



Telford and Wrekin Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Annual Report

2025/2026

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Foreword from the Chair

As Chair of the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership (DALP), I am pleased to present this annual report for April 2025 to March 2026.

This year has shown the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to reducing domestic abuse in Telford and Wrekin. Despite financial pressures and changes across national health and policing systems, partners have continued to innovate, support victims and children, and work together to improve safety and outcomes.

We have delivered high impact campaigns, strengthened our work with schools and communities, and expanded support through specialist services and housing interventions. Our focus on learning – particularly from Domestic Homicide Reviews – has helped us identify risks earlier, understand victims' experiences better, and take meaningful action.

A key achievement this year has been the development of our new combined Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy for 2026-2028. This work has been shaped by partners, practitioners, and people with lived experience and sets a clear direction for the future.



I want to thank every partner, volunteer and frontline worker for the dedication, compassion and professionalism they bring to this work every day.

Jo Britton
Chair, Domestic Abuse Local Partnership

Why a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership (DALP) is needed

Domestic abuse continues to have a significant impact on individuals, families and communities across Telford and Wrekin. Victims may experience physical, emotional, sexual, financial or coercive control, and the effects on children can be long lasting. No single organisation can address these issues alone. A coordinated, multi agency partnership is essential to ensure people receive the right support, at the right time, from the right service.

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership (DALP) brings together key agencies – including the Council, Police, health services, education, housing, specialist providers such as Women’s Aid and Cranstoun, and the voluntary sector – to improve safety, reduce risk, and deliver a whole system response to domestic abuse.

The partnership ensures:

- services work together, rather than in isolation;
- learning from cases and data is shared across agencies;
- victims and children receive consistent support;
- perpetrators are identified and held to account;
- local needs shape local services;
- specialist voices, including lived experience, influence strategy and practice.

Key Legislation Behind the DALP

The need for a coordinated partnership is strengthened by national legislation and statutory duties, including:

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Domestic Abuse Act places clear duties on local authorities and partnerships to:

- develop a local domestic abuse strategy;
- provide and oversee safe accommodation and support;
- work jointly across agencies to protect victims;
- improve understanding of domestic abuse, including coercive control;
- ensure the voice and needs of children as victims are recognised.

Much of DALP’s work – including the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, commissioning arrangements, and the combined Domestic Abuse & VAWG strategy – directly supports these legal requirements.

Care Act 2014

Domestic abuse is recognised as a form of abuse under adult safeguarding.

The Care Act requires partnership working to protect adults at risk, making DALP essential to connecting safeguarding, housing, health and specialist support.

Children Act 1989 and 2004

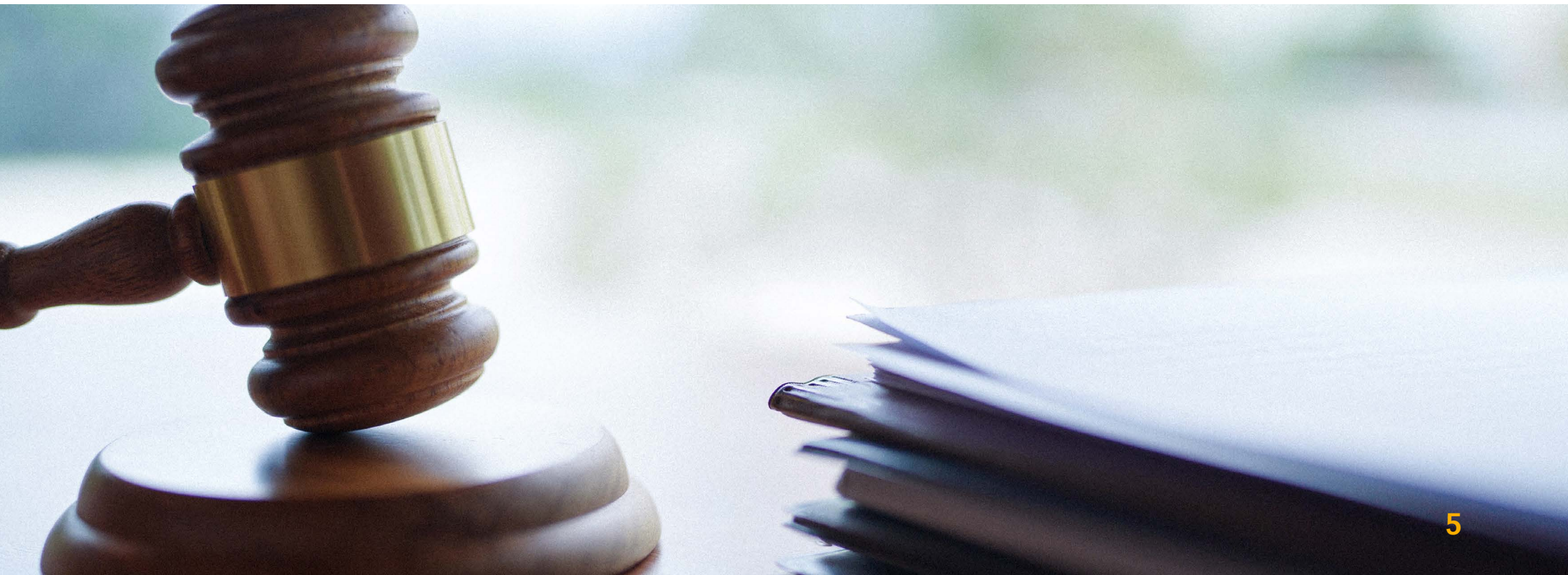
Children living with domestic abuse are recognised as victims in their own right.

These duties require close coordination between children's services, schools, Police and specialist providers – something DALP facilitates through shared oversight, learning, and multi agency data.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) National Strategy

The national VAWG Strategy requires local areas to strengthen prevention, improve Police responses, and enhance victim support. DALP plays a key role in coordinating this work locally and ensuring it is embedded in the updated strategy for 2026–2028.

Together, these laws and duties make it clear that domestic abuse requires a strong, joined up partnership response – exactly what DALP provides.



Our partners – who is involved in DALP?

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership is made up of organisations that each play a vital role in preventing abuse, protecting victims, supporting families, and managing risk. Partners include:

Local Authority Services

- **Children's Services** – supporting children, young people and families affected by domestic abuse.
- **Adult Social Care** – safeguarding adults at risk and providing support to vulnerable adults.
- **Housing Solutions** – supporting victims with safe accommodation, homelessness prevention and target hardening.
- **Public Health** – leading prevention work, campaigns and commissioning activity.
- **Family Connect and Family Hubs** – providing early help, advice and support for families.
- **Community Safety Partnership colleagues** – linking domestic abuse work with wider community safety priorities.
- **Communications and Corporate Affairs** – leading public facing campaigns like White Ribbon.

Police and Criminal Justice

- **West Mercia Police** – risk assessment, investigation, MARAC involvement, Clare's Law, and safeguarding.
- **Probation Service** – managing perpetrators in the community and sharing vital information to reduce harm.
- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)** – strategic oversight, commissioning and funding.

Health Partners

- **NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin ICB** – safeguarding leadership, health based risk management, training.
- **Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT)** – mental health and community health services, safeguarding roles.
- **Princess Royal Hospital/NHS Trust staff** – identifying victims and providing frontline support.

Specialist Domestic Abuse Providers

- **West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA)** – refuge accommodation, community support, IDVAs, specialist advice.
- **Cranstoun** – victim support, children and young people's services, and perpetrator behaviour change programmes.

Education and Early Years

- **Schools, colleges and safeguarding leads** – vital identification and support for children and young people.
- **Telford College** – major involvement in awareness campaigns and training.

Voluntary and Community Sector

- Organisations involved in supporting victims, older people, young people and communities, including partners who contribute to the DA Forum.

Lived Experience Voices

- Individuals with lived experience who take part in forums, panels, commissioning processes, and strategy development.

Together, these partners form a whole system approach that strengthens prevention, improves safety, and ensures victims receive joined up support tailored to their needs.

Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Forum



Overview

Between April 2025 and March 2026, DALP continued to bring together partners across policing, safeguarding, specialist services, housing, health and education to improve the local response to domestic abuse. Our priorities included:

- preventing abuse and raising awareness
- improving support for victims and families
- strengthening partnership coordination
- learning from data and serious cases
- preparing the new Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy



Achievements under the four strategy pillars

1 Prevention – stopping abuse before it happens

DALP continued to invest in awareness raising, early intervention and education. Thousands of adults and young people took part in local campaigns and sessions focused on healthy relationships, safety, and recognising early signs of abuse.

Key achievements

- **White Ribbon and 16 Days Campaign** – White Ribbon is a global campaign that works to prevent violence and abuse by promoting respect, equality and positive behaviour, with a focus on raising awareness and encouraging people to take a stand against domestic abuse and violence. Community events across hospitals, colleges, schools, extra care housing and town centre locations in Telford and Wrekin reached large numbers of residents, including 2,000 people at Telford College.
- **Social media engagement** – Campaigns achieved engagement rates almost three times higher than usual posts, especially for content on Clare's Law, women's safety, and trauma bonds.
- **School and youth work** – Theatre in education programmes reached thousands of pupils and taught about consent, online harm, and respectful relationships.
- **West Mercia youth prevention project** – Over 2,500 young people took part in workshops exploring misogyny, stereotypes and healthy relationships.
- **Clare's Law awareness** – Clare's Law supports the prevention of domestic abuse by enabling the police to share relevant information where necessary to protect individuals from harm. Communication efforts helped raise understanding of how people can seek information about a partner's history.

How this helps

- More people know how to recognise abuse and seek help earlier, with campaign content achieving engagement rates almost three times higher than standard posts.
- Future abusive behaviours are being challenged earlier, with 2,500+ young people taking part in workshops on healthy relationships, misogyny and stereotypes.
- More young people understand consent, safety and respectful relationships, with thousands reached through school-based prevention programmes.



2 Partnerships – working together to improve safety

Partnership working remained a major strength this year, with deeper collaboration across safeguarding, community safety, housing, health, policing, education, and specialist services.

Key achievements

- **Creation of the new joint DA & VAWG Strategy (2026–2028)** – Developed through workshops, forums and feedback sessions with partners, young people and lived experience groups.
- **Closer alignment with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)** – Shared action planning now reduces duplication and ensures domestic abuse considerations run through wider community safety work.
- **Strengthening the Domestic Abuse Forum** – Work began to refresh the Forum’s structure and increase the voice of people with lived experience.
- **Safeguarding Domestic Abuse Sub Group** – New cross agency group established, completing early reviews with Family Hubs and Family Connect and planning multi agency case audits.
- **Education partnerships** – Work taken to the Education Safeguarding Partnership and Strategic Education Partnership, including updates on Operation Encompass.

Case study: Lived experience impact – Nicky’s story

The LEAF (Lived Experience Advisory Forum) works with survivors of domestic abuse to ensure lived experience informs local services, commissioning, and strategy development. Nicky first attended LEAF as part of her recovery journey after leaving an abusive relationship. Since then, she has become one of our valued LEAF Advocates, contributing directly to coffee mornings, awareness events, training sessions, the Domestic Abuse Forum, and discussions that helped shape the new Domestic Abuse and Violence Against

Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. Nicky’s involvement demonstrates the power of survivor voice. Through LEAF she has gained confidence to share her experiences more widely, raising awareness of domestic abuse locally and nationally through podcasts, BBC interviews, magazine articles, and by contributing to a published collaborative book. Nicky is now applying to become a Special Constable with West Mercia Police, motivated by a desire to support others affected by domestic abuse and contribute to community safety.



Nicola McLafferty, a domestic abuse survivor, is calling for more people to talk to children about their experiences

Nicola McLafferty, 42, a victim of domestic violence, said survivors of domestic abuse, both men and women, should go into school assemblies to speak to children about it and share their lived experience.

How this helps

- Victims benefit from a more joined-up response, as services work together through strengthened safeguarding, community safety and domestic abuse arrangements.
- Survivors have a stronger voice in shaping services, helping to influence the new Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy and future commissioning decisions.
- Risks can be identified and addressed earlier, through new multi-agency safeguarding audits and stronger cross-partnership oversight.
- Resources are used more effectively, reducing duplication and improving coordination across partner agencies.

3 Provision – delivering the right support at the right time

Despite pressures, services continued to respond effectively to victims, children, and families. Waiting times for children improved, case studies demonstrated strong outcomes, and housing related support expanded. The impact of support services can also be seen through lived experience outcomes. One LEAF member progressed from accessing support following domestic abuse to becoming an active advocate influencing strategy development, awareness campaigns and training activity across the borough.

Key achievements

- **Single Point of Contact and service access** – High demand was managed effectively, with shorter waits for young people needing support.
- **Specialist services** – Cranstoun and Women's Aid maintained steady support levels for victims, children and perpetrators.
- **Target hardening programme** – Delivered home security improvements – such as locks, lighting, and strengthened entry points – to help victims remain safely at home. Case studies (“Mrs C” and “Ms J”) showed strong positive impact.
- **Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment** – Increased supply of safe accommodation, including accessible units, and improved understanding of local demand for 1-2 bedroom properties.
- **Commissioning for 2026 contract** – New tender process launched with lived experience involvement in scoring and decision making.

How this helps

- Through the Target Hardening Programme, 22 families, including 31 children, were able to stay safely in their own homes. Security improvements helped them feel safer, avoid the disruption of moving, and focus on rebuilding their lives.

Case study

A survivor of domestic abuse and stalking experienced years of abuse, coercive control and ongoing harassment from an ex-partner. Following the end of the relationship, concerns for their safety remained high as the perpetrator repeatedly attempted to locate them, forcing several house moves. The case was referred to MARAC, where agencies worked together to develop a coordinated safety plan. Support included regular welfare checks from police, increased patrols around her accommodation, housing support, emotional support from domestic abuse services, and access to specialist counselling where needed. Through coordinated support from housing, police and domestic abuse services, the individual was able to secure safe and stable accommodation close to their support network. This increased their sense of safety, reduced isolation, and provided a strong foundation for recovery, wellbeing and long-term independence for themselves and their family.

4 Pursuing and protection – holding abusers accountable and keeping victims safe

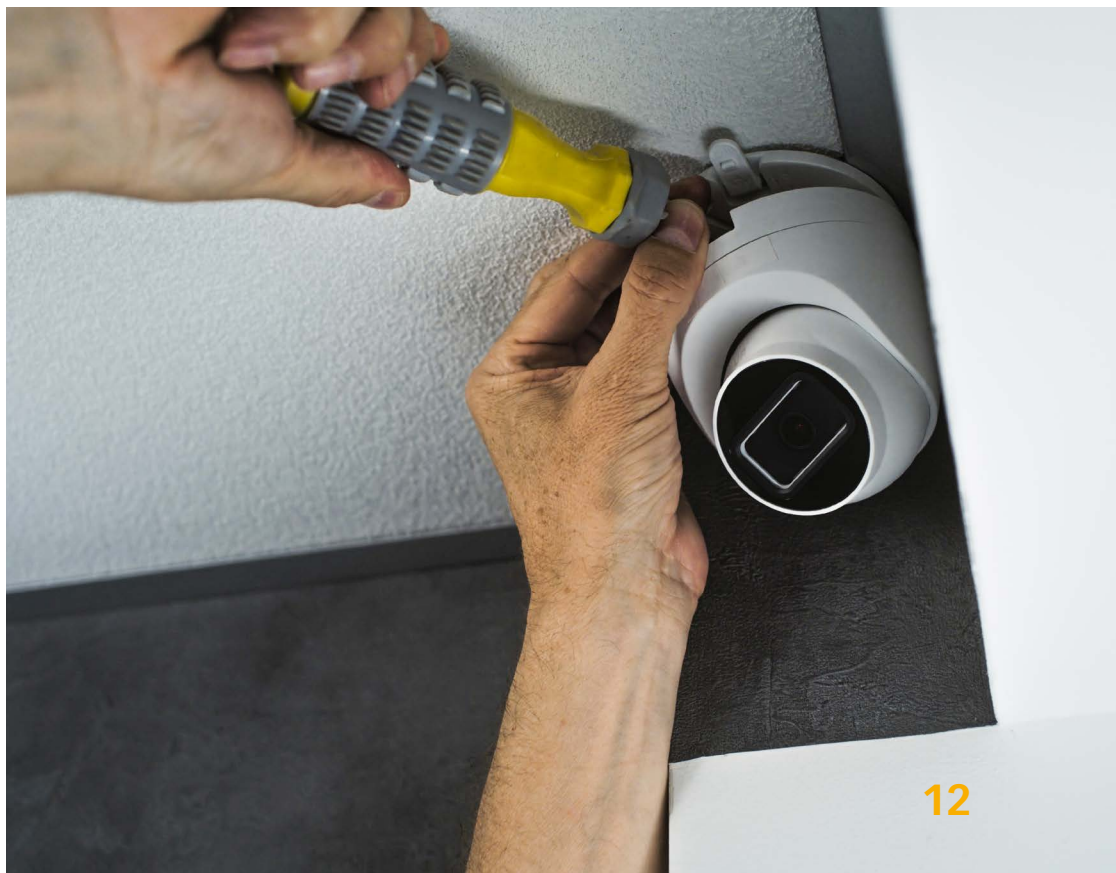
This year saw major developments in policing arrangements, risk management and learning from serious cases.

Key achievements

- **Clare's Law increases** – Applications rose by 69% with a significant increase in disclosure rates, supported by Police investment and public awareness work.
- **Improving MARAC** – A MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is a meeting where local agencies share information and agree actions to reduce the risk of serious harm or death for people experiencing high-risk domestic abuse. This year work focused on tightening governance, improving equality data, and supporting more consistent agency attendance.
- **Safety technology** – National monitoring alarms are personal or home-based alarm systems that connect individuals to a 24/7 monitoring centre, allowing them to quickly raise an alert in an emergency. The continued use of these alongside the 'TecSAFE' mobile applications for high risk victims has been positive and welcomed
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)** – Oversight Panel became operational, with strengthened processes to ensure reviews capture the voice of children and lead to meaningful actions. A suicide prevention session is planned for autumn 2026.
- **Criminal justice collaboration** – Progress made across Police, Cranstoun and Women's Aid to improve responses, disclosure processes, and learning from serious cases.

How this helps

- More people are taking proactive steps to keep themselves safe, reflected in a 69% increase in Clare's Law applications.
- High-risk victims benefit from stronger protection planning, through improved MARAC governance, attendance and information sharing.
- Victims at greatest risk have faster access to support and protection, through the continued use of TecSAFE and national monitoring alarms.
- Learning from the most serious cases is driving service improvement, with strengthened Domestic Homicide Review processes and oversight arrangements.



Wider domestic abuse statistics (England and Wales, latest 2025 releases)

Prevalence of domestic abuse

- **3.8 million people (7.8%)** aged 16+ experienced domestic abuse in the year to **March 2025**. This includes **2.2 million women and 1.5 million men**. [\[ons.gov.uk\]](https://ons.gov.uk)



25.8% of adults

(12.5 million people) have experienced domestic abuse since age 16. [\[ons.gov.uk\]](https://ons.gov.uk)

- Nearly **1 in 5 young people aged 16-19** experienced domestic abuse in the last year. [\[domesticab...ssioner.uk\]](https://domesticab...ssioner.uk)
- Lifetime prevalence estimates show:



1 in 4 women



1 in 6-7 men

experience domestic abuse at some point. [\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)

Police recorded domestic abuse

- Police recorded **816,493 domestic abuse related crimes** in the year to March 2025. This is a small decrease from the previous year due to changes in recording practices. [\[ons.gov.uk\]](https://ons.gov.uk)
- Across all incidents and crimes combined, Police recorded **1.35 million** domestic abuse related reports. [\[ons.gov.uk\]](https://ons.gov.uk)
- A domestic abuse related call is made to the Police **every 30 seconds**. [\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)

Criminal Justice System outcomes

- **76,393** domestic abuse related offences were referred by the Police to the CPS in the year to March 2025 – up **5.2%** on the previous year. [\[domesticab...ssioner.uk\]](https://domesticab...ssioner.uk)
- CPS charged **53,919** suspects and convicted **41,070** offenders – increases of **10%** and **6%** respectively. [\[domesticab...ssioner.uk\]](https://domesticab...ssioner.uk)
- **20% of domestic abuse cases** that concluded had “evidential difficulties” despite victim support and suspect identification. [\[domesticab...ssioner.uk\]](https://domesticab...ssioner.uk)

Domestic abuse related deaths

- There were **108 domestic homicides** in the year to March 2024

83 victims were women



25 were men



[\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)

- There were **262 domestic abuse related deaths**, including **98 suspected suicides following DA**. [\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)
- Femicide patterns:
 - **38% of women killed by an ex partner** were killed **within one month** of separation
 - **89% within the first year** [\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)

Victim characteristics and gender patterns

- Women are significantly more likely to experience repeated victimisation, serious injury or death than men. [\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)



95% of high risk victims

supported by IDVAs and 94% of MARAC cases involve women. [\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)

How this helps

- We recognise that pregnancy is a time of high risk for woman encountering domestic abuse, 95% percent of maternity staff have now been trained to screen for domestic abuse leading to more women being supported to discuss their experiences and safety plans created
- Children and young people receive help sooner, with waiting times reduced for those accessing specialist support.
- More victims can remain safely in their own homes, supported by home security measures including improved locks, lighting and strengthened entry points.
- More people can access safety when they need it most, with an increased supply of safe accommodation, including accessible units.

Wider service based insights

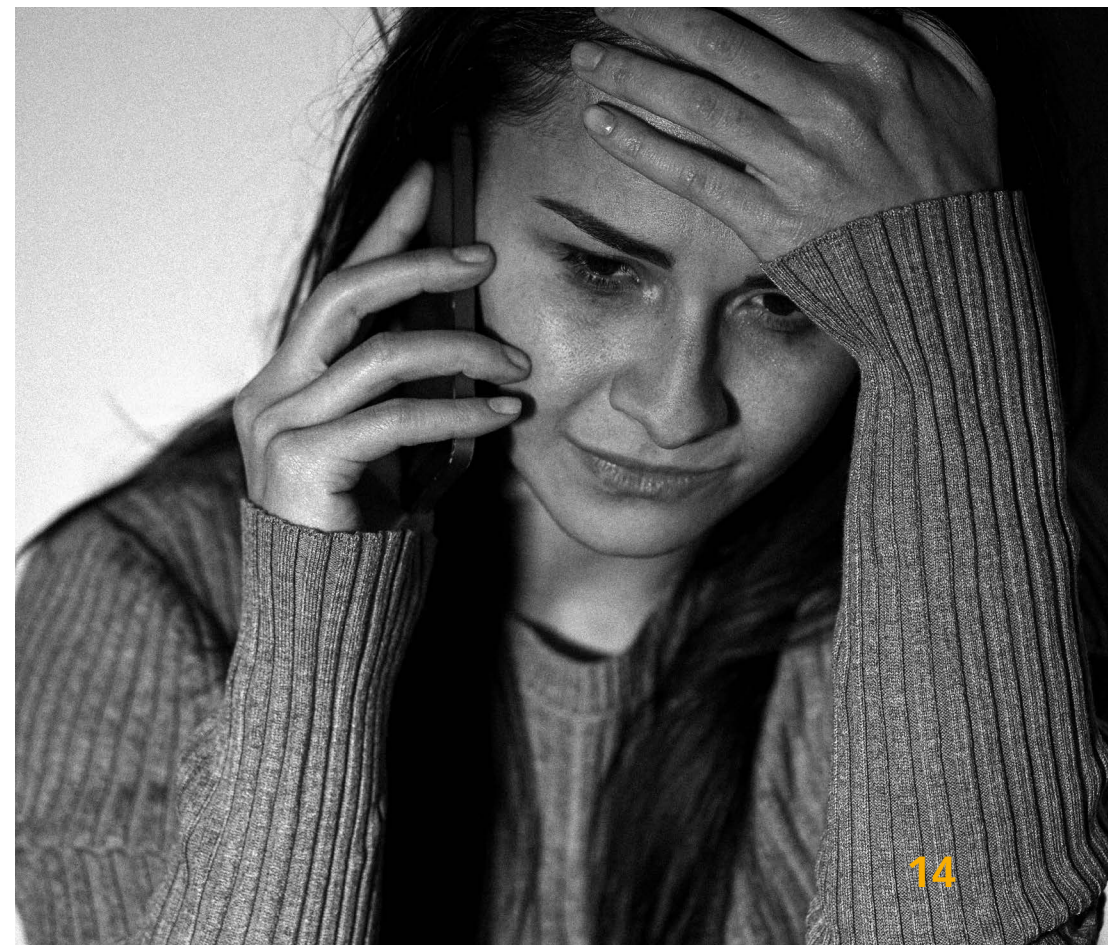
These findings help shape what partnerships like DALP prioritise:



Only 20% of victims

report domestic abuse to Police. [\[ncdv.org.uk\]](https://ncdv.org.uk)

- Domestic abuse remains “**a national emergency**”, according to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner (Nov 2025). [\[domesticabusecommissioner.uk\]](https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk)
- Emotional abuse is now the most commonly reported form of abuse. [\[domesticabusecommissioner.uk\]](https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk)



Conclusion

The experience of LEAF members such as Nicky demonstrates the lasting impact of investing in survivor engagement. From first attending LEAF as a survivor seeking support, she now contributes to local and national awareness raising activity and is pursuing a role as a Special Constable, helping to support others affected by domestic abuse.

2025-2026 was a year of strong progress, delivered in challenging circumstances. DALP partners worked together to:

- raise awareness and prevent abuse
- support victims and families
- strengthen local services
- learn from data and lived experience
- improve safety and accountability
- prepare a refreshed strategy for the next three years

The Partnership enters 2026-2027 with a clear plan, renewed commitments and a strong foundation for delivering the new Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy.

A large, stylized, red cursive script that reads "Thank you". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'T' and 'y'. The color is a vibrant red.

The Telford & Wrekin DALP Board members would like to thank a wide range of people who have supported the development and implementation of the DALP strategy since its creation – especially our domestic abuse survivors, the Chair and members of the Forum, all the front line staff across multiple council teams, our local providers of services and support and wider partner and community organisations.

This annual report shows the power of our local partnership work in tackling domestic abuse in Telford and Wrekin.