

Appendix 4

Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and Responses

Recommendation	Response
<p>The report be checked for typographical errors, clarity and appropriate use of language including use of victim/survivor alongside strengths based approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report has been updated and checked for typos. • Clarity of purpose has been strengthened. • The term victim-survivor has been used throughout the document in line with the strength based approach, except where we have used information that has come from other sources that refers to survivors only e.g. the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
<p>Greater emphasis be placed on specific issues relating to rurality.</p>	<p>The issue of rurality has been further emphasised in section 8.6 'Rural Communities'.</p>
<p>Links to talk community be improved within the Strategy for example drawing on existing networks and the benefits of holistic support packages and improved promotion of support within communities.</p>	<p>This is an area of work that needs further development.</p> <p>The strategy now includes the following paragraph in section 8.6 'Rural Communities':</p> <p><i>Links to Talk Communities are being explored through this work in order to better understand how this network could be used to sign post and enhance the work of commissioned domestic abuse services.</i></p> <p>This area of work will be picked up in the Local Partnership Boards work plan for 2022/23.</p>
<p>Social media and remote abuse be included within the definitions of abuse</p>	<p>Definitions added to glossary of terms.</p>
<p>The Strategy should start with the assumption that the victim of abuse should be able to stay in their own home, where this is possible.</p>	<p>The following information has been added to section 4.3.</p> <p>The option for victim-survivors to stay in their own homes where it is safe and possible to do so should be explored. There is a sanctuary scheme in Herefordshire that supports this approach. A Sanctuary Scheme is a multi-agency victim/survivor centred initiative, which aims to enable households at risk of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes and reduce repeat victimisation through the provision of enhanced security measures (Sanctuary) and support¹.</p> <p>This approach is also included in section 6.2 Priority 2 – Provision:</p>

¹ [15 -wba-sanctuary-scheme.pdf \(dahalliance.org.uk\)](https://dahalliance.org.uk/-wba-sanctuary-scheme.pdf)

	<p>Ensure that housing advice, emergency and other appropriate housing solutions are available to those experiencing domestic abuse, and where appropriate support those affected by domestic abuse and their children to remain in their homes safely.</p>
<p>The collection, presentation and contextualisation of data in the report be reviewed and improved.</p>	<p>A summary has been included in a highlighted text box in section 5.</p>
<p>Work with educational settings be reviewed and strengthened.</p>	<p>The following information is included in section 3.1 Priority 1 Prevention.</p> <p>Supporting young people to recognise and understand harm of domestic abuse – The council and the Police and Crime Commissioner commission West Mercia Women’s Aid to provide information, advice, tools and support to education professionals. Training for children and family workers within the council’s Early Help team has been delivered. Operation Encompass ensures information about domestic abuse involving children is shared in a timely way with schools.</p> <p>This section is focused on progress made against the previous strategy, but operation encompass continues to ensure that schools are made aware of information about domestic abuse involving children in their care.</p> <p>Looking forward the theme of prevention and education is picked up under sections 6.1 Priority 1 Prevention, 6.2 Priority 2 – Provision and 6.3 Priority 3 - Partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an environment throughout universal services and others that supports early disclosure of domestic abuse by those affected and provides a high quality and consistent initial response. • Support young people, children and families to recognise the signs of domestic abuse and understand the harm it causes as well as the positive impact of disclosing abuse. • Ensure that front line staff (for example, staff who work in primary care, emergency department, children’s centres, schools, children’s social care, adult social care, fire service); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) have a good understanding of domestic abuse; ii) are professionally curious in their investigation of underlying causes of a person’s current circumstances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) have awareness and understanding of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and how the measures impact on their roles and responsibilities iv) see it as their role and responsibility to reduce the harm of domestic abuse; and v) understand the tools/resources available to them to do so.
<p>Approaches to rehabilitation of perpetrators be considered</p>	<p>Information about locally delivered perpetrator programmes has been included in section 3.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive Herefordshire and Worcestershire (for high risk perpetrators) mobilised in February 2021. Drive is an evidence-based and evaluated programme which has delivered encouraging results in other areas. More information about the Drive programme can be found here. • The Men & Masculinities programme is a programme that provides a safe space for people who have engaged in abusive, harmful and damaging behaviour within their relationships. The programme explores what it means to display appropriate behaviour within relationships and highlights how conflict, aggression and anger can deeply impact the lives of others. More about this programme can be found here.