

SAFER 
STRONGER 
COMMUNITIES
BOARD 

2025/28 **ENDING VIOLENCE**
AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS +

A STRATEGY FOR SUFFOLK

Contents		Our Approach	14
Foreword	3	National Insight	15
Executive Summary	4	Local Insight	16
Introduction	5	Local Analysis	17
What is VAWG?	6	Whats Works	20
Governance Structure	8	Engagement & Lived Experience	22
Safer Stronger Communities Board	8	Key Findings of Victim-Survivor Perspectives	22
VAWG Steering Group	8	Discussion of findings	23
Partnership Working	8	Vision & Ambitions	23
Policing VAWG	9	Stop the Abuse Before It Starts	23
National & Local Context	10	Support Every Survivor	23
Domestic Abuse Act	10	Hold Abusers Accountable	23
Serious Violence Duty	10	Build a United Front	24
Prevention Partnerships	11	Third Party Support for Victims of Abuse	24
Online Safety Act	11	Vision & Ambitions	25
Victims & Prisoners Act	11	Appendix A – SSCB Governance	26
Duty to Collaborate	12	Appendix B – Related Strategies and Policies	27
Digital Enabled Abuse	12	Appendix C – Suffolk Support Services	29
Healthwatch Research	12		

(+) The term VAWG, Violence Against Women and Girls, mirrors the Home Office definition of a group of offences* that statistically disproportionately feature male perpetrators and female victims. Whilst wholly recognising the gender bias to these crimes, the ‘+’ has been added to acknowledge that any person of any gender identity can be a victim.

I. FOREWORD

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a key priority for the Suffolk system. We remain committed to enhancing partnership work and expanding support services for victims as well as holding perpetrators to account.

While Suffolk is a safe place to live, work, and visit, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence remains a significant societal issue. These crimes are often rooted in harmful attitudes and gender-based stereotypes that disproportionately affect women and girls. However, we recognise that any person of any gender identity can be a victim of these crimes.

The Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) brings together representatives from district and borough councils, community safety partnerships, the county council, police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, probation, health, safeguarding, and criminal justice.

Together, we are committed to:

- Stop the abuse before it starts
- Supporting every survivor
- Holding abusers accountable
- Building a united front

I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this strategy, especially the brave survivors who shared their experiences, some of which are in this strategy.



Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton

Chair - Safer Stronger Communities Board
Cabinet Member Environment, Communities and Equality
Suffolk County Council

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy sets out the key high-level ambitions for Suffolk from 2025-28, co-produced with victims, practitioners and decision makers. It reflects on our success during the lifetime of the last strategy, outlines our robust governance arrangements, is cognisant of other key strategies that are aligned/connected to VAWG, looks at the evidence and most importantly, provides a strategic direction for the next phase of this strategy which is to develop an action plan that will drive forward change through effective partnership working.

Partnership working is crucial in addressing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) because it acknowledges the complex, multi-faceted nature of the issue. No single agency can effectively tackle VAWG alone. By bringing together a diverse mix of organisations, expertise, and resources, our partnership working aims to create a coordinated and comprehensive response.

“Having to wait for services is hard when you want to do something about it. And then, if you're in that right frame of mind that you want to get help and you want to get support, and if it's not there, you're going to go back”

HOLD ABUSERS ACCOUNTABLE

We'll collaborate to change abuser behaviour and advocate for justice through the criminal justice system.

4

BUILD A UNITED FRONT

We'll keep working together, innovating, and partnering to create a powerful, system-wide response to violence against women and girls.

5

NEXT STEPS

The strategy establishes a clear strategic direction which will influence the development of a detailed action plan, driving change through effective partnership working.

6

1

VISION

For everyone in Suffolk to play their part in preventing and identifying Violence Against Women & Girls, creating the safety we all deserve.

2

STOP THE ABUSE BEFORE IT STARTS

We'll challenge harmful attitudes and redefine what healthy relationships look like, so everyone recognises the warning signs. Focusing on education, the use of technology and the concerns relating to misogyny and toxic masculinity.

3

SUPPORT EVERY SURVIVOR

We're committed to meeting the diverse needs of all communities, being trauma-informed and breaking the cycle of abuse. Balancing choice with consistency.

3. INTRODUCTION

Suffolk has a legacy of system wide leadership and responses to violence against women and girls across the county. Although Suffolk is a safe place to live, work and visit, abuse is present across society. Abuse is often hidden and under reported to statutory organisations or support services and this is acknowledged by all organisations supporting this strategy.

This strategy outlines our key ambitions for tackling VAWG in Suffolk from 2025 to 2028. Developed in collaboration with victims, professionals, and policymakers, it builds upon the successes of our previous work as well as referencing new and emerging government policy.

The strategy establishes a clear governance framework and aligns with other relevant strategies and policies. Most importantly, it provides a strategic direction for the next phase: the development of a detailed action plan to drive change through effective partnerships.

This strategy is being launched at the same time as the government considering the national priorities and reform relating to domestic abuse and sexual violence. The Suffolk System will be flexible to respond to the detail in these changes to policy and where needed may look to change the scope of this strategy which will remain dynamic.

This document includes Suffolk's needs assessment and strategy for providing safe accommodation to anyone that needs to flee abuse either within or to Suffolk, which was previously a separate document.

In June 2024 the National Police Chiefs council released a statement detailing the epidemic level of VAWG in England & Wales. The Statement goes on to add that 'in February 2023, the Home Office classifies VAWG for the first time as a national threat to public safety' requiring a response equal to terrorism and organised crime.

“The education, for me was essential. I didn’t believe I needed the ‘support’ but I was willing to be educated, this is what changed my life”

4. What is Violence Against Women & Girls?

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Is a pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. In extreme cases this includes murder.

Stalking

Is repeated (that is on at least two occasions) harassment causing fear, alarm or distress. It can include threatening phone calls, texts or letters, damaging property, spying on and following the victim.

Forced Marriage

Is a marriage conducted without valid consent of one or both parties, where duress is a factor.

Honour Based Abuse

Is motivated by the abuser's perception that a person has brought or may bring 'dishonour' or 'shame' to themselves, their family or the community, which is often prized higher than safety or wellbeing and can have severe consequences and is used to justify many types of abuse.

Up-Skirting

Is the action of placing equipment such as a camera or mobile phone beneath a person's clothing to take a voyeuristic photograph without their permission.

Coercive and Controlling Behaviour

Is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Prostitution & Trafficking

Is when women and girls are forced (often involving violence), coerced or deceived to enter into prostitution and/or to keep them there. Trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation and exploitation of women and children for the purposes of prostitution and domestic servitude across international borders and within countries ('internal trafficking').

Sexual Exploitation relating to Modern Slavery

Is when victims may be forced into prostitution, pornography, or lap dancing for little or no pay. They may be deprived of their freedom of movement and subjected to threats and violence

Revenge Porn

Is the sharing of private, sexual materials, either photos or videos, of another person without their consent and with the purpose of causing embarrassment or distress. Sharing of these materials is usually carried out online.

Cyber Flashing

Is the unsolicited sending of images or video recordings of one's genitals.

Sexual Harassment

Is unwanted verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It can take place anywhere, including the workplace, schools, streets, public transport and social situations. It includes flashing, obscene and threatening calls, and online harassment.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Is the complete or partial removal or alteration of external genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is mostly carried out on young girls at some time between infancy and the age of 15. Unlike male circumcision, which is legal in many countries, it is now illegal across much of the globe, and its extensive harmful health consequences are widely recognised.

Sexual Exploitation

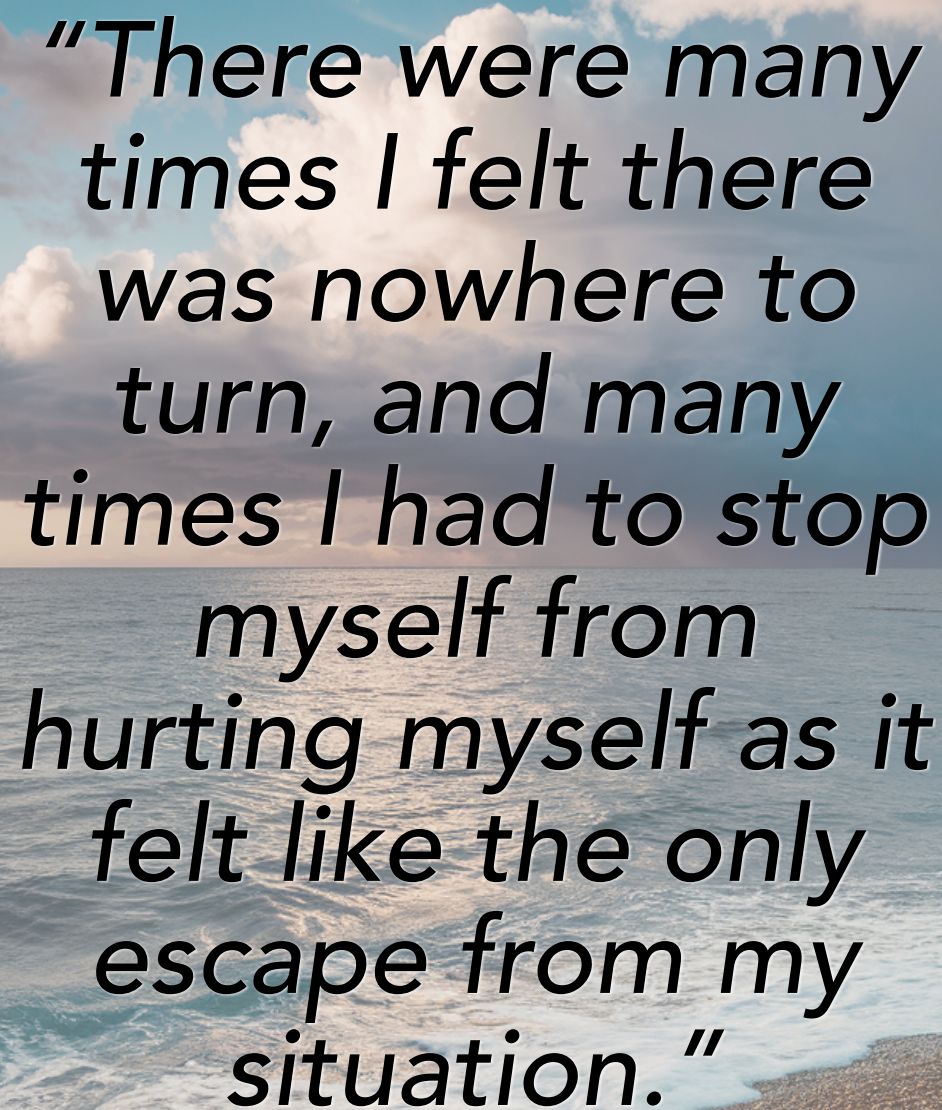
Is exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where someone receives 'something' (e.g. food, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, protection money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Sexual Violence

Is sexual contact without consent, including rape. Perpetrators range from total strangers to relatives and intimate partners, but most are known in some way.

Spiritual & Ritualistic Abuse

Is the abuse, harm or exploitation caused by someone through the use of their beliefs, superstitions, traditions or faith, to justify them inflicting harmful practices, including accusations of witchcraft. It also exists where the abuser may not share the same beliefs but uses the victims' beliefs to manipulate and exploit them.



"There were many times I felt there was nowhere to turn, and many times I had to stop myself from hurting myself as it felt like the only escape from my situation."

5. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Suffolk Safer Stronger Communities Board

The Suffolk Safer, Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) provides strategic direction and leadership on community safety issues which represent the greatest threat, risk and harm to the people of Suffolk.

The Board meets quarterly, and its membership is made up of senior elected councillors and officer roles from a range of organisations including County, District and Borough Councils, Suffolk Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Partnerships, Integrated Care Boards, Safeguarding Partnership and Probation. It is supported by a programme office that oversees the delivery of the strategies and action plans in addressing those priorities and reports regularly to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

There are several established partnerships which interconnect with the priorities of the SSCB (detailed in appendix A). We continue to work collaboratively with partners from Community Safety Partnerships, the Health and Wellbeing Board, Criminal Justice Board, Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Partnerships, Youth Justice Board and Safer Schools Board, ensuring that we align our strategic priorities to reduce the impact of serious violence in our communities.

VAWG Steering Group

The steering group has been in place since 2017 with its key aim to end violence against women and girls. The group also acts as the statutory Suffolk Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. It uses a Public Health Approach to tackling violence and abuse, looking to combat the root causes and break the cycle of abusive behaviours.

The work programme is coordinated by the Suffolk County Council's Public Health and Communities directorate; however initiatives are delivered by many partners across the Suffolk System, all working to prevent and reduce violence and abuse.

As one example, there is a very successful Suffolk Domestic Abuse Champions training programme which now has over 1400 members, who are all trained on how to spot the signs of abuse and how to make referrals. Our commissioned services and specialist Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector play an essential role in the delivery of this multi-agency work programme.

Partnership Working

In Suffolk we have a legacy of partnership working across several priorities, domestic abuse and sexual violence are some of the longest running priorities and considerable progress has been made since the inception of the countywide work programme in 2017

The steering group in Suffolk is made up of statutory partners and two representatives from the VCFSE who are an essential part of the decision-making processes. The steering group has oversight of the Suffolk VAWG Action Plan and ensures a coordinated delivery of outcomes across the county, reducing duplication and maximising effectiveness where possible.

In addition to the steering group there is a Sexual Violence and Abuse partnership which is a larger forum, bringing together many community-based organisations and statutory partners to share local information, best practice, update on central government policy developments and is an opportunity to showcase the excellent work being undertaken in the county as well as collectively address the challenges.



Policing VAWG

Suffolk Constabulary are committed to tackling Violence against Women and Girls, the response has been reviewed following the Call to Action by the National Lead Deputy Chief Constables Maggie Blyth's call to action.

Domestic abuse activity is co-ordinated through the Domestic Abuse Delivery Group. The delivery group identifies and implements improvements in the response to those who are a victim/survivor of domestic abuse. Key performance indicators such as number and type of offences reported, the solved rates and the number of repeat victims. The data is shared with the wider partnership where it is discussed, ensuring that there is a holistic approach. Work has started in the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Joint Justice Plan, this involves closer working between CPS and Police to ensure better criminal justice outcomes for victim/survivors.

Following the super complaint from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust relating to Stalking, Suffolk Constabulary have published an action plan on their website. The plan documents the activity that has been undertaken so far. The actions remain a key area of focus and will continue to be updated to enhance the Constabulary response to stalking.

Operation Soteria is the national plan to improve the Criminal Justice System response to Rape and Serious Sexual Offences. Op Soteria changes the approach to sexual violence to being victim-centred, context-led and suspect-focused. Over the next period, Suffolk Constabulary will start the implementation of Operation Soteria and both specialist and frontline officers are receiving bespoke training.

The Soteria leads works alongside the Crown Prosecution Service to improve Criminal Justice outcomes for victim/survivors.

"The best help was someone constantly confirming that what I experienced is domestic abuse (I was questioning myself). This gave me strength and courage to leave."

6. NATIONAL & LOCAL CONTEXT

National policy has an influence on how we respond to and support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence in Suffolk. There are several recent and future policies which have the greatest influence, these include:

Domestic Abuse Act

The UK Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is legislation aimed at tackling domestic abuse.

Key Features of the Act:

- **Statutory Definition of Domestic Abuse:** The Act provides a legal definition of domestic abuse, recognising it as a pattern of behaviour that includes not just physical violence, but also emotional, controlling, or coercive behaviour, and economic abuse.
- **Domestic Abuse Commissioner:** The Act establishes the role of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, an independent voice for victims, responsible for holding agencies accountable and improving the response to domestic abuse.
- **Protection Orders and Notices:** The Act introduces new protection orders and notices, such as Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders, which can help victims feel safer and can help prevent further abuse.
- **Support for Victims:** The Act places a duty on local authorities to provide accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

- **Special Measures in Court:** The Act introduces a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are automatically eligible for special measures in the criminal courts, such as giving evidence from behind a screen or via video link.

Overall, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is a significant step forward in the UK's efforts to tackle domestic abuse. It aims to ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences, knowing that the state will do everything it can to support them and bring perpetrators to justice.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence was introduced in January 2023. It aims to improve collaboration between different statutory agencies as well as consult with education providers and the VCFSE to prevent and reduce serious violence within their communities.

Key Features of the Duty:

- **Multi-agency Collaboration:** The Duty requires specified authorities (police, probation, fire and rescue, youth justice services, health and local councils) to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- **Data Sharing and Analysis:** Agencies are expected to share information and analyse data to identify local trends and patterns of serious violence.
- **Prevention and Early Intervention:** The focus is on prevention and early intervention, addressing the underlying factors that contribute to serious violence, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of opportunity.

- **Local Strategies:** Each local authority area is required to develop a local strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence, tailored to their specific needs and challenges.

Prevention Partnerships

The Home Office are intending to introduce prevention partnerships which will be collaborative networks of organisations and individuals working together to prevent serious violence which will include violence against women and girls (VAWG). These partnerships recognise that VAWG is a complex issue with multiple root causes, requiring a coordinated, multi-faceted approach to address it effectively.

Key Features of Prevention Partnerships

- **Primary Prevention:** Stopping VAWG before it occurs by addressing the underlying causes, such as gender inequality, harmful social norms, and attitudes that condone violence.
- **Creating a Culture of Respect:** Promoting gender equality, healthy relationships, and challenging harmful stereotypes and attitudes that contribute to VAWG.
- **Early Intervention:** Identifying and supporting individuals at risk of perpetrating or experiencing abuse.

Online Safety Act

The Online Safety Act is a landmark piece of legislation in the UK that aims to make the internet a safer place, particularly for children. It places new responsibilities on online services, especially social media platforms and search engines, to protect users from harmful content and activity. Here's a breakdown of the key aspects:

Key Features of the Act:

- **Protecting Children:** This is a central priority. Platforms will need to prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content, and provide clear ways for parents and children to report problems.
- **Tackling Illegal Content:** The Act requires companies to take robust action against illegal content, such as child sexual abuse material, content promoting terrorism, and hate speech. They'll need to have systems in place to remove such content quickly.
- **Protecting Adults:** While children have the strongest protections, adults will also benefit. Platforms will need to be more transparent about what content they allow and give users more control over what they see.

Victims & Prisoners Act

The Victims and Prisoners Act, enacted in 2024, aims to improve the experiences of victims within the criminal justice system. It introduces several measures focused on enhancing support, information access, and overall treatment of victims.

- **Formalising the Victims' Code:** The Act puts the principles of the Victims' Code into legislation, ensuring victims are aware of their entitlements and what they can expect from the criminal justice system.
- **Enhanced Collaboration:** The Act introduces mandatory collaboration between Police and Crime Commissioners, health bodies, and local authorities to provide more joined-up support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and serious violence.

- **Statutory Guidance for Support Services:** The Act requires the publication of statutory guidance on the roles of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), promoting awareness and consistency in these critical support roles.

- **Promoting Awareness of the Victims' Code:** The Act places a duty on relevant bodies to promote awareness of the Victims' Code, ensuring victims are informed of their rights and entitlements throughout their journey in the criminal justice system.

- **Oversight and Accountability:** It strengthens oversight of how victims are treated by requiring criminal justice inspectorates to consult the Victims' Commissioner on their inspection plans and empowering ministers to direct joint thematic inspections on victims' experiences.

Duty to Collaborate

Included in the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 is the Duty to Collaborate which is a legal requirement which specifies that authorities in England work together to commission community support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence.

Key Features of the Duty:

- **Duty Holders:** This includes local policing bodies, local authorities, and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).
- **Collaboration:** Duty holders must work together when commissioning relevant victim support services, excluding accommodation-based support.

- **Joint Needs Assessment & Local Strategy:** Develop a joint needs assessment and a local strategy that demonstrates how all partners will collaborate to deliver and improve services.

Victims Code

The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (Victims' Code) sets out the services and a minimum standard for these services that must be provided to victims of crime by organisations (referred to as service providers) in England and Wales.

Digital Enabled Abuse

Digital abuse is when someone monitors, stalks, harasses, threatens, controls or impersonates another person using technology. This could involve stalking through social media, harassment by text message or humiliation by posting pictures or videos, for example. Digital abuse can happen to anyone, but it most often happens alongside other types of domestic abuse.

Examples of digital abuse include:

- Using your social media accounts without your permission
- Posting information about you online or by text/messenger
- Creating a profile page without your permission
- Sending you threatening messages
- Sending threatening messages to other people whilst pretending to be you

- Posting photos of you without your consent (also known as revenge porn)
- Using spyware on your devices to track you
- Taking away your control of smart home devices such as cameras, lights, thermostats
- controlling your bank accounts

Healthwatch Research – My Health, Our Future (MHoF) Survey

Since 2015, MHoF data has been helping schools, colleges, and integrated care systems to improve support for children and young people. The programme offers reliable insights into the current wellbeing of young people across Suffolk, providing data to support local decision-making about services, attract funding for local support and inform health and care system strategies around young people's health and wellbeing.

The programme has recorded over 55,000 responses from young people on topics like bullying, self-harm, body image, social media, anxiety, and many others. The 'phase seven' (2023) MHoF survey included a new focus on physical health, prompting young people to share their views on topics like sexual health support and healthy lifestyles. The key findings of the research show:

- The survey of 9,000+ young people found 30% witnessed sexual harassment at school, including sharing sexual images and threats.
- Almost 30% had witnessed 'unwanted messages of a sexual nature.
- Witnessing harassment correlated with feeling unsafe at school.
- One in three Year 9 students (32%/ 573) had witnessed other 'unwanted sexual behaviour', compared to 6% (111) of Year 13 students.
- Referenced in the research, Ofsted (2021) engaged over 900 children and young people about peer-on-peer sexual harassment and sexual violence. It said the frequency of harmful sexual behaviours meant some children and young people considered them normal and saw no point reporting them.

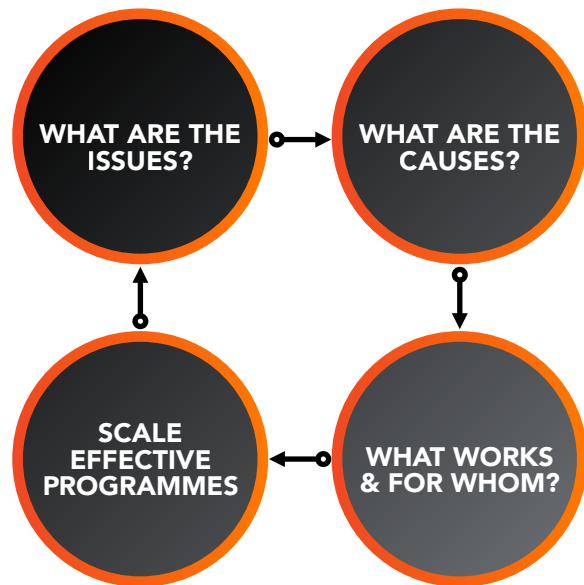
"It's getting people through that door or making that phone call...that's a huge thing because when every day you are being abused, called names, you have no self esteem, you have no confidence and you feel you deserve this"

7. OUR APPROACH

Suffolk has previously adopted a 'Public Health approach' to tackling other community safety priorities. This aims to treat the issue like an infectious disease that requires a data and evidence led approach to understand what causes it, find interventions to prevent it and ultimately to find a cure.

The diagram sets out the Public Health model - a genuine multi-agency approach, underpinned by an ambition to better understand the issues and understand what works, for who, where

and through robust evaluation, what success looks like.



In the lifetime of the last strategy, Suffolk has tested and created new approaches to data sharing, research, awareness raising and our work with perpetrators. For the future we will continue to build on that learning and welcome new opportunities to

improve our understanding of the root causes of VAWG and be ambitious in our approach to prevention.

"Services say 'bring your kids' but I don't want to talk in front of my kids – you need spaces where you can talk and have kids cared for"

8. NATIONAL INSIGHT

There are some nationally significant influences in the VAWG system which are reflected below

Prevalence: Domestic abuse remains a significant societal issue in the UK. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 2.3 million people aged 16 and over experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2024. ONS last produced a sexual assault report with data ending March 2022 where 2.3% of adults were victims of sexual assault as reported in the CSEW, a much higher figure than the overall number of crimes reported to police forces.

Gender Disparity: Women are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse. CSEW data indicates that an estimated 4.8% of people aged 16 years and over (6.6% of women and 3.0% of men) experienced domestic abuse in the last year. This equates to an estimated 2.3 million adults (1.6 million women and 712,000 men).

Types of Abuse: The use of technology to facilitate abuse is a growing concern, with cyberstalking, harassment, and online control becoming increasingly prevalent. Recognition of controlling and coercive behaviour, toxic masculinity misogynistic behaviours is improving, with more offences being recorded.

Impact: Domestic abuse has devastating consequences for individuals and families, affecting their physical and mental health, safety, and well-being.

Reporting: Despite efforts to encourage reporting, many incidents of domestic abuse and sexual violence go unreported to the police.

Future Changes to Policy

There has been and will continue to be national policy changes in this area which will likely impact our system response to Violence Against Women and Girls. Some potential areas of focus will include:

- Improving support for male victims of domestic abuse.
- Addressing the needs of children affected by domestic abuse.
- Enhancing prevention efforts to tackle the root causes of domestic abuse.
- Strengthening the response to online abuse and technology-facilitated abuse.
- Ensuring consistent and effective implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act across all regions.
- Creating new offences criminalising the taking of intimate images, which will build on the work we started in the Online Safety Act 2023 and expand the offence of encouraging or assisting serious self-harm to cover non-communication activity.
- Strengthen multi-agency management of those convicted of serious offences of controlling or coercive behaviour.
- Raneen's Law (DA specialist in control rooms)
- Independent Legal Advocates for rape victims

Impact and Cost

The economic and societal cost of VAWG is vast. In 2019 the UK Home Office estimated that the social and economic cost for victims of domestic abuse alone to be approximately £66 billion (year ending March 2017 in England and Wales), which equates to around £85 billion in July 2024 prices. [Work is underway](#) at the Home Office to update these figures, including reflecting the costs associated with child victims which are not included in the original figures. It is fair to assume these additional costs will be significant.

9. LOCAL INSIGHT

There are some local influences in the Suffolk VAWG system which are reflected below.

Demographics: Suffolk has a population of approximately 760,000 people and is 87.3% white British. The population in Suffolk is less diverse and has a much older population than England and Wales. Suffolk has a lower proportion of children and young people aged 0–24 than the national average.

Local Geography: Suffolk has a unique geography with a mix of both urban and rural areas. This requires different approaches and service delivery to ensure equality of access to support services.

Prevalence: There were approximately 14,300 domestic abuse reports in Suffolk for the year ending September 2024, 10% less than the previous year. There are fluctuations in the levels of reports however looking at longer term trends, levels of DA reported to the police have been falling for several years.

There were 1,962 sexual offences reports in Suffolk for the year ending September 2024, 12% less than the previous year. There are fluctuations in the levels of reports however looking at longer term trends levels of Sexual Offences reported to the police have been falling for several years.

Services supporting those that are victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence are seeing increasing levels of demand, and this is likely to continue as more people come forward to report abuse to support services.

Research and Insight: Key insights from lived experience research. In addition, the University of Suffolk have been commissioned by Suffolk partners to undertake research about specialist sexual violence services available to victims and survivors in Suffolk, with the emerging priorities helping to shape this strategy. The recommendations of which will help to shape future revisions of this strategy and associated action plan.

Reporting: Reporting for domestic abuse and sexual violence fluctuate but in more recent years, non-recent reporting has increased. In the year ending September 2024 8% of domestic abuse and 26% of sexual violence was non-recent.

Commissioned Support Services: Overview of core specialist support services can be found in appendix c.

“You're currently safely housed. So, you know, crisis is over. But then having to grieve, having to reprocess that trauma, having to make sense of your life in the longer term... Yeah, it's almost unbearable to hold. And who hand-holds you through that process? Nobody.”

10. LOCAL ANALYSIS

Declining Sexual Offence Reports in Suffolk: A Closer Look

Suffolk Police recorded 1,962 sexual offences during the 12 months ending September 2024. This figure represents a 12% decrease compared to the number of sexual offences reported in the previous year. While a decrease in reported offences might initially seem positive, it's crucial to interpret this statistic with caution. Several factors could contribute to this decline, and it doesn't necessarily indicate a reduction in the actual occurrence of sexual offences. For instance, changes in police recording practices, shifts in public awareness campaigns, or even external events could influence reporting rates. It's also important to acknowledge the well-documented issue of underreporting in cases of sexual violence.

Many survivors face significant barriers to reporting, including fear of retaliation, shame, distrust of the system, or concerns about the impact on their personal lives. Therefore, it's possible that the decrease in reported offences reflects a decline in reporting rather than a decrease in the actual prevalence of sexual offences.

Further research and analysis are needed to understand the underlying reasons for this decrease and to ensure that survivors are receiving the support and resources they need, regardless of whether they choose to report to law enforcement. It's also vital to continue efforts to encourage reporting and create a safe and supportive environment for survivors to come forward.

Further research and analysis are needed to understand the underlying reasons for this decrease and to ensure that survivors are

receiving the support and resources they need, regardless of whether they choose to report to law enforcement. It's also vital to continue efforts to encourage reporting and create a safe and supportive environment for survivors to come forward.

Prosecutions and Convictions for Adult Rape:

During the same period, the CPS conducted 33 adult rape-related prosecutions in Suffolk. This resulted in 17 convictions, a conviction rate of 51.5%. This lower conviction rate compared to DA cases highlights the complexities of prosecuting sexual offences. The average time from decision to charge to finalisation for adult rape cases was significantly longer, at 682 days, demonstrating the substantial delays often encountered in these cases. These delays in justice inevitably result in re-traumatising survivors.

Domestic Abuse Crime and Incident Rates:

For the year ending September 2024, Suffolk recorded approximately 14,300 DA-related crimes and incidents (where the police are called and respond but no crime is recorded). This translates to a rate of 9.7 crimes and incidents per 1,000 people in the population, providing a localised measure of the prevalence of DA. Incidents of domestic abuse are often significantly underreported to the police and other organisations. Many survivors are hesitant to come forward for various reasons, including fear of retaliation from the abuser, feelings of shame or embarrassment, lack of trust in the system, or concerns about the impact on their children.

We recognise that VAWG Crimes are known to be underreported and will continue to make efforts to ensure victims are supported regardless of any reduction in recorded crime.

Domestic Abuse as a Proportion of Overall Crime:

In Suffolk, DA related crimes constitute 16% of all recorded crime for the year ending September 2024. This proportion is slightly higher than the national average for England and Wales, which was 15.8% for the period ending March 2024. This suggests that DA makes up a substantial portion of overall crime in Suffolk, and that it is being recorded at a rate slightly above the national average. This may indicate a higher prevalence of DA in Suffolk, or it could be related to local recording practices being better focused on DA and/or reporting rates are better in Suffolk.

Prosecutions and Convictions for Domestic Abuse:

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) conducted 607 DA-related prosecutions in Suffolk during the year ending June 2024. Of these, 475 resulted in convictions, representing a conviction rate of 78.3%. This suggests a relatively high success rate for DA prosecutions that proceed to court but recognise there is a gap between reports and prosecutions. The average time from the decision to charge to the finalisation of a DA case was 221 days, highlighting the length of time it can take for these cases to be resolved.

Domestic Homicide Reviews – Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews

At the time of writing this strategy, the Home Office are drafting new guidance for Domestic Homicide Reviews. This includes a change in name of the reviews alongside new guidance to reflect reviews into all types of domestic abuse related deaths including suicide and deaths where the cause was undetermined.

In our consultation of June 2023 on legislative changes to DHRs, we sought views on changing the name to reflect the range of deaths which fall under the scope of a review and updating the legislation to ensure a DHR is commissioned when the death has, or appears to have, resulted from domestic abuse as defined by the DA Act 2021. As a result of the consultation findings, we have decided to make these legislative changes and will be inserting a new section in the DVCVA providing for Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews to replace Domestic Homicide Reviews under section 9 of that Act in England and Wales.

Source: Consultation: domestic homicide review statutory guidance

At the time of writing this strategy the below table shows the number of DHRs and informal reviews undertaken in Suffolk.

Number of DHRs in Suffolk Since 2011	Number of Informal Learning Reviews in Suffolk
East Suffolk CSP: 4	East Suffolk CSP: 1
Ipswich CSP: 1	Ipswich CSP: 1
Western Suffolk CSP: 9	Western Suffolk CSP: 1

Number of DHRs currently underway (at time of release): 9

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a non-statutory meeting where agencies share information about victims of domestic abuse who are at high risk of harm.

A MARAC's focus is to implement a safety plan for the adult victim of abuse. However, children who are involved in the same case will also be mentioned at MARAC. This ensures that the relevant agencies are informed about the children's situation.

Since the previous strategy (2022-2025) a multi-agency review of the Suffolk MARAC was undertaken. The review measured Suffolk MARAC data against the Safe Lives principles of an effective MARAC. A multi-agency task and finish subgroup was formed to progress the actions and recommendations of the review which has seen operational improvements.

Data from the past two years shows a stable level of engagement with Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in Suffolk, demonstrating a consistent demand for this service. In the 12 months ending September 2024, there were 1,415 MARAC cases, a slight decrease of 16 cases compared to the previous year. Year-on-year variations in MARAC referrals are common and can be influenced by various factors, including changes in reporting practices, referral pathways, and even seasonal trends. Demand for MARAC services remains consistent, reflecting a sustained need for coordinated, multi-agency responses to high-risk domestic abuse cases. This stability underscores the ongoing prevalence of severe domestic abuse and the vital role that MARACs play in safeguarding victims.

Repeat Cases and the Focus on Children:

Within these MARAC cases, approximately 21% are classified as repeat cases. This highlights the reality that a significant proportion of individuals experiencing domestic abuse are known to the system and require ongoing support. Repeat referrals to MARACs suggest that initial interventions may not have been fully effective in breaking the cycle of abuse or that the level of risk has escalated. These repeat cases show the need for continuous review and adaptation of safety plans, as well as a greater understanding of the complex factors that contribute to re-victimisation and repeat perpetrators.

In 100% of the 1,415 cases discussed in the 12 months ending September 2024, individual children were a subject of discussion. This comprehensive attention to children highlights the devastating impact of domestic abuse on families and the recognition that children are often significantly affected as victims in their own right, even if they are not directly physically harmed.

“There needs to be support for neurodivergent families – it’s not as easy as just upping and leaving, it would cause meltdowns and violence and unregulated behaviours that would not be safe.”

II. WHAT WORKS

Diadem project at The Mix, Stowmarket

Project: This vital initiative focuses on empowering girls and young women through targeted support, including Diadem groups and the Escape the Trap programme, which help to address issues that are highly relevant to the everyday lives of young people.

Bobby found it hard to build relationships at the start of the course and was outspoken, but very withdrawn when it came to her feelings. She could not hold eye contact and would regularly skip lessons at school, as she was being peer pressured into doing so. She said in our Self-Esteem week; "I would not have skipped lessons last year, but I need to fit in now."

Bobby would regularly call the other girls out for use of insulting language and messing around etc. She knew what was healthy/unhealthy in a relationship and would speak to staff about her parent's relationship and how this had affected her connection with them.

At the end of the course, she regularly met with our VAWG Coordinator for 121 catch ups and updates. She was dating someone before the summer holidays that she recognised as being unhealthy and ended things with the boy in question.

She then took the summer to make some big changes in her life: she made a new friendship group as she recognised that her previous friendship group was quite toxic and unstable.

Bobby also made a point of sorting out relationships at home. She is now seen to regularly hang out with her sisters in school, and mum is being very supportive of her schooling now, regularly contacting Bobby's head of year to see how she is doing in school.

Bobby now attends every lesson, which is a huge achievement. School is currently working with her regarding her timings, as she is aware that she can arrive to lessons late due to peer pressure, but her recognition of this is a fantastic positive step.

She still catches up with our VAWG Coordinator but is a lot more confident in herself and her abilities.

Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme delivered by Suffolk Constabulary

Project: The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit (DAPU) works one-to-one with domestic abuse offenders who want to change their behaviour. Available to those over the age of 18, clients can self-refer to the behavioural change programme or be referred by a professional party.

Alex, having witnessed and experienced abuse throughout childhood, lacked understanding of its impact. He had a child adopted due to neglect and faced social services intervention during his partner's pregnancy. Homeless and unemployed, he was isolated and struggled with consistency. His partner, managing the home and a high-risk pregnancy, faced increased domestic abuse risk. Alex's motivation was to manage his emotions.

Work focused on changing negative thinking patterns, introducing mindfulness and hobbies, and educating him on the impact of abusive behaviours.

Victim testimonies were used to build empathy and job support was also provided.

Alex found the sessions helpful, showing increased understanding and empathy. He gained motivation to find employment and engage with social services, leading to plans for family reintegration.

Improved communication and stability were reported. Alex secured a job, resolved benefits issues, and gradually returned home. Post-program support continues with monthly check-ins and there were no further police incidents.

IDVA & Children and Young People Outreach

Project: IDVAs, or Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, are specialist professionals who provide crucial support to victims of domestic abuse.

Charlie was referred to the IDVA service via a MARAC referral, and she accepted IDVA support. Due to incidents disclosed in the referral, the police became involved and wanted to speak to Charlie. She was very upset and anxious as she hadn't realised it would go this far, but with support from the IDVA, she found the confidence to talk to the police and provide a statement, which she found empowering.

The perpetrator was subsequently arrested for Grievous Bodily Harm against their child, as well as Common Assault against Charlie, Theft of her belongings, and Possession of Drugs. The perpetrator was released on bail away from the home address, meaning the IDVA could help Charlie secure her property by using the 24/7 Locks service – a service funded by Suffolk County Council.

The IDVA referred Charlie to Anglia Care Trust for money advice, so she felt more confident that she could flee her situation and live independently with their child. The IDVA also liaised with Housing to facilitate her fleeing.

The IDVA liaised with the child's school and their Social Worker to ensure they were being supported. The child was then referred to our CAYPO (Children and Young People Outreach) service, where they had intensive support to help with the domestic abuse and violence they experienced and the stress and upset of having to move schools. Charlie said the support for the child had such a positive impact on their wellbeing; she could almost instantly see an improvement in their behaviour, and they were so much happier and more settled.

Charlie fled with nothing, so the IDVA applied for funding from the Buttle Foundation, which provided her with furniture, white goods, carpets, clothes, toys, and school supplies for the child, as well as some funding for after-school clubs. The IDVA helped to arrange for the child to go to Art club, which they found really relaxing and helped them through this horrible situation.

When the police were unable to charge the perpetrator, the IDVA helped Charlie apply for a Non-Molestation Order. She was successful in getting it, and it covers both her and her child, so they are feeling much happier and safer.

Charlie said she was so grateful for IDVA service because she felt they gave her the strength and courage to leave and start afresh.

12. ENGAGEMENT & LIVED EXPERIENCE

This strategy is designed to centre around those who have experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence in all its forms. As well as speaking to front line professionals and specialist support services, commissioners and safeguarding leads, through a specialist VAWG engagement consultant we conducted a survey, which was followed up with a series of engagement sessions directly with victims and survivors.

We are clear that lived experience is at the heart of our collective actions both in the strategy and our future work. The University of Suffolk are currently undertaking research into the ecosystem of support for victims of sexual violence in Suffolk. The findings of which will be included in future revisions of this strategy and help inform our subsequent action planning.

The findings are summarised below with the full consultation report available [here](#).

Project Goals

Amplify voices of seldom-heard victim-survivors to inform the next three-year VAWG strategy

Assess accessibility, inclusivity, and gaps in local services

Develop priorities for change and future service improvements

Methodology

Data collected through surveys, focus groups, and consultations with victim-survivors and professionals

Ethical considerations included trauma-informed practices, confidentiality, and accessibility

Positive Experiences

Supportive, non-judgmental professionals

Free and quick services

Peer support, highly valued for reducing isolation and offering validation

Challenges

Long waiting lists, lack of trauma-informed services, limited geographic reach

Barriers due to shame, fear, and lack of knowledge about available services

Limited support for specific groups (men, LGBTQ+, disabled people, ethnically minoritised groups)

Gaps

Training needs for professionals in trauma-informed care, abuse dynamics, and supporting marginalised groups

Insufficient refuge and counselling services, especially for complex cases

Broader Issues

Need for greater awareness of VAWG in schools and workplaces

Concerns over delays in court cases, re-traumatisation, and insufficient protection during legal proceedings

Lack of support for addressing abusive behaviours in perpetrators

Discussion of Findings

Whilst there is a large amount of synergy across the views of victim-survivors and professionals, there are also times when the views diverge. This was particularly notable when talking about whether or not services were connected well, with most of those in the professional spaces feeling they were, and most of the victim-survivors feeling they weren't. This speaks to the need for greater engagement with those using services in order to discover what is actually happening versus what services are planning to happen.

This was also seen in the advertising of services. Whilst professionals told us they did lots of work advertising their services, victim-survivors repeatedly told us they did not know how to find services. This may be due to the locations of advertising, or it may be due to how the services are being advertised, recognising the number of people who told us they would have not related to the term 'domestic abuse' at the start of them needing to access support.

One of the other concerns that came out strongly and felt incredibly significant for ensuring that services were accessible and inclusive, was the understanding and knowledge of professionals trying to engage with minoritised communities.

In the survey it was striking that 'by and for' services used the term 'minoritised' whilst those working in service for all survivors used the phrase 'minority ethnic'. Whilst a small change in language this highlights potential issues in local thinking, and may explain why people of colour are less likely to access these providers.

This was also seen in comments about the LGBTQ+ community, with service providers.

Feeling that these were closed spaces, and the solution was for this community to adapt to let people in. When asked if services worked in partnership with 'by and for' organisations, very few in the focus group did, and some seem to struggle to see how this might benefit services. The view was that either communities needed to accept non-members of the community in their spaces, or that they should engage in activities within the pre-existing services.

The other keynote is that whilst victim-survivors felt that counselling was a need, they were also keen to see peer support spaces increased alongside counselling provision, especially groups which focused on learning from each other, rather than being engaged in set activities. Meanwhile professionals felt that counselling was the greatest need, with no one identifying peer group support as a gap. Again, this speaks to the need for greater engagement with those using services to co-design them based on actual need.

Third party support of victims of abuse

We recognise the wider devastating impact of VAWG crimes. Third party support of victims of crime be they parents, carers, close friends and partners step in to care when the worst happens, often for decades. There is also a recognition that due to the gendered nature of abuse, this care and support more often fall to women and girls. Our action planning must take into account this wider impact and the support available for those who directly support victims and survivors.

"I feel my children needed support too and wish they provided a service to assist children of abusive parental relationships as my children are very damaged due to what they were exposed to at such a young age."

13. VISION & AMBITIONS



VISION

For everyone in Suffolk to play their part in preventing and identifying Violence Against Women & Girls, creating the safety we all deserve.



STOP THE ABUSE BEFORE IT STARTS

We'll challenge harmful attitudes and redefine what healthy relationships look like, so everyone recognises the warning signs. Focusing on education, the use of technology and the concerns relating to misogyny and toxic masculinity.

- Increasing awareness of what abuse and sexual violence is and the available support.
- Deliver training and awareness raising of pathways in Suffolk.
- Understanding the use of technology and how this is used to facilitate abuse.
- Understand and promote discussion regarding the links between misogyny, toxic masculinity, and VAWG/Sexual Abuse.



SUPPORT EVERY SURVIVOR

We're committed to meeting the diverse needs of all communities, being trauma-informed and breaking the cycle of abuse. Balancing choice with consistency.

- Offer victims and survivors a range of domestic abuse and sexual violence support, including supported accommodation where needed.
- Ensure services are trauma-informed.
- Listen and respond to the needs of victims and survivors with ongoing engagement and research.
- Ensure or services are equitably accessible.



HOLD ABUSERS ACCOUNTABLE

We'll collaborate to change abuser behaviour and advocate for justice through the criminal justice system.

- Support perpetrator interventions that focus on behaviour change and accountability.
- Advocate for system change, including laws and policies to protect survivors and hold abusers accountable.
- Improve domestic abuse and sexual violence training across the system, including the wider criminal justice system.



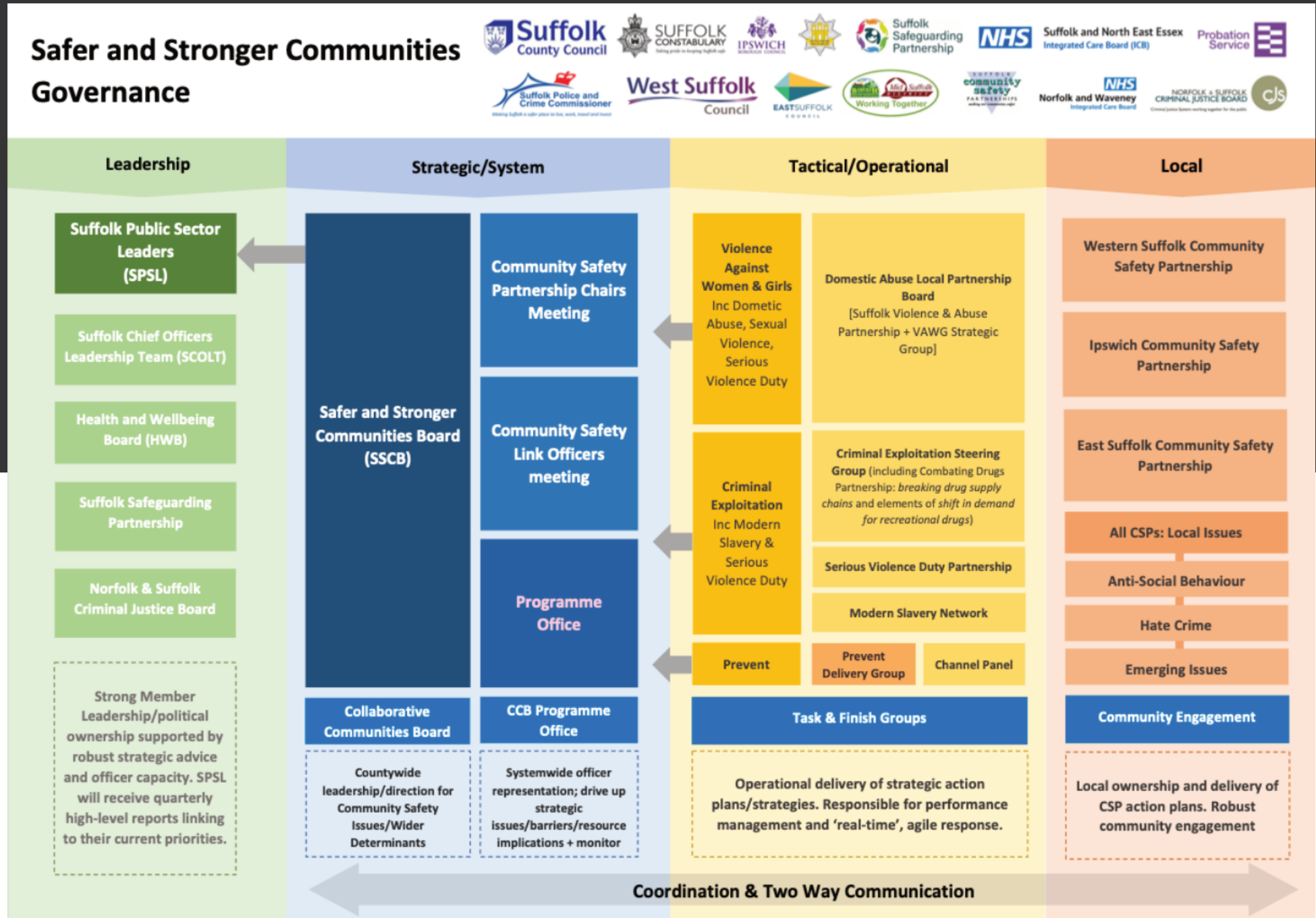
BUILD A UNITED FRONT

We'll keep working together, innovating, and partnering to create a powerful, system-wide response to violence against women and girls.

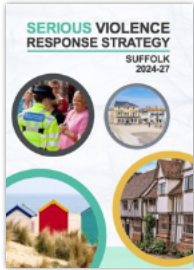
- Strengthen multi-agency partnerships to coordinate services and responses to VAWG.
- Continue to engage with community organisations, businesses, and other stakeholders.
- Support research and evaluation to identify effective interventions and best practices.
- Explore and implement innovative approaches to prevention, support, and justice.
- Regularly communicate with partners and the community about progress and challenges.

"If I had to leave a domestic violence situation this afternoon, I honestly don't know where I would go. I would probably turn up at the council/hospital/police who are going to move you on."

APPENDIX A – SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD GOVERNANCE



APPENDIX B – RELATED STRATEGIES & POLICIES



Serious Violence Duty - Suffolk Strategy

The Serious Violence Duty is new to public sector duty holders and its partners, however, preventing and reducing serious violent crime has been a core theme of several existing work programmes in Suffolk for many years.

Tackling serious violence is key to maintaining and nurturing safe communities across our county. Prevention is at the core of any successful violence reduction approach. It requires a long-term commitment by a range of agencies, individuals, and communities to prevent the physical and psychological damage that violence can cause for individuals, families, our communities and wider society.



Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 aims to strengthen protections for victims of domestic abuse and hold perpetrators accountable. It introduced a statutory definition of domestic abuse, encompassing not just physical violence, but also economic abuse, coercive control, and other non-physical forms of abuse as well as recognising children as victims of domestic abuse. An overview of the Act is available [here](#)

Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 [inc [Duty to Collaborate](#)]

Included in the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 is the Duty to Collaborate which is a legal requirement which specifies that authorities in England work together to commission community support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence.

Guidance: Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services

It supports the new duties (contained in Part 4 of the 2021 Act) on relevant local authorities with the aim of ensuring victims of domestic abuse have access to the right accommodation-based support when they need it. It sets out the operation of Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act to be delivered by local authorities, and what they should do to fulfil their statutory responsibilities and provides further clarity on how the new duties should be delivered on the ground. The guidance is available [here](#).



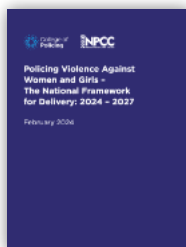
Safe Lives: A Public Health Approach to Ending Domestic Abuse for the Whole Family

Every survivor of domestic abuse deserves the right response at the right time. We need to support the whole person, not one concern at a time, and look at the impact of domestic abuse on the whole family. Risk and need must be addressed holistically if we are serious about supporting families to safety sooner.



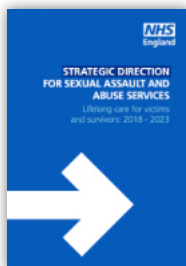
Home Office VAWG Strategy 2021

The Government's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy follows the Government's previous 2010, 2016 and 2019 Strategies which set out our approach to tackling crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls. This year, the extent to which violence against women and girls exists has been brought to the forefront of the nation's attention.



National Police Chiefs Council, National Framework for policing Violence Against Women & Girls 20224 –2027

In December 2021 DCC Maggie Blyth as the National Police Chiefs' Council, lead for Violence against Women and Girls, in association with the College of Policing released the National framework for delivery, a first of its kind which aimed to improve, coordinate and standardise the policing of VAWG. The framework established three pillars of activity focused on areas policing should improve immediately: building trust and confidence, relentless pursuit of perpetrators and safer spaces..



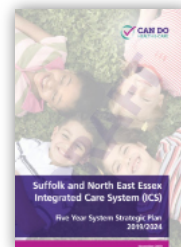
NHS England - Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault & Abuse Services

This strategic document outlines how services for victims and survivors of sexual assault and abuse, in all settings of the health and care system, need to evolve between now and 2023. It sets out six core priorities that NHS England will focus on to reduce inequalities experienced.



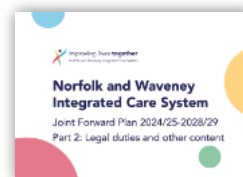
Suffolk & North East Essex Integrated Care Board - Joint Forward Plan 2023-2028

The plan sets out a series of commitments based upon our 'Live Well' domains, beginning with 'Start Well' through to 'Die Well'. We will assess our performance in delivering our commitments over the next five years by measuring performance against one or more target indicators in each domain. These are the lead key performance indicators where we wish to target improvements, with a particular focus on reductions in health inequalities.



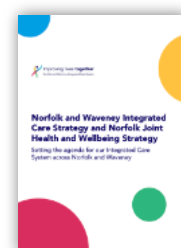
Suffolk & North East Essex Integrated Care Board - Strategic Plan

The development of this five year system strategic plan has been undertaken in response to the requirement from NHS England and NHS Improvement for all systems to develop plans for implementation of the NHS long term plan. This means that development was undertaken in line with nationally established timescales and the plan needs to meet specific NHS requirements.



Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board - Joint Forward Plan 2024-2027

This forward plan sets-out how the ICB will meet the physical and mental health needs of the population and how it will transform services over the next five years. The plan sets-out eight ambitions, aligned to the priorities in the transitional Integrated Care Strategy for Norfolk and Waveney, which is also a Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy.



Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Strategy and Norfolk Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024

This strategy builds on that collaborative mandate – the vision sets out a single sustainable system that enables an overarching mission to help the people of Norfolk and Waveney to live longer, healthier, and happier lives. The strategy demonstrates how the ICB is evolving their longer-term priorities from the previous Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy helping to face the challenges of the future.

APPENDIX C – SUFFOLK SUPPORT SERVICES

We acknowledge the great contributions of the VCSFE sector in Suffolk, some of those services include:

Survivors In Transition



Survivors In Transition supports all survivors of all ages, of all genders who have experienced any form of sexual violence or sexual abuse regardless of when this happened or whether it has been reported or not. We do this through a range of trauma informed, psycho-educational activities including one to one and group therapy, counselling, advocacy, research and training to become empowered and improve self-esteem and resilience.

Website: <https://survivorsintransition.co.uk>

Contact Number: 01473 232499

Lighthouse



Lighthouse Refuge offers safe and secure temporary accommodation for women and their children away from domestic abuse. Lighthouse also offer a broad range of services to support victim-survivors from their outreach centre.

Website: www.lighthousewa.org.uk

Contact Number: Women's Centre: 01473 228 270

Refuge: 01473 745111

Restore –Women's Aid



Restore are commissioned to provide temporary accommodation in a safe and supportive environment where women and their children can recover from the traumatic effects of domestic abuse and make informed choices about their futures. Restore also offer a range of services based in the community. Restore also offer a range of services in the community.

Website: <https://www.restore-wa.org.uk>

Contact Number: 0330 551 9495

Orwell Housing



Orwell Housing are commissioned to provide safe accommodation for anyone fleeing domestic abuse. We work with our Local Authority partners to deliver a coordinated approach to support victims of domestic abuse. Safe accommodation is available to any person of any gender identity, parents with their children and anyone else who is fleeing domestic abuse. We welcome all survivors fleeing domestic abuse.

Website: <https://www.orwell-housing.co.uk>

Contact Number: 0345 60 100 30

Anglia Care Trust



ACT are commissioned to provide Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (DAOS) for domestic abuse victims who have been assessed as at medium risk of serious harm. ACT provide dispersed safe accommodation for victims fleeing domestic abuse.

Website: <https://www.angliacaretrust.org.uk>

Contact Number: 24/7 helpline 0800 977 5690

Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services



Leeway are commissioned to provide the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) service for victims of domestic abuse who have been assessed as at high risk of serious harm.

Leeway are also commissioned to provide the CAYPO (Children and Young People's Outreach) service for the children of domestic abuse victims that have been assessed as at high risk of serious harm (IDVA referrals only) and a CAYPO Community Resilience IDVA service to children of domestic abuse victims and perpetrators that are using the DAPU (Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit) Behaviour Change Programme.

Website: <https://www.leewayssupport.org>

Contact Number: 0300 561 0077

Brave Futures



Brave Futures is a charity that provides free specialist support for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse. We accept referrals from professionals as well as self-referrals for children and young people up to the age of 18.

We cover all of Suffolk and Norfolk, offering both individual support and group sessions for children and their parents/carers. Additionally, we provide up to eight one-to-one sessions for parents and carers. We also work with non-abused siblings.

For each case, we conduct a full assessment of the needs of the child and their family members in relation to the abuse. Each victim receives an individually tailored support plan, and we provide this service for as long as it is needed.

Website: www.bravefutures.org

Contact number: 01473 353355

Suffolk Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)



The SARC offer free, confidential healthcare and compassionate support, in Suffolk, to people of all ages. Who have experienced sexual assault, including rape.

Our SARC Service operate between 9am and 9pm (Monday-Sunday). During this time, you can call and speak with a nurse for support and to discuss your options for making an appointment and/or referrals. However, outside of these hours, you can still contact us for advice and guidance.

Website: <https://theferns-suffolk.org.uk>

Contact Number: 0330 2230099

Suffolk Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service



An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) is a specially trained worker who is there to provide all survivors of sexual violence and abuse with a non-judgmental, safe, and confidential space to access support.

The support we offer can be accessed regardless of the person's gender, age and when the offence happened. Those accessing our support are not expected to travel to our office to access our service, we will work with you to identify a safe place or method to have contact with us.

You can access our support whether you choose to engage in a police investigation or not.

Website: www.suffolkisva.org.uk

Contact Number: 03302 230099

Waveney Domestic Abuse Forum



Supported by its numerous partners, registered charity, Waveney Domestic Violence & Abuse Forum (WDVAF) (the Forum) provides tailored services to families impacted by domestic abuse. Primarily set up in 1982 as a Forum of members who came together to support individuals and organisations. WDVAF offers a wide variety of support services, programmes and advice for both professionals and clients

Website: www.waveneydvforum.org.uk

Contact Number: 01502 572143

IRIS –Suffolk GP Federation, NHS



Iris is a new service that supports individuals (of all ages and all genders) affected by sexual violence. The service supports primary victims - (the person it happened to), and 3rd party victims - (the people close to the person it happened to). Iris is community based and will come to an area accessible to you or can provide support remotely if that is preferred.

Iris is health focussed and supports you holistically, offering workshops, programmes, group and 1 to 1 support.

Website: Suffolk GP Federation

Contact Number: 01473 921824

PHOEBE



PHOEBE is committed to providing psycho-social support to underprivileged children and mothers to alleviate the socio-economic determinants that inhibit them from accessing basic social security services, easing vulnerability to domestic violence and child abuse. PHOEBEs trained community champions who have extensive ties to the Ipswich community bring their own specific local and cultural knowledge which resonates with BME and migrant women providing a valuable bridge for us and our partners in implementing programs in the area

Website: www.phoebecentre.org.uk

Contact Number: 01473 760966

Alumah



Alumah are a community based charity based in West Suffolk, working with individuals of all genders aged 7 upwards; working closely with partner agencies to support and educate victims and survivors who have experienced relationship abuse.

Website: www.alumah.co.uk

Contact Number: 07770468698

Compassion



Compassion are a charity dedicated to providing support for all victims of domestic abuse, both current and historic. This free support is provided to all victims, irrespective of gender or age. Established in 2002, Compassion and based in Sudbury and provide support throughout Suffolk.

Website: www.compass-ion.org

Contact Number: 0808 2000 247