In Surrey our vision is for every adult and child experiencing domestic abuse to be seen, safe and heard, and free from the harm caused by perpetrator behaviour.

As a partnership, we will focus on preventing domestic abuse (DA) and ensuring all children, young people and adults affected across their lifespan:

- Can access the right information, services and support, at the right time in the right place
- Are empowered to live lives free from domestic violence or abuse
- Gain the personal confidence to build healthy relationships for themselves and their dependants
- Perpetrators are held to account and change their behaviour

This strategy will align and drive all action against domestic abuse in the County. It will influence change and secure the commitment of all to prevent harm, which devastates victims’ lives and has a disproportionate effect on the lives of young people.

Our Principles

☑️ We will keep the values of Women’s Aid 'Change that Lasts' central to all partnership work against domestic abuse.

☑️ We will act if perpetrators fail to stop or seek help if needed – they are the root cause of DA.

☑️ We will make sure survivors are seen as the experts in their own experience.

☑️ We commit to creating a kinder, equal and respectful community in Surrey.

☑️ We commit to ending domestic abuse, it is not inevitable because of any circumstance.

☑️ We will end victim blaming through changing our language, attitude and collective culture.

☑️ We recognise freedom is a fundamental human right and is most restricted by perpetrators.
Our Evidence Based Approach

This strategy is informed by ‘Change That Lasts’ - a strengths based, needs led, trauma informed approach developed by Women's Aid.

Listen
listen to adult and child survivors, placing their needs at the centre.

Ask & Act
ask the right questions safely & act appropriately.

Specialist support
know when and how to refer to your local specialist service.

Tools
provide clear procedures, roles, information and training across agencies.

Sustained independence and freedom
work together for an independent future for survivors.

Our Priorities & Actions

Community
To break the silence about domestic abuse within our local communities, and remove the barriers that make it hard for survivors and perpetrators to reach support.

We will ensure local communities, supported by strong leaders, recognise and commit to taking action on domestic abuse.

Professionals
To maximise every opportunity to identify and respond to domestic abuse for survivors and perpetrators.

We will equip and empower professionals to be able to identify domestic abuse, assess risk, safety plan and tackle perpetrator behaviour.

Expert support
To empower specialist expert support to work with survivors, children and perpetrators in a way that achieves safety, with minimum reliance on external resources.

We will ensure public and voluntary services work together to support families at the earliest opportunity and reduce the long-term harm and cost of domestic abuse in Surrey.
Why it is important to us

We must provide strong local leadership to transform the way we tackle domestic abuse.

What we do in Surrey contributes to creating a society that protects people from controlling, coercive, degrading, threatening and violent behaviour. Abuse can be both physical and emotional, and include sexual violence, stalking, harassment, financial control and harmful traditional practices. These crimes shatter lives and have a long-lasting effect on adults and children. We must prevent and stop such abuse at the earliest opportunity, before it has a chance to escalate.

Domestic abuse has a huge impact on the economy, health services and the criminal justice system. The scale of the challenge is recognised at the highest level and the Government is seeking to provide better protection to victims and bring more perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

How will we know we're making a difference?

**Perpetrators** are held to account and provided with opportunities to change to reduce repeat behaviour

Adults and children referred to services report that their **voices** were heard, that they felt safer and support was provided at the right time, in the right place.

The proportion of adult and children safeguarding **enquiries** where domestic abuse is recognised increases and the quality improves

**Barriers** on the journey to safety and independence are understood, removed or reduced for all Surrey's diverse communities

Interventions are in place that can **evidence** improved outcomes for those affected

The workforce has a consistent **understanding** of all forms of domestic abuse

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**35k**
estimated victims of domestic abuse in Surrey.

**88**
known attempted or actual domestic abuse related killings in Surrey since 2000.

**14k**
domestic abuse reports to the police during 2016/17

**£111m**
is the annual cost of domestic abuse in Surrey.

**58%**
of local children identified as 'in need' have abuse and neglect identified as the primary concern.

**4/5**
do not report Domestic Abuse to the police.
“When you're believed without having to defend yourself all the time the weight comes off your shoulders...”

A survivor of domestic abuse from Surrey.

“I didn't go to school. I didn't feel safe. I didn't feel like mum was safe, so I wanted to be with her.”

A child survivor of domestic abuse from Surrey.

Contact

If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about someone you know, please contact the Surrey Domestic Abuse Helpline

01483 776822