

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	Investment of the remaining unallocated Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Domestic Abuse section 31 grant funding from the Financial Years 2021/22 - 2024/25.

Describe the purpose of the proposed change and the intended outcomes
<p>To award a three-year contract to Stroud Beresford Group to provide a contribution towards the costs of support in Stroud Beresford's Women's Refuge.</p> <p>The intended outcome is to continue to provide towards the provision of good quality, specialist domestic abuse support within Stroud Beresford's Women's Refuge as part of meeting Gloucestershire County Council's statutory duties under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This forms as part of a suite of options for support in safe accommodation in Gloucestershire.</p>

Who is affected by the proposals?

Service users:	Yes
Wider community:	No

Workforce:	No
Other (please specify):	No

Decision to be taken and decision maker	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approves the allocation of £366,000 (£122,000 per annum) from the Domestic Abuse Grant for the purpose of funding the cost of the contract described in Recommendation 2. 2. Approves the direct award of a three year contract (commencing 1 April 2025) to Stroud Beresford Group for the provision of support for adult and child victims of domestic abuse in refuge accommodation using the resources described in Recommendation 1. <p>Cabinet (July 2024)</p>
Person(s) responsible for completing this assessment	Kate Richardson (Senior Public Health Officer)
Date of this assessment	December 2023 – May 2024

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 ¹	Information taken from GCC (internal) contract monitoring data and set out in Appendix 1. Data provided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stroud Beresford Limited on service users receiving support in Refuge Accommodation
Workforce	n/a no council staff affected	n/a no council staff affected
Partners	Engagement with the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board	
Other		

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).

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

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.

	Service Users	Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Staff
Protected Characteristics (Equality Act 2010)	<p>Situation remains the same – to continue to provide the service as is.</p> <p>Though men who experience domestic abuse will continue to be unable to access support within the women’s refuge they can be supported both through support in Places of Safety² and support in target hardened³ accommodation. There are also men’s refuges elsewhere in the county that accept national referrals.</p> <p>Victims with no recourse to public funds are still able to access refuge provision if housing costs are met by a third party i.e. Children’s Social Care but otherwise would be unable to access support in refuge by virtue of being unable to access refuge provision.</p>	N/a
Additional Groups (including care leavers / care experienced adults)	<p>Service is delivered within a more rural district but is accessible to victims in the county and beyond.</p> <p>The service is accessible to care leavers and carer experienced adults but would not be accessible to young people aged 16-17 who are care experienced as the service is not registered with Ofsted, it is expected that victims who are 16-17 are more likely to be supported by Children’s Social Care as looked after children.</p>	N/a

² Places of Safety is a dispersed domestic abuse safe accommodation scheme.

³ Target hardening is where additional security measures have been installed to enable the victim/survivor to remain safely in their own home.

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.

Service Users						
Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
Age		x			<p>Stroud Beresford will continue to provide support to victims aged 16 and older as well as their children (and where applicable other women in the household who are dependent on the victim) who have accessed the refuge.</p> <p>Most service users accessing support in refuge accommodation through Stroud Beresford are aged 18-38 years, which is reflective of national data on high-risk victims⁴.</p> <p>Support in refuge can be provided to victims aged 16-17 but it is expected that this would usually be to young women who are part of a family unit rather than as the main service user. Single females aged 16-17 who have become homeless due to domestic abuse may be more likely to access alternative options including support as a child in care or supported accommodation.</p> <p>Support in refuge can also be provided to older victims if they access the refuge, though access to the refuge itself may be unsuitable for some older victims due to the refuge's layout and its geographical location. Other</p>	N

⁴ [Who are the victims/survivors of domestic abuse? | Safelives](#)

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>commissioned projects providing support in safe accommodation may be more accessible for older victims either through a range of property types in the Places of Safety which is a dispersed safe accommodation scheme commissioned by the district councils or support in target hardened accommodation (target hardening is commissioned by the district councils) which enables victims to remain within their own homes, including those which may have been adapted to meet any mobility needs.</p>	
Disability		X			<p>Support in refuge is provided to a greater proportion of women (23%) who identify as having a disability than would be suggested by county (16.8%) and national (17.5%) demographics data (which is not specific to women). This is more reflective of national data from SafeLives which shows that women 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 sets⁵. While the figure is not as high as may be expected from population data, it does show that the refuge is engaging a higher proportion of service users with disabilities and the difference from the projected need is likely related some of the factors set out below:</p> <p>The highest need is in relation to support for service users with mental health needs, both those who consider that they have a disability because of their mental health needs and those who do not. 59% of service users had a secondary support need in relation to their mental health.</p>	N

⁵ 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>Victims of domestic abuse may have mental health needs because of their experiences or may have had existing mental health needs exacerbated by their experiences.</p> <p>The support in refuge may be less suitable for victims who have complex needs such as higher levels of mental health needs, especially if combined with unsupported substance misuse issues, due to the communal nature of traditional refuge accommodation where their needs may be better met in Places of Safety where support is provided in self-contained accommodation.</p> <p>However, the refuge can provide support for within a loft conversion (with a self-contained bathroom and more living space) which can be useful for some households where the victim and/or their children have disabilities and long-term health needs (e.g. allergies/ autism/mental health support needs) where communal spaces are challenging.</p> <p>The layout of the refuge and the local terrain can present some accessibility issues in terms of access to wider facilities in the area for people with physical health needs/disabilities which affect their mobility which may impact access to the refuge. However, physical disability due to mobility is one of the main disabilities for women who have accessed support in refuge, so it does not pose a barrier in all cases.</p> <p>Delivery of domestic abuse support in Places of Safety or target hardening support may provide a more suitable option for victims with physical mobility issues who need level access accommodation or to enable them to remain in their own homes where adaptations have been made.</p>	

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					Support in refuge has not been accessed by any victims who have a disability linked to an impairment with their sight or hearing. This is reflective of limited/no access to other domestic abuse support services in the county. Stroud Beresford have made links with the Gloucestershire Deaf Association and shared resources with them and continue to explore options to improve access for underrepresented groups and communities.	
Sex	X				<p>Support is delivered to female victims as it is delivered within Stroud Beresford's women's refuge, reflecting the gendered nature of domestic abuse.</p> <p>While support in refuge is not available to male victims or victims with older male children, the Council separately commissions GreenSquareAccord Limited through their contract to delivery GDASS to provide specialist domestic abuse support in Places of Safety (dispersed safe accommodation scheme commissioned by the district councils) and in target hardened accommodation (target hardening work is commissioned by the district councils), both which are accessible for male victims and victims with older male children.</p> <p>The number of victims who will access support within refuge compared to the number of victims who can be supported across Places of Safety and target hardened properties means that this does not unduly limit access to support in safe accommodation for male victims as it is part of a range of safe accommodation options but does positively and proportionately enhance the offer for female victims.</p>	N
Race		X			The women who access support in refuge are not representative of the Gloucestershire or England & Wales population data. Support in refuge	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>and the refuge itself is accessible to women from all ethnic backgrounds providing they have recourse to public funds or have funding from a third party such as children’s social care. However, the refuge is very small therefore access is dependent on vacancies and who applies when a vacancy is available therefore this may skew demographic trends within the data, and the comments below should be read considering this caveat.</p> <p>White British service users are underrepresented, and all other ethnic groups are overrepresented. While access is disproportionate, it reflects that Stroud Beresford Group are able to support women from diverse backgrounds and that domestic abuse is more prevalently experienced by women from minoritized ethnic groups who may wish to seek safe accommodation in areas away from their communities/family networks. It is also reflective of the refuge being part of a national referral pathway and more referrals coming from outside of Gloucestershire.</p> <p>There is the potential that service users from minoritized communities may move on to specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation [offering single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s)⁶] /’by and for’ provision when spaces become available, however the contract monitoring data suggests this is not happening. Service users may move on to domestic abuse safe accommodation in their preferred area of choice, reflecting that refuge</p>	

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation/delivery-of-support-to-victims/survivors-of-domestic-abuse-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-services>

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>referrals will be made at a point of high risk and with high urgency to any safe area.</p> <p>Individuals with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), who will be from minoritized ethnic backgrounds, will have limited access to the refuge (and in turn support in safe accommodation) as their NRPF status prevents them from accessing benefits to cover their housing costs. So access to refuge is contingent on a third party i.e. Children's Social Care, funding their placement. The decision on whether they can access the refuge sits outside of this contract.</p> <p>The issue of access to safe accommodation for victims from minoritized communities with NRPF is outside of the control of the council and sits under a wider national issue of how to support victims of domestic abuse with NRPF.</p> <p>The support in refuge will be delivered to any service users with NRPF if they are able to access the refuge but cannot be used to support their housing costs as that is outside of the remit of the grant funding (to deliver support in safe accommodation).</p>	
Gender reassignment		X			<p>Referrals to Stroud Beresford must be for women, including individuals from LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans) communities including those who identify as non-binary when the individual feels that they would benefit from the services Stroud Beresford offer as a women's service (this is also subject to all referrals having a risk assessment including that they are able to live in a shared household in a way that does not adversely impact on other vulnerable clients).</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>All service users during the current support in refuge call-off contract have been cisgendered. Stroud Beresford are liaising with other refuges who support trans or non-binary victims as part of the review of their fair access policy.</p> <p>The council separately commissions GreenSquareAccord Limited through their contract to delivery GDASS to provide specialist domestic abuse support in Places of Safety (dispersed safe accommodation scheme commissioned by the district councils) and in target hardened accommodation (target hardening work is commissioned by the district councils), and both schemes are accessible for trans victims and non-binary victims, with access to support in safe accommodation within target hardened properties by victims who are trans/non-binary being reflective of county demographics.</p>	
Pregnancy & maternity		X			Levels of pregnancy are higher than in population data, but this is reflective that pregnancy is a known high-risk period of victims of domestic abuse.	N
Religion and/or belief		X			<p>The refuge, and in turn support in refuge accommodation, is accessible for victims with any religion/belief or none. However, the refuge is very small therefore access is dependent on vacancies and who applies when a vacancy is available therefore this may skew demographic trends within the data, and the comments below should be read considering this caveat.</p> <p>Christianity is still the most prevalent religion/belief for service users accessing support in refuge accommodation but there is a greater proportion with no religion.</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>Buddhist, Hindu and Muslims victims are overrepresented in access to support in refuge data, which may reflect the refuge accepting out of county referrals with victims who may be seeking any safe accommodation or may be specifically looking for an option away from their community.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that religion poses any barriers to accessing support in safe accommodation, and Stroud Beresford provide support to service users with a range of beliefs/faiths.</p>	
Sexual orientation		X			<p>Support in refuge can be provided to women with any sexual orientation, however during the current call-off contract support has only been accessed by women who are heterosexual.</p> <p>Support in traditional refuge models, where there are communal facilities, can be less suitable for women who have experienced domestic abuse from a female partner who may feel less comfortable accessing support with other women or who may feel their experiences of abuse are too different. This may also be the case for bisexual women who have experienced abuse from a male partner. Equally, women who are lesbian or bisexual may have experienced abuse/additional abuse from family members from family members because of their sexual orientation.</p> <p>Support in Places of Safety and target hardened accommodation is also available and offers an alternative model of support in self-contained safe accommodation, and there has been a positive take up of those support offers on a county level.</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
Marriage & civil partnership		x			<p>A service user being married or in a civil partnership will not be a barrier to access.</p> <p>Stroud Beresford will provide advice and support as appropriate to manage risks for service users which will vary depending on their relationship/relationship status with the perpetrator which may include signposting to legal advice.</p>	
Armed Forces community		x			<p>Support in refuge accommodation can be provided to women who are or who have served in the Armed Forces, but no service users have identified that they have served in the Armed Forces.</p> <p>There could be risk considerations for currently serving members of the Armed Forces accessing the refuge. This would be the same consideration on risk as for other referrals where the victim is in employment regarding the risks this would present to them, and whether the perpetrator can locate them.</p> <p>There is no obvious barrier to veterans accessing the refuge.</p>	N
Carers				x	<p>The current support in refuge contract monitoring data does not specifically capture carer status, but does capture if there are dependant adult female family members in the household.</p> <p>There will be discussions on whether it would be appropriate to capture carer status within the new contract. There could also be consideration on whether caring responsibilities have an impact on whether a referral is suitable for refuge accommodation, i.e. whether there are referrals that have an dependant adult male family member in the household or has a</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					dependant adult female family member in the household who has significant mobility issues.	
Care leavers / care experienced adults		X			<p>The current support in refuge contract monitoring data does not capture if a service user is a care leaver or care experienced, this will be added to the future contract monitoring.</p> <p>The service is accessible to care leavers and carer experienced adults aged 18 and older but would not be accessible to young people aged 16-17 who are care experienced, as the service is not registered with Ofsted. (It is expected that victims who are 16-17 are more likely to be supported by Children’s Social Care as looked after children).</p> <p>It would be reported within the narrative supplied by the provider if a young person could not be supported because the service is not Ofsted registered.</p>	Y
Digital exclusion	x				<p>The Support in Refuge contract monitoring data currently do not specifically capture data on whether service users have experienced digital exclusion – this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new contract monitoring returns. However, the unknown figure is how many victims cannot access refuge due to digital exclusion – this will have to be considered based on wider national evidence/ research.</p> <p>Support in refuge 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 in refuge accommodation by older people generally has been discussed above. Digital exclusion for older people may</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>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 seeking support and in turn resulting in low numbers in refuge 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>The Support in Refuge contract monitoring returns currently do not capture data on whether service users come from a rural area – this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new contract monitoring return.</p> <p>Rurality and rural isolation are risk factors that have been explored in the 2019 report by the National Rural Crime Network,⁷ which highlighted factors that lengthen rural victims 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 who are already isolated in their location and through difficulties in physically accessing support services which are often located in rural areas.</p> <p>Referrals for the refuge would be made online or via the phone so poor connectivity does have an impact on access to the refuge itself, and in turn who may access support in refuge. Actions to tackle rural access sit outside of this contract.</p>	

⁷ <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>GDASS is the core victims service deliver support across Gloucestershire and can deliver face to face support to victims when needed and would in turn be able to assist with making referrals to refuges.</p> <p>Given though that most refuge referrals come from outside of Gloucestershire there are no actions we can take on the impacts of digital exclusion for rural victims who may need to access refuge.</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. Third party support agencies will be able to support with a refuge referral if they are supporting the individual, noting the issues above for both rural isolation and older people. Support in refuge will include maximising service users' income and support to access relevant benefits and education/training opportunities, noting service users may have experienced economic abuse.</p> <p>There are no concerns on digital exclusion during support in refuge, and a small proportion of the grant funding is used towards telephone and IT costs in the refuge as these are vital for providing support in accessing benefits, engaging with agencies, seeking housing etc.</p>	
Geography, for example, urban and rural areas		x			The refuge is accessible as part of a national refuge network, high risk victims of domestic abuse needing to access refuge accommodation may be unable to safely remain in-county and so it is expected that there will be service users from Gloucestershire and beyond. Equally residents with local connections to the Stroud area or Gloucestershire may be unsafe accessing an in-county refuge and may seek options out of county.	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					The comparative rurality of the refuge's location has benefits through providing an option for support in a location which may be away from service users community networks, but also presents potential challenges through limited ease of access to cultural/religious resources/communities some of which may only be found in more urban areas.	
Socio-economic disadvantage		X			<p>There is currently limited information available on whether service users accessing support in refuge have any socio-economic disadvantage within the Support in Refuge contract monitoring returns - this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new return such as whether service users home area is within the top 20% of deprived areas.</p> <p>Socio-economic disadvantage is unlikely to present a barrier to accessing support in refuge.</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 year⁸.</p> <p>The circumstances of service users in refuge may not be truly reflective of their socio-economic status, for example a service user may have been working prior to accessing the refuge but due to their abuse perpetrator knowing where they work, they may have left employment or be unable to work in the short-term.</p> <p>84% of service users have received support around financial management, education, or training. This may at least partly be linked to their experiences</p>	Y

⁸ <http://www.glostakeastand.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Gloucestershire-Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment-2021-FINAL.pdf>

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>of domestic abuse and coercive control which may have limited access to financial, employment and/or education opportunities.</p> <p>The support in refuge funding includes a flexible funding pot which is used to help address barriers to accessing safe accommodation. It can be used to provide funding for things such as bedding or white goods or travel costs where the individual cannot fund these themselves and would be unable to move on their own accommodation (and in turn create throughput in the refuge) without these items.</p>	
Vulnerable groups of society				X	<p>There isn't readily accessible data on the numbers of service users who may come within some of these cohorts – this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new contract.</p> <p>From the available data:</p> <p>People who experience homelessness – this will be applicable to every service user and referral as they will be homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness due to needing to flee their last settled address and access safe accommodation.</p> <p>Vulnerable migrants – as discussed within race above.</p> <p>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – as discussed within race above.</p> <p>General comments only - no available data:</p> <p>Asylum seekers would not access refuge accommodation as they would be accessing support and accommodation via the Home Office and would have NRPF.</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>Refugees would be able to access the refuge as they would have recourse to public funds during their limited leave to remain.</p> <p>Sex workers - Support within a traditional refuge model may not be suitable for someone who is actively sex working and this would be considered within a holistic risk assessment at the point of referral to refuge.</p> <p>Contact with the Criminal Justice System - There is no requirement for victims to have reported any abuse to the police to access support in refuge. Service users in refuge may decide to report the abuse once they are in a safe location.</p> <p>If a woman who is referred to the refuge has criminal convictions these would not automatically exclude her from being able to access the refuge, and in turn support in refuge, but any risks to other residents or staff arising from those offenses would need to be considered as part of a holistic risk assessment.</p> <p>Victims of modern slavery – It is possible that victims who have experienced domestic abuse from a partner or family member within the context of domestic servitude will be referred to the refuge if they have recourse to public funds, however victims of modern day slavery in the context of domestic servitude, with or without recourse to public funds, may rather enter the National Referral Mechanism for more specialist support for their experiences and needs.</p> <p>Drug and alcohol dependence - If a woman who is referred to the refuge has substance misuse issues these would not automatically exclude her from being able to access the refuge, and in turn support in refuge, but</p>	

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>any risks to other residents or staff arising from their needs would need to be considered as part of a holistic risk assessment for example if they are already engaging with specialist support, or if they are able to refrain from consuming alcohol or using substances on site.</p> <p>Other support in safe accommodation options including specialist refuge provision out of county for victims with complex needs may be more appropriate for victims with substance misuse issues.</p>	
All		X			<p>The impact of domestic abuse, the experience of victims and their support needs are affected by the intersectionality of their protected characteristics and wider circumstances.</p> <p>These will be unique for each referral and may impact positively or negatively on referrals and their suitability to access the refuge and support in refuge, and the suitability of support in refuge to meet their needs.</p> <p>The strength of support in refuge is that it can support women from diverse backgrounds with a range of ages, religions, ethnicities, disabilities etc. within both group and individual support offers. Group support offers are taken up by most women in the refuge. Peer support is demonstrated in the refuge both from those who have been in the service longer sharing their experience and knowledge with newer service users, and those with a common protected characteristic gaining support from each other even though their wider experiences and other protected characteristics varied.</p>	N

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 – better understanding of service users accessing support in refuge	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 st April 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:	October 2025 (Q2 contract monitoring)
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<p>Approach to <u>measuring the impact</u> of the change to enable a <u>comparison</u> between the <u>anticipated impact</u> (as set out in section 3) with the <u>actual impact</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What mechanisms will be used? ▪ How will service users / the wider community / GCC staff and other stakeholders be involved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparison of contract monitoring data. ▪ Narrative commentary. ▪ Service user feedback. <p>Consideration of any unexpected changes in service user data e.g., increase in LGBTQ+ referrals or decrease in referrals from minoritized ethnic communities.</p> <p>It should be noted in all cases that as referrals can only be accepted when there are vacancies. Who is accepted does depend on who is referred as the time as much as who may be unsuitable, or may not want to take up support ,which does limit, particularly over a short period of time, as to any issues with accessibility to support.</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, e.g., any feedback from the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service on referrals into the refuge.</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 abuse 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 GCC teams, as well as any comments/feedback arising as part of wider</p>

	consultation work through the Consultation Network of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
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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 (yellow highlighted figures reflect where potentially personally identifiable data has been suppressed, following the Council’s guidance on data suppression by merging two smaller data sets together or by providing a smaller figure as 5%)

The county data is not gender specific unless stated.

Age	<p>Gloucestershire Context: Source: ONS Census data (2021): https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</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"> • 21.8% were aged 0-19. • 56.5% were aged 20-64. • 21.7% were aged 65 and over. <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>Service User Context: Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white;"> <th>Age</th> <th>County</th> <th>Refuge</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>16-17</td><td>2.30%</td><td>0.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>18 - 24</td><td>7.20%</td><td>19%</td></tr> <tr><td>25 - 29</td><td>5.70%</td><td>17%</td></tr> <tr><td>30 - 34</td><td>6.20%</td><td>17%</td></tr> <tr><td>35 - 39</td><td>6.10%</td><td>13%</td></tr> <tr><td>40 - 44</td><td>5.90%</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr><td>45 - 49</td><td>6.30%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr style="background-color: yellow;"><td>50 - 59</td><td>14.60%</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr><td>60-69</td><td>12.00%</td><td>0.00</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	County	Refuge	16-17	2.30%	0.0%	18 - 24	7.20%	19%	25 - 29	5.70%	17%	30 - 34	6.20%	17%	35 - 39	6.10%	13%	40 - 44	5.90%	12%	45 - 49	6.30%	10%	50 - 59	14.60%	12%	60-69	12.00%	0.00
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	<table border="1" data-bbox="392 204 1167 248"> <tr> <td>70+</td> <td>16.10%</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> </table> <p>The majority of service users accessing support in refuge accommodation are aged 18-38.</p> <p>Most adult service users accessing support in refuge accommodation through Stroud Beresford are aged 18-39, which is reflective of national data on high-risk victims⁹.</p> <p>Stroud Beresford also provide age-appropriate support to children accessing refuge accommodation with their mother/primary caregiver:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="392 544 1167 791"> <thead> <tr> <th>Children's age groups accessing support in refuge</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ages 0-4</td> <td>61%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ages 5-10</td> <td>24%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ages 11-14</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ages 15-18</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	70+	16.10%	0.0	Children's age groups accessing support in refuge	%	Ages 0-4	61%	Ages 5-10	24%	Ages 11-14	12%	Ages 15-18	3%
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Disability	<p>Gloucestershire Context Source: https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/ Source: GCC Population Profile (2023): equality-profile-2023.pdf (gloucestershire.gov.uk)</p> <p>According to the 2021 Census data for Gloucestershire 16.8% of residents reported having a long-term life limiting health problem or disability.</p> <p>From the 2023 Gloucestershire Population Profile- In 2022 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.</p> <p>In 2022, 1.3% of people aged 16+ who completed the GP patient survey in Gloucestershire, reported that they had a learning disability; 18 this was lower than the England figure of 1.9%.</p>													

⁹ [Who are the victims/survivors of domestic abuse? | Safelives](#)

Service User Context:

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data April 2022 – September 2023)

There are greater numbers of service users with a disability in the refuge 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 woman¹⁰.

Disability	County	Refuge
How many people did <u>not</u> consider themselves to be disabled?	83.20%	77%
How many people considered themselves to be disabled?	16.80%	23%

These were predominantly associated with mental health or mobility issues. As well as service users having a disability relating to their mental health there are also other service users experiencing mental health issues with 59% of service users (with possible duplication of service users between quarters) having a secondary need for mental health support.

17% of children accessing support in refuge have had a disability.

Data on referrals declined by the refuge shows only a small percentage of referrals are refused on the basis of the refuge being unable to meet needs arising from disabilities:

- 3% of referrals were refused by the refuge on the grounds that the refuge either wasn't physically accessible or that they would be unable to meet the referral's physical needs i.e., in the case of significant care needs.
- 2% of referrals were refused by the refuge on the grounds that they would be unable to provide support to the referral due to their mental health needs, this is usually in the case of a referral having significant mental health needs without any specialist mental health support in place or where a referral in to a communal service wouldn't be beneficial.

¹⁰ https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled_Survivors_Too_Report.pdf

Sex	<p>Gloucestershire Context: Source: ONS Census data (2021): https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</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>Service User Context: Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</p> <p>100% of the main service users have been female as the support is within a women’s refuge. 49% of the children within households in the refuge were male and 51% were female.</p>
Race	<p>Gloucestershire Context Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Service User Context: Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</p>

Ethnicity	County	Refuge
White British	87.70%	56%
White Irish, Gypsy, Roma & Traveller and Other White background	5.30%	13%
Black or Black British	1.20%	10%
Asian or Asian British	2.90%	15%
Mixed or Other	2.90%	6%
Not known	0.00%	0.00%

The demographics of service users' accessing support in refuge are not reflective of the Gloucestershire population, but this is in keeping with a national referral route into refuge.

Data on referrals declined by the refuge shows only 4% of referrals declined a place in refuge on the basis of them feeling that the refuge is unable to meet needs associated with their race cultural or language, and in these cases the main factor was the absence of other relevant services, shops or facilities within Stroud rather than a reflection on the offer of support within the refuge.

Gender reassignment

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 from Census data 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.

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%
	<p>There was a small amount variation across the districts, but the overall trends were the same as the county population.</p> <p>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</i></p> <p>100% of service users had a gender identity which was the same as the sex they were registered with at birth.</p>						
Pregnancy & maternity	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</i></p> <p>Levels of pregnancy are higher than in population data (>5%) but this is reflective that pregnancy is a known high-risk period of victims of domestic abuse.</p>						
Religion and/or belief	<p>Gloucestershire Context <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</i></p> <p>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</p>						

41.4% 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 Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)

Of the service users accessing support in refuge accommodation the main religion as in the county is Christianity followed by Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

Religion and/or Belief	County	Refuge
Christian	49.20%	29%
Muslim, Hindu or Buddhist	2.40%	19%
Sikh	0.10%	0%
Atheist	0.00%	0%
Jewish	0.10%	0%
Other religion	0.50%	0%
No religion	41.40%	44%
Not known	6.20%	8%

The demographics of service users' accessing support in refuge are not reflective of the Gloucestershire population, but this is in keeping with a national referral route into refuge.

<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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%.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There was very little variance in the data between the six districts in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24))</i></p> <p>100% of service users accessing support in refuge accommodation have been heterosexual.</p> <p>Due to the gendered nature of domestic abuse most victims are female and are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse from a male who is their intimate partner/ex-partner.¹¹</p>
<p>Marriage & civil partnership</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</i></p> <p>Among residents of Gloucestershire:</p>

¹¹ [Idva Dataset 2022_FINAL.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](https://www.safelives.org.uk/Idva-Dataset-2022-FINAL.pdf)

- 30.5% are single and have never married or registered a same-sex civil partnership.
- 50.2% are married.
- 0.3% are in a registered same-sex civil partnership.
- 2.3% are separated but still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership.
- 9.5% are divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved.
- 7.2% are widowed or a surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership.

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.

Service User Context:

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data April 2022 – September 2023)

Data is currently only captured within the support in refuge KPIs on whether service users are married/partnered or not. 27% of service users were married or partnered.

There is a lower rate of service users who are married or partnered compared to County which is to be expected as risk from domestic abuse increases at or after the point of separation.¹²

¹² <https://safelives.org.uk/policy-evidence/about-domestic-abuse/who-are-victims/survivors-domestic-abuse>

Armed Forces community	<p>Gloucestershire Context: Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</p>																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="5">Percentage of population</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Previously served in regular or reserve UK armed forces: Total</th> <th>Previously served in regular UK armed forces</th> <th>Previously served in reserve UK armed forces</th> <th>Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces</th> <th>Has not previously served in any UK armed forces: Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gloucestershire</td> <td>5.2%</td> <td>4.1%</td> <td>0.8%</td> <td>0.2%</td> <td>94.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		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%
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Gloucestershire	5.2%	4.1%	0.8%	0.2%	94.8%												
Carers	<p>Gloucestershire Context: Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</p> <p>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> <p>Service User Context: Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</p> <p>This data is not collected within the current contract monitoring returns for support in the refuge.</p>																

<p>Care leavers / care experienced adults</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: Gloucestershire Population profile 2024: https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf</i></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>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</i></p> <p>This data is not collected within the current contract monitoring returns for support in the refuge.</p>
<p>Digital exclusion</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/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 Gloucestershire Population profile 2024: https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf</i></p> <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).</p> <p>According to the 2021 Census in Gloucestershire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>According to the report on the Indices of Deprivation 2019 Gloucestershire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 3 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 Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data April 2022 – September 2023)

- 23% of service users who accessed support in the refuge identified that they had a disability.
- 100% of service users who accessed support in the refuge were under the age of 65.
- There is no data available on whether service users lived in a rural district prior to accessing support in the refuge.

Gloucestershire Context:

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

The district 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. The female population (aged 16+) mirrors the position of the total population.

Geography,
for example,
urban and
rural areas

Gloucestershire District	Gloucestershire's female population aged 16+	% Gloucestershire's female population aged 16+
Cheltenham Borough	53,020	18.51%
Cotswold District	41,889	14.62%
Forest of Dean District	39,164	13.67%
Gloucester City	56,387	19.68%
Stroud District	54,031	18.86%
Tewkesbury Borough	42,022	14.67%

	<p>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data April 2022 – September 2023)</i></p> <p>No contract monitoring data is held on the locations from which service users have accessed the service due to risk but 73% of referrals were made from out of county reflecting that high-risk victims of domestic abuse may need to relocate for their safety and that the refuge operates within a national referral pathway.</p> <p>Of the in-county referrals, the majority come from Gloucester City which is reflective of domestic abuse rates in the county:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="392 566 1964 805"> <thead> <tr> <th>Refuge referrals by district</th> <th>% of Gloucestershire refuge referrals by area</th> <th>% Gloucestershire's female population living in the area</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cheltenham</td> <td>30%</td> <td>18.51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gloucester</td> <td>39%</td> <td>19.68%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury</td> <td>31%</td> <td>61.82%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Refuge referrals by district	% of Gloucestershire refuge referrals by area	% Gloucestershire's female population living in the area	Cheltenham	30%	18.51%	Gloucester	39%	19.68%	Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury	31%	61.82%
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Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury	31%	61.82%											
<p>Socio-economic disadvantage</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: 2021 detailed census results for Gloucestershire https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/zkdhh3hk/2021-census-topic-summary-gloucestershire.pdf</i> <i>2021 Census – Housing Briefing https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/h55pn3ft/housing-briefing.pdf</i> <i>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</i></p> <p>Social-economic disadvantage encapsulates people who are unemployment, have a low income, live in deprived areas, have poor housing or have poor education. According to the 2021 Census in Gloucestershire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>According to the report on the Indices of Deprivation 2019 Gloucestershire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 5.8% of the Gloucestershire population live in areas which are in the most deprived 10% nationally for Education, Skills and Training Deprivation. <p>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)</i></p> <p>There is currently limited information available on socio-economic disadvantage within the Support in Refuge contract monitoring data, and while 84% of service users have received support around financial management, education, or training this is likely reflective of a number of factors linked to their experiences of domestic abuse.</p>
<p>Vulnerable groups of society</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/ Gloucestershire JSNA https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/4cuf5jnk/alcohol-infographic-2022_final.pdf Statutory homelessness live tables https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness</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 of modern slavery and drug and alcohol dependence.</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.

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:

- 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
- 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 CSEW reported that only 17% of victims of domestic abuse report their experience to the police¹³
- 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 abuse¹⁴ and 41% of the prison population have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse¹⁵

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,¹⁶ or victims who have fled domestic violence may find themselves sex working as an option for somewhere to stay.

Victims 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 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

¹³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/partnerabuseindetailenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018#reporting-partner-abuse-to-the-police>

¹⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719819/female-offender-strategy.pdf

¹⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f56b6e5274a2e8ab4b936/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF

¹⁶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842920/Prostitution_and_Sex_Work_Report.pdf

the servitude often occurs alongside domestic abuse and sexual exploitation”¹⁷. 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 from a range of nationalities.

Service User Context:

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from Stroud Beresford – Support in Refuge Accommodation contract (KPI data 2022/23 and 2023/24)

There isn't readily accessible data on the numbers of service users who may come within some of these cohorts, but the following data is available on access to support in refuge:

- All service users will be homeless during their time in refuge (by virtue of their previous accommodation being unreasonable for them to continue to occupy because of the risk of further domestic abuse) and the majority will be registered as homeless with a relief or main duty under Part 6 of the Housing Act with a local authority either in Gloucestershire, their home area or a safe third area depending on their circumstances.
- The refuge may support vulnerable migrants in the context of service users who have been in the UK on spousal visas and who have since been granted the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession and are applying for further leave to remain in the UK. The refuge may also on rare occasion support service users with no recourse to public funds when their accommodation costs are met by another agency i.e., Children's Social Care. Limited data is captured within the service level data in KPI return on the immigration status of service users in regards to how many service users a quarter have a secondary need for immigration support (1-2 service users per quarter) which may include duplication over two quarters as service users addressing immigration issues may need a longer stay until this is resolved, and this may also be mentioned within the context of pseudonymised case studies if service users are happy for this to be shared. 2% of referrals to the refuge have been declined because of the referral having no recourse to public funds.

¹⁷ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a822a42e5274a2e8ab57d66/typology-modern-slavery-offences-horr93.pdf>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6% of referrals to the refuge were declined as the refuge support could not meet their substance misuse needs, this included referrals that had active substance misuse issues and were not in treatment. <p>The refuge had prior to this contract supported several service users who sex worked.¹⁸ There has been a greater access to support the refuge by service users who are Gypsy or Traveler than would be suggested by the Gloucestershire or England population figures.</p>
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Appendix 2 – Gloucestershire County Council Staff Data and Information – N/A

¹⁸ <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/1mld5n2w/gloucestershire-domestic-abuse-needs-assessment-2021-final.pdf>