



A summary of responses to Cheshire East Council's

Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership Strategy Consultation

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FINAL

Executive summary and conclusions

Introduction

During June – July 2025 Cheshire East Council conducted a consultation to seek views on its refreshed Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership Strategy for 2025 - 2028. In total, 104 responses were received. This report aims to summarise all the responses received during the consultation.

The Vision

60% of respondents rated the strategy's vision as good or very good, while 14% viewed it as poor or very poor. A key theme from the feedback was the need to improve inclusivity – e.g. by recognising male, non-binary, and child-to-parent victims of abuse within the statement.

Priority areas and outcomes

Four main priority areas and outcomes were identified within the draft strategy, a high majority of respondents agreed that each of these were the right areas to focus on:

- A focus on prevention: 86% agreement
- Partnership and collaboration: 85% agreement
- Accountability and learning: 84% agreement
- Trauma-informed services: 82% agreement

Ensuring that services reflect the diversity of abuse victims was a key priority highlighted by many respondents as well as the provision of long-term, trauma-informed, and accessible support that fosters trust between victims and services. Respondents also highlighted the value of collaboration with specialist services and key partners - including the police, schools, and social services - as well as the need for increased education and awareness to better support victims and prevent abuse.

Safe accommodation

45% of respondents felt that the current safe accommodation provision meets the needs of all those that need it while 33% disagreed. Respondents generally felt that there is a need for more safe accommodation, including both short-term emergency options and longer-term placements. They highlighted benefits to both communal properties and single-unit accommodations. For example, communal living can help reduce social isolation and may be more cost-effective, while single units offer greater privacy and personal space. Views were mixed regarding service delivery, with some respondents preferring a more independent model and others favouring a council-run, in-house approach.

Regardless of the model safe accommodation needs to suit a diverse range of needs (e.g. LGBTQ+ victims, those who are disabled, large families, those with pets) and offer appropriate contact and support.

Support services

51% of respondents rated the current support services for adults as good or very good, while 23% rated them as poor or very poor and 42% rated the support services for children as good or very good, whereas 31% rated them as poor (note: these figures exclude those that stated unsure / don't know).

Just over half of respondents (56%) considered raising awareness and providing training to be at least somewhat effective, while 43% viewed it as not so or not at all effective. Similarly, 53% rated efforts to meet the needs of marginalised communities and those with protected characteristics as at least somewhat effective, compared to 45% who did not. Views on pursuing perpetrators and addressing their attitudes and behaviours were slightly more critical, with 45% rating these actions as at least somewhat effective and 53% rating them as not so or not at all effective.

Respondents identified a need for increased in-person support, including more group meetings, follow-up contact, and access to specialist services - including support tailored for children. Collaboration with specialist services who have the dedicated resources as well as increased education programmes and awareness were also suggested.

Conclusions and recommendations

There seemed to be strong support for the overall direction of the strategy. However, respondents highlighted the importance of acknowledging that anyone can experience domestic abuse and emphasised the need for services to be inclusive and responsive to a broad range of needs. This perspective was also evident in feedback on safe accommodation; there was a mix of benefits provided for communal, single-unit, and emergency short-term options depending on individual preferences and circumstances. Respondents also noted the value of stronger collaboration with specialist services, key partners, and service users as well as education and awareness programmes. Enhanced support, including for children was also identified as an area requiring further development.

The details within this report should be thoroughly reviewed and considered alongside other key evidence when finalising the Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership Strategy and whilst reviewing the safe accommodation service model.

Introduction

Purpose of the consultation

During June – July 2025 Cheshire East Council conducted a 6-week consultation to seek views on its refreshed Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership Strategy for 2025 - 2028. Views were also sought on our current safe accommodation and support services.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 was introduced to address Local Authority response to the provision of support for victims of domestic abuse. Key elements include:

- Local authorities are required to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their children have access to safe accommodation and support services
- Local authorities should prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment
- Local authorities should give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / decommissioning decisions)
- Local authorities should monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy

The feedback provided as part of the consultation will inform our refreshed strategy as well as our review of the safe accommodation service model for 2026 and beyond. The current safe accommodation contract is due to expire in March 2026 and the council will need to ensure from this point it can meet the needs of victims and survivors effectively whilst providing value for money to ensure it complies with its duty under the Domestic Abuse Act (2021).

Consultation methodology and number of responses

A range of engagement activities were carried out as part of the consultation. A questionnaire was made available for anyone with an interest in the topic. While it was primarily hosted online, paper copies were also distributed through libraries across Cheshire East and could be requested directly. It was promoted to:

- Survivors of domestic abuse
- Professionals working with victims / survivors of domestic abuse
- Residents of Cheshire East and the general public
- The Cheshire East Digital Influence Panel
- Town and Parish Councils
- Elected Members

A total of 104 responses were received to the questionnaire. The main section of this report summarises the feedback provided. A breakdown of respondent demographics is available in Appendix 1.

During the consultation survivor engagement sessions also took place via HerPlace, Edge 360 and MyCWA. A summary of the feedback received can be viewed in Appendix 2.

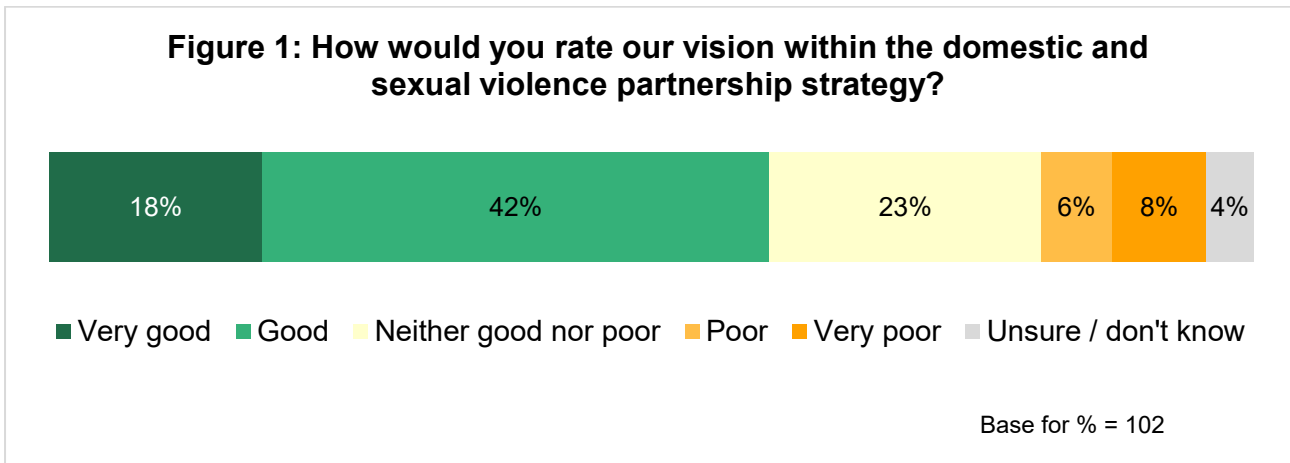
A market engagement questionnaire was made available for providers, 8 providers filled out the questionnaire. A summary of the responses provided can be seen in Appendix 3.

Section 1: The vision

The Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership have a long-term commitment:

To work towards ending domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls, and ensure that the people of Cheshire East can live safe, equal and harm-free lives, in homes and neighbourhoods without abuse.

The majority of respondents, 60% rated the vision as good or very good whilst 14% rated it as poor or very poor as shown in Figure 1.



Respondents were asked if they had any suggestions on how the vision could be improved. In total 39 respondents chose to leave a comment.

A summary of the comments received by theme is presented in Table 1. Please note that some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment.

Table 1: Do you have any suggestions on how the vision could be improved?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Mentions
Inclusivity	Needs to be more inclusive. Men, boys and non-binary individuals can be victims too. More emphasis on abuse involving adults at risk and their carers. There is no reference to child to parent abuse.	16
Engagement, education and awareness	Stronger communications and engagement. More education in schools, universities, and communities to raise awareness and prevent abuse. Vision needs to be more recognised.	6
Access to help and support	Important that there is clear, accessible information, anonymous helplines, and support for those unsure if they are experiencing abuse. Need to have a continuity of care for those already engaging with the service.	5
Vision realism	Not sure it's a realistic aim to work towards ending domestic abuse. Only realistic approach is to protect and provide safe spaces for victims.	4
Specific wording suggestion	Would like the vision to be 'to end domestic abuse'. Use 'children' instead of 'girls' and include 'vulnerable adults'. Suggest rephrasing to acknowledge the disproportionate impact on women and girls while affirming zero tolerance for all domestic abuse and a commitment to support and prevention services.	4
Collaborate with existing partners	Collaborate with experienced partners who could add value more quickly. Liaise with police, health and education, to produce relevant protection orders and to support prosecutions.	3
Support for children / young people	Strengthen the voice and coproduction of services by and for our children and young people. Should also include children being impacted by domestic abuse and them receiving support.	2
Collaborate with existing services	Work with experienced services like MyCWA rather than replacing them. Lost the trust of the community with the way funding was cut to this well-established service.	2
Barriers to accessing services	Numerous survivors will not work with a service that is solely within the council and prefer an independent service in conjunction with the council. Note that PTSD, anxiety, and depression can hinder victims' ability to engage with services.	2

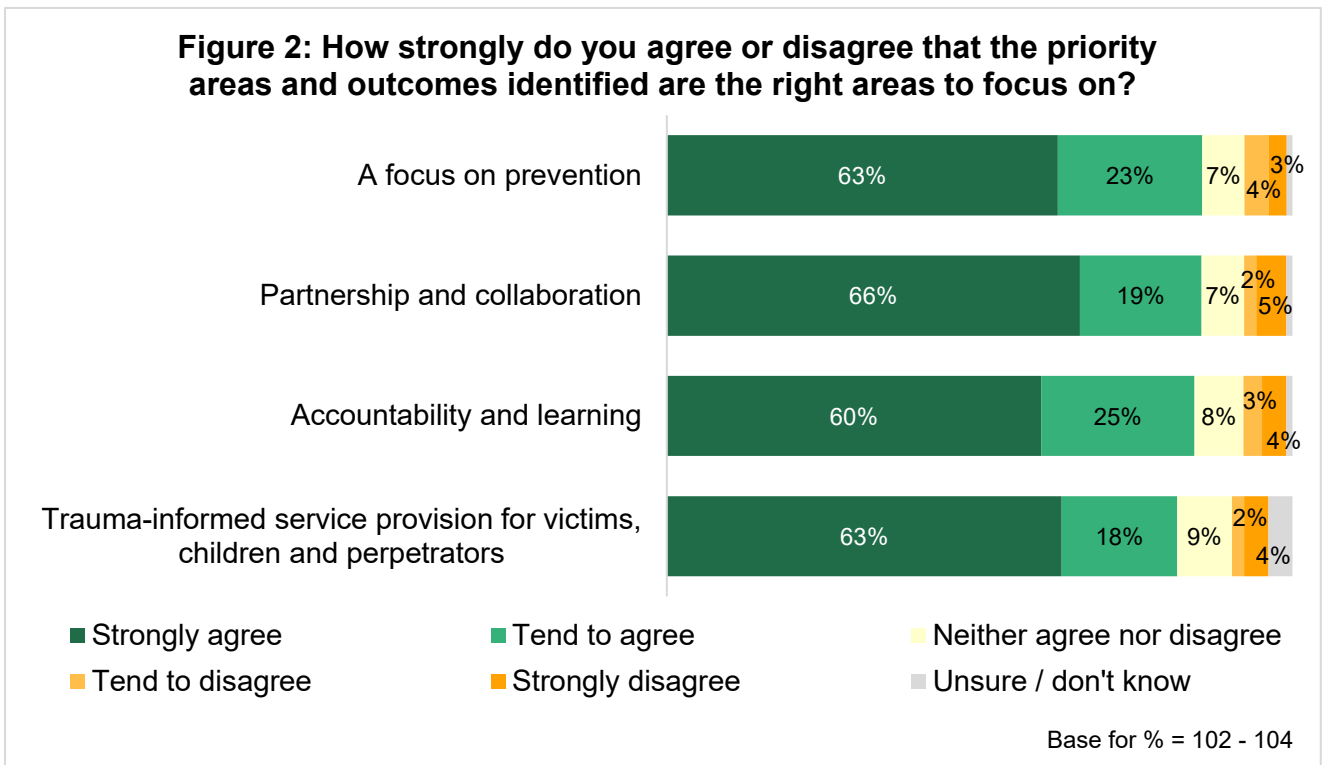
Section 2: Priority areas and outcomes

There were four main priority areas and outcomes outlined within the draft strategy:

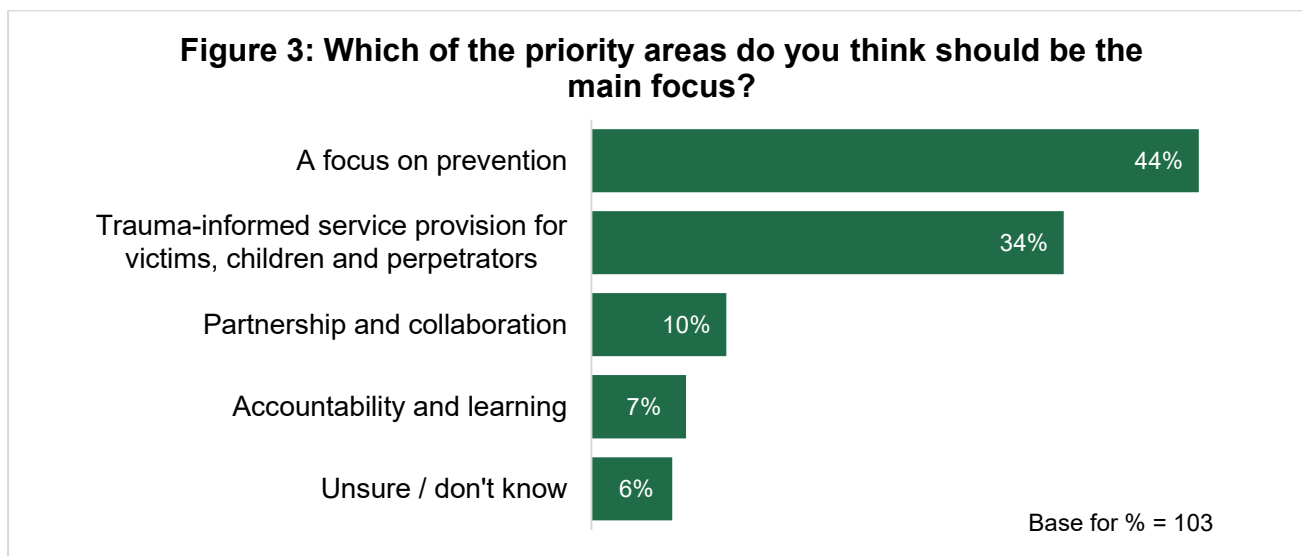
- **A focus on prevention:** A culture that challenges misogyny (a dislike of women or girls), promotes healthy relationships, and prevents abuse before it starts
- **Trauma-informed service provision for victims, children and perpetrators:** A coordinated, trauma-informed, and data-driven system that supports victims, holds perpetrators accountable, and prevents abuse
- **Partnerships and collaboration:** All victims of abuse and those who harm in Cheshire East, have access to a range of safe, appropriate support options that support recovery and independence, including safe accommodation
- **Accountability and learning:** Services seek to continuously improve, based on learning from those with lived experience, anyone affected by abuse and all serious incidents

A high majority of respondents agreed that the priority areas and outcomes identified were the right areas to focus on, each received over 80% agreement (those selecting strongly agree or tend to agree). Figure 2 shows the full breakdown of results:

- A focus on prevention: 86% agreement
- Partnership and collaboration: 85% agreement
- Accountability and learning: 84% agreement
- Trauma-informed services: 82% agreement



Respondents were also asked which of the priority areas they thought should be the main focus. ‘A focus on prevention’ was identified as the top priority by 44% of respondents, trauma-informed service provision was the second most selected option, with 34%. Figure 3 shows the full breakdown of results.



Respondents were asked if there were any other priority areas they believed should be included within the strategy. In total 43 respondents chose to leave a comment.

A summary of the comments received by theme is presented in Table 2. Please note that some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment.

Table 2: Are there any other priority areas you believe should be included within the strategy?		
Theme	Summary of comments received	Mentions
Inclusivity and diversity	Services must reflect the diverse experiences of abuse victims, including men, LGBTQ+ individuals, and culturally diverse communities. Include child to parent violence and abuse. Recognise that Children are victims in their own right, not just secondary to adult victims.	11
Build trust, provide trauma-informed services and long term-support	Important to build trust, especially around fears of losing children. Needs to be survivor led. Provide trauma-informed services for victims and children. Provide long-term support, including counselling and therapy.	7
Access to support and information	Support services lack accessibility—more local groups are needed. Digital forms are challenging, and requests for phone contact go unanswered. Clearer communication, empathetic follow-up, and a safer, user-friendly website with an emergency exit feature are essential.	6

Education and awareness	Increase visibility through public campaigns, school education on healthy relationships, and media outreach. Provide resources on financial abuse, safe parenting in domestic abuse contexts, and address the influence of social media and AI tools.	6
Collaborate with existing services	Need closer collaboration with specialist abuse charities. Concerns that failure to work effectively in partnership with such charities puts victims at risk, e.g. MyCWA is trusted by many.	5
Collaborate with existing partners	Partnership approach - information sharing, assessments, training and awareness in a timely manner. Close co-operation between schools, police and social services / other agencies	4
Perpetrator Accountability and rehabilitation	Hold perpetrators accountable while also offering rehabilitation and behaviour change programs e.g. supervised access to children, therapy, and employment support for perpetrators. Perpetrators should be identified and handled as separate priorities.	4
Safe Spaces and housing	Need protected safe spaces for all victims. More units for people with care and support needs and pets. Concerned about housing delays.	4

Section 3: Safe accommodation and support services

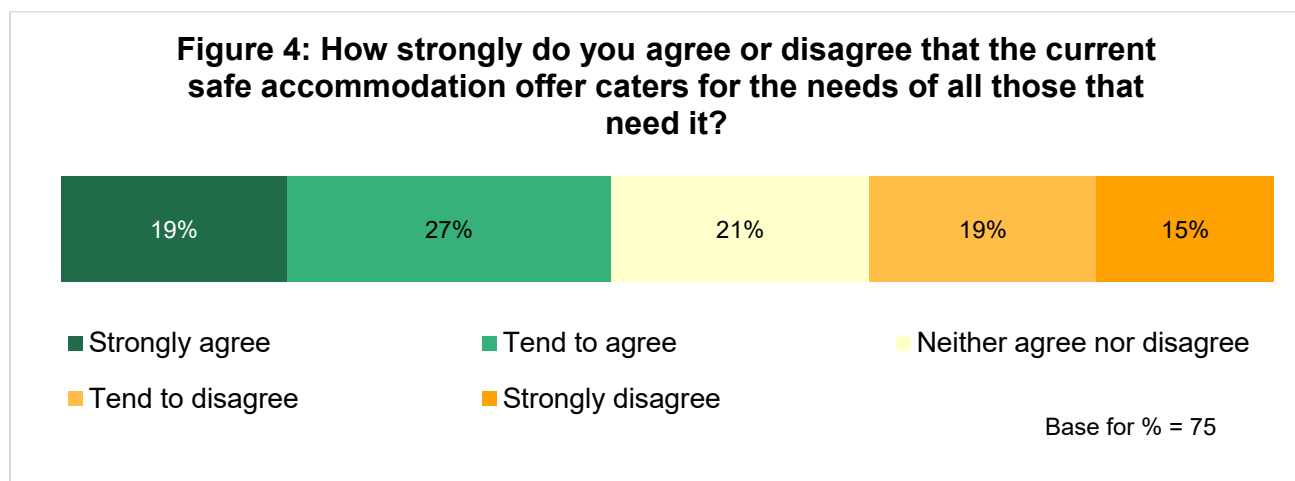
Safe accommodation is part of a broader domestic abuse support offer in Cheshire East, delivered both internally and by a commissioned provider, with funding from multiple sources. The Council currently commissions one provider My Cheshire Without Abuse (MyCWA) to meet the needs of those who require safe accommodation, in conjunction with a range of internal services that provide support within Housing and Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit (DAFSU).

DAFSU offer advice and support with identification and awareness, safety planning and onward referrals to more intensive interventions where appropriate. Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDVAs) work to mitigate the highest risks of harm and when ready, work with clients to provide appropriate interventions to aid their recovery.

Safe Accommodation

Respondents were provided with summary information of the current safe accommodation offer in Cheshire East. While 3% of respondents had accessed these services, 97% had not.

Overall, 45% felt the offer meets the needs of those requiring support, while 33% disagreed. Figure 4 shows the full breakdown of results. Please note that the figures exclude those that selected 'unsure/don't know'.



Respondents were asked if there were any other forms of accommodation that should be included in the offer. In total 30 respondents chose to leave a comment.

A summary of the comments received by theme is presented in Table 3. Please note that some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment.

Table 3: Are there any other forms of accommodation you think should be included in the offer?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Mentions
More communal / community properties	More communal properties needed - may be beneficial to prevent social isolation and might be more cost effective. Well-staffed women's refuges. Community properties for a diverse range of needs e.g. LGBTQ+ victims, those who are disabled, supported living.	8
Single unit accommodation requirements	Shared units could lead to arguments. Current offer reflects current best practice and the move towards dispersed accommodation – allows for personal space and privacy. Need to be accessible for those who are disabled, larger rooms for large families, local placements to maintain support networks, good solid composition and secure locks. Accommodation for males and their children. Should have regular volunteer visits to prevent isolation.	8
Need more safe accommodation in general	16 dwellings are not enough, more safe accommodation needed. Need to ensure as much individual accommodation as possible suited to the range of needs that require it.	5
Emergency accommodation	Emergency short term accommodation e.g. hotels and B&B's	3
Access to support	Experienced a lack of support and poor council responsiveness. Need appropriate support from partner agencies / offer group therapy sessions. Work closely with adult social care to develop services specific to those with care and support needs and their carers.	3
Accommodation for perpetrators	Supported housing for perpetrators to prevent them from returning to the family home due to homelessness, which risks restarting the cycle of abuse. Accommodation that supports rehabilitation and change for perpetrators.	2
Council owned accommodation	Consider council owned accommodation. Take over and utilise properties that have been empty / unpaid for a long time.	2

Respondents were also asked if they had any other suggestions on how the safe accommodation offer could be improved. In total 31 respondents chose to leave a comment.

A summary of the comments received by theme is presented in Table 4. Please note that some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment.

Table 4: Do you have any other suggestions on how the safe accommodation offer could be improved for residents in Cheshire East?

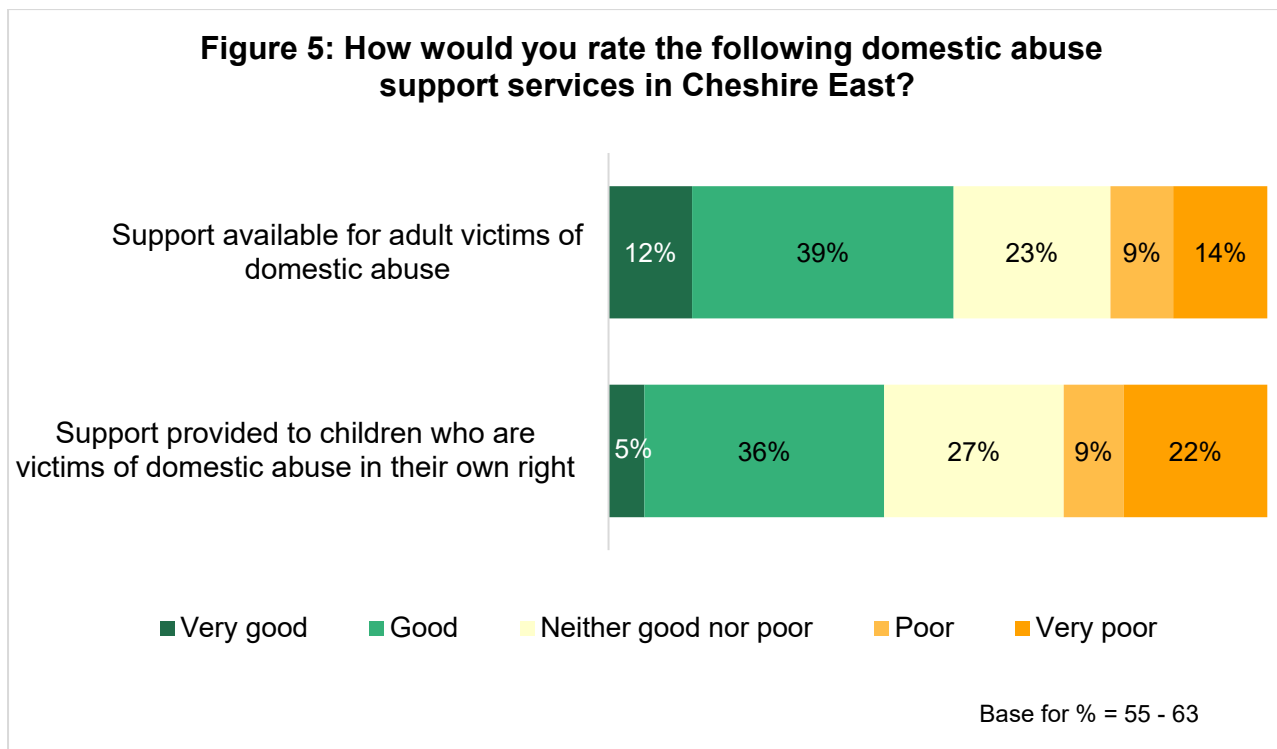
Theme	Summary of comments received	Mentions
More safe accommodation provision	There is not enough provision. More government funding. Invest in more safe accommodation, should always keep a surplus kept in good order available to all who need it. More needed for those with care and support needs and their carers.	8
Support and awareness requirements	Offer face to face appointments or phone calls not strictly online forms. Have enough trained staff to support. Must be accompanied by support services and professional advice. Children's support should be fully integrated not separate. Advertise more.	7
Range of accommodation requirements	Have single sex accommodation. Some victims may not want to be in larger safe houses. Include pets. Consider housing in council flats with a warden for emergency accommodation. Sympathetic adults could provide temporary accommodation if received the appropriate training. Must have a good alarm system and CTV.	6
Collaborate with existing partners	Work with other councils. Work with external agencies who are able to offer the accommodation and complex support required. Ask local companies for help furnishing the properties. Work with hospitals, housing associations the police.	5
Look into alternatives / bring in house	Explore alternative service to lead this offer of accommodation. Would love to see some of the new builds and potential redevelopment areas creating homes and parks and play areas for families to rebuild together. Should be run and managed using Cheshire East systems to ensure transparency and fairness. Bring "in house" in order to give long term security of provision.	5
Support for an independent service / previous commission	Support an offer separate from local authority children's services - families may not want to engage with council social care. A market rate should be paid to the provider to allow for adequate provision. Service should go back to the previous commission (from MYCWA) provided a broader offering. Had a positive experience with the service.	4

Support services

Respondents were presented with a summary of the current support services available in Cheshire East. While 16% reported that they had accessed or were currently accessing these services, the majority (84%) had not.

Overall, 51% rated the support available for adult victims as good or very good, whereas 32% rated it as poor or very poor. In relation to services for children, 42% rated the offer as good

or very good, while 31% considered it poor. A full breakdown of the results is provided in Figure 5. Please note that these figures exclude respondents who selected 'unsure/don't know'.



Respondents were asked if they had any suggestions on how domestic abuse support services could be improved. In total 32 respondents chose to leave a comment.

A summary of the comments received by theme is presented in Table 5. Please note that some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment.

Table 5: Do you have any suggestions on how domestic abuse support services could be improved?		
Theme	Summary of comments received	Mentions
Improved support service and provisions	Access and support need to be more open, face-to-face meetings, support groups - online is not sufficient. More funding, more trauma informed support and specialist / empowerment therapies. 12 week of freedom program is not enough.	8
Collaborate with / fund dedicated services	Use specialist charities with dedicated resources. More funding for services who are able to offer this complex support (e.g. MyCWA). Specialist services for children should be separate like they were before - families need fully independent services.	7

General negative comment on the current support services	The service currently being offered in house is not as strong as was previously offered. Workers need more experience / empathy to personal situations. Had a poor experience with the IDVA.	5
Improved contact and follow up	Reply to the victims asking for help. Follow up contact is needed. Regular assessments by senior staff of individual client experiences and feedback to the support team. A review consultation later down the line will be helpful.	4
Support for children	Support for children. Experienced a lack of communication and support for own child – needs to be improved. More provisions for children to help them with their feelings and emotions. More staff training in all areas especially those in contact with children. Children are not always listened to and sometimes actions aren't taken soon enough.	4
Education and awareness	Go into schools more. Education programmes for our children and young people. Better awareness of the support available. like that you focus on prevention and identification at an early stage not many people are aware until it escalates.	4
Council ran service	Should be run by Cheshire East to ensure quality standards and fairness	1

Respondents were also asked how effective they felt certain aspects of the service was. Just over half of respondents (56%) considered raising awareness and providing training to be at least somewhat effective, while 43% viewed it as not so or not at all effective. Similarly, 53% rated efforts to meet the needs of marginalised communities and those with protected characteristics as at least somewhat effective, compared to 45% who did not. Views on pursuing perpetrators and addressing their attitudes and behaviours were slightly more critical, with 45% rating these actions as at least somewhat effective and 53% rating them as not so or not at all effective. A detailed breakdown of the responses is shown in Figure 6. Please note that the figures exclude those that selected 'unsure/don't know'.

Figure 6 : How effective do you think the current service is with... ?



Base for % = 57-72

Respondents were asked if there were any additional approaches that they would recommend. In total 17 respondents chose to leave a comment.

A summary of the comments received by theme is presented in Table 6. Please note that some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment.

Table 6: Are there any additional approaches you would recommend?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Mentions
Awareness and communication	Awareness and communication, not just online – work in schools’ collages, more collaboration with other agencies. Produce leaflets, flyers and campaigns. More awareness on protected characteristics.	6
Collaborate with specialist services independent from the council	Use specialist charities / 3rd parties to benefit from their expertise and capacity. More co-ordinated communication. There are more cost effective and better programmes available in the third sector / service more effective when independent of the council (e.g. MyCWA training was award winning).	4
Consequences for perpetrators	How are perpetrators 'pursued' apart from action by the police? More consequences for the perpetrators if they do not complete the courses / become more ruthless.	3
Training	Sensitivity training is an absolute must.	1
Use consistent wording	Wording used seems to change from women and children to victims – be consistent.	1

Section 4: Anything else

Finally, respondents were given the opportunity to add any other comments on the draft domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy or on the safe accommodation / support service offer. In total 29 respondents chose to leave a comment.

A summary of the comments received by theme is presented in Table 7. Please note that some respondents will have referred to more than one theme therefore the total mentions will not add up to the total number of respondents who left a comment.

Table 7: Do you have any other comments to make on the draft domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy or on the safe accommodation / support service offer?

Theme	Summary of comments received	Mentions
Collaboration and engagement	Services need to work better together to support victims e.g. schools, police, fire etc. Continue to work closely with the self-harm and suicide prevention partnership. Expert partners should be involved moving forward. Engage with survivors early on in the strategy planning process – make decisions with people not for them.	7
Awareness and education	Increase awareness - local businesses and public transport could display helpful info, social media posts that raise awareness of the signs to look out for, encourage acting early and reporting concerns. Make sure the victims know that there is no shame in asking for help. Need an obvious 'exit now' button on the Cheshire East website.	7
Adequate resources and training	Strategy will depend on adequate staffing, resourcing, housing, and leadership. Is communal accommodation adequately supported by trained staff. Need staff who understand and are empathetic of the situation. Need to assess lessons learnt and take action to improve service.	4
General comments on the strategy / service	Strategy is well written as well as realistic – it's a service that will always be needed. Need to support and help the people who need it, make it as hard as possible for the abuser to go anywhere near the abused.	4
Collaborate with existing services	Work with experienced services (e.g. MyCWA) rather than replacing them. Had a positive experience with the service. Lost the trust of the community with the way funding was cut to this well-established service.	4
Inclusivity	Should be a whole community strategy and not just women focussed – include men in the strategy. Certain protected characteristics may have specific needs.	3
Separate perpetrator and victim policies	Victim and perpetrator policies and aims should not be grouped together.	1

Appendix 1: Demographic breakdowns

A number of demographic questions were asked at the end of the survey to ensure there was a wide range of views from across different characteristics. All of the questions were optional and therefore won't add up to the total number of responses received.

Table 8: Number of survey respondents by representation. Respondents could select all that apply.

Category	Count	Percent
As a local resident	69	67%
As a domestic abuse survivor	21	20%
As a professional working with victims / survivors of domestic abuse	6	6%
An elected member of Cheshire East	< 5	2%
As a town/parish councillor	< 5	3%
Other interested party	< 5	2%
Grand Total	103	100%

Table 9: Number of survey respondents by gender

Category	Count	Percent
Female	59	63%
Male	29	31%
Prefer not to say	5	5%
Grand Total	93	100%

Table 10: Number of survey respondents by age group

Category	Count	Percent
16-24	-	-
25-34	5	5%
35-44	17	18%
45-54	15	16%
55-64	18	19%
65-74	25	26%
75-84	11	11%
85 and over	< 5	2%
Prefer not to say	< 5	3%
Grand Total	96	100%

Table 11: Number of survey respondents by ethnic origin

Category	Count	Percent
White British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / Irish	84	88%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	4	4%
Any other White background	2	2%
Asian/Asian British	1	1%
Prefer not to say	4	4%
Grand Total	95	100%

Table 12: Number of survey respondents by religious belief

Category	Count	Percent
Christian	51	54%
No Religion	30	32%
Other religious belief	6	6%
Prefer not to say	8	8%
Grand Total	95	100%

Table 13: Number of survey respondents by limited activity due to health problem / disability

Category	Count	Percent
Yes, a lot	13	14%
Yes, a little	30	31%
Not at all	46	48%
Prefer not to say	7	7%
Grand Total	96	100%

Appendix 2: Survivor engagement sessions

During the consultation survivor engagement sessions also took place through HerPlace, Edge 360 and MyCWA. A summary of the feedback received can be viewed in Table 14. Please note that MyCWA carried out their own engagement and therefore the format of the feedback provided differs from the others.

Table 14: Summary of comments received during survivor engagement sessions

Group engaged with	Comment summary
HerPlace (5 attendees)	<p>Key Focus Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pets as therapy • Neurodiversity • Trauma-informed approaches • Regulation spaces (e.g., “Mood Room”) • Boundaries and safe environments <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of children, pets, and shared spaces • Limited inclusivity • Online - need for better community engagement <p>Support Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dedicated children’s workers ○ Therapeutic play ○ Blended support models ○ Promoting independence and social setting ○ Choice around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of shared space ▪ Dedicated children’s space <p>Move On (Post-Refuge)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-centred and flexible provision • Safety planning and Clare’s Law awareness • Peer support • Support tailored to individual needs • Local resettlement options for women <p>Family Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuniting families and supporting transitions • Involving the right professionals • Advocacy: • Maintaining individual voices • Considering young people affected by domestic abuse <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote visibility and continued education • Address trauma in school settings • Schools should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognise and respond to trauma

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share only essential information ○ Avoid re-traumatisation ○ Empower individuals to share their own stories <p>Conversations & Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open dialogue on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe sex ○ Healthy relationships ● Support parents in discussing topics with children ● Always prioritise safety
<p>Edge 360 (14 attendees)</p>	<p>Key Focus Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safe accommodation - identifying what works best ● Previous experience of accessing services ● Conflicts between substance users and non-users in shared spaces ● Housing banding issues and limited move-on options ● High risk of sexual assault/harassment in mixed-gender settings – need for safe, women-only spaces <p>Key challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complex needs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Substance use and mental health issues ○ Parenting responsibilities and barriers to accessing children ○ The importance of shared communal spaces for peer support and connection ● Low housing banding as they have “secure housing” – only Band D because not a commissioned service <p>Support Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Daily peer check-ins and communal areas ● Individualised support that recognises strengths and needs ● Blended approaches ● Promoting independence with flexible support ● Choice in use of shared spaces <p>Move On (Post-Refuge)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Person-centred and flexible provision ● Tailored support, including private sector options ● Safety and locality prioritised ● Ongoing peer support and safety planning ● Safe space for family and friends to visit <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relationship education for all young people ● Support to stay in education and avoid substance use ● Address trauma ● Schools as safe spaces, free from social media pressures <p>Conversations & Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Talk about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The dangers of using substances ○ Healthy relationships ○ Life skills, budgeting etc.

<p>MyCWA (undertaken by the organisation to inform their consultation response - obtained through various methods)</p>	<p>Support Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory services often overlook non-physical abuse. • Survivors generally prefer independent, trauma-informed services and want these to be sustainably funded, with clear options for support. <p>Awareness and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training gaps remain. • Survivors recommend mandatory, specialist-led training for all professionals, shaped by lived experience and focused on identifying all forms of abuse. <p>Support for Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should be recognised as victims in their own right. • Survivors call for dedicated support, safe spaces, and investment in specialist staff beyond existing social work teams. <p>Perpetrator Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstream programmes are seen as ineffective. • Survivors want clearer consequences for ongoing abuse and support whole-family approaches to managing risk. <p>Governance and Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivors seek transparency in governance, independent oversight, and early involvement in service design. • Independent services should be represented on decision-making boards. <p>Strategic Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All areas - prevention, support, accountability, and system improvement - are interconnected. • Survivors stress that prevention must be protected from budget cuts. <p>Marginalised Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivors from marginalised groups face additional barriers. • Planning must include specific actions to ensure accessible and culturally competent support. <p>Data and Commissioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivors want clarity on how progress will be measured and communicated. • Commissioning should reflect insights from both statutory and independent services.
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Appendix 3: Provider market engagement

A market engagement questionnaire was made available for providers - 8 providers filled out the questionnaire. A summary of the responses provided can be seen in Table 15.

Table 15: Summary of comments provided during the provider market engagement

Provider ID	Interest	Summary of model / support offer	Key challenges
Prov 1	Unsure	Flexible accommodation model tailored to local needs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuge-style shared housing with on-site staff for high-risk individuals • Self-contained units for families, care leavers, or those needing independence • Crisis accommodation for urgent, out-of-hours support • Trauma-informed wraparound support from experienced staff • Flexible staffing: floating, visiting, or 24/7 on-site cover • Multi-agency approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of suitable Properties • Recruitment and retention of skilled staff • Managing complex needs • Ensuring continuity of support • Sustainable funding
Prov 2	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma-informed, partnership-led model of temporary and emergency accommodation • Secure, self-contained out-of-area units (some wheelchair-accessible) • Option for dedicated women-only refuges for high-risk, complex needs • Staff trained in trauma-informed care, safeguarding, and domestic abuse • Personalised support and safety plans via floating support partners • Commitment to multi-agency collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivors may present with multiple vulnerabilities

Prov 3	Yes	<p>Propose separating the provision of accommodation with support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Housing Team • Personalised Support • Extensive Network • Sustained Tenancies • Digital Tools • Addressing Affordability • Tenant Education • Trauma-Informed Approach • Partnership Working • Integrated Multi-Agency Hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly Competitive housing market & affordability • Meeting diverse and complex needs • Digital exclusion • Funding sustainability and flexibility • Staff recruitment and retention • Cultural and language barriers • Legal and administrative complexities • Maintaining safety and confidentiality • Lack of public understanding/stigma
Prov 4	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose using a dispersed accommodation model made up of self-contained units across the borough • Partnerships with domestic abuse specialists, security, and local agencies • Direct access for support staff where needed • Focus on tenancy sustainment and coordinated wraparound care through multi-agency working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a consistent supply of suitable and secure properties • Coordinating multiagency support in a timely and survivor-centred way • Managing confidentiality while providing access to support workers • Supporting individuals with high or complex needs • Ensuring stable funding to sustain both accommodation and support services over the long term

Prov 5	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet current provision of safe, dispersed accommodation across Cheshire East. • Add 2 units for perpetrators and 6–8 shared units for single women • Hub-and-spoke model with survivor co-designed access points • Trauma-informed recovery and psychosocial support groups • Long-standing partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigating multiple systems during times of crisis • Addressing challenges in information sharing • Sustaining accommodation stock amid housing market pressures • Supporting individuals with complex needs • Maintaining workforce resilience in a constrained funding environment • Managing rising demand with limited resources • Promoting inclusion and accessibility for diverse communities • Enhancing coordination across systems
Prov 6	Yes	<p>Whole family approach which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole Family needs assessment • Whole Family risk assessment • Trained Domestic Abuse support • Advocacy • Safety planning • Protection and support for children • Resettlement and moving on support that is future focused • Work in partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral routes and skilled identification of the people who would need the service • Property procurement, ensuring it is in the right area and of the right quality • Knitting the service into the current pathways
Prov 7	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mixed provision of accommodation type, i.e. 24/7 staffed 'refuge' style accommodation and dispersed units of accommodation in the community, provides victims in need of safe accommodation with a suitable level of choice • Specialist 1:1 support for adults • Bespoke support for children and young people • Move on/resettlement support • Multi-agency approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full cost recovery would be heavily reliant on housing benefit income.

Prov 8	Yes	<p>Trauma-informed homes, life-changing interventions and sector-leading training and research to help people to change their future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female approved premises • Multiple compound needs service • Dispersed accomodation • Work in alliance and partneship where possible • Multi-agency approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing the right units in the right geography • The multi-agency landscape
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Report produced on 21 August 2025 by the Engagement and Communications Team, Cheshire East Council, Email RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk for further information.