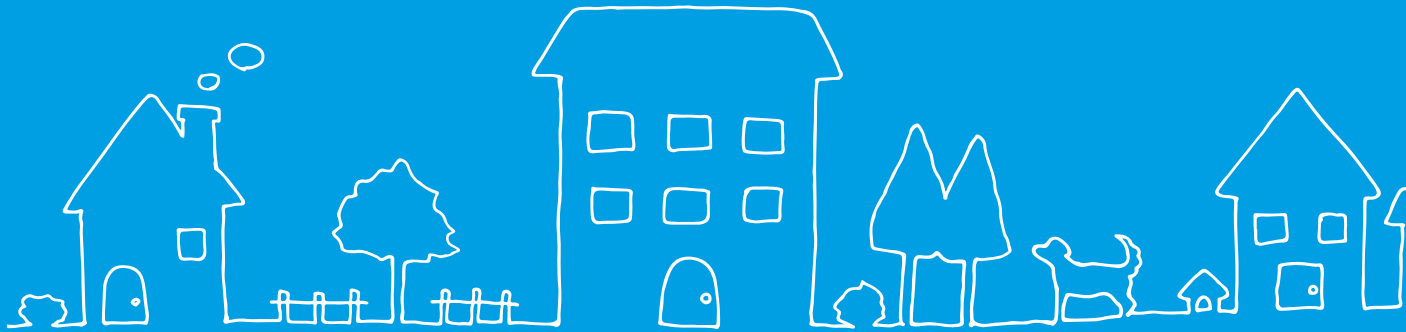


# Ending Homelessness Together

Homelessness Strategy **2022-27**



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# DOMESTIC ABUSE ACTION PLAN

August 2024

**Housing**  
Executive

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# Foreword

As the organisation with the statutory duty for responding to homelessness in Northern Ireland, alongside our role as a landlord of over 80,000 properties, we are mindful of the impact we as an organisation can have in supporting anyone experiencing domestic abuse. It is on this basis, alongside considering recent legislative developments that have brought domestic abuse and its consequences to greater prominence that we have led on a Domestic Abuse Action Plan.

This Action Plan supports the delivery of our Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 which has a vision of Ending Homelessness Together and we recognise the role we have in working alongside organisations such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Health Trusts, Education Authorities, and a range of partners across the voluntary sector in addressing domestic abuse and the long term impact this can have on anyone experiencing domestic abuse and their families.

In addition, this action plan has been developed with a focus on how we as an organisation can support the response to domestic abuse in Northern Ireland. This includes ensuring our staff are aware of potential indicators so that we can support our tenants and colleagues in signposting to appropriate support services as and when appropriate.

As an organisation, we are mindful that terminology such as domestic violence is not broad enough to cover the many non-physical forms of abuse which include psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional. With this in mind, and with due consideration to the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (NI) 2021 the Housing Executive has committed to using the term domestic abuse going forward and this action plan outlines what we as an organisation will do to support such households.

A key part of our engagement in the development of this action plan has identified the need to engage with hard to reach groups and this will be a guiding principle of our work on domestic abuse. We are grateful to those groups with whom we engaged in developing this action plan and we reiterate the commitment that was made in this engagement, namely that we intend to provide robust and meaningful engagement over the course of this action plan as we are mindful that we need to listen to those organisations who deal with anyone experiencing domestic abuse on a daily basis.

This action plan has been shaped by the growing demand and changing policy context in respect of domestic abuse and we recognise the need to keep anyone experiencing domestic abuse safe and increase awareness of domestic abuse in order to help those households recognise when a situation is not safe for them.

Every year, we assist over 1,000 households who present as homeless due to domestic abuse and with consideration to wider statistics we acknowledge that there may be many more who are experiencing domestic abuse but may not avail of support that may be available in respect of homelessness. With our wider obligations to anyone experiencing domestic abuse in mind, we are committed to supporting the delivery of the Department

of Justice led Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy. This action plan represents the culmination of previous commitments within this Strategy and we look forward to collaborating with key partners across the statutory and voluntary sectors in meeting the increasing demands and changing policy context associated with domestic abuse.

As Chair and Chief Executive we make a commitment to anyone experiencing domestic abuse that the Housing Executive recognises its role in addressing domestic abuse and we look forward to building on the work that has guided the development of this action plan as we focus on collaborating with key partners in its delivery.



Nicole Lappin  
Chair



Grainia Long  
Chief Executive

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# Introduction

## Supporting the delivery of our Homelessness Strategy 2022-27

In accordance with the Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 the Housing Executive has a statutory duty to publish a new homelessness strategy at least every five years. The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 was published in March 2022 and this action plan supports the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 in delivering a bespoke set of actions that will support those experiencing domestic abuse.

### Development of this action plan:

We have developed this action plan with consideration to the various legislative and policy developments that have taken place over recent years. We are also mindful of the various forums on which we engage in collaborating to support anyone experiencing domestic abuse. This day to day delivery of work to support anyone experiencing domestic abuse has been complemented by targeted engagement with a range of organisations who work directly with anyone experiencing domestic abuse and we look forward to building on this engagement in the delivery of this action plan alongside seeking to establish new partnerships in order to maximise the impact of our work.

### The vision of this action plan

In supporting the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 the vision of 'Ending Homelessness Together' reflects a continued need for the Housing Executive to work with our partners across the sector to address the varied and complex factors that lead to homelessness, many of which extend beyond accommodation the provision of accommodation.

### The aim of this action plan:

The action plan will also consider the various ways in which the Housing Executive can deliver our overarching vision with the aim that:

**'Wherever possible homelessness should be prevented, if homelessness cannot be prevented it should be rare, brief and non-recurring'**

The delivery of our vision and aim is supported by the principles, objectives and enablers in the diagram overleaf and outlined in the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27. While this action plan will support the delivery of a range of actions specific to domestic abuse the action plan itself will be supported by the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 in the delivery of wider actions relevant to the principles and enablers listed below.

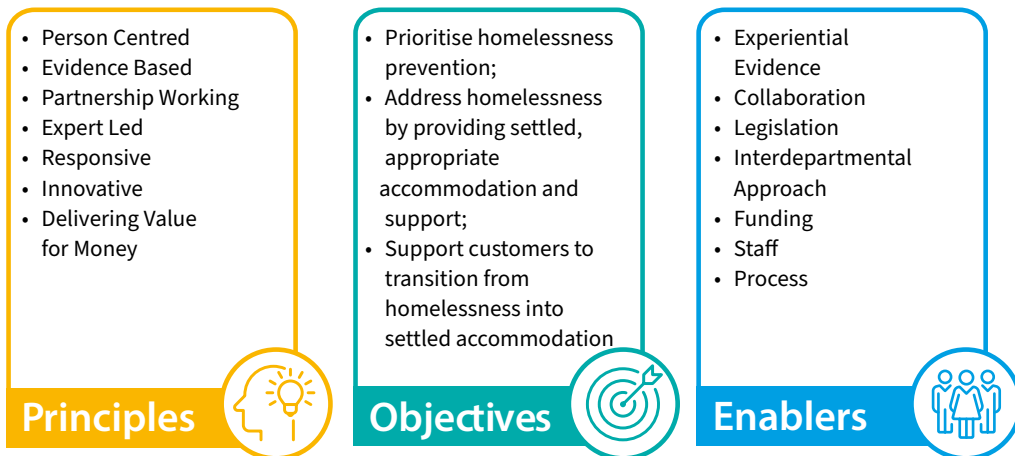
While the prioritisation of homelessness prevention is an objective of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 and this action plan we are also cautious in the needs of those experiencing domestic abuse for whom maintenance of existing living arrangements may not be the most appropriate or preferred solution and we will be sensitive to their needs and wishes.

## How will it be delivered?:

The governance section at the conclusion of this action plan provides further details on how the Housing Executive will report on the delivery of this action plan. As part of this the Housing Executive will report on progress in the delivery of the this in an annual progress reports developed as part of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27.

## Funding of this action plan

The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 outlines funding considerations in respect of any strategic priorities required for its delivery and the Youth Homelessness Action Plan will be subject to the same considerations. While the Housing Executive will seek to deliver the majority of actions in this Action Plan using existing resources, there are however a number of actions for which additional resources will be required and where this is applicable the Housing Executive will work with the Department for Communities in respect of homelessness funding projections and develop business cases where appropriate. Such funding projections will be considered as part of the overall Homelessness Strategy 2022-27.



## Lived Experience

This action plan is cognisant of the commitments made in the Homelessness Strategy with regards to considering the views of those who have lived experience of homelessness. At the time of publication, the Housing Executive is working with partners in the development of a Lived Experience Programme and this action plan will support the delivery of that programme with specific consideration to those who have experienced domestic abuse. Furthermore, we will engage with key stakeholders to identify additional means by which we can promote lived experience in the delivery of this action plan.

# Strategic Context

This action plan has been developed to reflect the development of legislation over recent years with this legislation recognizing the many forms of abuse that can contribute to domestic abuse. In addition, as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference members we will consider the recommendations of the recent MARAC review in the context of the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Action Plan.

## Legislation

There are 3 main pieces of Domestic Abuse legislation that are currently in place in NI as detailed below:

### Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (NI) 2021

This Act created a new Domestic Abuse offence for NI which came into operation in February 2022. This new legislation criminalised abusive behaviour that occurs on two or more occasions against an intimate partner, former partner or close family member. In addition, the offence now captures not only physical violence but sexual violence and threatening behaviour if that is present. Abusive behaviour can include, but is not limited to, coercive control, psychological abuse, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, online and technological abuse.

### Protection from Stalking Act (NI) 2022

This Act introduces two new offences of stalking and threatening or abusive behaviour as well as Stalking Protection Orders (applied for by PSNI). Stalking is a crime of psychological terror and affects one in five women and one in ten men. There is no specific legal definition of stalking however the Suzy Lamplugh Trust defines stalking as:

*“A pattern of fixated and obsessive behaviour which is repeated, persistent, intrusive and causes fear of violence or alarm or distress in the victim.”*

### Justice (Sexual offences and trafficking victims) Act (NI) 2022

This Act makes a non-fatal strangulation a specific standalone criminal offence and could mean that attackers could face up to 14 years in prison. Non-fatal strangulation typically involves a perpetrator strangling or intentionally affecting their victim's ability to breathe in an attempt to control or intimidate them. Studies have shown that victims are eight times more likely to be murdered by their partner if there had been non-fatal strangulation beforehand.

In addition to the legislation cited above, which is specific to domestic abuse our engagement with key partners has also noted specific challenges with hard to reach groups and therefore the following equality legislation will also guide our work in responding to domestic abuse.

## Definition of Domestic Abuse

With consideration to the above pieces of legislation this action plan, and the Housing Executive's work in domestic abuse will be guided by a definition adopted by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and outlined in the Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland Strategy as:

'threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member'.

## Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – Strategic Framework

This 7-year Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) was launched in 2023 and addresses the whole range of gender-based violence, abuse and harm which is disproportionately experienced by women and girls, and which is rooted in gender inequality.

This Strategic Framework is made up of 4 themes, 6 outcomes and 19 priority areas which inform a series of actions that will take place over the next seven years.

This action plan will consider any actions arising out of the Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

## Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023 – 2030

The overall aim of this joint Department of Health and Justice 7-year strategy is to work collaboratively across all statutory, voluntary and community organisations to make progress in tackling domestic abuse. The strategy includes 8 outcomes and identifies 23 key priority areas which will inform future action plans that will outline responsibilities and timelines for implementation.

Progress of the strategy will be monitored and any amendments to existing actions or any additional actions that are required will be considered within this action plan.



## MARAC Review

A review of the existing MARAC process was completed in June 2023 with the report published in September 2023. The review found that the MARAC process within Northern Ireland is not effectively meeting the needs of victims and families living with domestic abuse as the process is an information sharing forum rather than an assessment of risk or safety. The review advised of the need for a comprehensive change in how domestic abuse is assessed and managed within NI.

The recommendation of the review is to cease the current MARAC process in a phased approach whilst establishing a holistic multiagency response to domestic abuse which addresses the complexity of the issue.

The eventual outcome of the MARAC review will have a significant impact on future Homelessness policy and practice and subsequent staff training.

## Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

Domestic Homicide Reviews are completed when the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by either a relative, a spouse, partner or ex-partner or a member of the same household.

The purpose of a domestic homicide review is to help identify lessons we can learn from the death, prevent further domestic abuse and to improve services for people experiencing domestic abuse.

In addition to the Actions detailed in Chapter 5 this action plan will also consider any actions that arise out of future Domestic Homicide Reviews as the Housing Executive is represented on Domestic Homicide Review panels within Northern Ireland.

## Fundamental Review of Allocations

Under Proposal 7 of the Fundamental Review of Allocations, DfC asked the Housing Executive to consider an alternative approach to the award of Intimidation points under the current social Housing Selection Scheme which would seek to provide recognition for all victims of violence, abuse and trauma. Going forward, any relevant actions arising from the development and implementation of an alternative approach will be considered within this Action Plan.

## Supporting People Three Year Draft Strategic Plan and Covid 19 Recovery Plan 2022-2025

The mission of the draft Strategic Plan is to 'To provide housing support services to people across Northern Ireland, based on demonstrable need. Aiding recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, closing the gap between need and supply, and contributing to the achievement of positive housing outcomes for all. Work towards closing the 14% gap between need and supply. This will be underpinned by evidence from the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) and the prioritising of services includes specific consideration of women at risk of domestic abuse.

### Section 75 of The Northern Ireland Act 1998

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act places a statutory obligation on Public Authorities to carry out their functions with due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and good relations in respect of religious belief, political opinion, gender, race, disability, age, marital status, dependants and sexual orientation. While the Housing Executive is the main funder of refuge provision for women in Northern Ireland it is acknowledged that this action plan may identify a need for additional services beyond women at risk of domestic abuse.

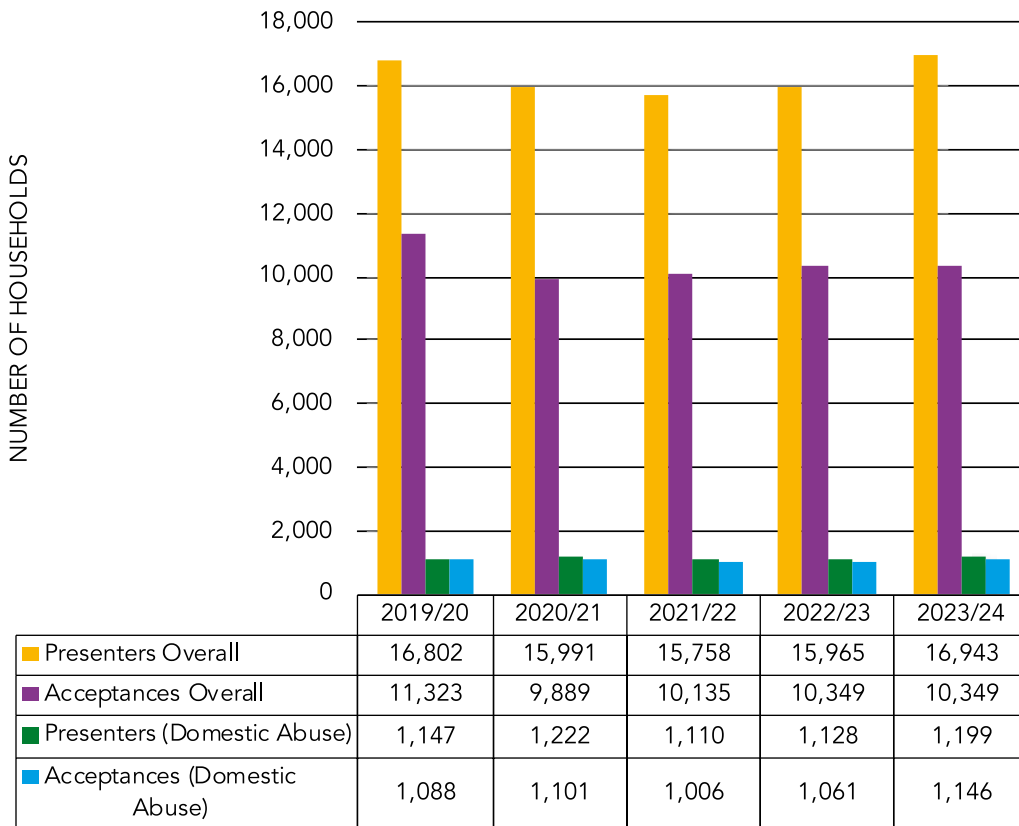
# Key Trends

## Housing Executive Data

In addition to the strategic context it is necessary to look at the numbers of households presenting for assistance from organisations such as the Housing Executive and Police Service of Northern Ireland. While the Housing Executive can provide information in relation to households presenting as homeless the wider figures provided by organisations such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland highlight the importance of so much of the awareness work that is at the core of this action plan.

Overall homelessness presentations of 16,943 in 2023/24 were 0.9% higher than the 16,802 presentations in 2019/20. The table overleaf details overall homelessness presentations and acceptances over the past 5 years.

### Presentations and Acceptances



While overall presentations and acceptances have decreased over the course of 2020/21 to 2022/23, before 2023/24 saw a return to pre-pandemic levels, the number of presenters and acceptances due to domestic abuse has remained relatively static and the table below highlights the number of presentations and acceptances due to domestic abuse as a percentage of all presentations and acceptances.

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>% of all presentations due to domestic abuse</b>	6.8%	7.6%	7%	7%	7.1%
<b>% of all acceptances due to domestic abuse</b>	8.4%	9.8%	9.0%	10.3%	11.1%

While 7.1% of presentations in 2023/24 were due to domestic abuse a total of 11.1% of acceptances were due to domestic abuse and this highlights the scale of the challenge facing the Housing Executive and our partners in supporting those experiencing domestic abuse. In 2023/24 the acceptance rate for domestic abuse presentations was 95.58% which compares with the overall acceptance rate of 61.08% with this disparity attributable to the Housing Executive's sensitivity when assessing domestic abuse and the need to ensure there is a balance between seeking appropriate evidence and ensuring that anyone experiencing domestic abuse receives the appropriate support at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Housing Executive also recognises that domestic abuse is not specific to one particular gender or household type. The table below highlights the increasing proportion of presentations due to domestic abuse where the head of household is a male.

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>Number of presentations where head of household was a female</b>	1,018	1,070	942	970	1029
<b>Number of presentations where head of household was a male</b>	135	151	168	158	170
<b>% of all presentations where head of household was a male</b>	11.71%	12.37%	15.13%	14.01%	14.18%

The table below highlights the household types of those households presenting due to domestic abuse. The most prominent household group is Families accounting for 46.12% of all presentations in 2023/24 while Single Females aged 26 to 59 years accounted for 20.10% of all presentations.

Year		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Presentation Reason</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	<b>1153</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>1199</b>
Household Type	Single Female 16-17 yrs.	4	7	3	3	5
	Single Female 18-25 yrs.	109	134	109	116	125
	Single Female 26-59 yrs.	239	253	226	243	241
	Single Male 16-17 yrs.	3	0	3	6	0
	Single Male 18-25 yrs.	26	33	30	35	43
	Single Male 26-59 yrs.	77	85	108	86	100
	Couples	42	42	22	36	39
	Families	586	588	531	517	553
	Pensioners	64	78	75	81	85
	Undefined	3	1	4	5	8
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1,153</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>1,199</b>

The Housing Executive is also committed to exploring how we can improve our data to track domestic abuse by other client groups, including but not limited to sexual orientation.

## Police Service of Northern Ireland Data

In May 2024 the PSNI released statistics <sup>1</sup> relating to domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police up to 31st September 2024. Records show that in the 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:

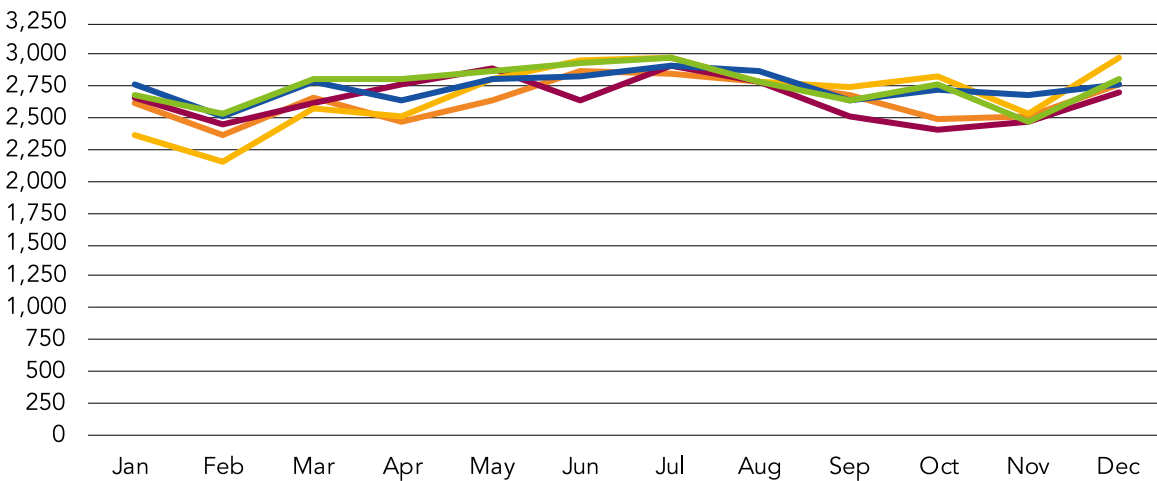
- there were 32,763 domestic abuse incidents in Northern Ireland, an increase of 113 (-0.3 per cent) on the previous 12 months.
- the number of domestic abuse crimes fell to 19,954, a decrease of 2,358 (-10.6 per cent) on the previous 12 months.
- there were 17 domestic abuse incidents and 10 domestic abuse crimes per 1,000 population.
- there were decreases in all major offence classifications.
- six of the eleven policing districts showed an increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents and ten policing districts showed a decrease in the number of domestic abuse crimes.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.psni.police.uk/system/files/2024-05/2061786624/Domestic%20Abuse%20Bulletin%20Period%20Ending%2031st%20March%202024.pdf>

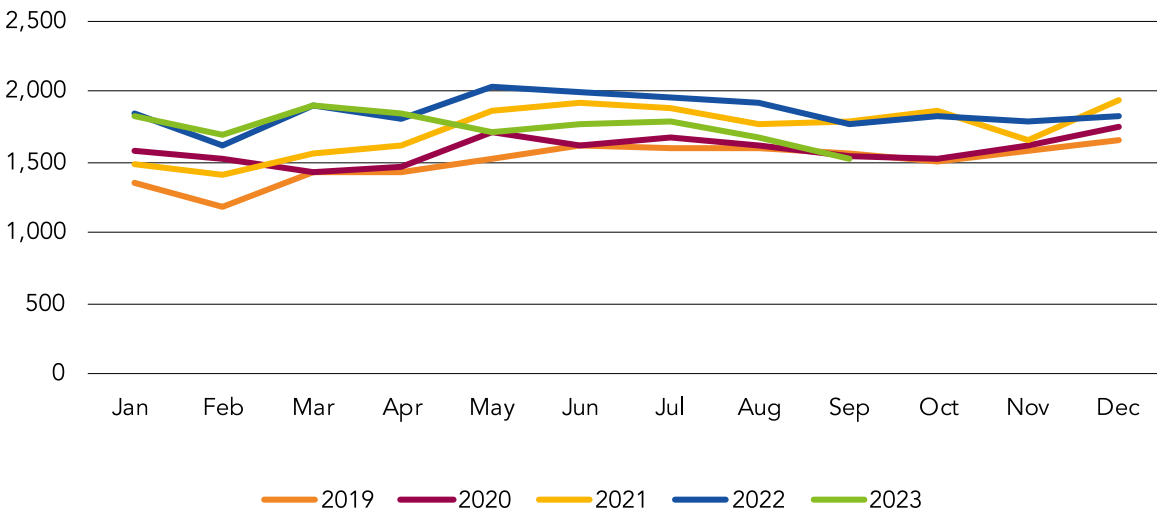
NB: A crime will be recorded as having a domestic abuse motivation where it meets the PSNI definition of Domestic Abuse. Not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a crime being recorded.

The figures collected by the PSNI and evidenced in the tables overleaf highlight the scale of domestic abuse in Northern Ireland and the Housing Executive is committed to working with all relevant partners to ensure that anyone experiencing domestic abuse who feels they are homeless or threatened with homeless, receive the appropriate support and assistance in order to minimise the risk associated with their accommodation circumstances.

**Domestic Abuse Incidents Recorded By PSNI January 2019 - September 2023**



**Domestic Abuse Crimes recorded by PSNI January 2019 - September 2023**



# Sanctuary Scheme Research

In 2022 the Housing Executive appointed Ipsos MORI to undertake an independent review of the Sanctuary Scheme. The findings of that Review were published in January 2023 and several of their recommendations will be implemented through the Domestic Abuse Action Plan.

The Sanctuary Scheme is a multi-agency initiative to enable households, at risk of Domestic Abuse, to remain in their homes by installing additional security measures which may include a “Sanctuary Room” within the property. Within Northern Ireland this scheme is currently only available to NIHE tenants.

In 2007 the Northern Ireland Housing Executive piloted the scheme with tenants in the Ballymena/Antrim area and following an evaluation of the pilot in 2011 the scheme was extended across Northern Ireland to all Housing Executive tenants.

The primary objectives of the scheme provided by the Housing Executive are:

- To reduce repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse.
- To minimise the disruption to tenants of having to move home and/or becoming homeless.
- To enable families to remain in familiar areas close to support networks, friends, and family.
- To enable any children to remain in their schools and to maintain friendships and support networks.

Between 2011 and 2021 records show that 157 service users availed of the Sanctuary Scheme with the most common referrals for installation of CCTV, house alarm systems, sensor lights, door, and lock replacements. The vast majority of service users were in the Northern and Western Health and Social Care Trusts.

Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders from nine statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations. Each interviewee was asked to share their views on the need for additional home security measures, the demand for the current NIHE scheme and ways in which it could be improved.

The overall response was that any initiative that assisted households to remain in their home safely was vital. It was the perception of the interviewees that there was a general lack of awareness of the Sanctuary Scheme amongst NIHE staff and MARAC representatives therefore it was not offered as an option for people subject to Domestic Abuse. Gaps in the service were identified in rural areas and it was also noted that the NIHE scheme does not provide the full range of preventative measures that is used by other police forces across the UK. The greatest limitation identified was the fact that the scheme is currently only available to NIHE tenants and there was general agreement that the scheme should be extended to tenants in other tenures, specifically Housing Association tenants.

Whilst it was noted by the interviewees that the Sanctuary Scheme had some limitations and gaps in provision the overwhelming feedback was that it is a worthwhile and effective service.

A review of the key findings highlighted a number of recommendations for the ongoing delivery of the Sanctuary Scheme in Northern Ireland, namely:

- NIHE should consider implementing a domestic abuse policy. Such a policy will include the requirement for domestic abuse training to be delivered to customer facing staff, enabling the provision of a customer focussed response for those clients citing domestic abuse or violence in a housing context. This may include training in the completion of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Honour Based Violence (DASH) risk checklist and escalation of appropriate cases to MARAC.
- NIHE should ensure that all staff and contractors are sufficiently trained to ensure that they are aware of the signs of domestic abuse and to sign-post tenants to support services as appropriate.
- There is a need to raise the profile of the scheme across all MARACs to ensure that individuals who are identified as at risk at MARAC committees have the option of remaining in their own home, where appropriate. NIHE should work with other key agencies such as Women's Aid to raise the profile of the scheme.
- NIHE may consider working with NIFHA to raise awareness in respect of how Sanctuary scheme works could be provided for those in need who are Housing Association tenants, this might include a review of other potential sources of funding and may require further liaison between other departments and agencies (such as Department for Communities, Department of Justice and Department of Health).
- NIHE should review their Sanctuary Scheme guidance manual to ensure that it is consistent with the Government Guidelines and the manual used by police forces across the UK to ensure that the full range of recommended safety and security measures are available in Northern Ireland
- NIHE may also wish to consider ways in which repairs are recorded, to have a better understanding of the scale of the problem in their properties. This may also involve the inclusion of a flag on records where domestic abuse has been reported or is suspected and NIHE should consider how best to do this within GDPR guidelines.
- There is a need to increase understanding of hard to reach groups and their experiences of domestic abuse/access to support services, including individuals who are LGBTQ+ and Ethnic minorities. Engagement with the community and voluntary sector organisations who advocate for such hard to reach groups is key in building awareness of the supports available to those experiencing domestic abuse and in shaping future service provision.



# Actions

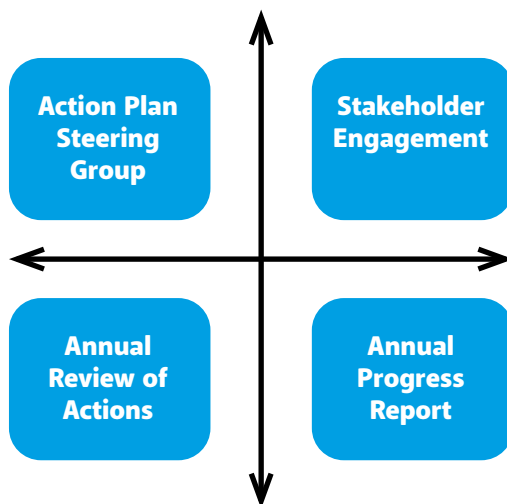
This action plan contains 16 actions as listed in the table below. In supporting the vision of Ending Homelessness Together the Housing Executive is committed to working with a range of partners across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors in delivering these actions. It is acknowledged that these actions will span the remaining period of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 and as previously noted, we will provide annual updates in the Annual Progress Report delivered as part of the strategy.

Action	Description	Delivery
<b>Action 1</b>	Work with any relevant voluntary, statutory and community sector partners to increase understanding of hard to reach groups and their experiences of Domestic Abuse and access to support services which would include, but is not limited to, male victims of Domestic Abuse, the LGBTIQ+ community, Ethnic Minority groups, the Irish Traveller community, and people from rural areas.	Years 1 – 3
<b>Action 2</b>	Sign up to the Chartered Institute of Housing ‘Make A Pledge’ scheme which involves committing to 4 actions and provides a visible commitment to support people experiencing Domestic Abuse: 1. Putting in place and embedding a Domestic Abuse policy for tenants. 2. Developing or amending a Domestic Abuse policy for staff 3. Making information on support services available on our website 4. Appointing a champion at a senior level.	Years 1 – 2
<b>Action 3</b>	Secure approval to develop specialist Domestic Abuse officers within the Housing Executive to support staff across all Divisions.	Year 1
<b>Action 4</b>	Secure approval for Housing Executive public offices to be designated safe places for anyone experiencing domestic abuse	Year 1
<b>Action 5</b>	Review existing training for frontline staff and develop and deliver new training courses ranging from basic awareness of domestic abuse to identification of and response to domestic abuse within the workplace, tenant’s homes, Housing Executive hostels and during interviews with customers	Year 1 - 3
<b>Action 6</b>	Develop an organisation wide Domestic Abuse policy to include a clear process that staff can follow when domestic abuse is suspected within the workplace, with our tenants or customers.	Years 1 – 2
<b>Action 7</b>	Raise the profile of the Sanctuary Scheme among Housing Executive staff, at MARAC and with relevant statutory, voluntary and community sector partners	Years 1 - 2
<b>Action 8</b>	Review the NIHE Sanctuary Scheme Guidance to ensure that the full range of additional safety and security measures are available in Northern Ireland consistent with best practice in neighbouring jurisdictions. This will consider the specification of aspects such as lighting, doors and general improvements to safety within the property.	Year 1 -2
<b>Action 9</b>	Bring the potential of extending the Sanctuary Scheme to Housing Association tenants. This action will highlight the benefits of the Sanctuary Scheme in increasing physical safety for those Housing Association tenants experiencing domestic abuse through provision of a range of additional safety measures.	Years 1 – 3

<b>Action 10</b>	Review all Housing Executive policy documents to ensure they are reflective of the recent legislative changes.	Years 1 – 3
<b>Action 11</b>	Review the Women’s Aid Joint Working Protocol document and explore the development of other protocols as and when required	Year 1 - 3
<b>Action 12</b>	Introduction of Trauma Informed/Physiologically informed practice training for staff working with customers experiencing Domestic Abuse.	Year 1 - 3
<b>Action 13</b>	Review and revise the ways in which the Housing Executive records repairs in order to have a better understanding of the scale of Domestic Abuse in our properties as recommended in the Sanctuary Scheme Review.	Year 2 –3
<b>Action 14</b>	In collaboration with relevant voluntary, statutory and community sector partners establish an annual week of events to raise awareness of domestic abuse.	Years 2– 3
<b>Action 15</b>	Support the delivery of any recommendations arising from the MARAC review	Years 1 – 3
<b>Action 16</b>	Consider means by which social housing providers in other jurisdictions address perpetrator behaviour.	Years 1 – 3

# Governance

In order to ensure the vision of Ending Homelessness Together is at the heart of the Domestic Abuse Action Plan, and in order to ensure there is appropriate transparency and accountability in delivering this action plan the Housing Executive will provide a variety of means by which key partners can guide the delivery of this action plan. The diagram below outlines the key strands which will guide the governance of this action plan.




We will report quarterly to a Steering Group which will have responsibility for monitoring the delivery of the Action Plan. This quarterly reporting to an internal group will be supported by an annual update to the Central Homelessness Forum which plays a key role in ensuring the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27.

The development of this action plan has been guided by initial engagement with a range of key stakeholders that engage directly anyone experiencing domestic abuse. The Housing Executive, with the agreement of these partners, have agreed to engage every six months to review progress on the action plan and to identify any emerging issues which should be addressed.

As part of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 the Housing Executive has committed to publishing an Annual Progress Report and the Annual Progress Report from Year 3 onwards will include a specific chapter that updates on the Domestic Abuse Action Plan. The Annual Progress Report will also provide an update on any amended or additional actions as the Housing Executive has committed to reviewing actions based on engagement with the Action Plan Steering Group, the Central Homelessness Forum and the six monthly engagement with key stakeholders. The Housing Executive is committed to engaging with as many stakeholders as possible in the delivery of this action plan and if you are from an organisation which wants to explore how we can engage with you please email [homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk)

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