

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Domestic Abuse Framework 2025-27

Responsible Officer

Rachel Westlake - CED SC

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

Victoria Tovey - CED SC

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

Project/Programme

Commissioning/Procurement

No

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Adult Social Care and Health

Responsible Service

Integrated Commissioning

Responsible Head of Service

Victoria Tovey - CED SC

Responsible Director

Richard Smith - AH CDO

Aims and Objectives

Kent County Council (KCC) has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Act 2021 to;

- assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for “accommodation-based support” in its area,
- prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area,
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.

(“Accommodation-based support” means support, in relation to domestic abuse, provided to victims of domestic abuse, or their children, who reside in relevant accommodation as defined by the Secretary of State which includes refuges, Sanctuary Schemes, move-on and dispersed accommodation.)

Since 2021, new Grant Funding has been awarded to support implementation of these duties.

It is proposed that the ‘Domestic Abuse Framework’ (previously agreed under key decision 23/00060) will continue to be used to determine spend of Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant funding, and support decision making across 2025-27.

The Framework decision approach places responsibility and accountability as well, as Strategic oversight, in

a centralised position. With the Leader exercising the full Executive function as the decision-maker, operational decision-making and implementation activity, within the scope defined by the Framework agreed by the Leader as part of this decision, is delegated to Officers.

Under this Framework all expenditure of DA Act funding must be in line with budget forecasting and adhere to the MHCLG Guidance and Memorandum of Understanding terms. Additionally, proposals for spend must meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Will support the council in conducting its statutory functions under the DA Act which include assessing need, preparation, publication, monitoring and delivery of strategies, commissioning activity and mandatory reporting back to central Government.
- B. Will improve, develop, or maintain specialist support to people who have experienced domestic abuse (adults and children) residing in 'safe accommodation', as defined by the DA Act, (this includes Refuge accommodation, Specialist Safe accommodation, Dispersed accommodation, Sanctuary Schemes and Second stage accommodation) to meet gaps identified through the needs assessment.

Examples of projects that would meet the criteria include.

- Engagement project to develop and maintain engagement with people who have experienced domestic abuse.
- Development of new services to reduce barriers within existing support offers to underserved groups.

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?

Activity delivering Domestic Abuse Act statutory duties using the Domestic Abuse Grant funding enables delivery of the Kent and Medway DA Strategy 2024-29 that has been coproduced by KCC and all other partners. This includes KCC, ASCH, CYPE, Kent Police, ICB, KFRS, Probation. Members from the following groups have also been engaged with around this activity;
Local Partnership Board, DA Tactical Group, DA Executive Board, New Burdens Funding Steering Group.

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

Yes

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

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| 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 |
| Activity under the Framework includes commissioning new safe accommodation support services to meet gaps identified through the domestic abuse needs assessment. These services which have positive impacts including to those who have protected characteristics and underserved groups. Examples include; Male Refuge Pilot which provides safe accommodation support to male survivors of domestic abuse and their accompanying children. Kent Safe Accommodation Support Service which reduces barriers for those with disabilities in accessing safe accommodation support. |
| Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions |
| 19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age |
| Are there negative impacts for age? |
| No |
| Details of negative impacts for Age |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating Actions for Age |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age |
| Not Applicable |
| 20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability |
| Are there negative impacts for Disability? |
| No |
| Details of Negative Impacts for Disability |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Disability |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for Disability |
| Not Applicable |
| 21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex |
| Are there negative impacts for Sex |
| No |
| Details of negative impacts for Sex |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Sex |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for Sex |
| Not Applicable |
| 22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender |

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| Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender |
| No |
| Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender |
| Not Applicable |
| 23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race |
| Are there negative impacts for Race |
| No |
| Negative impacts for Race |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Race |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race |
| Not Applicable |
| 24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief |
| Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief |
| No |
| Negative impacts for Religion and belief |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Religion and belief |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief |
| Not Applicable |
| 25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation |
| Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation |
| No |
| Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation |
| Not Applicable |
| 26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| No |
| Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Not Applicable |
| 27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| No |
| Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |

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| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships |
| Not Applicable |
| 28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities |
| Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities |
| No |
| Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities |
| Not Applicable |
| Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities |
| Not Applicable |
| Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities |
| Not Applicable |