

Guidance and  
recommendations  
for supported  
accommodation  
and Housing First  
providers responding  
to perpetrators  
of domestic abuse  
accessing their services

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Provided by the DAHA-led Perpetrators  
and Supported Housing Task and  
Finishing Group partners:

Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance  
(DAHA), DRIVE Partnership,  
Homeless Link, RISE Mutual, Single  
Homelessness Project, Standing Together  
Against Domestic Abuse and St Mungo's



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## The purpose of this guidance

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The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and recommendations for how supported accommodation providers and Housing First services can respond effectively to perpetrators of domestic abuse using their services, in a meaningful way, that holds them to account for their behaviour while keeping survivors of domestic abuse safe. It acknowledges that perpetrators in these services are likely to be experiencing multiple disadvantage and speaks to the specific complexities faced by professionals supporting this profile of perpetrator in these settings.

It is important to note, that all supported accommodation and Housing First services are likely to support perpetrators of domestic abuse, and so this guidance will provide benefit to all supported accommodation and Housing First services.

It is aimed at strategic leads in organisations delivering supported accommodation and Housing First and will outline how service managers can use domestic abuse policies, procedures, and training to support this process and embed an effective organisational response to perpetrators of domestic abuse.

This document is intended to be used alongside the 'Guidance and Recommendations for commissioners of Supported Accommodation and Housing First services', created through three Task and Finishing groups, focusing on how local authority commissioners can effectively commission services that support perpetrators of domestic abuse. This guidance can be found [here](#).

## Background

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This document is based on expertise shared through three Task and Finishing groups, focused on mapping out what a perpetrator response in sheltered/ supported accommodation should look like. The group was chaired by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA) and attended by representatives from across homelessness, women's specialist, and perpetrator specialist organisations. It is part of the wider work conducted by the Perpetrators & Housing Subgroup, which is a part of the DAHA-led National Housing & Domestic Abuse Policy & Practice Group. The Task & Finishing Group included representatives from: the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), DRIVE Partnership, Homeless Link, RISE Mutual, Single Homelessness Project, Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse, & St Mungo's.

## The issue

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Perpetrators of domestic abuse are the source and cause of violence and abuse towards those they harm, and without holding them to account for their abusive behaviours, addressing their needs and wider circumstances, we cannot fully reduce the risk they cause to others. Through the work of the Perpetrator & Housing Subgroup, we have worked with a range of partners, who have evidenced how a perpetrator's housing circumstances, and the response of housing professionals to perpetrators, impacts survivor safety and housing security. Without recognising and addressing these links, we cannot fully support survivors to achieve safety and housing security.

Understandably, professionals often place sole focus on the survivors of domestic abuse, but there is a need to address perpetrators as the source of harm. Professionals are rarely supported and trained to respond to perpetrators, and as a result, they simply do not know the safest way to address perpetrators' behaviours and housing needs without causing risk to the survivor or colluding with the perpetrator. Professionals working in supported accommodation, or Housing First services need additional support to address the specific needs of perpetrators accessing their services, who are more likely to experience multiple disadvantage, defined here as:



People facing multiple disadvantage experience a combination of problems. For many, their current circumstances are shaped by long-term experiences of poverty, deprivation, trauma, abuse, and neglect. Many also face racism, sexism, and homophobia. These structural inequalities intersect in different ways, manifesting in a combination of experiences including homelessness, substance misuse, domestic violence, contact with the criminal justice system and mental ill health. Multiple disadvantage is a systemic, not an individual issue.<sup>1</sup>



We have created this guidance to speak to the specific complexities faced by professionals working in these settings with perpetrators experiencing multiple disadvantage, which the task and finishing group identified as the following:

- **Many perpetrators in these settings are likely to be in ongoing relationship with a survivor who may also be homeless and experiencing multiple disadvantage.** When multiple disadvantage, complex trauma and experiences of coercion, control and violence overlap, survivors find it particularly difficult to identify their experience as abuse and engage with support around it. This often means that the survivor may wish to remain in the relationship and be housed with the perpetrator (even if this wish is expressed through the lens of the perpetrator's coercion and control). This makes it difficult for supported housing and Housing First providers to safeguard the survivor and hold the perpetrator to account, without increasing risk and further entrenching homelessness for both.
- **Within many local authorities, the housing pathways and options do not exist that would enable housing perpetrators and survivors together, or within the same accommodation provider.** Though providers may have concerns that housing a perpetrator and survivor together would increase the risk of domestic abuse occurring, often the alternative means leaving both the perpetrator and survivor sleeping rough or using other unsafe forms of hidden homelessness, which means both of their needs are unmet and the survivor is often more isolated from support.
- **Frontline staff in supported accommodation and Housing First services are not sufficiently equipped with the knowledge, skills, and support that they need to be able to identify and respond to survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse.** This can leave professionals unsure as to what action to take and understandably concerned about repercussions their actions could have on the survivor.
- **The situation outlined here is compounded by a shortage of survivor and perpetrator specialist interventions and support suitable for those with multiple disadvantages, which staff can refer perpetrators and survivors to for support.** This is often because perpetrators and survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage often find it difficult to engage with structured perpetrator interventions or Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) support, where resources and the subsequent ability to be flexible is limited. This means that non-specialist Housing First and supported accommodation providers are often left working with high-risk domestic abuse perpetrators and survivors, without the skills, knowledge, and specialist support necessary to do so safely.

<sup>1</sup> <http://meam.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MEAM-Strategy.pdf>

# What supported accommodation and Housing First providers can do to address perpetrators of domestic abuse using their services

There is no expectation that Housing First and supported accommodation staff are experts in working with perpetrator or survivors of domestic abuse, however they do play a critical role in a Coordinated Community Response (CCR)<sup>2</sup> to domestic abuse. The CCR recognises that every agency and professional holds information and support tools that are necessary for survivor safety and wellbeing and holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour.

As they both house and support clients, Housing First and supported accommodation providers may be one of the few professionals working closely with both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse who are often unseen and unsupported by mainstream services. We have developed some key principles to guide homelessness professionals around identifying and responding to perpetrators and addressing their housing needs. These have been taken from the **'Housing First England Principles'**<sup>3</sup> and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)-led Perpetrator and Housing working's groups briefing paper, **'Accommodation for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse'**<sup>4</sup>:

- **Put the safety and needs of the survivor first:** Before any action is taken, we must ask the question 'What does the survivor want?' This is the first and most key thing to ascertain. Take all reasonable steps to make sure your response does not exacerbate or generate additional risks for survivors and their children. Where possible, to understand what the survivor wants, service providers must engage with the survivor to obtain this information.



- **Everyone has a right to a home:** This is the first principle of the Housing First model. Responses from Housing First and supported accommodation services should explore opportunities to hold perpetrators to account, whilst providing support and access to safe and secure accommodation. Without access to secure accommodation for the perpetrator, risk for the survivor can be increased and further entrench homelessness and increase other needs such as substance misuse or mental health issues for both survivor and perpetrator.
- **Holding perpetrators to account:** 'Holding perpetrators to account' does not mean telling them that what they are doing is wrong or attempting to do work around behaviour change. Organisations should work within their remit, to house and provide perpetrators with support to maintain accommodation and thrive, but there are also things that they can do to avoid colluding with perpetrator's behaviour and challenge it, when appropriate. Below outlines some ways that supported accommodation and Housing First services can do this.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/what-is-ccr>

<sup>3</sup> <https://hfe.homeless.org.uk/principles-housing-first>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/media/11056/accommodation-for-perpetrators-of-domestic-abuse-discussion-paper\\_june-2021.pdf](https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/media/11056/accommodation-for-perpetrators-of-domestic-abuse-discussion-paper_june-2021.pdf)

## Step One:

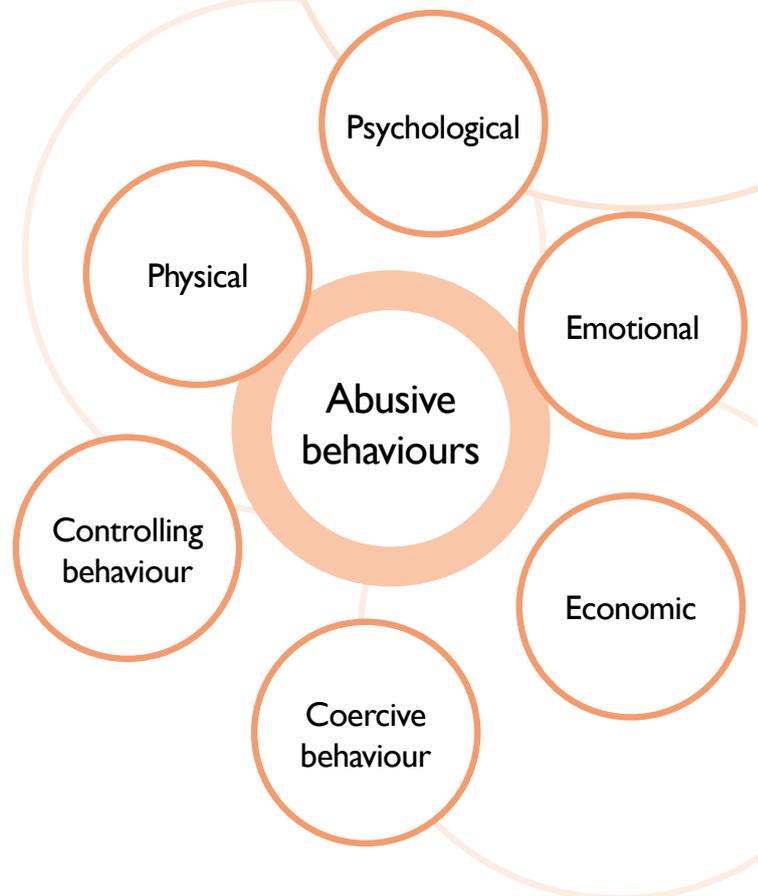
# Identify the perpetrators accessing your services

## Identifying perpetrators of abuse by their behaviours and actions

Through frontline professionals' interactions with individuals using their supported accommodation and Housing First services, they will be able to identify those who use abusive behaviour towards a partner or family member. Professionals should be able to identify all forms of abusive behaviours, which include physical, psychological, emotional, economic abuse, and coercive and controlling behaviour, as described in the statutory definition of domestic abuse established in the [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#).<sup>5</sup>

In some circumstances, both perpetrator and survivor may be using abusive behaviours, however, in almost all situations there will be a primary abuser, while the survivor is using abusive actions as a form of protection or a trauma response to the abuse. It is important that professionals can distinguish between survivor and perpetrator in these scenarios, and to be allowed to use a gendered lens in doing this, recognising that most perpetrators are men, while most **survivors are women**.<sup>6</sup> Although this does not account for all circumstances of abuse, particularly in LGBTQI+ relationships or family abuse (not intimate partner).

Professionals should use **RESPECT tools**<sup>7</sup> for identifying perpetrators when there is bi-directional abuse and receive training to correctly identify domestic abuse. As stated in the recommendations that follow, professionals can only spot the signs of abuse and distinguish between survivor and perpetrator when they are offered, training, support, and guidance to do so.



## Identifying perpetrators who present a high risk of harm and homicide

It is inevitable that frontline staff will be supporting perpetrators of domestic abuse that present a high risk of harm and homicide to the survivor, and in these cases, professionals must be able to take swift action to support the survivor and reduce the risk presented by the perpetrator.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2022>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.respect.uk.net/resources/19-respect-toolkit-for-work-with-male-victims-of-domestic-abuse>

In the first instance, frontline professionals must be equipped to identify when perpetrators are presenting a high risk of harm and homicide, both through risk identification tools, such as **the DASH RISK Checklist**,<sup>8</sup> as well as using their professional judgement when it is not suitable to use the DASH Risk checklist.

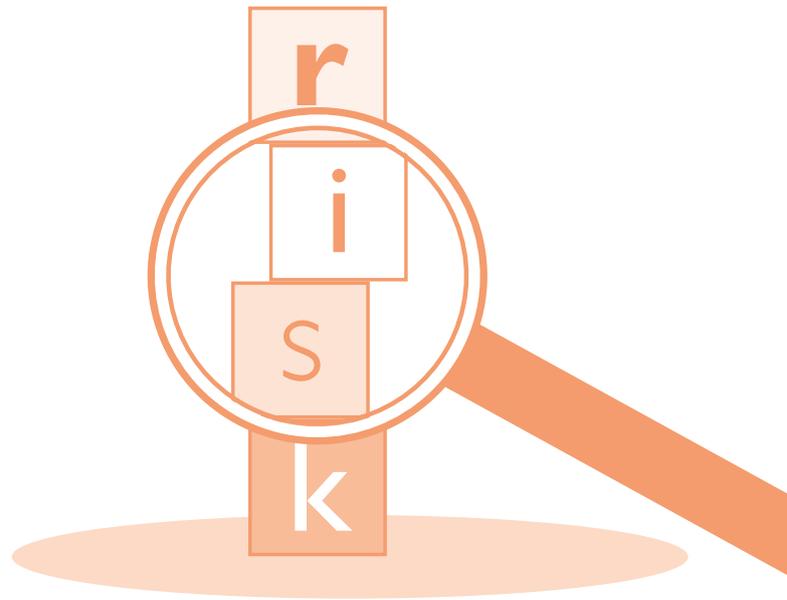
Once risk is identified, the frontline professionals must understand and utilise the appropriate safeguarding pathways in these circumstances, particularly through referring to the local **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**.<sup>9</sup>

As outlined in the recommendations below, to support frontline professionals in this process of identification and referral into safeguarding pathways, they must be provided with training, guidance, and support to do so, as well as established relationships and representation by the supported accommodation or Housing First provider at MARAC and other multi-agency safeguarding forums, such as MAPPA and MATAC.

## Identifying perpetrators by receiving and sharing information with other agencies

Perpetrators can be identified not only through their behaviour and actions within the Housing First or supported accommodation service, but also, based on information shared by other agencies, such as the police, or through multi-agency forums, such as the MARAC, **MATAC**,<sup>10</sup> or **MAPPA**,<sup>11</sup> particularly where the perpetrator presents a high risk of harm or homicide to the survivor (or a previous partner or family member).

It is important that when the accommodation provider receives any information from other agencies, that they record information both about the victim and the perpetrator on their case management system, including flagging and tagging case files, so that it remains known that the individual uses harmful behaviours and can potentially place a victim/survivor at risk of harm or homicide.



Professionals within accommodation settings have the legal justification through GDPR to both record and share information with other agencies about victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse, under their safeguarding responsibilities, without the perpetrator or the victim's consent or knowledge. If a perpetrator makes a subject access request, the service can redact any information about the domestic abuse. It is a far greater risk to withhold information from other agencies or to not record information about domestic abuse than it is to do so.

When you both record and share known information about domestic abuse, you are equipping other professionals and agencies to use this information to support the survivor and the perpetrator; and identify when the perpetrator's risk to the survivor; and children, escalates and further safeguarding action must be taken.

DAHA provides **guidance for housing professionals on the lawful basis for information sharing and recording in cases of domestic abuse**.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Dash%20risk%20checklist%20quick%20start%20guidance%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/MARAC%20FAQs%20General%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://mygovcentral.com/working-together-to-combat-domestic-abuse-the-benefits-of-multi-agency-cooperation/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-public-protection-arrangements-mappa-guidance>

<sup>12</sup> DAHA, 2021. Guidance for housing professionals on the lawful basis for information sharing and recording in cases of domestic abuse: <https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/media/10940/daha-information-sharing-guidance.pdf>

## Step Two:

# Offer a safe, supportive and accountable response to the perpetrators accessing your services

### Providing a response that is survivor-centred and informed

Once accommodation providers are equipped to identify perpetrators of domestic abuse, they must be supported to provide a safe and effective response to the individual using harmful behaviours. As stated in the above key principles, any response to a perpetrator must start with a focus on the survivor by ascertaining how they are feeling about the situation and what they want to do. This will therefore depend on how much contact that service has with the survivor. Some services may be directly supporting the perpetrator and have little contact with or knowledge of the survivor (as may be the case in male only supported accommodation projects), whereas some services may be directly supporting both perpetrator and survivor (both may be residing in the same supported accommodation project or be supported by the same Housing First service).

#### ***When a service is supporting the perpetrator only....***

If the service is directly supporting only the perpetrator, they might not have direct contact with the survivor, but it is crucial they take additional steps to find out who they are and link them in with the appropriate support services. The professional should try and find out if the survivor has housing and support, and link in with any relevant agencies. If they have support, who is the closest professional to that survivor? The closest professional to that survivor is more likely to have their trust and is therefore best placed to open a conversation with the survivor about what they want and need.

#### ***When a service is supporting the survivor and the perpetrator....***

If the service is supporting both the survivor and the perpetrator, professionals will have a better opportunity to offer direct support and advice to that survivor as well as the perpetrator. Separate workers should be assigned for survivor and perpetrator, and it is important that they communicate regularly. With regards to the survivor, define which professional is best placed to support, and consider how they can begin a conversation with the survivor about what they want and need. Bear in mind that this is likely to be a nuanced conversation as the survivor may not identify their experience as abuse and wish to remain in a relationship with the perpetrator. As above, the professional should open a conversation with the survivor about the abuse, ask them what they want to happen, assess risk, and make appropriate referrals. As domestic abuse disproportionately affects women, giving a woman the choice to receive support from a female support worker can make a big difference, and might support some women to build trust and open up about their experiences.



Once it has been ascertained what the survivor needs and wants, teams should consider the following when responding to perpetrators:

### **Disrupting perpetrator behaviour: making third party reports to the police and the role of Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders (DVPNs and DVPOs)<sup>13</sup>**

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Professionals within accommodation settings should make a third-party report to the police to report details of a nonemergency crime if it is assessed that there is a risk to the survivor, and if the survivor is unwilling or unable to make the report themselves. Survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage may have many reasons why they do not want the police involved, and reporting without their consent may feel like a breach of their trust and confidentiality. If a survivor discloses an incident to a professional, or if a professional witnesses an incident, it is always best to try and share concerns with them and try and get their consent to make a third-party report. However, if this is not possible, and there are concerns the survivor or any other party involved is at risk, the report should still be made.

If the survivor is not known to the professional the professional should endeavour to find out if they have support and share concerns with the relevant professional, or work to link that survivor in with services who can support. As well as safeguarding survivors, uniformly applying this practice maintains boundaries and sends a clear message to perpetrators that abusive behaviour will not be tolerated. The police are also able to issue DVPNs to disrupt a perpetrator's abusive behaviour. DVPNs and DVPOs are an emergency non-molestation and eviction notice which can be issued by the police, when attending to a domestic abuse incident, to a perpetrator. These can still be useful in scenarios where the survivor and perpetrator remain in a relationship, as professionals are able to report breaches of these orders to the police. The perpetrator can be arrested and charged for breaching the order, which gives the survivor some breathing space and professionals some time to work with that survivor without the perpetrator present.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-violence-protection-orders/domestic-violence-protection-notices-dvpns-and-domestic-violence-protection-orders-dvpos-guidance-sections-24-33-crime-and-security-act-2010>

### ***Referring to and participating in multiagency safeguarding arrangements***

As already outlined in the identification section above, once perpetrators are identified as presenting a high risk or harm or homicide to the survivor, it is the supported accommodation/Housing First providers' safeguarding responsibility to refer the perpetrator and survivor (if known), into the local MARAC where information is shared, and action plans are made to reduce the risk of harm and homicide presented by the perpetrator. Where the supported accommodation/Housing First provider may have limited information about the abuse and the needs of the survivor and perpetrator, other agencies may bring additional information that clarify the situation and makes for safer decision making and actions from agencies.

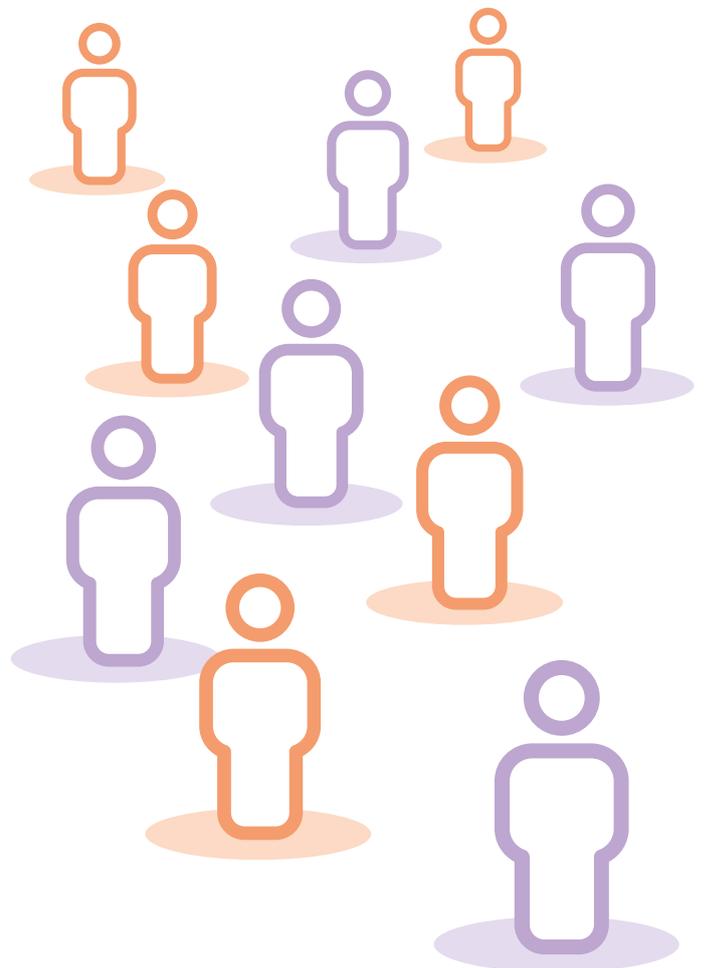
### ***Don't underestimate the importance of working within your remit to build relationships and offer positive support to perpetrators***

Professionals working in Housing First and supported accommodation settings are not expected to be specialists in working with perpetrators, but they should not underestimate the positive impact of the relationships they build, and the support that they provide to perpetrators within the remit of the service.

Using a strengths-based approach to support a perpetrator around finances and link them in with services and support (such as mental health or drug and alcohol services) cannot eliminate the risk they pose to the survivor and should never be seen as the cause of the abuse; however, it can go some way to manage the risk they cause to survivors and increase their ability to engage with behaviour management interventions. Professionals should understand that they don't need to be a specialist perpetrator worker to build a relationship with someone, role model positive behaviour and give them support.

### ***Challenge attitudes and beliefs that maintain/condone abusive behaviour in services***

Domestic abuse is a hugely common problem, which can be experienced and perpetrated by anyone. However, it is gendered, and predominantly perpetrated by men towards women. It is an issue rooted in gender inequality and therefore it is important to challenge the systemic misogyny that maintains and supports it. Supported accommodation settings tend to be largely male dominated spaces; if misogyny is left unchallenged it is likely to increase a perpetrator's sense of entitlement to use abusive behaviour. It is therefore essential that professionals feel able to challenge both team members and resident's misogynistic attitudes and the use of derogatory language. A commitment to challenging misogynistic attitudes should be made clear in an organisation's policies, procedures, training and culture.



## Step Three:

# How service leads can embed an effective response to perpetrators of domestic abuse into their services

### Offer supported accommodation and Housing First professionals specialist training to identify and respond to perpetrators of abuse using their services

To effectively identify and respond to perpetrators of domestic abuse within their accommodation settings, professionals require training and guidance from specialists working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. They need to be equipped to first identify the signs of domestic abuse, indicated through coercive and controlling behaviour as well as physical violence. They also need to be equipped to differentiate between the primary perpetrator and survivor in cases of bi-directional abuse, and when there are dual allegations, to not isolate and criminalise the survivor and collude in the perpetrator's abusive behaviours. They also need training to positively engage with and support perpetrators to address their wider needs and take responsibility for their abusive behaviour. Ideally, training should also be tailored to consider perpetrators and survivors experience of homelessness and multiple disadvantage and the additional challenges and barriers these create.

### Develop domestic abuse policy and procedures that strategizes the response to perpetrators and survivors of domestic abuse

Organisations providing Housing First and supported accommodation services should ensure they have put in place a robust domestic abuse policy that outlines how professionals should identify and respond to both survivors and perpetrators of abuse. The latter tends to be overlooked due to a necessary focus on survivor safety, but as stated above, responses to perpetrators and their housing circumstances impact survivor safety and housing security. Perpetrators are the source and cause of the abuse, and without directly addressing their behaviour, they will continue to present a risk to others. It is therefore essential that any domestic abuse policy outlines how professionals can hold perpetrators to account and consider their housing and support needs, and critically, how the organisation will support staff to do this.

The following points should be considered when creating or reviewing organisational domestic abuse policy and procedures.

#### **A commitment to hold perpetrators to account:**

Policies should clearly state that organisations have a commitment to hold perpetrators to account for their behaviour and acknowledge that they are best placed to identify, respond, and refer to specialist services, and address their accommodation needs. This should reflect the principles outlined above, ensuring that survivors' needs, and safety are centralised.

**Recognising the gendered nature of domestic abuse and wider societal inequalities that upholds violence against women and girls (VAWG)**

The domestic abuse policy should recognise the gendered nature of domestic abuse, and the critical role they have in identifying the primary perpetrator; and holding them to account, while identifying the survivor; and ensuring she is not mistakenly criminalised and isolated from services. As a part of this recognition, the policy should state a commitment to challenge all misogynistic behaviours, beliefs, and language in their services.

**A clear commitment should be made to providing staff with the guidance and training they need to respond to perpetrators effectively:**

Professionals should be offered a robust training package to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to respond to domestic abuse, both in terms of supporting the survivor and supporting/responding to the perpetrator. Where possible, professionals should attend RESPECT accredited training on working with perpetrators. Professionals should also where possible access training and guidance such as 'Confidence in Complexity: Supporting survivors and perpetrators in homelessness settings'.<sup>14</sup> 'Confidence in Complexity' was developed specifically for professionals working in the homelessness sector; and outlines how to safely work with survivors and manage perpetrator behaviour when professionals have no choice but to interact with both. The one day course and the related guidance covers how to recognise domestic abuse within the context of multiple disadvantage, how to support survivors who remain in relationships with perpetrators, how to provide trauma informed support to perpetrators whilst holding them accountable for their abusive behaviour; and how to recognise the primary aggressor within complex scenarios where there may be bi-directional abuse occurring.



<sup>14</sup> <https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/working-effectively-with-perpetrators>. Training is available to support teams to use the guidance most effectively. Please get in touch with Amy Smith at Standing Together (a.smith@standingtogether.org.uk) or Lucy Campbell at SHP (l.campbell@shp.org.uk) to find out more.



***Requiring information recording and sharing about both perpetrators and survivors of domestic abuse with multiagency partners:***

For the clear reasons given above, it is critical that the organisation's DA policy supports the legal basis of information recording and sharing with multi-agency partners, including the police and multi-agency safeguarding forums such as MARAC. This should include explicitly requiring the tagging and flagging of any DA on where there is high risk DA, on the perpetrator and survivor's case files. The policy should also support and require the organisation's involvement with the multiagency forum, MARAC.

***Work with commissioners and other local partners to develop a commitment and process for addressing individual survivor and perpetrator housing need:***

As outlined above, housing need should be considered based around the survivor's wishes, rather than taking a homogenising or punitive approach to perpetrator's housing needs and response. If the survivor wishes to remain in a relationship with the perpetrator, and wants them to be housed together; a refusal/inability to house both together is likely to only increase risk for the survivor and entrench homelessness for both survivor and perpetrator.

In situations where the outcome of a perpetrator's eviction from housing is the survivor abandoning their accommodation to sleeping rough or stay in an unsafe and informal housing situation with the perpetrator, strategic leads should explore alternative options, such as working with local commissioners and other partners to explore the possibility of housing the couple together in a different setting. Strategic leads should look to existing models of best practice and innovative work around this. Camden local authority and partners have developed and piloted an innovative multi-agency process which centralises a survivor centred discussion around housing options for both, including options for housing perpetrator and survivor together if this is what the survivor is saying that they want. [Read more about this approach here.](#)

# Recommendations

## Step 1: Identify

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- Service leads should support their organisations to recognise and accept their role in the Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse and help them to understand the meaning of 'holding perpetrators to account'.
- Organisations should provide all professionals with basic domestic abuse training which supports them to understand and identify domestic abuse and identify and respond to survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage; this should be mandatory for all professionals rather than elective.

All professionals interacting with service users as potential perpetrators, should have access to basic training on working with perpetrators available from a RESPECT accredited/recommended specialist training provider.<sup>15</sup> Professionals should also access where possible 'Confidence in Complexity' guidance and training, which focuses specifically on working with perpetrators experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantage. This training includes how to identify a perpetrator in circumstances where both parties may be demonstrating abusive behaviours. It also guides professionals in responding appropriately to perpetrator behaviour, including how to offer trauma informed support whilst still holding them to account and not colluding with their behaviour.

## Step 2: Respond

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- Service leads should identify and build relationships, and referral pathways with local perpetrator and survivor support services, exploring the potential to make these services more accessible to perpetrators and survivors experiencing long-term homelessness and multiple disadvantage.
- Service leads should make links with local partners to facilitate multiagency information sharing, recording and action planning, particularly in safeguarding forums such as MARAC or MATAAC. Service leads should also explore if any other multi agency safeguarding forums exist locally.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.respect.uk.net/pages/respect-accredited-services>

## Step 3: Embed

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- Service leads should ensure that organisations have codified their response to both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse through robust domestic abuse policy and procedures.
- Professionals should be supported by their organisations to share and record information about perpetrators and survivors, by clearly providing staff with direction to do so within their DA policy and procedures. It should explicitly state that any information received about DA perpetrator or victimisation should be recorded, flagged, and tagged on service users' files within the case management system.
- Use the DA Policy to recognise the gendered nature of domestic abuse, and wider systemic misogyny. State within this policy a commitment to challenge it.
- Domestic abuse policies should adopt a survivor led approach that makes a commitment to work with specialist services and local authority commissioners to explore the possibilities around housing the perpetrator and survivor together, where that is the survivor's wish. In the eventuality that a perpetrator is evicted from housing and this leads to the survivor abandoning their accommodation to sleep rough/use other forms of transient and unsafe housing, there should be a coordinated response to rehouse both parties as rapidly as possible.
- Organisations may choose to enhance and embed their domestic abuse response through **DAHA's accreditation for Homelessness and Supported Housing Providers**. The purpose of this accreditation is to meaningfully address the housing, safety and support needs of all victim/survivors of domestic abuse in these services, particularly those with experiences of homelessness and multiple disadvantage, and hold perpetrators to account.



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