

Title of policy / procedure / function / project / decision:	Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation
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Evidence based equality analysis.

Main aims, purpose, and outcomes and how does it fit in with the wider aims of the organisation:

- To assess the impact of the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation service in CW&C to ensure that the Council is meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty as required by the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.
- In conducting an Equality Analysis of the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Service, Cheshire West and Chester Council aims to identify and address any potential disparities or barriers to ensure that its services are accessible, inclusive, and equitable for all individuals, regardless of their characteristics or circumstances.
- Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation is a statutory requirement of the council.

The local authority commission:

- The Council has a statutory duty to provide safe accommodation as defined within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The statutory duty requires local authorities in England to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- The Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation offer exists and operates with a refuge provision, this is a communal building with accommodation units within, staffed 24/7 plus various units of dispersed properties these are spread across the whole borough these consist of 1,2 and 3 bed properties.
- The service is required to support the whole family throughout their stay in Safe Accommodation and when transition to settled accommodation this support is required for adults, children and young people.

The provider works in close partnership with other council services these include Housing, Domestic Abuse Intervention Prevention Service (DAIPS), Early Help and Prevention Service, to offer the integral support that is required by people who need to access safe Accommodation.

Lead officer: Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager, Children and Families Public Health

Stakeholders: Residents of Chester West and Chester and people from outside of the borough who present needing emergency safe accommodation, this includes adults who are single and adults with dependent children

For each of the areas below, an assessment needs to be made on whether the policy has a positive, negative, or neutral impact, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation should be included. Where the impact is negative, this needs to be given a high, medium, or low assessment. It is important to rate the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact –some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

	Neutral	Positive	Negative
Target group / area			
Race and ethnicity. (including Gypsies and Travellers, refugees, asylum seekers etc.)	The current provision of service is available to all people who require the service, this service is available regardless of a persons race or ethnicity. People accessing services can do so without racial or ethnic discrimination.	Within the new commission the provider will be expected to have an offer for people who have no recourse to public funds, further extending the offer demonstrates the council's commitment in supporting people from varied backgrounds and ensure that people with NRPF are able to access safe services.	

Disability (as defined by the Equality Act - a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities)	Services are contracted to and must operate an Equality and Diversity Policy which complies with the requirement of all current equality legislation, and in particular, the Equality Act 2010 and any subsequent amendment of the act and this is stated within contracts for Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation During recommission providers will be required to demonstrate how their Equality and Diversity policy is embedded in their service delivery. The Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation contract requires staff to attend Equality and Diversity training which is monitored at quarterly performance review for		
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	all staff. This requirement is part of performance requirements and is monitored through contract meetings. With the future contract additional units if accommodation will be a requirement, additional units x 2 of accessible accommodation have been identified and will be in addition to the service offer as it is currently, increase these units will ensure the service is more accessible to people with disabilities.		
Sex (male or female)	Providers are required to operate within the guidance of The Equality Act 2010 which provides the legislative framework, guidelines for assessments and specifies that all		

	assessments should be specific to individual and their sex.		
Gender identity (gender reassignment)	Providers are required to operate within the guidance of The Equality Act 2010 which provides the legislative framework, guidelines for assessments and specifies that all assessments should be specific to individual which includes gender identity. The provider is required to report on gender reassignment within the PMF (performance management framework) used to measure performance other specialist characteristics are captured within this reporting tool.		Following the Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex in the Equality Act 2010 in April 2025, the Council is awaiting the publication of the Equality and Human Rights Commission Code of Practice for Services, Public Functions and Associations in order to inform a review of impacted services, which may include Domestic Abuse.

Religion and belief (including lack of belief)	Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation services are open to anyone regardless of their religion and belief. In relation to religion and belief, all providers are required to operate within the guidance of The Equality Act 2010 which provides the legislative framework, guidelines for assessments and specifies that all assessments should be specific to individual.		
Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual and others)	The current Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation contract requires the provider to operate within the guidance of The Equality Act 2010 which provides the legislative framework, guidelines for assessments and specifies that all		

	assessments should be specific to individual. This includes reference to sexual orientation, accommodation is available to any sexual orientation with support as required.		
Age (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults 25 – 50, younger older people 51 – 75/80; older people 81+. Age bands are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs)	The contract provides services to single adults aged 18 plus as well as services for families. The service is required to support adults who come to service and children and young people who are now identified as victims in their own right, when they have witnessed domestic abuse in the home. Any person that falls below the age of 18 would receive a coordinated response this would be via		There is work to be done to increase the numbers of older people who may need support, this work is to be undertaken during the recommission of the service, we need to understand how we can reach older people and ensure them to seek support, the new service offer also needs to include a specific offer to the older community who may need help.

	children's services with the support of housing. The provider is required to operate within the guidance of The Equality Act 2010 which provides the legislative framework, guidelines for assessments and specifies that all assessments should be specific to individual which includes age.		
Care Experienced (all young people and adults who have been in the care of Cheshire West and Chester Council - for a period of 13 weeks or more - from the age of 14 years. This includes those children/young people for whom the Council currently or have previously held corporate parenting responsibilities)	All Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation services are available to anyone requiring support including those who care experienced.		
Carers (people who care for others, informally or formally)	The Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Service is open to		

	anyone requiring support including those who care for others.		
Rural communities	Services are accessible 24/7 and people can request support day or night through various routes this may be via a phone call to the emergency helpline , face to face with a professional seeking assistance such housing for emergency accommodation or by a direct contact to the service, this isn't restricted and includes rural communities from both inside Cheshire West and Chester and also rural areas outside of the borough. Work has been done to identify areas of need to ensure full borough coverage additional		

	accommodation will be secured in Northwich and Winsford and additional single accommodation in Chester, this follows work carried out to identify the areas where there is a limited offer, the additional units will improve this and increase property numbers.		
Areas of deprivation (include any impact on people living in poverty who may not live in areas identified as deprived)	Services are available to any person from any area and does not discriminate against any part of any borough. It is known through statistical data available that the highest levels of domestic abuse are in areas with high levels of deprivation, this information is used to help in the planning of service delivery to ensure it is proportionate		

	and meets the needs of the borough where there is the most need.		
Human rights (see guidance note for key areas to consider)	The Human Rights Act 1998 underpins the SHS contract and is referenced within the contract documentation and is part of the providers statutory obligations.	Access to translation and interpreting services is a requirement of the service offer as well as access to dedicated safeguarding and outreach teams locally. Its has also been identified to have documentation in simple language to ensure that the content is easily understood.	
Health and wellbeing and Health Inequalities (consider the wider determinants of health such as education, housing, employment, environment, crime, and transport, plus impacts on lifestyles and effects on health and care services)	The Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation service contractual performance reporting will include health improvement indicators the service will be required to demonstrate how the follow revised areas have been achieved.		

	• Improvements in Health and Emotional Wellbeing • Improvements to safety • Improved life skills • Increased financial confidence. • Increased support networks and community activities • The achievement of a permanent home These outcomes will be required as part of the performance monitoring and will be detailed in contractual monitoring meetings.		
Procurement/partnership (if project due to be carried out by contractors/partners etc, identify	The future recommissioning will comply with corporate		

steps taken to ensure equality compliance)	procurement guidance and processes which includes guidance on equality compliance and is underpinned by the Public Sector Equality Duty. The provider's compliance with the Equality Act will be monitored through usual contract management channels		
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Evidence (see guidance note for details of what to include here):

Action plan:

Actions required	Priority	Outcomes required	Officer responsible	Review date
Ensure a service offer is available for people who have No Recourse to Public Funds, this should be detailed within the specification and evidenced in the tender submission from the provider	Medium	To ensure an offer is part of the service for people who present for support who have no recourse to public funds	Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager, Children and Families Public Health	12 August 2026

The provider should have appropriate access to translation services both interpreters and document creation this should be part of service design and detailed within the tender submission the documentation produced will be created using simple language to ensure the audience can understand fully the content of each document.	Medium	To ensure people who are none English speaking are supported in the most appropriate from the outset	Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager, Children and Families Public Health	12 August 2026
As part of the branding and marketing of the main service, ensure that people over 65 are informed and aware that the service can support them and how they can access service.	Medium	Regardless of a person's age, they are aware of and can confidently access the Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation service should they need and wish to	Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager, Children and Families Public Health	12 August 2026
Review of accommodation in the new contract to be undertaken to ensure minimum standard is achieved	Medium	Review accommodation that will be available for suitability	Senior Access Officer, Public Health, CWAC	31 December 2026
Once the Equality and Human Rights Commission Code of Practice for Services, Public Functions and Associations is	High	Ensure compliance around services based on single sex and gender reassignment requirements	Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager, Children and Families Public Health, Equality,	TBA depending on when Code published,

published, review the service and provision			Diversity and Inclusion Team	expected autumn 2025
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Sign off	Domestic Abuse, Safe Accommodation
Lead officer: Karen Kauffman	Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager, Children and Families Public Health
Approved by Tier 4 Manager: Angela Lewis	Senior Manager, Strategic Commissioning (Children, Families and Public Health)
Moderation and/or Scrutiny	
Date: 4 September 2025	Equality Analysis Moderation Panel
Date analysis to be reviewed based on rating (high impact – review in one-year, medium impact - review in two years, low impact in three years)	Twelve months