

Appendix 5: Comments received on Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028 and Safe Accommodation commission following Adults Committee Member briefing on August 19th 2025.

Cllr Sue Adams asked how the accommodation was spread across the Borough, the main towns and how it was split between the north and south of the Borough.

Response: Current provision is split fairly equitably North and South across the Borough, with dispersed accommodation mainly in Crewe and Macclesfield. We will ensure that the procurement approach for the new service from April 1st 2026 reflects the need to ensure Safe Accommodation is available across the Borough, rather than centred in one or two locations.

Cllr Sam Corcoran asked how the procurement exercise differed from what was done last time.

Response: The key change for the forthcoming procurement is that the Council will be investing additional resources into the Safe Accommodation budget, which was a key reason for the failure of the procurement exercise run in Autumn 2024. This exercise will also be better informed as a result of the full and open consultation work done to develop the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-28, and the independent needs and data analysis conducted by S2 Analytics.

Cllr Sue Adams asked if unable to have provision in north of Borough could you talk to Stockport or High Peak to see if can have options there.

Response: This will definitely be considered with all neighbouring areas, whether to the North, South, East or West. In some cases, to protect the welfare and safety of victims fleeing domestic abuse, it is actually advantageous *not* to accommodate them close to the perpetrator or other risk factors, so working with near neighbours could offer potential benefits.

Cllr John Place commented that the wording for the objectives and desired outcomes in the slide was a bit 'managerial' and asked if could be explained what they meant and what hoped would do and give an example.

Response: We will work with our communications team to ensure the key messages in the Strategy and also how we communicate the Cheshire East support offer to those experiencing domestic and sexual abuse is worded in a way which can be readily understood by our residents.

Cllr Jill Rhodes commented that the vision refers to women and children but there are also men who suffer domestic abuse and asked if the this could be taken into consideration

Response: This is recognised by the Domestic Abuse Partnership and we can offer assurance that this will not be overlooked.

Cllr Janet Clowes asked where other known vulnerable group to domestic abuse – i.e. young people, adults with additional needs and elder abuse, sit within the strategy.

Response: The strategy does place an emphasis on meeting the needs of children & young people being victims in their own right, whether as witnesses, living in homes where abuse occurs or being targeted themselves for abuse. We will explore the issue raised with the Learning Disability Partnership Board and colleagues from both the Childrens & Adults Safeguarding Boards to ensure a coordinated approach is taken to ensure the needs of vulnerable adults in this area are visible and ‘owned’ with respect to actions that need to be undertaken.

Cllr John Place suggested there were outreach opportunity to visit youth clubs and schools as young people needed to know what the issue were, and this also allowed young people to talk to youth workers privately if they have an issue – e.g. being groomed and domestic abuse in their home environment.

Response: We will pick up this suggestion with our Early Help and Youthwork teams, as well as local community and voluntary groups to develop approaches which support this suggestion.