

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
To allocate up to £366,000 of the DLUHC section 31 funding to be used for a one year call-off contract under the future single provider framework agreement for the recommissioned Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) to provide support in and to access safe accommodation to support the Council in meeting its statutory duties under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
The outcome is to provide high quality and specialist support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation.

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>3. Delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery to:</p> <p>(a) allocate £336,000 from the Domestic Abuse Grant for the purpose of funding the call-off contract described in Recommendation 3(b); and</p> <p>(b) award a Call-Off Contract for the supply of Support in Safe Accommodation under Lot B of the council's proposed Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) Single Provider Framework Agreement (which shall be the subject of a separate Cabinet Decision also scheduled for 24 July 2024) using the resources described in Recommendation 3(a). The proposed Call-Off Contract shall continue for a period of one year.</p> <p>Cabinet (July 2024)</p>
Person(s) responsible for completing this assessment	Kate Richardson (Senior Public Health Officer)
Date of this assessment	February-May 2024

(c) 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">• GreenSquareAccord Limited as the provider of GDASS
Workforce	n/a no council staff affected	n/a no council staff affected
Partners	Engagement with the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board	
Other		

(d) 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).

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

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)	Situation remains the same as it is now as the proposal seeks to consolidate existing DLUHC funding within the GDASS budget and continue to provide support in and to access safe accommodation through the GDASS contract when recommissioned.	N/a
Additional Groups (including care leavers / care experienced adults)	Situation remains the same as it is now as the proposal seeks to consolidate existing DLUHC funding within the GDASS budget and continue to provide support in and to access safe accommodation through the GDASS contract when recommissioned.	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.

Service Users

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
Age		x			<p>GDASS support in safe accommodation will continue to be accessible to victims/survivors aged 16 and over which is in line with the statutory definition of domestic abuse within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</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, the support from GDASS is provided within a whole family context making onwards referrals, safeguarding referrals, and working in a multi-agency context as needed.</p> <p>Alternative commissioning is due to take place to provide trauma recovery support to children in safe accommodation who have been victims in their own right.</p> <p>While engagement with support in Places of Safety² and Target Hardening³ is lower than might be expected for older victims based on the county's population it is higher than seen within support in refuge due to support being provided within a greater range of property types which may be more accessible for older victims for example older victims may have remained in their own adapted property through Target Hardening where safe to do so.</p> <p>GDASS as a service have a protected characteristics champions group which includes an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) who is</p>	N

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.

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>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 including workers delivering support in safe accommodation. The champions approach will be further developed within the recommissioned service.</p>	
Disability		X			<p>GDASS support in safe accommodation will continue to be accessible to victims/survivors with disabilities.</p> <p>Support in safe accommodation is provided to a greater proportion of service users with a disability (31-33%) than would be suggested from the County's population data (16.8%).</p> <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 sets⁴.</p> <p>The figures for support in safe accommodation are in line with this national projection, and this may be linked to several factors related to the types of safe accommodation service users are accessing and wider support through GDASS.</p> <p>The higher percentage of victims accessing support within target hardened properties and Places of Safety is likely largely linked to the accessibility of the safe accommodation itself. Places of Safety and target hardening both enable victims to be in safe and self-contained accommodation which can be more accessible for victims with disabilities both through allowing space for carers, equipment etc but also more self-</p>	N

⁴ 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>contained living space for victims with mental health needs or victims with children who have learning or developmental disorders where accessing safe accommodation in refuge which is a more communal setting may be more challenging for the individual and/or impact on other vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Target hardening works may also have been completed in properties that have been adapted to meet the specific needs of the household for example, lowered work surfaces, wet rooms etc.</p> <p>GDASS as a service 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> <p>GDASS can also flexibility deliver support to service users with disabilities in a way that best suits the individual for example changing what would normally be a telephone triage appointment to face to face meetings to facilitate BSL interpretation.</p> <p>Victims with sensory impairments are underrepresented in access to support in safe accommodation. This is reflective of limited/no access to other safe accommodation and domestic abuse support services in the county and is an ongoing development consideration across domestic abuse services.</p>	

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
Sex		X			<p>GDASS will continue to facilitate access to a range of safe accommodation options as well as providing 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) to all adult victims/survivors of domestic abuse. The specific support in safe accommodation provided by GDASS is accessible for both female and male victims/survivors, however access is predominately by female victims/survivors which is reflective of the gendered nature of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Access to support in safe accommodation for male victims is not reflective of presentations overall by male victims to GDASS for domestic abuse support (circa 10% referrals to GDASS are for male victims), so further work will be undertaken to try and better understand if there is an unmet need for access to support in safe accommodation, particularly Places of Safety, for male victims and the reasons for this.</p> <p>As a wider service GDASS work to raise awareness of domestic abuse to all victims/survivors.</p> <p>GDASS deliver separate group work programmes for women and men.</p> <p>GDASS also have 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 approach will be further developed within the recommissioned service.</p>	Y
Race		X			<p>Support provided by GDASS will continue to be accessible to victims/survivors from all ethnicities and nationalities.</p>	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>However, access to safe accommodation is impacted by whether a victim/survivor has recourse to public funds either to meet housing costs in refuge accommodation or Places of Safety, or to be eligible to have their own tenancy to enable target hardening works to be completed, and this in turn impacts who will be able to be supported in safe accommodation by GDASS.</p> <p>GDASS will continue to explore all options with victims/survivors to access safe accommodation such as options to apply for the Destitute Domestic Violence Concessions where appropriate, liaising with social care when there are children in the household or providing support to make referrals to refuges and/or 'by and for' services supporting migrant victims of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and providing domestic abuse support and safety planning if they remain within their current home.</p> <p>GDASS as a service have 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 attending the Refugees and Asylum forum and the Interfaith Group meetings and are looking to developing links with providers of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and any learning will be shared across the whole service. The champions approach will be further developed within the recommissioned service.</p>	
Gender reassignment		X			Support provided by GDASS will continue to be accessible to victims/survivors who are trans or non-binary.	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>GDASS will continue 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), which may be more accessible for trans and non-binary victims/survivors as the support will be provided in self-contained accommodation.</p> <p>Access to support by victims/survivors in target hardened properties who are trans/non-binary is slightly higher than might be expected from of county demographics but may be reflective of traditional refuges being less accessible to trans/non-binary victims either through eligibility or feeling the dynamics of the abuse they have experienced is different to cis-gendered victims. There has been no access to support within Places of Safety, but this isn't unexpected given the percentage of the county population identifying as trans/non-binary and the small scale of Places of Safety. However, further work will be undertaken to understand if there is an unmet need for support in safe accommodation for trans and non-binary victims and survivors.</p> <p>GDASS as a whole 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 and any learning on removing barriers to access to support for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors will be shared across the whole service.</p>	
Pregnancy & maternity		X			Pregnancy is not a barrier to access to access to support in safe accommodation through GDASS and its expected there would be greater access by pregnant women or women who have recently given birth bearing in mind pregnancy is a high-risk period for domestic abuse.	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
Religion and/or belief		X			<p>Support provided by GDASS will continue to be accessible to victims/survivors of any belief/religion and those without a belief/ religion.</p> <p>Religion/belief broadly does not seem to create a barrier to accessing support in safe accommodation noting that we do not have data on the religion or belief of a large number of victims/survivors.</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>GDASS as a service through their protected characteristics champions group have regular attendance at the Interfaith Group meetings and any learning will be shared across the whole service. The council will be exploring how the champions approach can be developed within the recommissioned service.</p>	N
Sexual orientation		X			<p>Support provided by GDASS will continue to be accessible to victims/survivors from any sexual orientation.</p> <p>GDASS will continue 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), which may be more accessible for LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning) victims/survivors as the support will be provided in self-contained accommodation.</p> <p>There is some underrepresentation in access to support in safe accommodation for victims/survivors who are LGBTQ+ however this isn't unexpected given the percentage of the county's LGBTQ+ population.</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>However, further work will be undertaken to understand if there is an unmet need for support in safe accommodation for LGBTQ+ victims and survivors.</p> <p>GDASS as a whole 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.</p>	
Marriage & civil partnership		X			<p>Marriage or civil partnership are not a barrier to access in support in safe accommodation 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 in safe accommodation can be provided to women who are or who have served in the Armed Forces.</p> <p>There is no data captured on whether members of the Armed Forces community have accessed support in safe accommodation. This will be captured within the new contract.</p> <p>GDASS as a whole service raises awareness of domestic abuse and the support available at armed forces health fayres/welfare days, and have previously had an Armed Forces champion within their protected characteristics group who took the lead on raising awareness within the Armed Forces Community. They will be allocating a new champion to work on the group and any learning on how to better support or engage</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					victims/survivors within the Armed Forces community will be shared across the whole service. The champions approach will be further developed within the recommissioned service.	
Carers				X	There is no data captured on whether carers have accessed support in safe accommodation, this will be captured in the new contract. However, options to provide support in dispersed accommodation or target hardened accommodation may be more accessible for carers as it may be more suitable for their household members with care needs, i.e. providing space for equipment, and the option to have support in a target hardened property enables victims/survivors to safely remain in homes that have been adapted to meet individuals' needs.	Y
Care leavers / care experienced adults		X			The current support in safe accommodation data does not capture if a service user is a care leaver or care experienced - this will be added to the future contract monitoring returns. There are no apparent reasons why support in safe accommodation would not be accessible to victims who are care leavers or care experienced. Support in safe accommodation is accessible to victims/survivors who are care leavers or care experienced.	Y
Digital exclusion		X			Support in safe accommodation is well accessed by service users who have a disability which is one of the groups that could experience digital exclusion. Access to support in safe accommodation by older people generally has been discussed above. Digital exclusion for older people may contribute	N

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>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 safe accommodation in 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> <p>Rurality and rural isolation are risk factors that have been explored in the 2019 report by the National Rural Crime Network⁵ 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>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</p>	

⁵ <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>agencies who can support victims/survivors with debts and can provide 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>Safe accommodation is located in both rural and urban areas and 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 in safe accommodation have any socio-economic disadvantage - this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new contract monitoring returns.</p> <p>GDASS have a flexible funding pot associated with the DLUHC funding which is used to help address barriers to accessing safe accommodation which could include clearing a small amount of rent arrears or funding a replacement to a door where the survivor's economic circumstances mean they are unable to fund this themselves, and this in turn can secure their home or enable them to remain with target hardening in place so that GDASS can continue to support them in their own home as their safe accommodation. It can also be used to provide funding for things such as bedding or white goods where the individual cannot fund these themselves and would be unable to access or sustain a stay in safe accommodation without these items.</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
Vulnerable groups of society				X	<p>There isn't readily accessible data on the numbers of service users accessing support in safe accommodation who may come within some of these cohorts – this is something that could be discussed with regards to inclusion in the new contract monitoring returns.</p> <p>People who experience homelessness – this will be applicable to every victim/survivor accessing support in safe accommodation as they will either have fled their home due to domestic abuse or will be seeking support remain in their home safely when they would otherwise need to seek other safe accommodation.</p> <p>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – there is an overrepresentation of victim/survivors from these communities within access to support in Places of Safety which may be reflective of limited options to remain safely within their previous accommodation.</p> <p>Sex workers - support within safe accommodation can be provided to victims/survivors who are actively sex working however projects more tailored to support women with more complex needs such as Respite Rooms may be able to provide more appropriate support in safe accommodation.</p> <p>Contact with the Criminal Justice System - there is no requirement for victims/survivors to have reported any abuse to the police to access support in safe accommodation. If the victim/survivor has criminal convictions this would not exclude them from receiving support in safe accommodation but the location/method in which support is delivered would need to consider any risks to staff from any offending behaviour.</p>	Y

Protected Characteristics / Additional Groups	Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact	Not Sure	Summary of Impact	Action Required (Y/N)?
					<p>GDASS can support individuals to report domestic abuse to the police should clients want this support. The wider GDASS contract offers specific support within the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Victims/survivors of modern slavery – it is possible that victims/survivors who have experienced domestic abuse from a partner or family member within the context of domestic servitude will be referred for support in safe accommodation if they have recourse to public funds, however victims/survivors 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 the victim/survivor has drug/alcohol dependence this would not exclude them from receiving support in safe accommodation and this will likely be a more appropriate option than support in refuge where there would be children within communal areas. However, the location/method in which support is delivered would need to consider any risks to staff for example risk of exposure to needles. GDASS as a wider service have an IDVA who has a specialism in working with victims/survivors with substance misuse issues and are exploring options to co-locate support within substance misuse services.</p>	

Protected Characteristics / Additional 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>These will be unique for each victim/survivor and may impact positively or negatively on the safe accommodation they access and how they engage with support while in safe accommodation.</p> <p>The strength of support in safe accommodation is that it is accessible to all victims/survivors accessing safe accommodation (noting that there may be restrictions or challenges to accessing safe accommodation for some victims/survivors i.e. in the case of NRPF) and that it can draw from the experience and knowledge of the wider service and the protected characteristic champions group to deliver tailored support considered all the individual's needs.</p>	N
Gloucestershire County Council Staff - N/A						

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 safe accommodation.	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 (contract monitoring)
<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? 	<p>Comparison of contract monitoring data Narrative commentary Service user feedback</p> <p>Consideration of any unexpected changes in service user data i.e. increase in LGBTQ+ referrals or decrease in referrals from minoritized ethnic communities. 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>

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? 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. 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 consultation work through the Consultation Network of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.</p>

6. Approval

<p>Signature of Senior Officer</p>	
<p>Name of Senior Officer</p>	<p>Siobhan Farmer</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>10.07.24</p>

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)

Service user data comes from Key Performance Indicator (KPI) return data supplied to the Council as part of contract monitoring from GreenSquareAccord Limited as the current provider of Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) covering service users accessing and receiving support in domestic abuse safe accommodation – Places of Safety (dispersed safe accommodation scheme commissioned by the district councils) and support in target hardened accommodation (target hardening is commissioned by the district councils) which enables victims/survivors to remain within their own homes.

The DLUHC funding also supports other activity within GDASS relating to access to and support in domestic abuse safe accommodation. This includes making referrals to refuges and other national safe accommodation options on behalf of service user and co-located support within the registered provider sector but the demographics for these service users is not specifically captured in relation to this but rather within wider protected characteristic reporting for the service.

When viewing the service user data for the additional categories we do not have the data in all cases broken down by access to safe accommodation, so where stated the service user data provided refers to data from wider GDASS contract monitoring, or victims engaged with support from Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) or the Help Desk rather than only those service users accessing support in safe accommodation.

Age	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: ONS Census data (2021): https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/</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"> • 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: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Support in Target Hardening</th> <th>Support in Places of Safety</th> <th>County Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16-24</td> <td>12%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>9.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-34</td> <td>43%</td> <td>38%</td> <td>11.90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-44</td> <td>27%</td> <td>35%</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-54</td> <td>14%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>13.50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55+</td> <td>4%</td> <td>7%</td> <td>32.50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County Population	16-24	12%	10%	9.5%	25-34	43%	38%	11.90%	35-44	27%	35%	12%	45-54	14%	10%	13.50%	55+	4%	7%	32.50%
Age	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County Population																						
16-24	12%	10%	9.5%																						
25-34	43%	38%	11.90%																						
35-44	27%	35%	12%																						
45-54	14%	10%	13.50%																						
55+	4%	7%	32.50%																						

	<p>Most service users accessing support in safe accommodation are aged 25-44. There is overrepresentation of young people aged 18-24 which is reflective of national SafeLives data that young people under the age of 25 are most likely to experience interpersonal violence.⁶</p> <p>There is some national data within the DLUHC safe accommodation return on the ages of individuals accessing support in safe accommodation. Those aged 25 or under (not accessing support with a parent/guardian) accounted for 9.5% of individuals accessing support in safe accommodation and individuals ages 65 accounted for 0.9%⁷, and the support provided by GDASS is broadly reflective of the national picture.</p>
Disability	<p>Gloucestershire Context <i>Source: https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/population/census-of-population/census-2021/ and GCC Population Profile (2023):equality-profile-2023.pdf (gloucestershire.gov.uk).</i></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, 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; this was lower than the England figure of 1.9%.</p> <p>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)</i></p> <p>There are greater numbers of service users with a disability accessing support in safe accommodation through GDASS than would be expected from the county and national demographics however this is more reflective of the national</p>

⁶ <https://safelives.org.uk/policy-evidence/about-domestic-abuse/who-are-victims-domestic-abuse>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>

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.⁸

Disability	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County population
How many people did <u>not</u> consider themselves to be disabled?	67%	69%	83.20%
How many people considered themselves to be disabled?	33%	31%	16.80%

There appears to be underrepresentation of victims with sensory impairments within victims accessing support in safe accommodation.
The main disability identified for 17-21% of victims accessing support in safe accommodation through GDASS was associated with mental health.

There is national data⁹ for the financial year 2022/23 within the DLUHC safe accommodation return that 11.3% of all individuals accessing support in safe accommodation identified as having a disability and 21.2% identified as having a history of mental health problems.

Sex

Gloucestershire Context:

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

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%.

Service User Context:

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)

⁸ https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Disabled_Survivors_Too_Report.pdf

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>

	Gender	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County population
	Female	95%	100%	51.10%
	Male	5%	0%	48.90%

The access to support in safe accommodation for male victims isn't reflective of presentations overall by male victims to GDASS for domestic abuse support (circa 10% referrals to GDASS are for male victims).

However, access to GDASS support in safe accommodation is broadly reflective of the national data¹⁰ on access to support in safe accommodation where 96.1% of adult victims were female and 3.9% male.

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 – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>

Ethnicity	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County population
White British	89%	73%	87.70%
White Irish, Gypsy, Roma & Traveller, and Other White background	4%	17%	5.30%
Black or Black British and Asian or Asian British	2%	7%	4.10%
Mixed or Other	4%	3%	2.90%
Not known	1%	0%	0%

Access to support in safe accommodation through GDASS varies across the county demographics but White British remains the single largest ethnic group to access support. There is particular overrepresentation of service users who are White Irish or Gypsy, Roma or Traveller or Asian/Asian within access to support in Places of Safety which is reflective of underrepresentation within access to support in target hardened accommodation. Conversely there is overrepresentation of service users who are White British or Black/Black British accessing support in target hardened accommodation which partially offsets underrepresentation within access to support in Places of Safety.

Within the national data set for access to safe accommodation¹¹ Black and minoritized individuals accounted for 23% of all victims accessing support in safe accommodation, which would have included both adult victims and their children accessing support as victims in their own right.

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.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>

	<p>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%.</p> <p>In Gloucestershire residents identified as:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="389 389 2029 529"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="389 389 792 491">Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth</th> <th data-bbox="792 389 1330 491">Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given</th> <th data-bbox="1330 389 1453 491">Trans woman</th> <th data-bbox="1453 389 1565 491">Trans man</th> <th data-bbox="1565 389 1677 491">Non-binary</th> <th data-bbox="1677 389 1877 491">All other gender identities</th> <th data-bbox="1877 389 2029 491">Not answered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="389 491 792 529">94.40%</td> <td data-bbox="792 491 1330 529">0.15%</td> <td data-bbox="1330 491 1453 529">0.08%</td> <td data-bbox="1453 491 1565 529">0.07%</td> <td data-bbox="1565 491 1677 529">0.07%</td> <td data-bbox="1677 491 1877 529">0.04%</td> <td data-bbox="1877 491 2029 529">5.20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <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 GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)</i></p> <p>While there was no access to support in Places of Safety for victims identifying as trans or non-binary there was an overrepresentation seen within access to support in target hardened accommodation.</p> <p>We know from the national data set¹² that 3.8% of victims accessing support in safe accommodation identified as LGBTQ+ but we do not know what percentage specifically identified as trans or non-binary.</p>	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%
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%									
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>														

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>

Service User Context:

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)

Access to support in safe accommodation by pregnant service users is 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.

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% 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 – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)

Religion and/or belief

Religion and/or Belief	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County
Christian	8%	10%	49.2%
Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu	1%	4%	2.4%
Sikh	0%	0%	0.1%
Jewish	0%	0%	0.1%
Atheist & Other religion/belief	2%	4%	0.5%
No religion	56%	48%	41.4%
Not known	33%	34%	6.2%

Religion and belief were not captured within the national support in safe accommodation data.

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 from Census data 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 – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)

Sexual Orientation	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County population
Heterosexual	>95%	>95%	90.40%
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Pansexual or Asexual	<5%	<5%	2.78%
Other/not known	0%	0%	6.82%

Within the data for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer or Pansexual victims accessing support in target hardening through GDASS there is some underrepresentation including for victims who are Queer or Pansexual through due to the small LGBTQ+ community in Gloucestershire - this is not unexpected.

	<p>We know from the national data set¹³ that 3.8% of victims accessing support in safe accommodation identified as LGBTQ+ but we do not know what percentage specifically identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Pansexual or Asexual.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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>Service User Context: <i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="387 1066 1848 1297"> <thead> <tr> <th>Marriage and Civil Partnership</th> <th>Support in Target Hardening</th> <th>Support in Places of Safety</th> <th>County population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Married/Partnered</td> <td>22%</td> <td>37%</td> <td>50.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single</td> <td>18%</td> <td>21%</td> <td>30.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separated/Divorced</td> <td>59%</td> <td>41%</td> <td>11.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Support in Target Hardening	Support in Places of Safety	County population	Married/Partnered	22%	37%	50.2%	Single	18%	21%	30.5%	Separated/Divorced	59%	41%	11.8%	Other	0%	0%	0.3%
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¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>

	Not Known	1%	1%	7.2%
<p>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.¹⁴</p>				

¹⁴ <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 data-bbox="389 312 624 355"></th> <th colspan="5" data-bbox="624 312 2027 355">Percentage of population</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="389 355 624 496"></th> <th data-bbox="624 355 936 496">Previously served in regular or reserve UK armed forces: Total</th> <th data-bbox="936 355 1180 496">Previously served in regular UK armed forces</th> <th data-bbox="1180 355 1424 496">Previously served in reserve UK armed forces</th> <th data-bbox="1424 355 1727 496">Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces</th> <th data-bbox="1727 355 2027 496">Has not previously served in any UK armed forces: Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="389 496 624 539">Gloucestershire</td> <td data-bbox="624 496 936 539">5.2%</td> <td data-bbox="936 496 1180 539">4.1%</td> <td data-bbox="1180 496 1424 539">0.8%</td> <td data-bbox="1424 496 1727 539">0.2%</td> <td data-bbox="1727 496 2027 539">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%	94.8%
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Gloucestershire	5.2%	4.1%	0.8%	0.2%	94.8%																		
<p>Service User Context: Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – service users engaged with support with IDVAs and Help Desk (April 2022- March 23)</p> <p>Less than 5% of victims engaged with support from the Help Desk or IDVAs within GDASS had served in HM Armed Forces.</p>																							
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 GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – service users engaged with support with IDVAs and Help Desk (April 2022- March 23)</p> <p>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>Care leavers / care experienced adults</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Gloucestershire Population profile 2024:</i> https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf</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: This data is not collected within the current KPIs for GDASS.</p>
<p>Digital exclusion</p>	<p>Gloucestershire Context: <i>Source: ONS Census data 2021</i> 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 <i>Gloucestershire Population profile 2024:</i> https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/oeopsd4t/equality-profile-2024.pdf</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. <p>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</p>

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 GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)

- 33% of service users who accessed support in target hardened accommodation identified that they had a disability
- 31% of service users who accessed support in Places of Safety identified that they had a disability
- <5% of service users who accessed support in target hardened accommodation were aged 65 or older
- No service users who accessed support in Places of Safety accommodation were aged 65 or older
- 33% of service users who accessed support in target hardened accommodation identified that they had a disability
- 62% of service users who accessed support in target hardening lived in a rural/predominately rural district (Cotswolds, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury)
- 60% of the Places of Safety properties, prior to expansion, are in rural/predominately rural districts.

Geography, for example, urban and rural areas

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.

Gloucestershire District	% Gloucestershire's population aged 16+
Cheltenham Borough	18%
Cotswold District	14%
Forest of Dean District	14%
Gloucester ity	20%
Stroud District	19%

Tewkesbury Borough

15%

Service User Context:

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited – Support in Places of Safety and Target Hardened properties provided within the GDASS contract (2022-23)

Places of Safety properties are located across the county, currently spread evenly across the districts but new properties will be dependent on availability. GDASS will provide support to victims in Places of Safety across the County.

Victims accessing support in target hardened accommodation are also spread across the county, but this will be subject to where victims are living when they request support.

Districts	% of victims accessing support in target hardening by district	% Gloucestershire's 16+ population living in the area
Cheltenham	17%	18%
Cotswolds	7%	14%
Forest of Dean	15%	14%
Gloucester	31%	20%
Stroud	17%	19%
Tewkesbury	13%	15%

Broadly the spread of victims accessing support in target hardened properties was reflective of the wider population, except for underrepresentation in the Cotswolds and overrepresentation in Gloucester. This is not expected based on domestic abuse crime rates in these areas.¹⁵

¹⁵ <http://www.glostakeastand.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Gloucestershire-Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment-2021-FINAL.pdf>

Socio-economic disadvantage	<p>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</p> <p>Social-economic disadvantage encapsulates people who are unemployed, have a low income, live in deprived areas, have poor housing, or have poor education.</p> <p>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. • 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:</p>
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	<p><i>Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – service users engaged with support with IDVAs and Help Desk (April 2022- March 23)</i></p> <p>There is currently limited information available on socio-economic disadvantage within GDASS KPIs, however 1.4% 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 year¹⁶.</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/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"> • 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.

¹⁶ <http://www.glostakeastand.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Gloucestershire-Domestic-Abuse-Needs-Assessment-2021-FINAL.pdf>

- The Crime Survey for England and Wales reported that only 17% of victims/survivors of domestic abuse report their experience to the police.¹⁷
- 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 abuse¹⁸ and 41% of the prison population have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse.¹⁹

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 misuse²⁰ 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”²¹. 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.

Service User Context:

¹⁷ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/partnerabuseindetailenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018#reporting-partner-abuse-to-the-police>

¹⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719819/female-offender-strategy.pdf

¹⁹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f56b6e5274a2e8ab4b936/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF

²⁰ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842920/Prostitution_and_Sex_Work_Report.pdf

²¹ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a822a42e5274a2e8ab57d66/typology-modern-slavery-offences-horr93.pdf>

Source: GCC contract monitoring data from GreenSquareAccord Limited - GDASS contract – service users engaged with support with IDVAs and Help Desk (April 2022- March 23)

All service users who access support in safe accommodation through GDASS will be homeless or will have been at risk of homelessness, either by virtue of their previous accommodation being unreasonable for them to continue to occupy because of the risk of further domestic abuse resulting in an offer of Places of Safety or where they were at risk of being unable to remain in their existing accommodation prior to target hardening and support being provided to enable them to remain safely in their own home.

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 from the wider GDASS service 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 and Target Hardened 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.
- 4% 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. Within the national data set²² for support in safe accommodation, 4% had drug related support needs and 3.7% had alcohol related support needs.
- Data on contact with the criminal justice system is not captured with the GDASS KPIs. Within the national data set²³ for support in safe accommodation, 2% of individuals who received support were ex-offenders.
- Data on sex working is not captured within the GDASS KPIs.
- There has been a greater access to support the in safe accommodation through GDASS by service users who are Gypsy or Traveler than would be suggested by the Gloucestershire population figures.

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

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-in-domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-financial-year-2022-to-2023>