

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

The Equality Act 2010 introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty which states that a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act
2. Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
3. Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

This document demonstrates how the Council is meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty by setting out the findings of an equality analysis that has been undertaken in relation to a proposed change to assess whether it has a disproportionate impact on people who share a protected characteristic. The Council's Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) process covers additional groups not 'protected' by section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, including care leavers and care experienced adults.

### 1. Background

Directorate	Adults
Service area	Public Health and Communities
Title of the proposed change being assessed i.e. the policy, service or other development	Recommissioning of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) by way of a single provider framework for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2029

Describe the purpose of the proposed change and the intended outcomes
<p>To recommission GDASS to ensure continuity of support for victims/survivors of domestic abuse in the county; and support delivery of Gloucestershire County Council's statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as well as supporting partner agencies to deliver specialist support within the Health System and the Criminal Justice System. Recommissioning through a single provider framework agreement will provide sufficient flexibility to adapt to changes in demand, need and funding.</p> <p>The intended outcome is to deliver high quality specialist domestic abuse support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse in Gloucestershire and to assist the council in meeting the aims of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy and its statutory duties under the part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (see separate EqIA for Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities, DLUHC, for specific consideration on this support).</p>

Who is affected by the proposals?

Service users:	Yes
Wider community:	No
Workforce:	No
Other (please specify):	None

Decision to be taken and decision maker	<p>That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct a competitive procurement process in respect of a four-year single provider Framework Agreement for the supply of Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS). The Framework Agreement shall be divided into the following Lots: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Lot A: Core Support to Victims,</li> <li>(b) Lot B: Support in Safe Accommodation,</li> <li>(c) Lot C: Support in the Health System,</li> <li>(d) Lot D: Support in the Courts and the Criminal Justice System, and</li> <li>(e) Lot E: Training, Awareness Raising and Engagement.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Appoint the preferred tenderer to this single provider Framework Agreement.</li> <li>3. Award a call-off contract for the supply of Core Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse under Lot A of this single provider Framework Agreement to the sole appointed supplier. The proposed call-off contract will continue for an initial period of four years and include an option to extend its term for a further period of one year on its fourth anniversary and an additional period of one year on its fifth anniversary (i.e., four + one + one years).</li> </ol>
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	<p>4. Determine whether to exercise the two options to extend the call-off contract described in Recommendation 3.</p> <p>5. Award, subject to the financial limit set out in the Resource Implications section of this Report below, as many call-off contracts as may be required by the council under Lots A to E of the Framework Agreement and to exercise any extension options. In the event that the value of any individual proposed call-off contract exceeds £500,000, a separate Cabinet decision shall be sought in order to authorise such an award.</p> <p>Cabinet July 2024</p>
<p>Person(s) responsible for completing this assessment</p>	<p>Kate Richardson (Senior Public Health Officer)</p>
<p>Date of this assessment</p>	<p>March 2024-May 2024</p>

## 2. Information and Data Collection

Summarise how you have collected the information and data required to assess the current situation (section 3.1 below) and the potential or actual impact of the proposed change (section 3.2 below) on those who share the protected characteristics and the additional groups (e.g. survey of services users, running community focus groups, analysing service usage data, engaging with staff networks). The actual information and data should be set out in Appendix 1 (Service Users) and Appendix 2 (GCC staff).

If there are any gaps, include an action in section 4 to fill these. This does not mean that you cannot complete the equality impact assessment, but you need to follow-up the action and revisit as part of the monitoring and review arrangements set out in section 5.

Stakeholders	Engagement and Consultation	Other Sources
Service Users / Wider Community	Engagement work as part of the Domestic Abuse needs assessment <sup>1</sup>	Information taken from GCC (internal) contract monitoring data and set out in Appendix 1. Data provided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GreenSquareAccord Limited as the provider of GDASS</li> </ul>
Workforce	n/a no council staff affected	n/a no council staff affected
Partners	Engagement with the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board	
Other		

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/1mld5n2w/gloucestershire-domestic-abuse-needs-assessment-2021-final.pdf>

### 3. Equality Assessment

Indicate the impact on each group and explain how you have reached your conclusions (i.e. through analysis of the information and data that was collected through the engagement, consultation and other sources / methods that were set out in section 2).

Consider sub-categories (e.g. different kinds of disabilities) and how the groups are interconnected (e.g. young women) resulting in particular needs or types of disadvantage and discrimination (sometimes known as intersectional or combined discrimination).

#### 3.1 – Status Quo

If the proposal involves changing an existing activity (e.g. policy, service), summarise the key findings from your assessment of the current situation for each of the groups below. If the proposal is completely new, then move straight to section 3.2.

	<b>Service Users</b>	<b>Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Staff</b>
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act 2010)	<p>Situation remains broadly the same as it is now as the proposal seeks to consolidate separate call-offs to deliver support within GDASS, based on the current contracts called off Lot 1 of the (now expired) Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Framework, into a new single provider framework, this will not impact how the service is delivered for service users as all the current range of support will continue to be delivered by a single service.</p> <p>The recommissioned service will build on and develop the protected characteristics champion group approach in the current service, but funding will be provided to enable additional specialist support and awareness raising activity.</p>	N/a
Additional Groups (including care leavers / care experienced adults)	As above, but further data will be gathered within the new service on additional groups in line with the EqIA requirements.	N/a

### 3.2 – The Proposed Change

Summarise your assessment of the likely or actual impact of the proposed change on each of the groups. If an action is required, this should be recorded in Section 4.

Please note that this EqIA covers the core (Lot A) service which mirrors the Lot 1 contract currently commissioned by the council. The EqIA focuses on access to and engagement with the Help Desk and core IDVA support as these are the largest two elements of the core service, and service users will in almost all cases have engaged with one or both of these elements prior to accessing other support.

A separate EqIA has been carried out for the support in safe accommodation function (Lot B) – also presented at July Cabinet. The functions covered by Lots C-D are not currently commissioned by the council and as such data is not available for these but will be gathered and reflected on as part of the review process for this EqIA.

No EqIA will be carried out for Lot E as this relates to the delivery of staff training – but will benefit all victims approaching services for support with domestic abuse.

Service Users (engagement with Help Desk and IDVA support)						
Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
Age		x			<p>GDASS support will continue to be accessible within the recommissioned service for victims/survivors aged 16 and older which is in line with the statutory definition of domestic abuse within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p> <p>Support from GDASS is provided within a whole family context making onwards referrals, safeguarding referrals, and working as part of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse as needed – specific roles within the GDASS specification are located within the Multi-Agency</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and will remain so within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>While children aged 16 and under are regarded as victims in their own right if they see, hear or experience effects of domestic abuse when they related to the victim and/or perpetrator of the abuse, they are outside of the eligibility criteria for GDASS. However, support through GDASS takes a whole family approach considering including safeguarding of children through multi-agency working. The council also commissions STREET (Safe Teenage Relationships Education and Empowerment Team) who can provide support for young people aged 13-19 who have experienced harmful relationship behaviours within their own relationships or witnessed domestic abuse within a family context.</p> <p>Outside of the GDASS contract, through the Children and Families Centres/Family Hubs, there is also targeted support to families where domestic abuse is a factor is provided including recovery and intervention programmes, signposting to specialist services, family support, one to one sessions with children.</p> <p>All victims/survivors aged 16 and older are able to access GDASS, however there are some age groups where there are less referrals and/or where the service has not been as successful in engaging referrals:</p> <p><u>Older victims</u> – there is underrepresentation of older victims within the referrals to GDASS for older victims compared to the county’s demographics. This is explained to some extent by national trends in the</p>	

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>prevalence of domestic abuse, however it is still expected that more referrals should be received for older victims.</p> <p>GDASS has a protected characteristics champions group which includes an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) who is an older victims' champion and engages with additional training/learning to support older victims and share learning/best practice to support older victims with the whole service and the council will be exploring how the champions approach can be developed within the recommissioned service. The older persons champions group has carried out awareness raising work with Adults Safeguarding at the council, are planning to attend Carer's Week events and have delivered Domestic Abuse and Older Peoples learning events.</p> <p>GDASS also have General Practice Development workers will come under Lot C – Support in the Health System in the recommissioned service who are raising awareness of domestic abuse and how to respond to domestic abuse with professionals working in primary care. As victims get older they have contact with a different range of professionals, and health professionals are in a good position to have conversations with older people and to notice signs of abuse.</p> <p>The presence of an IDVA with an older persons specialism may help to explain the high rates of engagement with IDVA support for victims aged 65 and older.</p>	



Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>However, there is below baseline engagement with referrals for victims aged 65-74. SafeLives developed an Insights Paper: Safe Later Lives<sup>2</sup> on older domestic abuse victims and their findings may help to explain some of the reasons for lower engagement with this age group for standard/medium risk referrals including: generational attitudes to marriage, older victims being less likely to identify that they are experiencing abuse, having built up vested interests in the family home or business, and having dependency on an abusive partner or adult child.</p> <p>The recommissioned service will also have a funding pot that will allow the service to explore options to work with ‘by and for’ or specialist services to improve how underrepresented groups are supported, for example looking at targeted service advertisement or specialist training for staff. SafeLive’s Safe Later Lives gives an example of a domestic abuse campaign in Camdem which was adapted to be more relatable to older victims with posters being displayed in locations they are more likely to frequent such as GP surgeries, transport links/bus stops and local shops.</p> <p><u>Younger victims:</u></p> <p>While referrals for young victims are higher than would be expected from the County’s demographics this does align to national trends in prevalence of domestic abuse, however engagement with young people ages 16-24 who are assessed as standard/medium risk is below the baseline level on the Help Desk. Where the Help Desk cannot engage</p>	

<sup>2</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20Later%20Lives%20-%20Older%20people%20and%20domestic%20abuse.pdf>

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>referrals, they endeavour to provide basic safety planning or service information where possible.</p> <p>GDASS does however engage well with high risk younger victims through their specialist Young Persons Violence Advisor (YPVA)</p> <p>SafeLives Insights paper: Safe Young Lives<sup>3</sup> has finding which may help to explain the lower Help Desk engagement: younger victims need time to build trust before disclosing abuse, they are less likely to engage via phone calls, and they need time to develop an understanding of healthy relationships. As such initial referrals may not be successful on the Help Desk.</p> <p>GDASS deliver awareness raising in schools across Gloucestershire and ongoing awareness raising may help young people to recognise domestic abuse in their relationships, noting many referrals for young people come from the police rather than self-referrals.</p>	
Disability		X			<p>GDASS support will continue to be accessible to victims/survivors with disabilities within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>GDASS receive referrals for greater proportion of service users with a disability (21% of Help Desk referrals and 29% of IDVA referrals) than would be suggested from the County's population data (16.8%).</p>	N

<sup>3</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Safe%20Young%20Lives%20web.pdf>

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>This is reflective of national data reported by SafeLives that women and men who have a disability are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than those without a disability, though this isn't necessarily reflected in domestic abuse data sets<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>GDASS have good engagement with victims who have, and do not have, disabilities.</p> <p>Notably despite low referral numbers there is high engagement with victims who have sensory impairments. Referrals for individuals with sensory impairments are reflective of limited/no access to domestic abuse support services in the county and is an ongoing development consideration across services.</p> <p>GDASS support can be tailored to meet individuals needs arising from disabilities for example, providing face to face triage and support sessions to facilitate a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter or condensing delivery of a support package to make it more manageable.</p> <p>GDASS have a protected characteristics champions group which has been looking at the accessibility of GDASS support and taking steps to improve this including developing support materials which include photosymbols and recorded support materials which will benefit service users with a range of disabilities and any learning will be shared across the whole service. The champions approach will be further developed within the recommissioned service.</p>	

<sup>4</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled\\_Survivors\\_Too\\_Report.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled_Survivors_Too_Report.pdf)

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>The recommissioned service will also have a funding pot that will allow the service to explore options to work with 'by and for' or specialist services to improve how underrepresented groups are supported, for example this could include the further development of adapted resources in partnership with a 'by and for' organisation supporting victims with learning difficulties or funding a BSL course for staff.</p>	
Sex		X			<p>GDASS will continue deliver support to female and male victims/survivors of domestic abuse within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Referrals to GDASS are predominately for female victims/survivors which is reflective of the gendered nature of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Referrals for male victim/survivors are slightly higher than might be expected nationally but are not reflective of the number of potential male victims in the county based on prevalence rates. Engagement with male victims is also lower than the baseline for Help Desk and IDVA engagement but is improving. The percentage of engaged male referrals is similar to SafeLives national profile for access to domestic abuse support by male victims.</p> <p>GDASS will continue to raise awareness of domestic abuse to all victims/survivors. This is clear in the current service website, and it will be expected to be included within the website and publicity materials for the recommissioned service.</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>GDASS has a male victims' champion within their protected characteristics group and any learning on how to better support or engage male victims will be shared across the whole service. The champions group have also delivered male victim learning events to professionals. The council will be exploring how the champions approach can be developed within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>The recommissioned service will also have a funding pot that will allow the service to explore options to work with 'by and for' or specialist services to improve how underrepresented groups are supported, for example looking at targeted service advertisement to raise awareness of domestic abuse with male victims.</p>	
Race		X			<p>Support provided by GDASS will continue deliver support to victims/survivors from all ethnicities and nationalities within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Referrals to GDASS are broadly reflective of the county demographics with White British victims accounting for the majority of referrals.</p> <p>There is good engagement, above the baseline, across all ethnicities/ethnic backgrounds with both Help Desk and IDVA referrals.</p> <p>GDASS has an IDVA with a specialism to supporting victims/survivors from minoritized ethnic groups and victims/survivors of harmful traditional practices. GDASS also have a group within their protected characteristics champions group which has been looking at the accessibility of GDASS support for victims/survivors from minoritized ethnic groups for example</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>attending the Refugees and Asylum forum and the Interfaith Group meetings to raise awareness of the service and are looking to developing links with providers of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).</p> <p>The champions approach will be further developed within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>The recommissioned service will also have a funding pot that will allow the service to explore options to work with 'by and for' or specialist services to improve how underrepresented groups are supported, for example developing further translated service materials, targeted service promotion or specialist training for staff.</p>	
Gender reassignment		X			<p>GDASS will continue to deliver support to victims/survivors who are trans or non-binary within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Referrals to GDASS for trans and non-binary victims/survivors are lower than would be expected compared to the county's demographics when considering estimates that there may be higher prevalence of domestic abuse within LGBTQ+ communities.</p> <p>There is a high proportion of referrals to IDVAs reflecting national trends that trans and non-binary victims access support when risk is at a higher level compared to cisgendered victims.</p> <p>GDASS will continue to raise awareness that domestic abuse is experienced by trans and non-binary victims. This is clear in the current</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>service website, and it will be expected to be included within the website and publicity materials for the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Engagement with trans and non-binary referrals is above the baseline for IDVAs but is slightly below the baseline for the Help Desk.</p> <p>GDASS are represented within the county's LGBT+ ((lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans) partnership and have a regular presence at Pride events across the county which will help raise awareness of the support offer.</p> <p>The recommissioned service will also have a funding pot that will allow the service to explore options to work with 'by and for' or specialist services to improve how underrepresented groups are supported, for example looking at targeted service advertisement to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support available with trans and non-binary victims or developing specific service resources.</p>	
Pregnancy & maternity		X			<p>GDASS will continue to support pregnant women and women who have recently given birth within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Referrals to GDASS for pregnant women to the IDVAs are higher than would be expected by the county demographics, but this is reflective that pregnancy is a known period of high risk for domestic abuse victims.</p> <p>Engagement with pregnant victims by the Help Desk and IDVAs is higher than the baseline rate for engagement.</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>GDASS have a pregnancy and maternity focus within their protected characteristics champions group and link in with relevant professionals such as with Health Visitors to raise awareness of domestic abuse within pregnancy.</p> <p>There are specific roles within the GDASS specification are located within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which would include safeguarding unborn children and their mothers. This will continue within the recommissioned service.</p>	
Religion and/or belief		X			<p>GDASS will continue to support victims/survivors of any belief/religion and those without a belief/religion within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Victims from all religions/beliefs except for atheists are underrepresented within referrals but this is skewed by a high percentage of referrals where religion/belief is not known.</p> <p>Where there is low/no access from victims/survivors belonging to minoritized religious groups this is not unexpected given the county's demographics.</p> <p>There is however good engagement above the baseline for all religions/beliefs.</p> <p>GDASS currently through their protected characteristics champions group have regular attendance at the Interfaith Group meetings and any learning on removing barriers to accessing the service will be shared</p>	Y



Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>across the whole service. The champions approach will be further developed within the recommissioned service. It will also be considered within the recommissioned service how it can better raise awareness and engagement with minoritised religious communities.</p>	
Sexual orientation		x			<p>GDASS will continue to deliver support to victims/survivors who are LGB+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual or other non-heterosexual sexual orientations) within the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Referrals to GDASS for LGB+ victims/survivors are lower than would be expected from the county's demographics when considering estimates that there may be higher prevalence of domestic abuse within LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace) communities.</p> <p>There is a high proportion of referrals to IDVAs reflecting national trends that LGBTQ+ victims access support when they are experiencing higher risk domestic abuse.</p> <p>GDASS will continue to raise awareness that domestic abuse is experienced by LGB+ victims. This is clear in the current service website, and it will be expected to be included within the website and publicity materials for the recommissioned service.</p> <p>Engagement with LGB+ victims is above the baseline aside from lesbian and gay referrals to the Help Desk, which may be reflective of victims seeking help when they are at a higher level of risk.</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>GDASS are represented within the county's LGBT+ partnership and have a regular presence at Pride events across the county which will help raise awareness of the support offer and any learning on removing barriers to access to support for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors will be shared across the whole service.</p> <p>The recommissioned service will also have a funding pot that will allow the service to explore options to work with 'by and for' or specialist services to improve how underrepresented groups are supported, for example looking at targeted service advertisement and awareness raising or developing resources focusing on abuse in LGBTQ+ relationships.</p>	
Marriage & civil partnership		X			<p>Marriage or civil partnership are not a barrier to access to support through GDASS, but access is lower by victims/survivors who are married or partnered, reflecting that risks increase at separation and that post-separation abuse can continue for an extended period, especially if there are ongoing child custody hearings in the family courts.</p>	N
Armed Forces community		X			<p>Support can be provided to members of the armed forces community through the current and recommissioned contract, and there is no apparent barrier to access to support.</p> <p>There are fewer referrals than might be expected from victims who have served in HM Armed Forces based on county population data, however there are good engagement rates for those referrals.</p> <p>GDASS raises awareness of domestic abuse and the support available at armed forces health fayres/welfare and any learning on how to better</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>support or engage victims/survivors within the armed forces community will be shared across the whole service.</p> <p>No data is currently collected on whether family members of military personnel have approached for support. It will be considered within the new contract if it is appropriate to gather this information within contract monitoring returns.</p>	
Carers		X			<p>Support can be provided to carers through the current and recommissioned contract.</p> <p>There are less referrals for carers than would be suggested by county population data, however there is good engagement for victims who are primary carers for disabled children and adults as well as for older people when referred into the service.</p> <p>GDASS will be raising awareness of domestic abuse to carers through participation in Carers' Week events and have carried out awareness raising to young carers in the county. Similar awareness raising activity will continue within the new contract and referral numbers for carers will continue to be captured within contract monitoring returns.</p>	N
Care leavers / care experienced adults		X			<p>The current GDASS contract does not capture information on care leaver status.</p> <p>This will be added to the future contract monitoring data.</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>There is no apparent reason that support through GDASS would not be accessible to victims/survivors who are care leavers or care experienced.</p> <p>Young carer leavers who are high risk would be able to access support through the specialist Young Persons Violence Advisor as well as the wider support within the service.</p> <p>GDASS carry out awareness raising with social workers and will continue this within the new contract.</p>	
Digital exclusion		X			<p>Support is well accessed by service users who have a disability which is one of the groups that could experience digital exclusion.</p> <p>Access to support by older people generally has been discussed above. Digital exclusion for older people may contribute towards a lack of knowledge of domestic abuse support options especially if they are isolated or aren't engaged with other professionals, which may result in less older victims/survivors seeking support and in turn resulting in low numbers in safe accommodation. All domestic abuse support services seek to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support available with the community and professionals including with older people who are believed to be underrepresented in domestic abuse service engagement.</p> <p>There is good take up of support for victims/survivors accessing support rural/predominately rural districts, but this is not captured in the contract monitoring returns at a more granular/parish level and nor is there any intention to capture this level of detail.</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>Rurality and rural isolation are risk factors that have been explored in the 2019 report by the National Rural Crime Network<sup>5</sup> which highlighted factors that lengthen rural victims/survivors experience of abuse and increase their risks from domestic abuse. One factor discussed is the impact of the challenges of broadband connectivity and poor mobile telephony which limits avenues of exploring support routes for victims/survivors who are already isolated in their location and through difficulties in physically accessing support services which are often located in rural areas.</p> <p>The Rural Champion Coordinator role, if funded within the new service (included within the Lot E services specification), would continue to upskill and raise awareness of domestic abuse with a range of community and professional champions within rural areas who will be able to recognise signs of domestic abuse and signpost/support victims to access appropriate support pathways.</p> <p>GDASS deliver face to face support to service users where this is the best and safest support option for them, in a location that is safe and accessible for the service user.</p> <p>Low income will contribute towards digital exclusion if it leads to limited access of internet/mobile telephony when there is a need to prioritize income, noting service users may have experienced economic abuse and may be in debt as a result of this. GDASS will make referrals to relevant agencies who can support victims/survivors with debts and can provide</p>	

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Domestic-Abuse-in-Rural-Areas-National-Rural-Crime-Network.pdf>

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>advocacy in relation to the causes of debts within the context of economic abuse and coercive control.</p> <p>GDASS can deliver face to face support to victims/survivors when needed which can help overcome digital exclusion.</p>	
Geography, for example, urban and rural areas		X			<p>Support in safe accommodation is accessible across Gloucestershire as GDASS operate county wide.</p> <p>GDASS provide support virtually or face to face to best meet the individual's needs.</p>	N
Socio-economic disadvantage				X	<p>There is currently limited information available on whether service users accessing support have any socio-economic disadvantage - this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new contract monitoring data.</p>	Y
Vulnerable groups of society				X	<p>There isn't readily accessible data on the numbers of service users accessing support who may come within some of these cohorts – this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new contract monitoring data.</p> <p>Migrant victims – GDASS is able to support migrant victims of domestic abuse and have an IDVA who has a specification in supporting victims from minoritised ethnic backgrounds</p> <p>Drug and alcohol dependence - GDASS have an IDVA who has a specialism in working with victims/survivors with substance misuse issues</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					and are exploring options to co-locate support within substance misuse services.	
Interconnected Characteristics / Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
All	X				<p>The impact of domestic abuse, the experience of victims/survivors and their support needs are affected by the intersectionality of their protected characteristics and wider circumstances.</p> <p>The champions approach allows workers to come together to look at challenges and barriers to access to support including where there is an intersection of needs</p>	N
<b>Gloucestershire County Council Staff - N/A</b>						

#### 4. Action Plan

Set out the key actions that will be undertaken, following the equality assessment in section 3, to further maximise the positive impact or mitigate the negative impact of the proposal on the protected characteristics and additional groups prior to implementation (any negative consequences should be eliminated, minimised or counter-balanced by other measures):

Identified Potential or Actual Impact	Recommended Action(s)	Owner	Target Completion Date

Potential impact – improved accessibility for underrepresented groups	Development of the current champions approach to continue to improve awareness and accessibility of GDASS within underrepresented groups including male and LBGTQ+ victims.	Commissioners	1 July 2026
Potential impact – better understanding of service users accessing support through GDASS	Work to improve data collection in relation to areas where there is a lack of responses from service users in the current service e.g., religion.  Update contract monitoring returns for the new contract with additional data sets in discussion with the provider regarding what is safe and proportional to report to commissioners.	Commissioners	1 July 2025

## 5. Monitoring and Review

Public bodies must have regard to the aims of the duty not only when a policy, service or development is being created and decided upon, but also when it is implemented and at regular intervals thereafter. The Equality Duty is a continuing duty.

Lead officer(s):	Nicky Maunder (Public Health Manager) and Kate Richardson (Senior Public Health Officer)
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Part 1 – Initial arrangements (up to around six months following implementation)

Date of the post implementation review:	January 2026 (contract monitoring)
Approach to <u>measuring the impact</u> of the change to enable a <u>comparison</u> between the <u>anticipated</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparison of contract monitoring data.</li> <li>• Narrative commentary.</li> </ul>





<p><u>impact</u> (as set out in section 3) with the <u>actual impact</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What mechanisms will be used?</li> <li>▪ How will service users / the wider community / GCC staff and other stakeholders be involved?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service user feedback.</li> </ul> <p>Consideration of any unexpected changes in service user data i.e. increase in LGBTQ+ and male referrals or decrease in referrals from minoritized ethnic communities.</p> <p>Any service user feedback will be considered from this service and any applicable feedback from other domestic abuse service providers and their service users</p>
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Part 2 – Ongoing arrangements (from around six months onwards)

<p>Frequency of monitoring and review:</p>	<p>The service will have quarterly contract monitoring returns from the provider and quarterly contract management meetings, together with ongoing annual consideration of access across all domestic services.</p>
<p>What mechanisms will be used?</p> <p>How will service users / the wider community / GCC staff and other stakeholders be involved?</p>	<p>Contract monitoring returns with service level data on referrals, service users, support and move, service level protected characteristic data on service users, narrative reports, service user feedback and case studies. The provider will have an annual operational plan which considers any areas for improvements, and this is developed in consultation with commissioners.</p> <p>Commissioners will consider any relevant feedback from other service providers or other council teams, as well as any comments/feedback arising as part of wider consultation work through the Consultation Network of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.</p>

## 6. Approval

Signature of Senior Officer	
Name of Senior Officer	Siobhan Farmer
Date	10.07.24

Signature of Decision Maker	
Name of Decision Maker	Cllr Stephan Fifield
Date	10.07.24

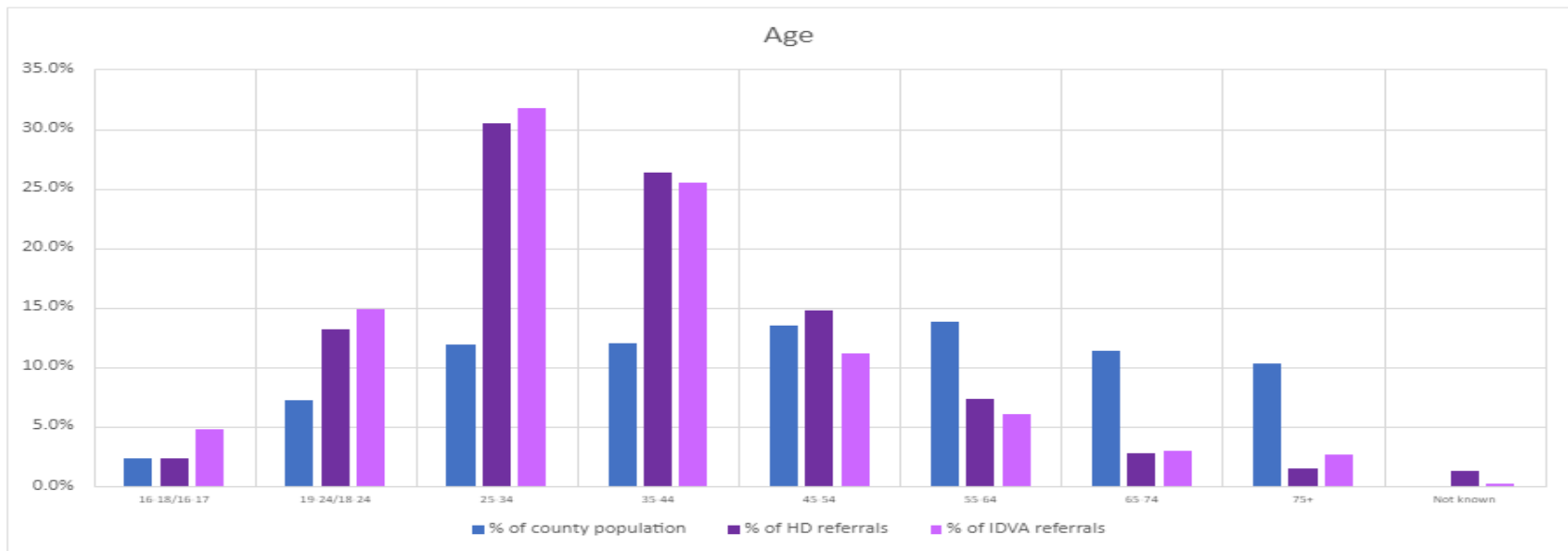
## Appendix 1 – Service User Data and Information

Details of service users affected by the proposed activity (data highlighted reflects where potentially personally identifiable data has been suppressed by merging two smaller data sets together or by providing a smaller figure as 5%)

Service user data comes from contract monitoring returns supplied to the council as part of contract monitoring from GreenSquareAccord Limited as the current provider of Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) covering referrals to and engagement with the Help Desk and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) within the current core contract.

The data has been used for 2019/20 – 2023/24 and has been compared against an overall baseline level of engagement (for all referrals) with the Help Desk between 2019/20 and 2023/24 (52%) and the SafeLives baseline for IDVA engagement of 60%

Groups	Service User Data and Information
Age	<p><b>Gloucestershire Context:</b>  <i>Source: ONS Census data (2021): <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</a></i></p> <p>In the 2021 census, the resident population of Gloucestershire was estimated to be 645,100 people of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21.8% were aged 0-19.</li> <li>• 56.5% were aged 20-64.</li> <li>• 21.7% were aged 65 and over.</li> </ul> <p>At district level, Gloucester had the highest proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds (23.9% and 59.5% respectively) and Cotswold had the lowest proportion of 0-19 year olds (19.8%) while Forest of Dean had the lowest proportion of 20-64 year olds (54.0%). Inversely, Gloucester had the lowest proportion of 65+ year olds (16.7%) and Cotswold the highest (26.1%).</p> <p><b>Service User Context:</b>  <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)</i></p>



SafeLives IDVA data set for 2021-22 provides an average profile of access to services: the average age to access both outreach<sup>6</sup> and IDVA support is 35 years.<sup>7</sup>

There is overrepresentation in referrals to GDASS compared to the population profile for victims aged 16-44, but this is reflective of the national domestic abuse prevalence rates within the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2023<sup>8</sup> where young people aged 16-19 are most likely to experience domestic abuse, followed by those aged 20-24, 35-44 and 29-34.

There is notable underrepresentation compared to the population aged 65 and older however this does align with the trends within domestic abuse prevalence rates within the CSEW with there being less reports of domestic abuse crimes for ages 55 – 74 (with no data being available for victims aged 75 and older).

<sup>6</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixtables>

GDASS data over the last five years shows that generally the service is engaging referrals well across the age ranges within the IDVA provision however there is lower positive engagement with referrals to the Help Desk for victims aged 16-24 and 65-74.

Ages	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
16-18	39%	71%
19-24	48%	71%
25-34	54%	72%
35-44	56%	69%
45-54	54%	67%
55-64	52%	69%
65-74	48%	77%
75+	49%	68%
Not known	34%	38%

**Gloucestershire Context**

Source: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/> and *GCC Population Profile (2023):[equality-profile-2023.pdf](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/equality-profile-2023.pdf) (gloucestershire.gov.uk)*.

Disability

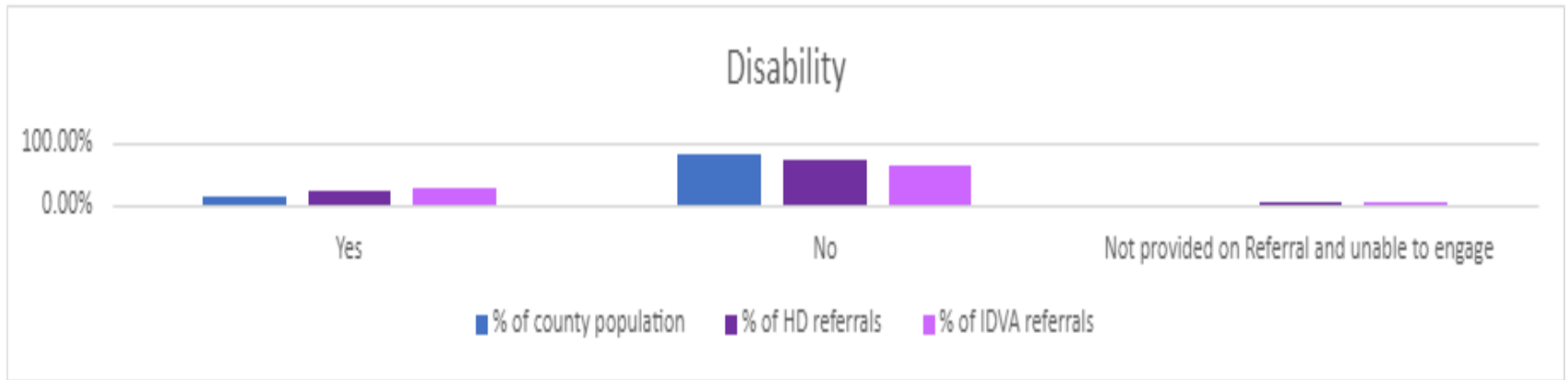
According to the 2021 Census data for Gloucestershire 16.8% of residents reported having a long-term life limiting health problem or disability.

From the 2023 Gloucestershire Population Profile, approximately 1.2% of the 16+ population in Gloucestershire reported blindness or partial sight. During the same period 6.3% of the population aged 16+ reported deafness or hearing loss.

In 2022, 1.3% of people aged 16+ who completed the GP patient survey in Gloucestershire, reported that they had a learning disability; this was lower than the England figure of 1.9%.

**Service User Context:**

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)



There are greater numbers of service users with a disability accessing support through GDASS than would be expected from the county and national demographics however this is more reflective of the national picture of domestic abuse where a disabled woman is twice as likely to experience domestic abuse as a non-disabled woman, and there are similar experiences for disabled men<sup>9</sup>.

There is an underrepresentation of victims with sensory impairments within victims accessing support in through GDASS (<1%) compared to the county’s population (7.1%).

<sup>9</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled\\_Survivors\\_Too\\_Report.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled_Survivors_Too_Report.pdf)

The main disability identified for 14.7% of Help Desk referrals and 16.9% of IDVA referrals was associated with mental health. SafeLives reported that women and men with mental health problems are at an increased risk of experiencing violence, regardless of gender or the specific mental disorder.<sup>10</sup>

Referral data shows that there is good engagement with victims both with and without disabilities. Though there is less engagement with the IDVAs for victims who have not disclosed if they have a disability or not this only represents a small proportion of IDVA referrals 3.55%)

Disability	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
People who considered they had a disability	57%	71%
People who did not consider that they had a disability	52%	70%
Engaged referrals where it is not known if the person had a disability	59%	52%

There is good engagement for referrals across all types of disability, notably for victims with sensory impairments which evidences that though referrals to the service are low GDASS can meet the needs of victims with sensory impairments who are referred for support.

Disability	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
Complex/Multiple Issues	54%	66%
Learning disability	54%	75%
Physical Disability	63%	83%
Autistic spectrum condition	64%	88%

<sup>10</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled\\_Survivors\\_Too\\_Report.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled_Survivors_Too_Report.pdf)

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sensory impairment</td> <td>78%</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental health</td> <td>57%</td> <td>74%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other disability</td> <td>59%</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> </table>	Sensory impairment	78%	76%	Mental health	57%	74%	Other disability	59%	56%			
Sensory impairment	78%	76%											
Mental health	57%	74%											
Other disability	59%	56%											
Sex	<p><b>Gloucestershire Context:</b>  Source: ONS Census data (2021): <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</a></p> <p>The overall population split by sex in Gloucestershire is slightly skewed towards females, with males making up 48.9% of the population and females accounting for 51.1%.</p> <p><b>Service User Context:</b>  Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>% of county population</th> <th>% of HD referrals</th> <th>% of IDVA referrals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>51.10%</td> <td>84.59%</td> <td>91.50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>48.90%</td> <td>15.41%</td> <td>8.50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>SafeLives IDVA data set for 2021-22 provides an average profile of access to services: female victims account for 86% of outreach clients<sup>11</sup> (which is the closest data set akin to the Help Desk) and 94% of IDVA referrals<sup>12</sup>, and therefore male victims would account for 14% of outreach clients and 6% of IDVA clients.</p> <p>The Government’s Male Victims Position Statement<sup>13</sup> references that in 2019/20, 3.6% of men and 7.3% of women were victims of domestic abuse.</p>	Gender	% of county population	% of HD referrals	% of IDVA referrals	Female	51.10%	84.59%	91.50%	Male	48.90%	15.41%	8.50%
Gender	% of county population	% of HD referrals	% of IDVA referrals										
Female	51.10%	84.59%	91.50%										
Male	48.90%	15.41%	8.50%										

<sup>11</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/630e334f8fa8f553650e42be/Supporting\\_Male\\_Victims\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/630e334f8fa8f553650e42be/Supporting_Male_Victims_2022.pdf)



This does therefore suggest that while GDASS received less referrals for male victims than may be present in the county based on population and prevalence data, GDASS receives more referrals for male victims than may be suggested but national service data.

However, the engagement rates for male victims are lower than for those of female victims and are lower than baseline engagement rates on the Help Desk and with IDVAs.

<i>Gender</i>	<i>% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)</i>	<i>% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)</i>
<i>Female</i>	56%	72%
<i>Male</i>	38%	56%

Looking at the annual data there has been a year-on-year increase in engagement with engagement rates on the Help Desk for male victims up to 40% in 2023/24. Meanwhile IDVA rates have varied, with male victim engagement dropping off during 2020/21 – 2021/22 before rising to 66% in 2022/23 with a decrease to 53% in 2023/24.

In 2023/24 male victims accounted for 12% of all engaged clients on the Help Desk and 8% of IDVA engaged clients, which suggests that the service is engaging clients at a similar profile to national access to domestic abuse support, however more work is needed to better engage male referrals.

Race

**Gloucestershire Context**

Source: ONS Census data 2021 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

The 2021 Census found that 87.7% of Gloucestershire residents were White British, 2.9% were Asian or Asian British, 2.2% were from Mixed or Multiple Ethnic groups, 1.2% were Black or Black British, 0.6% were White Irish, 0.2% were of Gypsy, Roma, or Irish Traveller origin, 4.5% were in an ‘other White’ category and 0.7% were in another ethnic group.

The county’s population has become increasingly diverse since the 2011 Census, with a decrease in White British from 91.6% to 87.7%, and a small percentage increase across all other groups.

The 2021 census shows that 4.3% of people in Gloucestershire do not speak English as their main language. Polish is the most common language, followed by Romanian and then Portuguese.

**Service User Context:**

*Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)*

Ethnicity	% of county population	% of HD referrals	% of IDVA referrals
White British	87.70%	82.86%	79.48%
White Irish	0.60%	0.41%	0.56%
Gypsy and Traveller	0.20%	0.13%	0.24%
Other white background	4.50%	6.54%	8.05%
Black or Black British	1.20%	1.86%	1.53%
Asian or Asian British	2.90%	1.94%	2.36%
Mixed	2.20%	1.82%	2.86%
Other	0.70%	0.29%	0.25%
Not Known/not provided	0.00%	4.14%	4.66%

The ethnicity of referrals for support through GDASS varies compared to the county demographics but White British remains the single largest, though underrepresented, ethnic group to access support.

There is overrepresentation of service users who are Other White and Black/Black British across Help Desk and IDVA, and overrepresentation in IDVA referral data for victims who have a Mixed ethnic background. All other groups are slightly underrepresented compared to the population data.

SafeLives IDVA data set for 2021-22 provides an average profile of access to services: White British victims account for 78% of outreach clients<sup>14</sup> (which is the closest data set akin to the Help Desk) and 77% of IDVA referrals.<sup>15</sup>

There is good engagement by GDASS with referrals across all ethnic groups for both the Help Desk and IDVA:

Ethnicity	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
White British	54%	72%
White Irish	62%	69%
Gypsy and Traveller	57%	60%
Other white background	56%	65%
Black or Black British	78%	81%
Asian or Asian British	62%	74%
Mixed	63%	75%
Other	64%	88%
Not Known/not provided	17%	50%

**Gloucestershire Context**

Source: ONS Census data (2021): <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

Gender reassignment

The first local and national figures have been published by the ONS using the 2021 Census data.

There were no previous official estimates of gender reassignment at either national or local level. The best estimate on gender reassignment came from the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES). GIRES estimated that approximately 1% of the population in the UK experienced some degree of gender diversity.

<sup>14</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

The census data puts Gloucestershire at the lower end of the estimated range with a total of 0.43% of residents (aged 16 and over) identifying as having a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth. The national data for England and Wales was 0.5%.

In Gloucestershire residents identified as:

Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	Trans woman	Trans man	Non-binary	All other gender identities	Not answered
94.40%	0.15%	0.08%	0.07%	0.07%	0.04%	5.20%

There was a small amount variation across the districts, but the overall trends were the same as the county population.

**Service User Context:**

*Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)*

Gender Reassignment	% of county population	% of HD referrals	% of IDVA referrals
How many people said their gender identity was the same as the gender assigned at birth?	94.39%	97.08%	94.88%
How many people said their gender identity was not the same as the gender assigned at birth?	0.41%	0.21%	0.36%
Unknown/not provided/preferred not to answer	5.20%	2.71%	4.75%

There are no national prevalence figures on domestic abuse for trans and non-binary victims of domestic abuse, but SafeLives considered limited available research which suggested that there may be a higher prevalence of domestic abuse experienced by people who identify as trans or non-binary than for people who do not identify as LGBT+.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Free%20to%20be%20safe%20web.pdf>

Referrals for trans/non-binary victims to IDVAs are largely reflective of the county’s demographics but there appears to be underrepresentation within Help Desk referrals though this may be masked by the percentage of referrals where there is no information on gender reassignment. SafeLives Insights data shows that that LGBT+ victims/ survivors present with higher levels of risk and complex needs by the time they access support.<sup>17</sup> This may therefore be reflected in higher referrals to IDVA when victims are at high risk.

Gender Reassignment	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
How many people said their gender identity was the same as the gender assigned at birth?	53%	71%
How many people said their gender identity was not the same as the gender assigned at birth?	51%	74%
Unknown/not provided/preferred not to answer	33%	50%

There is also better engagement with victims who are trans or non-binary by IDVAs compared to the Help Desk.

Pregnancy & maternity

**Gloucestershire Context:**

Source: ONS Census data 2021 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

There were 5,800 live births in Gloucestershire in 2020. The largest proportion was among the 30-34-year-old age group (34.5% of live births), with 26.5% in the age band 25-29. This is not a perfect measurement of pregnancy in the population as not all pregnancies result in a live birth. Conversely, all pregnancies begin with conception and the 2011 census data on conceptions per capita indicate that 2.9% of the Gloucestershire population had conceived in the previous year.

**Service User Context:**

<sup>17</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Free%20to%20be%20safe%20web.pdf>

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)

Pregnancy and Maternity	% of county population	% of HD referrals	% of IDVA referrals
Service users who were pregnant while accessing GDASS	2.90%	2.16%	3.36%

Referrals to GDASS IDVAs for pregnant service users are higher than would be expected based on the demographics for the county but pregnancy is known to be a high-risk period for domestic abuse which explains higher referrals to IDVAs compared to the Help Desk.

SafeLives IDVA data set for 2021-22 provides an average profile of access to services: Pregnant victims account for 4% of outreach clients<sup>18</sup> (which is the closest data set akin to the Help Desk) and 6% of IDVA referrals<sup>19</sup>.

Pregnancy and Maternity	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
Service users who were pregnant while accessing GDASS	55%	70%

Engagement with pregnant victims is above the baseline for engagement across Help Desk and IDVA.

Religion and/or belief

### Gloucestershire Context

Source: ONS Census data 2021 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

According to the 2021 Census, the most reported religion in Gloucestershire was Christianity, accounting for 49.2% of the total population, which is higher than the national figure. This was followed by No Religion which accounts for 41.4%

<sup>18</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

of the population. Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Sikh and Other Religion together make up 3.1% of the population, lower than the 10.7% nationally.

Between 2001 and 2021 the number of Christians in the county declined. This was accompanied by an increase in the number of all other religions/beliefs and people following no religion.

**Service User Context:**

*Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)*

Religion and/or Belief	% of county population	% of HD referrals	% of IDVA referrals
Christian	49.20%	8.04%	11.17%
Muslim	1.40%	0.70%	1.08%
Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist and Sikh	1.20%	0.18%	0.38%
Atheist	0.00%	0.97%	1.58%
other religion	0.50%	0.00%	0.00%
No religion	41.40%	29.68%	42.01%
Not known/not provided	6.20%	60.44%	43.78%

Christians make up the largest percentage of referrals for victims from a single faith/religion but at a significantly lower percentage than the county population, and this underrepresentation is reflected across all religions/beliefs except for victims who are Atheist who are overrepresented. However, the data is skewed by the high percentage of referrals where religion/belief was not disclosed or was not known.

Religion and/or Belief	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
Christian	70%	72%

Muslim	70%	81%
Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist and Sikh	77%	63%
Atheist	56%	72%
No religion	60%	73%
Not known/not provided	12%	67%

Where religion/belief is known, there is good engagement above the baseline.

Sexual orientation

**Gloucestershire Context**

Source: ONS Census data 2021 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

The first local and national figures have been published by the ONS using the 2021 Census data.

Previous national evidence suggested between 2.3% and 7.0% of people are lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB). Young people (aged 16-24) are more likely to identify as LGB than older age groups.

The census data puts Gloucestershire at the lower end of the estimated range with a total of 2.8% of residents (aged 16 and over) identifying as Gay or Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual, Queer, Asexual or other sexual orientations. The national data for England and Wales was 3.1%.

90.4% of residents identified as heterosexual in Gloucestershire compared to 89.4% for England and Wales. 6.8% of Gloucestershire residents didn't answer the question on sexual orientation, which was lower than the 7.5% across England and Wales.

There was very little variance in the data between the six districts in Gloucestershire.

**Service User Context:**

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)



Sexual Orientation	% of county population	% of HD referrals	% of IDVA referrals
Lesbian or Gay	1.28%	1.43%	1.55%
Bi-sexual	1.21%	0.39%	0.71%
Heterosexual	90.40%	96.03%	93.25%
Other/not known/not provided	7.10%	2.16%	4.49%

There is an underrepresentation of LGB+ victims within referral data with the exception of higher risk referrals for victims who are Lesbian or Gay to the IDVAs, however due to the small LGBTQ+ population in Gloucestershire the data may be skewed though the percentage of referrals where sexual orientation is not known.

SafeLives IDVA data set for 2021-22 provides an average profile of access to services: LGB+ victims account for 3% of outreach clients<sup>20</sup> (which is the closest data set akin to the Help Desk) and 3% of IDVA referrals<sup>21</sup>.

SafeLives Insights data shows that that LGBT+ victims/ survivors present with higher levels of risk and complex needs by the time they access support<sup>22</sup>. This may therefore be reflected in higher referrals for LGB+ to IDVA when victims are at high risk.

Sexual Orientation	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 51%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
Lesbian or Gay	45%	62%
Bi-sexual	58%	82%
Heterosexual	54%	72%
Other/not known/not provided	31%	45%

<sup>20</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Outreach%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> [https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022\\_FINAL.pdf](https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Idva%20Dataset%202022_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Free%20to%20be%20safe%20web.pdf>

	<p>Generally, there is good engagement with LGB+ referrals except for referrals for Lesbian or Gay victims to the Help Desk where engagement was lower than the baseline. Notably engagement with Bisexual victims is higher than with heterosexual victims across Help Desk and IDVA.</p>						
<p>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</p>	<p><b>Gloucestershire Context:</b>  <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</a></i></p> <p>Among residents of Gloucestershire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30.5% are single and have never married or registered a same-sex civil partnership</li> <li>• 50.2% are married</li> <li>• 0.3% are in a registered same-sex civil partnership</li> <li>• 2.3% are separated but still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership</li> <li>• 9.5% are divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</li> <li>• 7.2% are widowed or a surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership.</li> </ul> <p>There is considerable variation in marital status between age groups, with those aged 16-24 most likely to be single. Gloucestershire has a lower number of people who are single or separated compared with the national figure. In contrast, the proportion of people who are married, divorced, or widowed exceed the national figure.</p> <p><b>Service User Context:</b>  <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)</i></p> <p>Less referrals to GDASS are married or partnered compared to the county’s population which is to be expected as risk from domestic abuse increases at or after the point of separation.<sup>23</sup></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="389 1150 1942 1294"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="389 1150 772 1251">Marriage and Civil Partnership</th> <th data-bbox="772 1150 1413 1251">% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)</th> <th data-bbox="1413 1150 1942 1251">% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="389 1251 772 1294">Married/Partnered</td> <td data-bbox="772 1251 1413 1294" style="background-color: yellow;">49%</td> <td data-bbox="1413 1251 1942 1294" style="background-color: lightgreen;">66%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Marriage and Civil Partnership	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)	Married/Partnered	49%	66%
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Married/Partnered	49%	66%					

<sup>23</sup> <https://safelives.org.uk/policy-evidence/about-domestic-abuse/who-are-victims/survivors-domestic-abuse>

Engagement varies with referrals who are married or partnered with engagement on the Help desk being below the baseline. Better engagement is seen for referrals who are single, separated or divorced.

**Gloucestershire Context:**

Source: ONS Census data 2021 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

	Percentage of population				
	Previously served in regular or reserve UK armed forces: Total	Previously served in regular UK armed forces	Previously served in reserve UK armed forces	Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	Has not previously served in any UK armed forces: Total
Gloucestershire	5.2%	4.1%	0.8%	0.2%	94.8%

Armed Forces community

**Service User Context:**

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)

Less than 5% of victims engaged with support from the Help Desk or IDVAs within GDASS had served in HM Armed Forces.

However, the service had high levels of engagement with referrals who had served in HM Forces:

	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)
Served in HM Forces	68%	93%

**Gloucestershire Context:**

Source: ONS Census data 2021 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

Carers

There were 51,862 unpaid carers living in Gloucestershire on Census Day, equivalent to 8.5% of the population which is lower than the South West (9.0%) and England and Wales (8.9%).

	<p><b>Service User Context:</b>  <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)</i>  Less than 5% of victims engaged with support from the Help Desk or IDVAs within GDASS were carers for disabled children, adults, or older people.</p> <p>There was above baseline engagement with victims who were carers:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="389 531 1998 807"> <thead> <tr> <th>Caring Responsibilities</th> <th>% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)</th> <th>% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Primary carer of a disabled child/children under 18</td> <td>76%</td> <td>88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary carer of a disabled adult (18 and over)</td> <td>60%</td> <td>85%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary carer of an older person (65+)</td> <td>64%</td> <td>58%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Caring Responsibilities	% of HD referrals that engaged with support (baseline 52%)	% of IDVA referrals that engaged with support (baseline 60%)	Primary carer of a disabled child/children under 18	76%	88%	Primary carer of a disabled adult (18 and over)	60%	85%	Primary carer of an older person (65+)	64%	58%
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<p>Care leavers / care experienced adults</p>	<p><b>Gloucestershire Context:</b>  Source: Gloucestershire Population profile 2024: <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf</a></p> <p>Data taken from the 2024 Gloucestershire Population Profile shows that there were 314 young people in 2022 who were care leavers (aged 18-21) and had been the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p><b>Service User Context:</b>  This data is not collected within the current contract monitoring returns for GDASS.</p>												
<p>Digital exclusion</p>	<p><b>Gloucestershire Context:</b>  Source: ONS Census data 2021 <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/Indices%20of%20Deprivation%202019%20Gloucestershire%20report">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/Indices of Deprivation 2019 Gloucestershire report</a>  <a href="https://gloucestershirecc.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/FInclusionHealthCL/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BC23C73C5-3CEA-5CC1-9BA5-612BC8B1ABDD%7D&amp;file=eqia-template-v1-sept-23.docx&amp;action=default&amp;mobileredirect=true&amp;DefaultItemOpen=1">https://gloucestershirecc.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/FInclusionHealthCL/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BC23C73C5-3CEA-5CC1-9BA5-612BC8B1ABDD%7D&amp;file=eqia-template-v1-sept-23.docx&amp;action=default&amp;mobileredirect=true&amp;DefaultItemOpen=1</a>  Gloucestershire Population profile 2024: <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf</a></p>												

Digital exclusion covers a range of groups that are disproportionately disadvantaged by the increasing turn to digital (e.g. disabled people, older people, those on low incomes, people with mental health challenges, those living in rural areas).

According to the 2021 Census in Gloucestershire:

- 16.8% of residents reported having a long-term life limiting health problem or disability.
- 21.7% of the population were aged 65 and over.
- 29.82% of the county's female population aged 16+ live in the most rural districts (Cotswolds and Forest of Dean).

According to the report on the Indices of Deprivation 2019 Gloucestershire:

- 2.8% of the Gloucestershire population live in areas which are in the most 10% deprived nationally for Income Deprivation.

According to the Gloucestershire Population Profile 2024: Very little information is collected about this group. The latest information at a local authority level was collected in 2020 and showed 32,000 people aged 16+ in Gloucestershire had not used the internet in the last three months or had never used it. This equates to 5.9% of the 16+ population which was lower than the regional average of 6.6% and the UK average of 7.8%.

**Service User Context:**

*Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2019/20 – 2023/24)*

*\* 2023/24 data only*

- 22.01% of service users who were referred to Help Desk had a disability and GDASS engaged 57% of those referrals.
- 28.79% of service users who were referred to IDVAs had a disability and GDASS engaged 71% of those referrals.
- 4.2% of service users who were referred to Help Desk were aged 65 and older and GDASS engaged 48% of those referrals.
- 5.6% of service users who were referred to IDVAs were aged 65 and older and GDASS engaged 72% of those referrals.

- 49.74% of referrals the GDASS Help Desk and 44.4% of IDVA referrals were for victims who lived in a rural/predominately rural district (Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury).\*

**Gloucestershire Context:**

Source: ONS Census data 2021 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/>

Gloucestershire has six districts with the highest percentage of the population living in Gloucester City as the main urban area, followed by Stroud District and Cheltenham Borough. Gloucester City and Cheltenham Borough have significantly higher population densities than the other more rural districts which cover far greater areas.

Districts	% Gloucestershire's population aged 16+
Cheltenham	18%
Cotswold	14%
Forest of Dean	14%
Gloucester	20%
Stroud	19%
Tewkesbury	15%

Geography,  
for example,  
urban and  
rural areas

**Service User Context:**

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2023/24)

GDASS deliver support across Gloucestershire. In 2023/24 the percentage of referrals by Local Authority area was:

Local Authority Area	HD referrals	IDVA referrals
Cheltenham District	18.41%	18.03%
Cotswold District	9.24%	8.48%
Forest of Dean District	13.11%	13.03%

Gloucester City	31.85%	37.57%
Stroud District	14.39%	14.48%
Tewkesbury Borough	13.00%	8.41%

**Gloucestershire Context:**

Source: 2021 detailed census results for Gloucestershire <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/zkdhh3hk/2021-census-topic-summary-gloucestershire.pdf>

2021 Census – Housing Briefing <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/h55pn3ft/housing-briefing.pdf>

Indices of Deprivation 2019 Gloucestershire report

[https://gloucestershirecc.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/FInclusionHealthCL/\\_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BC23C73C5-3CEA-5CC1-9BA5-612BC8B1ABDD%7D&file=eqia-template-v1-sept-23.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true&DefaultItemOpen=1](https://gloucestershirecc.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/FInclusionHealthCL/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BC23C73C5-3CEA-5CC1-9BA5-612BC8B1ABDD%7D&file=eqia-template-v1-sept-23.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true&DefaultItemOpen=1)

Social-economic disadvantage encapsulates people who are unemployed, have a low income, live in deprived areas, have poor housing, or have poor education.

Socio-economic disadvantage

According to the 2021 Census in Gloucestershire:

- 2.5% of Gloucestershire residents were economically active and unemployed (lower than the national average of 3.4% and broadly in line with the regional average of 2.6%).
- 15.2% of 16+ year olds have no qualifications.
- 2.0% of households had fewer bedrooms than required, this was lower than the national average of 4.3% of households and the regional average of 2.4%.
- 1.2% of homes have no central heating.

According to the report on the Indices of Deprivation 2019 Gloucestershire:

- 3.1% of the Gloucestershire population live in areas which are in the most 10% deprived nationally in the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- 2.8% of the Gloucestershire population live in areas which are in the most 10% deprived nationally for Income Deprivation.
- 2.8% of the Gloucestershire population live in areas which are in the most deprived 10% nationally for Employment Deprivation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.8% of the Gloucestershire population live in areas which are in the most deprived 10% nationally for Education, Skills and Training Deprivation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Service User Context:</b>  <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2023/24)</i>  There is currently limited information available on socio-economic disadvantage within GDASS contract monitoring returns, however 2.8% of engaged Help Desk or IDVA clients identified a second or third support need associated with either debt, finance, benefits, cost of living or not being in education, employment, or training.</p> <p>Nationally people who experience domestic abuse are more likely to come from the 20% most deprived areas and people who are unemployed are more likely to have experienced abuse in the last year.<sup>24</sup></p>
Vulnerable groups of society	<p><b>Gloucestershire Context:</b>  <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</a> Gloucestershire JSNA <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/4cuf5jnk/alcohol-infographic-2022_final.pdf">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/4cuf5jnk/alcohol-infographic-2022_final.pdf</a> Statutory homelessness live tables <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness</a></i></p> <p>Vulnerable groups of society can include: people who experience homelessness, vulnerable migrants/asylum seekers and refugees, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system, victims/survivors of modern slavery and drug and alcohol dependence.</p> <p>Due to the vulnerable nature of this cohort, they may have higher contact with certain services and agencies but also may have barriers to accessing other services.</p> <p>There isn't readily accessible data on the numbers of people who may come within some of these cohorts, but the following data is available on the Gloucestershire or national population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the statutory live tables in 2022/23 there were 2,979 households in Gloucestershire who were owed a relief or prevention duty by the district housing authorities, 1.05% of the total households in the county.</li> </ul>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.glostakeastand.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Gloucestershire-Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment-2021-FINAL.pdf>



- According to the 2021 census: People belonging to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities account for 0.2% of the Gloucestershire Population.
- There are estimated to be 5,509 alcohol dependant drinkers (0.85% of the population) in the county.
- The Crime Survey for England and Wales reported that only 17% of victims/survivors of domestic abuse report their experience to the police.<sup>25</sup>
- Women who experience domestic abuse may also have experience of going through the criminal justice system, roughly 60% of women who have been through the criminal justice system have experienced domestic abuse<sup>26</sup> and 41% of the prison population have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse.<sup>27</sup>

No available data on prevalence:

Sex workers – some women who experience domestic abuse may have also experienced periods of sex working including while in their relationship if their perpetrator forcing them to sex work to fund their substance misuse<sup>28</sup> or victims/survivors who have fled domestic violence may find themselves sex working as an option for somewhere to stay.

Victims/survivors of modern slavery – the Government’s report on the typology of modern slavery offences in the UK includes domestic servitude where a victim is exploited by their partner: “Victims/survivors are forced to undertake household chores for their partner and often their partner's relatives. If married, the marriage may have been arranged or forced and the servitude often occurs alongside domestic abuse and sexual exploitation”.<sup>29</sup> There were limited examples captured within the report on this type of modern slavery, but it reported on experiences of Indian and Pakistani women who were exploited into marriages in the UK, forced to undertake household chores and controlled with physical and sexual violence and emotional abuse. The report also includes exploitation by relatives regarding household chores with exploitation from family and extended family (including parents, aunts/uncles, in-laws) with control through physical violence, threats of violence and emotional control. This typology affected victims/survivors from a range of nationalities.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/partnerabuseindetailenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018#reporting-partner-abuse-to-the-police>

<sup>26</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/719819/female-offender-strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719819/female-offender-strategy.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f56b6e5274a2e8ab4b936/VAWG\\_Strategy\\_FINAL\\_PUBLICATION\\_MASTER\\_vRB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f56b6e5274a2e8ab4b936/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF)

<sup>28</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/842920/Prostitution\\_and\\_Sex\\_Work\\_Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842920/Prostitution_and_Sex_Work_Report.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a822a42e5274a2e8ab57d66/typology-modern-slavery-offences-horr93.pdf>

**Service User Context:**

*Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Help Desk and IDVA referrals within the core GDASS contract (2023/24)*

There isn't readily accessible data on the numbers of service users who may come within all of the vulnerable groups, but the following data is available:

- A very small number of victims approaching GDASS have identified immigration as a second or third support need. Support in Places of Safety<sup>30</sup> and Target Hardened<sup>31</sup> accommodation will be subject to whether vulnerable migrants are able to access safe accommodation which is largely dependent on if they have (or can gain through the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession) recourse to public funds. Support through GDASS is available to victims regardless of their immigration status, and GDASS will look nationwide to find safe accommodation options for victims with no recourse to public funds if they cannot access safe accommodation in Gloucestershire.
- 3.5% of engaged referrals with the IDVAs or Help Desk identified that they had second or third support needs associated with alcohol and/or drug misuse.

**Appendix 2 – Gloucestershire County Council Staff Data and Information – N/A**

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<sup>30</sup> Places of Safety is a dispersed domestic abuse safe accommodation scheme.

<sup>31</sup> Target hardening is where additional security measures have been installed to enable the victim/survivor to remain safely in their own home.