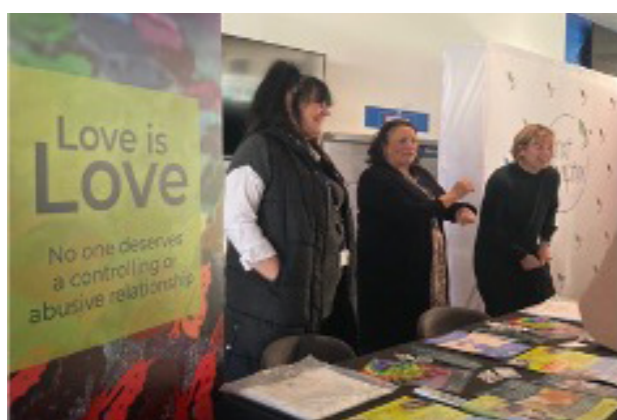
13 in-person events with
325 recorded contacts



Calls and referrals to Compass, Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline
increased by 11.5%
in November 2023

SETDAB Conference 2023

Diverse Experiences of Domestic Abuse



At the end of the conference **99%** of attendees confirmed that they had good or excellent knowledge and understanding of the different experiences of those affected by domestic abuse.

In November, we brought together over 200 people at our annual SETDAB conference, all working to tackle domestic abuse across Essex. This provided the opportunity to increase our response to domestic abuse along with driving change through partnership working. There were attendees from agencies such as substance misuse, probation, police, housing, children and adults social care and health.

Ruth Tansey shared her courageous journey from being a domestic abuse victim to becoming a survivor. Carole Gould, mother of Ellie Gould who was coercively controlled and murdered by her ex-boyfriend shared her story which underscored the vital importance of raising awareness about healthy relationships among younger people.

The Essex Youth Service shared work they have been doing with young people from Goodman and Sisters in Strength, to help encourage healthy relationships.

Addressing high levels of domestic homicide in older demographics, Rebecca Zerk from Aberystwyth University and Professor Sarah Wydall from Swansea University shared their research undertaken with Dewis Choice which captures the voice of older people, focusing on their wants and needs regarding domestic abuse services.

“
Domestic abuse is about everybody. We need to continue listening to victim-survivors and working together to get stronger together.
Assistant Chief Constable Andy Mariner
- vice chair of SETDAB

“
Really enjoyed the day and the guest speakers. Always gives you pause for thought, even though we have been doing this job for decades. Look forward to next years.
The conference was by far the best I have been to for years, really informative and well balanced with lived experience.

Domestic Homicide Review's (DHRs) learning the lessons



Centralised process on behalf of Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) since 2017/18 including creating and maintaining a pool of DHR chairs.



Seven new DHR's have been commissioned for 2023/24 with a number of other reviews completing.



SETDAB create individual DHR briefings, carry out thematic reviews and hold learning events to identify and cascade learning. The learning identified is used to inform the work of SETDAB.



SETDAB were selected to be part of a Local Oversight Pilot with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office focused on the implementation of recommendations, actions and sharing of learning on completed DHRs.



DHR landing page on SETDAB website with resources and published reviews SETDAB DHR's.

Outcome 5 Leads



Tracy Harris - Head of Communities, Southend on Sea City Council

Good communications are paramount to preventing, recognising and enabling people to get support for domestic abuse. By working in partnership across Southend, Essex and Thurrock we can coordinate messaging making our campaigns more powerful.



Ian Tompkins - Programme Director for Levelling Up & Partnership, Hertfordshire & West Essex Integrated Care Board

The importance and value of effective communication in relation to domestic abuse cannot be overstated – not just in helping victims get the support they need, but in preventing it in the first place by working successfully with the perpetrators. This group is making a significant contribution towards this, and we thank the SETDAB board for its continuing support.

Our Priorities for the Coming Year

Priority
1

Support our partners to deliver a new joint commissioning model for domestic abuse services across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.

Priority
2

Engage with our partners to help develop our next domestic abuse strategy.

Priority
3

Continue to deliver high quality learning events.

Priority
4

Release domestic abuse communications and campaign activities across the year to continue to raise awareness of domestic abuse and pathways into services.

Priority
5

Work with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner to consider learning from the domestic homicide review oversight pilot.

Priority
6

Publish the domestic abuse perpetrator projects research we have commissioned to enhance knowledge about approaches that work.

Glossary

CIC – Community Interest Company

CSC – Children’s Social Care

CSP – Community Safety Partnerships

DA – Domestic Abuse

DAHA – Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

DAPST – Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams

DARA – Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment

DAAWN – Domestic Abuse Awareness in the Workplace Now

DHR – Domestic Homicide Review

DVAP – Domestic Violence Awareness Practitioner

ESIP – Essex Stalking Intervention Panel

FGM – Female Genital Mutilation

HR – Human Resources

ICB – Integrated Care Board

IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

ISVA – Independent Sexual Abuse Advisor

LA – Local Authority

LGBTQ+ – Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning

MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MDT – Multi-Disciplinary Team

NHS – National Health System

PFCC – Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

SET – Southend, Essex, and Thurrock

SETDAB – Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board


Not sure where to go if you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse?

COMPASS

Call COMPASS for confidential help, support and advice


Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline
0330 333 7 444

 Supporting all of Essex

 Working with local services to get you the right support

 Self-referral

 Professional referrals

 Support provided for anyone over the age of 16 in Essex



Call us
0330 333 7 444*
*In an emergency dial 999

Refer online at
www.essexcompass.org.uk

In partnership with:



Ending Violence in Essex

Funded by:



Essex County Council



POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

Delivered by:



For a brighter future, free from abuse.

COMPASS is a single point of access to support victims of domestic abuse across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline:
0330 333 7 444

Helpline available from
8am to 8pm weekdays
and 8am to 1pm weekends.