

## PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

**Proposal Name:** Recommissioning of domestic abuse community based support service (EIA ID: #2092)

**EIA Author:** Alison Higgins (Communities)

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**Proposal Outline:** Approval to recommission the Domestic Abuse community based support contract by 1st April 2024

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**Proposal Type:** Budget

**Entered on QTier:** Yes

**QTier Ref:** # 0014032000000

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**Year Of Proposal:** 23/24

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**Lead Director for proposal:** Greg Fell

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**Service Area:** Integrated Commissioning

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**EIA Start Date:** 26/04/2023

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**Lead Equality Objective:** Break the cycle and improve life chances

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**Equality Lead Officer:** Ed Sexton

### Decision Type

**Committees:** Policy Committees

## Portfolio

**Primary Portfolio:** People

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**EIA is cross portfolio:** No

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**EIA is joint with another organisation:** No

## Overview of Impact

**Overview Summary:** The overall impact will be positive, particularly to women victims / survivors of domestic abuse who are anticipated to make up 85% plus of the beneficiaries.

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**Impacted characteristics:**

- Age
- Carers
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Health
- Partners
- Poverty & Financial Inclusion
- Pregnancy/Maternity
- Race
- Religion/Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors

## Consultation and other engagement

## Cumulative Impact

**Does the proposal have a cumulative impact:**

No  
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**Impact areas:**

## Initial Sign-Off

**Full impact assessment required:** Yes

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**Review Date:** 28/07/2023

## PART B - Full Impact Assessment

### Health

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Domestic Abuse has a long lasting impact on the survivor's mental and often physical health. For example, recent studies have found that women who are victims of partner abuse are three times more likely than other women to take their own lives. There is also increasing evidence of the impact of brain injury due to domestic abuse including non fatal strangulation. Recommissioning this support service will enable victims/ survivors to get help to reduce risk to themselves and their children.

**Name of Lead Health Officer:**

**Comprehensive Assessment Being Completed:** No

**Public Health Lead signed off health impact(s):**

## Age

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Domestic Abuse affects people of all age groups including children as the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises that a child, (under 18 years old), who sees, hears, or experiences the effects of DA and is related to the victim or the suspect is also to be regarded as a victim of DA. Teenage victims (from age 16) and older victims (over 65) are underrepresented in the current service. The specification will require the new service to make efforts to promote the service to these groups and support partners to identify older and younger victims in order that they can access support.

## Carers

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Domestic Homicide Reviews locally and nationally have found that the risk of serious harm or homicide to carers as a result of domestic abuse can be underestimated or unacknowledged. The new provider will be required to ensure carers experiencing domestic abuse are identified, Carers Assessments are promoted and to work with partners to raise awareness of specific risk to carers in order that support is offered in a tailored way.

## Disability

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Disabled people experience disproportionately higher rates of domestic abuse. They also experience domestic

abuse for longer periods of time, and more severe and frequent abuse than non-disabled people. Risks can be specific to the victim being disabled. The service specification will require the new provider to ensure staff are skilled in recognising the risks and issues faced by victims/ survivors who are disabled and tailor support so that the service is accessible to them.

## Gender Reassignment

**Staff Impacted:**

Yes

**Customers Impacted:**

Yes

**Description of Impact:**

People whose gender identity is not the same as they were assigned at birth experience a disproportionately higher rate of domestic abuse. Victims survivors face lack of awareness and understanding as well as transphobia and are therefore less likely to access support. The service will be required to promote itself as providing support that is inclusive, and ensure that staff are appropriately trained and sensitive to the needs of transgender people.

## Partners

**Staff Impacted:**

Yes

**Customers Impacted:**

Yes

**Description of Impact:**

Responding to domestic abuse requires the coordinated input of a range of agencies both internal to SCC and external e.g. adults and children's social care, housing, police, health, probation, education etc. Domestic Abuse also costs around £35,000 per victim in terms of lost output, physical and emotional harm and cost to services therefore there is both a moral and economic case for investing in support and prevention. The new provider will become a member of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Board which implements local strategies and holds partners to account.

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** The new statutory definition of domestic abuse refers to economic abuse rather than simply financial abuse in recognition of the impact domestic abuse has on a victim /survivors whole life - perpetrators may not only control their money, and finances but also things that money can buy, such as clothing, transport, food and a place to live. Economic abuse can also restrict access to education and employment, causing a victim to drop out of college or lose a job. Victims / survivors may lose their home and possessions in order to escape abuse thus increasing the chance of living in poverty. The new provider will be required to ensure staff are able to offer support to mitigate the impact of economic abuse.

## Pregnancy / Maternity

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Around 30% of domestic abuse begins during pregnancy, while 40–60% of women experiencing domestic abuse are abused during pregnancy. The new service will be required to maintain strong links with safeguarding and vulnerabilities teams at the Jessop Wing and with the 0-19s service at the Children's Trust to enable support to be offered to pregnant women and new mothers at an early stage.

## Race

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Black and minoritised victims / survivors face a range of barriers in accessing support as a result of unconscious bias and sometimes because of racist

attitudes and assumptions. The service specification will require the new service to demonstrate how it will work towards becoming or maintaining its status as an anti-racist organisation or partnership, and how it will work with partners to advocate for anti-racist practice to enable effective and accessible support for victims/survivors.

## Religion / Belief

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Domestic Homicide Reviews locally and nationally have found that the risk of serious harm or homicide to carers as a result of domestic abuse can be underestimated or unacknowledged. The new provider will be required to ensure carers experiencing domestic abuse are identified, Carers Assessments are promoted and to work with partners to raise awareness of specific risk to carers in order that support is offered in a tailored way.

## Sexual Orientation

**Staff Impacted:** Yes

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** LGB+ people experiencing domestic abuse can experience barriers to accessing support due to lack of awareness (e.g. of abuse from family members to young adults) and because of homophobia. The new service will be required to promote the service to LGB+ people, use specialist risk assessments to ensure safe and tailored support and to work with partners to improve understanding and awareness.

## Voluntary / Community & Faith Sectors

**Staff Impacted:**

Yes  
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**Customers Impacted:**

Yes

**Description of Impact:**

The new service will be commissioned to provide training and advice to VCF services and organisations who identify victims / survivors. It will also be commissioned to work in partnership with specialist providers in the VCF sector and work with these providers to ensure smooth pathways to support and that emerging best practice is shared.

## Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

**Outline of action plan:**

The actions identified above will inform the development of

**Action plan evidence:**

Evidence used is as follows: <https://sheffielddact.org.uk/dor-Assessment-2021-FINAL.pdf> <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads> [https://galop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Galop\\_d](https://galop.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Galop_d) <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ee0be2588f1e3494> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/SAFJ49>

**Changes made as a result of action plan:**

## Mitigation

**Significant risk after mitigation measures:** Yes

**Outline of impact and risks:**

The level of domestic abuse in the city exceeds the amount of support that can be offered with existing resources. This means that the service may find it difficult to engage with some victims / survivors due to the barriers they are facing and the capacity of the service to meet their needs due to restrictions in terms of staff time.

## Review Date

**Review Date:**

28/07/2023