

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Support delivered via Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service - Extension

Responsible Officer

Rachel Westlake - AH AIC

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

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

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

Public Health Commissioning

Responsible Head of Service

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

Responsible Director

Sarah Hammond - AH CD

Aims and Objectives

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) is county wide and includes;

- The Referral Assessment and Triage (RAT) Service
- The core community contract delivering support to adults in safe accommodation and community based settings
- The Training, Education and Awareness (TEA) Service

The aim is to provide a holistic, flexible model of support to survivors (16+) of domestic abuse, focussing on early intervention and maintaining independence for survivors and their families, reducing the impact of domestic abuse on families and communities, and keeping people safe. The service strives to reduce the risk of harm posed to survivors of domestic abuse, to support and empower service users to reduce dependency on statutory services and to provide a seamless journey of support.

Outcomes include;

To support survivors of domestic abuse in coping with the immediate aftermath of abuse and empower them to recover from the long-term effects of that abuse, with consideration to:-

- Mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Shelter and accommodation

Family, friends and children
Education, skills and employment
Drugs and alcohol
Finances and benefits
Outlook and attitudes
Social interactions

The KIDAS contract commenced on 1 April 2017. It is due to end in March 2027 however this EQIA is in relation to the proposal to extend this from 1 April 2026 until 31 January 2028.

KIDAS supports KCC, and its partners, to deliver against policy and legal context, including:
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
Victims and Prisoners Act 2024
Freedom from Violence and Abuse: A Cross-Government Strategy to Build a Safer Society for Women and Girls” (December 2025)
The Kent Community Safety Agreement (April 2025)
The Care Act 2014
The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029
Reforming Kent 2025–2028 (Our Council Strategy)
Making a difference every day, Our strategy for Adult Social Care 2022 to 2027

The continuation of KIDAS will have clear and demonstrable positive impacts across protected groups, informed by both the Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2023) and current service data.

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?

To consider the next steps for this service full engagement has been undertaken with all stakeholders including ASCH, PH, OPCC, KFRS, Districts, Housing, other LAs, ICB.

Engagement has also been undertaken with survivors and insight work with those who currently do not access this service to support in identifying barriers.

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

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

Continuing service delivery via KIDAS will ensure that there is support available for survivors of domestic abuse and the provision of support in refuges for adults who are fleeing domestic abuse with their accompanying children.

This service is available to all adults aged 16+ who live in Kent or who are fleeing domestic abuse regardless of protected characteristics and supports delivery of commitments made within the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/205360/Domestic-Abuse-Strategy-2024-to-2029.pdf

The continuation of KIDAS will have clear and demonstrable positive impacts across protected groups, informed by both the Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2023) https://www.kpho.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/164009/Kent-Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment-2023.pdf and current service data.

Demand for domestic abuse services in Kent is high and increasing, with:

- 3,903 referrals into KIDAS and 3,042 clients supported in 2024/25
- 20,596 referrals received through the Referral, Assessment and Triage (RAT) service, indicating significant system-wide demand

The data confirms that domestic abuse:

- disproportionately affects women (e.g. 238 out of 240 refuge clients identified as female)
- has a significant impact on children, with 197 children in refuge and over 4,000 children linked to community cases
- affects individuals across the life course, with the majority aged 21–45, but also including older victims (101 people aged 66+)

The needs assessment and service data both highlight increasing complexity of need, including:

- 45% of refuge clients reporting mental health needs
- co-occurring issues including substance misuse, disability and housing instability
- increasing cases involving coercive control, stalking and honour-based abuse

Refuge stays have increased (average 8.9 months), reflecting the higher level of support required

While most service users identify as White British, data shows:

- support is reaching ethnically diverse communities, including those who may be underrepresented due to barriers
- individuals with disabilities, complex needs and insecure immigration status are accessing support

The KIDAS model is an adaptable, needs-led service response, data shows this through:

- increases in community referrals (10.2% increase) and particularly medium-risk cases (21.1% increase)
- targeted responses for both high-risk (IDVA) and medium-risk (Outreach) cohorts
- a flexible mix of safe accommodation (104 refuge spaces) and community-based support

The integrated model improves:

- equitable access across the county, reducing postcode variation

- clear referral pathways, particularly via police and multi-agency routes

Data shows that KIDAS demonstrates positive impact, including:

- 79% abuse reduced or ceased and 80% risk reduced in refuge settings
- high levels of reported improvement in safety and wellbeing in community services

Maintaining existing services ensures no disruption to support, particularly for:

- high-risk victims
- those with complex and multiple needs

This continuity is critical given the scale of demand and safeguarding risk.

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

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
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
