

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service

Responsible Officer

Ashleigh Cain - 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

Strategic and Corporate Services

Responsible Service

Public Health Commissioning

Responsible Head of Service

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

Responsible Director

Anjan Ghosh - AH Public Health

Aims and Objectives

The Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS) is the recommissioned domestic abuse service for Kent, bringing together existing domestic abuse provision, including the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS), the Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS), the Sanctuary Access for Eligible Residents (SAFER), and related training, education and awareness activities into a more integrated and unified service model.

The recommissioning has been informed by learning from current services, stakeholder engagement, survivor feedback, and the findings of the Kent Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2023.

The overarching aim of KIFDAS is to provide a trauma-informed, family-focused, accessible and equitable domestic abuse support system that improves safety, wellbeing and recovery outcomes for adults, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. The service seeks to reduce fragmentation between support referral pathways, strengthen partnership working, improve access to specialist interventions, and ensure a consistent response across Kent.

Key objectives of KIFDAS include:

- Providing timely, coordinated support through a countywide referral hub.
- Delivering safe accommodation, community support, and specialist support for babies, children and young people.
- Supporting victims and survivors to recover from the immediate and long-term impacts of domestic abuse.
- Improving independence, wellbeing, and resilience.
- Reducing homelessness and repeat homelessness associated with domestic abuse.
- Ensuring children and young people affected by domestic abuse receive tailored support that recognises them as victims in their own right.
- Increasing accessibility and inclusion for individuals with protected characteristics and those facing additional barriers to support.
- Delivering training, education and awareness activities to improve understanding of domestic abuse and strengthen the wider system response.

The recommissioning also supports Kent County Council's statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, particularly the requirement to provide support within safe accommodation and to ensure a coordinated multi-agency response for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

A key objective of KIFDAS is to improve equity of access and outcomes for all victims and survivors of domestic abuse, including those with protected characteristics and individuals who may face additional barriers to accessing support, ensuring services are responsive, inclusive and accessible across Kent.

The model is structured around three core components:

- A central Referral Hub, acting as the single point of access for all referrals. This ensures consistent triage, risk assessment, and timely access to appropriate support, improving navigation and reducing duplication across the system.
- A countywide Training, Education and Awareness (TEA) offer, which builds workforce capability, supports early identification of domestic abuse, and strengthens the wider multi-agency response through shared understanding and best practice.
- Integrated delivery of safe accommodation and community-based support, provided through geographically defined lots. This includes:
 - o specialist support to adults and children within safe accommodation (including refuge and sanctuary settings) and
 - o community-based support for adults across all risk levels, enabling early intervention, crisis response, and recovery support.

Those eligible for the service are:

- o adults aged 16 years and over who are people who have experienced domestic abuse and are residing in safe accommodation and/or the community in Kent
- o babies, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse and are, aged 0-18 years who are living in safe accommodation in Kent

No change is required. The evidence suggests that there is no potential for discrimination and all appropriate measures have been taken to advance equality and foster good relations between the protected 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?
We are utilising Lived Experience Engagement and Employment Framework (LEEEF) developed by NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board and Kent County Council (with contributions from Medway Council) to guide our approach to coproduction by ensuring that lived experience, empowerment, equality, and feedback are central to the design and delivery of our services. Through this framework, we actively involve individuals with lived experience at every stage, from the initial survey creation to ongoing market engagement sessions, enabling them to shape service development and decision-making processes. This collaborative methodology helps us to identify service gaps and prioritise improvements that truly reflect the needs and perspectives of the community. Between April 2024 and October 2024, the council collaborated with commissioned DA providers to co-create an anonymous survey, which was distributed through refuges, support workers, and commissioners to seek views from people with lived experience. In August 2024, the Council connected with a broader segment of the community with lived experience of abuse, gathering views from 126 people via an online survey and through 14 in-depth interviews. In addition, targeted insight work with the community was undertaken to gather views from older people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds (38 participants). In October 2024, the Council conducted three days of market engagement (virtual and face-to-face) with 54 attendees. Two additional virtual sessions were conducted in November 2025 as an extension of the previous sessions, with a greater emphasis on referrals and triaging. Four sessions were also held with Children Young People & Education practitioners in April-July 2025 (virtual and face-to-face), team leaders, and assistant directors aimed to understand challenges and service gaps for children and families affected by domestic abuse, attended by 80 individuals.
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
The recommissioning of the Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS) is expected to have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics and groups who may traditionally experience barriers to accessing domestic abuse support. The new service model has been designed to improve

accessibility, consistency and equity of provision across Kent, ensuring that support is responsive to diverse needs and circumstances. The service specification requires providers to demonstrate awareness of and responsiveness to the needs of all protected groups, including disabled people, people from ethnic minority communities, older people, younger people, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with different faiths and beliefs, and those whose first language is not English.

Please see the following positive impact of KIFDAS Recommissioning by group:

Children and Young People: The recommissioning of KIFDAS will strengthen support for children and young people by embedding a whole-family approach that recognises children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. Dedicated support services will provide age-appropriate interventions focused on safety, emotional wellbeing, recovery and resilience. The integrated model will improve coordination between adult and children's services, reducing the risk of children falling between service boundaries and ensuring they receive timely access to support, education, health services and specialist interventions where required. The focus on earlier intervention and improved referral pathways will help identify needs sooner, supporting better long-term outcomes

Disabled People: Disabled victims and survivors often face additional barriers to accessing support, including physical accessibility, communication challenges, dependency on perpetrators, and difficulties engaging with traditional service models. KIFDAS will improve accessibility through provider requirements to undertake access audits, implement improvement plans, and deliver services responsive to physical, sensory, cognitive and mental health needs. The service model promotes flexible delivery methods, helping ensure disabled individuals can access support in a way that meets their individual circumstances and promotes equitable outcomes.

People from Ethnic Minority Communities: Victims and survivors from ethnic minority communities may face cultural, social or systemic barriers that prevent them from seeking support. KIFDAS will improve access through culturally responsive and trauma-informed services, strengthened partnership working, and requirements for providers to monitor service uptake and outcomes across protected characteristics. This will help identify and address inequalities, promote equitable access to services, and improve confidence that support is relevant, respectful and responsive to diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences.

People with English as an Additional Language: Victims and survivors from ethnic minority communities may face cultural, social or systemic barriers that prevent them from seeking support. KIFDAS will improve access through culturally responsive and trauma-informed services, strengthened partnership working, and requirements for providers to monitor service uptake and outcomes across protected characteristics. This will help identify and address inequalities, promote equitable access to services, and improve confidence that support is relevant, respectful and responsive to diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences. The support to access interpretation and translation services will help reduce barriers to accessing support for people with English as an additional language, promoting inclusion, improving service accessibility, and helping to ensure that individuals can access support on an equal basis

LGBTQ+ Individuals: LGBTQ+ victims and survivors can experience unique forms of abuse and may face additional barriers to recognising abuse or accessing support. Through commitments to equality, inclusivity and respect for gender identity, KIFDAS will support a more accessible and welcoming service environment. Requirements to provide services without organisational bias and to respond appropriately to diverse needs will help ensure LGBTQ+ individuals can access support that is safe, inclusive and responsive to their experiences.

People with Multiple and Complex Needs: Individuals experiencing domestic abuse alongside issues such as poor mental health, substance misuse, homelessness, criminal justice involvement or multiple disadvantage often require coordinated, multi-agency responses. KIFDAS has been designed to provide a more integrated and holistic service model, strengthening partnership working between providers and statutory agencies.

This approach will improve support planning, reduce duplication, improve continuity of care and help individuals access multiple forms of support through a more coordinated system.

Rural Communities: Residents living in rural and geographically isolated areas can face additional challenges in accessing specialist domestic abuse support. The countywide KIFDAS model aims to provide greater consistency of provision across Kent, reducing postcode variation and improving access to support regardless of location. Clearer referral pathways, integrated service arrangements and coordinated delivery will help ensure victims and survivors in rural communities can access support more easily and equitably. The service specifically states support must be accessible via public transport where feasible.

Older People: Domestic abuse experienced by older people can often be under-reported and may involve additional complexities such as caring responsibilities, health conditions, financial dependency or social isolation. KIFDAS will support improved identification of older victims through enhanced workforce awareness, stronger partnership working and clearer referral pathways. The service's person-centred approach will ensure support is tailored to individual circumstances, improving opportunities for older people to access support and improve their safety and wellbeing.

Male Victims/Survivors: Male victims can face stigma, reduced awareness of available support and concerns about being believed. KIFDAS has been designed as an inclusive service model that is accessible to all victims and survivors regardless of gender. Improved awareness, consistent referral routes and equitable access requirements will help increase accessibility for male victims and encourage earlier engagement with support services.

Faith Communities: Individuals from faith communities may have specific cultural or religious considerations that influence their experience of domestic abuse and engagement with support services. KIFDAS requires providers to recognise and respond appropriately to faith-based needs, beliefs and preferences whilst maintaining a victim-centred approach. This will help ensure support is delivered in a culturally sensitive manner that encourages engagement and improves outcomes for people from diverse faith backgrounds.

Pregnant Women and Families with Young Children: Pregnancy and the early years are recognised periods of increased vulnerability in the context of domestic abuse. The integrated family-focused KIFDAS model will support earlier identification of risk, timely intervention and improved coordination between domestic abuse, safeguarding, health and family support services. This will help improve safety outcomes for parents and children, support healthy child development, strengthen family resilience and reduce the potential for long-term adverse outcomes associated with domestic abuse

Some individuals may experience compounded disadvantage due to belonging to multiple under-represented or protected characteristic groups, for example disabled people from ethnic minority communities, LGBTQ+ young people, or older people whose first language is not English. The KIFDAS model promotes personalised, holistic and trauma-informed support that considers the full range of an individual's needs and circumstances. KIFDAS will ensure equitable access to safe accommodation. Providers must ensure that refuge properties are located in areas that are accessible by public transport, enabling survivors and their children, including those without access to private vehicles, to reach essential services, education, employment, healthcare, and community support networks.

Through equality monitoring, accessibility requirements and integrated service delivery, KIFDAS will be better placed to identify and respond to intersectional inequalities and support more equitable outcomes across Kent.

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