

# ROCHDALE SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy  
2021 - 2023

Safer Rochdale

Rochdale • Middleton • Heywood • Pennines



## Foreword

### Welcome to Rochdale's Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy.

The Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) has primary responsibility for tackling the issue of domestic violence and abuse, and for developing and implementing this strategy.

However, it is such a complex social issue that success in reducing incidents and effectively supporting victims and survivors will only be achieved with the collective ownership and joined-up efforts of all agencies and services with a responsibility for crime prevention, health, social care and family support.

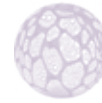
This plan sets out how we can help people and communities in Rochdale become free from the harm of domestic abuse and violence



**Superintendent  
Niall Hayden-Pawson  
District Commander for  
Rochdale, Middleton & Heywood  
and Chair of the Rochdale Safer  
Communities Partnership Board.**

“Domestic abuse is a cruel and complex crime that can affect anyone. Our local strategy will help our partners drive forward progress on a range of strategic issues relating to domestic abuse and its impact upon families and communities here in Rochdale.”

# What is Domestic Abuse?



## Government definition of domestic violence and abuse 2013:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

**Controlling behaviour is:** a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday 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 their victim.

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group. The new Domestic Abuse Bill proposes a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that it is not just violence but can be emotional, coercive controlling behaviour and economic abuse.

To the victims that suffer directly and indirectly it is life changing, impacting the physical safety and sense of security of both victims and their families. Domestic abuse impedes the opportunities of those affected, inhibiting the ability to fulfil their potential. To those enduring abuse it is often difficult to break away as the confidence and self-worth of victims is so often eroded by the perpetrators.



### Psychological:

blaming you for the abuse, name-calling, saying you're stupid



### Physical:

someone hurting you or threatening to hurt you



### Sexual:

being forced to take part in unwanted, unsafe or degrading activity



### Financial/Economic:

restricting finances/ access to work, getting you in debt



### Coercive control:

isolating you, monitoring your time, threats, humiliation

# Recognising Abuse

Signs that adults or children may be affected by domestic abuse

## Adults:

- Absence from work/social events
- Fear of the abuser or their anger
- Unexplained injuries or “accidents”
- Personality changes, becoming withdrawn or sad
- Seem afraid or anxious to please their abuser
- Receive frequent, harassing phone calls from their abuser
- Talk about their abuser’s temper, jealousy, or possessiveness
- Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars
- Restricted from seeing family and friends
- Rarely going out in public without their abuser
- Having limited access to money, credit cards, or the car
- Very low self-esteem, even if they used to be confident
- Depressed, anxious, or suicidal
- Developing a drug or alcohol problem

Abused adults may feel like they are living in fear, isolated, trapped and dependant on the abuser, experiencing conflicting emotions such as **fear, anger, shame, resentment, sadness and powerlessness.**

## Children:

- May become anxious or depressed
- Difficulty sleeping, nightmares or flashbacks
- Easily startled, withdrawn
- Physical symptoms: tummy ache, bed wetting
- Severe separation anxiety
- May behave much younger than they are
- Aggressive, temper tantrums
- May have a lowered sense of self-worth
- Excessively obedient
- Older children may begin to play truant, start to use alcohol or drugs, self-harm by taking overdoses or cutting themselves or have an eating disorder

Children may also feel **angry, guilty, insecure, alone, frightened, powerless or confused.** They may have ambivalent feelings towards both the abuser and the non-abusing parent.



## National Context

Domestic abuse impacts all sections of our society regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, religion or wealth. Any-one can be at risk of domestic abuse but some people, particularly women, are more likely to be victims.

In the 12 months ending March 2019, an estimated **2.4 million**

adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse (1.6 million women and 786,000 men)

Annually **93,892** high-risk victims and **119,292** children



are discussed at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference Meetings (MARAC) meetings across England and Wales. 29% of these are repeat cases

**94.7%** of high risk victims heard at MARAC are female, and **5.3%** male.



**15.6%** are black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME).  
6.6% are disabled. 1.1% are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT).



Approximately one in four **Domestic Homicide**

Reviews involve an older, predominantly female, victim (aged sixty and over).

Black, Asian, minority ethnic and migrant (BME) women experience higher rates of domestic homicide and



**50%** of BME women victims of violence experience abuse from **multiple** perpetrators

Less than **1%**



of perpetrators of abuse

currently receive any form of intervention addressing their abusive behaviour

## UK Legislation:

Although domestic abuse is not a specific criminal offence, there are a number of offences perpetrators can be prosecuted for depending on the specific acts, ranging from murder, rape and manslaughter through to assault, harassment and threatening behaviour. There are also civil orders to protect people from harmful acts such as harassment, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. More recent developments in UK legislation include:

- **Claire's Law (2014):**  
A scheme allowing an individual to ask Police to check whether a new or existing partner has a violent past. A disclosure can be made by the Police if it is legal, proportionate and necessary to do so
- **Coercive Control Offence (2015):**  
Victims who experience coercive and controlling behaviour that stops short of serious physical violence, but amounts to extreme psychological and emotional abuse, can bring their perpetrators to justice
- **Stalking Protections Orders (2020):**  
A civil order that protects victims from stalking, harassment and other unwanted contact

The Government's new Domestic Abuse Bill has already seen the appointment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner and additional funding for safe accommodation. This landmark piece of legislation makes further proposals to create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, place a duty on Local Authorities to provide safe accommodation for victims and their children, better support for victims in court, polygraph testing for offenders and improved police powers to remove perpetrators to respond to domestic abuse.



## Rochdale – Local Context



“The Borough of Rochdale has one of the highest rates of domestic homicides in Greater Manchester. It is crucial that we work closely with our communities and partners in Rochdale to understand the impact of domestic abuse and, more importantly, to support victims.

**Cllr Janet Emsley**  
**Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Community and Culture**

Everyone has a role in creating a culture where domestic violence and abuse is simply unacceptable. We want our residents to take a stand and share this important message across their workplaces, schools, communities and families, so we can put a stop to abuse.”

### Greater Manchester Police data:

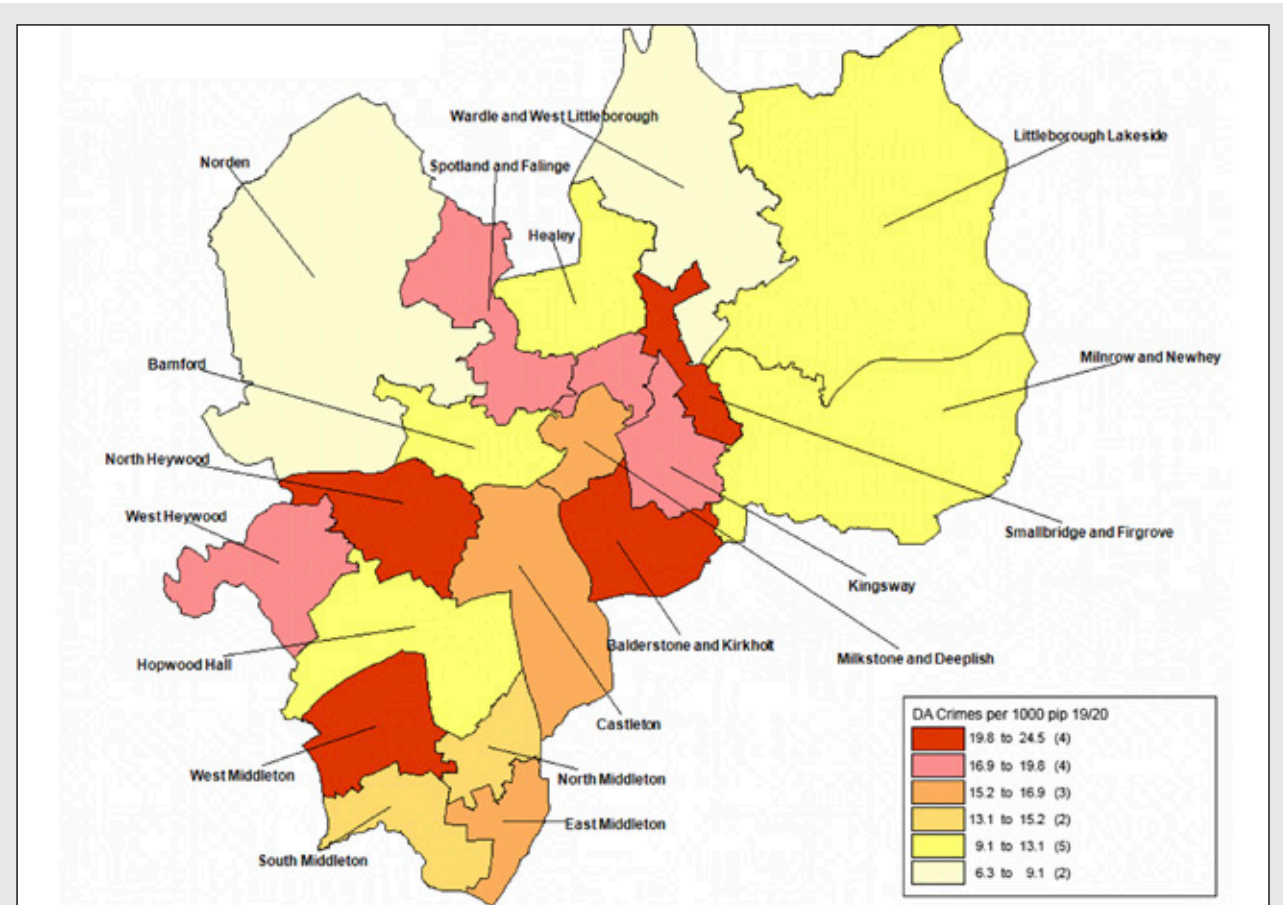
- Rochdale continues to have higher than average rates of domestic abuse and high incidences of repeat victimisation remain
- Rochdale has a high incident rate of domestic abuse compared to other boroughs in Greater Manchester – over the most recent 12 month period (up to June 2020) Rochdale had 22 incidents per 1000 residents
- Overall the level of DA incidents in Rochdale is very consistent - with between 4500 and 4900 in a 12 month period. (2018-2020)
- There is higher demand in calls to Police at Christmas/New Year, Easter and May Bank Holidays, and August
- Over the last few years Rochdale had made great improvements in the ‘conversion’ rate that meant more domestic incidents were more likely to result in a crime being recorded and to extend safeguarding and reassurance contact to victims

# Domestic Abuse - Crimes by Ward

## Greater Manchester Police Data continued:

- 75% of Rochdale victims of reported domestic abuse are female – 2019/20
- The proportion of male victims has increased – from 19% in 2014/15 to 25% in 2019/20
- Ages of victims do vary but the majority are aged between 21 and 30 (29%) and 31 and 40 (27%)
- Offenders are mainly men, aged 20 to 35, with the peak ages 30 -35 years old which is probably a little older than in general offending
- 20% (160 individuals) offenders identified in 2018/19 are repeat offenders

“Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime that is not reported to the police. Therefore, data held by the police can only provide a partial picture of the actual level of domestic abuse experienced. According to the Crime Survey of England and Wales data for the year ending March 2018, only 18% of women who had experienced partner abuse in the last 12 months reported the abuse to the police.”



## Greater Manchester Police data:

The implementation of a new GMP IT system in July 2019 resulted in limitations around data retrieval, which has subsequently hampered the collation of statistics.

This may result in some inaccuracies in the data retrieved since the date of implementation.



## Children's Services Data: From April 18 – Mar 20 (2020):

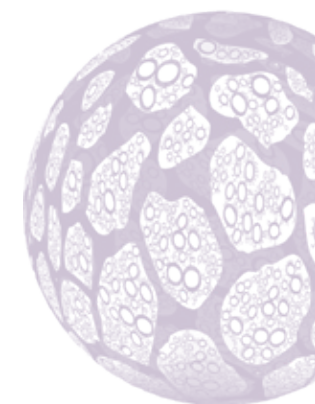
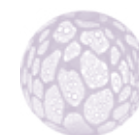
- June 2020  
**72% of our children** on Child Protection Plan had domestic abuse as a factor
- 2019-2020  
**45% of Early Help Assessment Plans** completed had current or historic violence within the home
- 2018 – 2019  
**33 % of cases** being referred into our Early Help and Safeguarding Hub had domestic abuse as a factor, this has increased to 39% since the Covid-19 pandemic began (March 2020)
- June 2020  
**55% of the children** in Local Authority care had domestic abuse as a factor, a deep dive into the data in 2018 showed the figure was likely to be higher at 70%
- **46% of the serious case reviews** in Rochdale (a formal report when a child has been killed or seriously harmed), have had domestic abuse as a factor

## Domestic Homicides in Rochdale:

- Since 2011  
**15 in total**
- Gender of victims  
**12 female, 3 male**
- Gender of perpetrators  
**1 female, 12 males, 1 suicide, 1 unconfirmed**
- Perpetrators:  
**7 partners, 2 ex-partners, 1 ex-wife, 1 son-in law, 2 sons, 1 suicide, 1 unconfirmed**
- Ages of victims  
**3 were 20+, 3 were 30+, 4 were 40+, 4 were 50+, 1 were 60+**
- Ethnicity of victims  
**1 Zimbabwean, 4 British Pakistani, 10 White British**
- Risk level:  
**2 high, 9 medium, 4 unknown**
- Number of children under 18 within the cases:  
**13 children in total**



Since 2011  
**15 domestic homicides**  
**12 female, 3 male**



## Key Strategic Drivers

- **Domestic Abuse Bill:**

This strategy embraces the proposals within the bill, ensuring they are echoed within local plans.

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-abuse-bill](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-abuse-bill)

- **Government Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy:**

Our strategy supports the commitment and plans of the national strategy and recognition of male victims

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020)

- **Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Partnership Board:**

This board provides both a strategic and advisory function in influencing the shape of our Greater Manchester partnership response to domestic abuse by:

- Overseeing the development of a Greater Manchester partnership strategy and associated action plan;
- Overseeing the implementation of the agreed partnership strategy and action plan.

- **Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership Strategy:**

The Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) has primary responsibility for tackling the issue of domestic violence and abuse, and for developing and implementing this strategy. More information can be found at <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/pdf/2019-11-21-safer-communities-plan-v5.pdf>.

- **Rochdale Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2020:**

To be completed by Rochdale Council and Public Health to help us understand the scale of the issue locally and identify gaps in services/provision. The findings of this will be fed into our Domestic Abuse Action Plan.

- **Rochdale Relationship Manifesto:**

A partnership approach promoting the principle that healthy, dependable, respectful relationships are a right not a privilege for everyone, regardless of age.

This strategy supports the principle and commits to ensuring staff and communities understand healthy relationships and recognise cases of domestic abuse.

[www.rochdale.gov.uk/rochdalereationshipsmatter](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/rochdalereationshipsmatter)

- **Public Service Reform:**

This is a focus on bringing services together at a neighbourhood level, designed around the person and their needs. This is about ensuring specialist services can be seamlessly pulled into the local neighbourhood and also having the right arrangements in place to work as one public service within the locality.



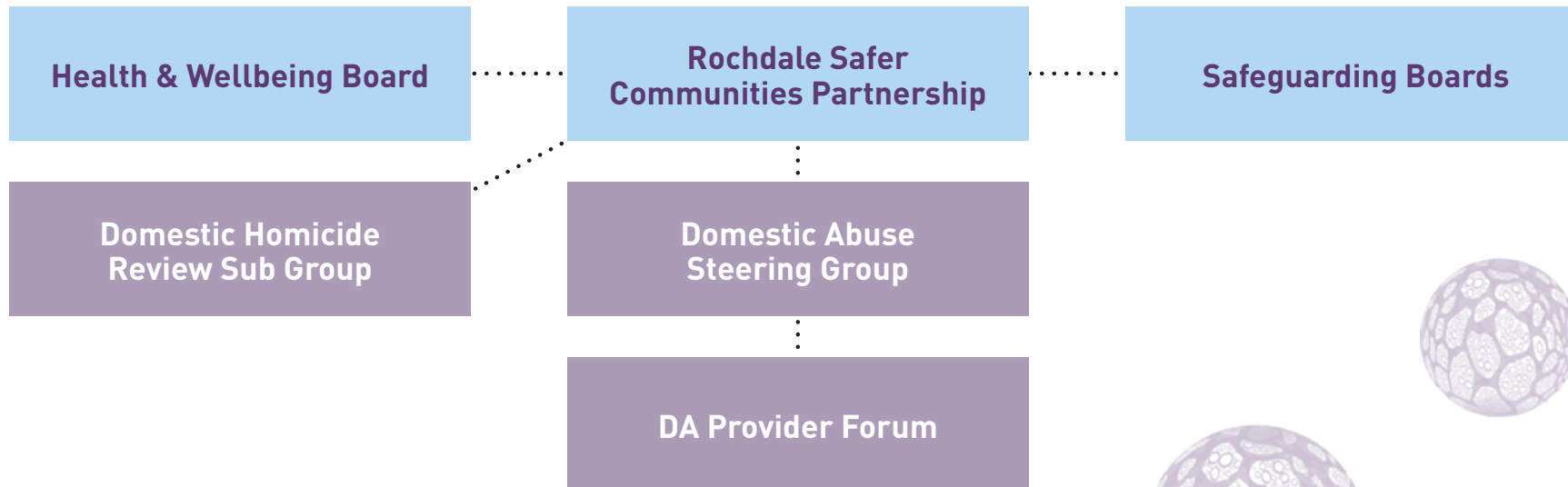
# Governance

Our **Domestic Abuse Steering Group** will drive forward progress and map links with other strategic groups, including The Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board, and related issues such as Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to ensure that needs are met in a coordinated way.

The **Domestic Abuse Steering Group** has been established by the Partnership to drive forward progress on a range of strategic issues relating to domestic abuse and its impact upon families and communities.

The Domestic Abuse Steering Group will report to the **Safer Communities Partnership Board**, and through established governance links, to the Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children’s Board.

Provider linkage with the Steering Group, and networking for the purpose of promoting service development and influencing policy and strategy development will be by way of a Provider Forum, supported and facilitated by Community Safety.



## Key Achievements

When developing this strategy we reviewed the work of partners to recognise achievements made from 2017- 2019 in line with our key priorities.

### Strategic:

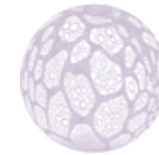
- Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) created: a strategic partnership meeting to develop and lead on the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan
- Domestic Abuse Coordinator appointed to develop and sustain partnership links and support the work of the DASG
- Domestic Abuse Provider Forum created to engage specialist 3rd sector services, sharing good practice, funding opportunities and developing partnership working
- Domestic Homicide Review Learning Event for over 100 professionals, looking at what we have learnt locally from our homicides to work differently with families
- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2020, to help understand the scope of the issue locally and commission services that families need

### Children and adults understand about healthy relationships:

- Preparing schools and communities for the compulsory introduction of Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) lessons within all schools from September 2020, including the creation of a film to tour schools ensuring children and young people will know where to get support if they are living with unhealthy relationships
- Awareness campaigns such as “White Ribbon” and “Sitting Right with You” highlighting what domestic abuse is and where people can get help. Campaigns have included information on radio in community languages to reach our BAME families

### People who are at risk of or suffering domestic abuse are protected:

- Investment of £184,000 into our high risk domestic abuse IDVA service to provide 4 full-time additional posts, 2 are specialist Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) posts making the service more accessible. An additional 400 families will be supported to keep safe via these posts



### Children and young people are protected from the effects of domestic abuse:

- Roll out of Operation Encompass, a process that informs schools of domestic abuse incidents so they can offer early support to children who have been affected
- Funding for specialist children’s work within our safe accommodation, enabling children to recover from the domestic abuse they have lived with

### Families are able to effectively deal with and manage conflict:

- The launch of Rochdale’s Relationship Manifesto detailing how the borough will work to help people affected by relationship conflict, including training for frontline staff and a specialist intervention for families experiencing child to parent violence

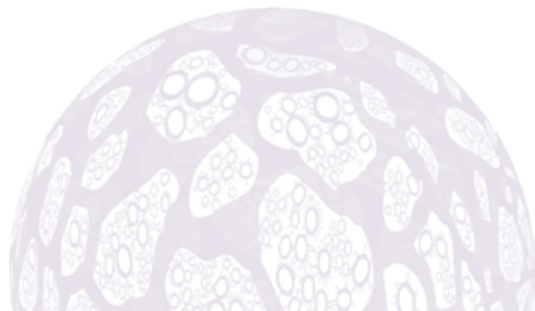
### Offenders engage in behaviour and lifestyle programmes to enable rehabilitation and minimise reoffending:

- Funding secured to deliver a “Caring Dads” pilot locally, an intervention to help dads change their abusive behaviour enabling safer, healthy relationships with their children and ex/partners

### Victims (including specific groups, BAME LGBT+, elderly etc.) and those impacted by domestic abuse are able to access services, support packages and safe accommodation:

- Funding secured to provide staff for a new 7 unit “step-down” accommodation project for families moving out of our refuge, including a specialist children’s worker, making more safe bed-spaces available sooner within our refuge
- Funded 18 additional self-contained flats during Covid-19 for local families fleeing domestic abuse ensuring they have access to safe accommodation
- Providing 3 dispersed properties for black and ethnic minority (BAME) families, ensuring specialist support and accommodation locally

- Commissioning of STRIVE service across Greater Manchester, supporting “standard” risk victims to access support earlier



# Domestic Abuse Priorities for 2021-23

## 1. RECOGNISING: Raising awareness and enabling challenge

### What does success look like?

- ✓ Children and adults understand about healthy relationships
- ✓ Better understanding of coercive controlling behaviour and heightened risk when ending an abusive relationship
- ✓ Professionals, employers and communities are able to recognise what domestic abuse is and know how to get help for victims and perpetrators
- ✓ Local awareness raising campaigns, changing attitudes to domestic abuse
- ✓ Improved understanding of honour-based abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and no recourse to public funds
- ✓ All staff trained in domestic abuse and parental conflict and understand the difference

## 2. RESPONDING: Safeguarding vulnerable people and providing support for victims

### What does success look like?

- ✓ Victims having confidence to report domestic abuse and feeling they will receive a supportive and effective response from all agencies
- ✓ Families are able to affectively deal with and manage conflict
- ✓ Communities, agencies and employers report and refer incidences of domestic abuse
- ✓ People who are at risk of or suffering domestic abuse are protected
- ✓ Children, young people and unborn babies are protected from the effects of domestic abuse
- ✓ Victims (including specific groups, BAME, LGBT+, elderly etc.) and those impacted by domestic abuse are able to access services, support packages and safe accommodation



### 3. REHABILITATION: Dealing with offenders and reoffenders to change behaviours

#### What does success look like?

- ✓ People who engage in domestic abuse are deterred from their activities through prosecutions and / or rehabilitation
- ✓ Evidence based specialist interventions for perpetrators to change their behaviour, working in partnership with services for victims and children
- ✓ Offenders engage in behaviour and lifestyle programmes to enable rehabilitation and minimise reoffending
- ✓ Prevention programmes for young people at risk of being abusive in their own intimate or family relationships

### 4. REVIEWING: creating an improved multi-agency response to tackling domestic abuse

#### What does success look like?

- ✓ Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment undertaken to accurately assess the gaps that need bridging to improve lives
- ✓ Strategic Domestic Abuse Action Plan reviewed on a regular basis by all key partners and stakeholders, to ensure we make progress and change as the needs of our victims evolve.
- ✓ Lessons learnt from domestic homicide reviews shared with partners and included in action plans ensuring wherever possible we address the causes and prevent repetition



## What do we want to achieve?

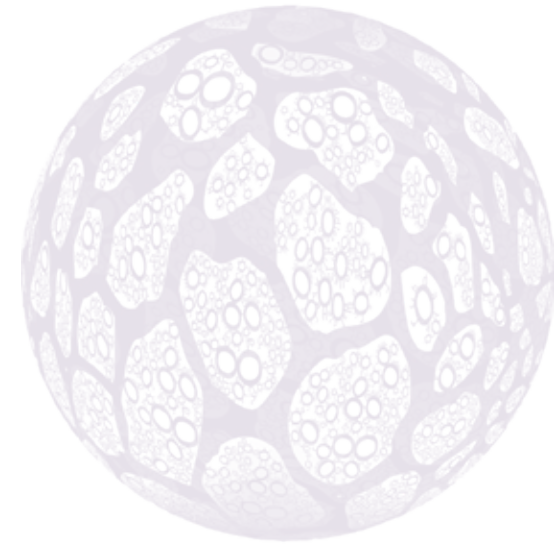
To clearly demonstrate that domestic violence and abuse is unacceptable, and to reduce both the prevalence and impact of domestic violence and abuse upon victims, children, families and communities throughout the Borough.

## Monitoring and measuring our impact

The Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) will have the overall responsibility for the delivery of Rochdale's Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy. The Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) will oversee the development and delivery of the action plan and agree key performance indicators to monitor impact. This will be done in partnership with our 3rd sector domestic abuse providers, recognising their contributions and commitment to ending domestic abuse locally.

The RSCP will review this strategy on an annual basis to ensure the following:

- The Domestic Abuse Action Plan is fully and effectively implemented
- Review key performance indicators to ensure continued understanding of customer and service needs





# Available Support

## • Victim Support

- One-to-one support for male and female victims/survivors of domestic abuse living within the Rochdale borough, including support through the court process and safety planning.
- Tel: **0161 507 9609**  
Email: [rochdale@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:rochdale@victimsupport.org.uk)

## • Safenet

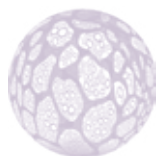
- Refuge, dispersed and step-down safe accommodation for women and children including specialist BAME properties. Outreach support for male and female victims/survivors.
- Tel: **0300 3033 581**  
Email: [contact@safenet.org.uk](mailto:contact@safenet.org.uk)  
Web: [www.safenet.org.uk](http://www.safenet.org.uk)

## • Early Help and Complex Safeguarding Hub (EHASH)

- Rochdale's main point of access to children's social care. All concerns regarding a child or young person suffering or at risk of significant harm should be reported.
- Tel: **0300 303 0440** - 8.30am to 4.45pm,  
**0300 303 8875** - Out of office hours,  
Email: [ehash@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:ehash@rochdale.gov.uk)

## • Police

- In an emergency contact **999**
- Non-emergency contact **101**



## • Rochdale Connections Trust

- One to one and group support for female victims, children and male perpetrators (done separately)
- Tel: **07946 651643** Web: [www.r-c-t.co.uk](http://www.r-c-t.co.uk)

## • Rochdale Women's Welfare

- One to one and group support for Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women affected by forced marriage, FGM (female genital mutilation) or sexual assault.
- Tel: **01706 860157** Web: [www.rwwa.org.uk](http://www.rwwa.org.uk)

## • NESTAC

- Therapeutic support for adult women, children and young people affected by or at risk of Female Genital Mutilation
- Tel: **0170 686 8993** Email: [info@nestac.org.uk](mailto:info@nestac.org.uk)

## • The Freedom Programme for women

- Free, confidential 12-week programme for women who want to know more about domestic abuse in various venues across the borough
- Email: [freedomprogramme@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:freedomprogramme@rochdale.gov.uk)

## • LGBT Foundation

- Support across Greater Manchester to anyone over 16 years old who identifies under the umbrella term of LGBTQ+, including those questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Tel: **0345 3 30 30 30**  
Email: [info@lgbt.foundation](mailto:info@lgbt.foundation)

## • Independent Choices

- One-to-one support across Greater Manchester for LGBTQ+ people affected by domestic abuse.
- Tel: **0161 636 7525**  
Email: [helpline@independentchoices.org.uk](mailto:helpline@independentchoices.org.uk)

## • Turning Point

- Support for people who are affected by drugs and alcohol through free confidential advice, information, support and a variety of treatment options
- Tel: **0300 555 0234**  
Email: [ROARreferrals@turning-point.co.uk](mailto:ROARreferrals@turning-point.co.uk)

## • Rochdale Council domestic abuse web-pages:

- For more info about DA services and support visit [www.rochdale.gov.uk](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk)



## Data Sources

1. **Office for National Statistics:**  
Crime Survey England and Wales 2019
2. **SafeLives:**  
MARAC National Dataset 2018 -19
3. **Domestic Homicide of Older People (2010–15):**  
A Comparative Analysis of Intimate-Partner Homicide and Parricide Cases in the UK Hannah Bows
4. **Sisters for Change Report:**  
“Unequal Regard, Unequal Protection 2”
5. **Feasibility Study, SafeLives** (Unpublished) 2014
6. **GMP Data**
7. **Rochdale Children’s Services**

## Contact:

To find out more about our Domestic Abuse Strategy then please contact Community Safety via:

Email: [community.safety@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@rochdale.gov.uk)

Call: **0300 303 8878**

Write to:

**Community Safety  
Floor 2  
Number One Riverside  
Smith Street  
Rochdale  
OL16 1XU**



# Safer Rochdale

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