



# Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2025

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**If you are experiencing Domestic Abuse,  
please contact the National Domestic  
Violence Helpline number: 0808 247 2000**

**In an emergency dial 999**

# Introduction

The profile of violence against women and girls (VAWG) has been raised following some tragic recent events such as the deaths of Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry in June 2020, Sarah Everard in March 2021, Sabina Nessa in September 2021 and Zara Aleena June 2022.

Challenging VAWG is particularly pertinent now with widely publicised concerns around women's safety.

This strategy sets out how we will address and prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) and domestic abuse (DA) in Enfield. It outlines how we will work together with our partners and VAWG specialist in contributing to obtain the best possible outcomes for victims and survivors regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sexuality, age, disability.

We have made great progress since the launch of our previous strategy. Through the new strategy we acknowledge what we have achieved and set out what we will do going forward in tackling DA and VAWG.

We will ensure to listen to residents and survivors to support best practice and will use feedback to shape future strategies and services.

The Strategy has been produced by considering the following.

**Our Vision** is for all residents in Enfield is to live a life free from DA and VAWG. The strategy sets out five objectives to support our vision:

- **Preventing and reducing VAWG and DA**
- **Support and Protection**
- **Co-ordinated community response (CCR) and Partnership working**
- **Building trust and confidence**
- **Holding perpetrators accountable**

This Strategy acknowledges and understands that DA and VAWG can affect people from all walks of life. Violence against women and girls is unacceptable and is an abuse of human rights.

Tackling violence against women and girls is a priority for the London Borough of Enfield, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and central government.

# Definitions

## Violence against women and girls

The United Nations defines Violence against Women and Girls; “as any act of gender-based violence that results or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, that is directed at a woman because she is a woman or acts of violence which are suffered disproportionately by women.”

## Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 created a statutory definition of domestic abuse:

**Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if:**

- A and B 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.

**“Personally connected”, means two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies:**

- they are, or have been, married to each other;
  - they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
  - they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
  - they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
  - they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
  - they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child;
  - they are relatives.
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## Children as victims of domestic abuse

When behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is domestic abuse and it includes a reference to a child who:

- sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and
- is related to A or B
- A child is related to a person
- the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or
- the child and the person are relatives.

“Child” means a person under the age of 18 years.

## Sexual violence, including rape

Sexual violence, including rape is sexual contact without the consent of the woman/girl. Perpetrators range from total strangers to relatives and intimate partners, but most are known in some way. It can happen anywhere – in the family/household, workplace, public spaces, social settings, during war/conflict situations.

## Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It can take place anywhere, including the workplace, schools, streets, public transport and social situations. It includes flashing, obscene and threatening calls, and online harassment.

## Prostitution and trafficking

Prostitution and trafficking is where women and girls are forced, coerced or deceived to enter into prostitution and/or kept in this situation. Trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of women and children for the purposes of prostitution and domestic servitude across international borders and within countries (‘internal trafficking’).

## Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves the complete or partial removal or alteration of external genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is mostly carried out on young girls at some time between infancy and the age of 15. Unlike male circumcision, which is legal in many countries, it is now illegal across much of the globe, and its extensive harmful health consequences are widely recognised.

## Revenge porn

Revenge porn is the sharing of private, sexual materials, either photos or videos, of another person without their consent and with the purpose of causing embarrassment or distress. Sharing of these materials is usually carried out online.

## Faith-based abuse

Faith-based abuse is linked to faith or belief. This includes a belief in concepts of witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray.

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## Stalking

Stalking is repeated (i.e. on at least two occasions) harassment causing fear, alarm or distress. It can include threatening phone calls, texts or letters; damaging property; spying on and following the victim.

## Sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where someone receives 'something' (e.g. food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, protection money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability. Girls involved in or connected to gangs are at risk of sexual exploitation by gang members.

## 'Honour'-based violence

'Honour'-based violence an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.

## Up-skirting

Up-skirting is the action of placing equipment such as a camera or mobile phone beneath a person's clothing to take a voyeuristic photograph without their permission.

## Modern Slavery

This is an umbrella term for human trafficking and servitude. It is used when somebody is forced or controlled to do something, and another person gains from this.

## Forced marriage

Forced marriage is a marriage conducted without valid consent of one or both parties, where duress is a factor.

## Domestic violence and abuse against men and boys

The term violence against women and girls can often cause concern about the exclusion of men and boys from services and a lack of recognition that men and boys can also experience these forms of violence and abuse.

Although women and girls are disproportionately affected by these offences we understand that men and boys are can also be victims.

Whilst some well-established provision is designed solely to support women and girls, men and boys are included in aspects of our work particularly work on prevention and awareness-raising. We are committed to ensuring that any victim will receive a sensitive and appropriate response, according to their needs.

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# The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

On 29 April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('the 2021 Act') received Royal Assent.

## The Act will:

- a) create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse
  - b) establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers
  - c) provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order
  - d) place a duty on local authorities in England to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation
  - e) prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales
  - f) create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts
  - g) clarify the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims
  - h) extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse
  - i) extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the "revenge porn" offence) to cover threats to disclose such material
  - j) create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person
  - k) clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death
  - l) extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences
  - m) provide for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy
  - n) enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody
  - o) place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's law") on a statutory footing
  - p) Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance
  - q) ensure that where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must be a secure lifetime tenancy
  - r) prohibit GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid
  - s) provide for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes
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# The national picture

It is widely recognised that domestic abuse is under-reported therefore the scale of the problem is likely to be far greater than the reported numbers. Statistics show only a partial picture. Due to low levels of reporting but also normalisation and minimisation.

During COVID-pandemic there was an emergent concern of increasing domestic abuse incidents in the Borough. This was also the case worldwide where the UN women explained since the outbreak of COVID types of VAWG particularly DA has increased.

## Domestic Abuse

### The picture Pre Covid:

- The Crime Survey England and Wales in 2019 estimated 2.4 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse of which 1.6 million were women and 786,000 men.
- The police recorded 746,219 domestic abuse-related crimes in the year ending March 2019, an increase of 24% from the previous year.
- Referrals of suspects of domestic abuse-flagged cases from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for a charging decision fell 11%, from 110,653 in the year ending March 2018 to 98,470 in the year ending March 2019.

### The picture during Covid:

- For the 12-month period to year ending March 2020: The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse of which 1.6 million women and 757,000 men, a slight but non-significant decrease from the previous year.
- The police recorded 758,941 domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales (excluding Greater Manchester Police), an increase of 9% from the previous year.
- Referrals of suspects of domestic abuse-flagged cases from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for a charging decision fell 19% to 79,965, from 98,470 in the year ending March 2019.
- There was generally an increase in demand for domestic abuse victim support services, including a 65% increase in calls and contacts logged by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline between April and June 2020, compared with the first three months of the year.

### The picture post Covid:

- The number of police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales rose 6% in the year ending March 2021 to 845,734.
  - Referrals of suspects of domestic abuse-flagged cases from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for a charging decision decreased by 3%, from 79,965 in the year ending March 2020 to 77,812 in the year ending March 2021.
  - Demand on domestic abuse helplines increased in the year ending March 2021 with a 22% increase in people supported by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline in England; this is not necessarily indicative of an increase in the number of victims, but perhaps an increase in the severity of abuse being experienced, and a lack of available coping mechanisms.
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## Sexual Violence

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that for the year ending March 2020 there were 773,000 adults aged 16 to 74 years who were victims of sexual assault (including attempts) in the last year, with almost four times as many female victims (618,000) as male victims (155,000).

While the volume of sexual offences recorded by the police has almost tripled in recent years, the latest figures for the year ending March 2020 show a decrease of 0.7% to 162,936 offences compared with the previous year.

Latest estimates from the CSEW showed that fewer than one in six (16%) female victims and fewer than one in five (19%) male victims aged 16 to 59 years of sexual assault by rape or penetration since the age of 16 years reported it to the police.

## Prostitution and Trafficking

2156 potential victims were submitted to the National Referral Mechanism during the period January to March 2019, a 10% increase from the previous quarter October to December 2018.

## Forced marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

In 2021, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) gave advice and support in 337 cases related to a possible forced marriage and/or possible female genital mutilation (FGM). It also responded to 868 general enquiries. The 337 advice and support cases comprised 316 cases solely related to forced marriage, three cases related to both forced marriage and FGM, and 18 cases solely related to FGM. In year ending March 2021, there were 78 FGM offences and 125 forced marriage offences.

The change in recording practices was in place throughout 2021. As such, some of the cases which would previously have been recorded as advice and support cases have now been recorded as general enquiries (and therefore feature in the figure of 868 rather than 337). This is likely to be the principal factor in the fall in the number of advice and support cases from 759 in 2020 to 337 in 2021, and the increase in the number of general enquiries received from around 400 in 2020 to 868 in 2021.

## 'Honour' based abuse (HBA)

In the year ending March 2021, there were 2,725 HBA-related offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. Excluding Greater Manchester Police. This was an increase of 18% compared with year ending March 2020.

Increases in HBA-related offence recorded by the police over the last year could be due to a number of reasons, including:

- general improvements in crime recording
  - the police improving their identification of what constitutes so-called HBA
  - more victims coming forward to report these offences to the police
  - a genuine increase in these offences
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# The local picture

## Domestic Abuse Incidents

In the year ending March 2022 there were 6,282 Domestic Abuse Incidents in Enfield, compared with 6,552 the previous year, a decrease of 4%, or 272 less incidents. Total incidents in May 2020 reached 635, which was the highest number throughout a 24-month period. High incident rates around this time could be attributed to various national and local restrictions due to COVID-19, which saw hospitality settings close, and people told to work from home where possible.

London also saw a decrease in Domestic Abuse incidents with a 0.13% reduction, or 209 less incidents. This means that on average across London there were 12,962 Domestic Abuse incidents in the year ending March 2021. The following year ending in March 2022 saw 12,945.

## Domestic Violence with Injury

In Enfield by end of March 2022, there was a 19% decrease in this offence type. The numbers of Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences were 856 by the year ending March 2022 while there were 991 in previous 12 months, a difference of 135 less offences.

Domestic Abuse with Injury offences gradually increased from April 2020 until recording a sharp drop from August to September, where recorded offences fell by 40%. Offences since then throughout the 24-month period have generally stayed in the same range, and the most recent figures show continuous reduction in offences.

London saw a decrease of 1% in Domestic Violence with Injury offences, with 23,314 offences recorded in the year ending March 2021, and 23,050 offences in the year ending March 2022, or 264 less offences.

## MARAC

Enfield's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Panel puts in place protection plans for high-risk victims with the input of statutory and voluntary sector agencies. Our MARAC Panel discussed 554 cases during the 12 months to end of March 2022. This was a 9.6% decrease compared with the 613 cases discussed in the year ending March 2021.

In the year ending March 2022, 224.5 of those cases were referred to the Police, which was an increase of 2% from the year ending March 2021 which saw 220 referrals to the Police.

## Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA)

In the year ending March 2021 there were 110 referrals made to IDVA services, the year ending March 2022 saw a 10% decrease in these referrals.

## Section 42 Enquiries (for adults with care and support needs) where Domestic Abuse is indicated

The Local Authority has a duty under the Care Act 2014 (Section 42) to conduct enquiries where there is a belief that an adult with care and support needs has been abused or neglected. In 2021-22, 10.51% of these enquiries had the type of abuse identified as domestic abuse. However, we are aware that this is likely to be under reported as 48% of concerns nationally involve abuse or neglect that occurs within the adult's own home.

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Work has been done with adult social care staff over the last few years to ensure that domestic abuse is correctly identified.

## Sexual offences

Figures for Enfield show that 837 Sexual Offences were reported in year ending March 2022. This is an increase of 16% from the 723 offences recorded in the borough by the end of March 2021, a difference of 114 more offences.

Offences were highest in October 2021 throughout the 24-month period. Offences gradually returned to the previous levels in 2020/21, before gradually rising again in January 2022.

The average number of monthly sexual offences in Enfield was recorded at 60 in the year ending March 2021. Similarly, in the year ending March 2022 Enfield saw 70 sexual offences on average.

Offences in London saw a 34% increase in Sexual Offences when comparing the year ending March 2021 with the year ending March 2022. Offences increased from 18,640 to 24,994.

On average across London there were 1,553 Sexual Offences each month, which increased to 2,083 offences a month on average.

## Rape offences

Rape offences increased in Enfield by 20.6% from 286 by end of March 2020/21 to 345 by the end of March 2022, a difference of 74 offences more by the end of the year.

On average each month in the year ending March 2021, Enfield saw an average of 24 Rape offences, which has increased by 20% to 29 offences in the year ending March 2022.

London experienced a 22% increase in Rape offences when comparing the year end March 2021 to year end March 2022.

On average each month London saw a 22% increase in Rape offences, going from 624 offences to 762 in the year ending March 2022.

The data shows a decrease in domestic abuse incidents and domestic violence with injury captures some of the nationally recognised problem of it being underreported. The figures show a partial figure and the number of actual incidents is estimated to be much higher.

Sexual violence and Rape offences saw an increase and we believe this is partly to do with professional having better awareness and understanding and through active encouragement in reporting.

However, we know that certain circumstances have been identified as precursors for DA such as increased Alcohol intake, sports events, poverty. With the cost of living rising and food and energy bills rising there is now a real risk on the escalation of VAWG and DA. There is much more to do and through this strategy we want to demonstrate some of the work we will do. We want to ensure the all residents of Enfield have the right support at the right time.

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# COVID and DA

23rd March 2020 England went into Covid-19 lockdown. These were uncertain times for everyone. Everything came to a halt and survivors and victims of DA were either trapped at home with their abusers or couldn't access the appropriate support.

The rates of reported DA increased. The Office for National Statistics reported that the police recorded 259,324 offences flagged as domestic abuse-related in the period March to June 2020. This represents a 7% increase from 242,413 in the same period in 2019 and an 18% increase from 218,968 in 2018. The number of offences flagged as domestic abuse-related increased each month from April to June 2020, with the largest month-on-month increase (9%) between April and May 2020. The figures represented by the ONS do not reflect an accurate number of increases in DA during the pandemic as DA is a hidden crime and not often reported.

**Karen Ingala-Smith, who runs the 'Counting Dead Women' project, estimated that during the first three weeks of the first lockdown, there had been sixteen domestic abuse killings of women and children in the UK, which was the highest for at least 11 years.**

In response to the emergent concern of increasing domestic abuse incidents in the Borough during the Covid-19 Pandemic Enfield council created a Domestic abuse hub. We understood that during these times it may have been hard for victims/survivors to make that call, therefore we wanted to ensure that when they made that call all the help was available at the same time. The DA Hub involved several agencies to ensure the victim/survivor can access all the help they need without having to call several different services when all they have time for is that one call.

Enfield councils housing team created a specialised DA team dealing with victims/survivors fleeing DA.

All services carried out similar reviews to ensure that they were fit for purpose during the lockdown. Most services worked from home and support over the phone, all face to face visits were cancelled.

It is important that we learn from the vulnerabilities that the pandemic has shown in both the system and structures. We therefore want to strengthen the actions contained within this strategy by reflecting on lessons learned about service delivery and ensure no one is turned away when they most need help.

# Our vision

- **Working together to end VAWG and DA in Enfield**
- **Improve understanding of DA and VAWG**
- **Ensure services are available for survivors and victims**
- **Working with the community to ensure their voices are heard**
- **To build on and increase confidence to everyone living in Enfield in reporting to the police**
- **To empower staff through effective training, shared learning and access to relevant tools**
- **Ensure a joined-up commissioning approach to meet unmet or underserved need**
- **Co-produce referral pathways to services**
- **Ensure that understanding of Domestic Abuse and responses to it are reflected in Enfield's response to the Serious Violence Duty (introduced in 2023)**

# Preventing and reducing VAWG and DA

Preventing and reducing VAWG and DA is a key priority for the Community Safety Partnership priority and to prevent it from happening we will create a culture change and a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse.

For far too long DA and VAWG is normalised, too prevalent and hidden within our society. VAWG and DA is everyone's business with this approach we want to ensure prevention and early intervention is key.

We recognise that anyone can experience abuse and recognise that women and girls are also likely to experience multiple forms of violence and abuse that overlap, or intersect, within a broader pattern of control. We will work with organisations to ensure everyone is responding and identifying the early signs of DA and Violence at the earliest opportunity for support and providing the safe space for disclosures.

We will focus to eradicate violence and abuse by shifting social norms, changing attitudes, better education, challenging violence and abuse and promoting gender equality and healthy relationships. Through this approach we will work with schools to ensure we are empowering young men and boys in speaking out against VAWG and challenging the misogynistic and sexist attitudes.

## What have we done

- On 1st May 2020 we launched the Domestic Abuse hub in response to the concern of increasing domestic abuse incidents in the Borough during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The local domestic abuse helpline was developed to provide easy access to tailored advice and support for victims of domestic abuse, particularly during the lockdown where there was forced isolation and limited access to mainstream support services.
  - Enfield Council have run some thought-provoking communications campaigns. In Autumn 2021 we worked closely with the Enfield Youth Parliament to create a 'Because of you' campaign to raise awareness around safety in public spaces and with a focus on challenging inappropriate behaviour. Working with the Youth Parliament gave us a great insight to the concerns of young adults around improving personal safety. This campaign was to inspire action and seeks to help embed positive change and reflection. The key areas addressed are reflective of local and national priorities.
  - Every year on White Ribbon Day, Enfield Council will run an event to raise awareness on male violence against women and girls. As part of the event all partners will come together and promote white ribbon day. Following on from the event all partners will run events on 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.
  - Our Contextual Safeguarding Youth Workers focus on the Peer Group, Schools and Neighbourhood Spheres, by providing: Wellbeing Workshops to Schools To raise awareness of different types of extra familial harm. We can tailor our workshops to your school's identified needs; and offer one-off or a series of workshops, during e.g. PSHE lessons or lunch times and after school.
  - Enfield Council have committed a large of proportion of external grant funding to support activity relating to the DA agenda, by ensuring a high standard IDVA support and emergency accommodation for Victims of DA.
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- Enfield Council have achieved White Ribbon status for the Borough, which requires that a number of factors be established, including: Delivering annual White Ribbon Events, the aim of which is to raise awareness and encourage men to show their support for women experiencing violence.

## What we will do

### The Council will:

- Annually we will continue to engage the community to create campaigns to change cultural and societal attitudes which tolerate violence and abuse, including by engaging young people, particularly young men, as change agents. Campaigns will target violence against women and girls, including against the LGBT Community.
  - We will develop and implement more targeted awareness campaigns and methods to effectively challenge attitudes to violence against women annually.
  - We will support the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process and ensure agencies are aware of the process and are able to identify/refer high risk cases. MARAC is a conference where several agencies meet to discuss high risk victims of DA and together develop a safety plan for the victim/survivor and their children.
  - We will work with faith communities and by and for organisations to understand the barriers faced in accessing support and culturally specific issues to identify gaps in service for those with protected characteristics and those affected disproportionately. This key information will help to shape service delivery.
  - Undertake targeted community engagement with groups currently underrepresented in services such as Black and minoritised communities, LGBT communities, disabled and/or older women.
  - We will ensure all learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) to inform current and future delivery and ensure this learning is shared widely amongst partners to ensure learning is captured across the board.
  - We will continue to support the Mayors Night-time safety charter to ensure practical steps are taken to make Enfield a safe place for women and girls.
  - We will recruit more White Ribbon male ambassadors and female champions to ensure all organisations are raising awareness around Male Violence against Women and Girls.
  - Make training more accessible for professionals by running more trainings through our knowledge exchange training. Including working with local and national organisations to deliver training on culturally harmful practice, including Female Genital Mutilation, Honour-Based Violence and Forced Marriages.
  - As part of the statutory guidance of the relationships and sex education (RSE), schools will also cover and raise awareness of DA, VAWG, consent, gender equality, staying safe online and FGM. We will work with the schools through the council's school lead to provide termly network meetings, training as required and any other additional support.
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# Support and protection

Several studies have shown that VAWG and DA can have devastating impact on survivors and victims, with long term effects on mental health and physical health.

We understand that survivors and victims' need a wide range of support. In Enfield we want to ensure the support services are strong and available to survivors and victims when they need it the most.

We understand that abuse is often hidden and often many victims and survivors will not report. We therefore want to encourage victims and survivors to access the help available. We will continue to keep our website updated with useful support numbers and continue to publish these numbers through our campaigns.

We know that one size doesn't fit all therefore we will aim to ensure that everyone is able to access support regardless of any protected characteristics. This includes tackling and understanding additional barriers faced by people with disabilities, older people, those with no recourse to public funds, black and minoritised ethnic communities and mental health.

## What have we done

- We have developed a council DA policy to any members of staff experiencing DA alongside DA training for all staff.
  - The Council has commissioned a Locks and Bolt scheme which is available in high risk cases to individuals that have been a victim of crime. This can include repeat victim of burglary, domestic abuse or cases where the victim is vulnerable to further crime due to vulnerability factors. The service works with vulnerable clients & their families to enable people to feel safe in their own homes. The service contributes to empowering victims of crime and build confidence through enhanced security. Keeping people safe at home is a key priority of the Enfield Community Safety Partnership and this service will enable this.
  - Domestic abuse often can lead to homelessness as the victim/survivor needs to flee to find safety. The Council have a dedicated team dealing with victims/survivors of domestic abuse.
  - The Council have continued to provide refuge provision for women and children for whom it is unsafe to remain at home.
  - The Council have commissioned Independent Domestic Violence Advocates to support those at risk of or experiencing violence or abuse. During the financial year 2021-22 over 840 referrals, including self-referrals were received by our commissioned IDVA service. Timely support and advocacy are provided by the IDVAs to ensure that ongoing risks are identified and help, and advice provided to improve a client's safety
  - Our Youth Development Service are supporting young people in a variety of ways including protecting young people from extra familial harm who may be at risk of sexual exploitation and other forms of violence and abuse. This includes by running targeted awareness-raising programmes and outreach work in the hotspot areas of the borough, to raise awareness of potential harms young people are exposed to, outside of the family home, and provide practical steps on how they can keep themselves safe in these environments.
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- The DA Act 2021 gives those who are homeless due to DA priority need for accommodation secured by the Local Authority. This aims to ensure victims/survivors are not scared of becoming homeless if they leave the abuser or feel obliged to stay with the abuser. Through the pandemic the council set up a specialist DA team in housing to support victims fleeing DA with housing issues.
- The council also commission additional services to support families with young children effected by DA and sexual abuse/violence.

## What we will do

### The Council will:

- We will continue to commission a highly qualified IDVA service to ensure high risk victims and survivors of domestic abuse are supported.
  - We will continue to commission a refuge to provide emergency accommodation to women and children fleeing DA.
  - We will work with our partners to seek further funding for an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) to support victims of sexual abuse.
  - We will work with local banks and pharmacists in the view to expand safe spaces in the borough.
  - We will continue to support the Mayors Night-time safety charter and develop an action plan that supports a safe night-time economy to ensure women and girls are safe in public spaces.
  - We will ensure all staff have access to training to recognise and respond to DA and VAWG and we will run engagement events with partners to ensure support material is widely available.
  - We will work with the partnerships to ensure all organisations have a DA policy and training available to all frontline staff including new joiners and refreshers.
  - We will listen to survivors through our commissioned services and learn and embed change through their experiences.
  - We will reach out to various faith groups through our faith forum to support them to raise awareness around DA and VAWG. We will also listen and learn about additional barriers in accessing services.
  - Enfield council Housing department will work towards getting the DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) Accreditation. DAHA accreditation is the UK benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse in the UK. "DAHA Accreditation is designed as universal protection, not as a targeted service, it is designed to be present everywhere because it might be needed anywhere.
  - We will work with partner agencies to ensure support is identified and available to anyone who needs support regardless of ethnicity, sexuality or disability.
  - Support for children witnessing DA will be made available through funded projects and Children social care.
  - Police (Violence Suppression Unit) will promote the ASK for Angela campaign. The ASK for Angela campaign is for people who feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened and they can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff and asking them for 'Angela'.
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- We will capture children as victims so that we can get a true reflection of the number of children who are victims of DA.
  - We will carry out an audit of our commissioned services to assess the equality of access to these services.
  - We will continue to ensure that Adult Social Care maintain strong links with domestic abuse services and regularly attend the MARAC.
  - We will review the Safeguarding Adults Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance and training programme to ensure that adults with care and support needs who are experiencing domestic abuse are well supported.
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# CCR and partnership working

Victims and survivors of DA and VAWG may need support from various agencies therefore one service will not fit all. We therefore collectively want to ensure that we join up with our partners to provide a coordinated response to DA and VAWG.

Health services, children's services, adult services, police, housing, schools, faith groups, the wider community of family, friends and work colleagues, and the many voluntary agencies which support individuals and families all have an important role to play in our CCR to domestic violence.

Working in a CCR we want to ensure that all agencies are consistent in responding to VAWG and DA in the same way. We want to work together to ensure the understanding of VAWG and DA is common across the partnership to ensure the victim/survivors are receiving the support they need. By working this way, we want to ensure victims/survivors do not fall through the gaps and services within the CCR are collectively doing everything to keep victims/survivors safe, holding abusers to account and working together to prevent VAWG and DA.

We will continue to provide training through our knowledge exchange training which will help all agencies to have a better understanding of VAWG and DA and to also understand specific risks faced by marginalised groups.

## What have we done

- Through our continued commitment as partnership to conducting domestic homicide reviews (DHR) we have shared the learning to improve practices.
- The Council have worked in partnership with Edmonton Eagles Boxing Club to run bespoke sessions for women and girls to help build up their confidence, well-being, these were based around the disciplines of boxing and mentoring and encouragement.

The Council have worked with other boroughs to monitor and actively seek funding for the WISER Project which is a partnership of specialist charities working to end male violence and abuse. The project will work with women who are frequently excluded from mainstream services and/or find it hard to engage with support. Their outreach activity, trauma informed approach and flexible 1-1 and group support helps women and girls to get the support they need.

- Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust have recruited a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Safety Co-ordinator who is working to develop further the Trust's response to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Safety, particularly striving to ensure that routine enquiry is embedded throughout the trust, with everyone coming into contact with their services. The work will be broken down into 6 key themes: (1) Data Collection, (2) Legislation, Policy and Procedure, (3) Training, (4) Co-ordinated community response and Partnership working, (5) Support for Victim/Survivors, (6) Prevention and Perpetrator Accountability.
  - The Council will continue to fund a domestic violence co-ordinator to oversee the response to VAWG and DA, and to work with partners in supporting their response to DA.
  - The Clinical commissioning group continue to provide an IRIS Advocate Educators who work directly with GP surgeries providing training to GP and a consultation service around DA. The project will ensure that primary care practitioners can respond effectively to domestic abuse and that specialist support is available for patients.
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- North Middlesex University Hospital run an IRIS clinic providing care and support for women experiencing problems as a result of female genital cutting (FGC) also known as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or Female Circumcision. The Iris clinic proved an environment where women are invited to discuss their health needs in a sensitive and non-judgemental way.
- The police continue to safeguard children through Operation Encompass which is an initiative that helps to safeguard children/young people who may have been exposed to domestic abuse. When a child/young person has been present when a domestic abuse incident has occurred, and the police have been called, then the Metropolitan Police will notify the school designated safeguarding lead that such an incident has occurred so that support can be provided.

## What we will do

### The Council will:

- We will create a Map of council services supporting VAWG/DA so every professional working in partnership is aware of the services available to survivors/Victims.
  - Safeguarding Children's Partnership will undertake a multi-agency audit of the Children's MASH where cases involving domestic abuse to identify key learning and gaps in service.
  - We will work with faith groups to promote key messages.
  - We will work in partnership across services including adult social care, health and community services to ensure that survivors facing additional barriers to accessing help, such as those identifying as LGBTQ+, disability, are able to get the help and support they need.
  - We will increase training provided through the knowledge exchange training to all our partners. This training is for professional who work in Enfield to understand the work partner agencies offer to survivors of DA. This training will also provide staff across Enfield to feel more confident in knowing where to go to for support.
  - We will work with the police to implement their VAWG plan.
  - Support the police "Walk and Talk" initiative to create productive discussion about women's concerns of safety in public spaces.
  - Support a strategic discussion group to ensure Enfield is accessing and developing the best services for Enfield residents.
  - Work with front line service providers and partners in the community and voluntary sector to use expertise and improve services based on worker and survivor feedback.
  - We will work with partner agencies to ensure we increase opportunities for victims and survivors to safely tell someone about their experience at an earlier stage.
  - Enfield Council Housing will Develop Enfield's Tenancy Management Policy to include proactive housing management which supports victims of domestic abuse to prevent homelessness.
  - Health services will raise the profile within Primary Care to the Lead Safeguarding GP Forum and Information posters to be reissued to GP practices of support that is available.
  - Clinical commissioning group is looking at how many GP surgeries will need to be re-trained as part of the IRIS project.
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- When a DHR takes place, we will continue to work in partnership to identify learning across the partnership. We will also where there are concerns of DA or VAWG in serious case reviews support in provide expert advice to support any change and learning.
  - We will continue to work in partnership with other local boroughs and our BCU borough to seek funding to support residents across the boroughs.
  - We will continue to engage with the community though community engagement events, posters and our website.
  - We will review and monitor this strategy through our domestic violence strategic group.
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# Building trust and confidence

DA is and VAWG is a widespread concern in our society. Although figures show DA reports account for approximately one quarter of all crime reported in Enfield, VAWG and DA still remains a hidden crime and underreported. There are several factors why the victim/survivor may not report to the police but the most spoken about is trusting the system. Without the trust and confidence in the system the whole system is weakened.

As recent reports in the news we have seen delays in the criminal justice system which has led to a back log of cases. Not only does this mean victim having to wait for a long time to get an outcome but also having to relive the trauma when the case does go to court.

We want to work towards ensuring victims/survivors are heard, they are believed and are not re-victimised.

As a partnership we want to work together and work with the community on how we can build on ensuring the residents of Enfield trust the system when they need the support most. When a crime has taken place, we want to give women and girls the confidence that the system will support them and will take action regardless of race, gender, disability or sexuality.

In light of recent high-profile cases we now more than ever need to build on and strengthen the trust back and together work to eradicate DA as a hidden crime.

## What have we done

- The Council will continue to raise awareness through campaigns to change cultural and societal attitudes which tolerate violence and abuse. Through these campaigns and our websites, we will ensure support agencies and numbers are available.
- The council have supported a community event in bringing agencies together for members of the public to access support and information about seeking help.
- The Council have through our knowledge exchange training provided several training sessions to partner organisations in understanding VAWG, DA and barriers faced by marginalised groups.

## What we will do

### The Council will:

- Support the police “Walk and Talk” initiative to create productive discussion about women’s concerns of safety in public spaces.
  - We will work with our partners to implement the Mayor of London’s night time safety charter and encourage local businesses to sign up. We want to ensure all women and girls have the right to get home safely and have the right to enjoy after dark.
  - We will Support the MPS VAWG plan.
  - Work together with our statutory partners to improve criminal justice outcomes for victims/survivors of all forms of VAWG.
  - We will continue to campaign for men within our partnership to become White Ribbon Ambassadors and women to become White Ribbon Champions to raise awareness of male violence against women and girls.
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- We will ensure that routinely through our commissioned services to ensure the voices of the survivor/victim are continuously sought to help shape and inform service delivery.
  - We will embed our IDVA's within the police community safety team so that IDVA's can support the police with DA and VAWG cases.
  - We will promote the Domestic violence disclosure scheme which is a police policy which gives any person the right to make a request to get information about their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse.
  - We will promote the "Project Guardian" which is launched by the British Transport Police in encouraging women to report sexual offences and to create a safe environment on public transport.
  - The police are launching Operation GWEN. GWEN is an initiative that focuses on 'in person' engagement workshops with 'seldom to reach' women and school girls to improve trust and confidence in the police. In-person sessions are held with hard-to-reach communities to help protect women and girls in public spaces, at home and online. The engagement group sessions share the Met's vision of VAWG to create a 'safe space' for women to speak about their concerns in public spaces. As well as improving their confidence in policing for us all to collectively learn and work with communities and schools. GWEN sessions can be delivered by both male and female officers, but part of the process is checking with communities for preference respecting cultural needs and we're working with disability groups to promote joint working to collectively drive these changes.
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# Holding perpetrators accountable

Perpetrators use various tactics to control and abuse victims/survivors. For far too long the responsibility of keeping safe and keeping children safe has been put on victims/survivors rather than the perpetrator who is causing harm. We want to change this by challenging behaviours of perpetrators and ensuring they have the support available to drive that change.

We want to ensure where violence and abuse does take place perpetrators are brought to justice. Holding perpetrators to account must not just lie with one agency and should happen across the board. We therefore want to ensure all staff working within the partnership are aware of how to support/hold perpetrators to account. We to ensure there is training widely available to achieve this.

As mentioned in the Mayor of London's VAWG strategy the charging and prosecution rates for domestic abuse and sexual violence are simply not good enough. Therefore, many perpetrators will not be subject to mandated behaviour change programs. We will raise awareness of perpetrator programs that are not part of the criminal justice system to ensure that services are able identify and refer perpetrators to the available programs.

We will focus on early intervention in schools and challenging the misogynistic, sexist and abusive behaviour attitudes. We will also as a partnership work together with organisations to ensure there is policies and procedures in place to challenge these behaviours and holding perpetrators to account.

Enfield's MARAC continues to consider how to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions, and in certain cases, refers perpetrators to offender management programmes through our multi-agency public protection (MAPPA) arrangements.

## What have we done

- The Council currently have a perpetrator program funded through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime for a tri-borough project to develop a black and minoritised communities focused & coordinated family & community approach. The work will take account of the different effects of discrimination experienced by marginalised groups in working with families.

The programme will use an intersectional approach with families, addressing different elements of the identities of domestic abuse victims and perpetrators, rather than just one – like race or gender. It will also help to break down some of the barriers to victims accessing support and help challenge and disrupt the abuse.

- In Autumn 2021 The Council worked closely with the Enfield Youth Parliament to create a 'Because of you' campaign to raise awareness around safety in public spaces and with a focus on challenging inappropriate behaviour.

## What we will do

### The Council will:

- We will use research from Rise Mutual to drive future programs will help behaviour change.
  - Ensure funding is sought to continue the perpetrator program to focus on prevention and encourage healthy relationships and for the program to provide opportunities for perpetrators to address their behaviour.
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- Increase awareness of DA Support through criminal justice system/injunctions, non-mol, so victims feel more supported to go through with prosecution.
  - Children Social care will work on holding perpetrators accountable rather than victims/survivors who often have to change their way of life by having to either move and even leave their supportive social networks behind.
  - Ensure all perpetrators on a child protection plan for DA is always considered to do a perpetrator program.
  - We will Increasing the confidence of frontline staff to challenge perpetrators' negative behaviours through our knowledge exchange training.
  - Enfield council housing will develop a Enfield Tenancy Management Policy to set out how they will manage perpetrators in terms of housing management.
  - We will lead by example and recruit White Ribbon Ambassadors who are men from all walks of life and willing to engage and encourage other men to stand up against male violence towards women. Ambassadors are there to inspire and lead by example, actively promoting gender equality and the White Ribbon message
  - We will continue to raise awareness through campaigns in challenging the misogynistic, sexist and abusive behaviours.
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# Support/useful information

## Police

- In an emergency, always call **999**
- For non-emergency reports, call **101**

## National Domestic Violence Helpline

- The National Domestic Violence Helpline operates 24 hours a day on **0808 2000 247**, which is a freephone number. The helpline can provide details of refuge accommodation across the UK and services in your local area.

## Solace Women's Aid

- Solace Women's Aid Advice Service offers information, advice and support for domestic and sexual violence. Phone the advice line on **020 3795 5068** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm) or visit [www.solacewomensaid.org](http://www.solacewomensaid.org)

## Enfield Women's Centre

- Enfield Women's Centre (EWC) is a registered charity working for women and girls and their families in the borough of Enfield.

If you are a woman or a girl who needs help, get in touch for confidential, non-judgemental support. Email: [info@enfieldwomen.org.uk](mailto:info@enfieldwomen.org.uk), telephone: **020 8351 8934** or **020 8351 9128**.

## Enfield Saheli

- Enfield Saheli offers support and advice to women in Enfield and neighbouring London boroughs. The charity is run by women for women, with special emphasis on support for Asian women of all ethnicities. They provide qualified bilingual counselling in Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu and Punjabi. Phone Enfield Saheli on **020 8373 6218** or visit [www.enfieldsaheli.org](http://www.enfieldsaheli.org)

## Victim Support

- Victim Support can offer advice and support if you have been a victim of any crime or have been affected by a crime committed against someone you know. Their services are free and available to everyone, whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened. Phone Victim Support Enfield on **0808 168 9291** or visit [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)
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## Children and young people

### Childline

☎ 0800 1111

🌐 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### NSPCC

☎ 0808 800 500

🌐 [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### Enfield Council Children's MASH

☎ 020 8379 5555

### Enfield Council Early Help

☎ 020 8379 2002

### Children's Portal

🌐 <https://cp.childrensportal.enfield.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

## Older people

### Age UK Enfield

☎ 020 8375 4120

🌐 [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

## Safeguarding adults

### Enfield Adult Abuse Helpline

☎ 020 8379 5212

🌐 [www.enfield.gov.uk/safeguardingenfield](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/safeguardingenfield)

### Galop (previously known as Broken Rainbow National Helpline) (LGBT helpline)

☎ 0300 999 5428

🌐 [galop.org.uk](http://galop.org.uk)

### Men's Advice Line

☎ 0808 801 0327

🌐 [mensadvice.org.uk](http://mensadvice.org.uk)

### National Centre for Domestic Violence (for Civil Legislation advice and support)

☎ 0844 8044 999

🌐 [www.ncdv.org.uk](http://www.ncdv.org.uk)

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# Further reference document links

**For information on all Enfield Council published strategies and policies**

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/our-vision-aims-and-values/>

**Enfield Borough Profile**

<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/borough-and-wards-profiles>

**Enfield Council's DA page**

<https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/community-safety/domestic-abuse>

**London Mayors VAWG strategy**

[The Mayor's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-25 | London City Hall](#)

**Governments VAWG strategy**

[Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) strategy 2021 to 2024: call for evidence – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

**ONS Domestic prevalence and trends, England and Wales: year ending March 2021**

[Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales – Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

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**If you are experiencing Domestic Abuse,  
please contact the National Domestic  
Violence Helpline number: 0808 247 2000**

**In an emergency dial 999**



# **Violence** Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2025