



North East Lincolnshire
Domestic Abuse Partnership

Strategy

2026 – 2030





North East Lincolnshire
Domestic Abuse Partnership

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FOREWORD

Domestic abuse causes significant harm to individuals, families and communities. It affects physical and mental health, contributes to health inequalities, impacts educational attainment, housing stability, employment and community safety, and creates lasting trauma for adults and children.

This strategy adopts a public health approach, recognising domestic abuse as both a cause and consequence of wider social inequalities and adverse experiences. It sets out our collective ambition to prevent abuse before it occurs, support victims and survivors to recover, hold perpetrators accountable for their behaviour, and strengthen our whole-system response.

The strategy has been co-developed through extensive engagement with partners, practitioners, community organisations and people with lived experience. It reflects a shared commitment to creating a North East Lincolnshire where everyone can live free from domestic abuse.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who shared their lived experience, expertise and ideas throughout the co-development of this strategy. Your voices have helped shape our shared vision and ambitions, and this strategy would not have been possible without your commitment and engagement.

Diane Lee
Director of Public Health
Northern Lincolnshire



North East Lincolnshire
Domestic Abuse Partnership

Introduction

Domestic abuse (DA) is one of the most significant public health, safeguarding and community safety challenges in North East Lincolnshire (NEL). Its impact is far-reaching, affecting individuals, families and communities, contributing to trauma, health inequalities and intergenerational harm.

This strategy sets out our shared commitment to prevent DA, support victims, survivors and children to recover and thrive, hold perpetrators accountable, and strengthen our collective response.

Developed through a comprehensive needs assessment and co-design programme undertaken between February and June 2026, the strategy is informed by local evidence, professional expertise and the voices of people with lived experience.

Our Approach

Our public health approach focuses on preventing abuse as well as responding to harm by addressing the wider factors that increase risk, strengthening protective factors, promoting healthy relationships and delivering a coordinated whole-system response.

This strategy brings together partners across health and care, community safety, education, housing, the voluntary sector and people with lived experience around a shared vision and four strategic priorities.

Our Strategic Priorities

The strategy is underpinned by four strategic priorities:

- **Prevention and Communities**
- **Support victims, survivors and children to recover and thrive**
- **Address harmful behaviour, improve accountability and improve confidence in the justice system**
- **Strengthen the whole-system response**

Together, these priorities provide the framework for collective action over the next four years. Progress will be supported through a delivery plan, a performance framework and ongoing engagement with people with lived experience, ensuring meaningful improvements for victims, survivors, children and communities."



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National Legislative and Policy Framework

The **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** transformed the national response to DA by introducing a statutory definition that recognises abuse as more than physical violence. It includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, economic and controlling or coercive behaviour between people aged 16 and over who are personally connected.

The Act also recognises children as victims in their own right where they see, hear, experience or are affected by domestic abuse.

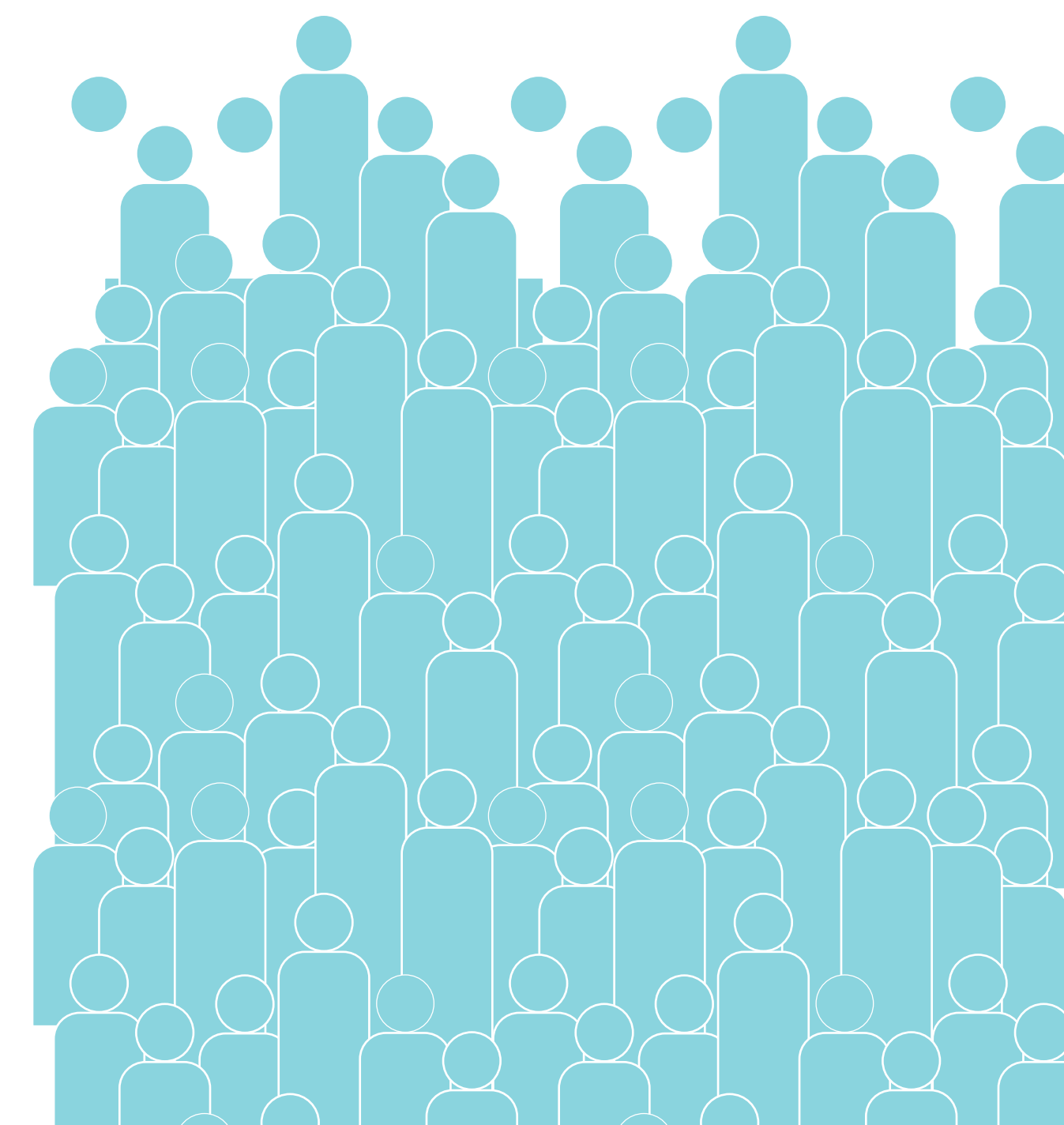
The accompanying statutory guidance on the **Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse in Safe Accommodation Services 2021** provides the national framework for local authorities to assess need, commission support and develop strategies that meet the needs of victims, survivors and their children.

“The Act, supported by the statutory guidance for the delivery of support within safe accommodation, places responsibilities on local authorities to assess need, commission support within safe accommodation and publish a strategy for victims and their children.

Our approach recognises that DA can affect anyone, regardless of age, sex, gender or life circumstances. However, people’s experiences of abuse and their ability to access support are often shaped by wider social, economic, and structural inequalities.

Applying an intersectional lens enables us to understand how multiple disadvantage can increase vulnerability, create barriers to support and contribute to negative outcomes.

This approach underpins how NEL will meet its statutory responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and improve outcomes for those affected.





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How this Strategy Was Developed

This strategy has been developed through a structured, evidence-led and co-development process between February and June 2026.

Rather than developing the strategy in isolation, partners worked together to understand local need, assess the strengths and maturity of the current system, listen to the experiences of victims and survivors, and use community insights to agree a shared direction for change.

The approach combined multiple sources of evidence, including:

- A comprehensive DA Needs Assessment
- System maturity assessment
- National policy and best practice
- Local performance data and intelligence
- Professional expertise from partner organisations
- Co-design workshops with partners
- Engagement with people with lived experience
- Public consultation and survey findings

Why This Approach?

Working closely with partners throughout an iterative process of gathering evidence, testing ideas, refining priorities and validating the final approach, has ensured this strategy reflects local evidence, professional expertise and the voices of people with lived experience.

This has resulted in a strategy that reflects shared ownership across the partnership and is grounded in both evidence and lived experience.

Our approach ensures the strategy is:

Evidence-led

Co-developed

System-owned

Outcome-focused

Deliverable



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Facts and Figures 2024/25 North East Lincolnshire

7,004

DA incidents recorded
by the police

2,424

Victims referred
into DA services

52%

MARAC cases
are repeat cases

9%

Of domestic abuse
crimes result in a
charge

50%

MARAC cases
involved children in
the household

1,090

Children victims
of DA

43%

children exposed to
domestic abuse were
aged 0-5 years

2,720

children's social care
referrals recorded DA
as a factor

39%

Of females who died by
suspected suicide were
victims of domestic
abuse

91

households became
homeless in 25/26 due
to domestic abuse

50%

of homeless households
fleeing domestic abuse
had dependent children

41%

Of all DA crimes occur
in just three wards
(East Marsh, West
Marsh and South)



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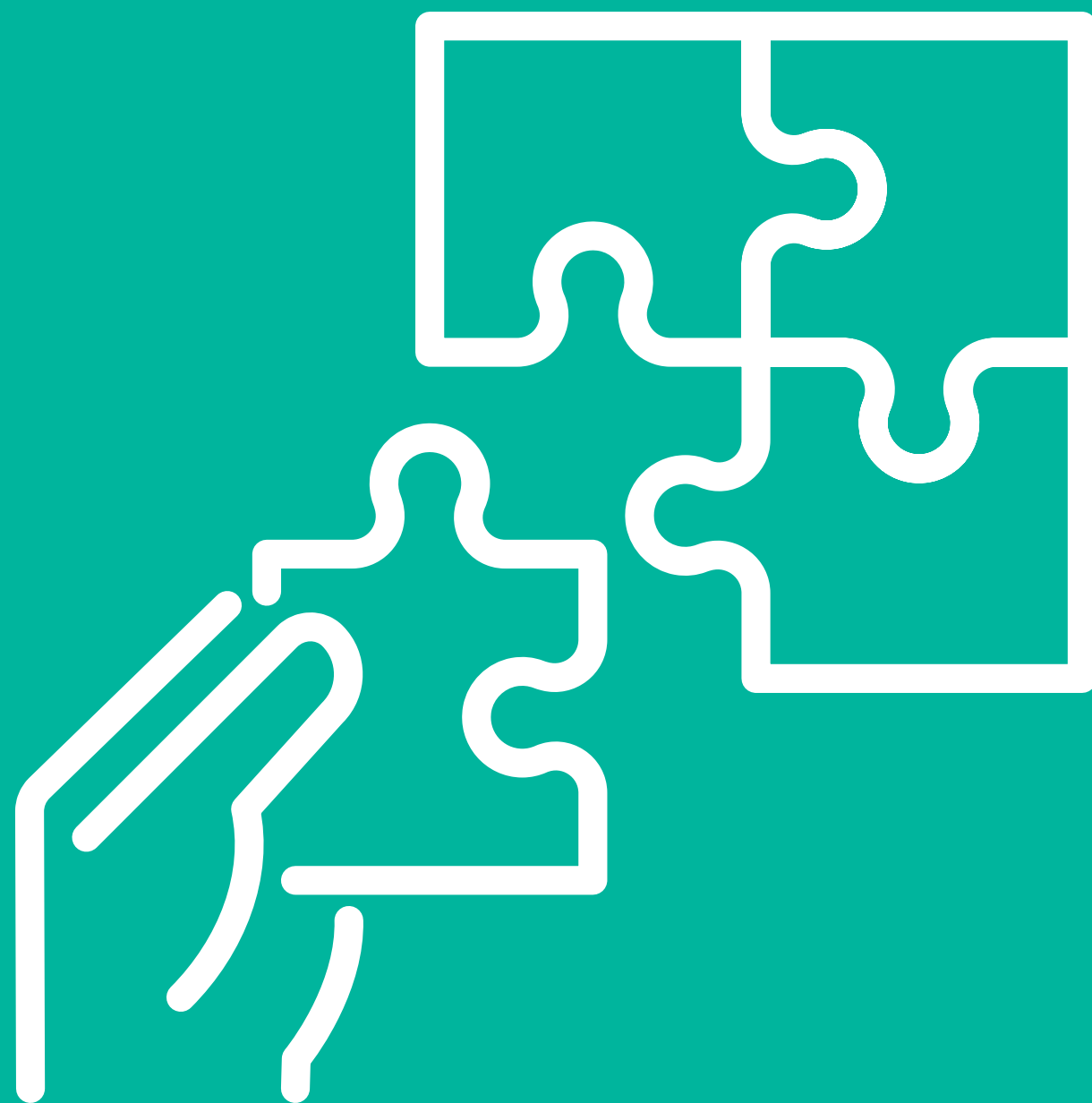
Our shared Vision

North East Lincolnshire is a place where everyone can live free from domestic abuse, where healthy relationships are promoted, those who cause harm are held accountable, victims survivors and children receive the right support at the right time, and partners work together to deliver a coordinated, traumainformed and continuously improving response.



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Our Shared Principles



Success will depend on sustained partnership commitment, shared accountability and a consistent approach across the whole system. Through the development of this strategy, partners have agreed a set of guiding principles that reflect our collective ambition and the values that will shape our work over the next four years.

These principles are not simply statements of intent; they represent a shared commitment, provide the foundation for our partnership action, and will guide decision-making, commissioning, service design and workforce development across sectors, ensuring a coordinated response to domestic abuse across NEL.

Trauma-informed practice

Child-centred and family focused

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Partnership Accountability

Evidence-based decision making



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Governance

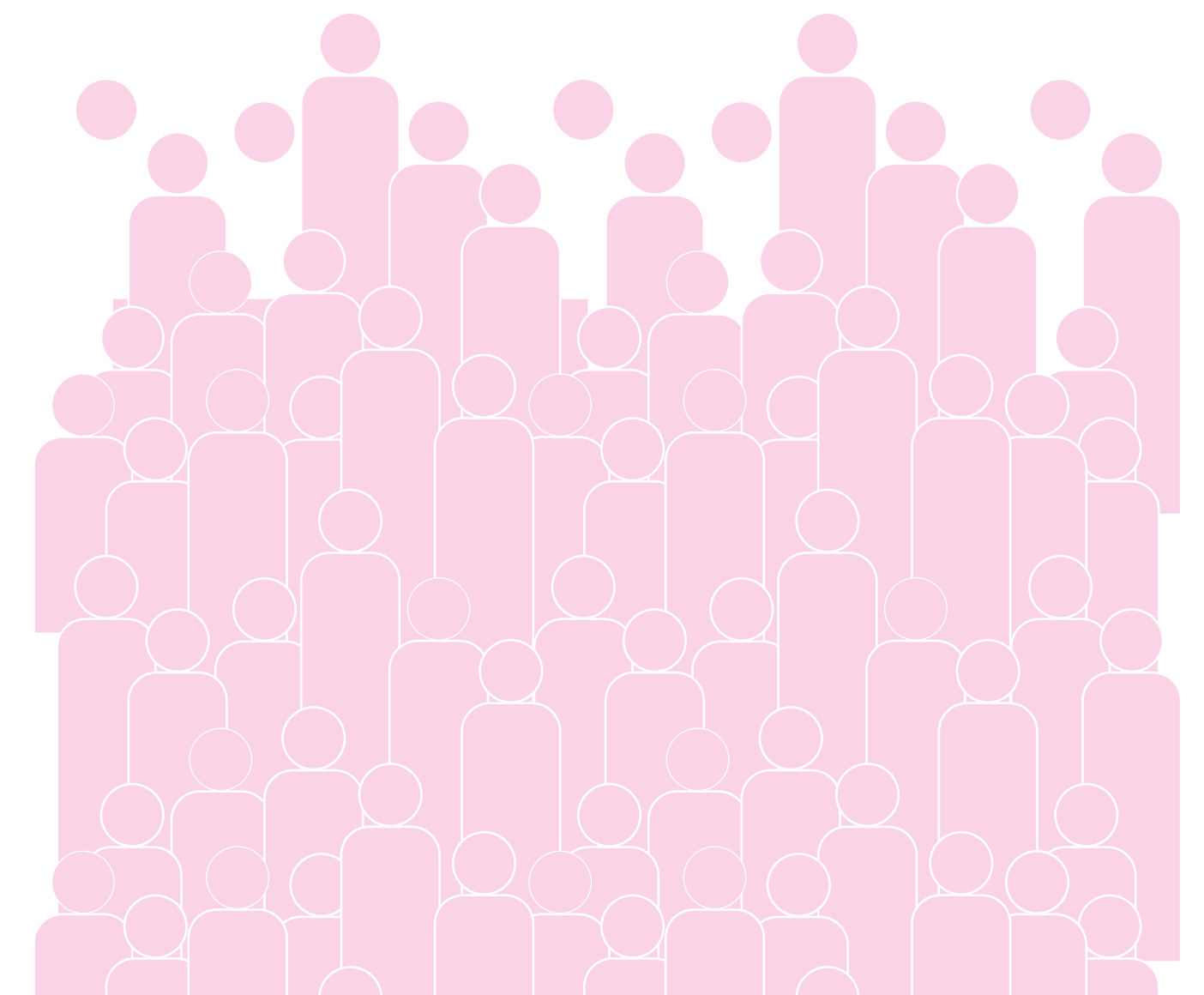
This Strategy is a **partnership strategy**, developed and delivered collectively by organisations across health and care, community safety, safeguarding, housing, education, criminal justice and the voluntary and community sector.

The **Domestic Abuse Partnership Board** provides strategic leadership, oversight and accountability for delivery, ensuring progress against the strategy's priorities and outcomes.

Recognising that DA is a cross-cutting issue, the Board will work closely with other strategic partnerships across NEL to ensure aligned priorities, shared ownership of outcomes and coordinated delivery.

Cross-partnership working will be enabled through:

- **Cross-Board membership**
- **Joint working arrangements**
- **Reciprocal updates between partnership boards**
- **Escalation of shared risks, issues and opportunities where appropriate**





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Delivery Framework

The Strategy will be delivered through **Multi-agency Steering Groups**, each responsible for driving delivery of agreed priorities and reporting progress to the **Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**.

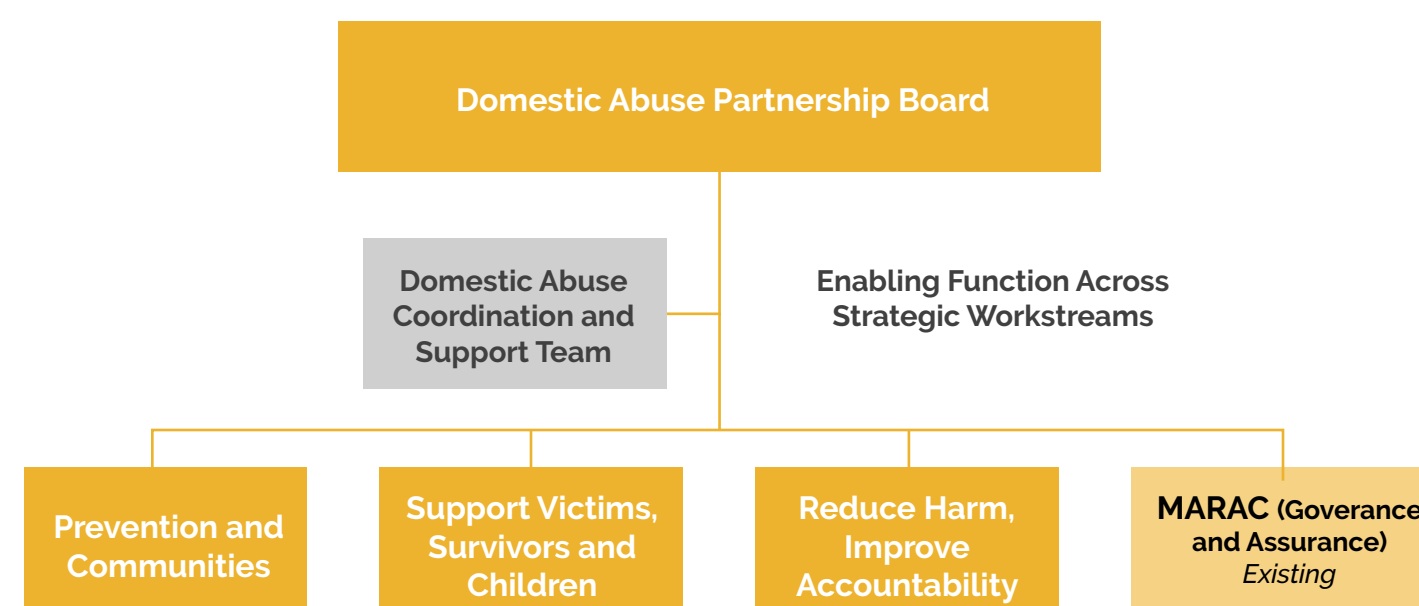
The Steering Groups will bring together those with the expertise, influence and responsibilities needed to deliver change within its priority area.

Each Steering Group will be led by a nominated **System Lead**, providing strategic leadership, championing collaboration across the system, overseeing delivery of the action plan and ensuring accountability for outcomes.

The **Coordination and Support Team** will provide programme management and partnership support to enable effective delivery across all workstreams.

The Team will:

- Coordinate meetings, work programmes and governance.
- Support System Leads to plan, deliver and monitor agreed actions.
- Monitor performance, risks and progress against outcomes.
- Provide data, intelligence and analytical support.
- Coordinate communications, engagement and partnership activity.
- Support joint and integrated commissioning, funding opportunities and drive continuous improvement.

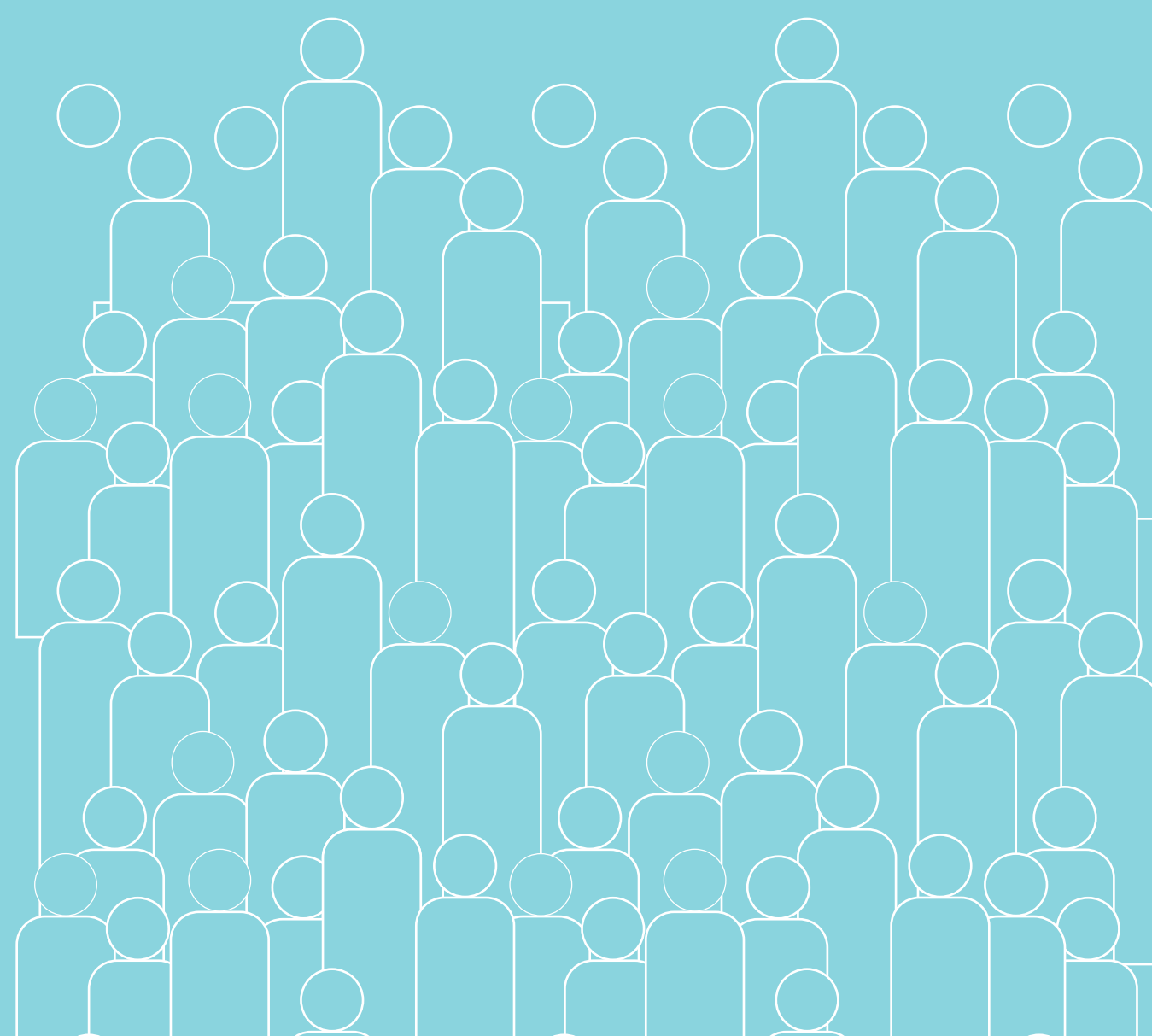


Working across all Steering Groups, the Team will strengthen coordination, maximise resources, reduce duplication and support the delivery of agreed priorities and outcomes.



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Priority 1



Prevention and Communities

Why this matters

Our engagement and needs assessment identified prevention as a key priority. This includes promoting healthy, respectful and safe relationships from early age, challenging harmful attitudes and behaviours, addressing misogyny and gender inequality, and intervening earlier to prevent abuse before it escalates.

Preventing DA requires informed, connected and resilient communities that recognise the signs of abuse, support healthy relationships, reduce stigma and enable people to access help at the earliest opportunity.

What success looks like

Healthy relationships are understood and valued. Individuals have the knowledge, skills and confidence to build healthy, respectful and safe relationships.

Communities recognise and respond to abuse. Communities are informed, empowered and confident in recognising DA, challenging harmful behaviours and supporting people to access help.

Abuse is identified and addressed earlier. DA is identified at the earliest opportunity, enabling timely intervention, support and prevention of escalation.

Harmful attitudes and social norms are challenged. Attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that enable DA, misogyny and gender inequality are actively challenged, contributing to lasting cultural change.

Our shared commitment

WE WILL invest in evidence-based prevention programmes that promote healthy relationships, consent, equality, respect and emotional wellbeing throughout the life course.

WE WILL work alongside communities to increase awareness, confidence and local leadership, creating environments where DA is recognised, challenged and prevented.

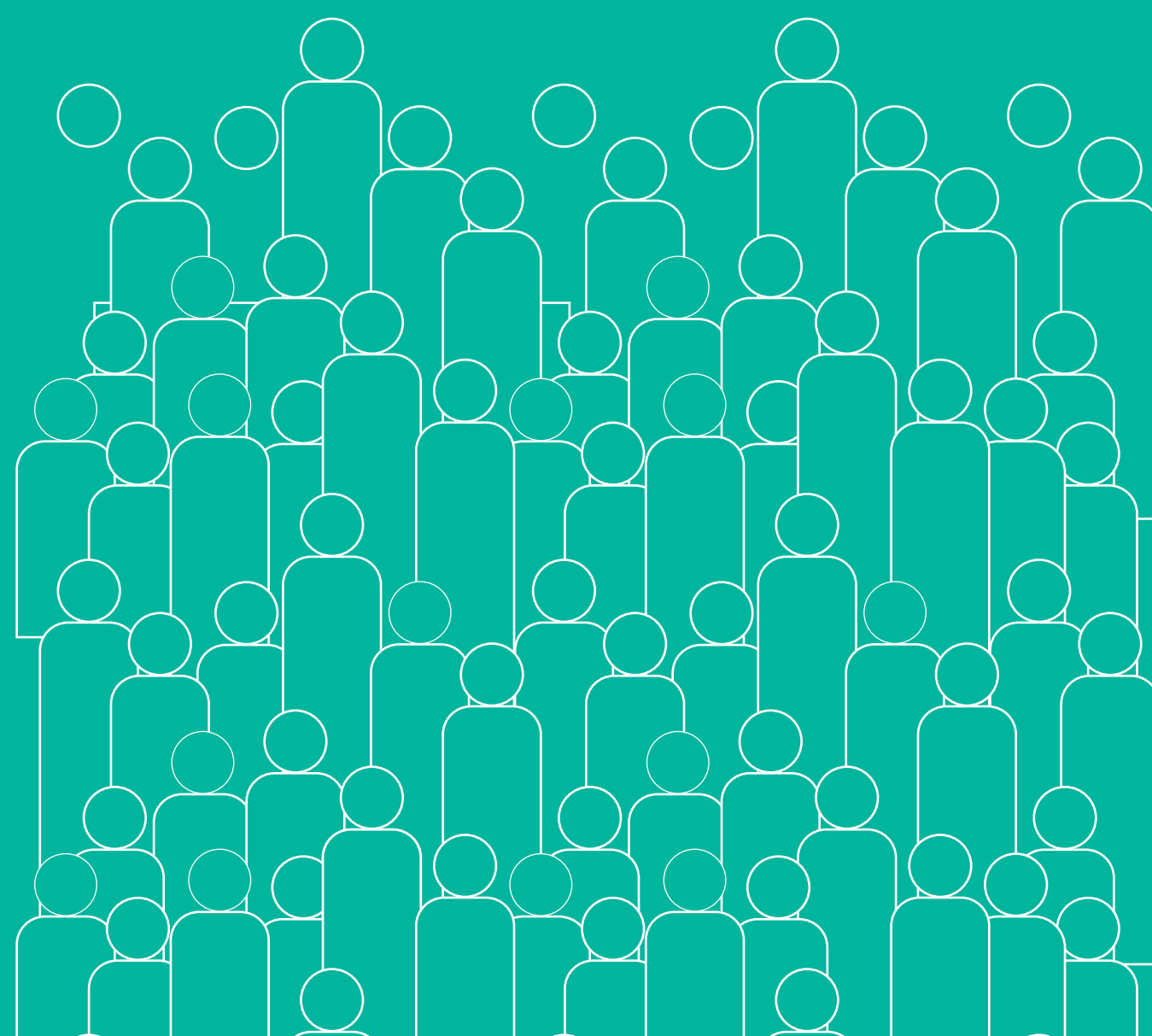
WE WILL strengthen workforce capability across all sectors to identify DA earlier, respond appropriately and connect people with timely support.

WE WILL deliver initiatives that address misogyny, gender inequality and other drivers of abuse, promoting positive behaviours, healthy masculinity and cultures of safety and respect.



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Priority 2



Support Victims, Survivors and Children to Recover and Thrive

Why this matters

Our findings identified significant barriers in accessing support, navigating services, securing safe accommodation, addressing the impacts of trauma and achieving long-term recovery.

Evidence highlights the significant and lasting impact that DA can have on adults and children, affecting safety, wellbeing, recovery, development and life opportunities across the life course.

Victims, survivors and children need timely, coordinated and trauma-informed support that promotes safety, recovery, resilience and independence.

What success looks like

Victims, survivors and children access support when they need it.

People affected by DA can easily access timely, appropriate and trauma-informed support before needs escalate into crisis.

Victims, survivors and children are safe and supported. Individuals feel safe, are supported to recover from the impacts of DA and experience improved wellbeing.

Victims, survivors and children have access to safe accommodation and sustainable housing pathways. Individuals can access safe, suitable accommodation and move-on options that support safety, recovery, independence and long-term stability.

Victims, survivors and children recover, thrive and shape services. Individuals are supported to achieve positive outcomes and influence the design, delivery and improvement of services through their lived experience.

Our shared commitment

WE WILL improve access to timely support and ensure victims, survivors and children can access equitable and trauma-informed support that promotes safety, recovery and wellbeing.

WE WILL strengthen coordinated pathways and integrated support, working with agencies to reduce barriers, improve navigation of services and ensure people receive the right support at the right time.

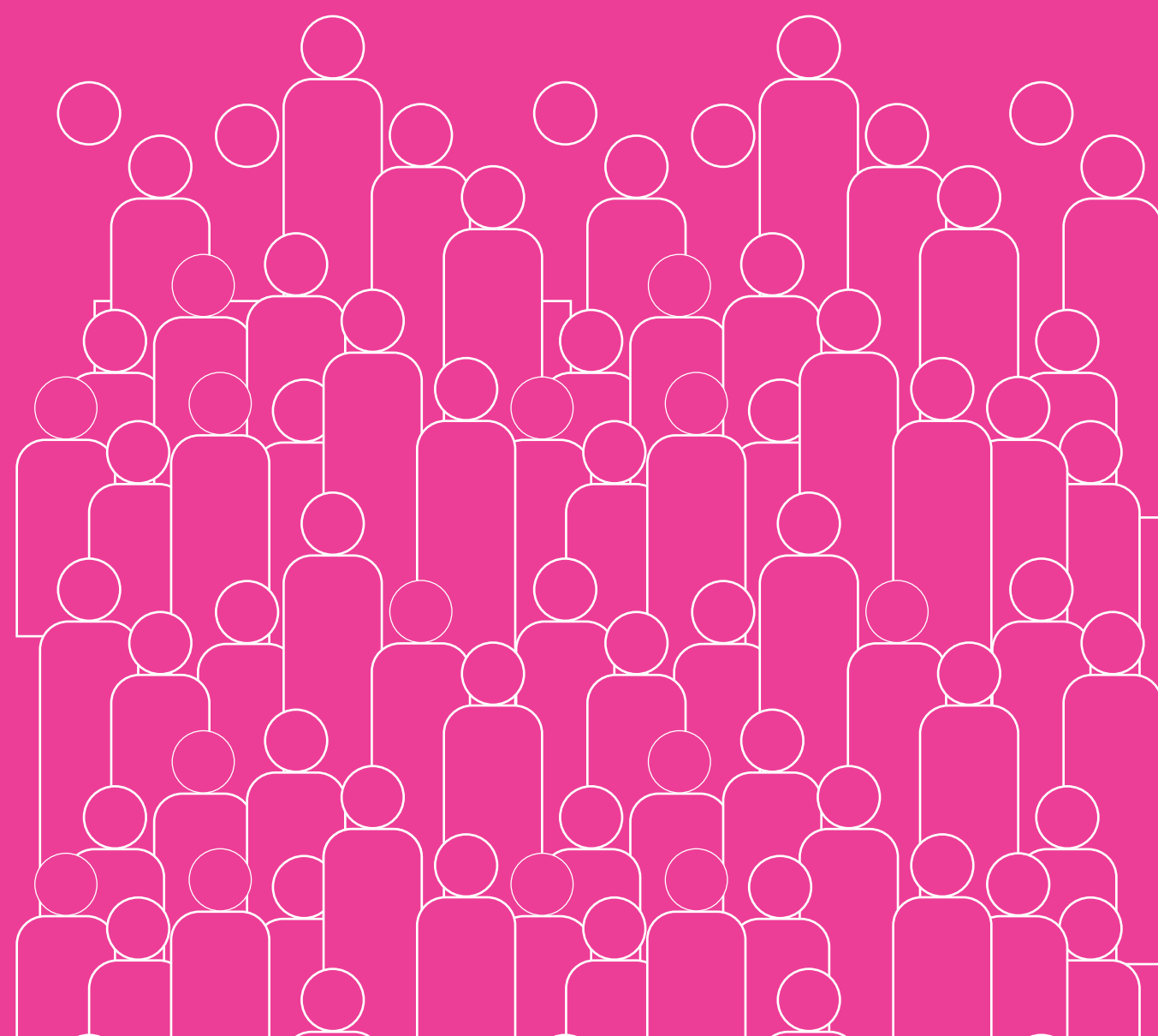
WE WILL improve access to safe accommodation and housing support, working collaboratively to ensure victims and survivors have access to safe accommodation and effective move-on pathways that support long-term safety and independence.

WE WILL promote recovery, resilience and lived-experience leadership, ensuring that they shape commissioning, services delivery, decision-making, and continuous improvement.



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Priority 3



Reduce Harm, Improve Accountability and Confidence in the Justice System

Why this matters

The development of this strategy identified the need for a stronger focus on those who cause harm and the effective management of risk.

Engagement and evidence highlighted concerns about confidence in the criminal justice system, including inconsistent responses, delays in decision-making, poor communication with victims and survivors, and concerns about the effectiveness and enforcement of protective measures.

Strengthening perpetrator accountability, reducing repeat harm and improving confidence in the justice system are essential to improving safety and outcomes for victims, survivors and children.

What success looks like

Perpetrators are identified and held accountable. Those who cause harm are identified at the earliest opportunity, actively managed according to risk and held accountable for their actions.

Harm is reduced through effective enforcement and intervention. Protective measures are consistently enforced, breaches are acted upon promptly and perpetrators are subject to effective interventions that reduce repeat harm and reoffending.

Victims and survivors feel informed, protected and supported. Victims and survivors receive clear communication, timely information and effective protection, helping them feel safer and more confident through their journey through the justice system.

Confidence in the justice system is strengthened. Victims and survivors have confidence that reports of DA are taken seriously, protective measures are enforced, risks are managed effectively and justice processes deliver fair and timely outcomes.

Our shared commitment

WE WILL strengthen multi-agency approaches to identify, assess and manage those who pose the greatest risk, ensuring effective oversight and accountability.

WE WILL strengthen enforcement and harm reduction by improving the use of protective measures, responding robustly to breaches, and expanding access to behaviour change interventions that reduce repeat harm.

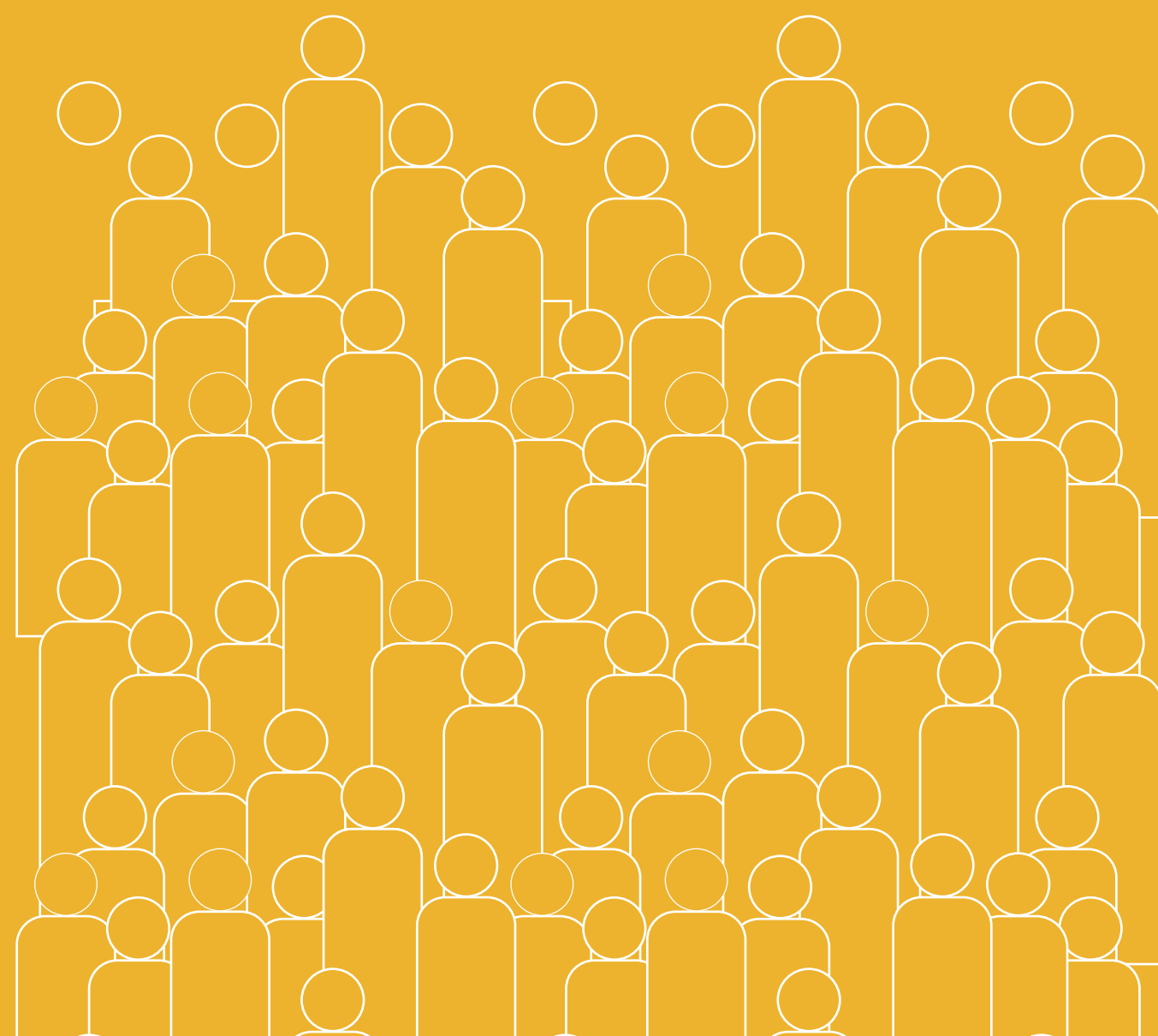
WE WILL improve victims' experience of the criminal justice system by strengthening communication, safety planning and support throughout the justice process.

WE WILL improve information sharing, partnership working and trauma-informed practice across agencies to improve decision-making, reduce delays and build confidence in the criminal justice response.



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Priority 4



Improved Whole-System Response

Why this matters

The development of the strategy consistently identified opportunities to strengthen how organisations work together, in response to that services can feel fragmented, with inconsistent communication, barriers to information sharing and duplication.

Delivering meaningful change requires a coordinated whole system response, underpinned by strong partnership working, effective governance, shared accountability, high-quality data and intelligence and a commitment of continuous improvement.

Working in partnership will continue to shape decision-making, service improvement and the development of a more effective and responsive domestic abuse system.

What success looks like

Partners work together as one system. Partners work collaboratively through effective governance, shared accountability, clear communication and coordinated service delivery.

Decisions are informed by evidence, data and lived experience. Data, intelligence, performance information and lived experience are routinely used to understand need, monitor progress, identify inequalities and inform decision-making.

Joint and integrated commissioning and resources deliver better outcomes. Commissioning, investment and service planning are aligned to shared priorities, evidence of need and agreed outcomes, ensuring resources are used effectively.

The system continuously learns and improves. Quality assurance, workforce learning, evaluation and partnership performance drive continuous improvement, innovation and better outcomes for victims, survivors and children.

Our shared commitment

WE WILL work together to make sure organisations share responsibility, work well together and contribute to the coordinated delivery of the strategy.

WE WILL use data, evidence and the experience of victims and survivors to understand what works, improve services and make better decisions, and inform commissioning and service improvement.

WE WILL align commissioning, investment and shared priorities, working collaboratively to commission services that meet local needs, use resources wisely and achieve the best outcomes for people affected by domestic abuse.

WE WILL continue to improve the quality of services by listening, learning, evaluating what works and supporting staff to provide safe, effective and compassionate support.



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Long-Term outcomes and Impact

Long-Term Outcomes

1

Fewer people experience DA, harmful behaviours are challenged, and healthy, respectful relationships become the norm

2

People effected by DA experience improved safety, wellbeing, recovery, resilience and independence

3

Those who cause harm are identified earlier, managed effectively, held accountable and supported to change their behaviour, reducing repeat victimisation

4

Services work together seamlessly, decisions are informed by evidence and lived experience, with continuous learning and quality improvement embedded in delivery

Impact

DA is prevented, victims, survivors and children are safer and recover well, those who cause harm are held accountable, and people have confidence in a coordinated and effective whole-system response.