

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

The SAFER Scheme

Responsible Officer

Ashleigh Cain - ST SC

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Adult Social Care and Health

Responsible Service

Strategic Commissioning

Responsible Head of Service

Simon Mitchell - ST SC

Responsible Director

Clare Maynard - ST SC

Aims and Objectives

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced new statutory duties for Local Authorities to meet the support needs of survivors of domestic abuse residing in 'safe accommodation'.

A Sanctuary Scheme meets the definition of 'safe accommodation' under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and involves provision and installation of property security measures alongside the offer of support for all survivors living within the property.

The refreshed Kent & Medway needs assessment, undertaken in 2021, highlighted the disparity of sanctuary provision across Kent and identified that underserved groups face barriers in accessing domestic abuse support within safe accommodation.

The SAFER scheme has been developed to address these identified gaps and enable the council to meet its new statutory obligations under the Act.

The scheme will;

- provide an equitable, countywide offer for survivors of domestic abuse,
- improve accessibility for underserved groups,
- enable people to remain in their own homes, within their local support networks,
- improve safety, health, and wellbeing of survivors,
- prevent/reduce the risk of harm or serious injury to survivors.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

Survivors of domestic abuse
Cabinet Member (Cllr Clair Bell) for Adult Social Care and Health
Local Partnership Board Members
Adult Social Care Domestic Abuse Group
Assistant Director and Strategic Commissioners for Children and Young People
District and borough councils (Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Gravesham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Swale, Thanet, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells)
Lead Providers of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (Oasis, Clarion, Look Ahead, Victim Support)
Funding partners of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (includes ASC, PH, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Fire and Rescue)
Other Local Authorities (Devon, Bexley, Sussex, Southampton, Brighton & Hove, Greenwich, Bromley, Bracknell Forest, Cambridgeshire, Medway)
Members of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Executive and Tactical Groups and sub groups including VCS partners and Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue, KCC Policy Team, Medway Council, OPCC, Community Safety Team, Public Health, Probation, ICB
Members of the Kent Housing Group and sub-groups (landlords and housing options teams)
Full Market engagement events delivered with attendance from providers of similar schemes across England
Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities
Office of the National Domestic Abuse Commissioner

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

The SAFER Scheme will improve the councils offer to underserved groups, including older, male, transgender and disabled survivors, providing the option to access safety and support when experiencing domestic abuse from their own homes, in their own communities and retain existing support networks.

Enabling individuals to remain in their own homes, when it is safe and where it is their choice will improve the ability for survivors to retain jobs, social circles, friends, family networks. It will put the survivor in control of their journey and have a positive impact on health and well-being outcomes.

Children are now identified as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The SAFER Scheme will support families to be able to remain together safely and reduce the need to with less need to flee to a new area.

Through the provision and installation of security measures to homes with the aim to delay/deny access to the property by the perpetrator will provide positive impacts to survivors of domestic abuse as the risk of harm or serious injury will be reduced.

Providing sanctuary will see an increase in the requirement of community staff such as IDVAs and outreach support workers, working to support those are experiencing domestic abuse therefore providing job opportunities within local communities.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No. Note: If Question 19a is "No", Questions 19b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Completed

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Completed

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Completed

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No. Note: If Question 20a is "No", Questions 20b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Completed

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Completed

Responsible Officer for Disability

Not Completed

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex

No. Note: If Question 21a is "No", Questions 21b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Completed

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Completed

Responsible Officer for Sex

Not Completed

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

No. Note: If Question 22a is "No", Questions 22b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

Not Completed

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| Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender |
| Not Completed |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender |
| Not Completed |
| 23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race |
| Are there negative impacts for Race |
| No. Note: If Question 23a is "No", Questions 23b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval |
| Negative impacts for Race |
| Not Completed |
| Mitigating actions for Race |
| Not Completed |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race |
| Not Completed |
| 24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief |
| Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief |
| No. Note: If Question 24a is "No", Questions 24b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval |
| Negative impacts for Religion and belief |
| Not Completed |
| Mitigating actions for Religion and belief |
| Not Completed |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief |
| Not Completed |
| 25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation |
| Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation |
| No. Note: If Question 25a is "No", Questions 25b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval |
| Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation |
| Not Completed |
| Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation |
| Not Completed |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation |
| Not Completed |
| 26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| No. Note: If Question 26a is "No", Questions 26b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval |
| Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Not Completed |
| Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Not Completed |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Not Completed |
| 27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| No. Note: If Question 27a is "No", Questions 27b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval |
| Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| Not Completed |

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| Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| Not Completed |
| Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| Not Completed |
| 28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities |
| Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities |
| No. Note: If Question 28a is "No", Questions 28b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval |
| Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities |
| Not Completed |
| Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities |
| Not Completed |
| Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities |
| Not Completed |