

## EQIA Submission – ID Number

### Section A

**EQIA Title**

Support delivered by Safe Accommodation Support 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**

Children Young People and Education

**Responsible Service**

Public Health Commissioning

**Responsible Head of Service**

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

**Responsible Director**

Ingrid Crisan - CY OICS

### Aims and Objectives

The Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) is countywide. It delivers specialist support to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse and are living in all forms of safe accommodation as defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

SASS is currently commissioned to deliver until 31 March 2027 however this EQIA is in relation to the proposal to extend this until 31 January 2028.

SASS supports KCC to deliver against policy and legal context, including:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Children Act 2004

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 and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-2029

Reforming Kent 2025–2028 (Our Council Strategy)

The extension of SASS will have positive impacts across protected groups, particularly for children and

young people affected by domestic abuse, informed by the Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (2023), local strategy priorities, 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 including children 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**

Demand for SASS has increased significantly year on year, with referrals rising from:

- 88 (2023/24)
- 276 (2024/25)
- 368 (2025/26)

This reflects:

- improved identification of children as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act
- stronger referral pathways from domestic abuse services and safe accommodation providers

The needs assessment highlights the growing recognition of children and young people as directly impacted by domestic abuse, often with complex and trauma-related needs.

SASS is specifically designed to support children and young people residing in safe accommodation, who are now recognised as victims in their own right. Data shows the service is predominantly supporting young

children and those of school age (majority aged 0–10 years)

This ensures early intervention at a critical stage, helping to:

- reduce long-term harm
- improve emotional wellbeing and developmental outcomes

The service supports children across a range of accommodation types, including:

- refuge provision
- sanctuary schemes

Support linked to the countywide domestic abuse Sanctuary Scheme has increased significantly (up to 286 cases) since 2023. This demonstrates how services are adapting to changing models of delivery, supporting more families to remain safely in their homes where appropriate, in line with strategy priorities.

SASS supports children from a range of ethnic backgrounds, including white British and a growing number from ethnically diverse and underserved communities. The service also supports families with multiple and complex needs.

The majority of referrals into SASS originate from domestic abuse services and safe accommodation providers, demonstrating:

- a well-integrated system response
- effective identification and referral of children in need of support

This aligns with the Domestic Abuse Strategy priority to deliver coordinated, multi-agency support for families.

Early intervention through SASS contributes to:

- improved safety and emotional wellbeing
- breaking cycles of abuse
- reducing longer-term demand on statutory services

The extension of SASS ensures the service can continue to:

- respond to increasing demand and complexity
- align with changes in safe accommodation provision (e.g. increase in sanctuary schemes)
- adapt to future needs identified through refreshed needs assessments

## 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

<b>Mitigating actions for Disability</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Disability</b>
Not Applicable
<b>21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Sex</b>
No
<b>Details of negative impacts for Sex</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Sex</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Sex</b>
Not Applicable
<b>22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender</b>
Not Applicable
<b>23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Race</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Race</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Race</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race</b>
Not Applicable
<b>24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief</b>
Not Applicable
<b>25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Applicable
<b>26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>

<b>Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Applicable
<b>27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Applicable
<b>28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
No
<b>Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable
<b>Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Applicable