



STRATEGY

2025 - 2030

Our Vision

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

www.setdab.org



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*Throughout our Strategy the terms victim, survivor and perpetrator are used. Language is important and we recognise that some people may prefer different terms.

Foreword – from our Chair



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

Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. As a partnership we remain committed to tackling domestic abuse and delivering a coordinated community response.

This Strategy marks a significant step forward, reflecting the partnership landscape shaped by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This places duties on local partners, particularly around the provision of safe accommodation, recognising children as victims in their own right, and strengthening multi-agency working. We are proud to be responding proactively to these responsibilities.

In April 2025, we launched a new domestic abuse commissioned services model across Southend, Essex and Thurrock, developed through the Pan Essex Domestic Abuse Commissioning Collaborative (PEDACC). This model aligns with the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, which introduced a statutory duty to collaborate when commissioning services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence. PEDACC is a testament to what can be achieved when organisations work together with purpose and shared values.

We have enhanced how people access support. Compass now serves as the central point of contact for all domestic abuse related enquiries (victim, perpetrator, public, family/friend and professional) ensuring a clear, consistent, and accessible pathway to help.

As we look ahead to potential changes through devolution and local government reform, we are confident that our strong partnership will provide continuity and resilience in our work.

Prevention remains at the heart of our approach. We are committed to ensuring that people get the help they need, when they need it. Crucially, this Strategy has been shaped by the voices of survivors. Their lived experience, courage, and insight have informed our priorities and Strategy. Co-production and survivor involvement are not just principles, they are embedded in our Strategy.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of all of our partners. Together, we are building a future where everyone in Southend, Essex and Thurrock can live free from all forms of domestic abuse.

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

Introduction

What is domestic abuse – the impact of domestic abuse on individuals, families and societies

Domestic abuse is defined by the Domestic Abuse Act (HM Government, 2021).

Behaviour of a person towards another person is “domestic abuse” if: They are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following:

- **physical or sexual abuse;**
- **violent or threatening behaviour;**
- **controlling or coercive behaviour;**
- **economic abuse;**
- **psychological, emotional or other abuse;**

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

The Domestic Abuse Act also defines that children (under the age of 18 years) are victims of domestic abuse when:

They see or hear, or experience the effects of, the abuse, and are related to the parties described above.

Domestic abuse can result in a wide range of significant impacts on the health of an individual ranging from physical to mental health concerns. Prolonged exposure to abuse can lead to significant long-term health problems or death.

Domestic abuse can have a widespread and significant impact on mental health and can lead to conditions such as anxiety, depression, suicidal behaviour, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Victims and survivors with mental ill health are also more likely to have other complex needs, so we must see the whole picture for every victim, survivor and family so that everyone can be free to live the lives they want to live (Safe Lives, 2019).

Research has indicated that women who had experienced physical or sexual violence were nearly four times more likely to attempt suicide than non-victimised counterparts in the general population (Devries et al, 2011).

The number of reported suspected victim suicides following domestic abuse has overtaken intimate partner homicides, which is likely due to increased awareness and improvements in recording information by police forces (NPCC, 2024).

Research has shown that those dying by domestic abuse related suicides include female and male victims, perpetrators and those recorded or labelled often as both victim and perpetrator which can mean a victim is not identified or given an appropriate response.

Victims of abuse are also more likely to develop a dependency to or misuse alcohol and/or drugs and domestic abuse has been strongly associated with sleep and eating disorders, suicidal behaviour and exacerbation of psychotic symptoms (Gadd et al, 2019). Individuals with mental health problems may also be more vulnerable to domestic abuse. Research has found that domestic abuse not only significantly reduces self-assessed health level and life satisfaction and increases the subjective mental health risk, it also significantly reduces educational achievements (L.Bo & P.Yating, 2023).

Over recent years many of our partner agencies have reported that they are dealing with more complex cases than ever before. Some researchers believe that “complex needs” better reflects the nature of the barriers victims/survivors were experiencing and was certainly preferable to the stigmatising language

of “toxic trio” which related to domestic abuse, mental health issues and substance misuse needs co-occurring.

Additionally, understanding complex needs in relation to intersectionality of issues and protected characteristics facilitates a movement away from a medicalised model of recovery and enables survivors’ agency. Complex needs encapsulate and emphasise the responsibility on commissioners, service providers and multi-agency partnerships to recognise how their services might facilitate a person centred approach to address any wider barriers to essential services (L. Harris, 2016).

Domestic abuse can include:

Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

HBA is a ‘collection of practices which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such abuse can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code’.

Coercive and Controlling Behaviour

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten another person.

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Familial Abuse

Refers to any form of abuse that occurs within a family relationship, perpetrated by a parent, sibling, or other relative (this includes child/adolescent abuse to parents).

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

IPV refers to ‘any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship’.

Harassment

Harassment can be defined as ‘repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a victim in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person’.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is a broad term which includes, but is not limited to, rape (within relationships or by strangers/acquaintances), unwanted sexual advances/harassment, systematic rape, sexual slavery, other forms of violence common in armed conflicts such as forced impregnation, sexual abuse of those with mental or physical disabilities, rape and sexual abuse of children, forced co-habitation, marriage and wife inheritance.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is a term for a range of procedures which involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

Forced Marriage

Where ‘one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so’.

Stalking

A pattern of fixated, obsessive, unwanted and repeated behaviour which is intrusive and causes fear of violence or serious alarm or distress.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The prevention of domestic abuse and the protection of all victims lies at the heart of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The measures in the Act seek to:

- protect and support victims;
- transform the justice process (for victims and perpetrators);
- improve performance in the response to domestic abuse;
- promote awareness of domestic abuse.

The Act also includes new duties on tier 1 local authorities in England relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing within relevant safe accommodation. 'Safe Accommodation' is defined in the Act.

Within our area this means that Southend-on-Sea City Council, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council must discharge these duties which includes conducting their own individual needs assessments to inform their own domestic abuse strategies; these strategies can be found on the SETDAB website.



Domestic Abuse Facts and Figures

National Picture

Domestic abuse is prevalent across all areas of the UK, and across all sections of our society. There is rarely just one victim of domestic abuse, it affects whole families and whole communities. We also know that the most vulnerable in society often find it hardest to access support.

Official statistics show the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the authorities every year. But the problem is much bigger than shown in official statistics, as many victims and children do not tell anyone about the abuse, therefore these crimes are not recorded.

Key statistics about domestic abuse in England and Wales (Safe Lives, 2023):

2.1 million people aged 16 and over in England and Wales experience some form of domestic abuse.

1.4 million female (5.7% of women) victims, and

751,000 male victims (3.2% of men)

1.5 million domestic abuse related incidents and crimes were recorded by police in England and Wales, in the year ending March 2023.

8 women a month are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales.

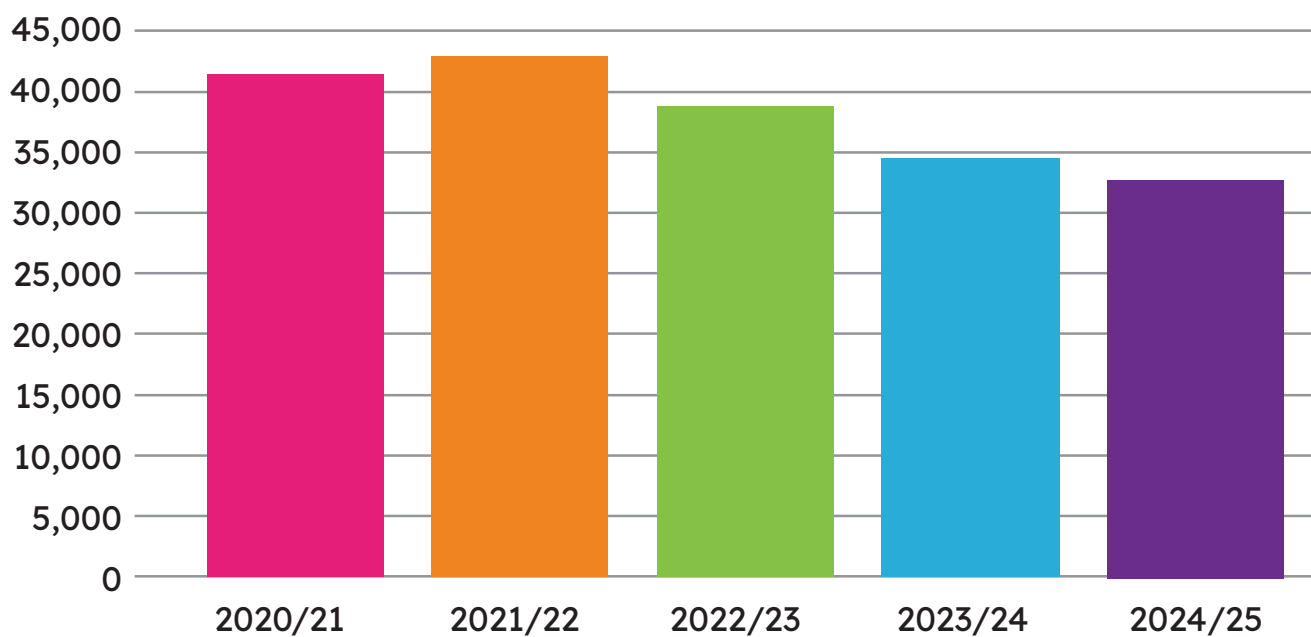
Over 105,000 children live in homes where there is high-risk domestic abuse.

Our Area

Essex is a large police force area in the East of England made up of the county of Essex and the unitary authorities of Southend and Thurrock. The force area has a population of 1.9 million and is one of the largest non-metropolitan forces in the UK.

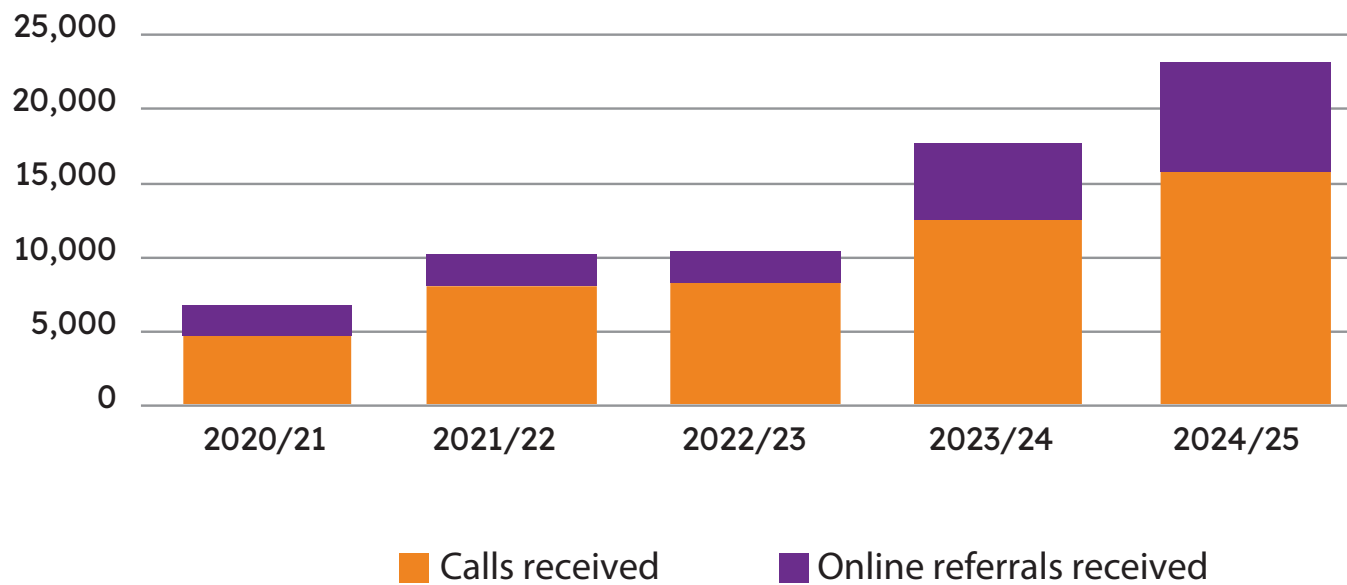
Research undertaken on behalf of SETDAB (Tonic, 2023) estimated there were 47,762 female victims and 19,875 male victims in SET, with just under 1 in 3 victims reporting this to the police; indicating the majority do not report being a victim of domestic abuse.

Nos. of Essex Police DA Investigations



Compass was established in 2019 as the front door into support services for victims of domestic abuse in Essex. Whilst the police data shows a reduction of reporting to them, our Compass data shows a year-on-year increase in people contacting them. From April 2025 onwards, Compass became our central point of contact for all DA related enquiries (victim, perpetrator, public, family/friend and professional).

Nos. of Compass Contacts 2020-2025

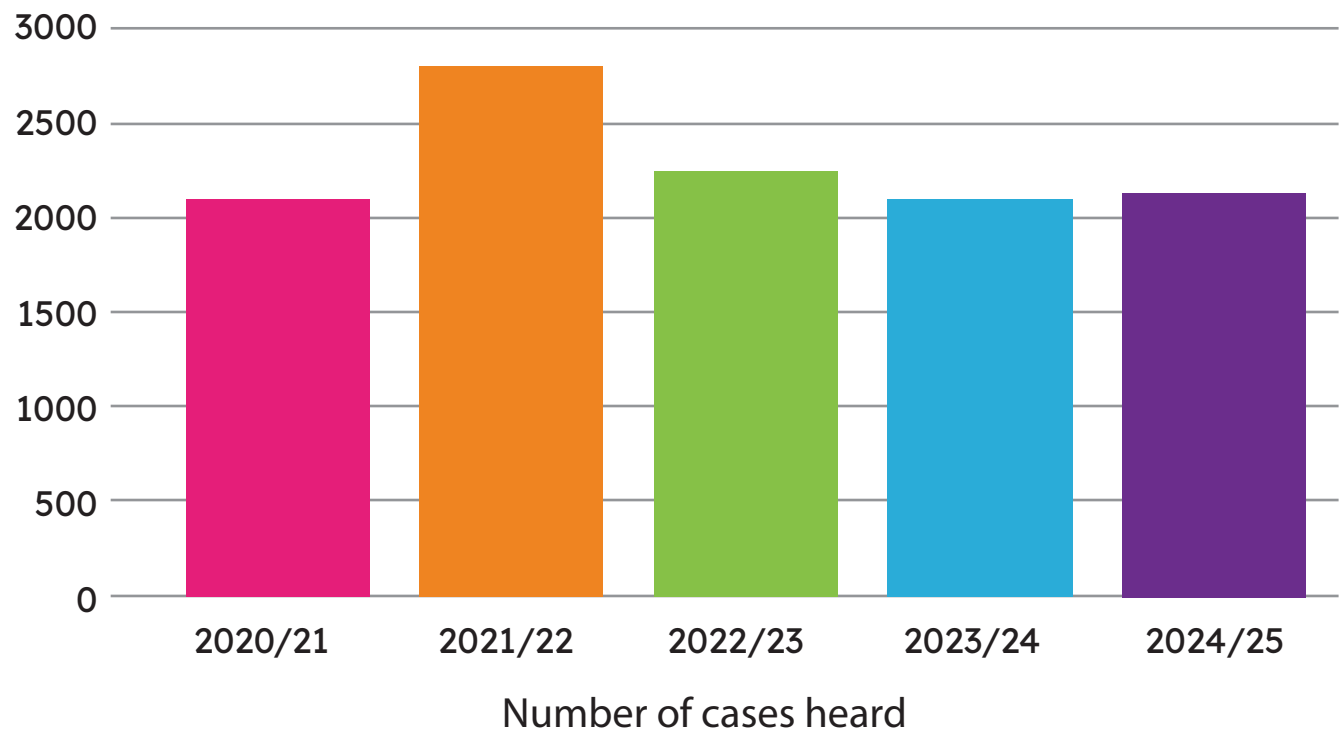


Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A MARAC is a multi-agency meeting which domestic abuse victims who have been identified as at high-risk of serious harm or homicide are referred to for agencies to work together to identify safeguarding opportunities.

MARACs are in operation across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.

Nos. of Cases at SET MARACs

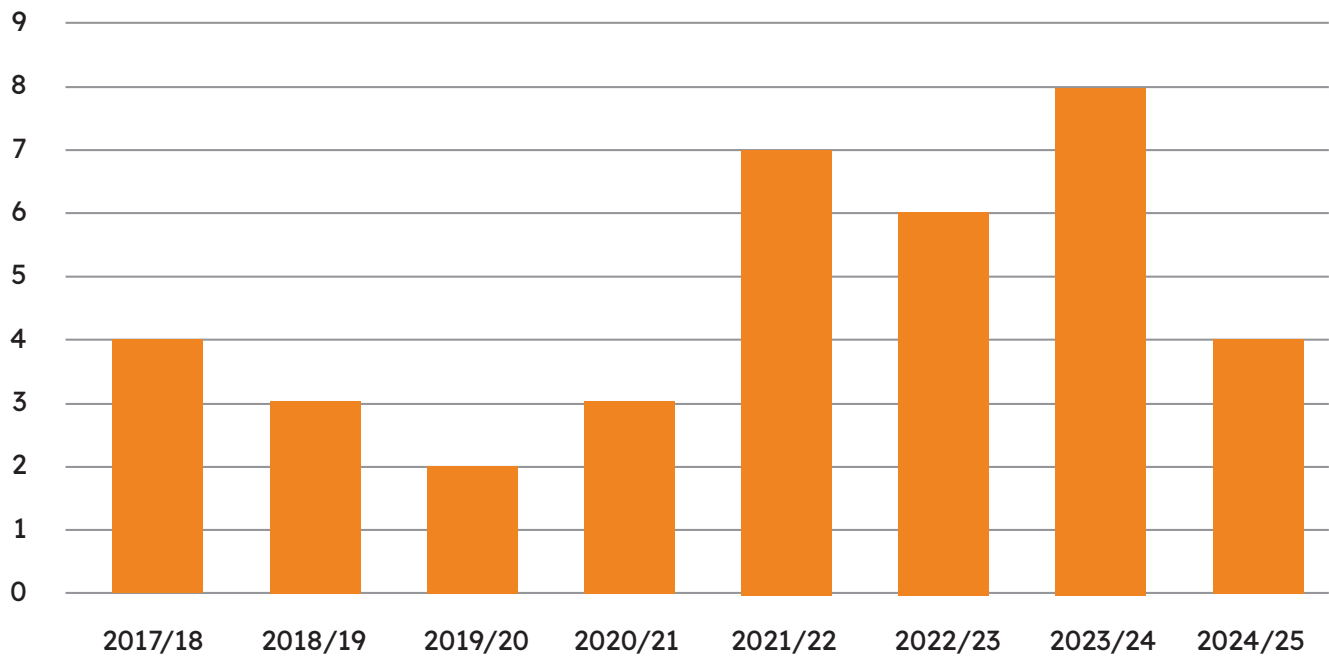


Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR)

A DARDR (previously referred to as a Domestic Homicide Review) is a review into the circumstances around a death of someone following domestic abuse. This can include some suspected victim suicides. The purpose is to establish what can be learned from the death regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims.

Since 2017, DARDRs have been managed by SETDAB on behalf of our local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Recommendations from completed reviews are fed into an action plan tracker. The action plan is owned by the CSP with support/oversight from the SET DA Team.

Number of DHR/DARDRs Commissioned in SET



Recent themes from these reviews have included:

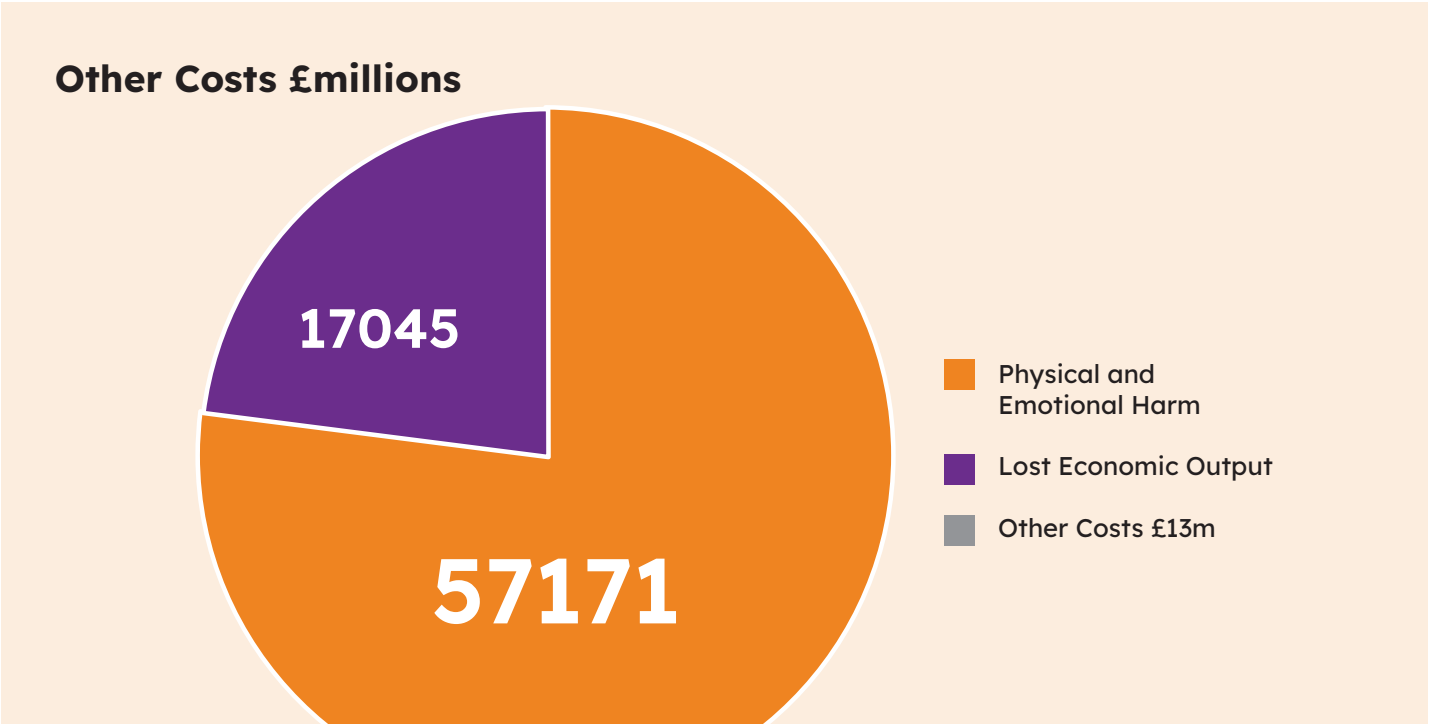
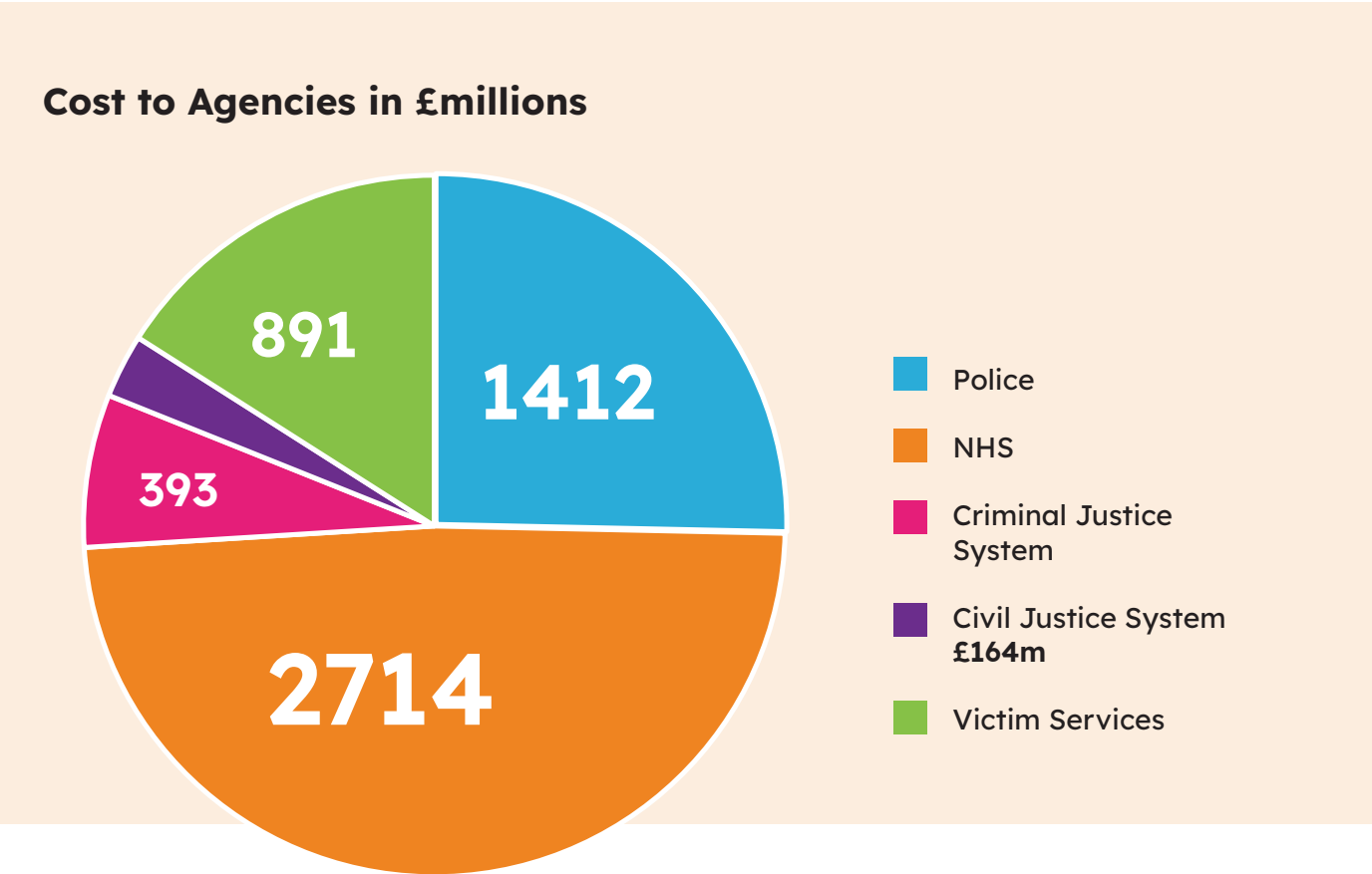
- The need for greater understanding of the dynamics and complexities of domestic abuse and coercive control.
- Better understanding of how intersectionality impacts on domestic abuse.
- Carer dynamics, dementia and identification of domestic abuse.
- Identification, assessment and management of risk.
- Importance of multi-agency working and information sharing.
- Consideration of the whole family when responding to domestic abuse.
- Importance of being trauma informed, flexible and person centred when engaging with those who have multiple complex needs.
- Importance of professional curiosity and routine enquiry on domestic abuse.
- Importance of better connecting the risks of suicide, self-harm, and suicidal ideation in domestic abuse cases.

The learning from these reviews directly informs the development of our SETDAB Strategy, workstreams and training/events.

The Economic and Social Cost of Domestic Abuse

The Government issued a report (Home Office, 2019) which estimated the social and economic cost for victims of domestic abuse in the year ending March 2017 in England and Wales to be approximately **£66 billion**.

Women’s Aid have carried out a more recent analysis of the earlier research (Women’s Aid, 2023) to continue to provide compelling evidence that investing in domestic abuse services is not only a moral obligation, but also a cost-effective solution. They have estimated the cost of domestic abuse in England to now be approximately **£78 billion**.



Using the same adjustment as that used in the Women’s Aid report we have revised our own previous estimate (SETDAB, 2020) of the cost of domestic abuse to the Criminal Justice System, NHS Trusts, Childrens Services and Housing Services in Southend, Essex and Thurrock to be approximately **£496,412,828**.

The Women’s Aid analysis found that for **every £1 invested** in domestic abuse services there would be a saving to the public purse of at least £9.

SETDAB our partnership structure

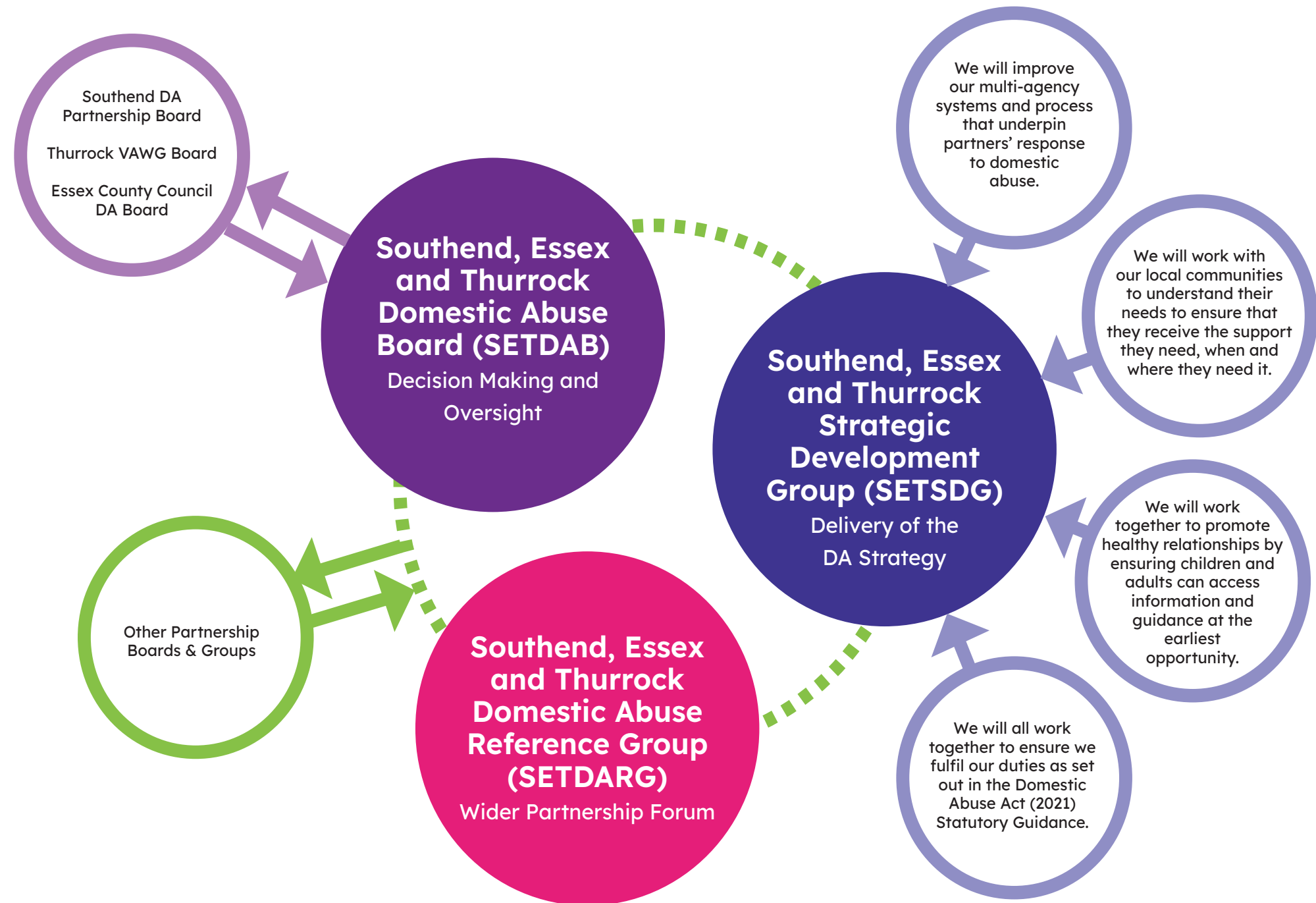
Our vision

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

Who is SETDAB?

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 our vision.

SETDAB provides strategic leadership to address domestic abuse by providing a multi-agency framework, common ethos and coordinated approach to innovate, drive change and address domestic abuse across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.



A range of SETDAB working groups are in place to support the delivery of our commitments.

Our approach to achieving our vision



Continuum of domestic abuse (adapted from Parental Relationships Spectrum, developed by Stefanou Foundation from the model by Dr Mark Farrall, Ignition Creative Learning Limited)

What work does SETDAB do that is most valued

As part of our consultation process we asked our partners what elements of work that they felt were the key successes of our partnership and themed their responses.



Key Findings from Southend, Essex and Thurrock DA Needs Assessments

We reviewed the needs assessments from Southend-on-Sea City Council, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council. Additionally we utilised the findings from our SETDAB Tonic Research Report (2023) to identify the common themes in all of these needs assessments.

Common Themes

There were a number of themes that came through in all of the needs assessments, these included:

- Need to address needs of underrepresented cohorts: men, older people, LGBTQ+.
- Increased complexity of cases: mental health, drug and alcohol dependency.
- Need to improve response to domestic abuse around prevention and early intervention, particularly in regard to children and young people.
- People affected by DA want a coordinated response, rather than having to talk to multiple different agencies.
- Whole community and workforce needs to improve their understanding of DA and how to support someone experiencing DA.

The insights gained from our SET needs assessments have informed the work that will be carried out by our partners to achieve our shared vision in this strategy.

Lived Experience

What is lived experience

Lived experience refers to knowledge acquired through direct, first-hand and personal experience. When the voices of those who have lived through and who have been subjected to domestic abuse are centred and listened to, services and agencies can improve their response so that all victims and survivors get the support and protection they need.

What did we do

With the support of our local Domestic Abuse Services and the Research and Citizen Insight Team from Essex County Council we approached a number of people with lived experience to help us shape our work.

Initially 30 people expressed interest in being involved and just over half voiced their experiences via a range of engagement exercises that included options such as:

- Online survey,
- Online one to one interviews,
- Individual face to face interviews,
- Face to face group workshop.

People had a range of experiences and backgrounds, this included: male victims, female victims, people from global majorities, people with physical health needs, people with mental health needs, people with substance misuse needs and a wide range of ages were represented. The majority of people we spoke with had dependent children.

In addition to our direct consultation with people with lived experience, we asked some of our partner agencies to share with us some of the lived experience feedback that they had already gathered themselves. We also used the lived experience insights from our Tonic research work.

What has gone well

People with lived experience of domestic abuse told us:

- Some professionals response to domestic abuse was positive and they worked in a flexible way to meet their needs.
- Having a safe space to go to get the help they needed at the right time (refuge accommodation) helped them.
- Domestic abuse services were quick to respond to them when reaching out for help and referred them to other specialist services such as substance misuse when needed.
- Clare’s Law Disclosures (Home Office, updated 2024) were given in a timely manner and follow up support was given.
- Schools were being supportive to children and families.
- Group work programmes provided by domestic abuse services were good.

People who have used abusive behaviours told us:

- They were worried when in first contact with agencies and thought assessments were done to judge them; however, they then understood it was to help them make (positive) changes.
- That before attending a behaviour change intervention they did not recognise behaviours that they were using were abusive.
- Having completed behaviour change work has meant they are now able to consider the impact of their behaviour on partner/children/others.

What people said should be improved

Specialist domestic abuse services

- Long term support networks should be available.
- Adults and children need access to therapy to aid long term recovery.
- More support for male victims of domestic abuse.
- Peer support networks should be developed.
- More behaviour change work opportunities for those using abusive behaviour.

Multi-agency working

- Courts understanding of domestic abuse should be improved.
- Child contact arrangements aren't always safe.
- Agencies need to talk to each other so victims don't have to keep repeating themselves.
- Housing options are limited, more help is needed with this.
- More training for professionals so that they recognise domestic abuse earlier and take appropriate action.
- Encourage multi-agency working to give victims a seamless service and to ensure consistent advice is given.

Healthy relationships

- Continue to educate parents on the impact of domestic abuse on children.
- Include domestic abuse as a topic in schools i.e. within healthy relationships.

Engagement/co-production

- Make sure you offer a range of engagement opportunities to meet people's different needs.
- Share how you have used our lived experience feedback.

Communications/campaigns

- Messaging and language used should be co-produced with people with lived experience.
- Use different methods to cascade messages e.g. social media, radio, print, locations.
- People still need to understand what domestic abuse means and the types of abusive behaviours involved.
- Targeting messaging to different groups e.g. male victims.



Our 2025 to 2030 Commitments

Our commitments will encompass the needs of all those affected by domestic abuse (adults and children, including those that experience abuse and those that use abusive behaviours).

Agencies should consider the needs of all family members, including wider family networks and communities, when working with those affected by domestic abuse.

To achieve our 4 commitments we will need:

- **To engage and embed lived experience in all we do.**
- **Co-produce all that we do with those we are seeking to make changes for.**
- **Effective communications campaigns.**
- **A confident, knowledgeable, skilled workforce.**
- **Effective evaluation and monitoring.**

Commitment

1

We will improve our multi-agency systems and process that underpin partners' response to domestic abuse.

Commitment

2

We will work with our local communities to understand their needs to ensure that they receive the support they need, when and where they need it.

Commitment

3

We will work together to promote healthy relationships by ensuring children and adults can access information and guidance at the earliest opportunity.

Commitment

4

We will all work together to ensure we fulfil our duties as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) Statutory Guidance.

All of our commitments will have delivery plans in place which will be monitored by SETDAB.

Commitment 1

We will improve our multi-agency systems and process that underpin partners' response to domestic abuse.

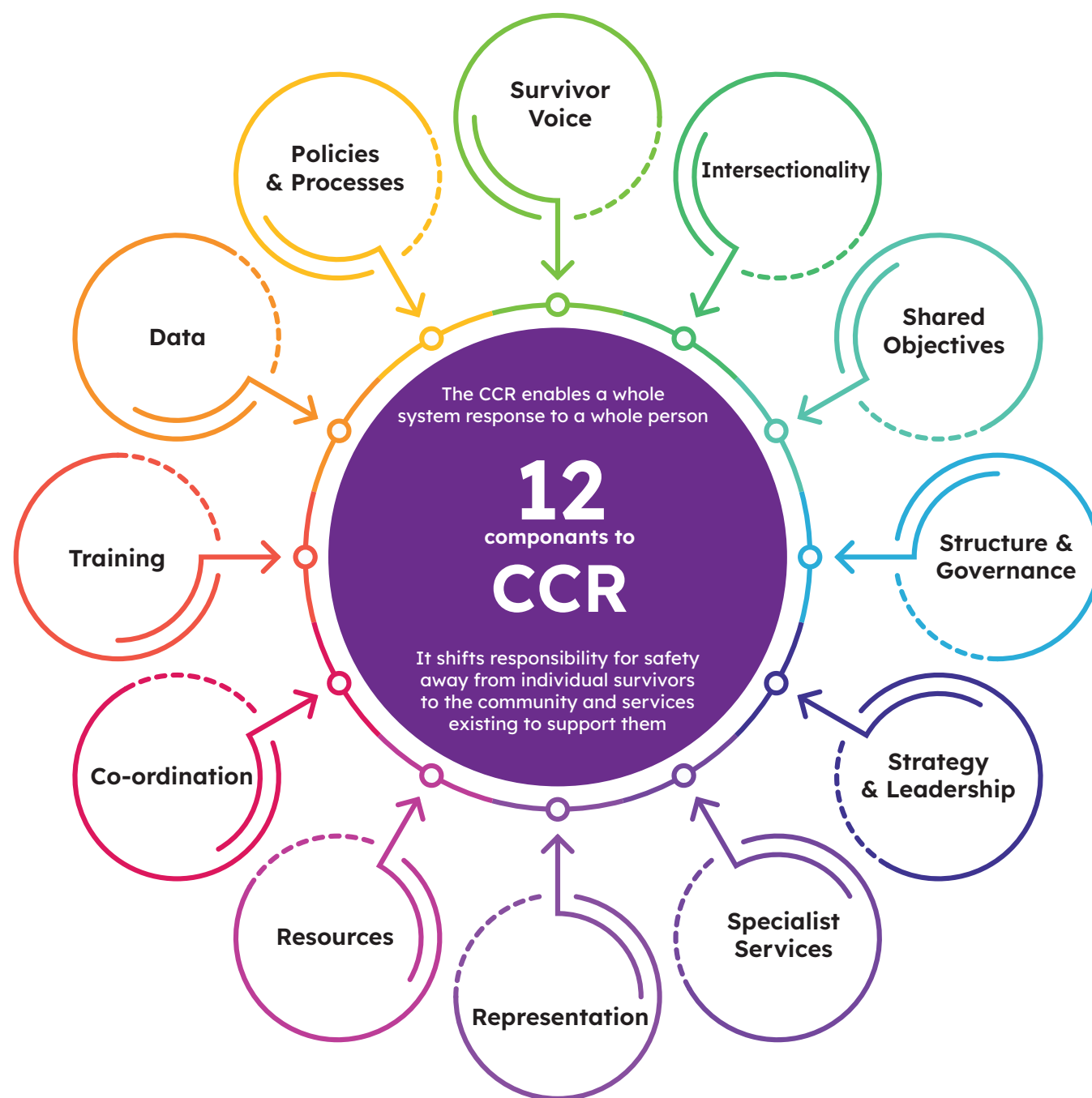
In the Government's Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan (Home Office, 2022) and the National Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Strategic Plan (Domestic Abuse Commissioner, 2023) there is a requirement for all agencies to form part of a coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic abuse.

What elements of the CCR do partners think we already do well

- Coordination
- Shared objectives
- Survivor voice
- Strategy and leadership
- Structure and governance
- Training & awareness
- Campaigns
- Service pathways
- Focus on perpetrator
- SET wide approach
- Joint commissioning
- SETDAB website
- Forward thinking & innovation

What we will do

- **Expand the reach of the SETDAB partnership** by increasing awareness of the work of SETDAB across agencies and in communities, providing networking events and opportunities.
- **Embed whole family approach to domestic abuse** with a focus on trauma informed approaches and early intervention.
- **Agencies take responsibility to support all people affected by domestic abuse**, working together to understand people's need and make services more accessible.



CCR components diagram adapted from Standing Together (Standing Together, 2020).



Commitment 2

We will work with our local communities to understand their needs to ensure that they receive the support they need, when and where they need it.

Reflecting the National Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Strategic Plan, we recognise that there are additional barriers for marginalised, minoritised and protected groups in receiving the support they need.

What we will do

- **Clear and accessible communications** to increase awareness of DA dynamics and services via targeted messaging which are consistent across the partnership.
- **Community engagement** will include embedding lived experience/ co-production opportunities to meet the needs of our communities.
- **Workforce Development** to ensure professionals access training opportunities to expand the awareness of and response to DA.

Commitment 3

We will work together to promote healthy relationships by ensuring children and adults can access information and guidance at the earliest opportunity.

In the Government's Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan it states that effective prevention will require a range of approaches. We need approaches that aim to shift our focus towards preventing domestic abuse rather than addressing it after it has occurred.

What we will do

- **Healthy relationships children and young people** – we will work with national and local commissioners to expand the delivery of resources, programmes and services across educational and other settings.
- **Healthy relationships adults** - we will work with national and local commissioners and agencies to help promote awareness of healthy relationships and access into support programmes.
- **Promote a whole community response to tackling domestic abuse** utilising positive role models to expand people's understanding of healthy relationships and dispel myths.

Commitment 4

We will all work together to ensure we fulfil our duties as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) Statutory Guidance.

All agencies have a duty to convey standards and promote best practice for agency and multi-agency responses, including to:

- Provide clear information on what domestic abuse is and how to identify it, including the behaviours that can amount to domestic abuse and the impact on adult and child victims.
 - a. Understanding DA; b. Recognising DA; c. Impact of DA; d. Different experiences, needs and related considerations.
- Provide guidance and support to frontline professionals, and other organisations, including signposting to further resources.
 - a. Identifying and responding; b. Risk Assessment; c. Responding to Children and Young People.
- Convey standards and promote best practice for agency and multi-agency response. Tackling domestic abuse requires a whole system approach.
 - a. Multi-agency working; b. MARAC; c. Multi-agency working to safeguard children; d. Principles for multi-agency working; e. Addressing the behaviour of the perpetrator.
- Learn from Domestic Homicide Reviews/Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews.

What we will do

- **Multi-agency workforce development** to include learning opportunities such as shared training, multi-agency DA champions networks, shadowing and secondment opportunities.
- **Enhance multi-agency systems to improve our domestic abuse response** with a specific focus on seeking to continually improve MARAC, improve the whole system health response to DA, embed learning from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and Multi Disciplinary Team approaches, utilising a network of diverse lived experience.

Appendix A

Summary of SET Wide Needs Assessments and Research Findings

Southend-on-Sea City Council

- Male victims were less likely than female victims to access DA services.
- There was overrepresentation of victims/survivors from minoritised ethnic communities within: homelessness, specialist domestic abuse services, and looked after children. This cohort was underrepresented in substance misuse and early help services.
- Due to the age profile of the area, there should be exploration of specific DA services for older people, along with consideration of how services can reach other underrepresented groups including men and LGBTQ+.
- The most common barriers for victims seeking support were: being scared of what the perpetrator would do if they found out; feeling too embarrassed or ashamed; fearing they would not be believed.
- Need for an education and awareness raising campaign for the whole community to improve their understanding of how to support a loved one experiencing abuse.

Essex County Council

- Demand for DA services (including accommodation, support and central point of contact) increasing.
- Increased complexity of cases: mental health, drug and alcohol dependency.
- Underrepresented cohorts: men, older people, LGBTQ+, global majority*.
- More follow up support was needed at close of case.
- Victims were still having to disclose their experiences to multiple agencies – better interagency communication needed.
- Victims cited the lack of signposting to local support services, with some making specific reference to poor signposting within medical settings.
- Travelling to access support appears to be a barrier for some victims.

(* Global Majority is a collective term which refers to people who are Black, Asian, Brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south, and or have been racialised as 'ethnic minorities' (Campbell-Stephens 2020).

Thurrock Council

- The average length of stay in safe accommodation has increased over time, with around half of victims needing support with mental health issues and many also having physical health needs.
- Essex Police referrals make a higher proportion of cases within Thurrock MARAC compared to Essex MARAC and Southend MARAC.
- There is a relatively strong association between a DA referral and local area deprivation.
- There has been a decline in numbers of child safeguarding concerns regarding domestic abuse known to Thurrock MASH. The most common age for MASH to receive referrals for children in relation to domestic abuse was the 0-5 year old age group.
- Victims' needs and circumstances change over time, meaning that services need to be flexible and adaptable to respond to these changing needs.
- Need for further investment in safe accommodation to meet the needs of specific groups such as: LGBTQ, men, travellers or individuals using drugs and/or alcohol.

SETDAB Tonic Research Report

- Not enough is generally understood about what constitutes domestic abuse and much greater public awareness is needed.
- Many stakeholders identified a gap in the response to domestic abuse around prevention and early intervention, with a call for early intervention in the form of better education for children and young people in order to prevent and reduce victimisation.
- Victims/survivors and perpetrators told us that the biggest barrier to coming forward for help was fear of the repercussions (particularly involvement of social care and police).
- The importance of first contact with professionals in supporting the identification of abuse. Health staff, including GPs and hospital staff were seen as a critical point at which abuse can be identified and the responsibility of coming forward could be 'taken out of the hands' of victims.
- The 3 groups identified most frequently by stakeholders as 'missing' from services were: men, LGBTQ+, and minoritised ethnic communities; consideration of a tailored response to meet the needs of these groups.
- Victims want a coordinated response, rather than having to talk to so many different agencies. There was a clear consensus from across all groups that joined up, partnership working was needed in order to effect a 'whole system approach' to domestic abuse.
- Many victims reported difficulties accessing specialist support for children, including limited provision, long waiting lists and affordability of private counselling.
- Need support for long term recovery.

Appendix B

Our Consultation Process

All statutory, voluntary and other agencies across SET that can work towards our shared vision are welcome to be part of our domestic abuse partnership.

During 2024/25 SETDAB held a number of workshops with our Board members to develop our key commitments as well as an online partnership consultation.

During April and May 2025 we held two further workshops with our key partnership agencies to inform the development of the key priorities and actions. We also held workshops and interviews with people who have lived experience of domestic abuse to seek their voices and involvement in shaping our priorities and action.

A final consultation ran for 6 weeks during August and September 2025. The consultation webpage was visited 240 times during that period and 278 documents were downloaded. All feedback was reviewed to inform the final Strategy.

The agencies that participated in these events included:

Alpha Vesta CIC, Basildon Borough Council, Changing Pathways, Chelmsford City Council, Colchester Borough Homes, Department for Work and Pensions, East Suffolk North Essex Foundation Trust (Colchester Hospital), Epping Forest District Council, Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, Essex County Council, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Essex Partnership University Trust, Essex Police, Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex Safeguarding Adults Board, For Baby's Sake, Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board, Inclusion Thurrock, Maldon District Council, Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board, Moat Homes, The Next Chapter, Open Road, Peabody, Phoenix Futures, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Probation Service, Safe Steps, South Essex Homes, Southend-on-Sea City Council, Southend Safeguarding Partnership, The Change Project, Thurrock Council, Uttlesford District Council.

Thank you to all the agencies and individuals that took the time to help us develop this strategy.

Glossary

C&YP	Children and Young People	LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and any other sexuality
CCR	Coordinated Community Response	MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
CJS	Criminal Justice System	MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	MDT	Multi Disciplinary Team
DA	Domestic Abuse	PSHE	Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
DARDR	Domestic Abuse Related Death Review	PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review	SET	Southend, Essex and Thurrock
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	SETDAB	Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board
FM	Forced Marriage		
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation		
GP	General Practitioner (Doctor)		
HBA	Honour Based Abuse		
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor		
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence		
IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (Support project targeted at GPs)		

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