

My ID	Do you live or work in Brighton & Hove? - Q1	Are you filling the survey in as: - Q2	Are you filling the survey in as: - Other individual:	Are you filling the survey in as: - Your organisation name:	Are you filling the survey in as: - Your job title:	How much do you agree or disagree that the six priorities set out in the strategy are the right ones? - Q3
1	Yes	Other individual (please provide details below)	Resident and interested party			Agree
2	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Strongly agree
3	Yes	Someone who works in services		LGBT Switchboard		Strongly agree
4	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree
5	Yes	Someone who works in services				Agree
6	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Agree
7	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Agree
8	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly disagree
9	Yes	Someone who works in services		RISE		Neither agree nor disagree
10	Yes	Someone who works in services				Agree
11	Yes	Someone who works in services		Switchboard		Strongly agree
12	Yes	Someone who works in services				Agree
13	Yes	Other individual (please provide details below)		Switchboard		Strongly agree
14	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree
15	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree
16	Yes	Other individual (please provide details below)	Member of the public			Strongly agree
17	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly disagree
18	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree
19	Yes	Someone who works in services				Strongly agree
20	Yes	An organisation (please provide your name and job title below)		Sanctuary Supported Living		Strongly agree
21	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse	I also work in services	YMCA DLG		Neither agree nor disagree
22	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly agree
23	Yes	Someone who works in services		Brighton and Hove Childrens Services	Social Worker	Agree
24	Yes	Someone who works in services				Agree
25	No	Someone who works in services				Agree
26	Yes	Someone who works in services		Brighton & Hove City Council		Agree
27	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree
28	Yes	Someone who works in services				Agree
29	Yes	Someone who works in services				Agree
30	Yes	Other individual (please provide details below)		My Sister's House		Disagree
31	No	Other individual (please provide details below)				Strongly disagree
32	No	Other individual (please provide details below)				Strongly agree
33	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly agree
34	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Disagree
35	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly agree
36	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly agree
37	Yes	Someone who works in services				Strongly agree
38	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Agree
39	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly disagree

40	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Neither agree nor disagree
41	No	Someone who works in services				Agree
42	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Strongly agree
43	No	Someone who works in services				Agree
44	No	A family member or friend of a survivor				Neither agree nor disagree

45	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Neither agree nor disagree
46	No	A family member or friend of a survivor				Agree



47	Yes	Other individual (please provide details below)				Disagree
48	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly disagree
49	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree
50	Yes	An organisation (please provide your name and job title below)				Strongly agree



51	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Disagree
52	No	A family member or friend of a survivor				Disagree



53	No	A family member or friend of a survivor				Neither agree nor disagree
54	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse		n/a	n/a	Strongly agree
55	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Strongly agree
56	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Agree
57	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree
58	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Neither agree nor disagree
59	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree

60	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Disagree
61	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Agree

62	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor			Not Answered
63	No	Someone who works in services			Disagree
64	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Strongly disagree
65	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Agree
66	No	Someone who works in services			Agree
67	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Strongly disagree

68	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor			Neither agree nor disagree
69	No	Someone who works in services			Strongly disagree
70	No	A family member or friend of a survivor			Not Answered
71	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Disagree
72	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Strongly agree
73	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Strongly disagree

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74	No	A family member or friend of a survivor			Neither agree nor disagree
75	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Strongly disagree
76	No	A family member or friend of a survivor			Disagree
77	No	A family member or friend of a survivor			Disagree
78	No	Someone who works in services			Strongly disagree
79	No	Other individual (please provide details below)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Neither agree nor disagree
80	No	A survivor of domestic abuse			Disagree
81	Yes	Someone who works in services	[Redacted]	SPIN (Single Parent Information Network)	Strongly agree
82	Yes	An organisation (please provide your name and job title below)	[Redacted]	Youth Advice Centre	Strongly agree
83	Yes	Someone who works in services		Rise	Strongly agree

84	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Disagree
85	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Neither agree nor disagree
86	No	A family member or friend of a survivor				Strongly disagree
87	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Disagree
88	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Neither agree nor disagree
89	Yes	An organisation (please provide your name and job title below)	Stonewater			Agree
90	No	A family member or friend of a survivor				Neither agree nor disagree
91	Yes	A survivor of domestic abuse				Disagree
92	Yes	Someone who works in services	RISE			Agree
93	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Neither agree nor disagree
94	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Neither agree nor disagree
95	Yes	Other individual (please provide details below)		n/a	n/a	Neither agree nor disagree
96	No	A survivor of domestic abuse				Neither agree nor disagree
97	Yes	A family member or friend of a survivor				Disagree

98 Yes
1

Other individual (please provide details below)
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Neither agree nor disagree
1

1

How much do you agree or disagree that the six priorities set out in the strategy are the right ones? - If you disagree, what would you suggest?

This ignores the most obvious fact about DV that poses genuine danger to life: it is overwhelmingly male on female. Sex-separate services MUST be offered; no female survivor running for her life with her children wants to be in situations open to male strangers, regardless what reasons those male strangers give for being in that space. Coercion and lying is central to domestic violence. We know we cannot trust males who seek to control and secure access to us.

There are broad brush elements that I would agree with but I think it is important to have a more nuanced approach which this survey does not allow. For example - there is no focus on the need for a national network for DVA - important to have a wider focus as there will likely always be a need for survivors/children to flee out of area. Also I cannot see any reference to provision being proportionate to needs. In addition there are places where the word gender is used when there should be a reference to the protected characteristic of sex. It's difficult to respond fully when we are not able to see the evidence base behind these proposals - community consultation is important as is local data but national and international research needs to be part of the context too. I can't see the evidence for having a 'one front door' approach and we have experience of this approach excluding the most excluded survivors. I can't also see an evidence base for male refuge provision - I am aware that this has been tested previously and failed - what is the need data used to make this decision?

I feel really concerned that "Responsive" only mentions support for Multiple Complex Needs when the strategy highlights numerous groups requiring specialist support in safe accommodation. I would think this completely negates the consultation findings and suggests this client group is being prioritised over all the other groups including those with protected characteristics

I'd like some provision/ priority around assertive engagement.

Multiple Complex Needs is mentioned but i've worked with people who are categorised as such and rarely what our service understands as assertive is seen from other practises.

People can make huge strides to engage with a service particularly where there is domestic violence present intertwined with co-dependency, complex trauma, substance misuse and often, a person may stop engaging for a period due to any one of these priorities or preventatives and services roll back putting the person in a worse position than before because they've lost that little bit of faith in a service.

I would suggest including "flexibility" as part of this strategy. I work supporting people who are experiencing homelessness, who often have multiple and complex needs and who struggle to engage with services which have a rigid structure and do not use creative and adaptive methods to engage with service users. Victim centred - this should also be a person-centred approach, looking at how the client wishes to be supported rather than forcing them to follow a specific pathway. I also think it is important to focus on building resilience with clients who have experienced DVA, and I feel this should be included in your strategy.

I feel very strongly that only biological women should have access to these services
By inclusive to all, do you include men, and all male bodied people? Because I fundamentally believe that this should be open to biological women only.

It's not that I necessarily disagree, but a lot of them are very vague and I don't know what they would mean in practice? What does multi agency working mean? And why does it have to be all the way across Sussex? I think it needs to be clearer about kids and children.

Ensuring a focus on women and children, who are the most affected by domestic abuse. A wider focus on protected characteristics prevents this focus.

Which recommendations would you prioritise? - Your top choice:
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Local services based and rooted in the local communities are better than than standardised 'off the peg' services across sussex.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

You have missed out a whole section on 'perpetrator accountability'.

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

On Accessible and Inclusive, all victims should have access to support but not to the same support. A service should not have to cater to everyone. Some services should be for women only and provided only by specialist women's organisations. There should be alternative and specialist support for men and trans people to ensure that all victims are safe and receive the best support.

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

It is important that the services are locally based and tailored to the reality of the communities rather than consistent offer across Sussex. Priorities sound fine, but we'd need to know how exactly are they going to be implemented?

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

I disagree that it is desirable to prioritising consistency across Sussex. The needs of B&H people who have experienced domestic abuse may well be different than people in other parts of Sussex. I think it is essential that service providers are aware of local provision of resources and services in order to signpost survivors well.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Support for those unable to leave a mortgaged property with the abuser as there is/was nothing for me, he knows where I am he still has control I cannot remove him without contact

Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

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Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

You talk about "diverse and appropriate" but this appears to boil down to ignoring the protected characteristic of BIOLOGICAL SEX and thereby removing single sex services and refuges for female victims of domestic abuse. Your blatant support of the notion of gender identity as something that is self identified rather than something that has to be evidenced through commitment or a GRC will lead to abusive men being able to turn up on the doorstep of refuges and demand entry as you will have done away with the boundaries which women have fought for for years to protect themselves with - the boundary that is single sex services; the last protection women have from violent men. Note that breaking down/ignoring/trampling boundaries is one of the FIRST tactics an abuser uses. Sussex is a diverse area. The needs of people in Brighton and Hove may well not be the same as those elsewhere in the county. Your aim to make services "consistent" risks providing a one-size-fits-all service which neglects the needs of women in different areas. Brighton and Hove has a large LGBT+ community. It may well be appropriate for B&H to provide specific services for transgender victims of DA - although B&H does also need to provide single sex services for women too. The need for transgender services may well be much lower elsewhere in the county. Your "trauma informed" approach is extremely naïve about the realities of being a domestic abuse survivor. I will go into more detail on this below I disagrees with accessible and inclusive as this in reality means eroding sex specific services.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

I was born in Shoreham, brought up there and in Lancing and Littlehampton. Most of my extended family still live in the Brighton area or West Sussex. One has suffered from domestic violence, as have some of my friends in the area. Services for violence survivors need to be strongly based in their communities, using local knowledge and resources. Women are often isolated by their domestic abusers, as a way of controlling them. Services need to counteract this.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

The term multiple complex needs is offensive, the needs are not complex. When accessible and inclusive must be sex separated.

Do you include 'gender identity' as a protected characteristic? Do you rank it higher than 'sex'.

Concerned with victim empowerment, the duty its for survivors from anywhere, they may have left the city to move in with a violent partner. It should be victim centred and accommodation is provided which is suitable, safe and affordable as to enable survivors more of a choice. Previously council officers have denied duties and I fear this will lead to the council simply washing hands of clients.

I am worried about the sussex wide, the funding was given to this city, therefore we should focus this on those who turn to this council for help. There are already sussex wide organisations out there with funding for homelessness support.

Holistic Service which utilises those with lived experience to peer work and help to break cycles. Again we have some amazing holistic services in the city, look at these routes. A care package. Exclusive offers for victims who show a card at places which would improve health and improve inclusion.

Closer working with NHS provide acceptable and commitment therapy to those in need. Empowerment therapy, ensure mental health checks and assessment are carried out.

A lot of survivors will have multiple complex needs, we should ensure where there is support they stay, no victims should be placed outside of the city, unless its not safe in this city, in which case council should be looking to take accommodations inhouse to ensure the support staff are there.

We have had a lot of cases where services contracted out have failed service users. We cannot pass this to the third sector.

I would add also, the better training of all frontline staff on domestic violence/ abuse issues to better help them understand the new laws and how they can best ensure no victim or survivor is ever turned away or fobbed off again by this council.

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

You have failed to ensure that domestic abuse provision will ensure that some services will remain single sex and made them generic
Centering women in single sex provision of services. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

There needs to be service for women only, where women means female.
Single sex only facilities.

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Services should be community based, responding to local needs rather than ensuring equal provision across the whole of Sussex.
Knowledge of local support networks is crucial.
Priorities must be supported by practical action.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

There is a crucial need for a Women only centred service to stop this service only allows Women as a individual distinct and Protected by law to be subsumed from the grassroots ethos of those Women who sought to protect Women with a clear concise distinct space and place of safety.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Women only refuges are required. Based on sex not "gender" which has no legal definition and means even less with self-id. Also do not lump LGB with TQ. Very different groups. Please make specialist trauma skills and knowledge the driver of provision.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

The strategies are mostly good however one of them involves collaboration. I would suggest that in order to fulfil the mantra of collaboration the best way to that is to collaborate with women and girls who are the vast majority of victims of domestic violence to ensure their safety from male violence within the shelters.

Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

Local services that connect with communities, and are embedded in the community is important
Different areas may have different needs; an urban area with a high ethnic minority will have different requirements to one that is primarily rural and white.

Services should be knowledgeable and familiar with local resources and networks.

Strategic priorities are meaningless without action

The priorities are fine, but support for them is not evident in the overall strategy.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

There is nothing about the overwhelming tide of violence against women and girls. Most domestic violence is perpetrated by men in a patriarchal society which is biased against women.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

All strategic priorities should lead to appropriate, targeted action focussed on outcomes for key groups of people. The listed SPs need to be reframed to demonstrate clarity in this regard.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

All strategic priorities should lead to appropriate, targeted action focussed on outcomes for key groups of people. The listed SPs need to be reframed to demonstrate clarity in this regard.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

"Inclusive" of all protected characteristics will lead to women being excluded (or excluding themselves) if females want single sex space, as permitted under EA2010, but your service provision includes male sex. If it's proportionate means of legitimate aim women only services should mean female only, as allowed by law.
Services such as domestic violence, rape refuge need to be tailored to the survivor's needs. For women this means women only services since their trauma is further exacerbated by the presence of males, even if those males believe they are not males. This is catered for with EA2010. It is the one area where other people's subjective notions should not be entertained. However, there should be services for trans identifying males specifically to meet their needs.

Other (please provide details below)
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

It can't possibly be victim focussed if it's also fully inclusive. Selfid is a massive issue and is illegally being classed as a protected characteristic. This will make women, the most likely victims of DV self exclude

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

As a an ongoing service user who's experienced a huge disruption to services and who i no facing services which are neither trauma informed or professional, my deep belief is that our city, community, survivor an families ultimately need need community-based services.

To me this means that rather than a one size fits all pan Sussex approach when each local authority demographic is so different in terms of needs, that the services for each area should ultimately be locally based and therefore able to respond quickly and appropriately, and to have those services based in communities.

I am sure that my needs as a Brighton resident are different from women in other areas for so many reasons, including housing shortage and costs and domestic abuse service availability.

Local services work because they are experienced in delivering what's needed with relevant resources and from their existing networks.

With regard to strategic planning, I would note that strategic priorities are meaningless without action and whilst some of these are laudable and seem relevant, the rest of this draft strategy does not actually support them in practice.

I wonder if sex is one of the protected characteristics which you plan to take into account ot has gender override this?

Because it does not recognise that

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Research shows that 90% of victims are female. Men are usually the predominant perpetrator and women are usually the predominant victim.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Unfortunately I disagree, however:

Consistent and Collaborative: Promoting multi-agency and partnership commissioning and working to ensure a consistent offer across Sussex. I AGREE

Diverse and Appropriate: Providing a wide range of appropriate safe accommodation and support options. I AGREE -if 'diverse' means to offer services to disable survivors, regardless of skin colour ect -but if 'diverse' means to redefine other language such as what a 'woman' is, then I DISAGREE.

Accessible and Inclusive: Ensuring services are accessible to all victims/survivors and meet the specific needs of those with the full range of protected characteristics. I AGREE -but it is reasonable to exclude on the basis of sex, for single sex exemptions and to keep group therapy or provide same-sex therapy. It is deeply unfortunate that 'inclusive' has come to mean it actually excludes survivors as there are survivors who do not want to speak to, or in front of, the opposite sex.

Responsive: Establishing specialist provision to support victims/survivors with Multiple Complex Needs. I AGREE.

Victim-centred: Empowering victims/survivors through expanding choices and enabling. I AGREE - sadly I think tis is ver seriously lacking, based on my points above, women are self-excluding and they are not empowered at all, they are told they are bigots and are transphobic when they themselves try to centre themselves in their own trauma!

more victims/survivors to remain in their own homes

Trauma-informed: Embedding trauma-informed practice in services and processes through training and specialist knowledge

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I think these priorities are largely meaningless because they are not backed up with clear proposals in the rest of the strategy.

For example, if it is a priority to provide trauma-informed services, then it is essential that women must have access to single-sex refuge and support services. This does not appear to be a priority for action, and therefore the statement that services will be trauma-informed is empty.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Stonewater welcomes the emphasis on the six priorities in the Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support 2021-2024, however the strategy does not focus on early intervention and prevention. As a county we need to ensure that victim/survivors (adults and children) are supported at an early stage and provided with options to remain safe at home to prevent homelessness including holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

The strategy speaks of a consistent offer across Sussex. However, the needs of people in different areas of Sussex are not the same. The demographic is very different and the response needs to be tailored, rooted in the community and properly funded. A one size fits all just ends up with everyone with badly fitting clothes.

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

The strategy maybe 'overarching' but it is missing local detail.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

In theory the strategic priorities sound good but I would disagree that a consistent offer across Sussex is the right way forward. The needs of survivors and their children will be different in rural parts of the county to those in towns. Services need to be locally based and rooted in communities. A 'collaborative' approach to services is often used but what does it mean in practice..often too many people involved and asking survivors the same questions over and over so there should be detail and clarity on this process.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

The priorities are good but I am concerned about the rest of the strategy and whether this supports these priorities in practice.

I would like to see local community based domestic and sexual violence services which address the needs of survivors in Brighton and Hove which may differ from the needs of survivors in other parts of Sussex. Services would ideally be familiar with local resources and networks and need to be knowledgeable.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

services should be familiar with with other local resources, this supports the ongoing journey for people accessing the service.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Services need to be tailored to the needs of survivors locally and delivered by trusted partners with whom they can build relationships to sort them through the long road to recovery. Also it's difficult to see how the strategy actually supports your supposed priorities

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

I support most of these priorities, but am concerned that these are outweighed by other strategic decisions that undermine policies and actions that try to put the needs of survivors first. It is important for the services to be community based and run by appropriately qualified people who are familiar with local resources and networks.

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
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Which recommendations would you prioritise? - Choice 2:

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists

Which recommendations would you prioritise? - Choice 3:

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Which recommendations would you prioritise? - Choice 4:

Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors
Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Other (please provide details below)
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Other (please provide details below)
Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25

Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Other (please provide details below)

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Other (please provide details below)

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Other (please provide details below)

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Other (please provide details below)

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
1

Other (please provide details below)
1

1

Which recommendations would you prioritise? - Choice 5:

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support
Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists
Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Accessible and Inclusive: consider units for male victims/survivors

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs

Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children
Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process
Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention
Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Which recommendations would you prioritise? - If you ticked 'other' please provide details here:

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training

Other (please provide details below)

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Victim-centred: re-housing of perpetrators

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training
Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Responsive: explore service options for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: tailored for victims/survivors aged 16-25
Trauma-informed: consider co-locating housing specialists

Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Accessible and Inclusive: tailored more directly to older people
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Other (please provide details below)
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Diverse and appropriate: broader menu of accommodation options

Single sex provision for safe safes for women - totally exclusive of male-bodied person regardless of how they identify. Trans identified males need separate services.

Accessible and Inclusive: dedicated, personalised and holistic support for children & young people

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish
Accessible and Inclusive: options for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups
Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Accessible and Inclusive: offer minimum standard of care and support

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Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs

Accessible and Inclusive: improve services for disabled victims/survivors
Diverse and appropriate: more accommodation for women with children

Victim-centred: help people to remain at home if they wish

Accessible and Inclusive: cultural and immigration rights awareness training

Support for Young Men and Boys

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training
Accessible and Inclusive: increase services for LGBTQ+ victims/survivors

Other (please provide details below)

Suggestion below

Victim-centred: promote and invest in 'Whole Family' intervention

Trauma-informed: explore a single point of contact approach

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Responsive: holistic support for those with multiple complex needs
Accessible and Inclusive: offer accessible housing application process

Women need to feel safe and provision of safe accommodation can save lives, women need good keyworkers and move on support

Other (please provide details below)

the specific needs of women are not considered in the accessible and inclusive section - there is no section for the protected characteristic of sex

Trauma-informed: consistent trauma-informed practice training

Sussex local authorities should provide more safe accommodation for women survivors of domestic abuse and their children, which are the largest constituency needing these services. It is also important to take into account that there may be other access issues and needs, such as disabilities, ethnicity and language, etc. In addition and recognising that men and trans-women identifying males may sometimes be victims of domestic violence, separate, proportionate and appropriate services should be provided for them, but not at locations being accessed by women and children.

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1

Which recommendations would you prioritise? - Your comments about your choices:

Is there anything that needs to change in the strategy? - Q5

No
Not Answered

How can you talk about being inclusive when you use so many acronyms and none are explained.

Yes

Great that lots of specific groups are included - but MEN don't specifically get a mention. WHY?

Yes
Not Answered
No
No

We need the basics to protect ourselves and our children, and to minimise the impact and trauma to our children.

Yes

There are clearly some overlaps in these recommendations and so some responses will likely be arbitrary

Yes

Most women would prefer to stay in their own homes and have the perpetrator removed. This would mean they could stay in their place of work and continue to be near their local support networks and GP surgeries. It would also avoid the upheaval children experience when they move to a refuge (eg. moving schools and losing contact with friends and family).

Many more refuge places are needed. DVA has increased so much during the pandemic and the demand for safe housing has soared; something we are unfortunately unable to meet.

Housing and move on accommodation remains the number 1 issue for many clients. Housing specialists with knowledge of DVA are desperately needed.

Children and young people can often be overlooked so a dedicated and holistic support would benefit them greatly.

No
No

Yes
No
No

Yes
No

Yes
No
No
No

Within my services we witness many DV acts, however due to the nature of the service the clients are young (16-25) they often wish to remain in placement or certainly within the local area. They often do not wish to be placed elsewhere

Yes

As a survivor but also a mental health recovery worker I feel working in a trauma-informed way has to always be the priority when supporting survivors of domestic abuse. This could come in the form of caseworkers coming to survivors as travelling across the city to go to organisations can be not only terrifying but also dangerous. I also feel strongly about re-housing perpetrators as from my personal experience I was left homeless whilst my perpetrator stayed in our home which I was paying rent for as I did not want to default on my rent and get black listed and my landlord/letting agents did not understand my situation. This was not only incredibly upsetting and infuriating but continued the financial abuse I had been victim to for a long time. I was lucky enough to have friends and family to stay with after leaving but I was not offered a hostel/bed through any organisation and I think this should be more of a priority,

Yes
Yes

No
No

All of the recommendations are laudable but I just wanted to give a particular emphasis on the recs that will benefit refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants where there are so many intersecting challenges. Sussex services need to continue to recognise and incorporate the needs of migrants as our demography changes.

Brighton and Hove must not neglect its duty towards trans victims of domestic abuse, especially trans women, amidst current campaigning efforts to roll back their protections and exclude them from women's spaces.

No
No
No

Yes
Yes
Not Answered
No
No

Everyone has the right to live in peace and safety. The disabled should be given special attention due to their needs.

Think it needs more specialist women only, think we need to protect current services and I think we need for all professionals to be clear what domestic abuse is and isn't. I had too many people who didn't get what I told them and sided with him. I also don't think we should be paying for perpetrator services before we make sure children are safe and have the services they need to recover.

Yes
No
No
No
No
Yes

Trauma-informed services must include single-sex provision for women
I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, but the strategy doesn't recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services run by and for women - the large majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.
The Trauma-informed section makes no mention of the need for single-sex accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services are trauma-informed.
The strategy should acknowledge and incorporate the expert analysis of women who have been providing women's services for decades, such as Karen Ingala Smith: <https://kareningalasmith.com/2020/07/08/trauma-informed-services-for-women-subjected-to-mens-violence-must-be-single-sex-services/>

Yes

Appropriate support can only be offered and provided if services have an understanding of the complex interplaying needs of victims. The effects of trauma on women and children are not well understood and women are penalised for behaviour that is a normal response to abuse.

Yes
No

There needs to be a focus on women, either with children or as single women.

Yes
Yes

* replace gender with sex in choice 4.

Sex and gender are not interchangeable, and there is no section for the protected characteristic of sex.
Data on victims and perpetrators must be disaggregated by sex (never by gender identity, although you can add that as well), to enable real monitoring and impact.
Victims/survivors must be able to participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services.
Important to have specialist services run by and for women.

There is no mention of the need for single-sex accommodation and support and this is absolutely essential for many victims/survivors. There has been a reduction in single-sex provision for women.

Yes

Critical to all these priorities are that women (female humans) are provided with access to single-sex services for safeguarding reasons.

Not Answered

Why is there no mention of women under the accessible and inclusive heading - there is a mention on men as a special category? I am sure you are aware that the vast majority (70+%) of survivors of domestic abuse are female. Therefore it is essential that their needs are prioritised. I agree with specialist services for lgbtq+ survivors, but believe services should recognise that women and children are the largest group of service users by far. Also agree with specialist services for survivors from BME groups.

Having worked with women survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse, I strongly assert the need for single sex services and believe that this forms an essential part of a trauma-informed approach to services.

It seems that you intend to reduce the number of single-sex spaces available, which I think shows that you have misunderstood the needs of survivors of domestic abuse - many of whom have experienced multiple incidents of abuse from men/male-bodied people. I note that the strategy says that 'The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups' but the exclusion of women as a special accessible and inclusive group indicates that this is not a priority.

Yes

Simplify and streamline the bureaucracy; the ease and comfort of bureaucrats should not be the design priority. It is the service users who need the help to exit their abusive situations and their needs should be foremost. Only abuse survivors can ensure that this is fit for purpose, not people who have only experienced academic training and are likely to be unable to translate the theory to practical reality. The latter are the designers of most "interventions" which is why most are woefully inadequate.

Yes

Yes
Yes

Women's refuges must be single-sex spaces. There should be separate refuges for men and for transpeople. Also, all research and data should clearly distinguish male and female victims/perpetrators.

Yes
Yes

Certain groups are at particular risk. I would prioritise children, old people and those with disabilities. If I had a 6th choice it would be women from ethnic and religious minorities. They are often at greater risk and with little opportunity to escape or seek help. They may be restricted by family or cultural pressure, language difficulties or enforced isolation.

Yes
No
No
Yes
Not Answered
Not Answered
Not Answered

Transgendered people with a GRC make up about 0.05% of the population. This is the percentage of services and resources which should be allocated to their support. 3 women a week are killed by their partners or ex-partners. You need to concentrate on them.

I would like to see LGBT+ Specific inhouse accommodation, it does not have to be just those suffering dv, it could be a community. I think after these kinds of relationships its nice to have a community, diverse and its also safety in numbers. Max 15 households, covering whole LGBT+ Spectrum.

Again this would include peer support provided by those with lived experience and possibly councillor trained.

Single point of contact. Again this makes it easier, they can be on the side of the survivor / victim and assist them through there journey. As with all the many other third sector organisations offering stuff already to the LGBT+ community.

Again, its not about excluding other groups, I am not sure why were being asked to prioritise. Again I think it's important we focus on this city and the needs we have right now. There are big issues here and we could be seeing so many more being accepted as homeless who would have likely stayed or gone back.

Accommodation standards much be high, the private sector must be avoided.

Buying new assets would mean we keep the asset long term and and retain receipts for housing benefit and rental payments for occupants. Which would generate an income for better services as this new act and the councils duties evolve.

As a survivor, I've found holistic and therapy to be very useful and empowering, getting survivor with mental health issues as a result of long term or even short term abuse is essential, particularly to those who may have also developed unhealthy additions or attachments to the wrong people.

This is about being a safety net, its about believing the victim/ survivor and its about ensuring no one should feel they have to go back to violent and abusive partner. We must monitor leavers for safety reasons and provide great safeguarding. Cctv is essential if survivors have non molestation orders out on exs, as they would gather evidence should they try and breach the terms of the injunction.

Tenants should have excellent tenancy rights and evictions should only be sanctioned by senior staff or via adult / child safeguarding board and recoded as such. Should anything go drastically wrong.

Worried about the way this money is already being earmarked. I am concerned there is a lot of duplication. What we do not have is inhouse projects. Spend the money here. Get our existing assets used / converted and bursting with life again, no more leaving our assets empty or allowing them to be parked by organisations who are not utilising the space. Where the need is greater our assets should be used for that.

Not Answered

Woman means biological woman

Yes

I think not enough is done for the hidden victims - particularly older men and women who will have probably endured for years believing they have no where not go and people with disabilities who will fear having to cope alone. And I think women from religious backgrounds are particularly poorly served.

Not Answered
Not Answered

Centering women in single sex provision of services is vital. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services. Single sex spaces are required for the dignity, safety, and mental health of woman. Gender and class are not protected characteristics. Being able to request female councillors should be available (biological) Please make available female only services that do not include those born male.

No
No
Yes
Yes

All data on perpetrators and victims of abuse must be disaggregated by biological sex, not gender identity, in order to allow the monitoring of the impact of domestic abuse on women.

The document should refer to the protected characteristic of sex (as per the Equality Act 2010), which it does not.

The document fails to take adequate account of the differing needs of male and female victims.

Trauma services must include single sex provision for women, the vast majority of victims, as well as specialist provision for LGBT+ victims.

Single-sex accommodation and support for women must be specified and protected, with separate accommodation and provision for trans women.

There is no discussion in the document of the rationale behind reducing the previous 86 single-sex refuges for women to the 39 now available, contradicting the recommendation that accommodation for women and children should be increased.

Yes

Having witnessed how challenging it is for a woman with children to have the courage to request help, it is worrying that the space she is given as refuge may also house men who identify as women. I asked the survivors that I know, and they all replied that they would absolutely hesitate going for refuge if that were the case

Yes

Trauma should inform your policy. Please avoid lumping victims with diverse needs together. Percentages of category of victim (predominantly women according to most material/publications I've read) should drive allocation of resources.

Yes
Yes
Yes

Yes

Recommendations missing from the list

- The strategy states that "Funding for current and future services for women and girls must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for the other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups for whom services are currently lacking." but this has not been made a specific recommendation. This commitment should be added to the recommendations and given a high priority.
- I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section that "Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services."
- I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. This must be adequately funded, so as not to take resources away from providing services.
- All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex (not gender identity), in order to enable monitoring and understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women.

Women missing from the analysis

- Despite reference to the Equality Act 2010, the specific needs of women are not considered in the Accessible and Inclusive section of the document - there is no section for the protected characteristic of sex.
- Women are included under the heading of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, but not mentioned under any of the other headings. Despite lip service to the idea of intersectionality, the draft strategy fails to take account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups.

6

Trauma-informed services must include single-sex provision for women

- I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, but the strategy doesn't recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services run by and for women - the large majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.
- The Trauma-informed section makes no mention of the need for single-sex accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services are trauma-informed.
- The strategy should acknowledge and incorporate the expert analysis of women who have been providing women's services for decades, such as Karen Ingala Smith: <https://kareningalasmith.com/2020/07/08/trauma-informed-services-for-women-subjected-to-mens-violence-must-be-single-sex-services/> and the women interviewed in Shonagh Dillion's PhD research: <https://shonaghdillion.co.uk/stonewall-and-the-male-violence-against-women-sector/>
- The strategy states that the 47 refuge spaces now provided by Clarion in East Sussex are accepting referrals for trans women. While I support specialist refuge provision for trans women, I am concerned that this could make these refuge spaces inaccessible for those (many) women who need single-sex accommodation.
- Before this change there were 86 refuge spaces available across the county for women who need single-sex accommodation and 4 specialist spaces available for transwomen. If there is no action taken to ensure that some East Sussex refuge spaces remain single-sex, there will now be 51 spaces available for transwomen (mostly without the specialist support they need) and only 39 for women who need single-sex accommodation. This is contrary to the recommendation in the Diverse and Appropriate section, that accommodation for women and children should be increased.
- Given that women are the victims in 71% of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police and trans and nonbinary people only 0.13%, this seems disproportionate
- There is no question in the consultation about this reduction in single-sex provision for women.
- In the Responsive to Multiple Disadvantages section, there is no recognition of the fact that many women with complex needs have had multiple experiences of male violence.

Yes

Why is there only one choice which actually mentions women when the vast majority of domestic abuse victims are women?

Yes

The overwhelming need for an accommodation and support service concerned with domestic violence is a focus on women and children. This is because of the scale of societal violence against women and girls and the sex-based origin of this societal problem: women bear children, young children are largely dependent on their mothers for their development and it is men who are most likely to be the perpetrators of violence and control against them.

Yes

The overwhelming need for an accommodation and support service concerned with domestic violence is a focus on women and children. This is because of the scale of societal violence against women and girls and the sex-based origin of this societal problem: women bear children, young children are largely dependent on their mothers for their development and it is men who are most likely to be the perpetrators of violence and control against them.

Yes

This is discriminatory: Sussex local authorities should increase specialist floating support and dispersed and self-contained units of safe accommodation that can accommodate LGBTQ+ victims/survivors and invest in LGBTQ+ awareness training for frontline practitioners. Trans people should use the services for their sex. No-one should be discriminated against due to sexuality-stop conflating it with "T" e.g. why would "G" be included in services for women & girls? Mixed sex enables abusers access to vulnerable W&G (may even be used to access victims fleeing them).

Yes

No

No

No

Trauma informed practice is key to understanding people and their histories and being able to deliver a high level of service.

Young people are often relocated when victims of abuse, this can be detrimental to their emotional health and well-being.

More support for young boys and men who experience DV, better infrastructure and service support and delivery.

Perpetrator training and anger management course being more widely available.

Yes

Yes

ably, and while strategy seems to have been written without actually centering women who are the main 77% of people experiencing domestic abuse. It has the feel of being written by a group who have already decided that it isn't important to focus resources on violence against women and girls when women are being killed every three days in the UK and there aren't sufficient dedicated resources allocated to address this femicide.

The strategy states that "Funding for current and future services for women and girls must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for the other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups for whom services are currently lacking." but this has not been made a specific recommendation. This commitment should be added to the recommendations and given a high priority but it seems to have been omitted.

I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. This must be adequately funded, so as not to take resources away from providing services.

All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex (not gender identity), in order to enable monitoring and understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women.

Despite reference to the Equality Act 2010, the specific needs of women are not considered in the Accessible and Inclusive section of the document - there is no section for the protected characteristic of sex which is an omission of grand proportions when it is a legislatively recognised characteristic.

Women are included under the heading of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, but not mentioned under any of the other headings. This draft strategy fails to take account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups.

I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, but the strategy doesn't recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services run by and for women - the large majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

Yes
Yes

Women must mean natal women not transwomen who need their own services.

Yes

I would go back to basics and recognise women as adult human females and stop centring males. Services for male survivors can and should be offered in addition and separate to, services for women and girls only.

Whilst all the recommendations are well intentioned, it means nothing if you don't know what a women in.

Although the strategy contains a commitment that "Funding for current and future services for women and girls must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for the other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of their groups for whom services are currently lacking." this is not a specific recommendation. I would like to see this guarantee that women's services will not be reduced included as one of the recommendations and given a high priority.

Yes

I think the evidence base for the strategy is pretty thin, so I support the proposal in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. I would like to see robust data, disaggregated by sex of both victims and perpetrators, so that the proportional needs of different groups can be assessed. As it stands, the strategy does not even mention sex as a protected characteristic. This is incredible, considering the large discrepancy between the numbers of women and men who are victims of domestic abuse.

The strategy recognises that refuge accommodation for women is inadequate in Sussex, but doesn't acknowledge that opening up all refuges in East Sussex to referrals for transwomen is bound to exclude some women from being able to access these services. As Karen Ingala Smith has pointed out (<https://kareningalasmith.com/2020/07/08/trauma-informed-services-for-women-subjected-to-mens-violence-must-be-single-sex-services/>), many women need single-sex services in order to feel safe enough to participate in recovery work. I would like to see an increase in single-sex refuge spaces for women, as well as an increase in specialist support for LGB and trans victims.

Yes

Please be aware of the extreme trauma involved. Women need safe housing. Please also ensure that women can access biological women only spaces. The last think abused women want to see is a biological male in their safe space. Good to see separate provision for LBTQ who have their separate needs for protection too.

No

Yes

I am so cross about the my Choice 5. Prior to April this year, Brighton and East Sussex already had a single point of contact to which the rights were owned by the Councils. When I saw this as an option I was spitting tacks.

The priority has to be proven, evidence based, proportionate support across the victim groups. Stop trying to reinvent the wheel.

Yes

Choices 1 and 2; There are often very few choices for survivors and families locally, in terms of whether to flee or stay - the option to remain at home with adequate safety planning and support from specialist services and reasonable adjustments/safety and security measures in place is rarely an option with no current BHCC sanctuary scheme. Sanctuary schemes mean that survivors can remain near to vital support networks and feel empowered, preventing families from moving into refuges or unfamiliar areas. In addition, schemes where perpetrators are removed and re-housed have been hugely beneficial to those with a DA background nationally. RISE have been funding lock-changes, the installation and provision of video doorbells and additional safety and security measures since June 2021, but more funding is needed to implement broader safety measures, and more joined-up work between specialist DA services and housing is needed to ensure that this work is actioned as safely and swiftly as possible, and in a trauma-informed way.

No

* A keyworker approach whereby survivors have one person as their main point of contact to help them navigate on going support, legal support which prevents survivors having to repeat their story several times over.

* Data on survivors and perpetrators should be defined by Sex and not gender identity so that there is understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on women .

* The trauma informed section does not mention the need for single sex accommodation and support as a key factor to ensure that services are trauma-informed.

Yes

No

The Equality Act 2000 enshrines the specific needs of women but there is no sex-based protection in the Accessible and Inclusive section.

Women are included in Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation but not under other headings. This draft strategy fails to take account of the different needs of female and male victims within the protected characteristic groups.

I would like to see as a specific recommendation and high priority given to funding for current and future services for women and girls which must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups for whom services are currently lacking.

I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section that "Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services"

I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. This must be adequately funded, so as not to take resources away from providing services.

All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex (not gender identity), in order to enable correct monitoring and full understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women.

I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, but the strategy does not recognise the equally compelling need for specialist sex-based services run by and for women - the large majority of victim/survivors of domestic abuse.

The Trauma-informed section makes no mention of the need for single-sex accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services are trauma-informed.

The strategy should acknowledge and incorporate the expert analysis of women who have been providing women's services for decades such as Karen Ingala Smith and Shonagh Dillion

The strategy states that the 46 refuge spaces now provided by Clarion in East Sussex are accepting referrals for trans women, I am concerned that this could make these refuge spaces inaccessible for many women who need single sex accommodation.

Before this change, there were 86 refuge spaces available across the county for women who need single sex accommodation and 4 specialist spaces available for transwomen. If there is not action taken to ensure that some East Sussex refuge spaces remain single-sex, there sill now be 51 spaces available for transwomen (mostly without the specialist support they need) and only 39 for women who need single sex accommodation. This is contrary to the Diverse and Appropriate section, that accommodation for women and children should be increased.

Given that women are victims of 71% of domestic abuse recorded by the police and trans and non-binary people only 0.13% this seems disproportionate

There is no question in this consultation about this reduction in single-sex provision for women.

In the Responsive to Multiple Disadvantages section, there is no recognition of the fact that many women with complex needs have had multiple experiences of male violence

Yes

women are included under the heading of gender identity and sexual identity, but not mentioned under any other headings. Despite lip service to the idea of intersectionality, the draft strategy fails to take into account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups

Yes

Yes

Sussex local authorities should provide more safe accommodation for women survivors of domestic abuse and their children, which are the largest constituency needing these services. It is also important to take into account that there may be other access issues and needs, such as disabilities, ethnicity and language, etc. In addition and recognising that men and males who identify as trans women may sometimes be victims of domestic violence, provision also needs to be made for their needs, including separate, proportionate and appropriate services; but these should not be at locations being accessed by women and children, or in any way be an excuse for replacing or downgrading the domestic abuse services needed by women and their children.

2 - Accessible and inclusive – all women in safe accommodation should receive adequate standards of care and support, which should including being assigned a competent key worker and move-on support.

3 – Accessible and inclusive - ethnic

As noted above, I agree that Sussex local authorities should investigate specialist safe accommodation for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups and people with 'No Recourse to Public Funds'.

COMMENTS ABOUT MY CHOICES AND WHAT IS MISSING FROM THE LIST

I'm concerned about what is missing from the list, notably the specific needs of women. In the various sections, there is no specific section for the protected characteristic of sex as recognised in the 2010 Equality Act.

Despite giving lip service to the idea of intersectionality, the draft strategy fails to take account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups. Women have also been lumped in under a general heading of gender identity and sexual orientation, which is completely inappropriate. Women are by far the largest demographic of victims and survivors of sex-based violence, and this is of determining relevance, notwithstanding our identities/choices around sexual attraction or whether we conform to genderised stereotypes.

The needs of women and girls must be made sustainable and independently funded and prioritised separate from – and alongside – the needs of other groups, but this was not included as a specific recommendation. This needs to be included and given high priority.

I support the recommendation in the 'Consistent and Collaborative' section to improve data collection. This should be adequately funded so as not to take resources away from providing services.

All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex – not gender identities – in order to enable monitoring and understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women and girls.

I support the recommendation in the 'Consistent and Collaborative' section that 'Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services.'

I was shocked to discover that the Trauma-informed section has no recognition of the need for single-sex accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services for women and girls are trauma-informed.

While I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, I am deeply concerned to discover that the strategy does not recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services run by and for women – the largest majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

Trauma-informed services must include single-sex provision by and for women.

Yes

1

1

Is there anything that needs to change in the strategy? - If you said yes, please tell us what:

Is there anything missing from the strategy? - Q6
Not Answered
Not Answered

Refuge services need to be explicit about their support options for trans clients in particular, not just the LGBTQ* Community. This includes their policies on admitting trans & genderqueer women, regardless of presentation. The burden of responsibility for trans survivors to 'pass' in order to access services creates additional barriers. This is noted in the 'inconsistencies and gaps' section, but there are no plans to address this inconsistency. There needs to be centralised support for trans people with high needs who would benefit from a refuge service.

Yes

Additionally, it has to be acknowledged that the LGBTQ* community frequently has intersections with other marginalisations. This means that ANY accommodation for disabled people must also be accessible to LGBTQ* people, that the LGBTQ* accommodation is set up for people with MCNs (or that the specialist accommodation for people with MCN explicitly provides for LGBTQ* people, INCLUDING trans people).

Don't forget men

Yes
Not Answered
Yes
Yes

"The full range of protected characteristics" will be internally contradictory. Women, including and especially women of faith and certain ethnicities, need single-sex provision, with accommodation for children (obviously children of both sexes). Evidence base needs to be clear.

Yes

Commitment to supporting and resourcing and engaging with local experts in DVA the field long term should be included - building and supporting their capacity to provide specialist services and build on community capacity.

There should be a focused section on vawg which then related to local vawg strategies

A focus on the national picture and DVA prevention and recovery needs to be built in with collaboration across counties and areas.

The strategy should focus on a whole community response not just a service response - domestic abuse is everyone's business and is in every community.

Yes

No
No

See additions below.

Not Answered
No
No

The ambitious scale of the strategy while admirable will be difficult to deliver on with limited funds and funding therefor needs to be prioritised and apportioned according to demand and need which is well evidenced and documented. There is no recognition in the strategy that women and girls are overwhelmingly the majority victims of domestic abuse and funding to other minority victims like men and GB & T should not be at the disadvantage of women and girls. This is a very gender neutral document and there is no acknowledgement that what women and girl survivors need and have asked for in the consultation groups is "safe single sex " refuge and support services as is their legal right under the Equalities Act.

Yes
No

It has a very narrow focus and is not balanced. There whole section on multiple complex needs accommodation but not in all the other areas of need. One might think this was influenced by someone with backing substance misuse. It has not stated the full definition of DA as per DAAAct, it has not explored the new duties for Homeless Decisions or temporary accommodation requirements. In addition, it is ludicrous to prioritise Family Safeguarding Model which is designed for those cases which are just under safeguarding level. It is a different policy area and not directly linked to the needs of the majority of those affected by DA. It has not explored the needs of those with low pets to be accommodated with victims

Yes
Yes
No
No

This may come from a position of naivety but why the weight in the priorities on keeping people in their homes?

I'd also like to say that this is so fantastic to see and so many brilliant people have worked so hard for this. But, the provisions here are targetted interventions not preventions. That could funnel so much money in to nothing. Work around prevention would benefit the great elements in this proposal.

Yes

Having ongoing support for survivors who have fled domestic abuse; the trauma stays, it doesn't just go as soon as you have left. The symptoms of trauma are huge and can impact on your ability to live a fulfilling life.

Also more support for legal advice; going to courts can be incredibly stressful and complicated so having free advice would be incredibly beneficial.

Needs to be more services generally to meet the need

Yes
No

No
No

No
No
No

An emphasis on the fact that these services are for biological women.

Yes
No
Not Answered
No
No

More focus on children, economic abuse, post separation abuse, use of CMS and family courts and the overwhelming propensity of professionals to take his side. Maybe something about health and schools?

Not Answered
No
No
No
No
Yes

It needs to focus on women and children, and clearly define those to mean human females. Those are the people in need.

The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse

- The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society.
- In the section entitled Understanding Domestic Abuse, figures are given which show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse (these are based on the ONS Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2019).
- The same source notes that “In 75% of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019, the victim was female.” and “Between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2018, 74% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 13% of victims of non-domestic homicide.”
- These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy - instead, domestic abuse is defined as something which can affect anyone “regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background.” The strategy starts from the viewpoint of local authorities, not women
- The strategy is narrowly focused on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, to assess and plan “accommodation-based support”.
- Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn’t look at the needs of women holistically. Accommodation-based support is separated off from community-based support, which is considered to be outside the scope of this strategy.

Yes

There needs to be a stronger focus on the understanding that this is abuse against women and children. By trying to be all inclusive you lose the main cohort of victims.

Yes

No

Focus on provision of services by 'by and for' organisations - ie organisations led and staffed by Black and minoritised women to support those women, women-only organisations, organisations 'by and for' Deaf and disabled women, etc. Provision of services by larger organisations meant to cater to all survivors do not and cannot have the same understanding of victims' needs as specialist 'by and for' organisation. This should be a key part of the 'Accessible and Inclusive' and 'Diverse and Appropriate' aims. More focus on safe housing and refuges for women, including women with young children.

Yes

Yes

The strategy format excludes women who have experienced domestic abuse:

- The strategy is not written in accessible language for ordinary members of the public and the format of the strategy and consultation are not trauma-informed, for example showing a list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities, inaccessible to survivors with concentration or emotional issues.

The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse

- The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society. It reads as if domestic abuse can affect anyone “regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background.” when statistics show a different reality.
- Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, and it starts from the viewpoint of local authorities, it doesn’t look at the overall needs of women, for example separating accommodation from community-based support.
- This doesn’t make sense from the point of view of actual victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Yes

Yes

There seems little understanding (or interest) shown in the needs of women survivors - and the strategy lacks any feminist analysis of domestic abuse as part of a wider pattern of male violence against women. ONS domestic abuse analysis states that in police figures for domestic abuse crimes, 75% of victim/survivors were women. This is not recognised in the strategy which seems to stress that domestic violence can happen to anyone 'regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic background, sexuality or background'. Although this is true, the statistics show that women are much much more likely to experience domestic abuse and therefore they should be central to any review of service provision.

I have to say I am so sad reading this strategy and thinking of the women who will be failed by new

Yes

Too much

Yes

3) what way is it "inclusive" to prioritise a single demographic? Women, children & men of any age group can be abused and we are all human. If you focus on human experiences of trauma and recovery, then the service will be truly inclusive as well as less complex. One service provider not a fragmentation

Not Answered

Yes

You ignore the protected characteristic of biological sex. You need to re-write the strategy to properly include this protected characteristic. Services and service needs assessments need to include data collection and analysis using biological sex (not just gender identity) as a key variable. Biological women are by far the biggest victims of domestic violence. Please stop erasing them from your analysis.

In your section on "trauma informed" you refer to how it would be desirable for survivors to only need to produce, for example, a single document to evidence their situation. This misses the fact that many victims of domestic abuse have to evidence their situation and experience through the family court - often through years of ongoing litigation from perpetrators who use the family court as an additional arena for abuse. All family court proceedings are strictly confidential. Survivors are forbidden from providing or even relaying the details of court findings or child arrangement orders to third parties. This is a problem with the family justice system, but to provide services from these victims you need to understand it.

I support the provision of services for trans-women, but this needs to be done through separate services, not through removing single-sex services for female survivors of male violence. Female survivors of male violence are not there to validate the gender identity of transwomen, and asking them to share facilities risks re-traumatising and also alienating women from these services - particularly with the current emphasis on permitting self ID of "gender". Single sex services for female victims of DA are entirely within the remit of the 2010 Equality Act, they need to be expanded, not reduced as is your current plan. As your own strategy makes clear, women are by far the biggest victims of domestic abuse. Please re-centre them in your domestic abuse strategy ensuring that there is a range of services for victims including those for women only and trans inclusive.

Yes

Yes

The document ignores women – one of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act. Gender is not a protected characteristic (though gender reassignment is). As women are the main victims of violence, usually at the hands of men, this is a massive flaw.

Yes

No

No

Yes

There needs to be a recognition that specialist service providers are preferred

Not Answered

Yes

Not Answered

Worried about the way this money is already being earmarked. I am concerned there is a lot of duplication. What we do not have is inhouse projects. Spend the money here. Get our existing assets used / converted and bursting with life again, no more leaving our assets empty or allowing them to be parked by organisations who are not utilising the space. Where the need is greater our assets should be used for that.

Yes

Woman must be defined as biological women

Yes

Centering women in single sex provision of services is vital. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.	Not Answered Not Answered
Please ensure there are female only services that do not include those born male. Single sex only safe spaces. 'Gender' is irrelevant.	Yes No Not Answered Yes
The strategy needs a clear emphasis on the fact that domestic violence overwhelmingly involves women as victims and men as perpetrators.	
It also needs to be written in more accessible language, so that all stakeholders can meaningfully engage with it.	Yes
Women and Children refuge spaces only its a logical conclusion for women fleeing domestic violence and abuse.	Yes
Sex-based segregation is paramount for women to feel psychological and physical safety when fleeing male violence. This is for every woman and even more severe when the woman is accompanied by children As above. Resource allocation should be according to category of victim.	Not Answered Yes Not Answered
The strategy discusses rooms for LGBTQ but doesn't discuss whether the strategy will ensure that these spaces are single sex. In order to ensure the physical safety of women and girls this space should remain for biological women and females only. It would be helpful if the survey would confirm that the spaces are single sex and for biological women only.	Yes
The strategy format excludes women who have experienced domestic abuse	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy is not written in plain, accessible language that ordinary members of the public can understand. It uses a lot of sector-specific jargon and acronyms. Even if translated into community languages, it does not approach the subject in ways that are meaningful or accessible for different community groups. The strategy needs at least a glossary adding, and this must be at the beginning not the end. The format of the strategy and consultation themselves are not trauma-informed, for example a confusing list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities will be inaccessible to survivors who have issues with concentration, energy and/or who are triggered by reading it. 	
The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society. In the section entitled Understanding Domestic Abuse, figures are given which show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse (these are based on the ONS Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2019). The same source notes that "In 75% of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019, the victim was female." and "Between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2018, 74% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 13% of victims of non-domestic homicide." These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy - instead, domestic abuse is defined as something which can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background." 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> he strategy starts from the viewpoint of local authorities, not women The strategy is narrowly focused on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, to assess and plan "accommodation-based support". Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn't look at the needs of women holistically. Accommodation-based support is separated off from community-based support, which is considered to be outside the scope of this strategy. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This doesn't make sense from the point of view of actual victims and survivors of domestic abuse. 	Yes
Actually address that domestic violence is not gender neutral. The huge majority of victims are women and perpetrators are male.	
It does not exist in a vacuum but in a society biased against women.	Yes
The policy discussion on accommodation and support for survivors of dv needs therefore to clearly and unequivocally centre women and their dependent children, particularly those with minimal resources, those of particular ethnicities and those who with variations in physical and mental ability. In addition, a dedicated service for a small group of men with dependent children should be considered. The needs of LGBT DV survivors people should be accommodated within this full range of service provision, but not in contravention of the single sex provisions laid out in the Equality Act of 2010. Your strategy is unclear in this regard; it muddles 'gender' with 'sex' and introduces 'gender identity', a concept not recognised in law.	Yes
The policy discussion on accommodation and support for survivors of dv needs therefore to clearly and unequivocally centre women and their dependent children, particularly those with minimal resources, those of particular ethnicities and those who with variations in physical and mental ability. In addition, a dedicated service for a small group of men with dependent children should be considered. The needs of LGBT DV survivors people should be accommodated within this full range of service provision, but not in contravention of the single sex provisions laid out in the Equality Act of 2010. Your strategy is unclear in this regard; it muddles 'gender' with 'sex' and introduces 'gender identity', a concept not recognised in law.	Yes
" self-contained units of safe accommodation that can accommodate LGBTQ+ victims/survivors"-they either are single or mixed sex. Survivors of DV/Rape need female only Refuges/services-not "mixed sex" pretending to be women only but anyone 9who self lds as woman) can access.	Yes
	Not Answered
	Not Answered No
A minimum standard of care, with advocates available not through the police, to be available.	No
LGBTQ+ refuge provision should be funded long-term. Funding as it stands is too short-term, usually only 12 months at a time. This is not enough time to recruit staff, train staff, locate and set up refuge units and to establish the project. Short-term funding such as this means that we lose momentum, lose specialist expertise and staff and it does not meet the long-term needs of survivors.	Yes

The language of the strategy is confusing and exclusive - it doesn't allow for speakers of other languages to participate in this survey.

The format of the strategy and consultation themselves are not trauma-informed, for example a confusing list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities will be inaccessible to survivors who have issues with concentration, energy and/or who are triggered by reading it. I've taken ages to answer this as it is so complicated and hard to comprehend. I would also factor in that I am exhausted from addressing an ongoing situation with domestic violence and being a working parent. It doesn't facilitate ease of participation.

In the section entitled Understanding Domestic Abuse, figures are given which show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse (these are based on the ONS Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2019).

The same source notes that "In 75% of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019, the victim was female." and "Between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2018, 74% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 13% of victims of non-domestic homicide."

These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy - instead, domestic abuse is defined as something which can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background."

The strategy is narrowly focused on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, to assess and plan "accommodation-based support" Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn't look at the needs of women holistically.

Accommodation-based support is separated off from community-based support, which is considered to be outside the scope of this strategy. This doesn't make sense from the point of view of actual victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Clearly state that female sufferers of dv will be safe and in accomodation and services for women not males of any gender identity.

Yes

Yes

Recognise that DV is mainly perpetrated BY men (penis havers) AGAINST WOMEN

Yes

I would focus on women and girls, recognise their trauma is based on their biological sex and not a 'gender' or 'gender identity' and stop centring males in violence against women and girls. Until this happens it is not possible to place faith in your services and that is a real problem for the women in Brighton and Hove.

Yes

his strategy is written in inaccessible language, which most people (particularly women who have been traumatised by domestic abuse) will find difficult to follow. The consultation therefore doesn't meet its own recommendation that "Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services."

I am disappointed that the strategy is not clearly based on an understanding of domestic abuse as part of a continuum of male violence against women and girls. Brighton & Hove Council had an integrated strategy on preventing violence against women and girls from 2012 to 2017 (<http://www.safeinthecity.info/sites/safeinthecity.info/files/sitc/Brighton%20%26%20Hove%20VAWG%20STRATEGY%2012%20-%2017.pdf>) but this understanding is missing from the current strategy document.

Even though women are twice as likely as men to be victims of domestic abuse, the strategy says domestic abuse can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background." Without an understanding of domestic abuse as a facet of male dominance, it is not possible to support women to recognise and break free of the tactics of power and control that abusers use.

Yes

Define women properly. If your definition includes transwomen, acknowledge the possible conflict of interests between abused people with different protected characteristics.

Yes

Thank you for trying to make changes and best wishes.

Yes

There is no focus on the largest client group - women and children. They are lumped in with every other group as though their needs are the same. There are no data sets or numbers. There must be evidence from years of domestic abuse services across Sussex. Setting out the issue in clear terms, with numbers, gives a better idea of the need and the scale of response.

Yes

That strategy needs to be written in a clearer more accessible way - the consultation and strategy in their current forms are not easy reading for survivors who may be fragile, dealing with trauma, lacking concentration and focus to be able to take it all in.

Yes

Is it available in a range of languages reflective of those spoken across Sussex?

The strategy needs to acknowledge or show a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of male dominance over women across class, ethnicity and religions-the statistics show this -ONS March 2019 yet the strategy does not.

Yes

Yes

The strategy format excludes women who have experienced domestic abuse:

The strategy needs to be written in plain English, not using jargon and acronyms without explanations.

There could be a glossary of terms added at the beginning.

The format of the strategy is not trauma informed, for example, the confusing list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities which are inaccessible to survivors who have issues with concentration, energy and/or who are triggered by reading and responding to this.

The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse:

The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout their lives and society.

In the section, Understanding Domestic Abuse, the figures show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse based on Office for National Statistics

The same source states that 75% of domestic violence crimes reported by police recorded in the year ending March 2019 the victim was female and 74% of the victims of domestic homicide were female

These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy, instead domestic abuse is defined as affecting anyone regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background

The strategy starts from the viewpoint of the local authority, not women:

The strategy is narrowly focussed on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act to assess and plan accommodation based support

Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn't look at the needs of women holistically

Accommodation based support is separated from community based support, which is considered outside the scope of this strategy.

This does not make sense from the viewpoint of actual victim/survivors of domestic abuse.

Yes

It's not written in accessible language.

Not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society

Yes

Even though you've said about protected funding for women and girls servi are far and away the most impacted, you haven't made it a priority - this is inconsistent and makes it hard to trust what you say

Yes

I did my best to read through the draft Strategy, but found the data, numbers, purpose and focus quite confusing. I think it should have been more geared towards the needs of women and girls, as the main victims/survivors of domestic violence in Sussex. Instead, it appears to start from the local authority viewpoint and new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, with an overly narrow focus on 'accommodation-based support'. While this is important, the fundamental issue is how to provide for the needs and safety of victims/survivors, especially the trauma-informed experiences of women and girls.

Because it lacks a broader and feminist-informed analysis of domestic abuse as a highly prevalent type of male violence against females, the strategy fails to look holistically at the needs of the primary victims/survivors, which are women and girls. Community-based support and services are wrongfully separated from accommodation-based support and then left outside the scope of this Sussex strategy.

In conjunction with the lack of feminist analysis, the strategy is not written in plain accessible language and does not approach these issues in ways that are accessible and meaningful for different communities. I felt excluded by the style and jargon in the consultation document, and nearly gave up because of the confusing list of overlapping and indistinct 'priorities' in section 4, which took a lot of time and concentration.

Yes
1

1

Is there anything missing from the strategy? - If you said yes, please tell us what:

A greater emphasis on men as victims.

Non-binary people are completely invisible in the strategy. Under "Diverse and Appropriate", I wonder why women are only included in this consideration.

Domestic abuse survivors should be able to access private accommodation through the LHA. The LHA is significantly lower than average rents in Brighton and Hove, which make it hard for anyone to access the private rental sector. By increasing the LHA for survivors this would allow them to move into safe accommodation quicker.

It is acknowledged multiple times that our communities are underrepresented in "traditional" reporting routes, such as the CJS, IDVA services and VAWG policy. However, it doesn't say what "more" will be done to reach these groups.

Explanations of acronymns

You don't state whether or not "women" includes trans women. It's imperative that you make this clear so that everyone who takes part in this survey can comment from the same place.

Funding for independent organisations

Dedicated provision for women and their children that male strangers - and their typically male partners, who may pose as something other than what they are, cannot access.

See above

End gatekeeping practices. Ensure that housing officers are abiding by existing housing legislation and end culture of disbelief towards victim/survivors. Ensure that housing is safe, appropriate and of a good standard. (i.e. not overcrowded/damp/mouldy)

Please see above comments

37's above. There should be much less about MCN and mote on meeting the support in safe accommodation duty for the rest of the local population.

allow pets to be accommodated with victims

As above - a larger (not majority but certainly larger) focus on perpetrator prevention to compliment intervention.

I think having support groups and the provision of psychological therapies need to be a priority. Overcoming this trauma is incredibly difficult, I was fortunate to be able to afford private EMDR therapy and without this I'm not sure I would have been able to get myself to where I am now.

Also providing training for private landlords and employers around domestic abuse and having protocols in place for when someone has to flee the home due to DV etc.

I would include that as part of being victim-centred, your strategy should place importance on acknowledging the barriers that victims face in accessing services and in reporting domestic abuse, and aim to actively consult victims on making services more accessible. Part of this comes from a fear of reporting domestic abuse because of the repercussions this can have e.g. the trauma of police involvement, or how the perpetrator may respond when a case is raised, lack of information as to what ones options are or how they might be handled. These factors must be considered and transparency of information should be given to the public. For victims in supported accommodation, many of these barriers come from experiencing substance, severe mental health difficulties, or other issues whereby engaging with statutory services is challenging.

Something we have noticed with several clients is a situation where victims do not feel able to provide a statement against a perpetrator, and services are left with high risk of perpetrators reoffending as police are not able to charge them. I believe it would be beneficial for services to be able to work with the police to put provisions in place against perpetrators without a victim having to go through court procedures, as this can be highly traumatic. We have noticed something called Claire's Law which would be beneficial to have shared with services so that we can make informed decisions about placing someone in a service. It would be good to have a register of reports to contribute to this. Statements against someone is not enough as there are so many victims who do not feel able to provide this which leaves so much harm done hidden.

A commitment to focus on supporting females.

Where is the recognition of women's expertise on trauma-informed services?

- There is nothing in the strategy that builds trauma-awareness directly into services through appropriate design of e.g. buildings, staffing, single-sex provision etc.
- While I welcome the focus on consistent trauma informed practice, training courses for staff and co-location of housing staff are relatively small parts of making services trauma-aware and true trauma awareness starts at a more fundamental level.
- Survivors of domestic abuse value single sex services, appropriately located services (e.g. not in shared office buildings), equally if not more highly than workers able to use current buzz words.
- There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors.

There is no focus on perpetrator accountability.

Yes, as above - inclusion of provision 'by and for' organisations and women-led refuges.

Opportunities for women to live in stable, long term shared housing with other women to enable them to form support networks and help each other with childcare.

Missing data: This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.

Missing wider context of women's lives:

- Need to tackle post-separation abuse and specifically those victims further abused through family court system.
- Missing educational and therapeutic programmes around relationship dynamics and power and control. They are vital to enable women to leave abusive relationships and as a prevention.
- Strategy is missing mentioning training work on schools and in the community and in other sectors like GPs, social workers, teachers...
- There is no mention about ensuring it is women employed to support women survivors.

Clarification on single sex provision and use of the word 'gender' which is not a protected characteristic, while 'sex' is.

Understanding of the needs of female survivors

The different needs of different groups

Educational and therapeutic programmes that will help women to break free from abusive relationships

Recognition of the importance of single sex spaces

CPS should interact with the victim direct

 Addressing the above point

Women. Domestic violence is largely perpetrated by men against women. But you insist on homogenising your analysis to insist on one-size-fits-all, thereby ignoring the needs of women and the reality of how the vast majority of domestic violence takes place, which is men dominating women. Removing the ability of women to shape and -yes - police who has access to their services is another way of allowing men to yet again dominate women, as they do in almost all walks of life. It is to remove our safe spaces, even at the point we need them most.

There is no recognition of fact that domestic violence most commonly affects women, especially in the worst cases -- 74% of victims of domestic homicides are women -- and is usually committed by men.

Therefore the strategy fails to recognise women's specific needs, eg for single-sex spaces, and for female-only staff.

Survivors' need for holistic, community-based and long-term support has also been overlooked. The fragmentation of support services, since RISE was defunded earlier this year, has been harmful to survivors of domestic violence.

A commitment to women led specialist services being part of all delivery

Safe spaces for women - I believe that women and children need spaces away from male bodied people.

Brighton and Hove. Lots of mention of Sussex. The money was awarded to us! Worried this means lots of people will be placed outside of the city, or told to stay where they are, even if the person does not wish.

I would like to see some really innovative reporting here and feedback to committee, in form of monitoring the successes and areas of concerns.

We need to capture equality data and bring in our local NHS and GPs. Yes work with local DV organisations, but this should be an in-house service.

Definition of woman which should be based on biology

Sex based analysis - we know that 75% of perpetrators are male and that their victims are female.

Centering women in single sex provision of services is missing. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.

Single sex only safe spaces.

There is nothing in the strategy ensuring the provision of same-sex staff to support victims, which many victims want.

There is nothing about education and training for young people, to reduce the need for these services in the future.

Dedicated spaces and places for Women and Children Only.

Options to encourage local grass-roots small orgs to tap into resources for victims as partners with the lead orgs. Giving all resources to one or two main players may be easy/cheaper but not necessarily meeting all needs.

It doesn't confirm if men will be allowed to access these spaces.

Where is the data?

- The strategy isn't clear on the numbers involved. Data from the Sussex Portal, Safe in Sussex, Worth Services, the Police and Hospital Services must already be available and will give a clear idea of needs. Incorporating this data as an evidence base for this strategy would make the process more transparent.
- This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.

Where is the understanding of abuse in the wider context of women's lives?

- There is nothing in the strategy about post-separation abuse and specifically the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system
- There is nothing in the strategy about educational and therapeutic programmes addressing relationship dynamics and the key significance of power and control. These are vital both to enable women to break free of abusive relationships and rebuild their lives on a stronger footing, and also as a preventative measure.
- The strategy talks about perpetrator programmes, but has nothing to say about work with young people in schools and the community.
- There is nothing in the strategy about training for any public sector workers other than housing staff. Women experiencing domestic violence also need trauma-informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers and teachers.

Where is the recognition of women's expertise on trauma-informed services?

- There is nothing in the strategy that builds trauma-awareness directly into services through appropriate design of e.g. buildings, staffing, single-sex provision etc.
- While I welcome the focus on consistent trauma informed practice, training courses for staff and co-location of housing staff are relatively small parts of making services trauma-aware and true trauma awareness starts at a more fundamental level.
- Survivors of domestic abuse value single sex services, appropriately located services (e.g. not in shared office buildings), equally if not more highly than workers able to use current buzz words.
- There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors.

Feminism.

An unequivocal statement regarding sex as a protected characteristic within the Equality Act, 2010 and how this will affect strategic priorities and policy delivery in terms of the accommodation and support needs of female survivors of domestic abuse.

This should make clear that dedicated accommodation and support by the protected characteristic of sex (not gender) is available on demand to survivors from point of entry through the system and upon exit from the service. It will be necessary to also provide a statement of how those undergoing 'gender reassignment', another protected characteristic in law missing from your policy proposal, will be accommodated and supported separately to the single sex accommodation provided.

An unequivocal statement regarding sex as a protected characteristic within the Equality Act, 2010 and how this will affect strategic priorities and policy delivery in terms of the accommodation and support needs of female survivors of domestic abuse.

This should make clear that dedicated accommodation and support by the protected characteristic of sex (not gender) is available on demand to survivors from point of entry through the system and upon exit from the service. It will be necessary to also provide a statement of how those undergoing 'gender reassignment', another protected characteristic in law missing from your policy proposal, will be accommodated and supported separately to the single sex accommodation provided.

EA2010 enshrined in law-rights of women to NOT be viewed as bigots if want female counsellor/worker &/or safe space.

The protected characteristic of SEX must be first priority and single sex sieves only available

LGBTQ+ refuge provision should be funded long-term. Funding as it stands is too short-term, usually only 12 months at a time. This is not enough time to recruit staff, train staff, locate and set up refuge units and to establish the project. Short-term funding such as this means that we lose momentum, lose specialist expertise and staff and it does not meet the long-term needs of survivors.

The strategy isn't clear on the numbers involved. Data from the Sussex Portal, Safe in Sussex, Worth Services, the Police and Hospital Services must already be available and will give a clear idea of needs. Incorporating this data as an evidence base for this strategy would make the process more transparent. Why hasn't it been used when it already exists?

This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.

There is nothing in the strategy about post-separation abuse and specifically the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system. As someone who is going through this exact thing, a funded worker who understands this process and could liaise with Cafcass and family court would be something fundamental to fit in to plans for supporting DV survivors.

The strategy talks about perpetrator programmes, but has nothing to say about work with young people in schools and the community and specifically those who replicate the victim perpetrator dynamic having seen it take place in their own family previously. This shows that there is no way to break the cycle of abuse without the strategic support for doing so.

There is nothing in the strategy about training for any public sector workers other than housing staff. Women experiencing domestic violence also need trauma-informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers and teachers.

Please think about this strategy actually impacts on those who use and need it most, which is overwhelmingly women and their children. There is nothing in the strategy that builds trauma-awareness directly into services through appropriate design of e.g. buildings, staffing, single-sex provision etc.

While I welcome the focus on consistent trauma informed practice, training courses for staff and co-location of housing staff are relatively small parts of making services trauma-aware and true trauma awareness starts at a more fundamental level.

Survivors of domestic abuse value single sex services, appropriately located services (e.g. not in shared office buildings), equally if not more highly than workers able to use current buzz words. Clearly state that female sufferers of dv will be safe and in accomodation and services for women not males of any gender identity.

Research shows that 90% of victims are female. Men are usually the predominant perpetrator and women are usually the predominant victim.

Centring female survivors. The strategy is over all a good one but if you don't know or understand why women and girls wouldn't want to share their male-perpetrated trauma with other men, regardless of how they dress or wear their hair, then there isn't anything you can do for that group of women.

40

There is nothing in the strategy about post-separation abuse and the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family courts

The strategy is narrowly focused on accommodation and doesn't address the holistic needs of women who have experienced domestic abuse. Women also need trauma-informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers and teachers. Women need wrap-around care from services that are integrated into the community, who can advocate for them in relation to all these public services, without victim-survivors having to tell their traumatic stories over and over again.

There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors. Stonewater welcomes the emphasis on the six priorities in the Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support 2021-2024. However the strategy does not focus on early intervention and prevention. As a county we need to ensure that victim/survivors (adults and children) are supported at an early stage and provided with options to remain safe at home to prevent homelessness including holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour.

Clear definitions

Detail. There is no detail on exactly what is proposed, how it might happen and how much it might cost. Without that it is castles in the sky.

When clients with a DA background require a transfer from their home due to risk of harm or due to the impact of remaining where have experienced significant abuse, they are often met with multiple barriers, or a blanket refusal. This is usually the case with long term TA accommodation and permanent council housing.

It can often take a long time with many documents and letters of support needing to be submitted, then a wait of many months, even with a priority transfer. These cases are often very time sensitive. By working more closely with specialist DA services and other support services, housing teams could ensure that survivors at high risk of harm or homicide are moved more swiftly into alternative suitable housing. The offer of emergency housing or refuge accommodation in these situations is sometimes not appropriate, and clients' reasons for refusing such accommodation can be extremely valid but not accepted by housing teams.

The strategy needs to demonstrate support for survivors post separation and through the family court system.

The strategy also needs to show support for young people in schools- it mentions programmes for perpetrators of abuse but therapeutic support is needed for young children who have been living with/witnessing domestic violence.

Trauma informed training should be provided for a wider range of staff and not just housing staff.

Consideration for the specific needs of women on the basis of their sex. And also disaggregation of data by sex to aid the understanding of women's specific needs.

Where is the data?

The strategy is unclear on the statistics. Please obtain data from Sussex Portal, Safe in Sussex, Worth services, the police and hospital services to obtain a clear idea of needs. Incorporating this data as an evidence base for this strategy would make the process more accurate and transparent.

This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.

Where is the understanding of abuse in the wider context of women's lives?

There is nothing in this strategy about post-separation abuse and specifically the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system.

There is nothing in the strategy about educational and therapeutic programmes addressing relationship dynamics and key significance of power and control. These are both vital to enable women to break free of abusive relationships and rebuild their lives and their children's lives on a stronger footing, and also as preventative measure.

The strategy mentions perpetrator programmes but does not refer to any work with young people in schools and the community.

There is nothing in the strategy about training for any public sector workers other than housing staff. Women experiencing domestic violence also need trauma informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers, teachers etc.

Where is the recognition of women's expertise on trauma-informed services?

The strategy fails to incorporate trauma awareness into services such as the appropriate design of buildings, staffing, single sex provision etc

Trauma awareness is more fundamental than a focus on trauma informed practice, training of staff and co-location of housing staff.

Survivors of domestic abuse strongly value single sex services and appropriately located services

There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors.

nothing about post-separation abuse and the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system

Nothing about educational and therapeutic programmes addressing relationship dynamics

Talks about perpetrator programmes but not about work with young people in the community

Yes, what on earth has happened to the protected characteristic of sex in your strategy? It is not the same as gender or sexual orientation and missing it out massively skews understanding of need. As a local authority you have legal duty to ensure you've taken into account the impact on *all* protected characteristics - this includes the untrendy ones.

My answer to section 5 covers much of this question. In addition, since the experience of women and girls is subsumed, the data and numbers are not clearly disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other important categories relating to domestic abuse, there is a lack of clarity about the proportionate needs of different groups and how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded so that all victims/survivors can be safely provided for with appropriate services, in single-sex accommodation.

The strategy talks about perpetrator programmes but does not adequately recognise the many ways in which perpetrators try to control, frighten and gain access to their chosen victims. There is also a lack of preventive approaches and work with young people in schools and the community.

I was appalled to see so little recognition of women's experiences and concerns in this Sussex strategy. Sexual and domestic abuse are often connected, and female survivors of all kinds of male violence need and value single-sex spaces and services, with female staff employed to support female survivors.

The needs of male victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence, including those who may identify as women or girls, should also be included in this strategy of course, but not to the detriment of female victims/survivors, who continue to be the largest demographic to be targeted by perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse in Sussex.

Any other comments or suggestions you would like to make? - Q7

Last Modified Date	Response ID	IP Address	Created Date	Citizen Space Version
2021-10-26 13:46:52	ANON-XN91-TMZ5-X		2021-10-26 13:45:41	v7.0.0
2021-10-27 11:49:44	ANON-XN91-TMZN-S		2021-10-27 11:49:06	v7.1.0

The Switchboard LGBTQ* Domestic Abuse Service would like to be involved in this consultation more thoroughly going forward, as part of the ongoing strategy. if there are opportunities for further working please email me at raf.galdeano@switchboard.org.uk

2021-10-27 12:30:15 ANON-XN91-TMZH-K

2021-10-27 12:29:26 v7.1.0

There need to be clear accountability within multi agency working and not trying to pass off between services, especially for neurodiverse and mentally ill clients
See above.

2021-10-28 08:28:38 ANON-XN91-TMZ5-Z
2021-10-28 16:25:31 ANON-XN91-TMZZ-5
2021-10-29 09:34:23 ANON-XN91-TMZ3-X
2021-10-29 10:45:12 ANON-XN91-TMZU-Z

2021-10-28 08:27:42 v7.1.0
2021-10-28 16:25:16 v7.1.0
2021-10-29 09:31:42 v7.1.0
2021-10-29 10:44:21 v7.1.0

2021-10-29 11:52:37 ANON-XN91-TMZG-J

2021-10-29 11:51:36 v7.1.0

See above - in addition it is important to ensure the right people are around the table in the Partnership Board - it is not clear that there is an intention to have specialist independent DVA providers in the ToR - without this representation you will lose decades of experience and expertise as well as a critical friend voice and value added. You will also lose community participation. I also think that this survey restricts the level of response - ideally a more deliberative decision-making process is required to share the best expertise we have - investment in engagement through VCS orgs will make this work better that stat-led approaches.

2021-10-29 17:11:14 ANON-XN91-TMZV-1

2021-10-29 17:10:12 v7.1.0

This strategy is only worthwhile if :

1. the authorities and individuals on the ground carrying it out are on board willing to do so &
2. there is adequate and appropriate housing stock available.

2021-10-29 17:54:36 ANON-XN91-TMZ6-1
2021-11-01 11:15:48 ANON-XN91-TMZM-R

2021-10-29 17:53:31 v7.1.0
2021-11-01 11:14:23 v7.1.0

2021-11-01 20:01:08 ANON-XN91-TMZ8-3
2021-11-02 08:46:06 ANON-XN91-TMZ7-2
2021-11-05 03:24:21 ANON-XN91-TMZJ-N

2021-11-01 20:00:28 v7.1.0
2021-11-01 14:28:01 v7.1.0
2021-11-05 03:22:54 v7.1.1

I was also concerned to read that services will be commissioned and that commissioning priorities would be about value for money. Value for money generally comes at the expense of qualitative survivor / client centred support services. From years of experience of delivering commissioned services I know this means doing more for less. The UK is no longer obliged to use commissioning as a process. I would like to see a move back to grants and contracts based on putting the survivor at the Centre of this process which are awarded by individual LA's.

2021-11-05 13:27:18 ANON-XN91-TMZ4-Y
2021-11-08 10:47:28 ANON-XN91-TMZK-P

2021-11-05 13:23:20 v7.1.1
2021-11-08 10:46:28 v7.1.1

No

2021-11-10 14:34:02 ANON-XN91-TMZ9-4
2021-11-10 17:47:15 ANON-XN91-TMZB-D
2021-11-11 09:05:41 ANON-XN91-TMZC-E
2021-11-11 09:22:57 ANON-XN91-TMZA-C

2021-11-10 14:31:06 v7.1.1
2021-11-10 17:45:50 v7.1.1
2021-11-11 09:04:13 v7.1.1
2021-11-11 09:22:57 v7.1.1

The first question only allows one option. Should be more inclusive. Survivors often and can work in services.

2021-11-11 10:21:16 ANON-XN91-TMZF-H

2021-11-11 10:20:20 v7.1.1

2021-11-11 13:53:52 ANON-XN91-TMZQ-V
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2021-11-11 13:53:12 v7.1.1
2021-11-11 14:23:27 v7.1.1

2021-11-11 14:31:53 ANON-XN91-TMZR-W
2021-11-11 15:18:57 ANON-XN91-TMZX-3

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2021-11-12 10:41:34 v7.1.1

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2021-11-17 21:08:04 ANON-XN91-TMVZ-1

2021-11-12 21:17:41 v7.1.1
2021-11-17 20:15:37 v7.1.1
2021-11-17 20:20:33 v7.1.1
2021-11-17 20:57:35 v7.1.1
2021-11-17 21:07:11 v7.1.1

2021-11-17 22:06:24 ANON-XN91-TMV3-T
2021-11-17 22:29:04 ANON-XN91-TMVU-V
2021-11-18 05:32:41 ANON-XN91-TMVV-X
2021-11-18 07:46:33 ANON-XN91-TMVG-E
2021-11-18 07:47:22 ANON-XN91-TMUV-W
2021-11-18 09:17:13 ANON-XN91-TMV6-W

2021-11-17 22:05:42 v7.1.1
2021-11-17 22:27:39 v7.1.1
2021-11-18 05:31:27 v7.1.1
2021-11-18 07:45:48 v7.1.1
2021-11-18 07:46:02 v7.1.1
2021-11-18 09:16:11 v7.1.1

no further comment

Obtain professional advice on the law to enable yourselves to understand where and how Stonewall is misrepresenting it.

Women's services were created by women, to meet women's needs - top-down commissioning is failing us

- This strategy does nothing to address the fragmentation of support services for women in Brighton & Hove since RISE was decommissioned in April 2021. We now have three providers of domestic abuse support in the city instead of one, and it is therefore much more difficult for women to access the holistic and long term support they need.
- This strategy suggests the possibility of investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. It was working. It was defunded in favour of a model that treats all survivors of domestic abuse as homogenous victims.
- The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process must give this a high priority in order to be truly trauma-informed.

2021-11-18 09:44:06 ANON-XN91-TMVM-M

2021-11-18 09:43:07 v7.1.1

There is a good understanding of how abuse can affect different groups of people, but don't lose sight of the fact that this is a sex based crime.

2021-11-18 10:51:02 ANON-XN91-TMV7-X
2021-11-18 11:00:02 ANON-XN91-TMV8-Y

2021-11-18 10:49:15 v7.1.1
2021-11-18 10:59:06 v7.1.1

All options should be suitable for ethnic and religious minorities because the standard should meet their needs too.

2021-11-18 11:08:14 ANON-XN91-TMVJ-H
2021-11-18 16:53:02 ANON-XN91-TMV4-U

2021-11-18 11:02:01 v7.1.1
2021-11-18 16:52:21 v7.1.1

There was already a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex and it was working.

2021-11-18 16:56:36 ANON-XN91-TMVK-J
2021-11-18 17:03:32 ANON-XN91-TMV9-Z

2021-11-18 16:52:49 v7.1.1
2021-11-18 17:02:13 v7.1.1

Domestic abuse refuges were set up by women - like Erin Pizzey and many others - at a time when there were none. Where is the recognition of the decades of expertise by women in the field - in Brighton and Hove, we had the brilliant RISE, now we have three separate service providers. Women need to build ongoing relationships with service providers in order to rebuild trust and confidence.

Please remember the statistic of 70+% of domestic abuse survivors are women, and ensure that services treat them as a priority. A better CPS system.. I wouldn't be where I am had they of listened to me and the police in 2016.. A huge failing system

2021-11-18 17:45:59 ANON-XN91-TMVB-9

2021-11-18 17:45:20 v7.1.1

2021-11-18 18:24:53 ANON-XN91-TMVC-A

2021-11-18 18:23:25 v7.1.1

4 Taking this effort is an excellent use of local govt resources and I congratulate all involved in trying to make life better for those in such difficult situations. Thank you all.

2021-11-18 18:45:05 ANON-XN91-TMVA-8
2021-11-19 08:27:55 ANON-XN91-TMVF-D

2021-11-18 18:44:15 v7.1.1
2021-11-19 08:27:55 v7.1.1

2021-11-19 10:51:28 ANON-XN91-TMVQ-R
2021-11-19 13:36:49 ANON-XN91-TMVY-Z

2021-11-19 10:50:07 v7.1.1
2021-11-19 13:36:02 v7.1.1

1. Women are the main victims of domestic violence. The needs of men and transpeople are also important. But they make up a much smaller number of victims. Putting transwomen in what should be female-only refuges would benefit a tiny minority at the expense of the large majority.

2. Brighton & Hove survivors had a long-standing, effective and valuable support service in RISE. I can't see any good reason why it was defunded. I urge you to show commitment to the people most in need of this service by recommissioning RISE.

2021-11-19 16:44:23 ANON-XN91-TMVR-S
2021-11-19 16:51:11 ANON-XN91-TMVX-Y
2021-11-19 17:51:05 ANON-XN91-TMVP-Q
2021-11-19 17:57:09 ANON-XN91-TMV1-R
2021-11-19 22:11:27 ANON-XN91-TMVE-C
2021-11-19 22:26:51 ANON-XN91-TMV2-S
2021-11-20 19:39:32 ANON-XN91-TMNS-J

2021-11-19 16:43:17 v7.1.1
2021-11-19 16:50:36 v7.1.1
2021-11-19 17:50:34 v7.1.1
2021-11-19 17:54:38 v7.1.1
2021-11-19 22:10:34 v7.1.1
2021-11-19 22:25:23 v7.1.1
2021-11-20 19:38:15 v7.1.1

I just worry that this strategy and consultation has been lead by those who offer the services and not those with lived experience and survivors, I hope you get this right and do not stuff up. Who were engaged in the initial engagement meetings? How many survivors? Keep single sex spaces

2021-11-23 00:42:51 ANON-XN91-TMNT-K
2021-11-28 09:50:13 ANON-XN91-TMND-3

2021-11-23 00:41:33 v7.1.1
2021-11-28 09:48:54 v7.3.0

Centering women in single sex provision of services is vital. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.

2021-11-28 19:51:38 ANON-XN91-TMNN-D
2021-11-28 20:10:07 ANON-XN91-TMNH-7

2021-11-28 19:49:31 v7.3.0
2021-11-28 20:08:48 v7.3.0

2021-11-28 21:01:04 ANON-XN91-TMNS-M
2021-11-28 21:20:14 ANON-XN91-TMNZ-S
2021-11-28 21:30:17 ANON-XN91-TMNS-J
2021-11-28 22:14:17 ANON-XN91-TMNU-M

2021-11-28 21:00:22 v7.3.0
2021-11-28 21:18:09 v7.3.0
2021-11-28 21:28:57 v7.3.0
2021-11-28 22:12:52 v7.3.0

Female survivors of abuse should be at the centre of designing services for them, rather than the top-down approach that seems to be happening.

2021-11-28 23:57:06 ANON-XN91-TMNV-P

2021-11-28 23:54:27 v7.3.0

Women from Second wave feminism who began the refuges and the discourse surrounding domestic violence were the ones who fought against the very councils who ignored the evidence of violence and murder of Women as a distinct group prior to the first refuge for Women and Children only.

2021-11-29 06:14:39 ANON-XN91-TMNV-N

2021-11-29 06:10:19 v7.3.0

Appropriate services should always be provided for trans identified people. But safe spaces for biological women as per the equality act need to be respected and maintained.

2021-11-29 08:43:40 ANON-XN91-TMNS-N
2021-11-29 09:47:27 ANON-XN91-TMNM-C
2021-11-29 09:56:24 ANON-XN91-TMNS-P

2021-11-29 08:41:49 v7.3.0
2021-11-29 09:45:24 v7.3.0
2021-11-29 09:54:58 v7.3.0

2021-11-29 10:31:04 ANON-XN91-TMNS-Q

2021-11-29 10:29:55 v7.3.0

4 Women's services were created by women, to meet women's needs - top-down commissioning is failing us

- This strategy does nothing to address the fragmentation of support services for women in Brighton & Hove since RISE was decommissioned in April 2021. We now have three providers of domestic abuse support in the city instead of one, and it is therefore much more difficult for women to access the holistic and long term support they need.
- This strategy suggests the possibility of investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. It was working. It was defunded in favour of a model that treats all survivors of domestic abuse as homogenous victims.
- The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process must give this a high priority in order to be truly trauma-informed.

2021-11-29 10:51:29 ANON-XN91-TMNS-9

2021-11-29 10:50:27 v7.3.0

2021-11-29 13:15:55 ANON-XN91-TMNS-A

2021-11-29 13:14:09 v7.3.0

2021-11-29 14:21:49 ANON-XN91-TMNS-R

2021-11-29 14:17:35 v7.3.0

2021-11-29 14:30:10 ANON-XN91-TMNS-1

2021-11-29 14:23:08 v7.3.0

Services which don't permit legally allowed single sex services may be leading to women being at risk of DV & possibly death. Create separate services for males who don't identify as sex born-stop making them mixed sex to try to suit a minority thereby excluding half the population. It's gaslighting women already vulnerable to coercive control to tell them services for women only when clearly not.

2021-11-29 20:50:53 ANON-XN91-TMNS-C

2021-11-29 20:49:31 v7.3.0

All options are worthy but I would like to stress that when stating word woman it refers to adult human female. The needs of women and trans identifying males are very different and should not be conflated as the same. Women need a space away from male bodied people for obvious reasons irrespective of how trans identifying males see themselves. Trans identifying males should have option of mixed groups, one to one or only trans group but should not be in a women only group.

2021-11-30 01:55:28 ANON-XN91-TMNS-Z

2021-11-30 01:54:03 v7.3.0

2021-11-30 09:59:30 ANON-XN91-TMNS-F
2021-11-30 11:52:28 ANON-XN91-TMNS-Q

2021-11-30 09:58:17 v7.3.0
2021-11-30 11:51:40 v7.3.0

2021-12-02 11:41:06 ANON-XN91-TMNS-R

2021-12-02 11:41:06 v7.3.0

2021-12-02 12:24:25 ANON-XN91-TMNS-H

2021-12-02 12:23:27 v7.3.0

It is a sad indictment of where we are at politically that those who need it most are mentioned so little in this survey and draft strategy. How sad that inclusion at all costs means that what the 1% want is prioritised over what the 99% need.

Women's services were created by women, to meet women's needs - top-down commissioning is failing us.

This strategy does nothing to address the fragmentation of support services for women in Brighton & Hove since RISE was decommissioned in April 2021. We now have three providers of domestic abuse support in the city instead of one, and it is therefore much more difficult for women to access the holistic and long term support they need.

This strategy suggests the possibility of investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. It was working. It was defunded in favour of a model that treats all survivors of domestic abuse as homogenous victims.

The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process must give this a high priority in order to be truly trauma-informed.

Women need and deserve help where they can be clear that they will not be further traumatized by the presence of males of whatever gender.

2021-12-05 16:33:41 ANON-XN91-TMNX-Q
2021-12-14 11:37:42 ANON-XN91-TMNP-F

2021-12-05 16:31:41 v7.3.0
2021-12-14 11:36:31 v7.3.0

Recognise that women are a protected group under the Equality Act and need safe spaces

2021-12-15 10:25:59 ANON-XN91-TMN1-G

2021-12-15 10:24:19 v7.3.1

If services must be 'inclusive' and offer mixed sex groups then please provide separate single sex groups. It is also possible to provide trans-inclusive or trans-only groups, and male-only groups. Please reconsider your current approach to the 'gendered' services you provide. Women and girls need your help and to do that you need to know what a woman is, and what a girl is.

2021-12-15 14:24:49 ANON-XN91-TMNE-4

2021-12-15 14:22:41 v7.3.1

Please organise women-only consultation events if you want to know what female survivors of domestic abuse actually think.

2021-12-16 17:37:56 ANON-XN91-TMN2-H

2021-12-16 17:36:41 v7.3.1

N/a

2021-12-17 10:28:58 ANON-XN91-TMDS-8

2021-12-17 10:28:58 v7.3.1

2021-12-18 09:03:47 ANON-XN91-TMDT-9

2021-12-18 09:02:55 v7.3.1

I read the strategy with interest. But the glaring absence of women and girls really started to irk me. There are decades of experience across the county in developing and delivering support that works - that was not acknowledged. We should be building on expertise and not starting from scratch. There was no understanding shown of the different services that work with different groups.

2021-12-18 19:28:16 ANON-XN91-TMDN-3

2021-12-18 19:10:57 v7.3.1

* I am really keen to highlight the need for single sex spaces for women who have experienced abuse and violence.

* Survivors should have the right to request to work with female only staff in a refuge- too many posts are available to people who can self id as women and this is adding to the trauma already experienced by survivors.

* Data collected should be recorded by sex and not gender.

2021-12-18 22:39:47 ANON-XN91-TMDD-S

2021-12-18 18:56:29 v7.3.1

2021-12-18 22:40:59 ANON-XN91-TMDH-W
2021-12-19 11:48:14 ANON-XN91-TMDZ-F

2021-12-18 22:38:59 v7.3.1
2021-12-19 11:44:57 v7.3.1

Women's services were created by women, to meet women's needs - top-down commissioning is failing us.

This strategy fails to address the fragmentation of support services for women survivors of domestic abuse in Brighton and Hove since RISE was decommissioned in April 2021. We now have three providers of domestic abuse support in the city instead of one, and it has become more difficult for women to access the holistic and long term support they need.

This strategy suggests investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton&Hove, it was working. It was defunded in favour of a model which treats all victims of domestic abuse as homogenous victims.

The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process must give this a high priority to be truly trauma informed, safe services.

Does nothing to address the fragmentation of support services for women in B&H since RISE was decommissioned in 2021

The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and creating long standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers.

2021-12-19 12:18:24 ANON-XN91-TMD3-8

2021-12-19 12:17:22 v7.3.1

From my own experience, once I was safely away my biggest struggle was supporting my children. They were too young to understand what had happened and were resentful towards me for "taking them away from their dad"....I didn't feel like I had any support in this and it often lead to my son being abusive and violent towards me which was particularly distressing given I had just escaped an abusive relationship.

2021-12-19 14:14:23 ANON-XN91-TMDU-A

2021-12-19 14:13:36 v7.3.1

Trauma-informed for women must be single sex. Most women do not believe that men can become women, and that lack of belief us a protected characteristic that you must treat with equal consideration to those that do believe in gender of the reality of sex

2021-12-19 17:35:23 ANON-XN91-TMDW-C

2021-12-19 17:33:54 v7.3.1

Most women's services were created by women to meet women's needs. From the 1970s onwards these services were developed and staffed by women because governments and State institutions did not take violence against women and girls as seriously as they should have. For various reasons, including institutional and ideological misogyny and racism, top-down commissioning is failing to provide victims/survivors with the services, resources and secure funding we need.

This strategy suggests the possibility of investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove that was working effectively until it was defunded in favour of a retrogressive model that treats all survivors of domestic abuse as if homogenous victims with undifferentiated experiences and needs, taking little or no account of inequalities and patriarchal power dynamics.

Reading this Sussex strategy I was struck by how it fails to address the fragmentation of support services for women in Brighton and Hove since RISE was decommissioned and defunded recently. Further decommissioning processes must give high priority to addressing the needs of women and girls and being truly trauma-informed.

1

2021-12-19 21:29:27 ANON-XN91-TMDS-A

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2021-12-19 11:13:36 v7.3.1

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About you
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My ID	How much do you agree or disagree that the six priorities set out in the strategy are the right ones? - Q3	How much do you agree or disagree that the six priorities set out in the strategy are the right ones? - If you disagree, what would you suggest?
8	Strongly disagree	This ignores the most obvious fact about DV that poses genuine danger to life: it is overwhelmingly male on female. Sex-separate services MUST be offered; no female survivor running for her life with her children wants to be in situations open to male strangers, regardless what reasons those male strangers give for being in that space. Coercion and lying is central to domestic violence. We know we cannot trust males who seek to control and secure access to us.
9	Neither agree nor disagree	There are broad brush elements that I would agree with but I think it is important to have a more nuanced approach which this survey does not allow. For example - there is no focus on the need for a national network for DVA - important to have a wider focus as there will likely always be a need for survivors/children to flee out of area. Also I cannot see any reference to provision being proportionate to needs. In addition there are places where the word gender is used when there should be a reference to the protected characteristic of sex. It's difficult to respond fully when we are not able to see the evidence base behind these proposals - community consultation is important as is local data but national and international research needs to be part of the context too. I can't see the evidence for having a 'one front door' approach and we have experience of this approach excluding the most excluded survivors. I can't also see an evidence base for male refuge provision - I am aware that this has been tested previously and failed - what is the need data used to make this decision?
17	Strongly disagree	I feel really concerned that "Responsive" only mentions support for Multiple Complex Needs when the strategy highlights numerous groups requiring specialist support in safe accommodation. I would think this completely negates the consultation findings and suggests this client group is being prioritised over all the other groups including those with protected characteristics I'd like some provision/ priority around assertive engagement.
21	Neither agree nor disagree	Multiple Complex Needs is mentioned but i've worked with people who are categorised as such and rarely what our service understands as assertive is seen from other practises. People can make huge strides to engage with a service particularly where there is domestic violence present intertwined with co-dependency, complex trauma, substance misuse and often, a person may stop engaging for a period due to any one of these priorities or preventative and services roll back putting the person in a worse position than before because they've lost that little bit of faith in a service. I would suggest including "flexibility" as part of this strategy. I work supporting people who are experiencing homelessness, who often have multiple and complex needs and who struggle to engage with services which have a rigid structure and do not use creative and adaptive methods to engage with service users.
24	Agree	Victim centred - this should also be a person-centred approach, looking at how the client wishes to be supported rather than forcing them to follow a specific pathway. I also think it is important to focus on building resilience with clients who have experienced DVA, and I feel this should be included in your strategy.
30	Disagree	I feel very strongly that only biological women should have access to these services
31	Strongly disagree	By inclusive to all, do you include men, and all male bodied people? Because I fundamentally believe that this should be open to biological women only.
34	Disagree	It's not that I necessarily disagree, but a lot of them are very vague and I don't know what they would mean in practice? What does multi agency working mean? And why does it have to be all the way across Sussex? I think it needs to be clearer about kids and children.
39	Strongly disagree	Ensuring a focus on women and children, who are the most affected by domestic abuse. A wider focus on protected characteristics prevents this focus.
40	Neither agree nor disagree	Local services based and rooted in the local communities are better than than standardised 'off the peg' services across sussex. You have missed out a whole section on 'perpetrator accountability'.
41	Agree	On Accessible and Inclusive, all victims should have access to support but not to the same support. A service should not have to cater to everyone. Some services should be for women only and provided only by specialist women's organisations. There should be alternative and specialist support for men and trans people to ensure that all victims are safe and receive the best support.
43	Agree	It is important that the services are locally based and tailored to the reality of the communities rather than consistent offer across Sussex.
45	Neither agree nor disagree	Priorities sound fine, but we'd need to know how exactly are they going to be implemented?
47	Disagree	I disagree that it is desirable to prioritising consistency across Sussex. The needs of B&H people who have experienced domestic abuse may well be different than people in other parts of Sussex. I think it is essential that service providers are aware of local provision of resources and services in order to signpost survivors well.
48	Strongly disagree	Support for those unable to leave a mortgaged property with the abuser as there is/was nothing for me, he knows where I am he still has control I cannot remove him without contact
51	Disagree	You talk about "diverse and appropriate" but this appears to boil down to ignoring the protected characteristic of BIOLOGICAL SEX and thereby removing single sex services and refuges for female victims of domestic abuse. Your blatant support of the notion of gender identity as something that is self identified rather than something that has to be evidenced through commitment or a GRC will lead to abusive men being able to turn up on the doorstep of refuges and demand entry as you will have done away with the boundaries which women have fought for for years to protect themselves with - the boundary that is single sex services; the last protection women have from violent men. Note that breaking down/ignoring/trampling boundaries is one of the FIRST tactics an abuser uses.
52	Disagree	Sussex is a diverse area. The needs of people in Brighton and Hove may well not be the same as those elsewhere in the county. Your aim to make services "consistent" risks providing a one-size-fits-all service which neglects the needs of women in different areas. Brighton and Hove has a large LGBT+ community. It may well be appropriate for B&H to provide specific services for transgender victims of DA - although B&H does also need to provide single sex services for women too. The need for transgender services may well be much lower elsewhere in the county. Your "trauma informed" approach is extremely naïve about the realities of being a domestic abuse survivor. I will go into more detail on this below
53	Neither agree nor disagree	I was born in Shoreham, brought up there and in Lancing and Littlehampton. Most of my extended family still live in the Brighton area or West Sussex. One has suffered from domestic violence, as have some of my friends in the area.
56	Agree	Services for violence survivors need to be strongly based in their communities, using local knowledge and resources. Women are often isolated by their domestic abusers, as a way of controlling them. Services need to counteract this.
57	Agree	The term multiple complex needs is offensive, the needs are not complex.
59	Agree	When accessible and inclusive must be sex separated.
		Do you include 'gender identity' as a protected characteristic? Do you rank it higher than 'sex'.

Concerned with victim empowerment, the duty its for survivors from anywhere, they may have left the city to move in with a violent partner. It should be victim centred and accommodation is provided which is suitable, safe and affordable as to enable survivors more of a choice. Previously council officers have denied duties and I fear this will lead to the council simply washing hands of clients.

I am worried about the sussex wide, the funding was given to this city, therefore we should focus this on those who turn to this council for help. There are already sussex wide organisations out there with funding for homelessness support.

Holistic Service which utilises those with lived experience to peer work and help to break cycles. Again we have some amazing holistic services in the city, look at these routes. A care package. Exclusive offers for victims who show a card at places which would improve health and improve inclusion.

Closer working with NHS provide acceptable and commitment therapy to those in need. Empowerment therapy, ensure mental health checks and assessment are carried out.

A lot of survivors will have multiple complex needs, we should ensure where there is support they stay, no victims should be placed outside of the city, unless its not safe in this city, in which case council should be looking to take accommodations inhouse to ensure the support staff are there.

We have had a lot of cases where services contracted out have failed service users. We cannot pass this to the third sector.

60 Disagree	I would add also, the better training of all frontline staff on domestic violence/ abuse issues to better help them understand the new laws and how they can best ensure no victim or survivor is ever turned away or fobbed off again by this council.
63 Disagree	You have failed to ensure that domestic abuse provision will ensure that some services will remain single sex and made them generic
64 Strongly disagree	Centering women in single sex provision of services. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.
66 Agree	There needs to be service for women only, where women means female.
67 Strongly disagree	Single sex only facilities. Services should be community based, responding to local needs rather than ensuring equal provision across the whole of Sussex. Knowledge of local support networks is crucial.
68 Neither agree nor disagree	Priorities must be supported by practical action. There is a crucial need for a Women only centred service to stop this service only allows Women as a individual distinct and Protected by law to be subsumed from the grassroots ethos of those Women who sought to protect Women with a clear concise distinct space and place of safety.
69 Strongly disagree	Women only refuges are required. Based on sex not "gender" which has no legal definition and means even less with self-id. Also do not lump LGB with TQ. Very different groups. Please make specialist trauma skills and knowledge the driver of provision.
71 Disagree	The strategies are mostly good however one of them involves collaboration. I would suggest that in order to fulfil the mantra of collaboration the best way to that is to collaborate with women and girls who are the vast majority of victims of domestic violence to ensure their safety from male violence within the shelters.
73 Strongly disagree	Local services that connect with communities, and are embedded in the community is important Different areas may have different needs; an urban area with a high ethnic minority will have different requirements to one that is primarily rural and white. Services should be knowledgeable and familiar with local resources and networks. Strategic priorities are meaningless without action
74 Neither agree nor disagree	The priorities are fine, but support for them is not evident in the overall strategy.
75 Strongly disagree	There is nothing about the overwhelming tide of violence against women and girls. Most domestic violence is perpetrated by men in a patriarchal society which is biased against women.
76 Disagree	All strategic priorities should lead to appropriate, targeted action focussed on outcomes for key groups of people. The listed SPs need to be reframed to demonstrate clarity in this regard.
77 Disagree	All strategic priorities should lead to appropriate, targeted action focussed on outcomes for key groups of people. The listed SPs need to be reframed to demonstrate clarity in this regard.
78 Strongly disagree	"Inclusive" of all protected characteristics will lead to women being excluded (or excluding themselves) if females want single sex space, as permitted under EA2010, but your service provision includes male sex. If it's proportionate means of legitimate aim women only services should mean female only, as allowed by law.
79 Neither agree nor disagree	Services such as domestic violence, rape refuge need to be tailored to the survivor's needs. For women this means women only services since their trauma is further exacerbated by the presence of males, even if those males believe they are not males. This is catered for with EA2010. It is the one area where other people's subjective notions should not be entertained. However, there should be services for trans identifying males specifically to meet their needs.
80 Disagree	It can't possibly be victim focussed if it's also fully inclusive. Selfld is a massive issue and is illegally being classed as a protected characteristic. This will make women, the most likely victims of DV self exclude

Comments since last reported (03 12 2021)

As an ongoing service user who's experienced a huge disruption to services and who i no facing services which are neither trauma informed or professional, my deep belief is that our city, community, survivor an families ultimately need need community-based services.

To me this means that rather than a one size fits all pan Sussex approach when each local authority demographic is so different in terms of needs, that the services for each area should ultimately be locally based and therefore able to respond quickly and appropriately, and to have those services based in communities.

I am sure that my needs as a Brighton resident are different from women in other areas for so many reasons, including housing shortage and costs and domestic abuse service availability.

Local services work because they are experienced in delivering what's needed with relevant resources and from their existing networks.

With regard to strategic planning, I would note that strategic priorities are meaningless without action and whilst some of these are laudable and seem relevant, the rest of this draft strategy does not actually support them in practice.

84 Disagree

85	Neither agree nor disagree	I wonder if sex is one of the protected characteristics which you plan to take into account or has gender override this? Because it does not recognise that
86	Strongly disagree	Research shows that 90% of victims are female. Men are usually the predominant perpetrator and women are usually the predominant victim. Unfortunately I disagree, however: Consistent and Collaborative: Promoting multi-agency and partnership commissioning and working to ensure a consistent offer across Sussex. I AGREE Diverse and Appropriate: Providing a wide range of appropriate safe accommodation and support options. I AGREE -if 'diverse' means to offer services to disabled survivors, regardless of skin colour ect -but if 'diverse' means to redefine other language such as what a 'woman' is, then I DISAGREE. Accessible and Inclusive: Ensuring services are accessible to all victims/survivors and meet the specific needs of those with the full range of protected characteristics. I AGREE -but it is reasonable to exclude on the basis of sex, for single sex exemptions and to keep group therapy or provide same-sex therapy. It is deeply unfortunate that 'inclusive' has come to mean it actually excludes survivors as there are survivors who do not want to speak to, or in front of, the opposite sex. Responsive: Establishing specialist provision to support victims/survivors with Multiple Complex Needs. I AGREE. Victim-centred: Empowering victims/survivors through expanding choices and enabling. I AGREE - sadly I think this is very seriously lacking, based on my points above, women are self-excluding and they are not empowered at all, they are told they are bigots and are transphobic when they themselves try to centre themselves in their own trauma! more victims/survivors to remain in their own homes Trauma-informed: Embedding trauma-informed practice in services and processes through training and specialist knowledge
87	Disagree	I think these priorities are largely meaningless because they are not backed up with clear proposals in the rest of the strategy.
88	Neither agree nor disagree	For example, if it is a priority to provide trauma-informed services, then it is essential that women must have access to single-sex refuge and support services. This does not appear to be a priority for action, and therefore the statement that services will be trauma-informed is empty.
89	Agree	Stonewater welcomes the emphasis on the six priorities in the Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support 2021-2024, however the strategy does not focus on early intervention and prevention. As a county we need to ensure that victim/survivors (adults and children) are supported at an early stage and provided with options to remain safe at home to prevent homelessness including holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour.
91	Disagree	The strategy speaks of a consistent offer across Sussex. However, the needs of people in different areas of Sussex are not the same. The demographic is very different and the response needs to be tailored, rooted in the community and properly funded. A one size fits all just ends up with everyone with badly fitting clothes. The strategy maybe 'overarching' but it is missing local detail.
93	Neither agree nor disagree	In theory the strategic priorities sound good but I would disagree that a consistent offer across Sussex is the right way forward. The needs of survivors and their children will be different in rural parts of the county to those in towns. Services need to be locally based and rooted in communities. A 'collaborative' approach to services is often used but what does it mean in practice...often too many people involved and asking survivors the same questions over and over so there should be detail and clarity on this process.
95	Neither agree nor disagree	The priorities are good but I am concerned about the rest of the strategy and whether this supports these priorities in practice. I would like to see local community based domestic and sexual violence services which address the needs of survivors in Brighton and Hove which may differ from the needs of survivors in other parts of Sussex. Services would ideally be familiar with local resources and networks and need to be knowledgeable.
96	Neither agree nor disagree	services should be familiar with with other local resources, this supports the ongoing journey for people accessing the service. Services need to be tailored to the needs of survivors locally and delivered by trusted partners with whom they can build relationships to sort them through the long road to recovery. Also it's difficult to see how the strategy actually supports your supposed priorities
97	Disagree	
98	Neither agree nor disagree	I support most of these priorities, but am concerned that these are outweighed by other strategic decisions that undermine policies and actions that try to put the needs of survivors first. It is important for the services to be community based and run by appropriately qualified people who are familiar with local resources and networks.

Which recommendations would you prioritise? - Your comments about your choices:

How can you talk about being inclusive when you use so many acronyms and none are explained.

4 Great that lots of specific groups are included - but MEN don't specifically get a mention. WHY?

8 We need the basics to protect ourselves and our children, and to minimise the impact and trauma to our children.

9 There are clearly some overlaps in these recommendations and so some responses will likely be arbitrary

Most women would prefer to stay in their own homes and have the perpetrator removed. This would mean they could stay in their place of work and continue to be near their local support networks and GP surgeries. It would also avoid the upheaval children experience when they move to a refuge (eg. moving schools and losing contact with friends and family).

Many more refuge places are needed. DVA has increased so much during the pandemic and the demand for safe housing has soared; something we are unfortunately unable to meet.

Housing and move on accommodation remains the number 1 issue for many clients. Housing specialists with knowledge of DVA are desperately needed.

10 Children and young people can often be overlooked so a dedicated and holistic support would benefit them greatly.

20 Within my services we witness many DV acts, however due to the nature of the service the clients are young (16-25) they often wish to remain in placement or certainly within the local area. They often do not wish to be placed elsewhere

As a survivor but also a mental health recovery worker I feel working in a trauma-informed way has to always be the priority when supporting survivors of domestic abuse. This could come in the form of caseworkers coming to survivors as travelling across the city to go to organisations can be not only terrifying but also dangerous. I also feel strongly about re-housing perpetrators as from my personal experience I was left homeless whilst my perpetrator stayed in our home which I was paying rent for as I did not want to default on my rent and get black listed and my landlord/letting agents did not understand my situation. This was not

22 only incredibly upsetting and infuriating but continued the financial abuse I had been victim to for a long time. I was lucky enough to have friends and family to stay with after leaving but I was not offered a hostel/bed through any organisation and I think this should be more of a priority,

All of the recommendations are laudable but I just wanted to give a particular emphasis on the recs that will benefit refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants where there are so many intersecting challenges. Sussex services need to continue to recognise and incorporate the needs of migrants as our

26 demography changes.

27 Brighton and Hove must not neglect its duty towards trans victims of domestic abuse, especially trans women, amidst current campaigning efforts to roll back their protections and exclude them from women's spaces.

32 Everyone has the right to live in peace and safety. The disabled should be given special attention due to their needs.

Think it needs more specialist women only, think we need to protect current services and I think we need for all professionals to be clear what domestic abuse is and isn't. I had too many people who didn't get what I told them and sided with him. I also don't think we should be paying for perpetrator services before we

34 make sure children are safe and have the services they need to recover.

Trauma-informed services must include single-sex provision for women

I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors,

but the strategy doesn't recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services

run by and for women - the large majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

The Trauma-informed section makes no mention of the need for single-sex

accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services are

trauma-informed.

The strategy should acknowledge and incorporate the expert analysis of women who

have been providing women's services for decades, such as Karen Ingala Smith:

<https://kareningalasmith.com/2020/07/08/trauma-informed-services-for-women-subj>

40 ected-to-mens-violence-must-be-single-sex-services/

41 Appropriate support can only be offered and provided if services have an understanding of the complex interplaying needs of victims. The effects of trauma on women and children are not well understood and women are penalised for behaviour that is a normal response to abuse.

44 There needs to be a focus on women, either with children or as single women.

* replace gender with sex in choice 4.

Sex and gender are not interchangeable, and there is no section for the protected characteristic of sex.

Data on victims and perpetrators must be disaggregated by sex (never by gender identity, although you can add that as well), to enable real monitoring and impact.

Victims/survivors must be able to participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services.

Important to have specialist services run by and for women.

45 There is no mention of the need for single-sex accommodation and support and this is absolutely essential for many victims/survivors. There has been a reduction in single-sex provision for women.

46 Critical to all these priorities are that women (female humans) are provided with access to single-sex services for safeguarding reasons.

Why is there no mention of women under the accessible and inclusive heading - there is a mention on men as a special category? I am sure you are aware that the vast majority (70+%) of survivors of domestic abuse are female. Therefore it is essential that their needs are prioritised. I agree with specialist services for lgbtq+ survivors, but believe services should recognise that women and children are the largest group of service users by far. Also agree with specialist services for survivors from BME groups.

Having worked with women survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse, I strongly assert the need for single sex services and believe that this forms an essential part of a trauma-informed approach to services.

It seems that you intend to reduce the number of single-sex spaces available, which I think shows that you have misunderstood the needs of survivors of domestic abuse - many of whom have experienced multiple incidents of abuse from men/male-bodied people. I note that the strategy says that 'The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups' but the exclusion of women as a special accessible and inclusive group indicates that this is not a priority.

Simplify and streamline the bureaucracy; the ease and comfort of bureaucrats should not be the design priority. It is the service users who need the help to exit their abusive situations and their needs should be foremost. Only abuse survivors can ensure that this is fit for purpose, not people who have only experienced

49 academic training and are likely to be unable to translate the theory to practical reality. The latter are the designers of most "interventions" which is why most are woefully inadequate.

Women's refuges must be single-sex spaces. There should be separate refuges for men and for transpeople. Also, all research and data should clearly distinguish male and female victims/perpetrators.

Certain groups are at particular risk. I would prioritise children, old people and those with disabilities. If I had a 6th choice it would be women from ethnic and religious minorities. They are often at greater risk and with little opportunity to escape or seek help. They may be restricted by family or cultural pressure,

53 language difficulties or enforced isolation.

59 Transgendered people with a GRC make up about 0.05% of the population. This is the percentage of services and resources which should be allocated to their support. 3 women a week are killed by their partners or ex-partners. You need to concentrate on them.

I would like to see LGBT+ Specific inhouse accommodation, it does not have to be just those suffering dv, it could be a community. I think after these kinds of relationships its nice to have a community, diverse and its also safety in numbers. Max 15 households, covering whole LGBT+ Spectrum.

Again this would include peer support provided by those with lived experience and possibly councillor trained.

Single point of contact. Again this makes it easier, they can be on the side of the survivor / victim and assist them through there journey. As with all the many other third sector organisations offering stuff already to the LGBT+ community.

Again, its not about excluding other groups, I am not sure why were being asked to prioritise. Again I think it's important we focus on this city and the needs we have right now. There are big issues here and we could be seeing so many more being accepted as homeless who would have likely stayed or gone back.

Accommodation standards much be high, the private sector must be avoided.

Buying new assets would mean we keep the asset long term and and retain receipts for housing benefit and rental payments for occupants. Which would generate an income for better services as this new act and the councils duties evolve.

As a survivor, I've found holistic and therapy to be very useful and empowering, getting survivor with mental health issues as a result of long term or even short term abuse is essential, particularly to those who may have also developed unhealthy additions or attachments to the wrong people.

This is about being a safety net, its about believing the victim/ survivor and its about ensuring no one should feel they have to go back to violent and abusive partner. We must monitor leavers for safety reasons and provide great safeguarding. Cctv is essential if survivors have non molestation orders out on exs, as they would gather evidence should they try and breach the terms of the injunction.

Tenants should have excellent tenancy rights and evictions should only be sanctioned by senior staff or via adult / child safeguarding board and recoded as such. Should anything go drastically wrong.

60 Worried about the way this money is already being earmarked. I am concerned there is a lot of duplication. What we do not have is inhouse projects. Spend the money here. Get our existing assets used / converted and bursting with life again, no more leaving our assets empty or allowing them to be parked by organisations who are not utilising the space. Where the need is greater our assets should be used for that.

61 Woman means biological woman

62 I think not enough is done for the hidden victims - particularly older men and women who will have probably endured for years believing they have no where not go and people with disabilities who will fear having to cope alone. And I think women from religious backgrounds are particularly poorly served.

Centering women in single sex provision of services is vital. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today.

64 Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.

65 Single sex spaces are required for the dignity, safety, and mental health of woman. Gender and class are not protected characteristics. Being able to request female councillors should be available (biological)

66 Please make available female only services that do not include those born male.

All data on perpetrators and victims of abuse must be disaggregated by biological sex, not gender identity, in order to allow the monitoring of the impact of domestic abuse on women.

The document should refer to the protected characteristic of sex (as per the Equality Act 2010), which it does not.

The document fails to take adequate account of the differing needs of male and female victims.

Trauma services must include single sex provision for women, the vast majority of victims, as well as specialist provision for LGBT+ victims.

Single-sex accommodation and support for women must be specified and protected, with separate accommodation and provision for trans women.

68 There is no discussion in the document of the rationale behind reducing the previous 86 single-sex refuges for women to the 39 now available, contradicting the recommendation that accommodation for women and children should be increased.

70 Having witnessed how challenging it is for a woman with children to have the courage to request help, it is worrying that the space she is given as refuge may also house men who identify as women. I asked the survivors that I know, and they all replied that they would absolutely hesitate going for refuge if that were the case

71 Trauma should inform your policy. Please avoid lumping victims with diverse needs together. Percentages of category of victim (predominantly women according to most material/publications I've read) should drive allocation of resources.

Recommendations missing from the list

- The strategy states that "Funding for current and future services for women and girls must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for the other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups for whom services are currently lacking." but this has not been made a specific recommendation. This commitment should be added to the recommendations and given a high priority.
- I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section that "Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services."
- I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. This must be adequately funded, so as not to take resources away from providing services.
- All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex (not gender identity), in order to enable monitoring and understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women.

Women missing from the analysis

- Despite reference to the Equality Act 2010, the specific needs of women are not considered in the Accessible and Inclusive section of the document - there is no section for the protected characteristic of sex.
- Women are included under the heading of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, but not mentioned under any of the other headings. Despite lip service to the idea of intersectionality, the draft strategy fails to take account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups.

6

Trauma-informed services must include single-sex provision for women

- I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, but the strategy doesn't recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services run by and for women - the large majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.
- The Trauma-informed section makes no mention of the need for single-sex accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services are trauma-informed.
- The strategy should acknowledge and incorporate the expert analysis of women who have been providing women's services for decades, such as Karen Ingala Smith: <https://kareningalasmith.com/2020/07/08/trauma-informed-services-for-women-subjected-to-mens-violence-must-be-single-sex-services/> and the women interviewed in Shonagh Dillion's PhD research: <https://shonaghdillon.co.uk/stonewall-and-the-male-violence-against-women-sector/>
- The strategy states that the 47 refuge spaces now provided by Clarion in East Sussex are accepting referrals for trans women. While I support specialist refuge provision for trans women, I am concerned that this could make these refuge spaces inaccessible for those (many) women who need single-sex accommodation.
- Before this change there were 86 refuge spaces available across the county for women who need single-sex accommodation and 4 specialist spaces available for transwomen. If there is no action taken to ensure that some East Sussex refuge spaces remain single-sex, there will now be 51 spaces available for transwomen (mostly without the specialist support they need) and only 39 for women who need single-sex accommodation. This is contrary to the recommendation in the Diverse and Appropriate section, that accommodation for women and children should be increased.
- Given that women are the victims in 71% of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police and trans and nonbinary people only 0.13%, this seems disproportionate
- There is no question in the consultation about this reduction in single-sex provision for women.

74 • In the Responsive to Multiple Disadvantages section, there is no recognition of the fact that many women with complex needs have had multiple experiences of male violence.

75 Why is there only one choice which actually mentions women when the vast majority of domestic abuse victims are women?

76 The overwhelming need for an accommodation and support service concerned with domestic violence is a focus on women and children. This is because of the scale of societal violence against women and girls and the sex-based origin of this societal problem: women bear children, young children are largely dependent on their mothers for their development and it is men who are most likely to be the perpetrators of violence and control against them.

77 The overwhelming need for an accommodation and support service concerned with domestic violence is a focus on women and children. This is because of the scale of societal violence against women and girls and the sex-based origin of this societal problem: women bear children, young children are largely dependent on their mothers for their development and it is men who are most likely to be the perpetrators of violence and control against them.

This is discriminatory: Sussex local authorities should increase specialist floating support and dispersed and self-contained units of safe accommodation that can accommodate LGBTQ+ victims/survivors and invest in LGBTQ+ awareness training for frontline practitioners. Trans people should use the services for their sex.

78 No-one should be discriminated against due to sexuality-stop conflating it with "T" e.g. why would "G" be included in services for women & girls? Mixed sex enables abusers access to vulnerable W&G (may even be used to access victims fleeing them).

Trauma informed practice is key to understanding people and their histories and being able to deliver a high level of service.
Young people are often relocated when victims of abuse, this can be detrimental to their emotional health and well-being.
More support for young boys and men who experience DV, better infrastructure and service support and delivery.
82 Perpetrator training and anger management course being more widely available.

Comments since last reported (03 12 2021)

being killed every three days in the UK and there aren't sufficient dedicated resources allocated to address this femicide.

The strategy states that "Funding for current and future services for women and girls must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for the other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups for whom services are currently lacking." but this has not been made a specific recommendation. This commitment should be added to the recommendations and given a high priority but it seems to have been omitted.

I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. This must be adequately funded, so as not to take resources away from providing services.

All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex (not gender identity), in order to enable monitoring and understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women.

Despite reference to the Equality Act 2010, the specific needs of women are not considered in the Accessible and Inclusive section of the document - there is no section for the protected characteristic of sex which is an omission of grand proportions when it is a legislatively recognised characteristic.

Women are included under the heading of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, but not mentioned under any of the other headings. This draft strategy fails to take account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups.

I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, but the strategy doesn't recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services run by and for women - the large majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

84

85 Women must mean natal women not transwomen who need their own services.

I would go back to basics and recognise women as adult human females and stop centring males. Services for male survivors can and should be offered in addition and separate to, services for women and girls only.

87 Whilst all the recommendations are well intentioned, it means nothing if you don't know what a women in.

Although the strategy contains a commitment that "Funding for current and future services for women and girls must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for the other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups for whom services are currently lacking." this is not a specific recommendation. I would like to see this guarantee that women's services will not be reduced included as one of the recommendations and given a high priority.

I think the evidence base for the strategy is pretty thin, so I support the proposal in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. I would like to see robust data, disaggregated by sex of both victims and perpetrators, so that the proportional needs of different groups can be assessed. As it stands, the strategy does not even mention sex as a protected characteristic. This is incredible, considering the large discrepancy between the numbers of women and men who are victims of domestic abuse.

The strategy recognises that refuge accommodation for women is inadequate in Sussex, but doesn't acknowledge that opening up all refuges in East Sussex to referrals for transwomen is bound to exclude some women from being able to access these services. As Karen Ingala Smith has pointed out

(<https://kareningalasmith.com/2020/07/08/trauma-informed-services-for-women-subjected-to-mens-violence-must-be-single-sex-services/>), many women need single-sex services in order to feel safe enough to participate in recovery work. I would like to see an increase in single-sex refuge spaces for women, as well as
88 an increase in specialist support for LGB and trans victims.

Please be aware of the extreme trauma involved. Women need safe housing. Please also ensure that women can access biological women only spaces. The last thing abused women want to see is a biological male in their safe space. Good to see separate provision for LBTQ who have their separate needs for protection
90 too.

I am so cross about the my Choice 5. Prior to April this year, Brighton and East Sussex already had a single point of contact to which the rights were owned by the Councils. When I saw this as an option I was spitting tacks.

91 The priority has to be proven, evidence based, proportionate support across the victim groups. Stop trying to reinvent the wheel.

Choices 1 and 2; There are often very few choices for survivors and families locally, in terms of whether to flee or stay - the option to remain at home with adequate safety planning and support from specialist services and reasonable adjustments/safety and security measures in place is rarely an option with no current BHCC sanctuary scheme. Sanctuary schemes mean that survivors can remain near to vital support networks and feel empowered, preventing families from moving into refuges or unfamiliar areas. In addition, schemes where perpetrators are removed and re-housed have been hugely beneficial to those with a DA background nationally. RISE have been funding lock-changes, the installation and provision of video doorbells and additional safety and security measures since June 2021, but more funding is needed to implement broader safety measures, and more joined-up work between specialist DA services and housing is needed

92 to ensure that this work is actioned as safely and swiftly as possible, and in a trauma-informed way.

* A keyworker approach whereby survivors have one person as their main point of contact to help them navigate on going support, legal support which prevents survivors having to repeat their story several times over.

* Data on survivors and perpetrators should be defined by Sex and not gender identity so that there is understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on women .

93 * The trauma informed section does not mention the need for single sex accommodation and support as a key factor to ensure that services are trauma-informed.

The Equality Act 2000 enshrines the specific needs of women but there is no sex-based protection in the Accessible and Inclusive section.

Women are included in Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation but not under other headings. This draft strategy fails to take account of the different needs of female and male victims within the protected characteristic groups.

I would like to see as a specific recommendation and high priority given to funding for current and future services for women and girls which must be sustainable, long-term and independent from the funding for other specialist services identified within this Strategy. The needs of women and girls must continue to be met alongside the needs of other groups for whom services are currently lacking.

I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section that "Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services"

I support the recommendation in the Consistent and Collaborative section to improve data collection. This must be adequately funded, so as not to take resources away from providing services.

All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex (not gender identity), in order to enable correct monitoring and full understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women.

I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, but the strategy does not recognise the equally compelling need for specialist sex-based services run by and for women - the large majority of victim/survivors of domestic abuse.

The Trauma-informed section makes no mention of the need for single-sex accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services are trauma-informed.

The strategy should acknowledge and incorporate the expert analysis of women who have been providing women's services for decades such as Karen Ingala Smith and Shonagh Dillion

The strategy states that the 46 refuge spaces now provided by Clarion in East Sussex are accepting referrals for trans women, I am concerned that this could make these refuge spaces inaccessible for many women who need single sex accommodation.

Before this change, there were 86 refuge spaces available across the county for women who need single sex accommodation and 4 specialist spaces available for transwomen. If there is not action taken to ensure that some East Sussex refuge spaces remain single-sex, there will now be 51 spaces available for transwomen (mostly without the specialist support they need) and only 39 for women who need single sex accommodation. This is contrary to the Diverse and Appropriate section, that accommodation for women and children should be increased.

Given that women are victims of 71% of domestic abuse recorded by the police and trans and non-binary people only 0.13% this seems disproportionate

There is no question in this consultation about this reduction in single-sex provision for women.

95 In the Responsive to Multiple Disadvantages section, there is no recognition of the fact that many women with complex needs have had multiple experiences of male violence

96 women are included under the heading of gender identity and sexual identity, but not mentioned under any other headings. Despite lip service to the idea of intersectionality, the draft strategy fails to take into account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups

In addition and recognising that men and males who identify as trans women may sometimes be victims of domestic violence, provision also needs to be made for their needs, including separate, proportionate and appropriate services; but these should not be at locations being accessed by women and children, or in any way be an excuse for replacing or downgrading the domestic abuse services needed by women and their children.

2 - Accessible and inclusive – all women in safe accommodation should receive adequate standards of care and support, which should including being assigned a competent key worker and move-on support.

3 – Accessible and inclusive - ethnic

As noted above, I agree that Sussex local authorities should investigate specialist safe accommodation for victims/survivors from marginalised ethnic groups and people with 'No Recourse to Public Funds'.

COMMENTS ABOUT MY CHOICES AND WHAT IS MISSING FROM THE LIST

I'm concerned about what is missing from the list, notably the specific needs of women. In the various sections, there is no specific section for the protected characteristic of sex as recognised in the 2010 Equality Act.

Despite giving lip service to the idea of intersectionality, the draft strategy fails to take account of the differing needs of female and male victims within each of the protected characteristic groups. Women have also been lumped in under a general heading of gender identity and sexual orientation, which is completely inappropriate. Women are by far the largest demographic of victims and survivors of sex-based violence, and this is of determining relevance, notwithstanding our identities/choices around sexual attraction or whether we conform to genderised stereotypes.

The needs of women and girls must be made sustainable and independently funded and prioritised separate from – and alongside – the needs of other groups, but this was not included as a specific recommendation. This needs to be included and given high priority. I support the recommendation in the 'Consistent and Collaborative' section to improve data collection. This should be adequately funded so as not to take resources away from providing services.

All data on victims and perpetrators of abuse must be disaggregated by sex – not gender identities – in order to enable monitoring and understanding of the specific impact of domestic abuse on women and girls.

I support the recommendation in the 'Consistent and Collaborative' section that 'Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services.'

I was shocked to discover that the Trauma-informed section has no recognition of the need for single-sex accommodation and support as a key factor in ensuring that services for women and girls are trauma-informed.

While I support the proposal to add specialist services for LGBT+ and BME victims/survivors, I am deeply concerned to discover that the strategy does not recognise the equally compelling need for specialist services run by and for women – the largest majority of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

98 Trauma-informed services must include single-sex provision by and for women.

My ID
Is there anything that needs to change in the strategy? - Q5

Is there anything that needs to change in the strategy? - If you said yes, please tell us what:

Refuge services need to be explicit about their support options for trans clients in particular, not just the LGBTQ* Community. This includes their policies on admitting trans & genderqueer women, regardless of presentation. The burden of responsibility for trans survivors to 'pass' in order to access services creates additional barriers. This is noted in the 'inconsistencies and gaps' section, but there are no plans to address this inconsistency. There needs to be centralised support for trans people with high needs who would benefit from a refuge service.

Additionally, it has to be acknowledged that the LGBTQ* community frequently has intersections with other marginalisations. This means that ANY accommodation for disabled people must also be accessible to LGBTQ* people, that the LGBTQ* accommodation is set up for people with MCNs (or that the specialist accommodation for people with MCN explicitly provides for LGBTQ* people, INCLUDING trans people).

Don't forget men

"The full range of protected characteristics" will be internally contradictory. Women, including and especially women of faith and certain ethnicities, need single-sex provision, with accommodation for children (obviously children of both sexes).

Evidence base needs to be clear.

Commitment to supporting and resourcing and engaging with local experts in DVA the field long term should be included - building and supporting their capacity to provide specialist services and build on community capacity.

There should be a focused section on vawg which then related to local vawg strategies

A focus on the national picture and DVA prevention and recovery needs to be built in with collaboration across counties and areas.

The strategy should focus on a whole community response not just a service response - domestic abuse is everyone's business and is in every community.

See additions below.

The ambitious scale of the strategy while admirable will be difficult to deliver on with limited funds and funding therefor needs to be prioritised and apportioned according to demand and need which is well evidenced and documented. There is no recognition in the strategy that women and girls are overwhelmingly the majority victims of domestic abuse and funding to other minority victims like men and GB & T should not be at the disadvantage of women and girls. This is a very gender neutral document and there is no acknowledgement that what women and girl survivors need and have asked for in the consultation groups is "safe single sex " refuge and support services as is their legal right under the Equalities Act.

It has a very narrow focus and is not balanced. There whole section on multiple complex needs accommodation but not in all the other areas of need. One might think this was influenced by someone with backing substance misuse. it has not stated the full definition of DA as per DAAct, it has not explored the new duties for Homeless Decisions or temporary accommodation requirements. In addition, it is ludicrous to prioritise Family Safeguarding Model which is designed for those cases which are just under safeguarding level . It is a different policy area and not directly linked to the needs of the majority of those affected by DA. allow pets to be accommodated with victims

This may come from a position of naivety but why the weight in the priorities on keeping people in their homes?

I'd also like to say that this is so fantastic to see and so many brilliant people have worked so hard for this. But, the provisions here are targetted interventions not preventions. That could funnel so much money in to nothing. Work around prevention would benefit the great elements in this proposal.

Having ongoing support for survivors who have fled domestic abuse; the trauma stays, it doesn't just go as soon as you have left. The symptoms of trauma are huge and can impact on your ability to live a fulfilling life.

Also more support for legal advice; going to courts can be incredibly stressful and complicated so having free advice would be incredibly beneficial.

Needs to be more services generally to meet the need

An emphasis on the fact that these services are for biological women.

More focus on children, economic abuse, post separation abuse, use of CMS and family courts and the overwhelming propensity of professionals to take his side. Maybe something about health and schools?

It needs to focus on women and children, and clearly define those to mean human females. Those are the people in need.

The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse

- The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society. • In the section entitled Understanding Domestic Abuse, figures are given which show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse (these are based on the ONS Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2019).

- The same source notes that "In 75% of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019, the victim was female." and "Between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2018, 74% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 13% of victims of non-domestic homicide."

- These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy - instead, domestic abuse is defined as something which can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background." The strategy starts from the viewpoint of local authorities, not women

- The strategy is narrowly focused on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, to assess and plan "accommodation-based support".

- Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn't look at the needs of women holistically.

Accommodation-based support is separated off from community-based support, which is considered to be outside the scope of this strategy.

There needs to be a stronger focus on the understanding that this is abuse against women and children. By trying to be all inclusive you lose the main cohort of victims.

Focus on provision of services by 'by and for' organisations - ie organisations led and staffed by Black and minoritised women to support those women, women-only organisations, organisations 'by and for' Deaf and disabled women, etc. Provision of services by larger organisations meant to cater to all survivors do not and cannot have the same understanding of victims' needs as specialist 'by and for' organisation. This should be a key part of the 'Accessible and Inclusive' and 'Diverse and Appropriate' aims.

More focus on safe housing and refuges for women, including women with young children.

The strategy format excludes women who have experienced domestic abuse:

- The strategy is not written in accessible language for ordinary members of the public and the format of the strategy and consultation are not trauma-informed, for example showing a list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities, inaccessible to survivors with concentration or emotional issues.

The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse

- The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society. It reads as if domestic abuse can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background." when statistics show a different reality.

- Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, and it starts from the viewpoint of local authorities, it doesn't look at the overall needs of women, for example separating accommodation from community-based support.

- This doesn't make sense from the point of view of actual victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

There seems little understanding (or interest) shown in the needs of women survivors - and the strategy lacks any feminist analysis of domestic abuse as part of a wider pattern of male violence against women. ONS domestic abuse analysis states that in police figures for domestic abuse crimes, 75% of victim/survivors were women. This is not recognised in the strategy which seems to stress that domestic violence can happen to anyone 'regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic background, sexuality or background'. Although this is true, the statistics show that women are much much more likely to experience domestic abuse and therefore they should be central to any review of service provision.

I have to say I am so sad reading this strategy and thinking of the women who will be failed by new

Too much

In what way is it "inclusive" to prioritise a single demographic? Women, children & men of any age group can be abused and we are all human. If you focus on human experiences of trauma and recovery, then the service will be truly inclusive as well as less complex.

One service provider not a fragmentation

	<p>You ignore the protected characteristic of biological sex. You need to re-write the strategy to properly include this protected characteristic. Services and service needs assessments need to include data collection and analysis using biological sex (not just gender identity) as a key variable. Biological women are by far the biggest victims of domestic violence. Please stop erasing them from your analysis.</p> <p>In your section on "trauma informed" you refer to how it would be desirable for survivors to only need to produce, for example, a single document to evidence their situation. This misses the fact that many victims of domestic abuse have to evidence their situation and experience through the family court - often through years of ongoing litigation from perpetrators who use the family court as an additional arena for abuse. All family court proceedings are strictly confidential. Survivors are forbidden from providing or even relaying the details of court findings or child arrangement orders to third parties. This is a problem with the family justice system, but to provide services from these victims you need to understand it.</p> <p>I support the provision of services for trans-women, but this needs to be done through separate services, not through removing single-sex services for female survivors of male violence. Female survivors of male violence are not there to validate the gender identity of transwomen, and asking them to share facilities risks re-traumatising and also alienating women from these services - particularly with the current emphasis on permitting self ID of "gender". Single sex services for female victims of DA are entirely within the remit of the 2010 Equality Act, they need to be expanded, not reduced as is your current plan. As your own strategy makes clear, women are by far the biggest victims of domestic abuse. Please re-centre them in your domestic abuse strategy</p>
51	Yes
52	Yes
53	Yes
56	Yes
60	Not Answered
61	Yes
64	No
66	Yes
67	Yes
68	Yes
69	Yes
70	Yes
71	Yes
73	Yes
	<p>There needs to be a recognition that specialist service providers are preferred</p> <p>Worried about the way this money is already being earmarked. I am concerned there is a lot of duplication. What we do not have is inhouse projects. Spend the money here. Get our existing assets used / converted and bursting with life again, no more leaving our assets empty or allowing them to be parked by organisations who are not utilising the space. Where the need is greater our assets should be used for that.</p> <p>Woman must be defined as biological women</p> <p>Centering women in single sex provision of services is vital. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today.</p> <p>Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.</p> <p>Please ensure there are female only services that do not include those born male.</p> <p>Single sex only safe spaces. 'Gender' is irrelevant.</p> <p>The strategy needs a clear emphasis on the fact that domestic violence overwhelmingly involves women as victims and men as perpetrators.</p>
	<p>It also needs to be written in more accessible language, so that all stakeholders can meaningfully engage with it.</p> <p>Women and Children refuge spaces only its a logical conclusion for women fleeing domestic violence and abuse.</p> <p>Sex-based segregation is paramount for women to feel psychological and physical safety when fleeing male violence. This is for every woman and even more severe when the woman is accompanied by children</p> <p>As above. Resource allocation should be according to category of victim.</p> <p>The strategy discusses rooms for LGBTQ but doesn't discuss whether the strategy will ensure that these spaces are single sex. In order to ensure the physical safety of women and girls this space should remain for biological women and females only. It would be helpful if the survey would confirm that the spaces are single sex and for biological women only.</p>
	<p>The strategy format excludes women who have experienced domestic abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy is not written in plain, accessible language that ordinary members of the public can understand. It uses a lot of sector-specific jargon and acronyms. • Even if translated into community languages, it does not approach the subject in ways that are meaningful or accessible for different community groups. The strategy needs at least a glossary adding, and this must be at the beginning not the end. • The format of the strategy and consultation themselves are not trauma-informed, for example a confusing list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities will be inaccessible to survivors who have issues with concentration, energy and/or who are triggered by reading it. <p>The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society. • In the section entitled Understanding Domestic Abuse, figures are given which show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse (these are based on the ONS Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2019). • The same source notes that "In 75% of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019, the victim was female." and "Between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2018, 74% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 13% of victims of non-domestic homicide." • These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy - instead, domestic abuse is defined as something which can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background." <p>The strategy starts from the viewpoint of local authorities, not women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy is narrowly focused on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, to assess and plan "accommodation-based support". • Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn't look at the needs of women holistically. Accommodation-based support is separated off from community-based support, which is considered to be outside the scope of this strategy.
74	Yes
75	Yes
76	Yes
77	Yes
78	Yes
82	Yes
83	Yes

Comments since last reported (03 12 2021)

The language of the strategy is confusing and exclusive - it doesn't allow for speakers of other languages to participate in this survey.

The format of the strategy and consultation themselves are not trauma-informed, for example a confusing list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities will be inaccessible to survivors who have issues with concentration, energy and/or who are triggered by reading it. I've taken ages to answer this as it is so complicated and hard to comprehend. I would also factor in that I am exhausted from addressing an ongoing situation with domestic violence and being a working parent. It doesn't facilitate ease of participation.

In the section entitled Understanding Domestic Abuse, figures are given which show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse (these are based on the ONS Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2019).

The same source notes that "In 75% of the domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019, the victim was female." and "Between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2018, 74% of victims of domestic homicide were female compared with 13% of victims of non-domestic homicide."

These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy - instead, domestic abuse is defined as something which can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background."

The strategy is narrowly focused on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, to assess and plan "accommodation-based support" Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn't look at the needs of women holistically.

Accommodation-based support is separated off from community-based support, which is considered to be outside the scope of this strategy. This doesn't make sense from the point of view of actual victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

84

Yes

Clearly state that female sufferers of dv will be safe and in accomodation and services for women not males of any gender identity.

85

Yes

Recognise that DV is mainly perpetrated BY men (penis havers) AGAINST WOMEN

86

Yes

I would focus on women and girls, recognise their trauma is based on their biological sex and not a 'gender' or 'gender identity' and stop centring males in violence against women and girls. Until this happens it is not possible to place faith in your services and that is a real problem for the women in Brighton and Hove. This strategy is written in inaccessible language, which most people (particularly women who have been traumatised by domestic abuse) will find difficult to follow. The consultation therefore doesn't meet its own recommendation that "Victims/survivors must be able to actively participate in the design and commissioning of domestic abuse safe accommodation and support services."

I am disappointed that the strategy is not clearly based on an understanding of domestic abuse as part of a continuum of male violence against women and girls. Brighton & Hove Council had an integrated strategy on preventing violence against women and girls from 2012 to 2017 (<http://www.safeinthecity.info/sites/safeinthecity.info/files/sitc/Brighton%20%26%20Hove%20VAWG%20STRATEGY%2012%20-%2017.pdf>) but this understanding is missing from the current strategy document.

87

Yes

Even though women are twice as likely as men to be victims of domestic abuse, the strategy says domestic abuse can affect anyone "regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background." Without an understanding of domestic abuse as a facet of male dominance, it is not possible to support women to recognise and break free of the tactics of power and control that abusers use.

88

Yes

Define women properly. If your definition includes transwomen, acknowledge the possible conflict of interests between abused people with different protected characteristics.

89

Yes

Thank you for trying to make changes and best wishes.

90

Yes

There is no focus on the largest client group - women and children. They are lumped in with every other group as though their needs are the same. There are no data sets or numbers. There must be evidence from years of domestic abuse services across Sussex. Setting out the issue in clear terms, with numbers, gives a better idea of the need and the scale of response.

91

Yes

That strategy needs to be written in a clearer more accessible way - the consultation and strategy in their current forms are not easy reading for survivors who may be fragile, dealing with trauma, lacking concentration and focus to be able to take it all in.

Is it available in a range of languages reflective of those spoken across Sussex?

92

Yes

The strategy needs to acknowledge or show a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of male dominance over women across class, ethnicity and religions-the statistics show this -ONS March 2019 yet the strategy does not.

The strategy format excludes women who have experienced domestic abuse:

The strategy needs to be written in plain English, not using jargon and acronyms without explanations.

There could be a glossary of terms added at the beginning.

The format of the strategy is not trauma informed, for example, the confusing list of 20 overlapping and indistinct priorities which are inaccessible to survivors who have issues with concentration, energy and/or who are triggered by reading and responding to this.

The strategy lacks a feminist analysis of domestic abuse:

The strategy is not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout their lives and society.

In the section, Understanding Domestic Abuse, the figures show that twice as many women as men are victims of domestic abuse based on Office for National Statistics

The same source states that 75% of domestic violence crimes reported by police recorded in the year ending March 2019 the victim was female and 74% of the victims of domestic homicide were female

These statistics are not mentioned in the strategy, instead domestic abuse is defined as affecting anyone regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, sexuality or background

The strategy starts from the viewpoint of the local authority, not women:

The strategy is narrowly focussed on the new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act to assess and plan accommodation based support

Because it is not based on a broader analysis of domestic abuse as a type of male violence against women, it doesn't look at the needs of women holistically

Accommodation based support is separated from community based support, which is considered outside the scope of this strategy.

93

Yes

This does not make sense from the viewpoint of actual victim/survivors of domestic abuse.

It's not written in accessible language.

94

Yes

Not based on a clear understanding of domestic abuse as part of a pattern of domination of women by men throughout society

95

Yes

Even though you've said about protected funding for women and girls servi are far and away the most impacted, you haven't made it a priority - this is inconsistent and makes it hard to trust what you say

I did my best to read through the draft Strategy, but found the data, numbers, purpose and focus quite confusing. I think it should have been more geared towards the needs of women and girls, as the main victims/survivors of domestic violence in Sussex. Instead, it appears to start from the local authority viewpoint and new Local Authority Duties under the Domestic Abuse Act, with an overly narrow focus on 'accommodation-based support'. While this is important, the fundamental issue is how to provide for the needs and safety of victims/survivors, especially the trauma-informed experiences of women and girls.

Because it lacks a broader and feminist-informed analysis of domestic abuse as a highly prevalent type of male violence against females, the strategy fails to look holistically at the needs of the primary victims/survivors, which are women and girls. Community-based support and services are wrongfully separated from accommodation-based support and then left outside the scope of this Sussex strategy.

96

Yes

In conjunction with the lack of feminist analysis, the strategy is not written in plain accessible language and does not approach these issues in ways that are accessible and meaningful for different communities. I felt excluded by the style and jargon in the consultation document, and nearly gave up because of the

confusing list of overlapping and indistinct 'priorities' in section 4, which took a lot of time and concentration.

My ID	Is there anything missing from the strategy? - Q6	Is there anything missing from the strategy? - If you said yes, please tell us what:
1	Not Answered	A greater emphasis on men as victims.
		Non-binary people are completely invisible in the strategy. Under "Diverse and Appropriate", I wonder why women are only included in this consideration.
		Domestic abuse survivors should be able to access private accommodation through the LHA. The LHA is significantly lower than average rents in Brighton and Hove, which make it hard for anyone to access the private rental sector. By increasing the LHA for survivors this would allow them to move into safe accommodation quicker.
3	Yes	It is acknowledged multiple times that our communities are underrepresented in "traditional" reporting routes, such as the CJS, IDVA services and VAWG policy. However, it doesn't say what "more" will be done to reach these groups.
4	Yes	Explanations of acronyms
6	Yes	You don't state whether or not "women" includes trans women. It's imperative that you make this clear so that everyone who takes part in this survey can comment from the same place.
7	Yes	Funding for independent organisations
8	Yes	Dedicated provision for women and their children that male strangers - and their typically male partners, who may pose as something other than what they are, cannot access.
9	Yes	See above
12	Not Answered	End gatekeeping practices. Ensure that housing officers are abiding by existing housing legislation and end culture of disbelief towards victim/survivors. Ensure that housing is safe, appropriate and of a good standard. (i.e. not overcrowded/damp/mouldy)
15	Yes	Please see above comments
17	Yes	As above. There should be much less about MCN and more on meeting the support in safe accommodation duty for the rest of the local population.
18	Yes	allow pets to be accommodated with victims
21	Yes	As above - a larger (not majority but certainly larger) focus on perpetrator prevention to compliment intervention.
		I think having support groups and the provision of psychological therapies need to be a priority. Overcoming this trauma is incredibly difficult, I was fortunate to be able to afford private EMDR therapy and without this I'm not sure I would have been able to get myself to where I am now.
22	Yes	Also providing training for private landlords and employers around domestic abuse and having protocols in place for when someone has to flee the home due to DV etc.
		I would include that as part of being victim-centred, your strategy should place importance on acknowledging the barriers that victims face in accessing services and in reporting domestic abuse, and aim to actively consult victims on making services more accessible. Part of this comes from a fear of reporting domestic abuse because of the repercussions this can have e.g. the trauma of police involvement, or how the perpetrator may respond when a case is raised, lack of information as to what ones options are or how they might be handled. These factors must be considered and transparency of information should be given to the public. For victims in supported accommodation, many of these barriers come from experiencing substance, severe mental health difficulties, or other issues whereby engaging with statutory services is challenging.
		Something we have noticed with several clients is a situation where victims do not feel able to provide a statement against a perpetrator, and services are left with high risk of perpetrators reoffending as police are not able to charge them. I believe it would be beneficial for services to be able to work with the police to put provisions in place against perpetrators without a victim having to go through court procedures, as this can be highly traumatic. We have noticed something called Claire's Law which would be beneficial to have shared with services so that we can make informed decisions about placing someone in a service. It would be good to have a register of reports to contribute to this. Statements against someone is not enough as there are so many victims who do not feel able to provide this which leaves so much harm done hidden.
29	Yes	A commitment to focus on supporting females.
39	Yes	Where is the recognition of women's expertise on trauma-informed services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is nothing in the strategy that builds trauma-awareness directly into services through appropriate design of e.g. buildings, staffing, single-sex provision etc. While I welcome the focus on consistent trauma informed practice, training courses for staff and co-location of housing staff are relatively small parts of making services trauma-aware and true trauma awareness starts at a more fundamental level. Survivors of domestic abuse value single sex services, appropriately located services (e.g. not in shared office buildings), equally if not more highly than workers able to use current buzz words. There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors.
40	Yes	There is no focus on perpetrator accountability.
41	Yes	Yes, as above - inclusion of provision 'by and for' organisations and women-led refuges.
43	Yes	
44	Yes	Opportunities for women to live in stable, long term shared housing with other women to enable them to form support networks and help each other with childcare. Missing data: This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.
		Missing wider context of women's lives: - Need to tackle post-separation abuse and specifically those victims further abused through family court system. - Missing educational and therapeutic programmes around relationship dynamics and power and control. They are vital to enable women to leave abusive relationships and as a prevention. - Strategy is missing mentioning training work on schools and in the community and in other sectors like GPs, social workers, teachers... - There is no mention about ensuring it is women employed to support women survivors.
45	Yes	Clarification on single sex provision and use of the word 'gender' which is not a protected characteristic, while 'sex' is.
46	Yes	Understanding of the needs of female survivors The different needs of different groups Educational and therapeutic programmes that will help women to break free from abusive relationships
47	Yes	Recognition of the importance of single sex spaces
48	Yes	CPS should interact with the victim direct
50	Yes	Addressing the above point Women. Domestic violence is largely perpetrated by men against women. But you insist on homogenising your analysis to insist on one-size-fits-all, thereby ignoring the needs of women and the reality of how the vast majority of domestic violence takes place, which is men dominating women. Removing the ability of women to shape and yes - police who has access to their services is another way of allowing men to yet again dominate women, as they do in almost all walks of life. It is to remove our safe spaces, even at the point we need them most.
51	Yes	There is no recognition of fact that domestic violence most commonly affects women, especially in the worst cases -- 74% of victims of domestic homicides are women -- and is usually committed by men. Therefore the strategy fails to recognise women's specific needs, eg for single-sex spaces, and for female-only staff.
		Survivors' need for holistic, community-based and long-term support has also been overlooked. The fragmentation of support services, since RISE was defunded earlier this year, has been harmful to survivors of domestic violence.
53	Yes	A commitment to women led specialist services being part of all delivery
56	Yes	Safe spaces for women - I believe that women and children need spaces away from male bodied people.
58	Yes	Brighton and Hove. Lots of mention of Sussex. The money was awarded to us! Worried this means lots of people will be placed outside of the city, or told to stay where they are, even if the person does not wish.
		I would like to see some really innovative reporting here and feedback to committee, in form of monitoring the successes and areas of concerns.
60	Yes	We need to capture equality data and bring in our local NHS and GPs. Yes work with local DV organisations, but this should be an in-house service.
61	Yes	Definition of woman which should be based on biology
62	Not Answered	Sex based analysis - we know that 75% of perpetrators are male and that their victims are female. Centering women in single sex provision of services is missing. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.
64	Yes	Single sex only safe spaces.
67	Yes	

There is nothing in the strategy ensuring the provision of same-sex staff to support victims, which many victims want.

68 Yes
69 Yes
71 Yes
73 Yes

Where is the data?
• The strategy isn't clear on the numbers involved. Data from the Sussex Portal, Safe in Sussex, Worth Services, the Police and Hospital Services must already be available and will give a clear idea of needs. Incorporating this data as an evidence base for this strategy would make the process more transparent.
• This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.
Where is the understanding of abuse in the wider context of women's lives?
• There is nothing in the strategy about post-separation abuse and specifically the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system
• There is nothing in the strategy about educational and therapeutic programmes addressing relationship dynamics and the key significance of power and control. These are vital both to enable women to break free of abusive relationships and rebuild their lives on a stronger footing, and also as a preventative measure.
• The strategy talks about perpetrator programmes, but has nothing to say about work with young people in schools and the community.
• There is nothing in the strategy about training for any public sector workers other than housing staff. Women experiencing domestic violence also need trauma-informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers and teachers.

Where is the recognition of women's expertise on trauma-informed services?
• There is nothing in the strategy that builds trauma-awareness directly into services through appropriate design of e.g. buildings, staffing, single-sex provision etc.
• While I welcome the focus on consistent trauma informed practice, training courses for staff and co-location of housing staff are relatively small parts of making services trauma-aware and true trauma awareness starts at a more fundamental level.
• Survivors of domestic abuse value single sex services, appropriately located services (e.g. not in shared office buildings), equally if not more highly than workers able to use current buzz words.
• There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors.
Feminism.

74 Yes
75 Yes

An unequivocal statement regarding sex as a protected characteristic within the Equality Act, 2010 and how this will affect strategic priorities and policy delivery in terms of the accommodation and support needs of female survivors of domestic abuse.
This should make clear that dedicated accommodation and support by the protected characteristic of sex (not gender) is available on demand to survivors from point of entry through the system and upon exit from the service. It will be necessary to also provide a statement of how those undergoing 'gender reassignment', another protected characteristic in law missing from your policy proposal, will be accommodated and supported separately to the single sex accommodation provided.

76 Yes

An unequivocal statement regarding sex as a protected characteristic within the Equality Act, 2010 and how this will affect strategic priorities and policy delivery in terms of the accommodation and support needs of female survivors of domestic abuse.
This should make clear that dedicated accommodation and support by the protected characteristic of sex (not gender) is available on demand to survivors from point of entry through the system and upon exit from the service. It will be necessary to also provide a statement of how those undergoing 'gender reassignment', another protected characteristic in law missing from your policy proposal, will be accommodated and supported separately to the single sex accommodation provided.
EA2010 enshrined in law rights of women to NOT be viewed as bigots if want female counsellor/worker &/or safe space.

77 Yes
78 Yes
80 Not Answered

The protected characteristic of SEX must be first priority and single sex sieves only available
LGBTQ+ refuge provision should be funded long-term. Funding as it stands is too short-term, usually only 12 months at a time. This is not enough time to recruit staff, train staff, locate and set up refuge units and to establish the project. Short-term funding such as this means that we lose momentum, lose specialist expertise and staff and it does not meet the long-term needs of survivors.

83 Yes

Comments since last reported (03 12 2021)

	<p>The strategy is unclear on the numbers involved. Data from the Sussex Portal, Safe in Sussex, Worth Services, the Police and Hospital Services must already be available and will give a clear idea of needs. Incorporating this data as an evidence base for this strategy would make the process more transparent. Why hasn't it been used when it already exists?</p> <p>This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.</p> <p>There is nothing in the strategy about post-separation abuse and specifically the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system. As someone who is going through this exact thing, a funded worker who understands this process and could liaise with Cafcass and family court would be something fundamental to fit in to plans for supporting DV survivors.</p> <p>The strategy talks about perpetrator programmes, but has nothing to say about work with young people in schools and the community and specifically those who replicate the victim perpetrator dynamic having seen it take place in their own family previously. This shows that there is no way to break the cycle of abuse without the strategic support for doing so.</p> <p>There is nothing in the strategy about training for any public sector workers other than housing staff. Women experiencing domestic violence also need trauma-informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers and teachers.</p> <p>Please think about this strategy actually impacts on those who use and need it most, which is overwhelmingly women and their children. There is nothing in the strategy that builds trauma-awareness directly into services through appropriate design of e.g. buildings, staffing, single-sex provision etc.</p> <p>While I welcome the focus on consistent trauma informed practice, training courses for staff and co-location of housing staff are relatively small parts of making services trauma-aware and true trauma awareness starts at a more fundamental level.</p>
84	Yes
85	Yes
86	Yes
	<p>Clearly state that female sufferers of dv will be safe and in accommodation and services for women not males of any gender identity.</p> <p>Research shows that 90% of victims are female. Men are usually the predominant perpetrator and women are usually the predominant victim.</p> <p>Centring female survivors. The strategy is over all a good one but if you don't know or understand why women and girls wouldn't want to share their male-perpetrated trauma with other men, regardless of how they dress or wear their hair, then there isn't anything you can do for that group of women.</p> <p>There is nothing in the strategy about post-separation abuse and the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family courts</p> <p>The strategy is narrowly focused on accommodation and doesn't address the holistic needs of women who have experienced domestic abuse. Women also need trauma-informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers and teachers. Women need wrap-around care from services that are integrated into the community, who can advocate for them in relation to all these public services, without victim-survivors having to tell their traumatic stories over and over again.</p>
87	Yes
	<p>There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors.</p> <p>Stonewater welcomes the emphasis on the six priorities in the Pan-Sussex Strategy for Domestic Abuse Accommodation and Support 2021-2024. However the strategy does not focus on early intervention and prevention. As a county we need to ensure that victim/survivors (adults and children) are supported at an early stage and provided with options to remain safe at home to prevent homelessness including holding perpetrators to account for their behaviour.</p> <p>Clear definitions</p> <p>Detail. There is no detail on exactly what is proposed, how it might happen and how much it might cost. Without that it is castles in the sky.</p>
88	Yes
89	Yes
90	Yes
91	Yes
	<p>When clients with a DA background require a transfer from their home due to risk of harm or due to the impact of remaining where have experienced significant abuse, they are often met with multiple barriers, or a blanket refusal. This is usually the case with long term TA accommodation and permanent council housing. It can often take a long time with many documents and letters of support needing to be submitted, then a wait of many months, even with a priority transfer. These cases are often very time sensitive. By working more closely with specialist DA services and other support services, housing teams could ensure that survivors at high risk of harm or homicide are moved more swiftly into alternative suitable housing. The offer of emergency housing or refuge accommodation in these situations is sometimes not appropriate, and clients' reasons for refusing such accommodation can be extremely valid but not accepted by housing teams.</p> <p>The strategy needs to demonstrate support for survivors post separation and through the family court system.</p> <p>The strategy also needs to show support for young people in schools- it mentions programmes for perpetrators of abuse but therapeutic support is needed for young children who have been living with/witnessing domestic violence.</p> <p>Trauma informed training should be provided for a wider range of staff and not just housing staff.</p>
92	Yes
93	Yes
94	Yes
	<p>Consideration for the specific needs of women on the basis of their sex. And also disaggregation of data by sex to aid the understanding of women's specific needs.</p> <p>Where is the data?</p> <p>The strategy is unclear on the statistics. Please obtain data from Sussex Portal, Safe in Sussex, Worth services, the police and hospital services to obtain a clear idea of needs. Incorporating this data as an evidence base for this strategy would make the process more accurate and transparent.</p> <p>This strategy is not clear on how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded. Nor is it clear on the proportionate need for different groups.</p> <p>Where is the understanding of abuse in the wider context of women's lives?</p> <p>There is nothing in this strategy about post-separation abuse and specifically the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system.</p> <p>There is nothing in the strategy about educational and therapeutic programmes addressing relationship dynamics and key significance of power and control. These are both vital to enable women to break free of abusive relationships and rebuild their lives and their children's lives on a stronger footing, and also as preventative measure.</p> <p>The strategy mentions perpetrator programmes but does not refer to any work with young people in schools and the community.</p> <p>There is nothing in the strategy about training for any public sector workers other than housing staff. Women experiencing domestic violence also need trauma informed services from GPs, health visitors, social workers, teachers etc.</p> <p>Where is the recognition of women's expertise on trauma-informed services?</p> <p>The strategy fails to incorporate trauma awareness into services such as the appropriate design of buildings, staffing, single sex provision etc</p> <p>Trauma awareness is more fundamental than a focus on trauma informed practice, training of staff and co-location of housing staff.</p> <p>Survivors of domestic abuse strongly value single sex services and appropriately located services</p> <p>There is nothing in the strategy about ensuring female staff are employed to support female survivors.</p> <p>Nothing about post-separation abuse and the experience of women being further abused by perpetrators through the family court system</p> <p>Nothing about educational and therapeutic programmes addressing relationship dynamics</p> <p>Talks about perpetrator programmes but not about work with young people in the community</p> <p>Yes, what on earth has happened to the protected characteristic of sex in your strategy? It is not the same as gender or sexual orientation and missing it out massively skews understanding of need. As a local authority you have legal duty to ensure you've taken into account the impact on *all* protected characteristics - this includes the untrendy ones.</p>
95	Yes
96	Yes
97	Yes
	<p>My answer to section 5 covers much of this question. In addition, since the experience of women and girls is subsumed, the data and numbers are not clearly disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other important categories relating to domestic abuse, there is a lack of clarity about the proportionate needs of different groups and how the proportionality of response is going to be calculated and funded so that all victims/survivors can be safely provided for with appropriate services, in single-sex accommodation.</p> <p>The strategy talks about perpetrator programmes but does not adequately recognise the many ways in which perpetrators try to control, frighten and gain access to their chosen victims. There is also a lack of preventive approaches and work with young people in schools and the community.</p> <p>I was appalled to see so little recognition of women's experiences and concerns in this Sussex strategy. Sexual and domestic abuse are often connected, and female survivors of all kinds of male violence need and value single-sex spaces and services, with female staff employed to support female survivors.</p> <p>The needs of male victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence, including those who may identify as women or girls, should also be included in this strategy of course, but not to the detriment of female victims/survivors, who continue to be the largest demographic to be targeted by perpetrators of domestic and sexual abuse in Sussex.</p>
98	Yes

My ID Any other comments or suggestions you would like to make? - Q7

The Switchboard LGBTQ* Domestic Abuse Service would like to be involved in this consultation more thoroughly going forward, as part of the ongoing strategy. if there are opportunities for further working please email me at raf.galdeano@switchboard.org.uk

5 There need to be clear accountability within multi agency working and not trying to pass off between services, especially for neurodiverse and mentally ill clients

6 See above.

See above - in addition it is important to ensure the right people are around the table in the Partnership Board - it is not clear that there is an intention to have specialist independent DVA providers in the ToR - without this representation you will lose decades of experience and expertise as well as a critical friend voice and value added. You will also lose community participation. I also think that this survey restricts the level of response - ideally a more deliberative decision-making process is required to share the best expertise we have - investment in engagement through VCS orgs will make this work better than stat-led approaches.

9 This strategy is only worthwhile if :

1. the authorities and individuals on the ground carrying it out are on board willing to do so &

12 2. there is adequate and appropriate housing stock available.

I was also concerned to read that services will be commissioned and that commissioning priorities would be about value for money. Value for money generally comes at the expense of qualitative survivor / client centred support services. From years of experience of delivering commissioned services I know this means doing more for less. The UK is no longer obliged to use commissioning as a process. I would like to see a move back to grants and contracts based on putting the survivor at the Centre of this process which are awarded by individual LA's.

21 The first question only allows one option. Should be more inclusive. Survivors often and can work in services.

38 no further comment

39 Obtain professional advice on the law to enable yourselves to understand where and how Stonewall is misrepresenting it.

Women's services were created by women, to meet women's needs - top-down commissioning is failing us

- This strategy does nothing to address the fragmentation of support services for women in Brighton & Hove since RISE was decommissioned in April 2021. We now have three providers of domestic abuse support in the city instead of one, and it is therefore much more difficult for women to access the holistic and long term support they need.

- This strategy suggests the possibility of investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. It was working. It was defunded in favour of a model that treats all survivors of domestic abuse as homogenous victims.

- The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process must give this a high priority

40 in order to be truly trauma-informed.

41 There is a good understanding of how abuse can affect different groups of people, but don't lose sight of the fact that this is a sex based crime.

44 All options should be suitable for ethnic and religious minorities because the standard should meet their needs too.

45 There was already a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex and it was working.

Domestic abuse refuges were set up by women - like Erin Pizzey and many others - at a time when there were none. Where is the recognition of the decades of expertise by women in the field - in Brighton and Hove, we had the brilliant RISE, now we have three separate service providers. Women need to build ongoing relationships with service providers in order to rebuild trust and confidence.

47 Please remember the statistic of 70+% of domestic abuse survivors are women, and ensure that services treat them as a priority.

A better CPS system.. I wouldn't be where I am had they of listened to me and the police in 2016..

48 A huge failing system

49 Making this effort is an excellent use of local govt resources and I congratulate all involved in trying to make life better for those in such difficult situations. Thank you all.

1. Women are the main victims of domestic violence. The needs of men and transpeople are also important. But they make up a much smaller number of victims. Putting transwomen in what should be female-only refuges would benefit a tiny minority at the expense of the large majority.

2. Brighton & Hove survivors had a long-standing, effective and valuable support service in RISE. I can't see any good reason why it was defunded. I urge you to show commitment to the people most in need of this service by recommissioning RISE.

I just worry that this strategy and consultation has been lead by those who offer the services and not those with lived experience and survivors, I hope you get this right and do not stuff up. Who were engaged in the initial
60 engagement meetings? How many survivors?
61 Keep single sex spaces

Centering women in single sex provision of services is vital. Trans identified males are not women, no matter how much they wish they could be. As a rape survivor I can assure you that, without a support space free from all
64 male-bodied persons (regardless of how they may feel or identify), I would not be here today. Women deserve safe, single sex trauma spaces. Trans identified males need separate services.
68 Female survivors of abuse should be at the centre of designing services for them, rather than the top-down approach that seems to be happening.

Women from Second wave feminism who began the refuges and the discourse surrounding domestic violence were the ones who fought against the very councils who ignored the evidence of violence and murder of
69 Women as a distinct group prior to the first refuge for Women and Children only.
72 Appropriate services should always be provided for trans identified people. But safe spaces for biological women as per the equality act need to be respected and maintained.

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- The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process
74 must give this a high priority in order to be truly trauma-informed.

Services which don't permit legally allowed single sex services may be leading to women being at risk of DV & possibly death. Create separate services for males who don't identify as sex born-stop making them mixed sex to
78 try to suit a minority thereby excluding half the population. It's gaslighting women already vulnerable to coercive control to tell them services for women only when clearly not.

All options are worthy but I would like to stress that when stating word woman it refers to adult human female. The needs of women and trans identifying males are very different and should not be conflated as the same.

Women need a space away from male bodied people for obvious reasons irrespective of how trans identifying males see themselves. Trans identifying males should have option of mixed groups, one to one or only trans
79 group but should not be in a women only group.

 **Comments
since last
reported
(03 12
2021)**

It is a sad indictment of where we are at politically that those who need it most are mentioned so little in this survey and draft strategy. How sad that inclusion at all costs means that what the 1% want is prioritised over what the 99% need.

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The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process must give this a high priority

84 in order to be truly trauma-informed.

85 Women need and deserve help where they can be clear that they will not be further traumatized by the presence of males of whatever gender.

86 Recognise that women are a protected group under the Equality Act and need safe spaces

If services must be 'inclusive' and offer mixed sex groups then please provide separate single sex groups. It is also possible to provide trans-inclusive or trans-only groups, and male-only groups. Please reconsider your current approach to the 'gendered' services you provide. Women and girls need your help and to do that you need to know what a woman is, and what a girl is.

88 Please organise women-only consultation events if you want to know what female survivors of domestic abuse actually think.

I read the strategy with interest. But the glaring absence of women and girls really started to irk me. There are decades of experience across the county in developing and delivering support that works - that was not acknowledged. We should be building on expertise and not starting from scratch. There was no understanding shown of the different services that work with different groups.

* I am really keen to highlight the need for single sex spaces for women who have experienced abuse and violence.

* Survivors should have the right to request to work with female only staff in a refuge- too many posts are available to people who can self id as women and this is adding to the trauma already experienced by survivors.

93 * Data collected should be recorded by sex and not gender.

Women's services were created by women, to meet women's needs - top-down commissioning is failing us.

This strategy fails to address the fragmentation of support services for women survivors of domestic abuse in Brighton and Hove since RISE was decommissioned in April 2021. We now have three providers of domestic abuse support in the city instead of one, and it has become more difficult for women to access the holistic and long term support they need.

This strategy suggests investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton&Hove, it was working. It was defunded in favour of a model which treats all victims of domestic abuse as homogenous victims.

The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important to survivors to be able to build and retain long-standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers. Any new commissioning process must give this a high priority to be truly trauma informed, safe services.

Does nothing to address the fragmentation of support services for women in B&H since RISE was decommissioned in 2021

The journey to recovery can be long and complex and it is important for survivors to be able to build and creating long standing relationships of trust with reliable and independent providers.

From my own experience, once I was safely away my biggest struggle was supporting my children. They were too young to understand what had happened and were resentful towards me for "taking them away from their dad"I didn't feel like I had any support in this and it often lead to my son being abusive and violent towards me which was particularly distressing given I had just escaped an abusive relationship.

Trauma-informed for women must be single sex. Most women do not believe that men can become women, and that lack of belief is a protected characteristic that you must treat with equal consideration to those that do believe in gender of the reality of sex

Most women's services were created by women to meet women's needs. From the 1970s onwards these services were developed and staffed by women because governments and State institutions did not take violence against women and girls as seriously as they should have. For various reasons, including institutional and ideological misogyny and racism, top-down commissioning is failing to provide victims/survivors with the services, resources and secure funding we need.

This strategy suggests the possibility of investigating a single door access to domestic abuse services across Sussex. We had a single door in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove that was working effectively until it was defunded in favour of a retrogressive model that treats all survivors of domestic abuse as if homogenous victims with undifferentiated experiences and needs, taking little or no account of inequalities and patriarchal power dynamics.

Reading this Sussex strategy I was struck by how it fails to address the fragmentation of support services for women in Brighton and Hove since RISE was decommissioned and defunded recently. Further decommissioning processes must give high priority to addressing the needs of women and girls and being truly trauma-informed.

